

NAME: National Bank  
ADDRESS: 171 Smith Street  
CONSTRUCTION DATE: 1872-73  
ALTERATIONS/ADDITNS: Removal of roof parapet  
in 1967  
ARCHITECT: Leonard Terry  
BUILDER: Unknown  
FIRST OWNER: National Bank  
FIRST OCC./USE: Ditto/banking premises  
PRESENT OWNER: Ditto  
PRESENT OCC/USE: Ditto/banking premises  
CONSTRUCTION  
MATERIALS: Face bluestone and face  
freestone  
INTACTNESS/  
CONDITION: Externally intact apart from parapet  
AREA/STREETSCAPE: Part of recommended streetscape A18



IMPORTANCE:

This bank was constructed for the National Bank in 1872<sup>1</sup> to the design of the architect Leonard Terry. It is superbly executed in face freestone with a bluestone plinth, and employs typical elements of Terry's work, combined to produce a harmonious and well proportioned building.

In 1967 the parapet was removed and replaced by an inappropriate cement capping. This has spoiled the harmony of the original design and detracts significantly from the overall composition.

This building is of major streetscape importance and represents one of Terry's most consistently detailed, modestly proportioned and harmonious banking buildings.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that this building be added to the Historic Buildings Register. Reinstatement of the original parapet is recommended and would result in a modest, superbly designed and executed bank building. It is also recommended that the bank 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 National Bank in 1872 to the design of the architect Leonard Terry.

The building is superbly executed in face freestone with a bluestone plinth and is one of Terry's finest banks of modest conception. The detailing compares with that of the earlier Bank of Australasia, 202 Lydiard Street, Ballarat, of 1864, but the latter is of grander dimensions with five windows to each facade. The window surrounds, wrought iron guards, ground floor ruled rustication, and bluestone plinth are identical to those of the Ballarat bank and are fairly typical of Terry's work.

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1. Argus 29.2.1872. Tenders called.

BUILDING ANALYSAIS AND EVIDENCE (cont'd)

In 1967 the original parapet and dentillated cornice was removed<sup>2</sup> (due to structural instability) and replaced by a cement capping which ruins the original proportions of the building. Reinstated, this parapet would produce a building without comparison in Victoria as a harmonious modest bank building. It is remarkable that it has survived unpainted to this date, presenting such mellow building materials to the street facade.

The original entrance door has been replaced and the interior has the original floor tiling, cornice treatment and door joinery.

This building provides an extremely important corner streetscape element. The proportions and detailing of this building are beyond comparison. It is strongly recommended that the parapet be replaced to return this building to its original condition.



(33) National Bank, 1965

2. Photo, dated April 1965, of original parapet. Held at the National Bank Premises Department. Drawings are also held, dated 9.1.1967 by Meldrum & Partners, Architect, with parapet drawings.