

# HERITAGE PLACE

COLONIAL BANK (FORMER)

**ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE:** Parker Street Stirling Street DUNKELD

**STUDY NUMBER:** 413

**HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:**

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**LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:** Southern Grampians Shire

**ACCESS DESCRIPTION:**

CFA 433J B3; VicRoads 229 S4; located in the south-west corner of Parker Street and Sterling Streets, on the Glenelg Highway beside the Memorial Park.

**SIGNIFICANCE RATING:** Local



Colonial Bank (Former), Parker and Stirling Streets, Dunkeld

**Image Date:** 11/02/01

**EXTENT OF LISTING:**

To the extent of: 1. All the building but excluding the interiors and all of the land.

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## PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

The single storey small brick building is located on the south west corner of Parker Street (the Glenelg Highway) and Stirling Street in the centre of Dunkeld. It is a very simple example of the Renaissance revival style, which was almost always used for banks in the nineteenth century. There is a canted entrance with a double leaved six panel door opening into a small vestibule with a segmental fanlight above it. This gives the building a slight emphasis and contributes to its importance as a landmark in the streetscape. There are two double-hung sash windows on each elevation. The hipped roof reflects the canted entrance and is corrugated iron. The walls are face brickwork, since painted, on a dressed bluestone plinth. A plain frieze is set underneath the shallow eaves. There is no indication, from the street, of a manager's residence although small rooms at the rear may have been used for accommodation. The original chimneys appear to have been removed. No bank

## HISTORY:

The Colonial Bank of Australasia was established in Melbourne in 1855 on the strength of Victoria's wealth from gold and pastoralism. The Dunkeld branch of the bank was built in 1878 although banking services in another building may well have predated it. Two people, an A Templeton and an S Woodhead had purchased allotment 2 of section 5 of the Township of Dunkeld in February 1852, along with several other nearby allotments, either together or separately. Most of the land which became Memorial Park was purchased by Andrew Templeton. Templeton and Co. and Woodhead are mentioned as squatting partners in the Portland Bay district between 1848 and 1850 but not their run (B&K, 148). The former, Andrew Templeton, was the licensee of the Woolpack Inn in the early 1840s but "left for Melbourne" in 1847 so he may have been the A Templeton who led the gold escorts from Mount Alexander to Melbourne in 1851 (Marriott, 166 & 172; Garryowen, Vol. 2, 805). The latter, Samuel Woodhead, a farmer from Nottingham, owned several properties in Dunkeld as well as his farm at Adzar. In 1871, these included "Cotton's old store", possibly on the site of the national Bank, and an "empty cottage near Templeton's old store" (SMRRB, 1871, No. 245). Samuel Woodhead died at Dunkeld at the age of 66 in 1883 (PI, Reg. No. 7955). The allotment comprised half an acre but this has since been subdivided to half an acre. No banks are mentioned in Bailliere's Gazetteer of 1865.

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The architect was George Jobbins and the contractor was John Gordon. "George Jobbins ... designed several branches for the Colonial Bank and the National Bank between 1875 and 1890" (Trethowan, 1976, 7). He also designed for the Bank of Victoria. Jobbins was an important architect and this is a relatively early example generally and of his work for the Colonial Bank, being the fifth of twenty-two. It is of special interest as an example of his work when he practised in Warrnambool before moving to Melbourne in 1880. He had been articled to Lloyd Tayler, one of the most significant bank architects in Victoria (Sutherland, 521). Jobbins went on to have a wide-ranging and successful career in Melbourne designing buildings, particularly 'gentlemen's residences', notable for what might be described as an excessive use of ornament. Two designs were produced for the Dunkeld bank, one in brick and one in Mount Abrupt sandstone, regarded as an excellent building material. Presumably it did not proceed because of cost. The building was subsequently used as a branch of the National Bank. It was usual for a bank manager to live on site and the rooms at the rear of the building were probably used as accommodation. In 1876 the acting manager was C Duigan (Claburn, 82). The building has not operated as a bank for many years, reflecting the decline in rural banking services. It was a gift shop and its most recent use is as a restaurant.

## 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

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8.14 Living in the country and rural communities

The building is in good condition.

## **INTEGRITY:**

The exterior of the building has been compromised by the painting of the walls. Otherwise the exterior is intact. The interiors of the building, while still reflecting the original disposition of rooms and functions, are now much altered.

## **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:**

What is significant?

The former Colonial Bank, a small simple brick building, was opened in 1878. Typical for its period and location, it was designed by George Jobbins who did much work for the Colonial and the National Banks. He had been articled to the significant bank architect, Lloyd Tayler. It is of further interest as a design from his pre-Melbourne practice based in Warrnambool. The contractor was John Gordon. The proposed use of Mount Abrupt stone did not proceed. For some time the building was used as a National Bank. It is much altered internally but retains a good degree of integrity externally. It is in good condition.

How is it significant?

The former Colonial Bank is of historical and architectural significance to the community of Dunkeld and to the southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

The former Colonial Bank, including its period as a branch of the National Bank, is of historical significance as a reminder of a previous commercial activity. The former Colonial Bank is of architectural significance as an early example of the work of the important architect, George Jobbins who designed many buildings for the

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**ASSESSED BY:** tfh

**ASSESSMENT DATE:**

24-Feb-03

## **EXISTING LISTINGS:**

## **HERITAGE STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Include in Local Planning Scheme

No Recommendations for Inclusions

## **REFERENCES:**

Alexander Sutherland  
Claburn, Elise, et al.  
Garryowen, pseud.  
Trethowan, Bruce

Victoria and Its Metropolis Vol 2  
Dunkeld and District: A Short History  
The Chronicles of Early Melbourne, Vol. 2  
Banks in Victoria 1851-1939  
1888 805  
1976 7