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# LOCH POST OFFICE



Loch Post Office



Loch Post Office



Loch Post Office (2000)



image158

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## Location

7 SMITH STREET, 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?**

**Loch Post Office at 7 Smith Street, Loch, built in 1913-14, is significant. The single storey red brick building with gabled roof that extends downwards to cover the entryway and entry porch with rendered architraves and a small moulded hood over the opening. On the facade near the entry are three double hung windows with multi-pane upper sashes, while the gable ends are covered in roughcast stucco.**

- **Rear section of gable extends towards Victoria Road at a flatter pitch**
- **Louvred vent at peak facing Victoria Street**
- **Rear verandah with simple square posts**
- **Two chimneys**

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

**How is it significant?**

**The former Loch Post Office is of local historic and aesthetic significance to the South Gippsland Shire.**

**Why is it significant?**

Historically, this was the first Post Office in Loch. It was constructed by FW Morris on behalf of the new Commonwealth Government as part of the Commonwealth Post and Telegraph Act (1902). This Post Office was likely the first physical manifestation of the new Commonwealth system experienced by the Loch community and demonstrates the influence of Federation on the South Gippsland Shire and the community of Loch. Being one of only three towns in South Gippsland to have a Commonwealth establish Post Office demonstrates the significance of Loch as a commercial centre within the South Gippsland Shire during the Federation period. (Criterion A)

Aesthetically, the building demonstrates key Federation elements on a prominent corner site near other key buildings at the time, including the Union Bank diagonally across the road (see TO-VI-044), and close to the Public Hall and Mechanics Institute (see TO-SM-HA). Being in such a noteworthy location, the former Post Office significantly contributes to the historic streetscapes of Smith Street and Victoria Streets, and the aesthetic character of Loch overall. (Criterion E)

Heritage Study/Consultant	South Gippsland - South Gippsland Heritage Study, David Helms with Trevor Westmore, 2004;
Construction dates	1913, 1913, 1913,
Architect/Designer	Public Works Department,
Other Names	-,
Hermes Number	30872
Property Number	

## **Physical Description 1**

The Loch Post Office is a single storey red brick building with a corrugated iron roof. The gable facing Smith Street contains the public space and offices and is extended down and outward to cover the entry and postal boxes. The rear section, under a slightly higher hipped roof contains the residence and it is extended towards Victoria Road at a slightly flatter pitch as a verandah carried on simple square posts. The front facade of the building has a large door opening in the extended section surrounded by a rendered architrave and with a small moulded hood over. The balance of the facade has three double hung windows with multi-pane upper sashes. The gable ends are of roughcast stucco with a louvred vent at the peak.

A recent and reasonably sympathetic picket fence has been constructed at the street boundaries.

*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/>*