

**NATIONAL BANK OF AUSTRALASIA
231 Bridge Road**

History and Description

This bank was erected for the National Bank of Australasia in 1865. It is the oldest surviving intact bank building in Richmond.

Architect for the building was Lloyd Tayler. Tayler commenced an important association with the National Bank of Australasia in the 1860's, and gained repute as a prominent bank architect. The Richmond branch was one of the two important suburban commissions executed for the bank. Generally his bank designs followed the Renaissance Revival Style, and were distinguished with a refined austerity of detailing. Lloyd Tayler was a prominent practitioner in his field, and was an inaugural member of the Victorian Institute of Architects, formed in 1856, and was later to become president on three separate occasions. Tayler was also instrumental in gaining public charter for the Institute.

The facade is articulated by an applied system of trabeation. Banded rustication emphasize the arch headed windows at ground floor, and applied pilasters distinguish the building vertically. Rustication is continued at first floor level as quoining. A side residential entrance with a gateway and porch remain.

Statement of Significance

The Richmond branch of the Bank of Australasia is a significant suburban commission of the prominent nineteenth century architect, Lloyd Tayler. The building maintains a high degree of integrity, and is an important element in the Bridge Road commercial precinct.

References

- Australian Dictionary of Biography
B. Trethowan A Study of Banks in Victoria 1851-1939.
 National Trust of Australia (Victoria) File Number 521.