

# HERITAGE PLACE

**NAME OF PLACE:** NATIONAL BANK (FORMER)

**ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE:** 85-87 Bell Street PENSURST

**STUDY NUMBER:** 153

**HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:**

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**PRECINCT:** Penshurst

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:** Southern Grampians Shire

**ALLOTMENT:** Pt CA **SECTION:** 14 **PARISH:** PARISH OF YALIMBA  
7 & 8

**ACCESS DESCRIPTION:**

CFA ; VicRoads 233 P11; located on the south side of Bell Street, east of the intersection with Martin Street, in the centre of the township.

**SIGNIFICANCE RATING:** Local



National Bank (former), 87 Bell St, Penshurst

**Image Date:** 22/04/02

**EXTENT OF LISTING:**

To the extent of: 1. All the building and all of the title.

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## **PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:**

The former National Bank is a single storey, symmetrical building of rendered brick (or bluestone?). The façade is subdivided by a composite trabeated and arcuated system of simulated structure. The Order is Tuscan. The parapet is balustraded behind which there is low pitched hipped corrugated iron roof. There is a sympathetic extension on the west side, which dates to pre 1976 (Trethowan).

The urns decorating the parapet have been removed and there is a new front door. The lettering along the frieze naming the bank has been painted over.

## **HISTORY:**

The National Bank of Australasia was founded in Melbourne in 1857 on the strength of Victoria's wealth from gold and pastoralism. The Peshurst branch of the bank opened in 1872 but the present building was not constructed for at least two years. The first branch was located in a portion Madigan's Store (then known as Drummond and Dickinsons), located on the north west corner of Bell and Martin Streets, in the centre of the township.

The National Bank (former) located at 85-87 Bell Street was not built until 1875 (File Note, MRHS). The architects are not known according to the Trethowan Bank Study and this may be because the manager of the Hamilton branch of the Bank supervised the works. He called for tenders in the Warrnambool Standard on 20 October 1874, inviting two tenders, one for construction in brick and one in stone (Tonkin, 1971). (The architect of the Hamilton branch, which dates from 1867, was designed by the architect, A L Smith.)

The National Australia Bank continued to trade in Peshurst until 1998, it is now used as a private residence.

## **THEMATIC CONTEXT:**

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

## **CONDITION:**

The building is in excellent condition and apparently is substantially intact. The interiors have not been inspected.

## **INTEGRITY:**

Very high degree of integrity

## **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:**

What is significant?

The former National Australia Bank is located on the east side of Bell Street in the centre of the township of Peshurst. The former bank is single storey brick building in the Renaissance Revival style, based on the palazzo form typical of banks. There is no known architect. The National Bank of Australasia (later the National Australia Bank) was the second bank to open in Peshurst, operating out of Madigan's (then known as Drummond & Dickson's) Store from 1872 until the bank purchased land and constructed the building to be opened in 1875. The National Bank of Australasia and later the National Australia Bank remained the owners of the building until the branch closed in 1998.

How is it significant?

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The former National Australia Bank is of architectural and historical significance to the township of Penshurst and the Southern Grampians Shire.

## Why is it significant?

The former National Australia Bank is of architectural significance as an excellent example of Victorian Renaissance Revival style. It is of further architectural significance in comparison with the other surviving banks in the town. The former bank is of historical significance for its long association with the township, for over 120 years as the same corporate identity, notwithstanding name changes and bank amalgamations. The bank is of further historical significance as an important element of the townscape since the 1870s, and along with other buildings in the 'municipal' part of Coleraine it reinforces a visual centre of the township. The bank is also of historical significance as its building represents the formalisation of Penshurst as a service centre for the early local people.

## COMPARISON:

154 Bank of Victoria, 40 Martin Street, Penshurst  
153 Bank of Victoria (Former), 61 Whyte Street, Coleraine  
020 National Australia Bank, 76 Whyte Street, Coleraine

**ASSESSED BY:** TFH

**ASSESSMENT DATE:** 09-Jul-03

## EXISTING LISTINGS:

## HERITAGE STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS:

Include in VHR  Include in RNE  Include in Local Planning Scheme

No Recommendations for Inclusions

## REFERENCES:

Author	Title	Year	Page
Mount Rouse & District Historical Society	Banks - Mount Rouse & District Historical Society File Note		n.d
Ray Tonkin	Tender and Other Notices from the Warrnambool Standard	1971	not numbered
Trethowan, Bruce	Banks in Victoria 1851-1939	1976	