

FORMER UNION BANK OF AUSTRALIA



FORMER UNION BANK OF AUSTRALIA SOHE 2008



1 former union bank of australia smith street fitzroy corner view mar1980



former union bank of australia smith street fitzroy front elevation mar1980



H0506 FORMER UNION BANK OF AUSTRALIA LHA 2015 1.JPG



H0506 FORMER UNION BANK OF AUSTRALIA LHA 2015 2.JPG



H0506 FORMER UNION BANK OF AUSTRALIA LHA 2015 3.JPG

Location

165-167 SMITH STREET FITZROY, YARRA CITY

Municipality

YARRA CITY

Level of significance

Registered

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H0506

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO187

VHR Registration

May 5, 1982

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - June 18, 1999

What is significant?

The Former Union Bank of Australia was constructed in 1889-90 to the design of architects Inskip and Robertson. The two storey rendered brick building combines a bank with a manager's residence.

How is it significant?

The Former Union Bank of Australia is of architectural and historical significance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

The Former Union Bank of Australia is of architectural significance as an excellent and rare example of an intact boom style bank building and attached residence and for its associations with the architect George Inskip. Although the bank and residence are clearly distinct, their integration is successfully and distinctively achieved. The bank's corner entrance is unusual for a public building, while the detailing employed in the facade is eclectic and includes reduced elevated pediments over the windows, Greek key patterning at ground floor impost level, draped ionic entrance consoles and sill panels with relief mouldings. Of particular interest are the cantilevered entrance pediment and the vase and sunflower cement reliefs to the pilaster panels of the loggia. Both are devices associated with the English Queen Anne revival and the work of the English architect Norman Shaw. Their appearance in a building of this period in Melbourne is an example of relatively quick transfer of architectural style to the colonies. This, in turn, is indicative of the knowledge and skill of the building's principal architect, George Inskip, one of the finest exponents of Boom Classicism bank design in Victoria. Inskip's prominence in the profession was illustrated by the fact that he was president of the Royal Victorian Institute of Architects for three successive terms.

The Former Union Bank of Australia is of historical significance as an expression of developments within the Australian banking industry at the end of the 19th century. The building's decorative and expressive facade provides an interesting contrast to the conservative National Bank of the 1860s opposite, reflecting the impact of more aggressive British banks on the Australian banking industry.

Permit Exemptions

General Exemptions:

General exemptions apply to all places and objects included in the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR). General exemptions have been designed to allow everyday activities, maintenance and changes to your property, which don't harm its cultural heritage significance, to proceed without the need to obtain approvals under the Heritage Act 2017.

Places of worship: In some circumstances, you can alter a place of worship to accommodate religious practices without a permit, but you must **notify** the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria before you start the works or activities at least 20 business days before the works or activities are to commence.

Subdivision/consolidation: Permit exemptions exist for some subdivisions and consolidations. If the subdivision or

consolidation is in accordance with a planning permit granted under Part 4 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the application for the planning permit was referred to the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria as a determining referral authority, a permit is not required.

Specific exemptions may also apply to your registered place or object. If applicable, these are listed below. Specific exemptions are tailored to the conservation and management needs of an individual registered place or object and set out works and activities that are exempt from the requirements of a permit. Specific exemptions prevail if they conflict with general exemptions.

Find out more about heritage permit exemptions [here](#).

Construction dates	1889,
Architect/Designer	Inskip, G,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Hermes Number	486
Property Number	

History

Associated People: INSKIP AND ROBERTSON

Extent of Registration

Historic Building No.506, Former Union Bank, 165-167 Smith Street, Fitzroy.
[*Victoria Government Gazette* No. 43 5 May 1982 p.1282]

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/>