



Westpac Bank



The building was constructed as the Adelaide head office of the Bank of New South Wales. It marked the rise of the banking sector in Adelaide, as a part of the intense local rebuilding programme by financial institutions during the 1930-40s period in South Australia. The building occupies a prominent corner site in Adelaide; the intersection of King William Street and North Terrace. This solidly massed multi-storey building provides an anchor point for the surrounding context of high-rise buildings.

The building is acknowledged as the only large-scale example of 'inter-war stripped classical' architecture in Adelaide - and one of the few high integrity examples remaining in Australia. The building's formal architectural value lies in its early, well executed 'modernist' influenced form and ornamentation - applied to a commercial multi-storey structure. The solid, freestanding building expresses its verticality through the incorporation of seven storey high recesses, dressed with render detail fluting under windows. The design of the façade is austere, with restrained and abstracted use of decorative elements. Although the building is reminiscent of classical proportioning systems, the absence of adornment and the clarity with which the building's materials are expressed is testament to the expression of the architects' 'modernist' ideals.

DETAILS:

Location

Cnr King William Street/North Terrace, Adelaide

Architect

Claridge, P R, Claridge & Associates

Date

1938

Photos - Michael Queale