

WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL
HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM

2021 District Plan Item No. HH107
HERITAGE ITEM NAME former Union Bank of Australia
ADDRESS 557 Upper Sefton Road, Sefton
PHOTOGRAPH



(www)

DISTRICT PLAN ITEM NO. n / a **HNZ LIST NO. & CATEGORY** n / a
(at time of assessment)

LEGAL DESCRIPTION Lot 2 DP 412839

VALUATION NUMBER 2144023300

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION 1878

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/
BUILDER** Unknown

STYLE Italianate

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Two-storey building with rectangular footprint and hipped roof forms. Principal elevations face south and east; single-storey wing at rear (north-facing) with lean-to veranda. Chamfered corner with entrance door overlooking intersection, quoins and bracketed eaves. Double-hung sash windows, string course between floors.

MATERIALS/STRUCTURE

Timber framing and rusticated weatherboard cladding, corrugated metal roofing.

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS

Conversion to full residential use (date unknown).

SETTING

The building stands on the north side of Upper Sefton Road at its intersection with Railway Street. The former bank is built close to the property boundary on the south and east sides; the wider setting is largely residential in character but with a former shop on the opposite side of Railway Street and the Sefton Garage and Anglers' Arms Tavern further to the east. The former site of the Sefton Railway Station is to the south-east on the other side of the highway. The extent of scheduling is limited to the immediate setting of the former bank, rather than the land parcel as a whole and notwithstanding the potential archaeological values of the whole property.

HISTORY

The Union Bank of Australia opened an agency in Sefton in August 1878. The bank was the first trading bank to be established in New Zealand in 1840 and was the forerunner to today's ANZ Bank. By October 1878 the Sefton agency had become a branch. A year later the bank building was described as one of the town's 'most notable buildings' (*Lyttelton Times* 30 December 1879, p. 6). The bank was still operating in the late 1880s, when the Sefton Dairy Factory opened, but by the turn of the 20th century it was no longer open. The building remains in private residential use today.

HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former Union Bank of Australia has historical and social significance for its association with the colonial development of Sefton, which largely dates to the later 1870s with the coming of the railway in 1875, the erection of the first Sefton Hotel in 1877 (rebuilt 1902), and the opening of the Union Bank of Australia branch in 1878. The building may be the oldest non-residential building to have survived in the village.

CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former Union Bank of Australia has cultural value as a demonstration of the way of life of its past bank staff and their customers. It was typical in the 19th century for the manager of a bank to be provided with on-site accommodation above and at the rear of the banking chamber.

ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

The former Union Bank of Australia has architectural significance as an Italianate building that was designed to present a stylish appearance to both roadways and express a connection between the enduring legacy of classical antiquity and the endurance and security that customers could expect of their bank. The designer of the building is currently unknown.

TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE

The former Union Bank of Australia has technological and craftsmanship value for the evidence it provides of Victorian construction methods and materials. The contractor is currently unknown.

CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former Union Bank of Australia has contextual significance as a local historic feature and landmark at a key intersection within Sefton. It provides evidence of the historic settlement of the village and the historic relationship between Sefton's railway station and the development of the village's commercial infrastructure.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

As the former bank pre-dates 1900 its site has potential archaeological value relating to the colonial use and development of the property.

SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The former Union Bank of Australia has overall heritage significance to Sefton and Waimakariri district as a whole. The former bank has historical and social significance for its association with the colonial development of the village and cultural value as a demonstration of the way of life of its former staff and their customers. The former Union Bank of Australia has architectural significance as an example of Italianate classicism and technological and craftsmanship value for its Victorian timber construction and detailing. The former Union Bank of Australia has contextual significance for the contribution it makes to the historic

character of Sefton. The former bank's site has potential archaeological values given the age of the building.

HERITAGE CATEGORY

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REFERENCES

- *Press* 24 August 1878, p. 2; 7 September 1878, p. 2; 12 October 1878, p. 2.
- *Lyttelton Times* 4 December 1878, p. 3; 5 February 1879, p. 6; 30 December 1879, p. 6; 31 May 1881, p. 1; 10 July 1888, p. 5.
- *Star* 13 May 1881, p. 3.
- *Cyclopedia of New Zealand – Canterbury Provincial District* Christchurch, 1903 (available online).
- DN Hawkins *Beyond the Waimakariri* Christchurch, 2001 (available online).

REPORT COMPLETED

23 July 2019

AUTHOR

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Extent of setting, limited to immediate setting, 557 Upper Sefton Road, Sefton.