

NAME: Former E.S. & A. Bank
ADDRESS: 136 Gertrude St.
CONSTRUCTION DATE: 1879¹
ALTERTNS/ADDITNS:
ARCHITECT: Leonard Terry? ¹
BUILDER: Unknown
FIRST OWNER: E.S. & A. Bank
FIRST OCC./USE: Ditto/Banking Chamber
PRESENT OWNER: State Government
PRESENT OCC./USE: Vacant -- was V.D. Clinic
CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS: Rendered masonry
INTACTNESS/CONDITION: Facade painted, interior not intact
AREA/STREETSCAPE: -



IMPORTANCE:

This bank building constructed for the E.S. & A. Bank in 1879, probably to the design of Leonard Terry, is a typical example of a bank in the conservative classical style. The rendered and painted facade is very austere with banded piers to the ground floor and a plain unadorned upper floor facade. The whole composition is topped by a dentillated cornice.

This building is of significance locally but there are better examples by Terry of banks of this size. It forms an important streetscape component and is externally intact.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

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

BUILDING ANALYSIS AND EVIDENCE:

This bank was constructed for the E.S. & A. Bank in 1879². It is likely to be by Leonard Terry, but the records of this bank do not survive prior to 1890 and no tender notices have been discovered.

The first Fitzroy branch of the E.S. & A. Bank was opened at 43 George Street in 1854³. In about 1865 it moved to 65 Gertrude Street at the corner of Little Napier. In 1879, the new premises were erected for a cost of £8,396.15.6. In 1942 the bank sold the property for £2,250.⁴

1. It has also been suggested that William Wardell may be the architect.
2. Trethowan B "A Study of Banks in Victoria 1851-1939" for the Historic Buildings Preservation Council. December 1976. Date of construction from directory search.
3. As discussed in op cit p.21.
4. Information from Mr. Holt, ANZ bank architect.

BUILDING ANALYSIS AND EVIDENCE (cont'd)

This building is a typical example of a bank in the conservative classical style, and like other Terry banks has a marked unity in architectural vocabulary.

The original cement rendered facade has been painted but the bluestone base course remains. The ground floor composed of ruled masonry piers is broken by recessed rectangular panels containing the doors and windows. This is typical Terry fenestration treatment, as seen in Terry's Ballarat London Chartered Bank of 1860 (now demolished), although in this case, there are curved top corners to the plain reveal. The upper floor is unusually austere without any window surrounds. The whole composition is surmounted by a dentillated cornice and debased parapet. Internally, there is little of note, apart from some surviving cornice and the original cedar staircase.

This building has a harmonious facade composition, but is remarkably austere and modest for a Terry bank. The facade treatment has ignored the corner site and is oriented only to the street front. There are better, more refined examples of Terry banks in Victoria, but this building provides an important streetscape component and is of local significance.

NAME: -

ADDRESS: 158-164 Gertrude St.

CONSTRUCTION DATE: 1887-1888

ALTERATNS./ADDTNS: Ground floor shop fronts altered, verandah replaced by cantilevered awning

ARCHITECT: Tappin, Gilbert & Dennehy

BUILDER: Unknown

FIRST OWNER: C.R. Blackett/
Chemist

FIRST OCC./USE: Shops

PRESENT OWNER: Various

PRESENT OCC./USE: Ground floor shops;
upper floors - boarding house accommodation

CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS: Red brick, cement and freestone dressings, slate roof.

INTACTNESS/CONDITION: Upper floor facades intact

AREA/STREETSCAPE: Part of recommended streetscape A13

IMPORTANCE:



This building was constructed in 1887-1888 for Cuthbert R. Blackett, a notable chemist, to the design of architects, Tappin Gilbert and Dennehy. It provides an outstanding specimen of English Queen Anne Revival. The