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## Commercial Bank of Australia (Former)



Commercial Bank of Australia (former), Hobsons Bay  
Heritage Study 2006



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### Location

193 Nelson Place WILLIAMSTOWN, Hobsons Bay City

### Municipality

HOBSONS BAY CITY

### Level of significance

Incl in HO area contributory

### Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO222

### Heritage Listing

Hobsons Bay City

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### Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

What is Significant?

The former Commercial Bank of Australia, designed by Smith & Ogg and constructed in 1892, at 193 Nelson Place, Williamstown.

How is it Significant?

The former Commercial Bank of Australia at 193 Nelson Place, Williamstown is of local historic and aesthetic significance to the City of Hobsons Bay.

Why is it Significant?

Historically, as the third major bank constructed in Nelson Place it demonstrates its importance as the main commercial centre in Williamstown during the latter part of the nineteenth century. (AHC criteria A4 and G1)

Aesthetically, it is significant as a relatively late example of an Italian Renaissance Revival commercial building with typically rich detailing to the principal facades. Situated on a prominent corner site at a key intersection, opposite a similarly styled former Bank, it makes an important contribution to the historic character of the Nelson Place precinct. (AHC criteria E1 and F1)

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

Architect/Designer Sydney Smith & Ogg,

Hermes Number 22202

Property Number

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## Physical Description 1

A two-storey parapeted and stuccoed Renaissance Revival bank, on an angled site possessing a splayed-corner entrance; a shop occurs on the north end. Pronounced, smooth rustication is used on the base storey whilst, as for the former Bank of Australasia (On the opposite corner), aedicule windows are used for the upper facade, echoing the pedimented corner entrance below. Balustrading and piers enrich the parapet which has an unusually plain raised entablature at the corner. The former CBA Bank shows typical late Victorian heaviness of detail when compared to its opposing neighbour.

The shopfront, although sympathetic, is not original. Other changes to the original fabric include the replacement of an upper floor window to the shop, and the replacement of the original cast iron verandah.

## Integrity

External Integrity

Integrity - Moderate. Condition - Good.

## Physical Description 2

Context

Like the former Bank of Australasia on the opposite corner, it occupies a prominent corner site commencing the 19th century commercial streetscape of Nelson Place north and linking by commonality of form and detail, with Nelson Place west. It also relates to the former Post Office at the corner of Parker and Cole Streets as the bridge between these two streetscapes and the public buildings group in Cecil Street.

## Historical Australian Themes

Financing Australia

## Physical Description 3

### *Associations*

Commercial Bank of Australia, Smith & Ogg

*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/>*