
FORMER PORTLAND GAOL, CLIFF ST, PORTLAND



FORMER PORTLAND GAOL
FEATURE

Location

CHARLES ST PORTLAND, GLENELG SHIRE

Municipality

GLENELG SHIRE

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7221-0049

Heritage Overlay Numbers

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Interpretation of Site One wall remaining of former Portland Gaol.

Archaeological Significance	This site is of archaeological significance as it contains the remains of an early Gaol.
Historical Significance	The site is of historical significance as an example of the early gaol system in Victoria and for its association with the history of the local area.
Hermes Number	6636
Property Number	

History

The first gaol was built in Portland around 1842. It was designed by Colonial Architect, James Ratten, and reflected the functional model of gaols in country districts of NSW. The gaol consisted of a central hallkeeper's office and descriptions room, flanked on each side by large group accommodation cells.

This level was sufficient until the early 1850s when Portland became an important access port for the central Victorian goldfields and the population increased. Prisoners sentenced to hard labour on the roads or in houses of correction were transferred to Melbourne.

To alleviate overcrowding, a stockade was completed in 1855 but never occupied by the Penal Department as budget cuts by the new government prevented the staffing of the stockade. It was subsequently transferred to the Polic Department. In 1856 the stockade was used to accommodate the Sheriff's prisoners who were employed on the construction of the road to Heywood. The stockade was abandoned in 1863 and the buildings sold for ?150 to the Shire of Portland. The gaol was handed over to the police in 1892 for use as a gaol and was demolished in 1938 except for part of the surrounding wall.

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/>