

Statement of Recommendation from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria

Former Union Bank and Gold Smelting Objects, VHR H0121
45 View Street, Bendigo, Greater Bendigo City
Dja Dja Wurrung Country



The Former Union Bank. Source: Denisbin on Flickr.

Executive Director recommendation

I recommend to the Heritage Council of Victoria (**Heritage Council**) that the Former Union Bank and Gold Smelting Objects, located at 45 View Street, Bendigo in the Victorian Heritage Register (**VHR**) be amended.

In accordance with section 62 of the *Heritage Act 2017* (**the Act**), I suggest that the Heritage Council determine:

- that the objects are integral to understanding the cultural heritage significance of a registered place and are to be included in the VHR in accordance with section 49(1)(ca) of the Act; and
- to include additional land in the VHR (section 49(1)(d)(i) and (ii) of the Act); and
- that the category of registration be amended to Registered Place and Registered Object Integral to a Registered Place; and
- categories of works or activities may be carried out in relation to the place with objects integral for which a permit is not required (permit exemptions).



STEVEN AVERY

Executive Director, Heritage Victoria

Date of recommendation: 19 May 2025

The process from here

1. The Heritage Council publishes the Executive Director's recommendation (section 41)

The Heritage Council will publish the Executive Director's recommendation on its [website](#) for a period of 60 days.

2. Making a submission to the Heritage Council (sections 44 and 45)

Within the 60-day publication period, any person or body may make a written submission to the Heritage Council. This submission can support the recommendation, or object to the recommendation and a hearing can be requested in relation to the submission. Information about making a submission and submission forms are available on the [Heritage Council's website](#).

3. Heritage Council determination (sections 46, 46A and 49)

The Heritage Council is an independent statutory body. It is responsible for making the final determination to include or not include the place, object or land in the VHR or amend a place, object or land already in the VHR.

If no submissions are received the Heritage Council must make a determination within 40 days of the publication closing date.

If submissions are received, the Heritage Council may decide to hold a hearing in relation to the submission. The Heritage Council must conduct a hearing if the submission is made by a person or body with a real or substantial interest in the place, object or land. If a hearing does take place, the Heritage Council must make a determination within 90 days after the completion of the hearing.

4. Obligations of owners of places, objects and land (sections 42, 42A, 42B, 42C, 42D and 43)

The owner of a place, object or land which is the subject of a recommendation to the Heritage Council has certain obligations under the Act. These relate to advising the Executive Director in writing of any works or activities that are being carried out, proposed or planned for the place, object or land.

The owner also has an obligation to provide a copy of this statement of recommendation to any potential purchasers of the place, object or land before entering into a contract.

5. Further information

The relevant sections of the Act are provided at Appendix 1.

Description

The following is a description of the Former Union Bank and Gold Smelting Objects at the time of the site inspection by Heritage Victoria in December 2024.

The Former Union Bank and Gold Smelting Objects is located on the land of the Dja Dja Wurrung people.

Bank building

The Former Union Bank is a large, two storey bank building located on View Street Bendigo. The portico consists of a giant Corinthian order porch colonnade, an unusually grand treatment that is similar to the Vahland and Getzschmann design for the Masonic Hall on the other side of View Street. The columns sit on bluestone pedestals, with decorative cast iron railings between the pedestals on either side of the entry. Above the Corinthian columns is a balustraded parapet with a dentillated cornice. Behind the portico, there are three round headed arches forming the windows and entry to the building. Above the architrave to these windows is further dentillated moulding, and three, less elaborate, rectangular windows that suggest an attic storey behind.

Banking chamber

The banking chamber is double height internally with simple moulding tracing the perimeter walls of the space, and a coffered ceiling. None of the furniture in this room is original. There are two rooms near the entrance door, with the former bank manager's office fitted out for dining and the former statements room fitted out as a kitchen. On the southwest wall of the main banking chamber, there are three large windows. In the eastern corner of the chamber is a non-original staircase added c.1952 to replace the original ladder access to the attic. The attic was likely used as a voucher room (voucher being a banking term for the pieces of paper on which customer deposits/withdrawals are made).



2024. Interior of banking chamber viewed from the top of 1952 staircase.



2024. Interior of voucher room. Windows on the right hand side look onto the portico and View Street.

Strong room

In the northwestern corner of the banking chamber is the strong room, which is secured by a heavy, iron, fire resistant door manufactured by William Willis, a whitesmith from Melbourne. In the strong room, the space is divided by a metal grill with a central door. The former strongroom is presently used as a storeroom.



2024. Strongroom door.



2024. Detail to strongroom door.



2024. Banking vault, in the strong room.

Attached residence

The adjacent residence faces south and is a two-storey brick building with a timber framed verandah supported by square timber columns with capitals and a cast iron frieze with a foliage pattern between. The residence was substantially altered between 1909 and 1910, and the current presentation of the residence is reflective of these works. Internally, the rooms have been altered to suit present use as short stay accommodation. Internal fixtures and fittings of each room are not original.

Smelting house with chimney at rear

The smelting house is a small painted brick structure with a tall brick chimney to the back of the property. It has been fitted out for use as an office, but the original furnace is likely to be concealed underneath the office fit out. All smelting implements were removed prior to the sale of the bank by ANZ to the National Trust of Australia's Bendigo branch in 1976, at which time they were transferred to the ANZ Museum (now the ANZ Group Archive).



2024. View from the rear of the bank. Smelting house ahead and residence to the right.



2024. Interior of smelting house. Note the chimney vent above. Furnace likely to be behind the desks.



2024. Residence.

Right of way to Mackenzie Street and gate posts

An historic service access route provides access from Mackenzie Street to the Former Union Bank and neighbouring properties. The original gate posts are still extant at the street end of this right of way.



2024. View from behind the smelting house, looking down the right of way.



2024. Gate post, some damage to the posts.



2024. Gate posts and right of way, looking towards the rear of the property.

History

The Union Bank of Australia was formally founded in London on 7 July 1837. In October 1838, the Port Phillip Agency of the Derwent Bank was taken over by the Union Bank and became its first Victorian branch. The discovery of gold in the newly separated colony of Victoria in 1851 resulted in dramatic economic growth as well as changes in banking practices.

The Union Bank was first established on this site in Sandhurst (the former name of Bendigo) in 1857 following the establishment of branches in Castlemaine and Ballarat in 1854. A two-storey Italianate premises was built by the Union Bank in 1857 (image below, left), though the bank may have been operating elsewhere in Sandhurst prior to the building's completion. After the turbulent early years of the gold rush, banking became more stable into the later 1850s and beyond. The Bendigo branch of the Union Bank was lucrative and important enough that a more impressive building was built after 1876 replacing the 1857 bank.



1875, First Union Bank premises (built 1857) (screen clipping from "Sandhurst, north part, as seen from the top of the Masonic Hall"), Source: NLA.



c. 1900s, The Union Bank of Australia Limited premises built 1876, Source: Victorian Collections, Bendigo Historical Society.

The 1876 Union Bank premises were built to a design by Alfred Louis Smith and Arthur Ebdon Johnson, consisting of a façade dominated by large Corinthian columns on bluestone pedestals. The design is harmonious with that of the Masonic Hall on the other side of the same street, also built in the giant Corinthian order two years prior. The new premises were built at a time when gold mining was changing from shallow alluvial workings to an industry of deep leads and quartz mining. With the increasing proportion of gold coming from quartz mining, the problem of determining fineness became apparent (the purity of gold when extracted from the ore) and facilities for smelting were introduced alongside the banking premises.



Unknown year, gold cart prior to removal from the bank in 1976, Source: ANZ Group Archive.



Unknown year, mortar and pestle in the smelter prior to removal from the bank in 1976, Source: ANZ Group Archive.



Unknown year, crucibles, tongs, and ingot moulds prior to their removal from the bank in 1976, Source: ANZ Group Archive.



Unknown year, crucibles prior to removal from the bank in 1976, Source: ANZ Group Archive.

The premises remained unchanged until the beginning of the 20th century, when substantial alterations were made to the residence c.1909.

The Union Bank merged with the Bank of Australasia in 1951 to form the ANZ Bank. In 1952, following the merger, alterations were made to the interior of the banking chamber and residence. The bank continued to function until 1975 when the ANZ operations were transferred to another location. The implements from the smelting house were removed in 1976 and are now held by the ANZ Group Archive. The premises were purchased by the National Trust in 1976 for use as the headquarters of the Central Victorian Branch. In 2003, the National Trust sold the property to the current owners.

Selected bibliography

Bick, B.V. *Old Union Bank, 45 View Street Bendigo: an historic structure report*. Prepared for The Bendigo Trust, 1981.

Butcher, Mike and Gill Flanders. *Bendigo Historic Buildings*. National Trust of Australia, 1987.

Trethowan, Bruce. *A study of banks in Victoria, 1851-1939*. Prepared for the Historic Buildings Council, 1976.

Further information

Traditional Owner Information

The place is located on the traditional land of the Dja Dja Wurrung people. Under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*, the Registered Aboriginal Party for this land is the Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation.

Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register

The place is in an area of Aboriginal cultural heritage sensitivity associated with the Bendigo Creek.

(12 March 2025)

Integrity

The integrity of the place and objects integral is excellent. The cultural heritage values of the Former Union Bank and Gold Smelting Objects can be easily read in the extant fabric.

The Smelting House in particular has a high degree of integrity. The original smelter fit out is underneath the existing cabinetry and in combination with the objects held by the ANZ Group Archive, demonstrate the important practice of smelting in goldfields banks.

(December 2024)

Intactness

The intactness of the place and objects integral is good.

The interiors of the bank building, except for the banking chamber, are highly intact with minimal alterations to accommodate present use. The main interior volume is still legible as a banking chamber although it was altered in 1952. Ancillary rooms including the strong room and voucher room are still intact. The residence is not very intact internally. The smelting house is intact, with original chimney and the original furnace covered up by the office fit out.

(December 2024)

Condition

The condition of the place and objects integral is very good.

(December 2024)

Note: The condition of a place or object does not influence the assessment of its cultural heritage significance. A place or object may be in very poor condition and still be of very high cultural heritage significance. Alternatively, a place or object may be in excellent condition but be of low cultural heritage significance.

Amendment recommendation

State-level cultural heritage significance of the place

The State-level cultural heritage significance of the Former Union Bank was recognised in 1974 by its inclusion in the Register of Historic Buildings.

Amendment application

On 14 April 2025 the Executive Director made and accepted an application to amend the registration of the place to ensure it is consistent with current practices under the Act.

Assessment of additional land and summary of significance

The information below is provided under s.40(3A)(c)(i)(ii) and s.40(4)(c)(i)(ii) as part of the Executive Director's Statement of recommendation.

The Executive Director recommends that the Heritage Council amend this registration because it is his view that:

- a. The State-level cultural heritage significance of the place would be substantially less if the additional land or any part of the additional land which is or has been used in conjunction with the place were developed [s.40(3A)(c)(i)].
- b. The additional land surrounds the place and is important to the protection or conservation of the place; or contributes to the understanding of the place [s.40(3A)(c)(ii)].

The Executive Director notes that:

- The land proposed for inclusion has been used in conjunction with the place for almost 150 years and continues to be used as such.

The Executive Director is of the view that:

- The current extent is limited to the footprint of the building, and is insufficient to protect, conserve and allow for a proper understanding of the place and the relationship between the bank, smelting house and residence.
- The current extent:
 - is limited to only the 'Former Union Bank'
 - does not allow for the relationship between the various standalone buildings on the site (ie between the residence, the banking chambers and the smelter) to be easily appreciated and understood
 - does not include the right of way at the rear of the building leading to MacKenzie Street, nor the original gateposts at the end of the right of way.
- If any of the additional land proposed for inclusion in the registration were developed, depending upon the nature of the proposal, there is potential for the development to impact upon the place and substantially reduce its State-level cultural heritage significance.
- Inclusion of the area of land between the buildings will also enable works that could potentially impact on the conservation of the buildings, such as drainage, landscaping and paving, to be managed under an approvals process.

Amending the Heritage Council Criteria

N/A

Change of name

N/A

Statutory requirements under section 40

Terms of the recommendation (section 40(3)(a))

The Executive Director recommends that the registration of the Former Union Bank in the VHR is amended.

Information to identify the place or object or land (section 40(3)(b))

Number: H0121

Category: Registered Place and Registered Object Integral to a Registered Place.

Name: Former Union Bank and Gold Smelting Objects

Location: 45 View Street Bendigo, Greater Bendigo City

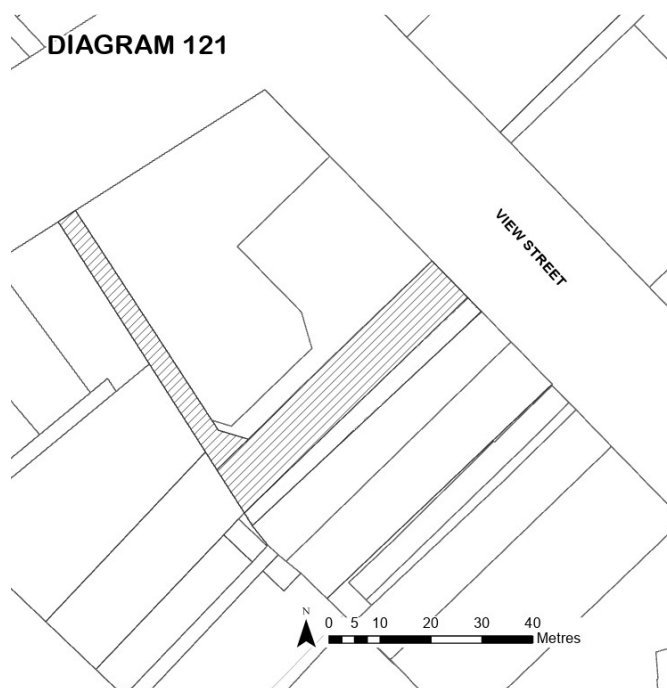
Municipality: Greater Bendigo City

Proposed extent of registration

The Executive Director recommends that the extent of registration for the Former Union Bank and Gold Smelting Objects be gazetted as:

All of the place shown hatched on Diagram 121 encompassing all of Lots 1 and 2 on Title Plan 832609, and the following objects integral:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1) Ingot moulds (total of six) | ANZ Group Catalogue No MUS1913-MUS1917, MUS1919 |
| 2) Crucible tongs (total of five) | ANZ Group Catalogue No MUS1971-MUS1975 |
| 3) Gold cart | ANZ Group Catalogue No MUS1998 |
| 4) Mortar & pestle | ANZ Group Catalogue No MUS290 |
| 5) Crucibles (total of two) | ANZ Group Catalogue No MUS2057 & MUS2059 |
| 6) Crucible lid | ANZ Group Catalogue No MUS2060 |



Non-statutory information about the proposed extent of registration

Aerial photo of the place showing proposed extent of registration



Note: This aerial view provides a visual representation of the place. It is not a precise representation of the recommended extent of registration. Due to distortions associated with aerial photography some elements of the place may appear as though they are outside the extent of registration.

Rationale for the proposed extent of registration

The recommended extent of registration comprises all elements and features of State-level cultural heritage significance, including the bank and associated outbuildings, the courtyard between the smelter and residence, and the right of way that provides street access to the rear of the property.

This extent has been chosen to capture all the significant elements at the place, including the gateposts and provide an adequate setting for all these elements.

The recommended extent of the registration is the same as the nominated extent of registration. It should be noted that everything included in the proposed extent of registration including the buildings, land, outbuildings (exteriors, interiors and fixtures), and the objects integral to the understanding of the cultural heritage significance of the place is proposed for inclusion in the VHR. A permit or permit exemption from Heritage Victoria is required for any works within the proposed extent of registration, apart from those identified in the categories of works or activities in this recommendation.

Objects integral

Definition

In the context of a registered place, an 'object integral' is

- a key part of the place; and
- contributes to our understanding of the place's State-level cultural heritage significance.

An object integral does not have to be of State-level significance in its own right. A more detailed definition can be found in the Heritage Council's [Policy: objects integral to a registered place](#).

It should be noted that fixtures (such as window frames or decorative masonry) automatically form part of the registered place and are therefore protected under the Act.

Background

After the Bank of Australasia merged with the Union Bank to form ANZ in the 1950s, this View Street bank was the only ANZ-owned bank in Bendigo with a functioning smelter, though its use had not been required for some time. The objects integral remained in the smelter despite their disuse, until the property was sold to the Bendigo Branch of the National Trust. The objects from the Union Bank smelter have since remained in the ANZ Group Archive.

Details of objects integral

The objects integral to this place are listed in the Objects Integral Inventory VHR H0121 at the end of this report. The collection includes 19 individual objects being:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1) Ingot moulds (total of six) | ANZ Group Catalogue No MUS1913-MUS1917, MUS1919 |
| 2) Crucible tongs (total of five) | ANZ Group Catalogue No MUS1971-MUS1975 |
| 3) Gold cart | ANZ Group Catalogue No MUS1998 |
| 4) Mortar & pestle | ANZ Group Catalogue No MUS290 |
| 5) Crucibles (total of two) | ANZ Group Catalogue No MUS2057 & MUS2059 |
| 6) Crucible lid | ANZ Group Catalogue No MUS2060 |

Assessment of whether the objects are integral to understanding the cultural heritage significance of a registered place (40(3A)(b))

The Heritage Council's [Policy: objects integral to a registered place](#) notes that for the purposes of the Act, an object will be considered integral to a place if it satisfied the following tests:

No.	Test	Yes/No	Reason
1.	Do the objects form a key part of that place, being a component in its design, operation or use that contributes importantly to a richer and more complete understanding of its historical, cultural, technical, aesthetic and/or social meaning at a State level?	Yes	The above objects relate to the historical practice of gold smelting at the Former Union Bank in Bendigo. Smelting was a common practice on the goldfields by which banks sought to determine the fineness of gold. The implements from the smelting house offer a more complete understanding of the historical significance of the Former Union Bank and its history of smelting at a State level.
2.	Can the contribution be substantiated through physical, documentary or oral evidence?	Yes	Yes. The contribution of these objects to the Former Union Bank can be substantiated through the archival photographs held at the ANZ Group archive. These show the above objects in situ at the smelter, prior to their removal before the banks closure.
Executive Director's Response		The objects can be considered integral to the place	

Summary of how the object is integral to understanding the cultural heritage significance of the place (40(4)(b))

The smelter at the Former Union Bank demonstrates the importance and processes of nineteenth century smelting. The objects tell a rich history of goldrush era banking. The objects are integral to understanding the importance of this activity and therefore are important to understanding the State level cultural heritage significance of the place. While the smelting house has been fitted out for use as an office space, the original fittings and fixtures remain underneath the built-in furniture, and the hood above the furnace provides a useful indication of the space. However, with key elements of the smelter concealed by later additions, the inclusion of the smelting equipment provides a richer understanding of the historical importance of smelting.

Summary of cultural heritage significance (section 40(4))

Statement of significance

The Former Union Bank and Gold Smelting Objects are located on the land of the Dja Dja Wurrung people.

What is significant?

The Former Union Bank in View Street, Bendigo built in a Classical style in 1876-7 to the design of architects, Smith and Johnson. It comprises a banking chamber and strong room, attached residence, and a smelting house with chimney at the rear of the property. The gold smelting objects were removed from the smelting house in 1976 and are now held in the ANZ Group Archive collection. They consist of six ingot moulds, five crucible tongs, a gold cart, mortar and pestle, two crucibles, and a crucible lid.

How is it significant?

The Former Union Bank and Gold Smelting Objects is of historical and architectural significance to the State of Victoria. It satisfies the following criterion for inclusion in the VHR:

Criterion A

Importance to the course, or pattern, of Victoria's cultural history.

Criterion B

Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of Victoria's cultural history.

Criterion D

Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural places and objects

Why is it significant?

The Former Union Bank and Gold Smelting Objects is historically significant for its direct and tangible links to the crucially important history of gold mining in Victoria and the associated wealth it generated. The bank dates from a period when gold mining was changing from shallow alluvial workings to an industry of deep leads and quartz mining. With the increasing proportion of gold coming from quartz mining, the problem of determining the purity of gold when extracted from the ore became apparent, so facilities for smelting were included alongside the banking premises. The extant smelter and the ANZ Group's collection of objects relating to smelting at the Former Union Bank are demonstrative of the important theme of banking and finance in Victoria's history. The bank is a manifestation of the consolidation of Bendigo as a key provincial city in the post Gold Rush era. [Criterion A]

The Former Union Bank and Gold Smelting Objects constitutes a rare surviving place with an associated collection that demonstrates how Victorian goldfields banks bought, sold and smelted locally mined gold. [Criterion B]

The Former Union Bank is architecturally significant as a particularly fine and intact example of a nineteenth century bank and associated outbuildings. The Former Union Bank is a Classical design with detailing of the colonnaded, recessed façade and the use of the giant Corinthian order. It is also of architectural significance for its associated outbuildings including a gold safe, residence and smelter which illustrate the banking practice of this era. The Former Union Bank is also significant as a fine example of the work of prominent architects, Smith and Johnson, whose most notable work is the Law Courts (VHR1514) in William Street, Melbourne. The Union Bank also forms a key component of the historic streetscape of View Street Bendigo. [Criterion D]

Recommended permit exemptions under section 38

Introduction

A [heritage permit](#) is required for all works and activities undertaken in relation to VHR places and objects. Certain works and activities are [exempt from a heritage permit](#), if the proposed works will not harm the cultural heritage significance of the heritage place or object.

Permit Policy

It is recommended that a Conservation Management Plan is utilised to manage the place with objects integral in a manner which respects its cultural heritage significance.

Permit Exemptions

General Permit Exemptions

General exemptions apply to all places and objects included in the 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 Act.

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 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 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](#).

Specific Permit Exemptions

The works and activities listed below under the heading 'Exempt works and activities' are not considered to cause harm to the cultural heritage significance of the Former Union Bank and Gold Smelting Objects. These are subject to the following guidelines and conditions:

Guidelines for specific permit exemptions

1. Where there is an inconsistency between permit exemptions specific to the registered place or object ('specific exemptions') established in accordance with either section 49(3) or section 92(3) of the Act and general exemptions established in accordance with section 92(1) of the Act specific exemptions will prevail to the extent of any inconsistency.
2. In specific exemptions, words have the same meaning as in the Act, unless otherwise indicated. Where there is an inconsistency between specific exemptions and the Act, the Act will prevail to the extent of any inconsistency.
3. Nothing in specific exemptions obviates the responsibility of a proponent to obtain the consent of the owner of the registered place or object, or if the registered place or object is situated on Crown Land the land manager as defined in the *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978*, prior to undertaking works or activities in accordance with specific exemptions.
4. If a Cultural Heritage Management Plan in accordance with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* is required for works covered by specific exemptions, specific exemptions will apply only if the Cultural Heritage Management Plan has been approved prior to works or activities commencing. Where there is an inconsistency between specific exemptions and a Cultural Heritage Management Plan for the relevant works and activities, Heritage Victoria must be contacted for advice on the appropriate approval pathway.
5. Specific exemptions do not constitute approvals, authorisations or exemptions under any other legislation, Local Government, State Government or Commonwealth Government requirements, including but not limited to the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*, and the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth). Nothing in this declaration exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to obtain relevant planning, building or environmental approvals from the responsible authority where applicable.
6. Care should be taken when working with heritage buildings and objects, as historic fabric may contain dangerous and poisonous materials (for example lead paint and asbestos). Appropriate personal protective equipment should be worn at all times. If you are unsure, seek advice from a qualified heritage architect, heritage consultant or local Council heritage advisor.
7. The presence of unsafe materials (for example asbestos, lead paint etc) at a registered place or object does not automatically exempt remedial works

or activities in accordance with this category. Approvals under Part 5 of the Act must be obtained to undertake works or activities that are not expressly exempted by the below specific exemptions.

8. All works should be informed by a Conservation Management Plan prepared for the place or object. The Executive Director is not bound by any Conservation Management Plan and permits still must be obtained for works suggested in any Conservation Management Plan.

General conditions for specific permit exemptions

1. All works or activities permitted under specific exemptions must be planned and carried out in a manner which prevents harm to the registered place or object. Harm includes moving, removing or damaging any part of the registered place or object that contributes to its cultural heritage significance.
2. If during the carrying out of works or activities in accordance with specific exemptions original or previously hidden or inaccessible details of the registered place are revealed relating to its cultural heritage significance, including but not limited to historical archaeological remains, such as features, deposits or artefacts, then works must cease and Heritage Victoria notified as soon as possible.
3. If during the carrying out of works or activities in accordance with specific exemptions any Aboriginal cultural heritage is discovered or exposed at any time, all works must cease and the Secretary (as defined in the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*) must be contacted immediately to ascertain requirements under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*.
4. If during the carrying out of works or activities in accordance with specific exemptions any munitions or other potentially explosive artefacts are discovered, Victoria Police is to be immediately alerted and the site is to be immediately cleared of all personnel.
5. If during the carrying out of works or activities in accordance with specific exemptions any suspected human remains are found the works or activities must cease. The remains must be left in place and protected from harm or damage. Victoria Police and the State Coroner's Office must be notified immediately. If there are reasonable grounds to believe that the remains are Aboriginal, the State Emergency Control Centre must be immediately notified on 1300 888 544, and, as required under s.17(3)(b) of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*, all details about the location and nature of the human remains must be provided to the Aboriginal Heritage Council (as defined in the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*).

Exempt works and activities


Objects integral


The below exemptions must be undertaken in accordance with the accepted collection management standards, policies and procedures of the ANZ Group Archive.


1. Management of items (including removal and relocation, display, conservation, and temporary external loans of eighteen months or less).
2. Relocation of items between the ANZ Group Archive location and the ANZ Gothic Bank Museum on Collins Street.
3. Conservation, research or analysis of a registered heritage object where the custodian employs qualified conservators.


Objects integral VHR0121

Executive Director record of fixed and non-fixed objects integral to the place


Object identification	Ingot moulds (6) MUS1913, MUS1914, MUS1915, MUS1916, MUS 1917, MUS1919
Current location:	ANZ Group Archive (originally, the Former Union Bank, Bendigo)
Image	 <p><i>2025. Ingot moulds MUS1913, MUS1914, MUS1915, MUS1916, MUS1917, MUS1919. Source; ANZ Group Archive.</i></p>
Description	No maker and exact date unknown. Thick and heavy cast iron mould with handle. All six look the same. Minimal signs of damage. Used as a vessel to pour molten gold from the smelter into for shaping gold ingots.
Source	ANZ Group Archive, photographic records & provenance information.
Markings	Catalogue identification markers are written on the bottom right corner of the side face of the ingot.
Condition	Very good condition.

Object identification	Crucible tongs (5) MUS1971, MUS1972, MUS1915, MUS1916, MUS 1917, MUS1919
Current location:	ANZ Group Archive (originally, the Former Union Bank, Bendigo)
Image	 <p><i>2025. Crucible tongs MUS1975, MUS1973, MUS1971, MUS1972 & MUS1974. Source: ANZ</i></p>
Item Description including maker and date(s)	No maker and exact date unknown. Heavy cast iron tongs with long handles, used to place and retrieve crucibles from the furnace of the smelter. Slightly different, some tongs grab the crucible from above, some from the sides. The assortment of tongs showcases different mechanisms for fastening around the crucible.
Source	ANZ Group Archive, photographic records and provenance information.
Markings	Catalogue identification markers are written on the inside faces of the crucible tongs.
Condition	Very good condition.

Object identification	Gold cart (1) MUS1998
Current location:	ANZ Group Archive (originally, the Former Union Bank, Bendigo)
Image	 <p>2025. Gold cart MUS1998. Source: ANZ.</p>
Item Description including maker and date(s)	No maker and exact date unknown. Small timber cart with iron fixings. Timber surface of the cart is, as to be expected, worn and scratched.
Source	ANZ Group Archive, photographic records and provenance information.
Markings	Some scratches and dents.
Condition	Very good condition.

Object identification	Mortar and pestle (1 of each) MUS290
Current location:	ANZ Group Archive (originally, the Former Union Bank, Bendigo)
Image	 <p>2025. Mortar and pestle MUS290. Source: ANZ.</p>

Item Description including maker and date(s)	No maker and exact date unknown. Some scratches and dent in the mortar. Mortar and pestle made from iron, very heavy.
Source	ANZ Group Archive, photographic records and provenance information.
Markings	Catalogue identification number is 290 on both the mortar and the pestle.
Condition	Very good condition.

Object identification	Crucibles (2) and Crucible Lid (1) MUS2057 & MUS2059 & MUS2060
Current location:	ANZ Group Archive (originally, the Former Union Bank, Bendigo)
Image	 <p><i>2025. Crucible (MUS2059) and lid (MUS2060) Source: ANZ. 2024. Crucible (MUS2057).</i></p>
Item Description including maker and date(s)	Exact date unknown. Crucible lid bears the name of the maker of the lid and one crucible. One crucible has a sticker with the name of the maker 'Morgan Battersea'. Two crucibles and a lid. These crucibles were used for heating and pouring molten gold in the smelting house at the Union Bank.
Source	ANZ Group Archive, photographic records and provenance information.
Markings	The crucible lid has the number 20 engraved as well as the words "Morgan's Patent LK."
Condition	Very good condition.

Appendix 1: Existing registration details

Existing extent of registration

City of Bendigo. No. 121. Former Union Bank, 45 View Street, Bendigo.

[Victoria Government Gazette No 100 Wednesday, October 9 1974 p.3648]

Existing extent diagram

This registration was gazetted in 1974 without an extent diagram.

Existing statement of significance

DRAFT - NOT YET APPROVED BY HERITAGE COUNCIL

What is significant?

The former Union Bank in View Street, Bendigo was built in a Classical style 1876-7 to the design of architects, Smith and Johnson. It consists of a banking chamber and strong room, attached residence, smelting house and outbuildings, all of which survive in a reasonable state of intactness although substantial alterations were made to the residence building in 1909-10. The bank dates from a time when gold mining was changing from shallow alluvial workings to an industry of deep leads and quartz-mining. With the increasing proportion of gold coming from quartz mining, the problem of determining fineness became apparent and facilities for smelting were included alongside the banking premises. While the banking chamber is now devoid of any internal fittings the building still houses records comprising extensive journals and ledgers relating to the daily business of the bank from its earliest times. The implements from the smelting house were removed in 1976 and are now displayed in the ANZ museum. The bank continued to function until 1975 when the ANZ operations were transferred to another location. The place was acquired by the National Trust of Australia (Victoria) in 1976.

How is it significant?

The former Union Bank, Bendigo is of architectural and historical significance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

The former Union Bank is of architectural significance as a particularly fine example of a bank built in the 19th century. The Classical design and detailing of the colonnaded, recessed facade and the use of the giant Corinthian order are particularly unusual and important. It is also of architectural significance for its relatively intact interior configuration which illustrates early bank practices. The associated buildings such as the smelter, gold safe and residence effectively demonstrate the unique banking practices of this era. The former Union Bank, Bendigo is also of architectural significance as a fine example of prominent architects, Smith and Johnson whose most notable work is the Law Courts (VHR1514) in William Street, Melbourne. The former Union Bank is of architectural and historical significance as a key component of the streetscape of View Street Bendigo, one of the finest precincts of nineteenth century buildings in Victoria.

The former Union Bank, Bendigo with its rare gold smelting facility is historically significant as a bank building with direct and tangible links to the crucially important history of gold mining and its associated wealth. The bank is a manifestation of the consolidation of Bendigo as a key provincial city in the post Gold Rush era.

Existing permit policy and permit exemptions

None.

Appendix 2: Important information for owners and interested parties

Heritage Council determination (section 49)

The Heritage Council is an independent statutory body that will make a determination on this recommendation under section 49 of the Act. It will consider the recommendation after a period of 60 days from the date the notice of recommendation is published on its [website](#) under section 41.

Making a submission to the Heritage Council (section 44)

Within the period of 60 days, any person or body with a real and substantial interest in the place or object may make a submission to the Heritage Council regarding the recommendation and request a hearing in relation to that submission. Information about making a submission and submission forms are available on the [Heritage Council's website](#). The owner can also make a submission about proposed permit exemptions (Section 40(4)(d)).

Consideration of submissions to the Heritage Council (section 46)

(1) The Heritage Council must consider—

- (a) any written submission made to it under section 44; and
- (b) any further information provided to the Heritage Council in response to a request under section 45.

Conduct of hearings by Heritage Council in relation to a recommendation (section 46A)

(1) The Heritage Council may conduct a hearing in relation to a recommendation under section 37, 38 or 39 in any circumstances that the Heritage Council considers appropriate.

(2) The Heritage Council must conduct a hearing if—

- (a) a submission made to it under section 44 includes a request for a hearing before the Heritage Council; and
- (b) the submission is made by a person or body with a real or substantial interest in the place, object or land that is the subject of the submission.

Determinations of the Heritage Council (section 49)

(1) After considering a recommendation that a place, object or land should or should not be included in the Heritage Register and any submissions in respect of the recommendation and conducting any hearing, the Heritage Council may—

- (a) determine that the place or object is of State-level cultural heritage significance and is to be included in the Heritage Register; or
- (ab) in the case of a place, determine that—
 - (i) part of the place is of State-level cultural heritage significance and is to be included in the Heritage Register; and
 - (ii) part of the place is not of State-level cultural heritage significance and is not to be included in the Heritage Register; or
- (ac) in the case of an object, determine that—
 - (i) part of the object is of State-level cultural heritage significance and is to be included in the Heritage Register; and
 - (ii) part of the object is not of State-level cultural heritage significance and is not to be included in the Heritage Register; or
- (b) determine that the place or object is not of State-level cultural heritage significance and is not to be included in the Heritage Register; or

- (c) in the case of a recommendation in respect of a place, determine that the place or part of the place is not to be included in the Heritage Register but—
 - (i) refer the recommendation and any submissions to the relevant planning authority or the Minister administering the Planning and Environment Act 1987 to consider the inclusion of the place or part of the place in a planning scheme in accordance with the objectives set out in section 4(1)(d) of that Act; or
 - (ii) determine that it is more appropriate for steps to be taken under the Planning and Environment Act 1987 or by any other means to protect or conserve the place or part of the place; or
 - (ca) in the case of a recommendation in respect of an object nominated under section 27A, determine that the object, or part of the object, is to be included in the Heritage Register if it is integral to understanding the cultural heritage significance of a registered place or a place the Heritage Council has determined to be included in the Heritage Register; or
 - (d) in the case of a recommendation in respect of additional land nominated under section 27B, determine that the additional land, or any part of the additional land, is to be included in the Heritage Register if—
 - (i) the State-level cultural heritage significance of the place, or part of the place, would be substantially less if the additional land or any part of the additional land which is or has been used in conjunction with the place were developed; or
 - (ii) the additional land or any part of the additional land surrounding the place, or part of the place, is important to the protection or conservation of the place or contributes to the understanding of the place.
- (2) The Heritage Council must make a determination under subsection (1)—
- (a) within 40 days after the date on which written submissions may be made under section 44; or
 - (b) if any hearing is conducted, within 90 days after the completion of the hearing.
- (3) A determination made under subsection (1)(a), (ab), (ac), (ca) or (d)—
- (a) may include categories of works or activities which may be carried out in relation to a place, object or land, or part of a place, object or land, for which a permit under this Act is not required, if the Heritage Council considers that the works or activities would not harm the cultural heritage significance of the place, object or land; and
 - (b) must include a statement of the reasons for the making of the determination.
- (4) If the Heritage Council determines to include a place, or part of a place, in the Heritage Register, the Heritage Council may also determine to include land that is not the subject of a nomination under section 27B in the Heritage Register as part of the place if—
- (a) the land is ancillary to the place; and
 - (b) the person who owns the place, or part of the place—
 - (i) is the owner of the land; and
 - (ii) consents to its inclusion.
- (5) If a member of the Heritage Council makes a submission under section 44 in respect of a recommendation, the member must not take part in the consideration or determination of the Heritage Council.
- (6) The Heritage Council must notify the Executive Director of any determination under this section as soon as practicable after the determination.

Obligations of owners (section 42, 42A, 42B, 42C, 42D)

42 Obligations of owners—to advise of works, permits etc. on foot when statement of recommendation given

- (1) The owner of a place, object or land to whom a statement of recommendation has been given must advise the Executive Director in writing of—

- (a) any works or activities that are being carried out in relation to the place, object or land at the time the statement is given; and
- (b) if the place, object or land is a place or additional land, any application for a planning permit or a building permit, or any application for an amendment to a planning permit or a building permit, that has been made in relation to the place or additional land but not determined at the time the statement is given; and
- (c) any works or activities that are proposed to be carried out in relation to the place, object or land at the time the statement is given.

(2) An advice under subsection (1) must be given within 10 days after the statement of recommendation is given under section 40.

42A Obligations of owners before determination or inclusion in the Heritage Register—to advise of permits

(1) This section applies if—

- (a) an owner of any of the following is given a statement of recommendation—
 - (i) a place or object nominated under section 27;
 - (ii) an object nominated under section 27A;
 - (iii) land nominated under section 27B; and
- (b) any of the following occurs within the statement of recommendation period in relation to the place, object or land—
 - (i) the making of an application for a planning permit or a building permit;
 - (ii) the making of an application for an amendment to a planning permit or a building permit;
 - (iii) the grant of a planning permit or building permit;
 - (iv) the grant of an amendment to a planning permit or building permit.

(2) The owner must advise the Executive Director in writing of—

- (a) the making of an application referred to in subsection (1)(b)(i) or (ii), within 10 days of the making of the application; or
- (b) a grant referred to in subsection (1)(b)(iii) or (iv), within 10 days of the owner becoming aware of the grant.

42B Obligations of owners before determination or inclusion in the Heritage Register—to advise of activities

(1) This section applies if—

- (a) an owner of a place, object or land is given a statement of recommendation; and
- (b) within the statement of recommendation period it is proposed that activities that could harm the place, object or land be carried out.

(2) The owner, not less than 10 days before carrying out the activities, must advise the Executive Director in writing of the proposal to do so.

42C Obligations of owners before determination or inclusion in the Heritage Register—to advise of proposal to dispose

(1) This section applies if—

- (a) an owner of a place, object or land is given a statement of recommendation; and
- (b) within the statement of recommendation period a proposal is made to dispose of the whole or any part of the place, object or land.

(2) The owner, within 10 days after entering into an agreement, arrangement or understanding for the disposal of the whole or any part of the place, object or land, must advise the Executive Director in writing of the proposal to do so.

42D Obligations of owners before determination or inclusion in the Heritage Register—requirement to give statement to purchaser

(1) This section applies if—

- (a) an owner of a place, object or land is given a statement of recommendation; and
- (b) the owner proposes to dispose of the whole or any part of the place, object or land within the statement of recommendation period.

(2) Before entering into an agreement, arrangement or understanding to dispose of the whole or any part of the place, object or land during the statement of recommendation period, the owner must give a copy of the statement of recommendation to the person who, under the proposed agreement, arrangement or understanding, is to acquire the place, object or land or part of the place, object or land.

Owners of places and objects must comply with obligations (section 43)

An owner of a place, object or land who is subject to an obligation under section 42, 42A, 42B, 42C or 42D must comply with that obligation.

Penalty: In the case of a natural person, 120 penalty units;
 In the case of a body corporate, 240 penalty units.