

## FORMER CUSTOMS SHED



FORMER CUSTOMS SHED  
SOHE 2008



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Port Fairy Customs Shed  
June 2003



h02046 h 2046 port fairy  
customs shed 2 april 2005



h02046 h2046 port fairy  
customs shed 3 april 2005



h02046 h2046 port fairy  
customs shed april 2005



h02046 port fairy customs shed confirmed extent jan 2004

### Location

31 GIPPS STREET PORT FAIRY, MOYNE SHIRE

### Municipality

MOYNE SHIRE

## Level of significance

Registered

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H2046

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO39

## VHR Registration

October 9, 2003

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - October 15, 2003

What is significant?

The former Port Fairy Customs Shed was built in about 1863 to receive goods from inwards shipping for spirits gauging and duty assessment by the Victorian Customs Department. The shed, designed by the Public Works Department, is on a bluestone foundation and has a timber frame clad with vertical boards and a curved, galvanised iron roof over bowstring trusses. It measures approximately 50ft x 21ft x 14ft (about 15.5m x 7m x 3.5m).

By the 1860s the town of Belfast (renamed Port Fairy in 1885) had established significant inter-colonial trade and was a port of disembarkation for government assisted immigrants. The Victorian Colonial government established a Customs House in Gipps Street, and this customs shed, to assess revenue and excise duty. The shed was linked by a tramway over a bridge spanning the Moyne River down to the pier on East Beach. The shed was oriented east-west in line with the bridge. Works to develop the Moyne River as a harbour and port required removal of the bridge and tramway in 1875, and the shed was re-erected on the new wharf.

Belfast suffered commercial decline following the bankruptcy of William Rutledge, the leading merchant in the area, and ship-borne trade became increasingly intra-colonial, reducing the need for a customs building. From about the 1870s the shed appears to have been used by local fishermen for drying sails and repairing nets. The track easement for the construction of a railway spur line to the river wharf in 1892 required that the shed to be relocated again, a short distance to the west, away from the river.

How is it significant?

The former Port Fairy customs shed is of historical significance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

The former Port Fairy customs shed is historically significant as a rare and early surviving example of a timber customs shed. A number of Customs Houses have survived but this is the only known example of a gauging shed in Victoria.

## 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](#).

### Specific Exemptions:

**General Conditions:** 1. All exempted alterations are to be planned and carried out in a manner which prevents damage to the fabric of the registered place or object. General Conditions: 2. Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of alterations that original or previously hidden or inaccessible details of the place or object are revealed which relate to the significance of the place or object, then the exemption covering such alteration shall cease and the Executive Director shall be notified as soon as possible. General Conditions: 3. If there is a conservation policy and plan approved by the Executive Director, all works shall be in accordance with it. General Conditions: 4. Nothing in this declaration prevents the Executive Director from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions. General Conditions: 5. Nothing in this declaration exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the responsible authority where applicable.

\* Minor repairs and maintenance which replace like with like.

Construction dates	1863,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Other Names	FISHERMEN'S SHED, BAIT SHED,
Hermes Number	12778
Property Number	

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## Extent of Registration

1. All the building being the former Port Fairy Customs Shed (also known as the Bait Shed) as marked B1 on plan 2046 held by the Executive Director.
2. All the land forming a 2m curtilage around the former Customs Shed as marked L1 on diagram 2046 held by the Executive Director.

*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/>*