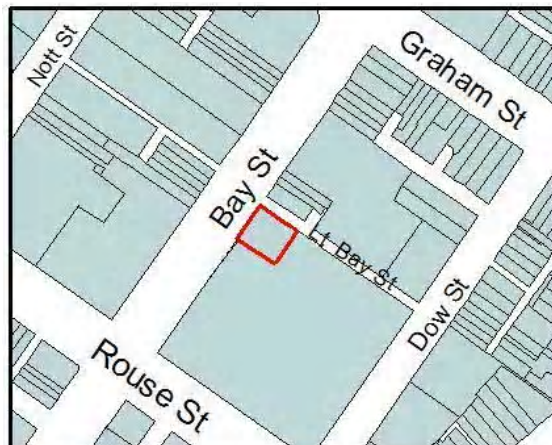


Identifier Former National Bank

Formerly unknown



Heritage Precinct Overlay None
Heritage Overlay(s) HO452

Address 96 Bay St
PORT MELBOURNE

Category Commercial

Constructed 1874

Designer Terry and Oakden

Amendment C 70

Comment [Street address and location map correction](#)

Significance (Mapped as a Significant heritage property.)

The former National Bank is of local significance. It is typical of the conservative and refined Renaissance palazzo style employed by the architect Leonard Terry on other National Bank buildings. The location near Beach Street provides evidence of the former economic importance of the foreshore area of Port Melbourne.

Primary Source

Allom Lovell and Associates, Port Melbourne Conservation Study review Vol. 2, 1995

Other Studies

Jacobs Lewis Vines, Port Melbourne Conservation Study, 1979

Description

PRINCIPAL THEME: Commerce/Trade

SUB-THEME: Banks

ORIGINAL OWNER: National Bank

CURRENT OWNER: Unknown

LOCAL/PRECINCT CHARACTER: AUTHENTICITY

Individual Character (Individual, 70 - 90% original
different from adjacent

BUILDING TYPE: Bank

ORIGINAL RESIDENTIAL: Residence attached to commercial premises

CONSTRUCTION: 1874

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: Victorian Regency

PRINCIPAL MATERIAL: Brick

ARCHITECT/ENGINEER: Terry and Oakden

BUILDER: Unknown

PHYSICAL/ STYLISTIC DESCRIPTION

The former National Bank as originally constructed had a symmetrical front elevation of rendered brick on bluestone subwalls. The 1889 extension, comprising a single bay to the south, maintained the original detailing. The ground floor front elevation has deeply rusticated mock ashlar blocks with splayed voussoirs to the round-headed windows and door. The first floor above an intermediate cornice is plain rendered and terminated by a large dentillated cornice and flat parapet. The first floor windows have moulded architraves and flat hood moulds supported on consoles. The lower parts of the window openings are filled with decorative cast iron panels.

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

Leonard Terry, the original architect of 92-6 Bay Street, was responsible for the design of at least fifty bank buildings, most for the National Bank, in Victoria and other states from 1857 onwards. A relatively modest example of his work, 92-6 Bay Street typifies the refined and conservative Renaissance palazzo style favoured by Terry for nearly all of his bank and other commercial buildings. Similar elevational treatment can be seen on a grander scale in the group of Terry banks (former Colonial Bank, 1860; National Bank, 1862, Bank of New South Wales, 1862; former Australasia Bank, 1864) in Lydiard Street, Ballarat and the National Bank, 171 Smith Street, Fitzroy, 1872.(8)

History

This former bank building occupies Section 5, Allotment 5, which was part of the first subdivision of Sandridge, shown on a plan dated 1849.(1) The name of the original purchaser was Mr J.R. Murphy, as shown on a later map of Sandridge dated 1860. Allotments 4 and 5 were later subdivided in 1864 by Mr Robert Byrne.(2)

In 1872 a branch of the National Bank was opened but not at this site.(3) In December 1874 the rate books recorded a 9 room brick building valued at £250.(4) Tenders were called for this building by Terry and Oakden on the 1st January 1874.(5) An early photograph shows the Bank as it was originally designed with only three bays and a central entrance.

In 1889 G. Jobbins, Architect, undertook the addition of the extra bay to the south in a sympathetic manner.(6) This is visible in a photograph of 1908.(7)

[Jacobs Lewis Vines, Port Melbourne Conservation Study]

Thematic Context

unknown

Recommendations

A Ward, Port Phillip Heritage Review, 1998

recommended inclusions:

Schedule to the Heritage Overlay Table in the City of Port Phillip Planning Scheme

References

1. Plan of Allotments. Marked at Sandridge. Parish of South Melbourne 1849.
2. Vale Collection, La Trobe Library. Volume 2a, p. 100. Volume 7, p. 67
3. Port Melbourne rate book: February 1874, no. 1387
4. op. cit. December 1874, No. 1425
5. Australasian Buildings and Contractors News 1.1.1874, p. 386
6. Troupe, J. 'Leonard Terry and Some of His Banks'. B. Arch 1970, pp. 90 - 93
7. National Bank of Australasia Ltd. Souvenir of the Jubilee of the Bank 1858 - 1908
8. M Lewis. 'Leonard Terry'. Australian Dictionary of Biography. Vol. 6. pp. 257-8.