

RECORD OF STATE HERITAGE PLACE

Description and notes with respect to a place entered in the South Australian Heritage Register in accordance with the *Heritage Places Act 1993*

NAME: National Australia Bank, PLACE NO: 12762
Jamestown Branch – Building and Fence
ADDRESS: 21 Ayr Street Jamestown SA 5491

Physical Description

The National Australia Bank in Jamestown is a fine two-storey classically-styled stone building dating from 1885. It is located in Ayr Street and features a decorative cast-iron front fence with rendered masonry piers and plinth on the street alignment.

The building comprises a formal symmetrical façade with central entry porch to Ayr Street. The walls are constructed of smooth blocks of pale stone laid in regular courses, with rusticated quoins and arched window and door reveals to the ground level, and smooth render to quoins and rectangular window reveals to the first floor. It features a heavily moulded string course and rendered entablature and parapet concealing the roof and extending around the sides of the building. A decorative central triangular pediment provides an accent on the skyline. There is a second porch over a side entry to the building and a single storey section at the rear.

The form of the building is typical of bank premises of the era when residential accommodation for the bank manager was often provided above the banking chamber. Externally the building retains a high degree of integrity and intactness, and makes a positive contribution to the attractiveness of the main street of the Town.

Statement of Heritage Significance

The National Australia Bank in Jamestown demonstrates an important period of rapid development of the Upper North region of South Australia in the 1870s-80s, the prominence of banking in this phase, and the role of towns in the provision of services for surrounding farming regions. This period of agricultural expansion is an important phase in the development of South Australia.

It also demonstrates a high degree of creative and aesthetic accomplishment and is a fine surviving example of a 'Victorian Free Classical' bank building.

Relevant Criteria under Section 16 of the *Heritage Places Act 1993*

(a) It demonstrates important aspects of the evolution or pattern of the State's history.

The National Australia Bank in Jamestown demonstrates an important period of rapid development of the Upper North region of South Australia in the 1870s-80s, the prominence of banking in this phase, and the role of towns in the provision of services for surrounding farming regions.

The rapid growth in the region was largely due to agricultural expansion facilitated by the Strangways Act. This converted large pastoral holdings into smaller-scale farms available for purchase on credit, and these farms were often used for wheat production. Good seasons during this period bolstered and encouraged the agricultural expansion, which in turn supported the development of towns like Jamestown. The period of agricultural expansion is an important phase in the development of South Australia, and in particular was a defining period for the Upper North, where the agricultural expansion radically transformed the landscape, the economy, the population and the culture of the region;

The substantial classically-inspired architecture of the National Bank reflects the prosperity and optimism of this development period, and is associated with the provision of banking services for agricultural enterprise which was central to the period.

(e) It demonstrates a high degree of creative, aesthetic or technical accomplishment / is an outstanding representative of particular construction techniques or design characteristics.

The National Bank Building in Jamestown demonstrates a high degree of creative and aesthetic accomplishment and is a fine surviving example of a 'Victorian Free Classical' building.

The design and construction of the place is typical of late Victorian bank buildings in South Australia. However, what makes this one stand out as one of the best examples is the fact that added to the high quality of its design and construction; it also retains a high degree of integrity and intactness.

The place displays key features of 'Victorian Free Classical' style including:

- A symmetrical façade
- Astylar façade expressing bearing-wall construction
- Parapet concealing roof (key feature)
- Decorative accent on skyline (key feature)
- unconventional order of architecture

In addition it displays classical references such as:

- A central pediment and entry porch (to Ayr Street)

- Clear expression of different levels of the building
- Rusticated quoins and arched window and door reveals to the ground floor and smooth render to quoins and rectangular window reveals for the first floor
- A heavily moulded string course
- A rendered entablature and parapet extending around the sides of the building.

Extent of Listing

Components that are integral to the heritage significance of the Place include the bank building and cast iron front fence with rendered masonry plinth. Significant fabric of the bank includes exterior architectural detailing and design features typical of the Victorian Free Classical style, ie:

- The symmetrical façade
- A-stylar façade expressing bearing-wall construction
- Parapet concealing roof
- Decorative accent on skyline
- unconventional order of architecture
- Central pediment and entry porch (to Ayr Street)
- Clear expression of different levels of the building
- Rusticated quoins and arched window and door reveals to the ground floor and smooth render to quoins and rectangular window reveals for the first floor
- Heavily moulded string course
- Rendered entablature and parapet extending around the sides of the building.

The extent of listing *excludes* the later addition to rear.

History of the Place

The National Australia Bank in Jamestown dates from 1885 and is associated with the rapid development of the Upper North region of South Australia which began in the 1870s. This expansion of agriculture followed the enactment of new land laws commonly known as the Strangways Act – actually a series of legislation including the Wastelands Amendment Act of 1869. Townships were created as part of this program of agricultural expansion. Jamestown (originally James Town) was surveyed in 1871 and the first land purchases in the town were made in that year (Flannery 1976, p. 117). The town operated as a service centre for the area.

The latter half of the 1870s was a period of consolidation after initial settlement. This included increasing services for the town and surrounding district. The mid 1870s saw the creation of the Bundaleer Forest, a large plantation near Jamestown, enhancing the role of the town. By 1878 the railway had reached Jamestown. (Flannery 1976,

By 1881 Jamestown had a population of about 1,000 people, making it one of eleven towns of this size or greater in the state, apart from Adelaide (Northern Areas Council; Atlas of South Australia).

The National Bank initially opened a branch in the rear of an existing store in Jamestown in the early 1870s (Flannery 1976, p. 122). In 1878 the bank moved to new premises in Ayr Street, but moved again to newer premises in 1885, these being the current building (Austral Archaeology and others 2001, vol. 4, p. 79). However, the completion of the National Bank building in 1885 coincided with period of downturn in prosperity, including lower prices for produce and declining production because of drought (Flannery 1976, p. 188). There was a drought in the period 1884-86 (Australian Bureau of Statistics 1988).

The National Bank reflects the prosperity of the early development period of Jamestown and its region, and is associated with the provision of banking services for agricultural enterprise which was central to that development.

References

This Record has been adapted from the following assessment report:

- Marshall, Duncan 2012, *Heritage Assessment of the Former National Bank Building and Fence – Jamestown*, report prepared for the Department for Environment, Water and Natural Resources.

Additional references include:

- Apperly, R, R Irving & P Reynolds 1989, *Identifying Australian Architecture*, Angus & Robertson.
- Atlas South Australia, accessed at www.atlas.sa.gov.au/go/resources/atlas-of-south-australia-1986/south-australians/population-1881.
- Austral Archaeology, Flightpath Architects & Historical Research P/L 2001, *Heritage of the Upper North*, report prepared for the Department for Environment and Heritage, 7 volumes.
- Blainey, G and G Hutton 1983, *Gold and paper 1858-1982: a history of the National Bank of Australasia Ltd*, Macmillan.
- Flannery, Nancy 1976, *Change on change: a history of the northern highlands of South Australia*, Nadjuri Australia.
- Hirst, J 2012, 'South Australia and Australia: Reflections on their Histories', in *Turning points: chapters in South Australian history*, R Foster and P Sendziuk (eds), pp. 118-130.
- Northern Areas Council, Jamestown, *History of Jamestown*, accessed at www.nacouncil.sa.gov.au/page.aspx?u=190.

In addition, the Australian Heritage Database, the Australian Heritage Places Inventory and information from Google Streetview was used in the assessment.

SITE RECORD

National Australia Bank, Jamestown Branch -
Building and Fence, 21 Ayr Street, Jamestown

PLACE NO: 12762

FORMER NAME:	National Bank
DESCRIPTION OF PLACE:	Two storey symmetrical stone building and cast iron fence.
DATE OF COMPLETION:	1885
SA HERITAGE REGISTER STATUS:	Description: Confirmed Date: 23 August 2013
LOCAL HERITAGE STATUS	N/A
CURRENT USE:	Description: Bank Dates: 1885 - present
PREVIOUS USE(S):	Description: N/A Dates: N/A
ARCHITECT:	Name: Unknown Dates:
BUILDER:	Name: Unknown Dates:
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:	Description: Northern Areas Council
LOCATION:	Unit No.: - Street No.: 21 Street Name: Ayr Street Town/Suburb: Jamestown Post Code: 5491
LAND DESCRIPTION:	Title Type: CT Volume: 5616 Folio: 752 Lot No.: 201 Plan: F187523 Hundred: Belalie

PHOTOS

National Australia Bank, Jamestown Branch -
Building and Fence, 21 Ayr Street, Jamestown

PLACE NO: 12762



View of front elevation from Ayr Street (looking south) (Duncan Marshall 2012)

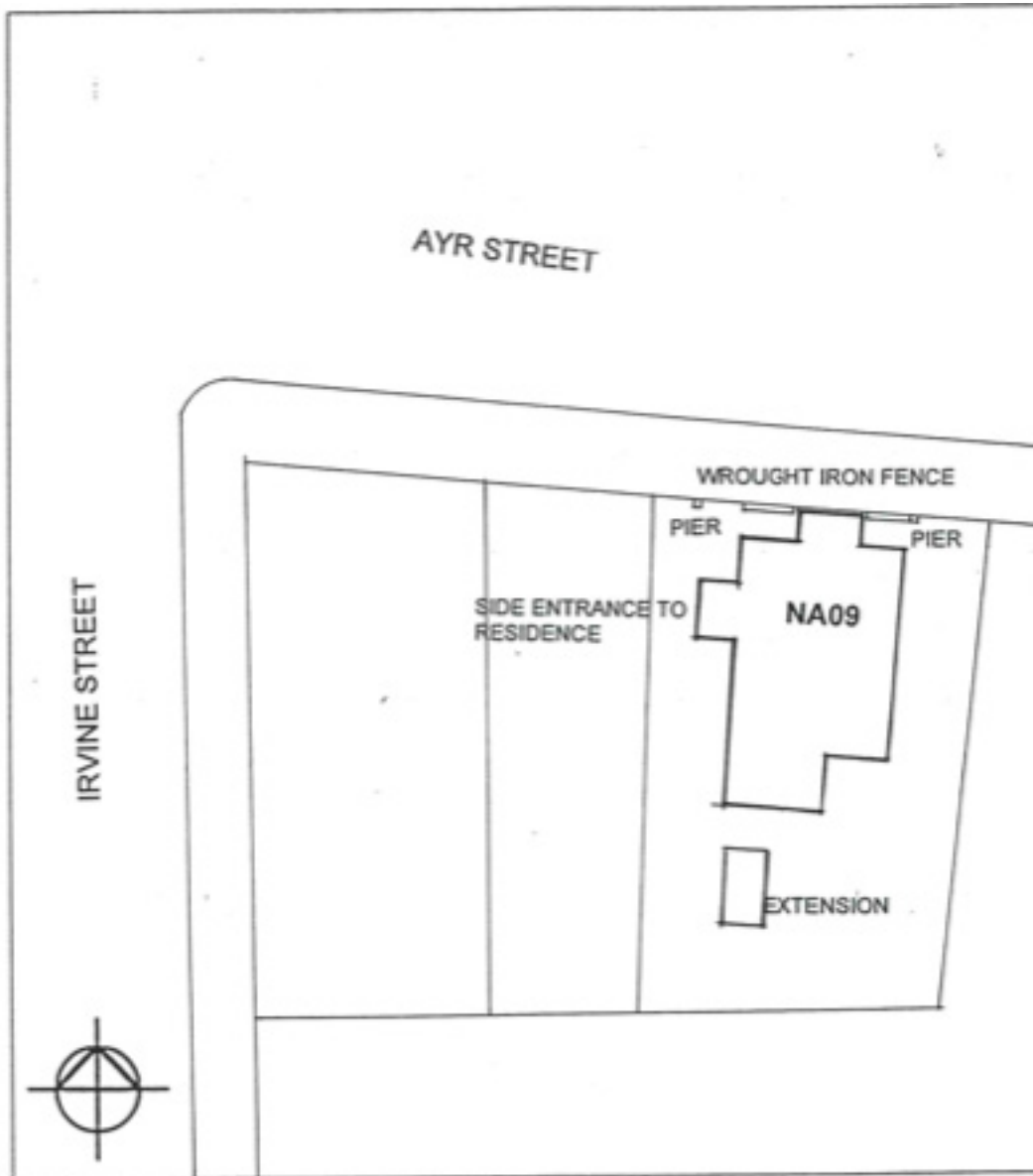


Detail of front porch and fence (looking SW)

SITE PLAN

National Australia Bank, Jamestown Branch -
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Site plan showing location of bank building and fence.

The extension indicated to south of bank building is excluded from the extent of listing.

LOCATION PLAN

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Location plan showing extent of listing.