

**BUILDING TITLE:** National Australia Bank **BUILDING ADDRESS:** 131 Gray St  
**LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE:** A || B |X| C || D || E || **BUILDING TYPE:** Bank  
**DESIGNATION:** HBR Reg No File # 60 1525 8 **AHC File #** 015562 **NT File #** 5313 Class |X| Rec ||  
**CONSERVATION AREA:** Gray St Commercial **LEVEL OF STREETScape SIGNIFICANCE:** 1 || 2 || 3 ||  
**STYLE:** Conservative Classicism

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**CONSTRUCTION DATE & ALTERATIONS:**  
 1. 1867 (A L Smith, architect)  
 2.  
 3.  
 4.  
 5.  
 6.

**Sources:**  
 1. Trethowan, Bruce, 'A Study of Banks in Victoria, 1851-1939' for the Historic Buildings Preservation Council, December 1976.

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**MATERIALS:**

**Roof:** slate  
**Walls:** rendered brick  
**Dressings:** cement render  
**Plinth:** cement render & painted bluestone  
**Windows:** timber  
**Paving:**  
**Other:**

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**SURVEY DATE:** 7/3/91 **NEG FILE:** 2/21 **REPORTER:** SK

**INTEGRITY:** E || G || F || P || **NOTABLE FEATURES:** Restrained but assured use of classical detailing, use of cast iron in upper windows.

**CONDITION:** E || G || F || P ||

**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.

**ALTERATIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS:**

<b>Appropriate:</b>	Rec	<b>Inappropriate:</b>	Rec
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colour scheme  
 alterations at side

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**O=reinstate original design S=reinstate sympathetic alternative R=remove RAM=remove by approved method**

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<b>SIGNIFICANT OWNERS/TENANTS:</b>	<b>ARCHITECTS/BUILDERS:</b>	<b>TITLE:</b>
land to J.Quigley, 20.05.52 Bank of Victoria (1867)	A L Smith	CA Sec 15 4 Commercial Banking Co. of Sydney National Australia Bank

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**COUNCIL COMPUTER #** **MORE INFO OVER** |X| **HAMDS058**

## 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. <sup>(i)</sup> 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 <sup>(ii)</sup> 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.

### ASSOCIATED HISTORIC THEMES

Evolution of the Town: 1860s.  
Tertiary Industry: Banking  
Squatting: Wool and grazing

### ASSOCIATED HISTORIC BUILDINGS

National Bank, 98 Thompson Street  
Former Bank of New South Wales, 92 Thompson Street

### REFERENCES

*Australian Architects Index*, University of Melbourne, 1977.  
Trethowan, Bruce, 'A Study of Banks in Victoria, 1851-1939' for the Historic Buildings Preservation Council, December 1976.

### FOOTNOTES

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- <sup>i</sup> Trethowan, Bruce, 'A Study of Banks in Victoria, 1851-1939' for the Historic Buildings Preservation Council, December 1976.  
<sup>ii</sup> Ibid.