# Victorian Heritage Database Report

Report generated 30/04/17

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# ERCILDOUNE

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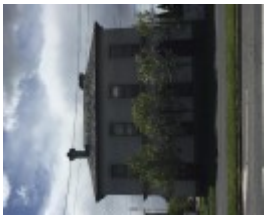
h00494 ercildoune napier street footscray front view

ercildoune napier street footscray west elevation she project 2003

ercildoune napier street footscray rear view

ercildoune napier street footscray front entrance

ercildoune napier street footscray detail window



ERCILDOUNE October 2016

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## Location

66 NAPIER STREET FOOTSCRAY, Maribyrnong City

## Municipality

MARIBYRNONG CITY

## Level of significance

Registered

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H0494

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO55

## VHR Registration

August 26, 1981

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - June 11, 2004

**What is significant?**
Ercildoune was built for the National Bank of Australasia in Napier Street, Footscray in 1876, to designs by prolific bank architects, Terry and Oakden. The Footscray branch of the National Bank opened in temporary premises in 1872 and in 1873 the present bank site, on the corner of Napier and Hyde Streets, was purchased. The National Bank remained in this location until 1918 when it relocated to the Colonial Bank building in Barkly Street when the banks amalgamated in 1918. From 1919 the building was used as a residence and later it was divided into flats. The building was purchased by the Footscray Historical Society in 1970.

Ercildoune is a rendered bluestone building designed in a simple classical style. It comprises two, two storey sections, the main one originally containing the banking chamber and managerâ€™s residence above, and the rear section housing the service wing. Both sections have hipped slate roofs and simple detailing. The main facade of the building is symmetrically composed with two entrances and two windows, all arched, on the ground floor. Four corresponding windows at first floor level have segmental arches and iron balustrade panels set within the reveals. A substantial cornice divides the two levels.

The only addition made to the building since construction is a toilet block adjoining the service wing. The building remains largely intact with such details as the encaustic tile floor of the original banking chamber being retained. The building was restored in 1975.

**How is it significant?**
Ercildoune is of architectural and historical significance to the State of Victoria.

**Why is it significant?**

Ercildoune is of architectural significance as a fine example of the conservative classical work of prolific bank architects, Terry and Oakden. Leonard Terry designed the majority of National Bank buildings before his death in 1884 and the firm, under various names, received commissions from most Victorian banking companies. Terryâ€™s work epitomises the conservative classicism of many bank buildings designed from the 1860s and, as such, his banks form an important group.

Ercildoune is of historical significance as an illustrative example of the early commercial development of Footscray and as the oldest surviving bank building in the area. It is one of only a small number of commercial buildings which survive in this original centre of Footscray. From the late 1880s emphasis shifted to Barkly and Nicholson Streets to the north-west, and this subsequently developed as the commercial centre. The scale of the building, and the incorporation of a residence for the manager, demonstrates the importance of the bank at that time.
*[Online Data Upgrade Project 2004]*

## Permit Exemptions

General Conditions: 1. All exempted alterations are to be planned and carried out in a manner which prevents damage to the fabric of the registered place or object. General Conditions: 2. Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of works that original or previously hidden or inaccessible details of the place or object are revealed which relate to the significance of the place or object, then the exemption covering such works shall cease and Heritage Victoria shall be notified as soon as possible. Note: All archaeological places have the potential to contain significant sub-surface artefacts and other remains. In most cases it will be necessary to obtain approval from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria before the undertaking any works that have a significant sub-surface component.

General Conditions: 3. If there is a conservation policy and planall works shall be in accordance with it. Note:A Conservation Management Plan or a Heritage Action Plan provides guidance for the management of the heritage values associated with the site. It may not be necessary to obtain a heritage permit for certain works specified in the management plan.

General Conditions: 4. Nothing in this determination prevents the Executive Director from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions. General Conditions: 5. Nothing in this determination exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the responsible authorities where applicable. Minor Works : Note: Any Minor Works that in the opinion of the Executive Director will not adversely affect the heritage significance of the place may be exempt from the permit requirements of the Heritage Act. A person proposing to undertake minor works must submit a proposal to the Executive Director. If the Executive Director is satisfied that the proposed works will not adversely affect the heritage values of the site, the applicant may be exempted from the requirement to obtain a heritage permit. If an applicant is uncertain whether a heritage permit is required, it is recommended that the permits co-ordinator be contacted.

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|---|---|
| Architect/Designer | Terry & Oakden, |
| Heritage Act Categories | Heritage place, |
| Hermes Number | 505 |
| Property Number | |

## History

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divided into flats. The building was purchased by the Footscray Historical Society in 1970.

**The draft statement of significance and the above history were produced as part of an Online Data Upgrade Project 2004. Sources were as follows:**

G. Butler. *City of Footscray Urban Conservation Study*. 1989
J. Lack. *A History of Footscray*. Melbourne 1991
B. Trethowan. *Banks in Victoria 1851-1939*. Melbourne 1976
National Bank. *Nautilus*. ( journal), pp 30-32, no date
Research on Heritage Victoria file no. 6034164

## Extent of Registration

Historic Building No.494,Ercildoune,Former National Bank, corner Hyde and Napier Streets, Footscray. [*Victoria Government Gazette* No.88 26 August 1981 p.2821]

*This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 1995. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place data owner.*

*For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online*http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/