

## Heritage Citation



**Bank of New South Wales (former)**

### Key details

<b>Addresses</b>	At 496 Stanley Street, South Brisbane, Queensland 4101
<b>Type of place</b>	Bank
<b>Period</b>	Interwar 1919-1939
<b>Style</b>	Stripped Classical
<b>Lot plan</b>	L100_SP246590
<b>Key dates</b>	Local Heritage Place Since — 30 October 2000 Date of Citation — January 2011
<b>Construction</b>	Walls: Face brick
<b>Criterion for listing</b>	(A) Historical; (D) Representative; (E) Aesthetic

This bank building, demonstrating elements of the Interwar Stripped Classical style, was completed in 1921 for the Bank of New South Wales. Constructed at a time when South Brisbane was experiencing a period of increasing prosperity, the bank is significant as an example of 1920s bank architecture and for its aesthetic qualities.

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## History (previous revision)

The former Bank of New South Wales on the corner of Stanley and Vulture Streets was built in 1921 or 1922. The Bank had acquired this prestigious corner site opposite the South Brisbane Town Hall and the Municipal Library in the 1890s due to bankruptcy of the original owners.

This branch of the Bank of New South Wales was previously situated at 346 Stanley Street, between Ernest and Tribune Streets from the 1870s until it moved to this site in the 1920s.

The bank has had numerous tenants in the upper floor of the building, namely dentists, medical practitioners, and estate agents.

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## Description (previous revision)

This two storey building is located on a prominent site at an acute corner between Stanley and Vulture Streets. The building's form is greatly influenced by its location, with its use of the truncated corner as an entry. This corner treatment is emphasised for the use of a cylindrical element, which appears as part of the stepped plinth over the entry doors, and is then reflected in the frieze and parapet directly above it. This section of the parapet appears to gain support from a pair of tapering columns one on either side of the entry doors.

Centred above the entry doors and behind the line of the columns is a single double-hung window.

The sides of the building are divided into bays of applied rustication, which contrast with the overall red brick masonry constructions. The bays consist of separate bands of rustication, which run to either side of both upper and lower windows. These extend to the height of the frieze but continue as solid band connecting bays below the sill of the lower level windows. Below the sills of the upper level windows between bays are decorative festoons. The frieze also recognises the division of bays by the use of recessed rectangular or square panels in series above each bay. The bank's signage occurs above the moulding on the corner cylindrical section of the parapet. The plinth level of the bank is disturbed by the changing external footpath level, which rises up Vulture Street.

The Vulture Street façade has a sloping ground plane. The first bay away from the entry is the same as that on the Stanley Street side, as indeed is the second apart from the different level of the ground plane and plinth. This makes the building symmetrical at the upper level back to the line of the second window. From here the buildings sides differ. On the remaining section of façade on Vulture Street there is a triplet of windows on the upper level flanked by individual windows at each end on the lower level. A finishing band of rustication runs down the bank corner.

On the Stanley Street frontage after the second line of windows there is a bay that matches the first. Then there is a bay of masonry which has a doorway centred on it with highly ornamental architrave. This has been bricked up using a brick of a slightly different colour. The final bay is slightly wider than the first, and the lower level

window has a lower windowsill.

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## Statement of significance

### Relevant assessment criteria

This is a place of local heritage significance and meets one or more of the local heritage criteria under the Heritage planning scheme policy of the *Brisbane City Plan 2014*. It is significant because:

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#### Historical

##### CRITERION A

The place is important in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of the city's or local area's history  
as it indicates the prosperity and growing commercial opportunity experienced in South Brisbane in the 1920s.

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#### Representative

##### CRITERION D

The place is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class or classes of cultural places

as a good example of an interwar masonry bank building, executed in the Interwar Stripped Classical style, and purpose designed to connote values of solidity and security.

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#### Aesthetic

##### CRITERION E

The place is important because of its aesthetic significance

for its intactness, attractive form, interesting detailing, contribution to the streetscape of Stanley Street, and location on a prominent corner with Vulture Street.

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**Note:** This citation has been prepared on the basis of evidence available at the time including an external examination of the building. The statement of significance is a summary of the most culturally important aspects of the property based on the available evidence, and may be re-assessed if further information becomes available. The purpose of this citation is to provide an informed evaluation for heritage registration and information. This does not negate the necessity for a thorough conservation study by a qualified practitioner, before any action is taken which may affect its heritage significance.

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