

FORMER MELBOURNE SAVINGS BANK 184 Bridge Road

History and Description

Tenders were called for the erection of a suburban branch for the Melbourne Savings Bank in Richmond, on 2nd March 1889. The architectural firm for the project was Wright and Lucas.

The branch in Bridge Road was constructed in that year, and was operated by the Melbourne Savings Bank until its amalgamation with the Commercial Bank of Australia.

The building was constructed in the distinctive style of Wright and Lucas using elaborate and extravagant motifs. The hallmark of the style is seen in the bold and extended consoles, pilaster capitals, and applied decorative arcuation. The Richmond building is interestingly proportioned with a recessed central balcony. Several other suburban banks were erected by this architectural practice, which repeat the motifs of the Richmond bank, in particular the former Melbourne Savings Banks at Clifton Hill and Burwood Road, Hawthorn. The Richmond bank features elaborate circular windows and extended consoles. Unfortunately the lower windows have now been replaced with large sheet glass panels. The building remains a fine architectural element in the Bridge Road commercial streetscape.

Statement of Significance

This former branch of the Melbourne Savings Bank is an important example of the Victorian boom classical style, as distinctively interpreted by architects Wright and Lucas. The building is an important contributor to the Bridge Road commercial precinct.

References

B. Trethowan, A Study of Banks in Victoria 1851-1939.
Architects Bibliography File, State Library of Victoria.



Former Melbourne Savings
Bank, 1912.

(Richmond Historical Society)