

NAME: National Bank of Australasia ADDRESS: 460 Brunswick Street

CONSTRUCTION DATE: 1884
ALTERATIONS: 1901, 1923, 1956
ARCHITECT: Smith & Johnson
BUILDER: Hoskins & Sons
FIRST OWNER: Colonial Bank
PRESENT OWNER: National Bank
CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS: rendered brickwork
CONSERVATION AREA: B1



BUILDING CITATION:

This bank, built in 1884, (Architects Smith & Johnson) is an important, conservative, classical, corner bank building. The upper storey with Ionic pilasters surmounts a lower storey with Tuscan pilasters. The whole is surmounted by a dentillated cornice with a recessed splayed panel on the corner. The exterior is largely intact - the corner door has been modernised, and a door to the south face has been filled in to make a window. In this corner position, it is an important streetscape element, and is worthy of addition to the Historic Buildings Register.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that the external envelope of this building be added to the Historic Buildings Register, the Register of the National Estate, and specified under Clause 8 of the Town and Country Planning Act (Third Schedule).

BUILDING ANALYSIS:

A branch of the Colonial Bank was first opened in North Fitzroy in 1881¹. On the 26th August 1884 the contract for the building was awarded to Hoskins and Sons with Smith and Johnson as architects.² Two of the original drawings still survive³ and show the original form of the bank. In 1901 the Queens Parade extension was added and J. Beswicke was the architect.⁴ The contract was awarded to W.H. Douglas on 12 July 1901. In 1918 the National Bank acquired the Colonial Bank and this bank became the North Fitzroy Branch of the National Bank. In 1923, a new Manager's room was added to the north along Brunswick Street and the banking chamber enlarged. The architect was A.E. Dainton(?).⁵ In 1956 there was further internal re-arrangements, and the corner entrance was altered.

1. Information from Mr. Mitchell, National Bank archivist.
2. Original Drawings dated 26.6.84 (held at Premises Department, National Bank).
3. Ibid.
4. 1 Drawing held dated 26/6/1901.
5. 1 Drawing held dated June 1923

National Bank of Australasia (Contd.)

The building comprises a two storey trabeated facade surmounted by a dentil-lated cornice with a recessed splayed panel on the corner in the manner of Charles Laing. The upper storey with Ionic pilasters surmounts a lower storey with Tuscan pilasters. The pilasters of the lower storey overlay an arcuated door and window system. The upper storey rectangular windows are supported on consoles. The first window from the corner on the south face has a three centred arch headed window. This was originally an entrance with a six panelled bolection moulded door,⁷ but was later filled in, possibly during the Beswicke period of work. The corner entrance door (also originally six panelled) has been replaced by a modern one, but within the existing opening. The interior has the original cornice but the fire place has been removed.



(15) SOUTH FACADE, DETAIL OF ORIGINAL DRAWING OF NATIONAL BANK DATED 26.6.1884.

7. Refer 1884 Drawings.