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## UNION BANK (FORMER)



Union Bank (former)



Union Bank (former)



Union Bank (former, 2000)

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### Location

44 VICTORIA ROAD, LOCH, SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE

### Municipality

SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE

### Level of significance

Rec for HO area contributory

### Heritage Listing

South Gippsland Shire

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### Statement of Significance

Last updated on - December 19, 2022

#### What is significant?

The former Union Bank in Loch, at 44 Victoria Road, Loch, built in 1902, is significant. The symmetrical two-storey red brick building has a transverse parapet gable roof with a large tabbed and corbelled brick chimney with terracotta pots, and rendered spandrel (originally roughcast) separating the upper and lower floors, as well as at the second floor ceiling height on the gable ends. Other key features include:

- Central rendered door panel in ground floor with a single wide arched window on each side (missing original frames and sashes)
- Wide central door panel capped with ogee scrolled hood moulds contained within rendered spandrel
- At end elevations, a pair of symmetrical narrow windows on each floor
- Five double hung narrow windows on upper in a pair-single-pair formation.
- Residential style upper floor

- Secondary rear gable
- Two gable parapets and parapet at the rear skillion are capped at the eaves with rendered sphere decorations.
- Parallel single store gable with skillion roof at rear
- Wide garden area on opposite side of building to Smith Street

Non-original alterations and additions, other than those specified above, are not significant.

### How is it significant?

**The former Union Bank at 44 Victoria Road, Loch is of local historic and aesthetic significance to the South Gippsland Shire. The former Union Bank is also strongly associated with the architect WR Butler.**

### Why is it significant?

Historically, the former Union Bank in Loch is the oldest extant bank in the South Gippsland Shire. The Union Bank began the process of constructing the imposing permanent bank premises in 1902. This branch in Loch was operational until it closed in 1979. The age and imposing nature of the building demonstrate the high regard the bank held for the Loch community and surrounds. It also demonstrates the importance of Loch as a commercial centre in the early development of the South Gippsland Shire. (Criterion A)

Aesthetically, the former Union Bank in Loch is a superior example of a brick Federation bank within the Shire. The former Union Bank is a local landmark in Loch and significantly contribute to the character of Victoria Road and Loch. (Criterion E)

It is one of two banks designed by WR Butler in South Gippsland, a notable bank architect at the time and these buildings were considered the finest examples of their type and period. Mr Butler also build the former Union Bank at Toora (see TO-ST-030). Mr Butler was known for his progressive Federation design themes that were considered contemporary during that period. (Criterion H)

Heritage Study/Consultant	South Gippsland - South Gippsland Heritage Study, David Helms with Trevor Westmore, 2004;
Construction dates	1902, 1902, 1902,
Architect/Designer	Butler, Walter Richmond,
Other Names	thematic, -,
Hermes Number	30880
Property Number	

## Physical Description 1

The former Union Bank of Australasia at 44 Victoria Street, Loch is a two storey red brick structure with a transverse parapet gable roof. The residence is contained within the upper floor and a parallel single storey gable and skillion at the rear. It is set back from the front, but is built up to the side street with a wide garden area to the opposite side. The upper and lower floors are separated by a wide roughcast spandrel below the upper windows (now rendered smooth at the front). The facade is symmetrically arranged with a wide three centred arch window (now missing the original frames and sashes) on either side of the rendered central door panel on the ground floor and a pair of narrow double hung windows on either side of a central window in the upper. The eaves are projected over the upper floor further reducing its height.

The wide central door panel is capped with ogee scrolled hood moulds contained within the rendered spandrel. It originally had a semi-circular arched entry with Lombardic moulds to a recessed porch.

A large tabbed and corbelled brick chimney, with terra cotta pots, is located slightly to west of centre in the front plane of the roof.

The end elevations with rendered bands at the upper level are articulated by a gable end octagonal pier extending above the parapet ridge and flanked by slotted louvre vents. A pair of symmetrical windows is located in each floor. The secondary rear gable is treated similarly but without the central pier and with only one central window. The two gable parapets and the parapet to the rear skillion are capped at their eaves levels with rendered spheres.

At the east side, there is a projecting entry to the residence, built in, possibly in the interwar period.

A new capped picket fence, roughly matching the original encloses the front area.

*This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.*

*For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>*