

Building: National Bank
Address: 261 Victoria Street



Allotment Reference: 56
National Estate Register: Recommended
Historic Buildings Council Register: Recommended
National Trust Register: Recorded
Location within Precinct: Collingwood Flat (Abbotsford)
Photo Date: November 1989
Grantee: H.T. Hughes & J. Hosking
Original Owner: National Bank of Australasia
Present Owner: National Australia Bank Ltd.
Original Use: Bank
Present Use: Bank
Construction Date: 1887
Architect: Albert Purchas
Builder: W.H. Smith

Description:

A two storey cement rendered brick Classical Revival building, with arched openings to the ground floor and pedimented openings to the first floor. The render to the ground floor is coursed, and the quoinwork to the external corners is vermiculated at ground floor level, as are the arch keystones. The projecting entry porch has paired square and round Doric columns, with Composite pilasters to the tripartite window above. The front parapet is balustraded, and there is a similarly detailed balconette over the entry porch.

Condition:

Good

Integrity:

Good. Parapet urns removed.

History:

In 1886, Alexander Skeene, a manager, was listed as owner of vacant land measuring 166 ft by 100ft on the north-west corner of Victoria and James Streets. In 1887 a National Bank was built on the site, with Alexander Campbell listed as manager. Tenders were called for the work on 04-09-1886.
(RB 1886, 1887)

Significance::

A substantial Italianate bank with central portico surmounted by a tri-partite window as its most distinguishing feature at the State level. Its association with Albert Purchase, architect for the Melbourne General Cemetery from 1852 and architect for the Richmond South branch is of interest.

Recommendations:

Recommended for inclusion on National Estate Register, Historic Buildings Register and for planning scheme protection.

References:

Rate Books
Trethowan, B., "A Study of Banks in Victoria, 1851-1938" (1976).

Issue:

National Bank Files

No. 2. December 1989

64/0