

## FORMER CUSTOMS HOUSE



FORMER CUSTOMS HOUSE SOHE 2008



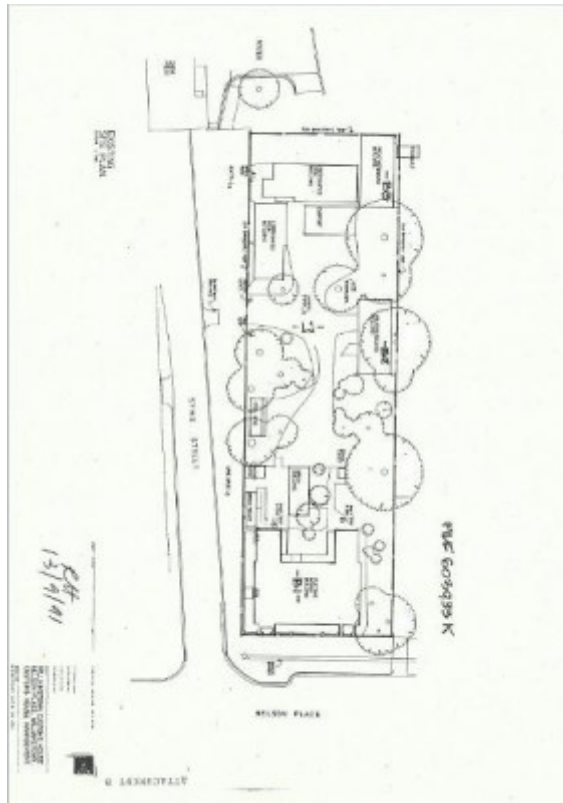
1 former customs house nelson place williamstown front view



former customs house cnr nelson place and syme st williamstown close up windows she project 2003



former customs house cnr nelson place and syme st williamstown cnr view she project 2003



Plan H0894

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### Location

128 NELSON PLACE AND 18-34 SYME STREET WILLIAMSTOWN, HOBSONS BAY CITY

### Municipality

HOBSONS BAY CITY

### Level of significance

Registered

### Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H0894

### Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO214

### VHR Registration

October 2, 1991

### Heritage Listing

## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - July 2, 1999

The Williamstown Customs House, erected in 1873-75 as the second customs house at Williamstown, reflects the important role of Williamstown as a major Melbourne port where large vessels were able to unload cargo in a deep water harbour.

The building has been used continuously since its construction as a customs house and pilots office, and retains remarkable integrity.

The design of the Williamstown Customs House by Peter Kerr represents William Wardell's architectural philosophy; that public buildings should be as simple as possible, "so long as the architectural effect is preserved".

The building's proportion, facade articulation and detailing represent the peak of architectural achievement of the Wardell years. It is an embodiment of the Italianate style adopted by the Public Works Department as the appropriate style for public buildings. The detailing is similar to other buildings by the Public Works Department of the same period, but the composition and consistent high quality detailing are unique to this building.

## 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      1873,

Architect/Designer Kerr, Peter,  
Heritage Act Categories Registered place,  
Other Names WILLIAMSTOWN CUSTOMS HOUSE,  
Hermes Number 1228  
Property Number

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## Extent of Registration

### AMENDMENT OF REGISTER OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Historic Building No. 894.

Former Customs House, Nelson Place, Williamstown.

To the extent of:

1. The building formerly known as the Customs House at Williamstown and the associated sheds, marked B-1, B-2, and B-3 on Plan 603933K, endorsed by the Chairperson, Historic Buildings Council and held by the Director, Historic Buildings Council; and
2. All the land marked L-1 on Plan 603933K, being all the land described in the Certificate of Title Volume 5784 Folio 624.

[Victoria Government Gazette No. G38 2 October 1991 p.2734]

*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/>*