

development in Ballarat Street and linked with the renowned J.C. Schild and tenuously to the lesser known John Copplestone.

State Savings Bank of Victoria 13 Ballarat Street, Yarraville

History

Commissioners of the State Savings Bank of Victoria engaged architects Sydney Smith & Ogg to design this branch bank in 1909. The contract price was 1966 pounds. Smith & Ogg designed other S.S.B. banks at Moonee Ponds (1905), Elsternwick (1907), Camberwell (c1907) and Numurkah (1913): all in a period when they employed the 'architectural expert', author and academic, Robert Haddon, as a contract designer. Haddon's *Australian Architecture* illustrates similar structures, as bank or office designs.¹

Description

Parapeted face-red brickwork, foliated pressed cement detail and fanciful wrought iron were typical ingredients of the Edwardian Freestyle which used British and Italian Medieval sources for its inspiration.

More regular in composition on its main facade than on the asymmetrically treated north elevation, the walls are divided by piers and considerably enlivened by a variety of openings set between them. Round, bayed and segment-arched windows of different sizes are used on the Ballarat Street front, while a combination of freely arranged arched and rectangular ones are used to the north. Moulded terra-cotta tiles separate an intricate leadlight from the residential entrance and moulded terra-cotta outlines the prominent voussoirs to the arches. Queen Anne scrolls mark the change in width of the chimney shaft in its path down the north wall. The corrugated iron fence to Ballarat Street is original.

Massive elements and diverse openings, provide a free and highly successful design.

External Integrity

New bank entrance, window glazing and interior; basalt painted.

Streetscape

Contributes to 19th and early 20th century streetscape on this side of Ballarat Street.

Significance

Architecturally, a highly successful bank design in the Edwardian Freestyle manner which exhibits skill in both massing and application of detail also part of a late 19th early 20th century streetscape. Historically, among the surge of Savings Bank construction during the Edwardian period and still functioning as one of Yarraville's major public buildings.

Sun Theatre, 6-12 Ballarat Road

History

Purpose-built cinemas were scarce in the West, the suburbs of Footscray, Williamstown and Newport containing only six built between 1911 and 1922. In Yarraville there were only the McFarlane family's early St. Georges cinema (1913)² which survives in Birmingham Street and the converted Yarraville Hall (Lyric) in Stephen Street, prior to the arrival of the Sun³. Competition from the Sun meant the closing of the Lyric in the 1940s and the cessation of remodeling plans for St. Georges: it was always the first choice of cinema-goers in their rounds of Saturday night's entertainment and hence is the venue most remembered by today's Yarraville community⁴.

Opened in April 1938 with the Jeanette MacDonald and Nelson Eddy film *Maytime*, the Sun replaced a Commercial Bank, a fishmonger's shop and was sited on land formerly owned by the Mount Lyall company⁵. It was the owner, Ernest Charles Yeomans, fourth cinema (see also Footscray Grand) and was managed by his son, W.J. Yeomans, remaining among the small number of privately owned cinemas of the post-war period. What impressed local patrons most was that the

1 Trethowan
2 *Yarraville News* 14.6.13
3 Hanson, 'The Sun Yarraville' in *Kino* 10.8.2, p.7f, cites *Film Weekly* 2.6.38
4 verbal
5 R Cocks