

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: NATIONAL AUSTRALIA BANK (FORMER)

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: 76 Whyte Street COLERAINE

STUDY NUMBER: 029

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

PRECINCT: Coleraine

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

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

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA 431F4 Located on the north side of the main street, Whyte Street or the Glenelg Highway, in the centre of the township of Coleraine between Henty and Winter Streets.

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: Local



National Australia Bank, Whyte Street, Coleraine.

Image Date: 01/02/02

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of: 1. All the building and all of the land.

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

The former National Australia Bank, located in Whyte Street, Coleraine is a two storey rendered brick building incorporating the banking offices and a manager's residence. Built in the Renaissance Revival style based on the palazzo form typical of banks. It has superimposed trabeation and arcuation systems of pilasters supporting entablatures and arched windows on the ground floor. The ground floor is in the Tuscan (or unfluted Roman Doric) Order. The upper floor is in the Ionic Order. The four pilasters on each floor are set in antis within piers on the ground floor and Tuscan pilasters on the upper floor. The ground floor is heavily rusticated with voussoirs and keystones supported on an intermediate cornice. The windows of the upper floor are treated as aedicules. The entrance to the banking chamber is in the eastern bay, the original door having been replaced by a modern aluminium door. On the western side of the bank there is a recessed porch with two arches and a single window above. The yard to the side is the private garden (not now well developed) for the manager. There is a single service extending to the rear of the main wing.

HISTORY:

The land on which the former National Australia Bank now stands was first purchased from the Crown by George Trangmar on 04 December, 1855 (Department of Land and Survey, 1955). This was one of several pieces of land which Thomas and his brother George Trangmar purchased in Coleraine in the 1850s (ibid.). The Trangmars were a very important early local family who were responsible for starting Coleraine's commercial industry. They were at one time, the owners of the oldest family held general store in Victoria (McGaffin, 37). The Trangmar family were also very influential merchants in Portland, and went on to own substantial pastoral and commercial interests throughout the district.

The first bank in Coleraine was set up as the Coleraine branch of the National Bank of Australasia, and managed by Mr. W. Oswald from Trangmar's store in June 1866 (McGaffin, 48). At the time, the store acted as a general merchant, Post Office, Telegraphic Communication station and bank (ibid.). The store was located on the southern side of Whyte Street, almost opposite its current location.

In 1869, the National Bank of Australasia purchased allotment 8, section 2 from Trangmar and in September of that year, the architect, Lloyd Tayler of Melbourne, called tenders (Tonkin, 76; Trethowan, 11). It was one of at least three banks designed by Tayler and built in the Western District at that time. Tayler was something of a specialist in bank design, rivaled only by the architect, Leonard Terry. As well as many simple branch designs, he crowned his career with his design for the interior of the head office of the Commercial Bank of Australia, which was considered sensational at the time. Tayler was also important as a leader of the profession and as one of the 'form-givers' to later nineteenth century architects in Victoria (ADB, 244-5).

The successful contractors were Messrs. Southcombe and Ireland of Belfast, now Port Fairy (Tonkin, 77). "Robert Ireland and Thomas Southcombe were carpenters and builders and operated in partnership from 1860 to 1872" (Powling, 167). They were timber merchants as well and amongst the earliest settlers in Belfast (ibid., 226). The building was completed by 1870 and was reported to have cost 3,000 pounds (CA, 02/09/1892), and the branch was transferred from Trangmar's store (CHS File Note).

As was customary, the manager lived in a residence on the first floor. The Coleraine branch of the National Bank closed in 2001.

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

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8.12 Living in and around Australian homes

8.14 Living in the country and rural communities

CONDITION:

The building is in excellent condition externally. It has not been inspected internally.

INTEGRITY:

high degree of integrity, one window on side wing filled in principal entrance altered but hardly discernable.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

What is significant?

The former National Australia Bank is located on the north west corner of Whyte and Winter Streets in the centre of the township of Coleraine. The former bank is large two storey rendered brick building in the Renaissance Revival style, based on the palazzo form typical of banks. The building incorporates the banking offices and a manager's residence. The architect was Lloyd Tayler, a very important early Architect who won repute for his designs for the National Bank of Australasia. The National Bank of Australasia (later the National Australia Bank) was the first bank to open in Coleraine, operating out of Trangmar's Store from 1866 until the bank purchased land and constructed the building to be opened in 1870. The National Bank of Australasia and later the National Australia Bank remained the owners of the building until the branch closed in 2001.

How is it significant?

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

Why is it significant?

The former National Australia Bank is of architectural significance as an example of the work by leading Melbourne architect and specialist in bank design, Lloyd Tayler. It is of further architectural significance in comparison with the other surviving banks in the town. The former bank is of historical significance as the first bank to operate in Coleraine, and for its long standing association as a centre for banking in the district for over 130 years as the same corporate identity, notwithstanding name changes and bank amalgamations. The bank is of further historical significance as an important element of the townscape since the 1870s, and along with other buildings in the 'municipal' part of Coleraine it reinforces a visual centre of the township. The bank is also of historical significance as its building represents the formalisation of Coleraine as a service centre for the early local people.

COMPARISON:

153 National Bank (Former), 85-87 Bell Street, Penshurst

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

ASSESSED BY: TFH

ASSESSMENT DATE:

09-Jul-03

EXISTING LISTINGS:

HERITAGE STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS:

Include in VHR Include in RNE Include in Local Planning Scheme

No Recommendations for Inclusions

REFERENCES:

Author	Title	Year	Page
Bede Nairn, gen. ed.	Australian Dictionary of Biography, Vol 6, 1851-1890 R-Z	1976	244-5
Bruce Trethowan	A Study of Banks in Victoria, 1851-1839	1976	11

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Coleraine Historical Society	File Note - Banks	n.d
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
George Tibbits	The Classical Tradition in Architecture, in Art Association of Australia, Annual Conference	1976 85
J W Powling	Port Fairy, the First Fifty Years	1980 167. 226
Malcolm Troeth	The Cultural Landscape of Coleraine	1988 78-9
Ray Tonkin	Research Notes 'Extract from the Warrnambool Examiner between 1854-1870'	1973