



Heritage Citation



Commonwealth Bank (former)

Key details

Also known as

CBA

Addresses

At 707 Sandgate Road, Clayfield, Queensland 4011

Type of place	Bank
Period	World War II 1939-1945
Style	Functionalist
Lot plan	L1_RP52617
Key dates	Local Heritage Place Since — 1 January 2005 Date of Citation — July 2017
Construction	Roof: Tile; Walls: Brick - Painted
Criterion for listing	(A) Historical; (D) Representative; (E) Aesthetic; (H) Historical association

The former Commonwealth Bank building at Clayfield was designed by the Commonwealth Department of Works and built between 1938 and 1939. It is a fine example of an inter-war masonry bank building, executed in the Art Deco style. The design, decorative detailing and imposing form of the building reflect the intention to present banks as solid, dependable institutions and contribute positively to the streetscape.

History

Established under the Commonwealth Bank Act in 1911, the Commonwealth Bank company commenced operations in 1912, able to conduct savings and business banking with the security of a federal government guarantee. Mergers with State Banks in Tasmania (1912), Queensland (1920), and State Banks of Western Australia and New South Wales (1931) expanded the organisation significantly. In Queensland, when the Commonwealth Bank took over the Queensland Government Savings Bank on 8 December 1920, branches were established at Albion, Cairns, Charleville, Charters Towers, Clayfield, Dalby, Fortitude Valley, George St Brisbane, Gladstone, Gympie, Innisfail, Ipswich, Longreach, Mackay, Mt Morgan, Paddington, Red Hill, Roma, Roma St Brisbane, South Brisbane, Stanthorpe, Warwick and Woolloongabba. The growth of the Commonwealth Bank resulted in an expansion of retail operations into banking chambers rather than through post office agencies. As part of this development, an allotment of land at what was then 717 New Sandgate Rd, Clayfield was acquired by the Commonwealth Bank of Australia in March 1936. This location is now 707 Sandgate Rd, Clayfield.

In December 1938, the Commonwealth Department of Works accepted the tender submitted by builder E. J. Taylor, for the construction of new banking premises and residence at an estimated cost of £5675. The new bank would replace the existing bank, located further down the road at what was then 689 New Sandgate Rd, Clayfield. The building was scheduled to be completed in June 1939 and was operating from this new location by 1941. The bank quickly became part of the economic fabric of Clayfield. Throughout the war and postwar period

it was used to distribute food vouchers during the periods of rationing brought about by war shortages.

The property was sold in 1989 but leased back to the Commonwealth Bank until 1994. It has since been used as commercial premises.

Description

The building is of masonry construction and is an inter-war Art Deco design. It is a very similar design to the Commonwealth Bank at Stones Corner (Greenslopes), which was built around the same time. The exterior of the building remains largely intact, including the timber-framed, double-hung sash windows and decorative geometric metal security entry doors and fanlight.

The interior was refurbished in 1978 and has been modernised again since. It has not been established what, if any, original internal features still survive, however in 2008 the original timber staircase was still intact and was a major feature of the interior. Some original timber cupboards also survived at this date.

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:

Historical

CRITERION A

The place is important in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of the city's or local area's history

as an example of the increasing prosperity and economic development of the Clayfield area and the development of the Commonwealth Bank from post office agencies to custom-designed chambers.

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 inter-war masonry bank building, executed in the Art Deco style.

Aesthetic

CRITERION E

The place is important because of its aesthetic significance

for its contribution to the streetscape, intactness, imposing form, sleek vertical emphasis and decorative detailing.

Historical association

CRITERION H

The place has a special association with the life or work of a particular person, group or organization of importance in the city's or local area's history

as a good example of the style of bank building constructed by the Commonwealth Bank during the inter-war period. It is also significant as a building built, owned and operated for more than fifty years by the Commonwealth Bank of Australia, a major Commonwealth Government banking institution.

References

1. Brisbane City Council Building Cards
2. Queensland Certificates of Title
3. Queensland Post Office Directories
4. Digitised newspapers and other records. <http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper>
5. "DEPARTMENT OF WORKS." *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette*, 19 January 1939: 82

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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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