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# FORMER BELFAST IMMIGRATION DEPOT

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## Location

CARAVAN PARK, 111 GRIFFITHS STREET PORT FAIRY, MOYNE SHIRE

## Municipality

MOYNE SHIRE

## Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

## Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7321-0056

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

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### Interpretation of Site

The site is currently under use as the Port Fairy Botanic Gardens and the Port Fairy Gardens Caravan Park. The ground where the barracks would have been located is relatively flat with some undulations, punctuated by large tree plantings, bitumen pathways, paved areas for the caravans. The archaeological remains of the barracks are likely to be confined to post-holes and sub-surface footings, surface drains and external surfaces associated with the barracks, as well as possibly cess and rubbish pits.

### Archaeological Significance

The archaeological significance of the site lies in its ability to provide information on the use of space to accommodate and regulate immigrants to the colony. This would be provided through the size and arrangement of the buildings as described from the post holes and/or strip footings of the buildings as well as associated paths. The possibility of the presence of refuse pits and cess pits could provide information on the health, diet and material behaviour of the immigrants over time

Historical  
Significance

The site was allocated to house immigrants specifically attracted to Port Fairy. In the mid-19th century it was difficult to attract people to rural areas. To remedy this situation, sponsored immigration programs were set up in the hope of manning their stations. In Victoria, immigrants were brought to Australia from a host of countries, including many from England, Scotland and Germany. In the Port Fairy area the Irish formed the main migrant population after being brought out initially by William Rutledge to work as tenant farmers on his special survey at Port Fairy.

Other Names PORT FAIRY BOTANIC GARDENS, PORT FAIRY GARDENS CARAVAN PARK,

Hermes Number 146633

Property  
Number

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## History

In 1855-56 a collection of nine buildings on an allotment in Belfast East associated with the immigration barracks were built to provide a temporary accommodation for arrivals awaiting offers for employment. The Botanic Gardens were established in 1859 on land adjacent to the site and on land previously dedicated as paddock for police horses. The depot was closed in 1871 and in 1875 two acres of the allotment of the former Immigration Depot was incorporated into the Botanical Gardens. A cottage associated with the Depot was included in the transfer and the building was eventually demolished some time in the early 20th century. The present cottage was built in 1913. The remainder of the buildings were demolished or removed in 1871 and re-erected behind the beach at Battery Hill as a storeroom for the Belfast garrison volunteers. A portion of a large T-shaped gable ended building with a skillion verandah was one of those structures transferred to Battery Hill.

*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/>*