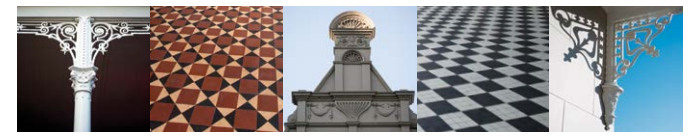




# VICTORIAN & EDWARDIAN

## ARCHITECTURE IN DURBAN

**ROYAL DOWNTOWN** In 1824, a British encampment was established under Francis Farewell on the northern shore of the Bay of Natal. Eleven years later, this settlement was named Durban after Sir Benjamin d'Urban, governor of the Cape Colony. What is now the Province of KwaZulu-Natal was proclaimed a separate British colony under the authority of Queen Victoria in 1856. The development of commercial sugar plantations along the coast from the 1870s onwards was followed by vigorous economic growth, which, with the discovery of gold in Johannesburg in 1886, saw the development of the Durban harbour. With numerous British immigrants and a buoyant building activity dependent on Britain for architectural styles and talents, it was quite natural that the town that emerged was Victorian in character, which in large part still constitutes the experience of downtown Durban.



**ORDER OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE** The Victorian style has its roots in the revival of Greek and Roman architecture, with particular emphasis on civic buildings. Such buildings occupy dominant positions, are placed on high pedestals and boast often extensive porticoes. Their designs involve the ordering of parts into well-composed wholes, fused with the material innovations of the Industrial Revolution, particularly wrought and cast iron. Prestigious commissions were often awarded by architectural competitions.



TWO BRITISH ARCHITECTURAL INFLUENCES CAN BE SEEN CLEARLY THROUGHOUT THE CITY AND EARLY SUBURBS OF DURBAN, STANDING OUT AMONGST NUMEROUS OTHER ARCHITECTURAL FORMS THAT EPITOMISE THE DIVERSITY AND UNIQUENESS OF PLACE.

# VICTORIAN & EDWARDIAN

## ARCHITECTURE



Durban Station



**FURTHER READING**  
Radford, D A Guide to the Architecture of Durban and Pietermaritzburg. Cape Town; David Philip, 2002.  
Kearney, B Architecture in Natal 1824-1893. Cape Town: Balkema, 1973  
Or go to: <http://bit.ly/dbn-ve>

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# VICTORIAN & EDWARDIAN



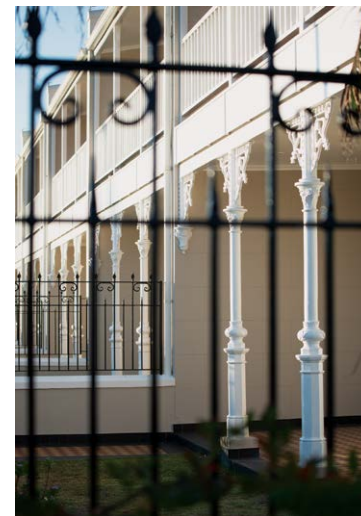
## BEREA AREA

- VILLA RENAUD**  
543 Musgrave Rd. Buckle & Osborne. 1906
- CHARLESTON**  
14 Waverton Rd. WE Roberts, c. 1901
- COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS**  
198-202 Florida Rd. c. 1890.



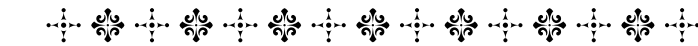
## CITY CENTRE AREA

- CENTRAL POST OFFICE**  
290 Dr Pixley Kaseme St. Philip Dudgeon, 1881-85.
- CITY HALL**  
Church St. Woolacott, Scott & Hudson, 1903-10.
- DURBAN STATION**  
Cnr of Monty Naicker & Soldiers' Way. Street-Wilson & Fyfe, 1894-98, 1903-04.
- GREENACRES**  
411-23 Dr Pixley Kaseme St. WE Roberts, Norman W Gallagher, 1898-1901.
- DURBAN CLUB**  
93 Margaret Mncadi Ave. Wells & Ingham, 1899-1904.



## POINT

- DOCKLANDS ROWHOUSES**  
Patterson Street, 1895
- WAREHOUSES**  
69-100 Mahatma Gandhi Rd. c. 1880-1910.
- POLICE & FIRE STATION**  
Cnr of Mahatma Gandhi Rd & Southampton Street. Arthur Fyfe. 1903 & 1905 respectively.
- BOND STORE (QUEENS WAREHOUSE)**  
237 Mahatma Gandhi Rd. c. 1900.



**CONSIDERED THE BEST EXAMPLE OF CLASSICAL REVIVAL** in South Africa, Durban's main post office, the building which originally accommodated the town hall, post office and municipal offices, defines the northern side of Francis Farewell Square. A cupola sits atop the clock and bell tower, the historically distinguishing features of a town hall, while the British coat of arms is inscribed on the attic balustrade of the colonnade facing Dorothy Nyembe Street, the original entrance to the post office.

