

# CAPE SCHANCK LIGHTSTATION



CAPE SCHANCK  
LIGHTSTATION SOHE 2008



1 cape schanck



1 cape schanck light station  
cape schanck lighthouse  
controls aug1998



schanck plan

## Location

164-420 CAPE SCHANCK ROAD CAPE SCHANCK, MORNINGTON PENINSULA SHIRE

## Municipality

## Level of significance

Registered

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1748

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO39

## VHR Registration

November 12, 1998

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - March 24, 2000

### What is significant?

The Cape Schanck Lightstation was constructed in 1857-59 as part of the second campaign of highway or ocean (as opposed to harbour) lighthouse building in Victoria which also produced lights at Wilson's Promontory and Gabo Island. The early buildings are constructed of locally quarried limestone and are similar in design to those at Wilson's Promontory and Gabo Island as well as the later quarters at Cape Otway all of which were designed within the Victorian Public Works Department probably by Charles Maplestone. Like Cape Otway there was also a stone signal station but this has been demolished leaving only archaeological remains. Other demolished buildings include the stables and stone privies. Unusual features of Cape Schanck Lightstation are the dispersed layout of the buildings around a central lawn and the retention within the tower of an early clockwork mechanism (despite conversion to automatic operation) and the original 1859 Chance Bros lens. As well as the early buildings there is a red brick 1938 residence and some later utility buildings. One half of the early duplex assistants' quarters has been converted to a museum while the other has been converted to a generator room. A separate weatherboard kitchen block was built in 1887 for these tiny dwellings but was itself converted to a spare residence in the 1960s. Cape Schanck, along with other Victorian ocean lightstations, was handed over to the Commonwealth after Federation. All the transferred lightstations, now automated, were returned to Victoria in 1995.

### How is it significant?

The Cape Schanck Lightstation is of historical, architectural, scientific, social and archaeological importance to the State of Victoria.

### Why is it significant?

The Cape Schanck Lightstation is historically and architecturally important as a complex of lighthouse and lightkeepers' quarters which has been in continuous operation since 1859. It is a manifestation of the increasing importance of Bass Strait as a shipping route in the 1850s and was a direct result of Intercolonial co-operation which presaged Federation. The limestone tower and quarters are architecturally significant as relatively intact purpose designed buildings designed in the Victorian Public Works Department probably by Charles Maplestone.

The Cape Schanck Lightstation is scientifically (technologically) important as a fine example of nineteenth century

lighthouse technology, particularly the 1859 lens array manufactured by famous lighthouse manufacturer Chance Bros of Birmingham, the first of its type imported into Victoria.

The Cape Schanck Lightstation is socially important because its location, layout and design contribute to an understanding of the isolated life and critically important function of lightkeepers, particularly in the nineteenth century.

The Cape Schanck Lightstation is archaeologically important for its potential to reveal significant artefact remains pertaining to the use of the place as a lightstation and signal station. There are several recorded sites of former rubbish dumps which have already yielded household artefacts. As well there are the sites of demolished buildings, in particular the signal station, which have a high archaeological potential.

## 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:

#### EXEMPTIONS FROM PERMITS:

(Classes of works or activities which may be undertaken without a permit under Part 4 of the Heritage Act 1995)

#### General Conditions:

1. All alterations are to be planned and carried out in a manner which prevents damage to the fabric of the registered place or object.
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.
3. If there is a conservation policy and plan approved by the Executive Director, all works shall be in accordance with it.
4. Nothing in this declaration prevents the Executive Director from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions.

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.

\* No permits are required for works which are in accordance with the Conservation Management Plan prepared by Clive Lucas, Stapleton and Partners in May 1995 as amended by Ivar Nelsen and Patrick Miller in September 1998.

Construction dates 1857,  
Architect/Designer Maplestone, Charles W,  
Heritage Act Categories Registered place, Registered archaeological place,  
Other Names LIGHTHOUSE, CAPE SCHANCK LIGHTHOUSE,  
Hermes Number 4443  
Property Number

## History

See Cape Schanck Conservation Management Plan prepared by Clive Lucas, Stapleton and Partners in May 1995 as amended by Ivar Nelsen and Patrick Miller in September 1998.

Associated People: Owner DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES;

## Extent of Registration

### NOTICE OF REGISTRATION

As Executive Director for the purpose of the Heritage Act, I give notice under section 46 that the Victorian Heritage Register is amended by including the Heritage Register Number 1748 in the category described as a Heritage place, Archaeological place:

Cape Schanck Lightstation, Cape Schanck Road, Cape Schanck, Mornington Peninsula Shire Council.

### EXTENT:

1. All the buildings and features marked as follows on Diagram 604903 held by the Executive Director:

B1 Lighthouse

B2 Old Head Keeper's Quarters

B3 Assistant Keepers' Quarters

B4 New Head Keeper's Quarters

B5 Spare Quarters

F1 Archaeological remains of former Signal Station.

2. All of the land (including all the below ground archaeological relics) marked L-1 on diagram 604903 held by the Executive Director being all of the land described in Certificate of Title Volume 8459 Folio 670.

Dated 5 November 1998.

RAY TONKIN

Executive Director

[Victoria Government Gazette G 45 12 November 1998 p.2742]

*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/>*