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## Bank Of Victoria



B1297 Former Bank of Victoria, Beechworth (now The Rock Cavern)



B1297 Fmr Bank of Victoria

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### Location

29 Camp Street, BEECHWORTH VIC 3747 - Property No B1297

### Municipality

INDIGO SHIRE

### Level of significance

State

### Heritage Listing

National Trust

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### Statement of Significance

Last updated on - April 30, 2008

The building was erected in 1867 for the Bank of Victoria and replaced a large stone bank erected on the site in 1857 and destroyed by fire.

The two storey brick structure has rendered facades. The principal facade to Ford Street has a five bay composition with centrally located entrance. The ground floor is ruled and has arched openings. The first floor windows have architraves and hoods. The architects were Smith and Watts.

This is one of the finest conservative classical banks in Victoria. It is a very important example of the architects Smith and Watts, whose works epitomize the best qualities of this style. The bank is designed in the purest classical tradition and consequently rejects its prominent corner position and takes a palazzo form. The architectural composition of emphasizing the principal entrance by richer decoration on the door opening and on the corresponding window above is unique and executed in a highly refined manner.

The new metal gates to the rear yard are not as compatible as the original timber gates.

Classified: 09/04/1959

Reclassified: 07/11/1965

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (HISTORIC AREA)

DATE CLASSIFIED APRIL 1983

Beechworth is a picturesque nineteenth Century provincial town. It is a well preserved example of a Government and private building, which resulted from the town's important historical role as the administrative and commercial centre of Victoria's north - eastern goldfields. Beechworth was once significant for its position on an early overland route from Melbourne to Sydney.

The town is located sympathetically to the topography, in an area of considerable landscape interest. Set amidst forested undulating country, there remain many relics of the mining era in and about Beechworth. It is a rich field for the industrial archaeology.

There are within the town a large number of historical and architecturally significant buildings. These display a quality of form and richness of material and detail, which make Beechworth one of the most significant of Australia's goldfield towns. Of particular interest is the common usage of local granite in construction. Its honey colour imparts a quality distinctive to Beechworth.

The highlights of Beechworth are the grid of wide streets flanked with granite kerbing; the streetscapes of considerable integrity with groups of homogeneous buildings set off by mature elms and other exotic trees; and the remnants of historic Victorian gardens. About the town there are many examples of nineteenth century street furniture, signs and fences. Beechworth's historical wealth is of national significance.

Other Names      The Rock Cavern, Former CBC Bank (now called National Australian Bank),

Hermes Number    68651

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/>*