



**Wing Wah Restaurant, 69-71 Princes Street**  
(former Bank of New South Wales)

1910

<b>Use</b>	Restaurant	<b>Historic Value</b>	3 out of 5
<b>Materials</b>	Plastered masonry, timber floors, corrugated iron roof	<b>Architectural Value</b>	3 out of 4
<b>NZHPT Registered</b>	Category II Register Number 866	<b>Technical Value</b>	1 out of 2
<b>Valuation No</b>	12340 38200	<b>Symbolic Value</b>	1 out of 3
<b>Legal Description</b>	Lot 67 DP 9	<b>Rarity</b>	- out of 2
		<b>Townscape Value</b>	1 out of 2
		<b>Group Value</b>	2 out of 2
		<b>Overall Cultural Heritage Value</b>	11 out of 20
<b>Map Reference</b>	PW3		

**Description**

The former Bank of New South Wales, now in use as a restaurant, is of two storey masonry construction with plastered finish. It is a classical design, considered appropriate for banks in the 19th century through until the 1920s, and it is an impressive building, especially for the size of the town of Hawera. It is five bays wide, with four windows on the ground floor and the main door to the right; the wall surfaces are strongly lined to imitate stonework. The first floor has a central section of four pilasters supporting a prominent triangular pediment with ornate moulded crest and foliage. This floor was originally the bedrooms of the manager's flat, which had its own entrance on the north side and kitchen, dining room, servant's room and wash house at the back of the ground floor.

**History**

The land in Princes Street was purchased by the Bank in 1875 for the sum of £25, and the present building was erected in 1910 at a cost of £2,920. Renovations were carried out in 1958 and 1964; at some time the main banking chamber has been enlarged by the removal of the old Manager's office and the old fittings. Recent alterations have been made for the new use as a Chinese Restaurant.

**Architect**

Crichton and McKay, Wellington, drawings 1909.

**Builder**

A B Burrell

**Statement of Significance**

The Bank of New South Wales is an impressive building, one showing faith in the prosperity of the town by one of the country's major banks. It has historical value for its long association with banking and commerce, from 1875 in terms of the land and from 1910 in terms of this particular building. Its architecture is expressive of the gravity and solidity that banks liked to project as the main financial institutions in the town, and it is a very competent piece of classical design by a nationally known firm of architects, Crichton and McKay. It has remained relatively unaltered in its main elevation, giving it remarkable authenticity for a commercial building of this age. It forms the southern end of a row of period buildings on the west side of Princes Street that - for its consistency, scale, decoration and style - is unsurpassed in Taranaki and which has national historical importance.

**Sources**

Architectural drawing, Cowie Rockell Chong Architects, Hawera  
NZHPT Buildings Record Form

**Date**

June 1997