11. 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*

National Bank, Narrogin is a fine example of design detail of the Inter-War Free Classical style with an emphasis on the horizontal elements. (Criterion 1.1)

National Bank, Narrogin, Narrogin contributes to the streetscape of the Narrogin business district, with its solid classical features providing a contrast to the soaring Art Deco Commonwealth Bank on the adjoining site. (Criterion 1.3)

11.2 HISTORIC VALUE

National Bank, Narrogin was built for the National Bank, the first bank to operate in Narrogin, and is indicative of the importance of the town and the Wheatbelt in the development of the State in the early 1900s, and demonstrates the period of growth and prosperity in the Wheatbelt region following the end of World War I. (Criterion 2.1)

National Bank, Narrogin has been a major provider of financial services for the agricultural industry in Narrogin and surrounding districts since 1906, and continues to provide specialised services for farmers and associated agricultural businesses. (Criterion 2.2)

The stables demonstrate the typical mode of transport for bank managers during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, when horses were used to travel on bush

* 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Canberra, 1991, with additional reference to Richards, O. *Theoretical Framework for Designed Landscapes in WA*, unpublished report, 1997.

tracks to visit outlying customers, report on soil and rainfall, and arrange overdrafts for the first sowing. (Criterion 2.2)

National Bank, Narrogin 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 Eales & Cohen who designed the 1925 facade. (Criterion 2.3)

11.3 SCIENTIFIC VALUE

11.4 SOCIAL VALUE

National Bank, Narrogin contributes to the local community's sense of place for its position in the main street of the central business district of Narrogin and its financial associations with the local and wider farming district. (Criteria 4.1 & 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12.1 RARITY

National Bank, Narrogin is one of only a few National Bank premises of the early 1900s still operating as a bank, and includes a rare original stables building.

12.2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

National Bank, Narrogin is representative of a banking institution that has operated continuously since 1906 as demonstrated in the various stages of development that have occurred to facilitate the ongoing use. (Criterion 6.1)

National Bank, Narrogin is a good representative example of the National Bank's inter-war house style and demonstrates the new corporate image for the National Bank of Australasia, replicating the design of its Melbourne headquarters. (Criterion 6.2)

12.3 CONDITION

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

12.4 INTEGRITY

The original intention of the banking function is intact although the original residential section is now utilised as offices. The residential function could be reinstated despite the removal of the front two bedrooms, but it is unlikely to suit current accommodation requirements. *National Bank, Narrogin* retains a moderate degree of integrity.

12.5 AUTHENTICITY

National Bank, Narrogin retains a considerable degree of the original 1906 residential section, although the banking chamber evidences 1925 and 1984 fabric and contemporary fitouts. Additions and alterations in 1965, 1967 and 1984-85 have had varying degrees of impact on the original 1906, 1925 and 1928 fabric. Overall, the building has a moderate degree of authenticity.

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 October 2005, with amendments and/or additions by HCWA staff and the Register Committee.

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

National Bank, Narrogin is a single-storey brick, render and corrugated iron building, constructed in 1906 in Federation Free Classical style to a design by architects Hobbs, Smith & Forbes. The place has been the subject of a number of additions and alterations since construction, the first being in 1925 when the facade was remodelled in the Inter-War Free Classical style.

The township of Narrogin developed as the maintenance and administration centre of the Great Southern Railway and a service centre for the surrounding farming region. The population of the district increased rapidly in the early 1900s with prospectors moving into the area due to the downturn in gold production in the eastern goldfields. Narrogin was declared a Municipality in 1906.[1]

The National Bank of Australasia was formed in 1857, during the Victorian gold boom. A number of banks were established during this period and the National had a shaky start as it struggled to find investors, but once on a secure footing it expanded rapidly throughout rural Victoria.[2]

In 1866, the National Bank opened in Perth, being the first eastern states bank to open in Western Australia, and soon had branches in Fremantle and Geraldton. Operating in a new colony presented high risks. Bad debts forced the closure of the Geraldton branch in 1870, but it was reopened later in the decade and a branch was opened in Albany. Most of the bank's business was with the pastoral industry but one major involvement concerned the finance for the Midland Railway, which was one of the most worrying transactions in the bank's early history as it was forced to carry £150,000 debt for the project for many years.[3]

In the early 1890s, the National Bank opened branches in Northam, Toodyay and Katanning, where it was financing farmers. Although it was the largest bank in Western Australia when the 1890s gold boom began, the National Bank shunned the risk of opening branches in the goldfields until August 1894 when it opened in Coolgardie, and then only in order to protect its mercantile connections in Perth and Fremantle, who were also opening businesses on the goldfields. The reasons for restraint was the debt being carried on the Midland Railway and the eastern states recession, which saw a number of banking institutions crash and severely reduced business for those that survived. The only other goldfield branches opened by the National Bank were at Kalgoorlie, Mount Malcolm, Mount Morgan and Leonora. It was the rapid expansion of the Wheatbelt in the early years of the 20th century that revived the bank's optimism in Western Australia, and it responded to the opportunities presented by opening 45 branches and receiving offices in the state between 1900 and 1914, most of them in the Wheatbelt.[4]

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1 A more detailed history of the development of Narrogin can be found in HCWA assessment documentation for Narrogin Post Office, 01818 and Narrogin Railway Station, 03521.

2 Blainey, G. & Hutton, G., *Gold and Paper 1858-1982: A history of the National Bank of Australasia Ltd*, Macmillan, South Melb., 1983,

3 Blainey, G. & Hutton, G., op cit, pp. 148-53.

4 Blainey, G. & Hutton, G., op cit, pp. 148-53.

The National was the first banking facility in Narrogin, opening in the town as an agency of the Katanning branch on 20 January 1902. On 19 March 1903, the Narrogin agency became a branch. The first bank office was a 10ft x 12ft (3m x 4m) brick building on the eastern portion of Lot 48, the title to which was acquired in 1903.[5] The Union Bank, whose 1905 bank building was the first two-storey building in the town, and the Agricultural Bank, which occupied rented premises, were the two other banks operating in Narrogin in the early 1900s.[6]

In 1906, *National Bank, Narrogin* was constructed to replace the first bank office. Tenders were called in April 1906 and a contract was awarded to E. Coombe.[7] The plan was for a single storey building with banking chamber on the street front and a three bedroom residential section at the rear. There was also a weatherboard clad stables building in the yard.[8]

National Bank, Narrogin was designed by the architectural firm of Hobbs, Smith & Forbes, which had been formed in 1904 by the partnership of J.J. Talbot Hobbs, Dean Smith and W.J. Waldie-Forbes. Individually, the partners 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, Narrogin* was one of eight bank buildings of the same design constructed for the National Bank in the Wheatbelt region between 1906 and 1913.[9]

Frederick Hosking (1903-08) was the first manager of *National Bank, Narrogin* and the first to occupy the new premises. He was followed by F.G. England (1908-11) and T.J. Jones (1911-20).[10] Early bank managers were as much pioneers as were the farmers. They travelled many miles over bush tracks, on horseback or by horse and sulky, to visit outlying customers, report on soil and rainfall, and arrange overdrafts for the first sowing.[11] The remnant stables at *National Bank, Narrogin* are testimony to their early mode of transport.

By the mid 1920s, with the Wheatbelt experiencing another period of growth and prosperity following the end of World War I, the banking facilities at *National Bank, Narrogin* were in need of upgrading and enlarging. Architects Eales & Cohen were engaged to provide additions to the place and a contract for the work was awarded to Hoskins Ltd in August 1925.[12] No description of the work undertaken at this time has been located, but photographs and later plans provide an indication of what was done. The banking chamber was widened with an addition of similar width to both sides of the building and to the depth of the chamber, and the façade was remodelled in Inter-War Free Classical style with a rendered finish. The date '1925' was embossed in the triangular pediment above

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5 Information provided by National Australia Bank Group Archives, Melbourne; Certificate of Title Vol. 272 Fol. 18; Pustkuchen, O.E., *The Way Through: The story of Narrogin*, Artlook Books Trust, Perth, 1981, p. 179.

6 Narrogin Municipal Inventory Steering Committee, *Municipal Heritage Inventory prepared for the Town of Narrogin, 1995*; Heritage Council database, 01813; Ball, J., Kelsall, D., & Pidgeon, J., *Statewide Survey of Banks 1829-1939: Southern Region, Western Australia*, National Trust of Australia (WA), November 1997.

7 *WA Mining, Building & Engineering Journal*, 4 April 1906, p. 22. No newspaper reports on the construction or opening were located in the *Narrogin Observer* or *Great Southern Leader*.

8 Hobbs, Smith & Forbes, Plan for 'Proposed banking premises Narrogin WA for the National Bank of Australasia Ltd', c.1905; photograph of the place taken sometime between 1906 and 1925 showing the original façade as per the plan, courtesy Narrogin library; Pitt Morison, M., 'Immigrant Architects and their work, 1885-1905', unpublished paper, Battye PR13589.

9 Ball, J., Kelsall, D., & Pidgeon, J., op cit, pp. 18-19.

10 Information provided by National Australia Bank Group Archives, Melbourne.

11 Blainey, G. & Hutton, G., op cit, pp. 154-55.

12 *Builder & Engineering Register*, 1 August 1925, p. 18.

the entrance.[13] The style appears to have been the new corporate image for the National Bank of Australasia, replicating the design of its Melbourne headquarters.[14]

Another alteration to the place involved the addition of two rooms on the rear west side, with relocation of the pantry. This could have been done in 1925 or during work carried out in 1928. In that year, an item regarding the erection of new National Bank premises at Narrogin by architects Hobbs, Smith & Forbes, appeared in *Building and Construction*.[15] In fact, new premises were not built, but further alterations to *National Bank, Narrogin* almost certainly took place around this time. What this entailed in the interior of the place is uncertain, but the façade was further altered, with the addition of a narrow window either side of the entrance, an arched header above the entrance doorway and the replacement of the triangular pediment with an arched pediment. The embossed '1925' within the pediment was replaced with the words 'National Bank of Australasia Ltd', which had previously been written across the parapet.[16]

The changes to the place during the 1920s were overseen by Peter Doyle, who was the longest serving manager of *National Bank, Narrogin* (1920-32).

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.[17] By the 1960s, the banking chamber of *National Bank, Narrogin* was in need of further refurbishment and enlargement to keep pace with demand on services.

In 1965, work comprised a new internal layout and furnishings, addition of a brick toilet and laundry to the residence and two asbestos clad storerooms attached to the garage. The work cost $10,676. In 1967, with staff numbers reaching 8 to 9, one room of the residence, referred to as the sewing room but originally a bedroom was incorporated into the bank area as an accountant's office. The timber floor of the sewing room was removed and a new concrete floor installed at the level of the banking chamber, which was 18 inches lower than the residence, catering to the slope of the site. Doorways and windows in the former bedroom were repositioned. In the banking chamber, an acoustic ceiling was installed and counters and fittings relocated. The work, undertaken by architects Howard Bonner & Associates cost $3,348. Tie rods were noted in 1970 as having been in position for a number of years.[18]

Branch figures for 1977 record that *National Bank, Narrogin* held 635 trading accounts and 1,236 savings accounts, with deposits of $4,116,000 managed by a staff of six. Servicing clients involved in agriculture formed the major part of the bank's business.[19]

By 1978, it was accepted that a residence located in the commercial centre of the town was no longer satisfactory for managerial accommodation, and a house was

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13 Photograph taken between 1925 and c.1928, courtesy Narrogin library; Floor plan, c.1985, National Australia Bank Group Archives, Melbourne.

14 Photograph of National Bank Melbourne headquarters, Blainey, G. & Hutton, G., op cit.

15 *Building and Construction*, 16 February 1928.

16 Photograph taken between 1925 and 1940 (before 1940 construction of Commonwealth Bank on adjoining site), courtesy Narrogin library; Photographs of the National Bank in the 1950s, Battye Library photographic collection, 816B/C/5197 & 011357D.

17 Blainey, G. & Hutton, G., op cit.

18 Narrogin Branch file, National Australia Bank Group Archives, Melbourne

19 Narrogin Branch file, op cit.

built in the residential section of town for the occupation of the manager of *National Bank, Narrogin*. The residential portion of *National Bank, Narrogin* was then occupied by the accountant, who had been living in a rented residence.[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]

In 1984-85, an amount of $230,000 was allocated for a complete renovation of *National Bank, Narrogin* to alleviate the cramped working conditions and retain sufficient of the residential section to house single officers, while the accountant was relocated back into rented accommodation. The renovations to *National Bank, Narrogin* at this time included an extension along the east side where a new strongroom and staff facilities were installed, the incorporation of the main bedroom of the residence into the bank working area, and an extension of the 1925 addition on the west side to the new depth of the banking chamber. The place was completely re-roofed and the floor replaced. The renovations increased the area of the banking chamber from 102 square metres to 167 square metres. The renovated premises were expected to be suitable for a further 30 years.[22]

National Bank, Narrogin was listed in the Art Deco Significant Building Survey in 1994 and, in the Statewide Bank Survey of 1997.[23]

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.[24] An Agribusiness service centre was located in *National Bank, Narrogin* to service the surrounding district. *National Bank, Narrogin* employs a staff of six in the general banking section (soon to be increased to eight) and another eight in the Agribusiness centre.[25]

In 2005, *National Bank, Narrogin* has no residential function. The whole of the building is occupied by the banking chamber and by offices and facilities for general bank staff and the Agribusiness centre.

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

National Bank, Narrogin is a single-storey brick, render and corrugated iron building showing some influence of the Inter-War Free Classical style.

National Bank, Narrogin is located on the south side of Fortune Street, which is the main commercial street of the town of Narrogin, and is situated opposite the post office and on the east side of the Commonwealth Bank. Fortune Street aligns at right angles with Federal Street, the main commercial and retail road through Narrogin, with the Town Hall on the south-west corner of Fortune and Federal streets in the same block as *National Bank, Narrogin*. The Fortune Street streetscape is dominated by a steep slope up from the east to the west, centre angled parking along the street and street plantings along the centre of the road

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20 Narrogin Branch file, op cit.

21 Blainey, G. & Hutton, G., op cit, pp. 321-323.

22 Narrogin Branch file, op cit; physical evidence.

23 Ball, J., Kelsall, D., & Pidgeon, J., op cit; Geneve, Vyonne, *Significant Buildings of the 1930s in Western Australia*, National Trust, Perth, 1994.

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

25 Information on National Bank staffing and services provided by Lyn Jamieson, National Bank, Narrogin.

and on the edge of the verge on both sides of the road. The street plantings obscure the streetscape views of *National Bank, Narrogin*.

National Bank, Narrogin has a symmetrical frontage that occupies most of the width of the site, except for a pedestrian access way along the west side. The front façade is at zero setback from the pedestrian pavement. The site is rectangular, and the rear boundary adjoins a right of way that affords vehicular access to the rear of the site. There is a steel framed carport at the rear of the building, and along the west side there is a timber framed weatherboard and Asbestos clad skillion building. There are no plantings on the site. The side and part of the rear boundaries are delineated by Hardiflex fences.

The front facade of *National Bank, Narrogin* displays characteristics of Inter-War Free Classical style. The use of classical themes and the symmetrical frontage is typical of the style, demonstrated by the balanced frontage below the parapet featuring a decorative central element. Typically, moulded detailing delineates the base and cornice. The entire street frontage detailed with horizontal banding is rendered and painted. The pilasters, parapet and moulded detailing are similarly painted in the same pale colour. The flat bracketed cornice forms a horizontal continuum across the façade, including around the ached pediment central above the entry door. The central door opening on the front facade is located within a stepped protruding element that is identified by a stepped pediment and arched detail and a semi circular bracketed 'eyebrow' awning. The pilasters each side of the entry feature a vertical configuration window with a square motif with criss-crosses, which is repeated at regular intervals along the parapet. The original door has been replaced with an aluminium framed glazed door and sidelights. The window openings flank the central front door on the front facade. Both windows are the same, featuring a semi circular top sash with multi-paned fixed glazing infill. The main glazed section is fixed. The horizontal banding of the front façade angles around the window and forms a keystone central on the header. An intrusive automatic teller machine has been installed into the wall on the west side of the entry door and an illuminated sign is affixed on the wall on the east side.

The west wall from the front to the rear shows different periods of development, with painted face bricks in stretcher bond above a rendered plinth, square profile gutters, aluminium framed windows and security grilles, up to the original residential section with face brick in stretcher bond, above a rendered plinth, with original double hung sash windows and vertical steel security grilles. Verandah posts are square timber and still show evidence of decorative timber brackets, and the verandah roof is hipped with colorbond ribbed sheeting. The verandah has a green concrete floor. There is a low brick retaining wall along the west side between the west boundary on the high side and the building. Similarly a retaining wall separates the rear yard from the building area, at a level approximately a metre or so lower. The carport is located on the high retained area.

National Bank, Narrogin shows evidence of at least five periods of development; 1906 - original bank building with residence incorporated at the rear of the bank chamber, and stables; 1925 - façade altered and extended east and west with extensions both sides, for at least the depth of the banking chamber, also likely two extra rooms and pantry at rear of residence; 1928 - alterations to façade including bank name embossed, and windows in elements flanking the central entry door; 1965 - staff toilets on east side and laundry at rear; 1967 - removal of 1906 bedroom on east side behind the banking chamber, floor lowered and the room incorporated into banking chamber, and acoustic ceiling installed in banking

chamber; 1984 - removal of 1906 west bedroom (main bedroom), floor lowered and the room incorporated into banking chamber, and extensions on west and east sides.

The roof of *National Bank, Narrogin* is predominantly hipped and clad with corrugated iron and features a tall face brick chimney at the rear. The roof of the 1965 and 1984 extensions on the east side forms a gable against a side boundary parapet. The 1965 laundry extension and adjacent verandah have a flat ribbed colorbond roof. The original hipped verandah on the west side is clad with ribbed colorbond sheeting. Visible gutters are square profile in form.

National Bank, Narrogin forms roughly a rectangular footprint. The banking chamber and 'front' offices are predominantly a recent fitout for the corporate image of the National Australia Bank, and contemporary office and service support fitouts in the former residential section. The central front entry opens directly into the public space of the banking chamber that extends across almost the entire frontage, except for offices along the west side. The offices behind the counter side of the banking chamber are predominantly partitioned spaces. Several steps signal the only entry into the rear section of the building that comprises much of the residential section of the original 1906 construction. However, the steps open into a small utility room (original bedroom) that leads through to the central corridor of the original 1906 residence, and right, to what was the original entry in the residence. The utility room also accesses 1965 toilet extensions on the left (east). The central corridor accesses two rooms each side, and one at the end.

Although interior access was not limited at the time of inspection, the nature of the business conducted at the premises minimised the availability of photographs. The banking chamber and public accessible spaces at the front have concrete floors, hard plaster walls, suspended acoustic panel ceilings and contemporary fitouts including partitioned offices and teller counters. The counters and partitions are timber veneer, and the office partitions extend to ceiling height. The fireplace in the interview room has been boarded over. In the 1906 residential section, the floors are timber although carpeted over, the walls are hard plaster, and the ceilings are predominantly plaster with simple moulded cornice detailing. A moulded plaster arch remains in place at the end of the original entry hall, near the juncture of the central corridor. The original skirtings and architraves are mostly in place, with some four panel doors still in situ. Fireplaces have been boarded over. The 1965 ablution extension evidences ceramic tiled floors and walls and contemporaneous fitouts.

The stables at the rear on the west side form two sections; the north end has been completely reclad with vertical profile asbestos sheeting, while the south end has an open front on the east and the original weatherboards on the west and south walls. The roof is a skillion rising to the west boundary, and is clad with corrugated iron.

The carport is a steel framed structure with a colorbond roof.

13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

The Heritage Council database list 63 banks built between 1900 and 1913, six of which are on the State Register, and another 44 built in the 1920s, of which four are on the Register. There are no registered National Bank premises.

ANZ Bank Building, 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. *Bank of NSW (fmr)*, Cue (00631), is a single-storey stone building constructed in 1900 in Victorian Georgian style to a design by Hobbs. It is now a private residence. The *Western Australian Bank (fmr)*, Midland (02529), is a two storey building designed by Hobbs and built in Federation Free Classical style in 1904. The upper floor façade bears a striking resemblance to the 1906 façade of *National Bank, Narrogin*, while the lower floor has a rendered façade with Federation Academic Classical features. The place has not functioned as a bank since 1929 and is the Midland Police Service Building.[26]

Banks on the Register which were constructed in the 1920s, when *National Bank, Narrogin* was undergoing remodelling, include *ANZ Bank (fmr)* Perth (06101) which is a two-storey Inter-War Chicagoesque style by Oldham, Boas Ednie-Brown; *Commonwealth Bank* Northam (01871) (1938) is a two-storey building in Inter-War Stripped Classical style; *Commonwealth Bank (fmr)* Bunbury (04575) is described as Inter-War Beaux Arts. *Homeswest Building*, Carnarvon (00468) is a former Bank of NSW built in 1928 and designed by Hobbs, Smith & Forbes in a simplified Inter-War Free Classical style.[27]

The two-storey building constructed in Narrogin in 1905 for the Union Bank (later ANZ Bank) was also designed by Hobbs, Smith & Forbes. It is a red brick, Federation Free Classical style construction with prominent street portico.[28]

According to the Statewide Survey of Banks, there were a total of eight National Bank buildings constructed between 1906 and 1913 to the same design as *National Bank, Narrogin*. The other seven were Goomalling, Kellerberrin, Dowerin, Bridgetown, Wagin, Moora and Williams.[29] Kellerberrin (01373) and Dowerin (00748) retain the original red brick Federation Free Classical style façade and are functioning National Banks. Wagin (02638) has been remodelled similar to Narrogin and continues to provide banking services. Goomalling (01116) is occupied as a shop; Williams (16071) is the Williams Club; and Moora (11097) is part of a retail premise. Bridgetown (00246) also no longer functions as a bank. Gnowangerup National Bank was another 1913 construction in Federation Free Classical style that was remodelled in Inter-War Free Classical style in 1927-28.[30]

As well as designing new facades for several of the earlier Hobbs, Smith & Forbes banks, architects Eales & Cohen designed several new banks in Inter-War Free Classical style. Dalwallinu National Bank (1926) has the same façade as *National Bank, Narrogin*.[31] In 1949, this building was occupied by the R & I Bank.[32] Merredin National Bank (1925) is built on a street corner and has a slightly more detailed façade. It ceased to function as a bank in 1943. The 1923 Corrigin National Bank & Quarters (00588) is still occupied as bank and residence, but has an intrusive addition on one side.[33]

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26 Heritage Council database and assessment documentation.

27 Heritage Council database and assessment documentation.

28 Ball, Kelsall, & Pidgeon, *Statewide Survey of Banks*, op cit, entry 103 B3 – 1813; *WA Mining, Building & Engineering Journal*, 20 May 1905, p. 21.

29 Ball, Kelsall, & Pidgeon, *Statewide Survey of Banks*, op cit, p. 20, listed in footnote.

30 Ball, Kelsall, & Pidgeon, *Statewide Survey of Banks*, op cit; Heritage Council database.

31 *Builder & Engineering Register*, 1 August 1926.

32 Rural & Industries Bank, *Annual Report*, 1949.

33 *Builder & Engineering Register*, 1 January 1925; Heritage Council database.

National Bank, Narrogin is one of only a few National Bank premises of the early 1900s still operating as a Bank, and is one of several that were remodelled in the 1920s in Inter-War Free Classical style to match the bank's new house style. The place is a good example of Inter-War Free Classical style.

13.4 KEY REFERENCES

National Australia Bank Group Archives, Melbourne, Narrogin branch files.

13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH
