

# FORMER ES&A BANK



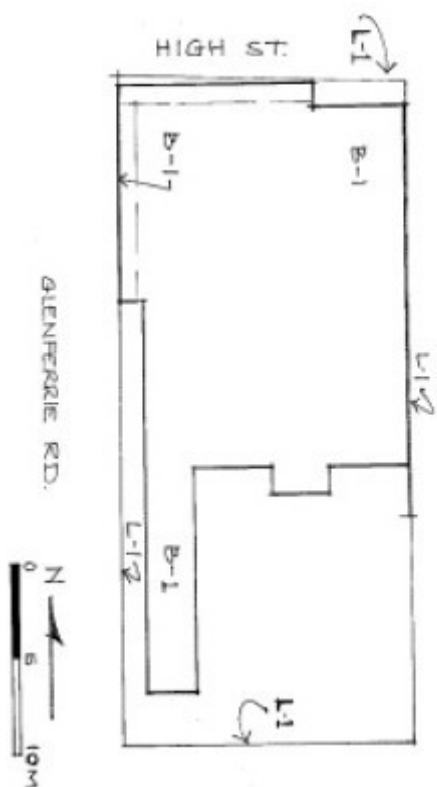
FORMER ES&A BANK  
SOHE 2008



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1 former es&a bank  
glenferrie road malvern high  
street elevation



former es&a bank malvern plan

## Location

1284-1286 HIGH STREET MALVERN, STONNINGTON CITY

## Municipality

STONNINGTON CITY

## Level of significance

Registered

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1691

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO58

## VHR Registration

May 28, 1998

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - August 10, 1999

The Former ES&A Bank on the corner of Glenferrie Road and High Street Malvern was constructed by Swanson Bros. Pty Ltd in 1959 to a design by the ES&A Bank Architectural Department headed by Stuart McIntosh. The consultants for the project were structural engineers WL Irwin and Associates and Prentice Builders. The prominent site at the intersection of High Street and Glenferrie Road was first purchased by the English Scottish and Australian Bank in 1885 and the current building replaced a two storey red brick building. The design of the former ES&A Bank was stridently modern for its time with an interesting composition of planes and solids. The use of the 'brise-soleil' on the north and west is particularly striking due to its oversized deep fins. The composition makes use of large vertical planes in coursed dark polished granite and Gosford sandstone, strip windows in pink tinted glazing, and a feature garden planter bed around the base of the bank in Castlemaine slate. These architectural features wrap around what is in effect a large sandstone and cement rendered cube whose interior forms the banking chamber which is featureless save for the internal planter box and a metal mural by sculptor Charles Bush.

The Former ES&A Bank, corner Glenferrie Road and High Street Malvern is of architectural, social, scientific and technical significance to the State of Victoria.

The Former ES&A Bank, corner Glenferrie Road and High Street Malvern is architecturally significant as possibly the most striking modernist suburban bank design in Victoria. Designed by the ES&A Bank Architectural Department headed by Stuart McIntosh, at a time of great architectural interest in the use of the 'brise-soleil', the composition uses contrasting vertical planes of materials and colour along with an architectural play of intersecting vertical and horizontal elements where the overly deep 'brise-soleil' wrap around the north and west faces of the building. The coursed dark polished granite used in veneer walls directly contrasts with the random base stone work, the planes of pink glazing and the light coloured sandstone (since painted) of the projecting cube which forms the bank chamber. The bank chamber is also of interest for its metal mural by sculptor Charles Bush.

The Former ES&A Bank, corner Glenferrie Road and High Street, Malvern represents scientific and technical innovations in the use of sun shading devices (brise-soleil) as a climate control feature that is integrated into the building design.

The Former ES&A Bank is of social significance and representative of a class of building in that it expresses the physical manifestation of the post war expansion of retail banking. Although this building is of a non-traditional form, it incorporates materials historically associated with banking construction ie: granite, sandstone and marble, to communicate the characteristics of security, permanence, impregnability and privacy of banking transactions.

## Permit Exemptions

### General Exemptions:

General exemptions apply to all places and objects included in the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR). General exemptions have been designed to allow everyday activities, maintenance and changes to your property, which don't harm its cultural heritage significance, to proceed without the need to obtain approvals under the Heritage Act 2017.

Places of worship: In some circumstances, you can alter a place of worship to accommodate religious practices without a permit, but you must [notify](#) the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria before you start the works or activities at least 20 business days before the works or activities are to commence.

Subdivision/consolidation: Permit exemptions exist for some subdivisions and consolidations. If the subdivision or consolidation is in accordance with a planning permit granted under Part 4 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the application for the planning permit was referred to the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria as a determining referral authority, a permit is not required.

Specific exemptions may also apply to your registered place or object. If applicable, these are listed below. Specific exemptions are tailored to the conservation and management needs of an individual registered place or object and set out works and activities that are exempt from the requirements of a permit. Specific exemptions prevail if they conflict with general exemptions.

Find out more about heritage permit exemptions [here](#).

### Specific Exemptions:

#### EXEMPTIONS FROM PERMITS:

(Classes of works or activities which may be undertaken without a permit under Part 4 of the Heritage Act 1995)

#### Policy

The former bank is of heritage significance for its architectural design particularly the street elevations. The declared permit exemptions do not affect the external streetscape appearance. Alterations which affect the external appearance of any part of the building (including exterior air handling and commercial kitchen exhausts) and the building structure require permits. Alterations to the rear (south) of the building which retain the sense of space and cubic form of the bank chamber will be considered sympathetically in permit applications.

#### General Conditions:

1. All exempted alterations are to be planned and carried out in a manner which prevents damage to the fabric of the registered place or object.
2. Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of alterations that original or previously hidden or inaccessible details of the place or object are revealed which relate to the significance of the place or object, then the exemption covering such alteration shall cease and the Executive Director shall be notified as soon as possible.

3. If there is a conservation policy and plan approved by the Executive Director, all works shall be in accordance with it.
4. Nothing in this declaration prevents the Executive Director from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions.
5. Nothing in this declaration exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the responsible authority where applicable.

#### Permit Exemptions

##### Interior

\* All interior refurbishing works such as painting, carpeting, new electrical and lighting, new plumbing including sinks, toilets, and kitchens provided that they:

1. do not affect any part of the exterior of the building
2. do not cause structural alterations
3. do not affect the Charles Bush mural
4. do not affect the planter perimeter box (High St & Glenferrie Rds)

Construction dates            1959,  
Architect/Designer            McIntosh, Stuart,  
Heritage Act Categories       Registered place,  
Hermes Number                3133  
Property Number

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## History

### Contextual History:History of Place:

The most comprehensive study of bank buildings in Victoria was conducted in 1976 by Bruce Trethowan who surveyed banks constructed between 1851 and 1939 (ie beginning of WW II). The survey showed that a substantial number of premises constructed were constructed in the 20th century directly after the end of the First World War.

At the end of WWII and for some years after building was at a virtual standstill until wartime exigencies were eased. In America the war had built up large factories and had caused the development of new materials and processes. Many of these found their way into peacetime building construction. In Australia the mass production of new materials was not as marked. Factories such as the vast munitions works at Footscray and Maribyrnong were at a virtual standstill. What was noticeably similar was the need for housing the population boom brought on by the end of the war. New suburbs sprang up with housing being mass produced in lightweight materials; brick construction was replaced by steel and timber, timber construction by fibro and glass by the acre came to be the new curtain walling for both the house and the high-rise office buildings which were exceeding the old building height limitations.

One of the new materials was aluminium which was used extensively as glazing mullions and frames in these buildings. Aluminium was mass produced for the first time during the war to make aircraft parts and the production techniques were transferred from the war effort to building products. The first high rise to show-case the new material was the Alcoa headquarters building in Pittsburgh of 1952 by Harrison and Abramovitz. Particularly notable high rise offices in Australia were ICI House (1955) and MLC North Sydney (1956) both by architects Bates Smart McCutcheon. Old limitations of form and materials were breached as architects eyes were opened by war time experiences. Robin Boyd was perhaps the most publicly noticeable of the post war messianic architects, preaching an architecture for the age. Some of his exemplars are the Gillson House Balwyn of 1951, the Richardson House (Bridge House) Toorak of 1953-54, and the Ctesiphon House and Supermarket Jordanville of 1952. Architects Grounds Romberg and Boyd designed radically new buildings such as the Academy of Sciences Canberra of 1958, and Grounds the Arts Centre spire (not the present design) circa 1960. Dynamically

expressive buildings such as the Olympic Swimming and Diving Pool by K Borland, J & P Murphy, and P McIntyre of 1956 and the Sidney Myer Music Bowl by Yunken Freeman Bros. of 1959 took materials to their economic and Olympian limits.

Internationally architecture found new prominence particularly in the works of Corbusier, Saarinen, Niemeyer, and Mies van der Rohe.

#### History of Place:

The bank was designed in the offices of the ES & A Bank's Architectural Department headed by Stuart McIntosh. The drawings are signed by architect Robert Garner who project managed the construction and issued design change drawings. The builder was Swanson Bros. P/L.

Stuart McIntosh was born in Adelaide in 1924 and educated in Corowa NSW. During the Second World War he served in Borneo and Papua and New Guinea and on return attended architecture school at the University of Melbourne. Following graduation he worked for Yunken Freeman Bros and then worked for the ES & A bank architecture department from 1952. In 1954 he became the banks chief architect for Victoria. Other banks by McIntosh were ES & A's Traralgon and Parkdale branches.

The new Malvern building caused the demolition of the banks existing two storey brick premises, the bank having occupied this site since 1885. The final design was strikingly modern with its use of planar materials, strip windows and the very deep (approx 1450mm) window shade fins along the main north and west elevations.

The exact precursors of this design may be difficult to trace but it does have some characteristics of the cubism found in the de Stijl movement combine with the stark veneer walls and strip windows found in Mies van der Rohe early pavilion designs. One possible and more direct source for the design is a Sterns department store building in Boston of 1955 by the well known firm Walter Dorwin Teague Associates. This was published in at least one book in 1956 and no doubt made it into contemporary architecture journals. Its corner entry with deep sunshade fins show a striking resemblance to the bank design

The ES&A bank in Malvern is in contrast to the structural-functional ideas of leading Melbourne architects such as Peter McIntyre and Kevin Borland, and to the structural expression of the International Style led by Frederick Romberg and Robin Boyd.

Modern architecture has celebrated structural 'truth', and this building's expression of abstract and sculptural compositions lay outside mainstream, orthodox modernism.

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Associated People: Charles Bush - sculptor

## Extent of Registration

### NOTICE OF REGISTRATION

As Executive Director for the purpose of the Heritage Act, I give notice under section 46 that the Victorian Heritage Register is amended by including the Heritage Register Number 1691 in the category described as a Heritage place:

Former ES&A Bank, corner Glenferrie Road and High Street, Malvern, Stonnington City Council.

### EXTENT

1. All of the building marked B-1 (including eaves and overhangs) on diagram 604026 held by the Executive Director.
2. All of the land marked L-1 on diagram 604026 held by the Executive Director being all of the land described in Certificate of Title Volume 8347 Folio 683.

Dated 21 May 1998

RAY TONKIN

Executive Director

[*Victoria Government Gazette* No. G21 28 May 1998 p.1204]

*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/>*