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# FORMER COLONIAL BANK OF AUSTRALASIA SITE

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## Location

71-73 BRIDGE MALL BALLARAT CENTRAL, BALLARAT CITY

## Municipality

BALLARAT CITY

## Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

## Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7622-0497

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - June 23, 2024

### What is significant?

The area is first mapped as allotment 21 of Section C in detail in the 1857 *Revised Town Plan of Block A.B. C. D.* The site was likely occupied prior as part of the first phase of the Ballarat Main Street development, due to its proximity to Ballarat West and the Gravel Pit alluvial fields. The area was occupied by the Colonial Bank of Australasia from c. 1855 until 1860. Given that the valuation of the property was at £2000, it was likely that the building was one of the first stone structures on Bridge Street, Ballarat. The site likely changed after it ceased occupation as a hotel in 1865. The later nineteenth century appears to be a general high turn-over commercial occupation; however, features are still present on the 1923 Ballarat Sewerage Plan showing smaller outbuildings and a cesspit to the south of the site.

### How is it significant?

The site is of historical and archaeological significance.

### Why is it significant?

The site is of historical significance as the location of an early residence and bank during the years of the Victorian gold rush – one of the most significant rushes in world history. The later nineteenth century shows the development and decline of main road and the movement of the commercial centre to Sturt Street. The site is of archaeological significance due to its potential to contain artefacts, deposits and features that relate to the establishment of a bank in the Ballarat goldfields, and other later 19th-century activities.

Hermes Number 212263

Property Number

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*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/>*