



REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES

Permanent Entry

Assessment Documentation

11. ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The criteria adopted by the Heritage Council in November 1996 have been used to determine the cultural heritage significance of the place.

PRINCIPAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORIC THEME(S)

- 3.18.2 Banking and lending
- 5.4 Working in offices
- 8.14 Living in the country and rural settlements

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 301 Grazing & pastoralism & dairying
- 302 Rural industry & market gardening
- 306 Domestic activities
- 308 Commercial & service industries

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE*

The place is a good example of a commercial building in the Federation Free Classical style. (Criterion 1.1)

The classical style of the symmetrical rhythmic façade of *National Bank, Wagin* contributes to the substantial streetscape in Wagin. (Criterion 1.3)

National Bank, Wagin demonstrates a presence in the streetscape of the Wagin business district, reinforcing the notion of a stable institution. (Criterion 1.3)

11.2 HISTORIC VALUE

National Bank, Wagin is indicative of the rapid growth of the State's wheatbelt in the pre World-War I period in general and of the Wagin district in particular,

* For consistency, all references to architectural style are taken from Apperly, R., Irving, R., Reynolds, P. *A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture. Styles and Terms from 1788 to the Present*, Angus and Robertson, North Ryde, 1989.

For consistency, all references to garden and landscape types and styles are taken from Ramsay, J. Parks, *Gardens and Special Trees: A Classification and Assessment Method for the Register of the National Estate*, Australian Government Publishing Service, Canberra, 1991, with additional reference to Richards, O. *Theoretical Framework for Designed Landscapes in WA*, unpublished report, 1997.

and marks Wagin as a major rural centre within this region. (Criteria 2.1 & 2.2)

National Bank, Wagin has been a major provider of financial services for the agricultural industry in the district since 1904. The early, and considerable, enlargement and remodelling of the place in 1912 is a direct result of the rapid development of the district in the 1900-14 period. (Criterion 2.2)

National Bank, Wagin is associated with the prominent West Australian architectural firm of Hobbs, Smith & Forbes, who designed numerous public buildings in the state including bank buildings for various institutions, and with the firm of Porter and Thomas who designed the 1912 remodelling, and who are associated with other buildings of architectural significance in the State, in particular the former Palace and Railway hotels in Perth. (Criterion 2.3)

The place is a restrained example of Federation Free Classical style by Porter and Thomas, influenced by the house style of the National Bank during the period. (Criterion 2.4)

11.3 SCIENTIFIC VALUE

11.4 SOCIAL VALUE

National Bank, Wagin contributes to the local community's sense of place for its position in the central business district of Wagin and its financial associations with the local and wider farming district, as attested to it being the only Wagin Bank in the local Municipal Inventory that is recommended for the State Register. (Criteria 4.1 & 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12.1 RARITY

The staff residence at *National Bank, Wagin* is, in all probability, rare as a residence associated with a bank used for its primary purpose to the present (2007). This demonstrates a way of life now uncommon in the State. (Criterion 5.2)

12.2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

National Bank, Wagin is representative of the importance of the wheatbelt town of Wagin in the pre-World War I period. (Criterion 6.1)

National Bank, Wagin is representative of a banking institution that has operated continuously since 1904 as demonstrated by the various stages of development that have occurred to facilitate its ongoing use. (Criterion 6.1)

12.3 CONDITION

National Bank, Wagin is in good condition having been in constant use since construction.

12.4 INTEGRITY

The original intention of the banking and residential functions are intact. *National Bank, Wagin* retains a high degree of integrity.

12.5 AUTHENTICITY

National Bank, Wagin retains much of the original form and fabric of the 1912 addition, overall, the building has a high degree of authenticity. The alterations to the proportions are markedly different from the original 1904 building.

In 2007, *National Bank, Wagin* is used for bank operations and residential occupation.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

The documentation for this place is based on the heritage assessment completed by Irene Sauman, Historian and Laura Gray, Heritage and Conservation Consultant, in September 2007, with amendments and/or additions by HCWA staff and the Register Committee.

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

National Bank, Wagin is a double-storey brick and iron building constructed in 1904 as a modest single-storey bank and residence by Hobbs, Smith & Forbes and considerably enlarged in Federation Free Classical style in 1912 with a ground floor extension and the addition of an upper floor by architects Porter & Thomas.

The Great Southern Railway was constructed by Anthony Horden's West Australian Land Company and was officially opened on 1 June 1889. The halfway point between Perth and Albany was at Wagin, originally known as Wagin Lake, where a small townsite was located on Company land comprising a railway station, a branch of F. & C. Piesse's store and the Wagin Hotel.¹ In 1893, the population of Wagin was given as 150, but it was not until 1898, when the Government purchased the Great Southern line and associated lands, that development along the line dramatically increased.² In 1903, the acquisition of land in Wagin was described as 'undeniably a safe investment', with the place 'bound to go ahead beyond all general expectation'.³ By 1908, the population of the district had reached 3,000.

The National Bank of Australasia was established in Victoria in 1857 and opened a branch in Perth in 1866. It opened only five branches in the Goldfields in the 1890s, but between 1900 and 1914 the Bank expanded its

¹ Gunzberg, Adrian & Austin, Jeff, *Rails Through the Bush*, Light Railway Research Society of Australia, Melbourne, 1997, p. 206; Pederick, M.J., *The Emu's Watering Place: A Brief History of the Wagin District*, Shire of Wagin, 1979, pp. 9-10.

² *Yearbook of Western Australia*, 1897, p. 69; Glynn, Sean, *Government Policy and Agricultural Development: A study of the role of government in the development of the Western Australian wheat belt, 1900-1930*, UWA Press, 1975 pp. 71-73; Appleyard, R.T. 'Western Australia: Economic and demographic growth, 1850-1914', in Stannage, C.T. (ed) *A New History of Western Australia*, UWA Press, Perth, 1981, pp. 227-33.

³ *Morning Herald*, 6 June 1903, p. 2.

operations rapidly throughout the agricultural areas of the State, opening 45 branches and agencies during that period.⁴

An agency of the National Bank was opened in Wagin on 20 January 1902, operated from the Katanning branch. It was the first bank in Wagin but it is not known where the early premises were located. The Wagin agency became a branch on 7 April 1903.⁵ A portion of Wagin Town Lot 50, fronting Tudor Street, was acquired in January 1904, and there is evidence for a 1904 construction date for the original single-storey form of *National Bank*. In April 1904, E.H. Dean-Smith called tenders for National Bank premises at Katanning. The plan of this building bears the signature of contractor Ernest Coombe witnessed by W.J. Waldie-Forbes and dated 10 May 1904. The name 'Katanning' is crossed out and 'Wagin' substituted and initialled by Coombe. Dean-Smith's name is also crossed out and 'Hobbs, Smith & Forbes' substituted. The partnership of J.J. Talbot Hobbs, Dean-Smith & Waldie-Forbes was formed around this time. The notations on the plan indicate that the 1904 Katanning tender either became, or included, a contract for the bank premises at Wagin.⁶

Individually, Hobbs, Smith and Forbes had designed banks for various clients, and throughout the state over several decades the firm designed a number of bank buildings for the Union, National and Western Australian banks and the Bank of New South Wales. *National Bank, Wagin* was one of eight bank buildings of the same design constructed for the National Bank in the wheatbelt region between 1906 and 1913.⁷

The location of *National Bank, Wagin* was prominent in the business centre of Wagin, being adjacent to land owned by the Piesse brothers, part of which was occupied by their 1890s two-storey store premises on the corner of Tudor and Tudhoe streets.⁸ A photograph of the place in 1904-05 shows a rendered brick building in Federation Free Classical style, with a staff of seven.⁹

Wagin continued to develop apace in the mid 1900s.

Daily there are fresh evidences of the manner in which Wagin is progressing. As an example it is only necessary to state that at the present time [October 1905] there are about twenty buildings in course of erection.¹⁰

A photograph in the 1909 publication *The Official Guide to Western Australia*, shows *National Bank, Wagin* beside the 1906 Piesse owned two-storey Butterick Building.¹¹

4 For a brief history of the development of the National Bank in Western Australia refer to HCWA assessment documentation P01817 National Bank, Narrogin.

5 Notes on early establishment in Wagin, courtesy National Bank Archives, Melbourne.

6 Certificate of Title, Vol. 295 Fol. 194, 22 January 1904; Forbes & Fitzhardinge, Collection of architectural plans of public buildings and private residences in Perth, Fremantle and various country towns, Proposed Branch Premises at Katanning/Wagin for the National Bank of Australasia, Battye Library, CN 83 Item 10; *Western Australian Mining, Building & Engineering Journal*, 30 April 1904, p. 22.

7 Ball, J., Kelsall, D., & Pidgeon, J., *Statewide Survey of Banks, 1829-1939, southern region, Western Australia*, National Trust of Australia (WA), Perth, 1997, pp. 18-19.

8 *The Official Guide to Western Australia*, E.S. Wigg & Son, Perth, 1909, p. 241.

9 Photograph, 1904-05, courtesy National Bank Archives, Melbourne.

10 *The Southern Argus*, 28 October 1905, p. 2.

Early bank managers were as much pioneers as were the farmers. They travelled many miles over bush tracks to visit outlying customers, report on soil and rainfall, and arrange overdrafts for the first sowing.¹² Generally, they travelled on horseback or by horse and sulky, but the manager of *National Bank, Wagin*, Mr R.A.C. Watson (1903-13), is reputed to have been the first person in the district to purchase a motorcar.¹³ Whether he was able to traverse the bush tracks in it may have been another matter.

In 1912, the development of Wagin was ongoing, with a 'brisk building trade', and among the new constructions in that year were no less than three bank premises. In March, architects Porter & Thomas called for tenders for new banking premises. Louis Bowser Cumpston was awarded a contract in April for 'banking premises, Wagin' (most likely the Bank of Australasia), and William A. Nelson called tenders for the Bank of New South Wales in August.¹⁴ The Porter and Thomas project related to *National Bank, Wagin*.

Architects Ernest Saunders Porter and Edmond Neville Thomas went into partnership in Broken Hill in 1890 and were known for their hotel designs. They moved first to Coolgardie and then in 1894 to Perth to escape the depression in the Eastern States. They continued to design hotels, including the opulent Palace Hotel and the Railway Hotel in Perth, as well as other types of buildings, among them the Bank of NSW at Katanning.¹⁵

Perth contractor Henry J. Wilkinson won the contract for *National Bank, Wagin*. The work entailed a considerable extension on the eastern side, which doubled the width of the place, and the addition of an upper floor. The position of the ground floor addition can be seen in the aerial photograph of the place, which shows the lower floor footprint on the west side. The facade was remodelled to bear little resemblance to the original except in the style, which was Federation Free Classical. A 1912-15 photograph shows the place in face brick with stuccoed banding, pilasters and opening headers.¹⁶

Federation Free Classical was a popular style for banks and for other commercial and institutional buildings of the period as it presented a formal solidity with exuberant elements in keeping with a balanced image of confidence and prosperity that banks in particular wished to project.

The remodelled building was opened on 14 November 1912 and was celebrated by a dinner.

One of the finest gatherings ever brought together in the town was that which assembled at the Wagin Hotel on Thursday evening, at the invitation of the general manager of the National Bank in W.A. [Mr J.F. Mullen], to a dinner in

¹¹ *The Official Guide to Western Australia*, op. cit., p. 241.

¹² Blainey, G. & Hutton, G., *Gold and Paper 1858-1982: a history of the National Bank of Australasia Ltd*, Macmillan, South Melb., 1983, pp. 154-55.

¹³ Notes on early establishment in Wagin, courtesy National Bank Archives, Melbourne

¹⁴ *Western Australian Mining, Building & Engineering Journal*, 9 March 1912 (National), p. 24; 20 April 1912 (L.B. Cumpston, likely Australasia); Ball, Kelsall, & Pidgeon, op cit, entry B1-124 (Bank of NSW).

¹⁵ Freeland, J.M., *The Australian Pub*, Melbourne University Press, 1966, p. 161; HCWA assessment documentation for P02114 Palace Hotel (fmr); P01959 Railway Hotel, Perth; P01326 Kalgoorlie Racecourse and Buildings.

¹⁶ Landgate, Map Viewer aerial photograph, 2006; Photograph, c.1912-15, Courtesy National Bank Archives, Melbourne.

honor of the opening of the magnificent new building recently erected in our town by that institution... The big dining room was packed with fully 80 persons, comprising leading citizens, tillers of the soil from Darkan to the far East, and visitors from neighbouring and far off towns.¹⁷

In his toast of 'Wagin and District' Mr Mullens stated that:

[H]is bank had the utmost faith in the Wagin district; that handsome structure which they had just completed down the street spoke more eloquently than words on that point. They had started here in 1903 with a very modest building, but trade had grown with the district, and the old building was found to be totally inadequate, hence the expenditure of something like £3,000 on the structure that was to-day an ornament to the town, and a monument to the resources of the district... [and] the banks would do their share to develop the wonderful resources of the agricultural areas, by as much distribution of money to the farmers as was possible.¹⁸

In his toast to the 'Local Manager', Mr J.E. Cowcher eulogised the bank on the enterprise it had shown in being the first bank in Wagin and by its liberal aid to farmers ever since.

The district prospered through the 1920s and *National Bank, Wagin* continued to provide banking services for the local farmers and businesses. During the Depression, the National Bank of Australasia was noted for carrying farmers and keeping farm foreclosures to a minimum. Following World War II, the Bank was foremost in assisting farmers to expand and apply modern technology and mechanisation.¹⁹

By 1965, the entire facade of *National Bank, Wagin* had been rendered and painted.²⁰

In 1981, the National Bank of Australasia merged with the Commercial Bank and became the National Commercial Bank Corporation of Australia. On 1 January 1983, the Bank took on its current name of National Australia Bank.²¹

National Bank, Wagin was entered on the Shire of Wagin Municipal Inventory in 1997 with a management category rating of 1, being the recommendation for the State Register. The place was also included in the Statewide Bank Survey in the same year.²²

In 1997, following the deregulation of the Australian wool and wheat markets and the establishment of free trade agreements with the Pacific Rim nations, the National Australia Bank established an Agribusiness development unit to assist its rural finance teams. Agribusiness provides specialised services to primary producers, service providers to agriculture and processors of agricultural produce.²³ An Agribusiness service centre was located in *National Bank, Wagin* to service the surrounding district. Around 2003, the

17 *The Southern Argus and Wagin-Arthur Express*, 16 November 1912, p. 4.

18 *The Southern Argus and Wagin-Arthur Express*, 16 November 1912, p. 4.

19 Blainey & Hutton, op. cit.

20 Photograph, 1965, courtesy National Bank Archives, Melbourne.

21 Blainey & Hutton, op. cit., pp. 321-23.

22 Aris, Kelly & Ball, Julia, *Shire of Wagin Municipal Inventory*, 1997; Ball, Kelsall, & Pidgeon, op. cit.

23 National Australia Bank, *Annual Report*, 1997, p. 18.

Agribusiness Centre was relocated to the former courthouse, on the adjacent site, to cater for increased staff numbers and growing operations.²⁴

National Bank, Wagin has undergone some internal alterations in recent decades in relation to upgrading and modernisation of facilities. The residential section was to be occupied by the bank manager until October 2007, after which time the manager would relocate to a separate residence. The residential section is then expected to be rented to other bank employees. There are currently (September 2007) five staff employed in the place and four in the Agribusiness Centre.²⁵

In 2007, *National Bank, Wagin* continues to provide general banking services and a residential function for staff.

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

National Bank, Wagin, is a double-storey brick rendered and corrugated iron building in the Federation Free Classical style. The bank comprises the remains of the ground floor banking chamber (1904) and the ground floor alterations and extensions and first floor residential addition (1912).

National Bank is located on the south-west side of Tudor Street, in the Wagin townsite, between Tudhoe and Tavistock streets, opposite the railway reserve and the former Wagin Railway Station. *National Bank, Wagin* sits between the Courthouse and Town Hall (south-east) and Butterick's Building (north-west), and is bounded by Bank Street at the rear. The site is flat, and fenced predominantly by prepainted steel fence sheeting.

The frontage of *National Bank, Wagin* is symmetrical and central on the site, with a fenced setback each side with residential access on the south-east side. The front of the building is at zero setback onto the pedestrian pavement. The front facade of *National Bank, Wagin* displays some characteristics of the Federation Free Classical style. The classical formality makes an impressive contribution to the streetscape reflecting the stability of the nature of the institution.

National Bank, Wagin shows evidence of at least three distinct periods of development; 1906 original single storey bank and rear residence; 1912 alterations and extensions to the ground floor and the first floor addition; and, c.1950s verandah enclosure upstairs and wood fire heaters installed in upstairs rooms. There have been subsequent developments to facilitate the ongoing banking and residential functions.

National Bank, Wagin is a double-storey brick construction with hipped corrugated iron roofs with vented gablets. The original face brickwork in an English bond has been painted, as has the original contrasting stucco. The symmetrical frontage is a significant element in the streetscape. The front face is symmetrical with a balanced rhythm of openings, also aligned vertically. The openings form a pattern of three single apertures flanked by a pair of window openings, all delineated into bays by stucco pilasters. There is a rendered base to the ground floor, and a rendered cornice topped with a moulded detail. Similarly the first floor is detailed with a rendered band with

²⁴ Information provided by Wagin National Bank Manager, Liz Pederick, 20 September 2007.

²⁵ Information provided by Wagin National Bank Manager, op cit.

lettering 'The National Bank of Australasia Ltd', and is further detailed with moulding and a parapet above. The parapet features a central decorative pediment with rendered parapet behind, in three separate bays, flanked by two bays each side, of Italianate balusters between rendered pillars. The ground floor windows and the central door opening, are detailed with concrete sills and flat arched window headers with a moulded edging. The doorway arch has a central keystone. The top floor detailing differs in that it is stepped around the square form window headers. The windows are double hung timber framed sashes. The ground floor windows have flat arch headers, single pane sashes, and fanlights above. The first floor windows, on the frontage, have flat headers, no fanlights, and the upper sashes have twenty panes. The ground floor and first floor residential windows on the side and rear elevations have double hung sash windows with three course header detailing. The residential entrance door is a four panel door with side panels and lights, obscure glazed, and a fanlight and sidelights in stained glass lead light. A security screen door is also in place.

The roofs are painted. The roofline is dominated by tall rectangular moulded corbel chimneys that have been painted. The side and rear walls are face brick work in an English bond, and remain unpainted, except the rear wall of the laundry that is rendered and painted. The verandahed residential frontage on the south-west side still has the original stop chamfered timber posts, although they have steel stirrup bases on the concrete floor. The simple timber brackets have moulded collar joints. The original ground floor valance of vertical square timbers remains insitu, but the first floor balustrade has been removed and infilled with a fibro cement dado and metal framed glass louvred windows above, fully enclosing the first floor verandah.

National Bank, Wagin forms roughly a rectangular footprint. The ground floor houses banking facilities in the front section, with a residence at the rear, and the first floor is entirely residential. The main entry is on Tudor Street, and has a recessed central frontage. Within the recess, the ceramic tiled entry is through an aluminium framed glass door that opens directly into the public space of the banking chamber with offices on the left, and the counters ahead and to the right. Behind the counter there is the safe and staff room.

The residential entry is located on the south-west side, though a gate in the fence on the front boundary. The entry is located off the ground floor verandah, opening into a wide corridor with the return staircase ahead on the right, and corridor along the left. The dining room is on the left, and connects through to the kitchen at the rear, and is also accessed by the corridor that turns at right angles. The end of the corridor, at the rear, opens into a laundry and toilet on the left, with a patio behind. Upstairs, the landing leads to the main bedroom on the right (above the dining room), and an arched corridor on the left. The corridor has a large living room on the right, above the office and staff room on the ground floor, on the south-east side. The corridor turns at right angles, central through the top floor above the bank, with three bedrooms along the remainder of the front, and a storeroom, bathroom and bedroom along the left side, with the corridor terminating with a window on the north-west wall.

The banking chamber and public accessible spaces at the front have timber floors and hard plaster walls. The original decorative pressed metal recessed

ceiling and decorative cornices and beam edging remain insitu amongst the suspended strip lighting installations. Suspended ceilings are in place in the area behind the counter. The recessed entry door element is detailed in aluminium framed glazing, with the recess intruding into the banking chamber space. Hard plaster walls predominate, although it is difficult to determine the extent of partition walls. The residential section at the rear of the ground floor also displays the hard plaster walls, decorative pressed metal ceilings and timber floors. The ceilings have deep decorative cornices in the dining rooms and upstairs main bedroom and living room, with ceiling roses in all the rooms. The floors in the ground floor and first floor residential are 100cm tongue and groove jarrah boards with a gloss finish. The return staircase and first floor landing have turned jarrah balustrades, and solid jarrah newel posts. The staircase has a pressed metal soffit except where it is enclosed to form a storage area for the bank. The corridor entry off the first floor landing has a decorative arched opening, and the central corridor has a simple arch detail. The doors throughout are four panel and French doors open onto the first floor verandah from the main bedroom and living room. There are original mantelpieces still in place in the first floor main bedroom and the living room. Both mantelpieces have been painted. The main bedroom mantelpiece has a mirror insert and there is evidence of the original tile fire with an art nouveau pattern. The living room fireplace is a c.1980s face brick element with a wood fire insert, as for the ground floor dining room. The kitchen shows evidence of a chimneybreast and concrete hearth, but no fireplace remains in the modern fitout. The bathroom has a c.1980s fitout. The laundry at the rear has a concrete floor and sand render interior walls. Suspended fluorescent lighting is evident in the dining room (ground floor) and living room (first floor).

A single storey timber framed garage is located in the rear yard. It has a hipped corrugated iron roof, and is clad with a weatherboard dado and fibro-cement above. Double ledge and brace timber doors on the south-west (rear) provide access, with a pedestrian door on the north-east. Along the south-west rear boundary is a steel framed and metal clad shed.

National Bank, Wagin is in good condition having been in constant use since construction. Changing technology and the public face of the bank has instituted occasional refurbishments.

13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

The Heritage Council database lists 63 banks built between 1900 and 1913, six of which are on the State Register. Among them are two National Bank premises, at Northam and Narrogin. The Northam National Bank is a c.1950 construction, which replaced an earlier building on another site. Narrogin National Bank was one of eight built to a similar design to the single-storey form of *National Bank, Wagin*. Narrogin was remodelled in 1927 in the Inter-War Free Classical style and continues to function as a bank with an Agribusiness centre located in the premises.

The remaining six National Bank buildings constructed between 1906 and 1913 to the same design as the single-storey form of *National Bank, Wagin* are at Goomalling, Kellerberrin, Dowerin, Bridgetown, Moora and Williams. Kellerberrin (01373) and Dowerin (00748) retain the original red brick Federation Free Classical style façade and are functioning National Banks. Gnowangerup was considerably remodelled in the 1920s in the Inter-War

Free Classical style similar to Narrogin and continues to operate. Goomalling (01116) is occupied as a shop; Williams (16071) is the Williams Club; and Moora (11097) is part of a much larger retail premise. Bridgetown (00246) also no longer functions as a bank.²⁶

There are several two-storey bank buildings on the State Register comparable to *National Bank, Wagin*. *ANZ Bank, Carnarvon* (00465) is a two-storey building constructed as a Union Bank in Federation Free Classical style in 1905 to a design by Hobbs, Smith & Forbes. The façade has little adornment except for the graceful entry portico. *Bank of Australasia (fmr)*, Fremantle (00906) was built in 1900 in Federation Academic Classical style to a design by the firm of Clarence Wilkinson and Dean Smith. The two-storey building is occupied by the Department of Health. The Western Australian Bank (fmr), Midland (02529), is a two-storey building designed by Hobbs and built in the Federation Free Classical style in 1904. The place has not functioned as a bank since 1929 and is the Midland Police Service Building. *Bank of NSW, Northam* (01872) is a two-storey Federation Free Classical style building constructed in 1915 to a design by Nelson and Parry. It features four monumental ionic columns supporting a deeply recessed front verandah.²⁷

Comparable two-storey banks not on the State Register include the two-storey Narrogin Union Bank (fmr) (now an ANZ Bank) built in 1905. This is a red brick Federation Free Classical style construction with prominent street portico, designed by Hobbs, Smith & Forbes.²⁸ Commercial Bank of Australasia (fmr) (02246) was built in 1910 in a simplified Federation Academic Classical style to a design by Cavanagh, Cavanagh & Parry. It is a two-storey corner building with residence. The exterior brickwork has been painted.²⁹

Other Wagin bank buildings include: Bank of NSW (1912), a similar, but scaled down, single-storey version of the Northam Bank of NSW, still operating as bank premises; Commonwealth Bank, an unadorned single-storey interwar corner building; former West Australian Bank built in 1905 in Federation Free style, now the Wagin Club; and the former Union Bank (1926), a two-storey building, now a community centre. None of these Wagin places are recommended for entry on the State Register.³⁰

Buildings designed by the architectural partnership of Porter and Thomas include 14784 Bank of NSW, Katanning (1913). This single-storey brick and tile building is in the Federation Free Classical style. It is of domestic scale with the only adornment being the entry portico supported by two ionic pillars. A later extension on one side, under the main roof, detracts from the symmetry of the facade. This place has been recommended for the Register.

Four other places designed by Porter & Thomas are on the State Register. *Hannan's Club, Kalgoorlie* (01266) is an 1896 single-storey Federation Arts &

26 Ball, Kelsall, & Pidgeon, op. cit., p 20 & individual place entries; Heritage Council database.

27 Heritage Council database and assessment documentation.

28 Ball, Kelsall, & Pidgeon, op cit, entry B3-103; *WA Mining, Building & Engineering Journal*, 20 May 1905, p. 21.

29 Ball, Kelsall, & Pidgeon, op cit; Heritage Council database.

30 Ball, Kelsall, & Pidgeon, op cit; Heritage Council database; Aris & Ball, op. cit.

Crafts corner building. *Kalgoorlie Racecourse & Buildings* (01326) comprise a number of buildings constructed between 1896 and 1920, with the Totalisator Building described as an excellent example of Federation Free Classical style. The remains of the facade and balconies of *Railway Hotel*, Perth (01959) are in Federation Free Classical style in Mannerist fashion featuring 'a mixture of classical motifs, with circular columns on square rusticated pedestals, deep-set verandahs, arches, pediments, pilasters, and a parapet terminated at each end by strong decorative accents', considered second only to His Majesty's Theatre as an example of the style. *The Palace Hotel (fmr)*, Perth (02114) is considered one of the most opulent examples of Federation Free Classical style in the State. *Fitzgerald Hotel (fmr)* Northbridge (P03294), a two-storey Interwar Free Classical style building (1925) was also designed by Ernest Porter.

National Bank, Wagin is one of only a few National Bank premises of the early 1900s still operating as a Bank. The early, and considerable, enlargement and remodelling of the place is a direct result of the development of the Wagin district. The place is a restrained example of Federation Free Classical style by Porter and Thomas, influenced by the house style of the National Bank during the pre-World War I period.

13.4 KEY REFERENCES

Information and photographs provided by National Bank Archives, Melbourne as referenced.

13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH

Further research is required into the number of banks with associated residences, and their periods of occupation by bank staff.