

Statement of Significance: Former State Savings Bank, 438-438B Centre Road (November 2018)

Address: 438-438B Centre Road, Bentleigh	Name: Former State Savings Bank
Place Type: Commercial	Grading: Significant
PS ref no: HO98	Constructed: 1928



Photo: November 2018

What is significant?

The imposing, two storey former bank and dwelling at 438-438B Centre Road, Bentleigh. Significant detailing to the building includes: the Tuscan Order, pilastered façade, upper level loggia and frieze with “The State Bank of Victoria” in stuccoed Roman letters. Steel framed lower level windows adopting superimposed Greek and St Andrews Cross motifs and the façade treatment return along the Daley Street elevation for a single bay and the porch giving access to the former residential entrance.

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 State Savings Bank of Victoria is of local historical and aesthetic significance to the City of Glen Eira.

Why is it significant?

The Former State Savings Bank of Victoria is historically significant as an early commercial building within the Bentleigh shopping precinct. It is the most imposing commercial building of the Interwar period within the shopping precinct. The corner location enhances its impact and imparts identity to the centre. 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 Egyptian Revival mode. The classical style was considered an appropriate idiom for financial institutions such as banks as it reflected stability and permanence. While the building has been partly modified at ground level, it is a visual landmark on the prominent corner site. (Criterion E)

Primary source

Heritage Citation: State Savings Bank and dwelling, 438 Centre Road, Bentleigh, Glen Eira Heritage Management Plan 1996