
Former National Bank of Australasia



City of Darebin Heritage Review 2000



City of Darebin Heritage Review 2000 (map)
Map Ref: 30 F8
Victoria Heritage Overlay Area

Location

312 High Street NORTHCOTE, Darebin City

Municipality

DAREBIN CITY

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO97

Heritage Listing

Darebin City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

The former National Bank of Australasia is of local architectural and historical significance.

The building is one of a number of banks designed by architect George Jobbins for the National Bank of Victoria. Construction of the bank in 1890 is associated with the growth of the banking sector during the 1880s-90s economic boom. The building is a substantially intact nineteenth century bank designed in the High Italian Renaissance revival style, reflecting the prevailing optimistic mood of the community. The building is a notable

element of the local streetscape due to its fine detailing and large scale. The bank has served the local community over a long period of time.

Heritage Study/Consultant Darebin - Darebin Heritage Review, Andrew Ward, 2000;

Hermes Number 24163

Property Number

Physical Description 1

The Northcote National Bank is a rendered building designed in the High Italian Renaissance revival style. The two-storey classical composition is divided into five bays, and comprises a rusticated ground floor superimposed by an arcaded first floor loggia. The ground floor has arched double-hung sash windows. The central arched entrance is flanked by engaged Corinthian columns supporting a pediment containing the bank's crest. A panelled pedestal course rests on a bluestone plinth. The first floor arched openings are flanked by pilasters which are coupled on the slightly projecting end bays. The openings are balustraded and have moulded archivolt with keystones. The central section of the entablature is embellished with garlands. Above the entablature is a balustraded parapet with a central crowning acrotorium. Each parapet pier is surmounted by an orb. Alterations include the addition of an illuminated sign and the replacement of the side fence which was originally of capped corrugated iron.

At ground floor level, interior was designed with a banking chamber, manager's room, strong room, dining room, kitchen and scullery. The remainder of the residential accommodation was located on the upper-level, including a drawing room, five bedrooms, and a housemaid's sink on the rear verandah.

Other National Banks designed by Jobbins include one at Newstead (1886-7), at Boort (1889), Newlyn (1889), Nhill (1888) and many others for the Colonial Bank. Most of these designs are more conservative than at Northcote, being derived from the Palazzo designs of the Italian Renaissance.

Only the Colonial Bank at Brunswick (1888) matched the vigour of Northcote which, with its exuberant styling, appears relatively Baroque.

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/>