

---

# PORTLAND TOWN HALL



PORTLAND TOWN HALL  
SOHE 2008



1 portland town hall front view

---

## Location

75 CLIFF STREET PORTLAND, GLENELG SHIRE

## Municipality

GLENELG SHIRE

## Level of significance

Registered

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H0234

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO39

## VHR Registration

October 9, 1974

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

---

## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - December 17, 1996

The foundation stone of the original Portland Town Hall was laid by William Learmonth on 21st September, 1863 following a competition and subsequent public controversy over the permitted entry of architect John Barrow. The conservative classical design of municipal surveyor Alexander Ross was preferred and this axially planned design with central council chamber and side offices fronted by a fine axed pedimented gable entablature of basalt and Tuscan Doric pilasters was completed by 24th may 1864.

The old Town Hall is one of a distinguished group of public buildings in Portland and an interesting example of conservative classical architecture of the first years of settlement in western Victoria. The basalt structure was partially erected of stone from the Portland stockade and has significant historical associations with local Government administration in the district. The Town Hall is the most impressive work of Alexander Ross, a surveyor architect whose career remains largely undocumented.

The old Town Hall at Portland has been discreetly extended at the rear to provide additional meeting room accommodation. The premises are no longer used for local government administration.

[Source: Register of the National Estate]

## 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	1864,
Architect/Designer	Ross, Alexander W,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Other Names	Former Town Hall, History House,

Hermes Number 940

Property Number

---

## **Extent of Registration**

*Town of Portland. No. 234. Town Hall Portland, Charles Street, Portland.  
[Victoria Government Gazette No 100 Wednesday, October 9 1974 p.3649]*

*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/>*