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## BANK OF VICTORIA (FORMER)



23060 Bank of Victoria  
Coleraine 0485



23060 Bank of Victoria  
Coleraine 0483



23060 Bank of Victoria  
Coleraine stables 0486



23060 Bank of Victoria  
Former Coleraine 0425

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### Location

61 Whyte Street, COLERAINE VIC 3315 - Property No 1013530

### Municipality

SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

### Level of significance

Stage 2 study complete

### Heritage Listing

Southern Grampians Shire

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### Statement of Significance

Last updated on - April 13, 2003

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.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Southern Grampians - Southern Grampians Shire Heritage Study, Timothy Hubbard P/L, Annabel Neylon, 2002;
Construction dates	1874,
Architect/Designer	Smith & Johnson,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Hermes Number	23060
Property Number	

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## Physical Description 1

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.

## **Physical Conditions**

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

## **Historical Australian Themes**

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

## **Usage/Former Usage**

Bank, now vacant

## **Integrity**

High

*This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.*

*For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>*