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# Newport Commercial Bank (Former)



Newport Commercial Bank  
(former), Hobsons Bay  
Heritage Study 2006

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## Location

1 Hall Street NEWPORT, Hobsons Bay City

## Municipality

HOBSONS BAY CITY

## Level of significance

Incl in HO area contributory

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO137

## Heritage Listing

Hobsons Bay City

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

What is Significant?

The Newport Commercial Bank of Australasia (former - later Newport Post Office), designed by Peter Matthews and constructed by C Hoskings in 1887, at 1 Hall Street, Newport.

How is it Significant?

The Newport Commercial Bank of Australasia (former) is of local historic, social and aesthetic significance to the City of Hobsons Bay.

Why is it Significant?

Historically, it is significant as the first major bank to be established in Newport and illustrates the optimism for the development of Newport in the late nineteenth century that was a result of the widespread speculative development. (AHC criteria A4 and D2)

Socially, it is significant for the important role it has played, first as a bank and later a post office, in the development of the Newport community. (AHC criterion G1)

Aesthetically, it is significant as a superior nineteenth century bank design in the commercial Renaissance Revival manner on a prominent corner site. It makes an important contribution to the historic character of the Newport Civic & Commercial precinct. (AHC criterion E1)

Heritage Study/Consultant Hobsons Bay - Hobsons Bay Heritage Study, Hobsons Bay City Council, 2006;

Architect/Designer Matthews, Peter,

Hermes Number 15070

Property Number

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## Physical Description 1

The design of the former Commercial Bank of Australasia is a two storey cemented facade derived from the Italian Renaissance that was commonly used for commercial nineteenth century buildings. The corner siting, however, is distinctive, as is the corner pedimented porch entry with urns. The ground level is rusticated while the upper level is ruled as stone with segment and flat arched pediments over each window. Each of these windows has a balustraded base and the parapet has a typical moulded cornice with entablature.

The conversion of the Bank to a post office resulted in the installation of post boxes and telephones to the ground level facade. These were removed in 1990s and the original detailing was reconstructed.

## Integrity

External Condition

Good

External Integrity

Moderate

## Physical Description 2

Context

A landmark building on a prominent corner, which makes an important contribution to the Newport Civic & Commercial Precinct.

## Historical Australian Themes

Financing Australia

*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/>*