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# Former State Savings Bank, 27 Napier Street, ST ARNAUD



SD 146a - Former State Savings Bank



SD 146b - Bank on left.  
Undated photograph from St. Arnaud, A Pictorial Journey.

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## Location

27 Napier Street ST ARNAUD, NORTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

## Municipality

NORTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

## Level of significance

Recommended for Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Listing

Northern Grampians Shire

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - August 17, 2004

The former State Savings Bank, 27 Napier Street, St. Arnaud, makes a significant contribution to the architectural and visual amenity of the predominantly Victorian and Federation streetscape. The building also has significance as an important legacy of the financial institutions established in the town in the 19th century prior to the world-wide financial collapse of the early 1890s. In particular, this building was constructed in 1890 for the State Savings Bank immediately before the collapse, and the Bank conducted business there until 1975. The building is in good condition and is remarkably intact from the exterior.

The former State Savings Bank is **architecturally** significant at a **LOCAL** level. It demonstrates original design qualities of a restrained Late Victorian Boom Classical style. These qualities include the four bayed, two storey composition, with a ground floor of rusticated piers and pilasters that have narrow stylised Doric capitals. Other intact qualities of the ground floor include the plain bevel edged plinth, segmentally arched window and door openings punctuated by decorative curved keystones, ground floor window and door pilasters with stylised capitals, timber framed double hung windows, ground floor window base walls with rectangular panels, the six panelled timber door with transom, prominent projecting stringcourse on fluted consoles, rusticated flanking first floor pilaster, imposing plain first floor pilasters with stylised Ionic capitals, stained Federation glass and leadlights in the upper sashes, large plain entablature which reads: "State Savings Bank", and the projecting bracketed cornice above.

The former State Savings Bank is **historically** significant at a **LOCAL** level. It is associated with the development of the State Savings Bank from 1890 until 1975.

The former State Savings Bank is **socially** significant at a **LOCAL** level. Although no longer serving as a bank, it is recognised and valued by the St. Arnaud community for its former purpose.

Overall, the former State Savings Bank is of **LOCAL** significance.

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| Heritage Study/Consultant | Northern Grampians - Shire of Northern Grampians - Stage 2 Heritage Study, Wendy Jacobs, Vicki Johnson, David Rowe, Phil Taylor, 2004; |
| Hermes Number             | 111549   |
| Property Number           |  |

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## Physical Description 1

The former State Savings Bank, 27 Napier Street, St. Arnaud, makes an important architectural and visual contribution to the predominantly Victorian and Federation streetscape. The building remains today as an important legacy of the financial institutions established in the town in the 19th century.

The asymmetrical, rendered brick, restrained Late Victorian Boom Classical styled building is characterised by a four bayed, two storey composition. The ground floor has rusticated piers and pilasters with narrow stylised Doric capitals, and a plain bevel edged plinth. These pilasters separate the original segmentally arched window and door openings that are punctuated by decorative curved keystones. The ground floor is further elaborated by the window and door pilasters with stylised capitals. The timber framed ground floor windows and rendered base walls below (with rectangular panels) are also early, as is the six panelled timber door with transom. The first floor is supported by a prominent, projecting stringcourse on fluted consoles. The flanking pilasters are rusticated, while the window bays are separated by imposing pilasters with stylised Ionic capitals. The early timber framed and double hung first floor windows are adorned with Federation stained glassed and leadlights in the upper sashes. Surmounting the first floor is a large plain entablature which reads: "State Savings Bank", with a projecting bracketed cornice above.

*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/>*