

# BANK OF NEW SOUTH WALES (FMR), NORTH PERTH



| PLACE INFORMATION |                               |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| Place name        | Bank of New South Wales (fmr) |
| Other names       | Westpac Bank                  |
| Place type        | Individual building or group  |

| HERITAGE LISTING         |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| inHerit ID:              | 8707   |
| State Heritage Register: |  |
| Other Listing:           | Municipal Inventory Adopted 13 Nov 1995<br>Statewide Bank Survey Completed 01 Nov 1997 |

| SITE LOCATION  |                   |
|----------------|-------------------|
| Street address | 452 Fitzgerald St |
| Locality       | North Perth       |
| Survey         | LOT: 7 D/P: 1843  |
| Vol/folio      | 2087/919          |
| Reserve        | —                 |

| SIGNIFICANCE              |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| Level of significance     | <b>Considerable</b><br>Very important to the heritage of the locality. High degree of integrity/ authenticity   |
| Management category       | <b>Category 2</b><br>Conservation of the place is highly desirable.<br>Any alterations or extensions should reinforce the significance of the place.  |
| Statement of significance | <p>The place has aesthetic value as an intact and good example of a combined shop and premises built in the Inter War Stripped Classical style which is a landmark in the streetscape.</p> <p>The place reflects the expansion and development of North Perth in the Inter War period which required additional financial services.</p> <p>The place demonstrates the common practice of combining a shop and premises, and represents the change in shopping practices whereby suburban banks were closed in the late 20th century in response to changing technology.</p> <p>This place is valued by the community for the continuity of its presence in the streetscape which contributes to the community sense of place.</p> <p>The place has social value for the members of the community who would have regularly visited this bank between 1938 and the 1990s.</p> |

| PLACE USE           |                                   |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Original use</b> | Commercial: Bank                  |
| <b>Current use</b>  | Commercial: Shop/ Retail          |
| <b>Other use</b>    | Residential: Two Storey Residence |

| CONSTRUCTION DETAILS        |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <b>Construction date</b>    | 1938  |
| <b>Walls</b>                | Painted Brick<br>Rendered Brick   |
| <b>Roof</b>                 | Corrugated metal sheeting   |
| <b>Architectural Style</b>  | Inter-War Stripped Classical  |
| <b>Physical description</b> | <p>The two storey purpose built bank building has distinct Classical features including a strong vertical emphasis and symmetry of detail. It has fine stucco detailing on the parapet.</p> <p>The windows and entrance are highlighted with stucco bands. The vertical proportions of openings and spandrels, with the absence of any porch or awning, emphasise the presence of the bank within the townscape.</p> <p>Zero setback in commercial street. Front doors are not original. The tiles at the base are a later addition, and the original window frames have been replaced. Conversion to a residence and commercial premises</p> |
| <b>Condition</b>            | Good  |
| <b>Integrity</b>            | High  |
| <b>Authenticity</b>         | Moderate  |

## HISTORICAL INFORMATION

The Bank of New South Wales was established in New South Wales in 1817, and opened its first branch in Western Australia in Perth, in 1883. During the Eastern States Depression of the 1890s, the Bank looked to Western Australia as an area of growth, opening four branches in the Goldfields.

On 29 March 1927, it merged with the Western Australian Bank, which gave it over 30% of bank business in the State.

The bank premise at No. 452 Fitzgerald Street was built in 1938. The building was designed by prominent Perth architects Hobbs, Forbes and Partners and built by Sandwell and Wood for the sum of £5,111. This architectural firm had been responsible for the design of numerous bank premises throughout the State since the 1890s. As was the practice of the time the building included premises for the bank manager and family.

The opening of the branch in Fitzgerald Street indicated the growing economic optimism of the late 1930s, following the end of the Great Depression. The Bank of NSW continued to provide services to the Western Australian community and in 1982 amalgamated with the Commercial Bank of Australia to form Westpac. It subsequently acquired the local Challenge Bank in 1995. This may have been a factor in the closure of this branch in the 1990s. The closures can be attributed largely to changing technology and the modern propensity for corporate downsizing to maximise profits.

Since its closure the former Westpac Bank has been converted to a residence and commercial premises for a range of purposes. The building appears to be the only pre-1940 bank building remaining in the City of Vincent

## HISTORICAL INFORMATION

|                       |   |                        |
|-----------------------|---|------------------------|
| <b>Historic theme</b> | Peopling WA: Demographic development<br>Cultural Life: Domestic Life<br>Economy: Commerce                                   |                        |
| <b>Associations</b>   | Hobbs, Smith and Forbes<br>Sandwell and Wood  | Architects<br>Builders |
| <b>Sources</b>        | Municipal Heritage Inventory 2006<br>Landgate Aerial photographs 1953-2024.<br>The West Australian, 14 January 1939, p. 23. |                        |

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS



Bank of NSW 1940s. Courtesy City of Vincent Library