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# First Customs House Also See Botanic Gardens

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## Location

1 Garden Street, GEELONG EAST VIC 3219 - Property No 241992

## Municipality

GREATER GEELONG CITY

## Level of significance

Registered

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H0185

## Heritage Listing

Greater Geelong City

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

A Listed - State Significance

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. The first Customs House now located in the Botanic Gardens in East Geelong, is claimed to be the oldest authenticated building still extant in Victoria. This picturesque gothic pavilion 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.

## References

National Trust of Australia (Victoria), File No. 2538 'Research into Customs House (First), Nursery Section, Botanic Gardens, Geelong 'August 1977.

Sub Collector of Customs Records and Other Colonial Administration Documents: Public Records Office, Laverton, Victoria.

Brownhill, W. R. History of Geelong and Corio Bay, Wilke and Co. Ltd., Melbourne, 1955, p.582.

Stekelenburg, I.J., 'H.M. Customs House, Geelong'. History Research Essay, Department of Architecture, University of Melbourne.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Greater Geelong - Geelong Region Historic Buildings and Objects Study Volume 2, Allan Willingham, 1986;
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Hermes Number	21367
Property Number	

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## Physical Description 1

### SUBSEQUENT SIGNIFICANT OWNERS/OCCUPANTS

Used for a short time as a Telegraph Office after a stone Customs House was built on the same site near the old Queens wharf at the northern end of Moorabool Street in 1845.

### OTHER NOTES

Later shifted to its present site in the Botanical Gardens, East Geelong.

*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/>*