

HISTORIC PLACES DOCUMENTATION SHEET

Geelong Regional Commission

Sheet 173



PLACE NAME: THE FIRST CUSTOMS HOUSE, GEELONG
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: CITY OF GEELONG

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY (References)

STYLE OR PERIOD: Picturesque Gothic

ARCHITECT(S)/DESIGN ORIGIN: Unknown

Reference: Attributed to Colonial Architects Office, Sydney.

BUILDER: Unknown

Reference:

PRINCIPAL ARTISANS/ARTISTS/TRADES

Reference:

TENDER NOTICE:

Reference:

DATE(S) OF CONSTRUCTION

Reputedly prefabricated in Sydney.

Reference:

National Trust of Australia (Victoria) File 2538

ESTIMATE/CONTRACT VALUE

SUBSEQUENT WORKS/ALTERATIONS/ADDITIONS

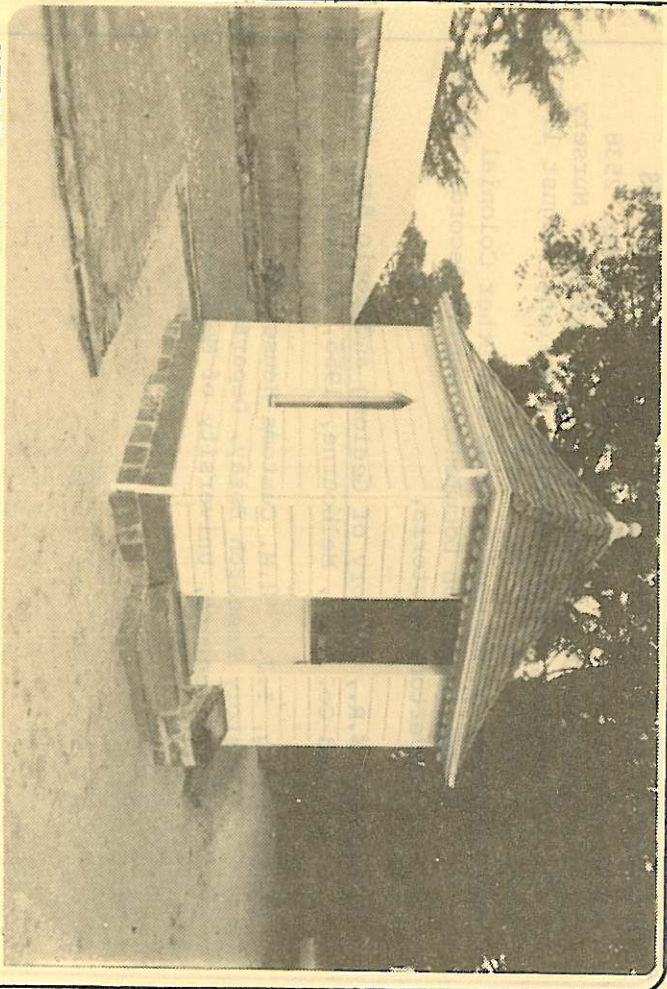
Thatched roof replaced by shingles in 1854.

ORIGINAL OWNER(S)/OCCUPANT(S)

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.



NEGATIVE FILE:

Australian Heritage Commission Register of National Estate

Historic Buildings Preservation Council Register No. ...185...

National Trust of Aust. (Vic) Classified/Recorded File No. ...2538.....

Geelong Regional Commission Register No.9.....

IDENTIFICATION DATA

PLACE NAME The First Customs House,
ADDRESS Botanical Gardens,
 East Geelong, 3220.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA City of Geelong
TITLE INFORMATION

MAP REFERENCE _____

PRESENT USE Historical Exhibition
PRESENT OWNER/LESSEE City of Geelong
ADDRESS Cheringhap Street,
 Geelong. 3220. **TELEPHONE** (052) 92091

PLACE NAME THE FIRST CUSTOMS HOUSE, GEELONG
 LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA CITY OF GEELONG

DOCUMENTATION REFERENCES AND BIOGRAPHIC NOTES

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.

CITATION

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 the 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.

SIGNIFICANCE OF PLACE

- Its creative and/or technical accomplishment.
- Its demonstration of a way of life, custom, process or function no longer practised.
- In danger of being lost or of exceptional interest.
- Its strong association with an important figure or figures, development, or cultural phase.
- Its townscape and/or landscape value.
- Its scarcity value.

SIGNIFICANCE

- LOCAL REGIONAL STATE NATIONAL WORLD

CONDITION

- EXCELLENT GOOD FAIR DETERIORATED RUINS

INTEGRITY

- HIGH LOW ALTERED DAMAGED

RECOMMENDATIONS: PROTECTIVE MEASURES

Geelong Regional Commission Register
 Historic Buildings Council Register
 Australian Heritage Commission Register of the
 National Estate

DOCUMENTATION — Allan Willingham, Architect, 151 McKean St.,
 North Fitzroy. 3068. Tel: 03 489 8492.

SIGNATURE..... DATE.....