CITY OF GREATER GEELONG

Victorian Heritage Database Report

National Bank & Chambers



Location:
53 Malop Street, GEELONG 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 Geelongs 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

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Greek Revival in detail, the bold rounded0corner 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 lowerlevel 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 bothSites (both demolished), this bank was once part of a visually cohesive group of some of the towns most prestigious commercial buildings. Today it relates closely to the CML amp NML Buildings and other landmark corner sites such as the T& G Building (1932) and Bank of NewSouth 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