FORMER ROYAL BANK

Location

17 VIEW POINT BENDIGO, Greater Bendigo City
Municipality
GREATER BENDIGO CITY

Level of significance
Registered

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number
H1332

Heritage Overlay Numbers
HO258

VHR Registration
August 14, 1997

Heritage Listing
Victorian Heritage Register

Statement of Significance
Last updated on - May 13, 1999
The former Royal Bank was constructed in 1908 to the design of local architects William Beebe and George Garvin. The three storeyed building, one of the finest and most intact art nouveau designed commercial buildings in the city, was constructed overlooking the Alexandra Fountain at View Point at the heart of the Bendigo business district. Though constructed as the premises for the Royal Bank, the building was used from the late 1920s as the premises of Colonial Mutual Life when internal renovations were undertaken to accommodate offices in the floors of the building previously used for the bank manager's residence. The current owners, who have leased part of the building for use as a restaurant, are now restoring the interior.

The former Royal Bank building has architectural significance to the State of Victoria.

The former Royal Bank building is of considerable architectural merit as a well designed, interesting example of art nouveau influenced architecture. The building which is prominently located in the city, has a well composed face brick facade featuring many characteristic art nouveau elements; including window openings of a variety of sizes and shapes; contrasting stucco detailing; art nouveau patterned leadlight; foliated stucco panels and feature elements; overscaled and distorted classical detailing and an overall strongly articulated elongated composition integrating disparate architectural elements. The interior of the building is of particular note for its excellent planning; fitting a large floor area on a narrow asymmetrical block and incorporating light wells, vistas, an elaborate stair, finely designed joinery and a roof garden.

Permit Exemptions
Nil
Construction dates: 1908
Architect/Designer: Beebe, William
Heritage Act Categories: Registered place
Hermes Number: 5229

History

Contextual History: History of Place:
The Royal Bank was constructed in 1908 to the design of prominent Bendigo architect, William Beebe who was then in partnership with George Garvin, as the premises of the Royal Bank. The building was constructed by WH Deague and Son. In 1927 the Royal Bank merged with the ES & A bank which already had a building in Bendigo making this surplus. Soon after the building became the home of Colonial Mutual Life when internal renovations were completed which saw some of the upper floor, former residence, space turned into office space. The building is now used as restaurant, and the people who now own the building are restoring the upper floors to a residence.

Associated People: George Garvin

Extent of Registration

1. All the building formerly known as the Royal Bank and marked B1 on Diagram 607800 held by the Executive Director.

2. All the land marked L1 on Diagram 607800 held by the Executive Director, being all the land described in Certificate of Title Vol. 1353 Folio 270489.

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/)