

Victorian Heritage Database Report  
**National Bank & Chambers**

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**Location:**

53 Malop Street, GEE LONG VIC 3220 - Property No 215194

**Heritage Status / Level of Significance:**

Included in Heritage Overlay

**Heritage Overlay Number:** HO991

**Listing Authority:** Greater Geelong City

**Statement of Significance:**

B Listed - Regional Significance

Significance

Historically, a major public building over a 60 year period and an indication of the growth and consolidation of banking companies after World War One and, particularly, the Great Depression. Architecturally, one of a rare breed in Geelong of the large early 20th century commercial buildings, also seen in Melbourne in greater numbers and larger scale. With its relatively larger scale, goes the amplification of the prevailing, Greek Revival Style into Geelong's best (and only example at this scale).

References

CTHE open 27.1.28; RB 1927, 373; RB 1928, 378f.

Geelong Advertiser 28/1/28

MUAI

Trethowan ' Banks in Victoria'

D 1930-61

## Description

### Description

Greek Revival in detail, the bold rounded corner form is also typical of many 19th century Renaissance revival examples. This bank differs in the simplification or reinterpretation of period detailing and fenestration, as demanded by greater daylight penetration. Upper windows are vertical slots, with paneled spandrels lower level windows fill the Ionic pilastrade with multipane metalframed glazing. The main chamber is typically near double-height, to achieve the monumentality inherent in the style. Stone and cement-render are blended skillfully to achieve a convincing classical character and the saltire-cross, used in balustrading and window mullions, hint at the Green sources.

### External Integrity

Generally original, added signs.

### Streetscape

Opposite National Mutual Life (c1924), the altered former Solomons Department Store 1914, Colonial Mutual Chambers 1927 and formerly across from the old Commonwealth Bank and Victoria Hotel both sites (both demolished), this bank was once part of a visually cohesive group of some of the town's most prestigious commercial buildings. Today it relates closely to the CML and NML Buildings and other landmark corner sites such as the T & G Building (1932) and Bank of New South Wales (1938).

Heritage Study / Consultant	Greater Geelong - Geelong City Urban Conservation Study, Volumes 2-5, Graeme Butler, 1991
Construction Date Range	
Architect / Designer	
Municipality	GREATER GEELONG CITY
Other names	
Hermes number	19434
Property number	215194

*This place/object may also be State heritage listed. Check the Victorian Heritage Database. For further details, contact the local Council or go to Planning Schemes Online*