

Place name	Port Albert Police Station (former) & Ombu tree	Survey Date:	31/07/2002
Other name	Police Station (former)	Id:	1379
Street	6 Denison Street	Last Update	5/12/2005
Locality	Port Albert	Postcode	
Official Locality		Property No	
Local Government Area	Wellington Shire		
Precinct:	Not in precinct		
Easting		Northing	
Map			
Workshop number		Workshop votes	
Field survey number		Community priority	
Designer	Henry Bastow	Builder	William McKerrow
Ownership		Built Date	1886-7
		Change Date	
Description	<p>The original building had a skillion-roof timber verandah, on the south elevation, which was supported on duplex posts at the ends and single supports between. Cast-iron brackets provided the decoration, resting on the timber column capitals. This verandah has been removed. Otherwise the house is near to original externally with the, as yet, predominantly unpainted stucco, the M-profile slated hip roof and chimney cornices are generally complete (currently being renovated). (Butler 1982: 55)</p> <p>A brick-walled compound has been added to side of site, with small vineyard planted to the front. Repainted and the verandah restored. (Butler, 2002).</p>		

Condition	Integrity
------------------	------------------

History CA 414, 0 acres 2.0
 (CA.3-414 originally reserved for Immigration Barracks in 1857
 (Survey) First private land owner. (314) M. H. Brosche, 2611111940.
 Initially allotment two, section five was reserved as a police barracks, a gaol and office (1). Subsequently, a portion of the reserve created for the Immigration Barracks was used to construct police barracks which were replaced by the present police quarters of stuccoed brick, during 1886-7 (2). The drawings were prepared in October 1886 under Public Works Chief Architect, Henry Bastow, and builder William McKerrow completed the work at a contract price of 518 pounds 13 shillings and six pence (3).

SOURCES

- 1) CPO Township Plan 1857 Survey
- 2) CPO Township Plan 1889f
- 3)
 - a) NTA FN 3246: copies drawings 19/10/1886, signed by Bastow and McKerrow, with initials 'E.W.'
 - b) Gov. Gaz. 1886, p3281

Heritage Protections	Register	Reference	Zoning	Status
	National Trust Register	B3246		File only

National Estate

Research Required

Recommendations Documentation, assessment and significance are sufficient to enable this place to be proposed for immediate protection under the Planning Scheme (Butler 1982:51).

Recommendations 2002

Recommended for retention in the Wellington Planning Scheme heritage overlay schedule (HO30), with potential for the Ombu tree to be added to the Victorian Heritage Register or be included in the scheme

schedule as a separate entry (Butler, 2002).

Fieldwork priority?

Stage 1 Ranking

Assessed: Port Albert Herit

Stage 2 priority

No Action: Already include

Final Ranking

Regional Significance

Final Recommendation

Statement of significance This building has historical significance as one of two government built structures from the government township of Palmerston. (RNE criterion A.4)

The Ombu tree ('Phytolacca dioica') is rare, distinctive in form, and associated with other early police station landscaping in the Colony. (RNE criterion B.1)

Extent of designation

Informant

Notes

Follow up

Bibliography Butler, G, (1982), Port Albert Conservation Study (Place No. 31), East Gippsland Publishing Company, Foster, 51
Graeme Butler & Associates, (July 2002), Alberton - Port Albert Heritage Review (Wellington Heritage Study)

Update Denison Street 0006, ID 1379(iii).jpg

Kristy Crawford

21/02/2007



Update Denison Street 0006, ID 1379(i).jpg

Kristy Crawford

21/02/2007



Update Denison Street 0006, ID 1379(ii).jpg

Kristy Crawford

21/02/2007



Update Denison Street 0006, ID 1379iv.jpg

Graeme Butler

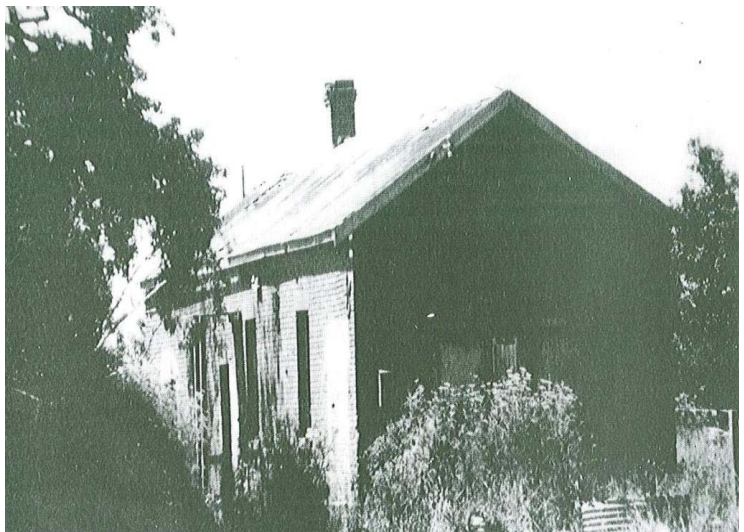
1/01/1982



Update Denison Street 0006, ID1379v.jpg

Graeme Butler

1/01/1982



Place name	Immigration Depot	Survey Date:	31/07/2002
Other name	Former Immigration Barracks, Denison Street	Id:	680
Street	6 Denison Street / South Street	Last Update	9/03/2005
Locality	Port Albert	Postcode	3971
Official Locality		Property No	CA 3, 4/4
Local Government Area	Wellington Shire		
Precinct:	Not in precinct		
Easting		Northing	
Map	8220		
Workshop number		Workshop votes	
Field survey number		Community priority	
Designer		Builder	
Ownership		Built Date	1857 - 185
Description	Former Use: 1857-58, Office Date Started 1857 Date Finished 1858 Storeys: 1 Individual Building or group Walls: Brick (Victorian Heritage Register - H498)		
	Change Date		

Immigration Depot, South Street, Port Albert, is a structure erected in 1857-58 to accommodate immigrants to Gippsland, although it in fact was mostly used as an adjunct to the nearby police quarters. Rectangular in plan, the structure is built in brick and has a gabled roof. Detailing is fairly rudimentary. Tie bars have been inserted and various alterations made (RNE 004797)

Condition and Integrity : Immigration Depot, South Street, Port Albert, is in a deteriorated state but in fair condition. Intactness is reasonable (RNE 004797).

The barracks survive as a simple gabled roof building with slate cladding and walls of English bond brickwork. The tank is also still intact. Plans drawn in 1886 show the barracks divided into three with a fireplace in the northernmost room: another chimney and a common fireplace appear to have been removed from the southern rooms. By 1886, these two rooms had become the stables to the police quarters and the northern room served as the police office. Immigration had almost ceased by the late 1860s (Butler 1982:52).

Condition

Integrity

History From the early 1840s when Gippsland first opened up to pastoral settlement labour supply had always been a problem. With relatively rapid development following the Omeo gold rushes, this labour shortage changed in type - pastoralist station hands were not so much in demand, as agricultural workers and single women. The people of the district were more than anxious to welcome the immigrants. A public meeting at the Tarraville court house on 6.1.1857 passed the following motion "that as the only accommodation now existing in the district for immigrants is a rough slab hut destitute of every convenience and comfort, erected some years ago at a cost of 40 pounds, and situated four miles from the port, it is, in the opinion of this meeting, highly desirable that a suitable depot be erected at Port Albert, the place of arrival". (Gippsland guardian 9.1.1857). The local MLA James Davis, acted on this resolution and in February 1857 tenders were called for building materials for the immigration barracks - 93,000 bricks and 7,500 ft. of blue gum plank 6"x8". McKenzie & Co. of Port Albert won the tender at three pounds five shillings per 1000 bricks. (Gippsland guardian 13.1.1857).

While the depot was under construction the flood of immigrants continued and Port Albert received some direct from England. One such group of one hundred and eleven souls arrived at Port Phillip heads on 7.6.1857 per the "black eagle" from Liverpool, they were transferred on the government steam sloop "Victoria" to the Port Albert heads from there they were then transferred to the Port Albert steam navigation company's ship "Oberon" for the last leg of the trip to Port Albert township. Temporary quarters were fitted up in the iron store and two tents

(government gazette 18.7.1857). This accommodation was subject to some criticism: "... The iron store at Port Albert ... A more miserable place scarcely exists at this stage of the year - without fire place, wood for fuel and with the sea within a few feet of the building, the immigrants after their transshipment, like so many bales of goods, will be able vividly to depict the comforts of Port Albert". (government gazette 24/7/1857).

Three more groups of immigrants arrived at Port Albert before the end of 1857. At this stage it was noted that Henry Charlesworth, an immigrant bricklayer on a wage of 8/- per day wet or dry weather, was employed by Mr. Lowe of Port Albert on building the new immigration depot, wanted a rise of 10/- per day.

This would suggest that the immigration depot was not completed until 1858, the year in which no arrivals were recorded. The Gippsland Guardian of 10 June 1859 advised that twelve married couples, twenty-eight single females and one single male ("Ex Herald" presumably meaning that he had previously worked on the newspaper) were now awaiting service at the immigration barracks, Palmerston. Between the years 1860 and 1865, twelve separate contingents, being mostly single females, arrived. This contributed to the Sale newspapers report of the "extensive immigration barracks ... which looks more like a convent than anything else - all that is merely required in a temporary building where a few girls and married couples may get a few nights lodging as they will be engaged soon after that." (Gippsland Times 6/11/1863). Only two contingents of immigrants are recorded in local newspapers from 1865 to 1870 so it seems that the immigration barracks at Palmerston became functionally redundant - an official "white elephant".

The building was used intermittently until the 1880s to house government officers from other departments which had sub-barracks in the district. In 1886 when the second building used to house the police officers was built on an adjacent site, it was noted that the former immigration barracks was used as a corn store. (Heritage Victoria Register, H498).

First private land owner. (314) Mary H. Brosche,
26/11/1940 Historic Building No. 498 (H.B.A. of Victoria)

A public meeting at the Tarraville Court House, in January 1857, complained of the inadequate accommodation for immigrants at the port; there being only a rough slab but located four miles from the port (1). The current labour shortage in Gippsland was noted by the Gippsland Guardian in the previous year, when demands were made for the direct immigration to the port rather than via Melbourne (2).

Tenders were called in March 1857 for the supply of bricks and blue gum planking whilst in July a price was requested for the erection of Immigration Buildings at the port (3). This was the first half of the contract. McKenzie and Co. of Port Albert supplied the bricks, at 3 pounds 5 shillings per 1,000 and William Buchanan the timber for 93 pounds 15 shillings. Day and Law (or Lowe) erected the building for a contract price of 885 pounds 11 shillings and two pence, approved in October 1857, and it was to be completed within five months (4) but too late for the 106 immigrants who arrived in Melbourne on the Black Eagle in June, 1857 and were landed at Port Albert on the Oberon. These were housed in the Iron Store and two tents near the wharf (5).

The contractors blamed the authorities for indecision about the site: the bricks had already been shifted once (6). At the same time tenders were being called for the second part of the barracks contract and by May of 1858, McKenzie and Co. were supplying a further 45,000 bricks (7). This may have been for a large underground tank which was built to the west of the barracks by Charles Lowe for 100 pounds (8).

Heritage Protections Register	Reference	Zoning	Status
National Trust Register	B3245		Listed
Planning Scheme	HO31		Listed
Register of the National Estate	004797		Listed
Victorian Heritage Register	H498		Listed

National Estate

Research Required

Recommendations

Fieldwork priority?

Stage 1 Ranking	Assessed: Port Albert Herit	Stage 2 priority	No Action: Already include
Final Ranking	State significance	Final Recommendation	

Statement of significance The barracks reflect the importance of imported labour to the development of Gippsland in the mid-nineteenth century. The building illustrates the government role in local development - Palmerston was a government township established in 1857 to break the monopoly control held by the merchants Turnbull bros. Over the 180 acres around the port. The building as it stands today is a two roomed brick structure with gable ends. There is no floor or ceiling, the plaster is coming off the walls and the roof is supported by a simple timber truss system (Victorian Heritage Register H498).

The building has a dual significance as the only known surviving immigration barracks, designed as such, in Victoria and thus is a sole memorial to the period of labour shortages in the earliest period of the Port Phillip occupation. It also, like the police quarters, represents the Government investment in a town surveyed to counter monopolistic private development at the port. Of great historic importance (Bulter 1982:32).

Extent of designation

Informant

Notes

Follow up

Bibliography Bulter, G. 1982. References.

- 1) G.G. 9/1/1857
- 2) G.G. 28/03/1856
- 3) G.G. 6/02/1857
- 4) G.G. 28/8/1857 p1608 Contract 48 'Day and Law' see G.G. 23/10/1857, 'Daye and Lowe'.
- 5) G.G. 5/6/1857, 23/10/1857
- 6) G.G. 21/5/1858
- 7) G.G. 8/10/1858, p. 1961

Heritage Victoria File No. 601815

Butler, G., (1982), Port Albert Conservation Study (Place no. 32), South Gippsland Publishing Company, Foster, 52

Graeme Butler & Associates, (July 2002), Alberton - Port Albert Heritage Review (Wellington Heritage Study)

Update Denison Street 0006, ID 0680.jpg

Kristy Crawford

21/02/2007

