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# BANK OF NEW SOUTH WALES



BANK OF NEW SOUTH WALES SOHE 2008



H00131 former bank of nsw barker street castlemaine front elevation



H00131 1 former bank of nsw castlemaine front elevation 2002



former bank of nsw barker street castlemaine rear view

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## Location

149-151 BARKER STREET CASTLEMAINE, MOUNT ALEXANDER SHIRE

## Municipality

MOUNT ALEXANDER SHIRE

## Level of significance

Registered

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H0131

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO574

## VHR Registration

October 9, 1974

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

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### Statement of Significance

Last updated on - October 24, 2022

#### What is significant?

The former Bank of New South Wales, Castlemaine, designed by architect Leonard Terry and constructed in 1866, replaced an earlier bank building which was erected on the site by 1855. The discovery of gold in the area in 1851 had resulted in the opening of the first branch of the Bank of New South Wales in Castlemaine in a tent in 1852.

The first land sales occurred in Castlemaine in 1853 and the following year the Bank of New South Wales acquired part of the present site and constructed a single storey bank building. In 1860 the adjacent allotment was acquired by the bank, and by 1866 the inadequate bank building and adjoining store were replaced by a substantial two storey building, in keeping with those already built on adjacent land for the Oriental Bank and the Bank of Victoria (former CBC Bank, VHR H0712).

From the late 1850s until his death in 1884, Leonard Terry was commissioned by a number of different banks to execute their designs. At the Bank of New South Wales, Castlemaine, the symmetrical front facade of the two storey rendered brick building consists of five bays with entrances in the end bays. Living quarters for the manager were located at the rear of the bank and the dual function of the building is reflected in the provision of separate entrances.

Arches of the ground floor openings spring from a prominent string course, and rectangular openings above have simple moulded architraves, prominent lintels and cast iron grilles. The classical Vitruvian, or wave, scroll frieze is used to define the two floor levels and a simple dentilled cornice embellishes the otherwise plain parapet, which conceals the hipped slate roof behind. A paved forecourt at the front of the building has a palisade fence with granite plinth and two pairs of gates at either end.

The Bank of New South Wales was absorbed by Westpac in 1982, and the bank retained ownership of the site until 1989. Few original details or finishes remain in the interior of the bank. Substantial changes were made to the building in 1973, including part demolition of the rear section, extensions to the rear, and alterations to the interior. Further alterations were made to the first floor interior in 2003.

#### How is it significant?

The former Bank of New South Wales, Castlemaine is of architectural and historical significance to the State of Victoria.

#### Why is it significant?

The former Bank of New South Wales, Castlemaine is of architectural significance as a fine bank design by prolific architect, Leonard Terry. He designed at least fifty branches for all the major banks, mainly in Victoria, largely in a variety of Renaissance Revival designs. The former Bank of New South Wales, Castlemaine is of historical significance for its association with the rapid development of the goldfields in Victoria from 1851. It reflects the dramatic increase in wealth created by the discovery of gold and the subsequent demands on the banking system.

***[Online Data Upgrade Project 2007]***

## Permit Exemptions

### General Exemptions:

General exemptions apply to all places and objects included in the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR). General exemptions have been designed to allow everyday activities, maintenance and changes to your property, which don't harm its cultural heritage significance, to proceed without the need to obtain approvals under the Heritage Act 2017.

**Places of worship:** In some circumstances, you can alter a place of worship to accommodate religious practices without a permit, but you must **notify** the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria before you start the works or activities at least 20 business days before the works or activities are to commence.

**Subdivision/consolidation:** Permit exemptions exist for some subdivisions and consolidations. If the subdivision or consolidation is in accordance with a planning permit granted under Part 4 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the application for the planning permit was referred to the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria as a determining referral authority, a permit is not required.

Specific exemptions may also apply to your registered place or object. If applicable, these are listed below. Specific exemptions are tailored to the conservation and management needs of an individual registered place or object and set out works and activities that are exempt from the requirements of a permit. Specific exemptions prevail if they conflict with general exemptions.

Find out more about heritage permit exemptions [here](#).

### Specific Exemptions:

**General Conditions: 1.** All exempted alterations are to be planned and carried out in a manner which prevents damage to the fabric of the registered place or object. **General Conditions: 2.** Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of works that original or previously hidden or inaccessible details of the place or object are revealed which relate to the significance of the place or object, then the exemption covering such works shall cease and Heritage Victoria shall be notified as soon as possible. **Note:** All archaeological places have the potential to contain significant sub-surface artefacts and other remains. In most cases it will be necessary to obtain approval from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria before the undertaking any works that have a significant sub-surface component.

**General Conditions: 3.** If there is a conservation policy and plan all works shall be in accordance with it. **Note:** A Conservation Management Plan or a Heritage Action Plan provides guidance for the management of the heritage values associated with the site. It may not be necessary to obtain a heritage permit for certain works specified in the management plan.

**General Conditions: 4.** Nothing in this determination prevents the Executive Director from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions. **General Conditions: 5.** Nothing in this determination exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the responsible authorities where applicable. **Minor Works :** **Note:** Any Minor Works that in the opinion of the Executive Director will not adversely affect the heritage significance of the place may be exempt from the permit requirements of the Heritage Act. A person proposing to undertake minor works must submit a proposal to the Executive Director. If the Executive Director is satisfied that the proposed works will not adversely affect the heritage values of the site, the applicant may be exempted from the requirement to obtain a heritage permit. If an applicant is uncertain whether a heritage permit is required, it is recommended that the permits co-ordinator be contacted.

Construction dates            1866,

Architect/Designer            Terry, Leonard,

Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Other Names	BANK OF MELBOURNE,
Hermes Number	250
Property Number	

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## History

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The first land sales occurred in Castlemaine in 1853 and the following year the Bank of New South Wales acquired part of the present site and constructed a single storey bank building. In 1860 the adjacent allotment was acquired by the bank, and by 1866 the inadequate bank building and adjoining store were replaced by a substantial two storey building, in keeping with those already built on adjacent land for the Oriental Bank and the Bank of Victoria (former CBC Bank, VHR H0712).

### **The draft statement of significance and the above history were produced as part of an Online Data Upgrade Project 2007. Sources were as follows:**

RBA Architects and Conservation Consultants. *Former Bank of New South Wales, Castlemaine* Conservation Management Plan. Melbourne 2005

B. Trethowan. *A Study of Banks in Victoria, 1851-1939*, Melbourne 1976

H. Troppe. *Leonard Terry and Some of his Banks*, Melbourne 1970

## Extent of Registration

*City of Castlemaine*. No. 131. Bank of N.S.W., 149-151 Barker Street, Castlemaine.  
[*Victoria Government Gazette* No 100 Wednesday, October 9 1974 p.3648]

*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/>*