Location

32 PALL MALL BENDIGO, GREATER BENDIGO CITY
Municipality
GREATER BENDIGO CITY

Level of significance
Registered

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number
H1020

Heritage Overlay Numbers
HO220

VHR Registration
April 21, 1994

Heritage Listing
Victorian Heritage Register

Statement of Significance
Last updated on - January 13, 2000

The former Colonial Bank, Bendigo was built in 1887 by N Longstaff and Co. to a design by architect WC Vahland. It became a branch of the National Bank in 1918 when the two banks amalgamated and was sold by the bank in 1993.

The elaborate style of the building reflects the important position the bank held in the community and also demonstrates the prosperity of Bendigo, one of the major centres for gold-mining in the nineteenth century.

The building has an important association with the colonial bank. Established in 1856, this institution was a particularly strong rural bank and was the first reputable bank in Australia to advocate amalgamation of the successful banks. Its merger with the National Bank in 1918 resulted in that bank becoming the third largest in Australia after the Bank of Australasia and the Union Bank of Australia.

The building is an important work of the prominent Bendigo architect, WC Vahland. During his long career, Vahland designed many of Bendigo’s prominent buildings. The former colonial bank is possibly his best “boom style” building.

The former Colonial Bank, with its richly modelled facade and lofty and finely detailed banking chamber, is an extra-ordinary example of Boom Classicism style, where the conventions of conservative classical architecture were playfully distorted and elaborated.

[Source: Report to the Minister]

Construction dates 1887,
**Extent of Registration**

AMENDMENT OF REGISTER OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Historic Building No. 1020.

Former Colonial Bank, 32 Pall Mall, Bendigo.

(To the extent of:

1. All of the building marked B1-B3 inclusive on Plan No. 600402I (A), endorsed by the Chairperson, Historic Buildings Council and held by the Director, Historic Buildings Council.

2. All of the land marked L1 on Plan 600402I (A), endorsed by the Chairperson, Historic Buildings Council and held by the Director, Historic Buildings Council, being all of the land described in Certificate of Title Vol. 839 Folio 167743.)


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 data owner.

For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online [http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/](http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/)