

## First Customs House



Botanical Garden First  
Customs House 1



H0185 Botanical Garden First  
Customs House 2



H0185 Botanical Garden First  
Customs House 3



H0185 Botanical Garden First  
Customs House Plaque 1



H0185 Botanical Garden First  
Customs House Plaque 2

### Location

Eastern Park, 1-45 Garden Street, EAST GEELONG VIC 3219 - Property 241992

### Municipality

GREATER GEELONG CITY

### Level of significance

Registered

### Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H0185

### Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO9

### Heritage Listing

## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - January 5, 2024

### What is significant?

The first Customs House, a square plain timber structure built of timber studs clad with quirk bead, weatherboards and a thatch roof, was reputedly prefabricated in Sydney c. 1838 and shipped to Geelong. Previously situated near the Geelong waterfront, it was relocated to this site on Hearne Parade - which retains a distant connection to the waterfront it once served - in 1975 to ensure its survival and facilitate interpretation.

### How is it significant?

The first Customs House is of historical and architectural significance to Victoria. (Criterion A & D)

### Why is it significant?

The First Customs House is claimed to be the oldest authenticated building still extant in Victoria. Despite relocation to a new waterfront site, this pavilion still dates from the first four years of settlement at Port Phillip and is of paramount importance to the history of the foundation of Port Phillip settlement and the development of customs and tariff protection in the infant colony. When the first permanent stone customs house was built in 1845, the timber pavilion was used for a short time as the Telegraph Office, before being relocated from near the Geelong waterfront to its present site. (Criterion A)

The first Customs House represents a picturesque Gothic Pavilion and early nineteenth century construction techniques. (Criterion D)

Heritage Study/Consultant	Greater Geelong - Geelong Region Historic Buildings and Objects Study Volume 2, Allan Willingham, 1986;
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Hermes Number	19236
Property Number	

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## Extent of Registration

The First Customs House occurs within the VHR registered area of the Eastern Park and Geelong Botanic Gardens H2095, on the south side of Hearne Parade near Limeburners Point.

*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/>*