

Victorian Heritage Register



RECOMMENDATION AND DETERMINATION ON A NOMINATION TO THE VICTORIAN HERITAGE REGISTER

NAME: FORMER NATIONAL BANK

VHR NO: Not applicable

LOCATION: 270 QUEENS PARADE FITZROY NORTH, Yarra City

CATEGORY: Not applicable

FILE NO: 606814

OFFICER/S REPORTING: Libby Blamey



RECOMMENDATION BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

- That the Place or object NOT be included in the Heritage Register [Section 32(1)(b)]
- That the Place or object be referred to the relevant planning authority for inclusion in a planning scheme [Section 32(2)]

Manager
Heritage Assessments

Date

Executive Director

Date

REASON:

Though the former National Bank, North Fitzroy is of architectural significance at a local level, it is not of sufficient cultural heritage significance to the State of Victoria to be included on the Victorian Heritage Register.

There are currently 38 banks listed on the Victorian Heritage Register which were constructed in the nineteenth century. The variety of buildings represented ranges from grand buildings, such as the ANZ Bank, Collins Street Melbourne (H0033) to less imposing rural bank branches, such as the National Australia Bank, Maffra (H0399). Given this number, for a bank to be included on the Register it would need to exhibit outstanding or unique cultural heritage significance.

The former National Bank, North Fitzroy is a representative example of a suburban Classical Revival bank design from the 1880s. Examples of Classical Revival banks included on the Register include the National Bank of Australia, Bendigo (H1020) and the National Bank of Australia, Benalla (H1056), which demonstrate the key characteristics of this style. The 1889 Former Union Bank of Australia, Fitzroy (H0506), which exhibits the successful integration of residence and bank facilities, features a two-storey loggia at its southern end, and draped ionic entrance consoles, demonstrating a transition to a more expressive boom-era style of bank design. Another outstanding example from the 1880s 'boom' era is the ANZ Bank on Queens Parade, Fitzroy North (H0892). It is considered to be one of the best examples of English Queen Anne Revival style commercial architecture in the State, and its imposing and distinctive architecture demonstrates the importance of the banking industry in the late 1880s. Whilst the Former National Bank is important to the Queens Parade area as a Classical Revival bank building, it does not demonstrate State level architectural significance. It is recommended that the former National Bank, Fitzroy North not be included in the Victorian Heritage Register. The building is currently protected by the Yarra City planning scheme within the Queens Parade Precinct on the heritage overlay (HO330) and this is considered the appropriate level of protection.

STATEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE:

The former National Bank branch at North Fitzroy was constructed in 1886 to a design by William Alfred Tyree.

Tenders were called for the construction of the two-storey, Classical Revival building in *The Argus* in February 1886 and again for the completion of the banking premises in August 1886, by W.A. Tyree of Tyree, McKenzie & Ballard architects of Heidelberg. William Tyree died in November that year, aged 36. The National Bank continued to operate from this site until at least the 1980s.

The former National Bank, North Fitzroy is a two storey, rendered brick building, located on

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a prominent corner site on Queens Parade. It is of a transitional style from conservative to boom classic revival design and features a recessed arcade on the first floor, and a balustraded parapet with decorative urns and corner sculpture. The corner entrance is edged by columns and a triangular pediment. The name National Bank of Australasia is carved below the cornice detail on both the Queens Parade and Darlington Parade facades.

The former National Bank, North Fitzroy is of local architectural significance as an 1880s, Classical Revival bank.
