

**COLONIAL BANK,
BANK
32 PALL MALL,**

SURVEY DATE: 1991-2

NATIONAL TRUST OF AUSTRALIA (CLASS/REC.): C

STUDY GRADING: A

CONSTRUCTION DATE: 1887

FIRST OWNER : COLONIAL BANK



CITATION:

History

'The presence of the new National Bank next door made the directors of the Colonial Bank take a look at their own premises built in 1857. The stucco had been falling from the facade for years, so they commissioned Vahland to build a new one.

The result is possibly Vahland's finest 'boom style' building; a riot of ornamentation. Vahland was also a thorough architect and after 100 years the facade is in excellent condition.

**BENDIGO & EAGLEHAWK HERITAGE STUDY-SIGNIFICANT SITES
GRAEME BUTLER & ASSOCIATES**

In classical architecture the proportions of columns, their relative positions, order, etc., were all closely defined. In this design Vahland broke most of the rules, coming up with the whimsical building we see today.

The National Bank may have been eclipsed by the opulence of the Colonial, but it had staying power. The National absorbed the Colonial in 1918 and moved in. It is now known as the National Australia Bank¹.

AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE COMMISSION CITATION:

Description

No. 32 Pall Mall, Bendigo, is a three-storey building with a central archway and matching windows at street level, repeated at first floor level and a third attic type floor above this again, all surmounted by a heavy cornice. The banking chamber is beyond and extends upwards of two floors to a fine ceiling. Beyond this again are bachelor quarters of two floors and ancillary store rooms.

Condition

The central archway entrance has been defaced in recent years by making a side entrance through an anteroom. Modern light fittings have also marred Vahland's lofty vault. An inner arched doorway to the rear sections has received unsympathetic treatment.

The premises are in excellent repair.

Significant Associations

W.C. Vahland, Designer

Significance

A three-storey brick and render bank building of 1887 by Architect W.C. Vahland with a central archway and matching windows at street level, repeated at first floor level, with a third attic type floor above surmounted by a heavy cornice, broken pediment and elaborate urns; the banking chamber extends upwards for two floors to a fine ceiling.

1 Butcher & Flanders p. 31