

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: BANK OF VICTORIA (FORMER)

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: 61 Whyte Street COLERAINE

STUDY NUMBER: 010

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

PRECINCT: Coleraine

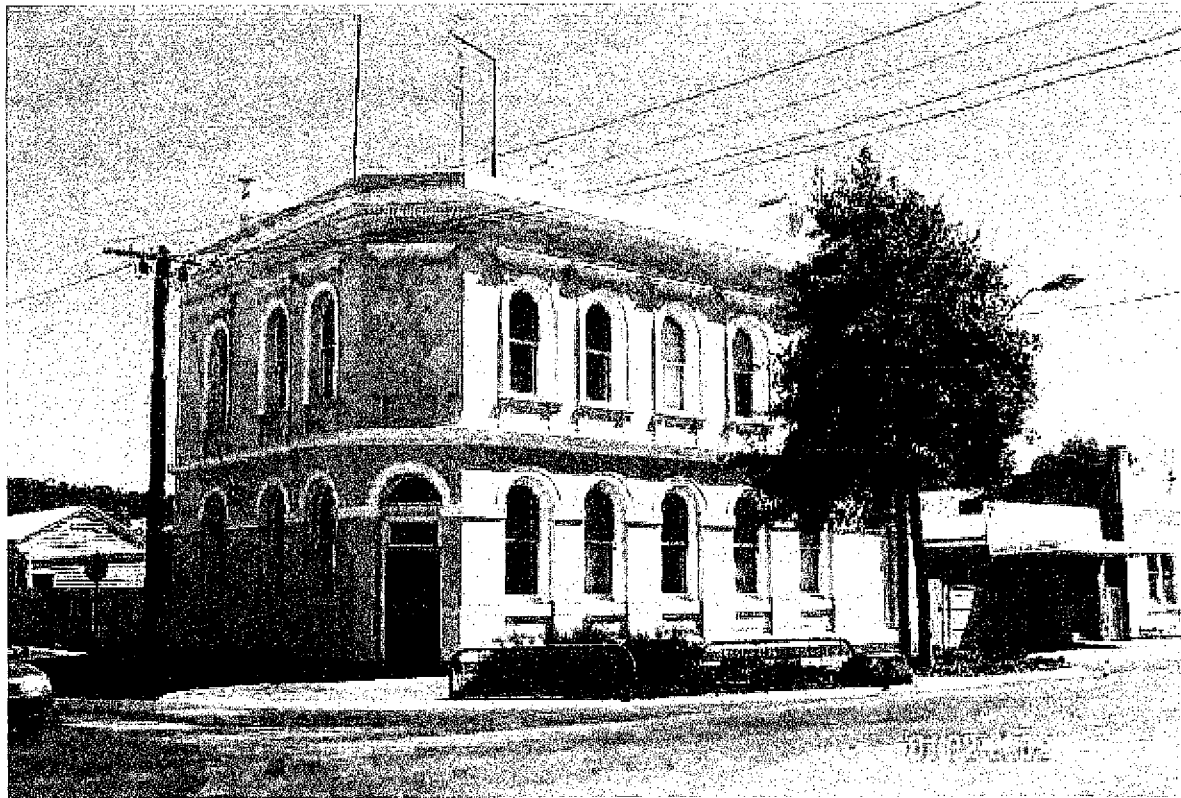
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

ALLOTMENT: 2 **SECTION:** 8 **PARISH:** PARISH OF COLERAINE

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA 430J G4 No 2; VR 228 C9. Located on the south side of Whyte Street, the Glenelg Highway, between Read and Henty Streets in the centre of Coleraine.

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: Local



Former Bank of Victoria, Coleraine, looking south west from the corner of Whyte and Henty Streets.

Image Date: 02/08/2001

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of: 1. All the buildings (the bank and residence and stables) and land .

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

The former Bank of Victoria is a two storey rendered brick building in the Renaissance Revival style, using the palazzo form associated with the emergence of modern banking in 15th century Florence. It is built on a corner with a garden elevation and private entrance facing west. The banking chamber is on the ground floor and the traditional manager's residence is on the first floor.

The street elevations consist of a series of semicircular arched window openings at ground and first floor levels, with a corner door opening below and a blind window above. On the ground floor, the windows and the panels below them are recessed within an arcade of piers and arches set on a bluestone plinth. The arches are outlined by simple architraves springing from a cornice with vertical grooves. The line of the window sills is emphasised by two continuous horizontal grooves. On the first floor, the windows are treated as separate aedicules with horizontal 'pediments' and they are set on an intermediate cornice dividing the two storeys. The walls are topped by a parapet treated plainly as a frieze and cornice. On the ground floor, the arcade continues to form the end wall of a timber verandah associated with the entrance to the manager's residence. The verandah has a simple cast iron frieze and brackets. The windows on the west elevation are treated conventionally with simple architraves set on projecting sills supported by brackets. The architectural detailing is consistently chaste and finely executed.

There is a single storey red brick extension to the rear of the building. The original stables survive on the side boundary.

HISTORY:

The land on which the former Bank of Victoria now stands was purchased from the Crown by James Blair on May 20, 1852, being Allotment 2 of Section 8 (Township of Coleraine Map 1955). James Blair was the first Police Magistrate for Portland, a Crown Lands Commissioner and one of the most important public servants in the Western District. It is not known if it was he who first developed the site although it is unlikely since he purchased many blocks in Coleraine and other towns.

Registered in Victoria in 1852, the Bank of Victoria commenced operations in January 1853, and in 1889 it became known as Bank of Victoria Limited. The first branch of the Bank of Victoria in Coleraine was established in January 1873, although the Bank did not purchase the land until 1874 (Troeth, 80). The leading Melbourne architects, Smith and Johnson were responsible for the design and James Nation and Co. completed the construction in 1875 at a cost of about 4,000 pounds (CA 27/03/1874). The bank is one of several buildings in the area built by James Nation and Co, the others being the Post and Telegraph Office at Coleraine, the Bank of Victoria at Merino to the same design as the Coleraine branch, the Bank of Victoria at Casterton, and a wholesale store for Mr Cue at Casterton (ibid., 28/08/1874). The Coleraine Albion (28/08/1874) reported that in August of 1874, work had commenced on the second storey of the bank, but had been delayed by a shortage of bricks, possibly due to the amount of work being undertaken in the district by Mr. Nation.

The first manager was Mr Henry Chambers, who remained until his successor Mr. Wilkinson arrived in 1881. Mr Wilkinson managed the bank from 1881 to 1886, and was followed by Mr. C.G Gardiner, who was appointed 1886 (Sutherland, 69). Mr Gardiner had previously managed branches of the Bank of Victoria in Penshurst (ibid.). Little is known about the management of the Bank in the twentieth Century, although at some point it became a branch of the Australasian and New Zealand Bank. It was closed in the 1980s, since which time the building has been used as a private residence.

The bank represents the culmination of an early period of development for the township. The building forms

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a dominant landmark in the town by virtue of its prominent position.

THEMATIC CONTEXT:

Theme 3 Developing local, regional and national economies

3.18 Financing Australia

3.18.2 Banking and lending

Theme 8 Developing Australia's cultural life

8.12 Living in and around Australian homes

8.14 Living in the country and rural communities

CONDITION:

The former Bank of Victoria survives reasonably intact, and is in good condition.

INTEGRITY:

High

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

What is significant?

The former Bank of Victoria is a two storey rendered brick building located at 61 Whyte Street at the corner of Henty Street, in the centre of Coleraine. The bank was designed by the leading Melbourne architects, Smith and Johnson, and constructed by contractor James Nation & Co., Melbourne in 1874. It is identical to the Bank of Victoria at Merino. The bank is a typical example of restrained Victorian classicism, using the Italian palazzo form because of its association with the origin of modern banking in Florence. The banking chamber and other offices are on the ground floor while the manager's residence, entered separately from a porch on the west side, is on the first floor. The building has suffered few alterations, and is in good condition.

How is it significant?

The former Bank of Victoria is of architectural and historical significance to the township of Coleraine and the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

The bank is of architectural significance as one of several buildings constructed in the area by James Nation and Co., and as the work of the important Melbourne architects, Smith and Johnson. The architecture, being conservative and classical, presented an image of security and stability to its customers. The former Bank of Victoria is of historical significance as one of the major financial institutions which serviced the township for over 125 years.

COMPARISON:

154 Bank of Victoria (Former), 40 Martin Street, Peshurst

029 National Australia Bank (Former), 76 Whyte Street, Coleraine

030 State Bank of Victoria (Former), 59 Whyte Street, Coleraine

ASSESSED BY: tfh

ASSESSMENT DATE:

31-Jul-01

EXISTING LISTINGS:

Name

Southern Grampians Shire Planning Scheme

HERITAGE STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS:

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Include in VHR Include in RNE Include in Local Planning Scheme

No Recommendations for Inclusions

REFERENCES:

Author	Title	Year	Page
Alexander Sutherland	Victoria and its Metropolis Volume IIA: (Country Districts)	1888	
Coleraine Albion	Coleraine Albion 02/09/1874	1874	
Coleraine Albion	Coleraine Albion 28/08/1874	1874	
Coleraine Albion	Coleraine Albion 31/07/1874	1874	
Coleraine Albion	Coleraine Albion 24/03/1874	1874	
Departments of Lands and Survey	Township of Coleraine (Parishes of Coleraine and Konong Wootong County of Dundas)	1873	
Departments of Lands and Survey	Township of Coleraine (Parishes of Coleraine and Konong Wootong County of Dundas)	1955	
Shire of Wannon	Shire of Wannon Ratebook 1874-75	1875	Entry 8
Trethowan, Bruce	Banks in Victoria 1851-1939	1976	
Troeth, Malcolm	The Cultural Landscape of Coleraine	1988	162