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# National Australia Bank



26559 National Australia Bank

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## Location

131 Gray St HAMILTON, Southern Grampians Shire

## 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 -

### **SIGNIFICANCE:**

In a commanding position at the centre of the commercial area in Hamilton, this bank, under different names, has supervised the business of the street. Its architecture speaks of dignity, reliability and conservatism.

### **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

National Australia Bank  
131 Gray Street

In a commanding position at the centre of the commercial area in Hamilton, this bank, under different names, has supervised the business of the street for over a hundred and twenty years. The building has regional significance for its architectural interest as an intact 19th century bank in the Conservative Classical style designed by the architect, Alfred Louis Smith circa 1867 and has been compared to a similar bank in Beechworth. ([i]) Its architecture speaks of dignity, reliability and conservatism. It is also significant for its associations with the history of banking in the Western District region, particularly for the role played by Hamilton banks in financing the district's wool growers and graziers. Built for the Bank of Victoria, it was later owned by the Commercial Banking Co. of Sydney, Ltd ([ii]) and is now known as the National Australia Bank.

The building has undergone major alterations to the interior and extensions at the rear. The facade remains significantly intact. It is in excellent condition. It is the lynch pin of the commercial section Gray Street and critical for the streetscape.

[i] Trethowan, Bruce, 'A Study of Banks in Victoria, 1851-1939' for the Historic Buildings Preservation Council, December 1976.

[ii] Ibid.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Southern Grampians - City of Hamilton Conservation Study, Timothy Hubbard with Carlotta Kellaway & Michael Looker (plus Francis Punch), 1991;
Construction dates	1867,
Architect/Designer	Smith, Alexander L,
Hermes Number	26559
Property Number	

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## Physical Description 1

### MATERIALS:

**Roof:** slate

**Walls:** rendered brick

**Dressings:** cement render

**Plinth:** cement render & painted

bluestone

**Windows:** timber

**Paving:**

NOTABLE FEATURES: Restrained but assured use of classical detailing, use of cast iron in upper windows.

## Historical Australian Themes

### ASSOCIATED HISTORIC THEMES

Evolution of the Town: 1860s.

Tertiary Industry: Banking

Squatting: Wool and grazing

*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/>*