
Former Bank of N.S.W., 14 Napier Street, ST ARNAUD



SD 136 - Former Bank of
New South Wales

Location

14 Napier Street ST ARNAUD, NORTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

Municipality

NORTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

Level of significance

Recommended for Heritage Overlay

Heritage Listing

Northern Grampians Shire

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - August 17, 2004

The former Bank of NSW at 14 Napier Street, St. Arnaud, makes a significant contribution to the 19th century streetscape, and is a legacy of the early development of the centre of the township in this area. The building also remains today as an important legacy of the financial institutions established in the town in the 19th century. In particular, this bank was constructed in 1873 for the Bank of NSW, on a site previously owned by a Mr. E. Butcher, whose cottage was the location of the first print of the St. Arnaud Mercury in 1864. It appears that this cottage was originally incorporated into the bank design, which was provided by the Inglewood architect, James Wynn. The building ceased operations as a bank when the Bank of NSW moved to new premises in c.1937.

The former Bank of NSW is **architecturally** significant at a **LOCAL** level. It demonstrates original design qualities of a rudimentary Victorian Free Classical style. These qualities include the single storey asymmetrical composition, denoted by the projecting entrance porch with a small gable roof form. Other intact qualities include the brick wall construction, simple hipped roof forms clad in slate at the front and in galvanised corrugated iron at the rear, rendered chimneys with projecting cornice tops, small ventilation dormer, narrow eaves and double brackets supported on moulded cornices, moulded pediment edges and sculptural organic relief entablature on the entrance porch, arched doorway with a vermiculated keystone and rusticated voussoirs and quoins, other more rusticated quoins and vermiculated keystones about the window openings, six panelled double timber door and plain fanlight above, timber framed double hung windows, dressed masonry window sills, rear U form that incorporates the cottage located on this site prior to the construction of the bank building, side skillion verandah supported by stop-chamfered timber columns with decorative capitals and simple timber brackets, and the rendered wall construction of the rear section. The small cottage gardens and the hedge along the side of the Napier Street boundary also contribute to the significance of the place.

The former Bank of NSW is **historically** significant at a **LOCAL** level. It is associated with the development of the Bank of NSW in the initial centre of St. Arnaud from 1873 until c.1937. Moreover, the rear section of the building that was partially Mr. E. Butcher's cottage is associated with the first print of the St. Arnaud Mercury newspaper in 1864. The Bank building is further associated with the Inglewood architect, James Wynne.

The former Bank of NSW is **socially** significant at a **LOCAL** level. Although no longer used as a bank, it is recognised by the St. Arnaud community as a building of public interest because of its former purpose.

Overall, the former Bank of NSW is of **LOCAL** significance.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Northern Grampians - Shire of Northern Grampians - Stage 2 Heritage Study, Wendy Jacobs, Vicki Johnson, David Rowe, Phil Taylor, 2004;
Hermes Number	111534
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

The former Bank of NSW building, 14 Napier Street, St. Arnaud, makes an important contribution to the 19th century streetscape which reflects the earliest town centre. The building remains today as an important legacy of the financial institutions established in the town in the 19th century.

The single storey, asymmetrical, painted brick, rudimentary Victorian Free Classical style building is characterised by a simple hipped roof form clad in early slate tiles. Rendered chimneys with projecting cornice tops, and a small ventilation dormer adorn the roofline. Narrow overhangs and double brackets supported on moulded cornices are features of the eaves. A particular characteristic of the design is the projecting entrance porch with a small gable roof form. It has a pediment with moulded edges and a sculptural organic relief entablature. Below is an arched doorway with a vermiculated keystone and rusticated voussoirs and quoins. Similar, but even more rusticated decorative treatment has been applied about the arched window openings on the street facades. The early double timber door is six panelled and has a plain fanlight above. The timber framed double hung windows are also early and have dressed masonry sills.

At the rear of the main building there is an early cottage building, which predates the construction of the banking premises, and which has later hipped roof wings creating a U form. It has a skillion verandah on the side street frontage, which is supported by early stop-chamfered timber columns with decorative capitals and simple timber brackets. The roof forms of this rear section are clad in early galvanised corrugated iron, and the walls are of rendered masonry construction. Narrow overhangs are also a feature of the rear sections, as are timber framed double hung windows. Small gardens and introduced post and wire fences form the front and side boundaries, and there is also a hedge along the side of the Napier Street boundary.

This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.

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