

Statement of Significance: Former ES&A Bank (2018)

Address: 385 Centre Road, Bentleigh	Name: Former ES&A Bank
Place Type: Commercial	Grading: Significant
PS ref no: HO161	Constructed: 1926



What is significant?

The two storey, Interwar period, former ES&A Bank building at 385 Centre Road. Primarily the two-storey section of the building is significant and to a limited extent, the attached single storey section (middle part). The northern/rear single storey section is not contributory.

The Centre Road and Bent Street rendered facades of the two-storey section and partial return to the rear retain their original classically inspired detailing to the first floor and partly to the ground floor.

As the rendered walls of the building are painted, it is appropriate to have paint controls so that a complementary colour scheme is applied to the building.

How is it significant?

The former ES&A Bank at 385 Centre Road is of local historical and aesthetic significance to the City of Glen Eira.

Why is it significant?

Constructed in 1926, the former ES&A Bank at 385 Centre Road is historically significant as an early commercial building in the Bentleigh shopping precinct. The grandeur and prominence of the two-storey building illustrates the commercial growth of Bentleigh during the Interwar period. As the population of smaller suburbs such as Bentleigh increased, bank buildings and other administration/financial buildings became more substantial in scale. (Criterion A)

The former bank is aesthetically significant as a two storey Interwar building designed in the Free Classical mode. The facades employ classical devices in a relatively conservative manner though the building has a well composed and balanced facade. The classical style was considered an appropriate idiom for financial institutions such as banks as it reflected stability and permanence. Despite modifications at ground level, it remains a prominent building on its corner site. (Criterion E)

Primary source

Glen Eira Heritage Review of Bentleigh and Carnegie Structure Plan Areas (Commercial) 2018 (RBA Architects and Conservation Consultants)