

<b>Place name</b> Old Port (Foreshore Reserve)	<b>Survey Date:</b> 31/07/2002
<b>Other name</b> Old Settlement Beach, Old Port Beach	<b>Id:</b> 709
<b>Street</b> Old Port Foreshore Road	<b>Last Update</b> 9/03/2005
<b>Locality</b> Port Albert	<b>Postcode</b> 3971
<b>Official Locality</b>	<b>Property No</b> HO35
<b>Local Government Area</b> Wellington Shire	<b>Property Info</b>
<b>Precinct:</b> Not in precinct	
<b>Easting</b> 471300	<b>Northing</b> 5720500
<b>Map</b> Yarram 8220	
<b>Workshop number</b>	<b>Workshop votes</b>
<b>Field survey number</b>	<b>Community priority</b>
<b>Designer</b>	<b>Builder</b>
<b>Ownership</b> Public	<b>Built Date</b> 1841 <b>Change Date</b>

**Description** Boundary of Place: Alberton parish plan CAs 38, 39, 41-3, 40A &B, adjoining foreshore reserve and nominally land 30m from their perimeter. Including indigenous planting and associated artefacts, including the scatter of brick, glass remnants on CAs 38-43 (Butler 1999)

Physical Description: 'Remnants of 1841-4 settlement: broken bottles and bricks scattered on the beach and inland. Disturbed by bottle hunters.' { NRE }

Habitation remains on beach and in banksia woodland on Old Settlement Beach, Port Albert. Visible are glass shards and part bottles, possible wooden remains of jetty or similar. Remnants probably become visible when tide wash causes collapse of sandy cliff, exposing relics to wave action (cleansing).(Butler 1999)

Condition and Integrity: One management option is probably periodic inspection of beach area to ascertain what new cliff falls have exposed, pending partial or full archaeological survey.

Threats: Wave action, natural deterioration, beachcombing

Themes: HT.04.05.01 Settling; HC.MP.901.02 Town site (Butler 1999)

Former Use: Heritage Inventory Present Use: Pastoral/Grazing,Park/Reserve; Description: Heritage Inventory Description: Remnants of 1841-4 settlement: broken bottles and bricks scattered on the beach and inland. Disturbed by bottle hunters.; Access: Heritage Inventory Access: Restricted; Condition: Heritage Inventory Condition: Unexposed,Disturbed/Damaged  
Heritage Inventory Threats: Vandalism

**Condition**

**Integrity**

**History**

The Melbourne press reported on the state of the new Gippsland port in 1843: 'Between them (Tarra and Albert River channels), is the government township reserve of Alberton ....the old settlement being at the beach (situate in relation to the township of Alberton much as Liadet's (sic) to Melbourne) and containing some dozen huts, a good inn and store, and more to the eastward, a point of land used as a shipping place of the port- denominated the Stock Yard.' ('Port Phillip Herald' 14.11.1843).

With the formation of the Gippsland Company in 1841 came the application for a Special Survey, in the name of John Orr (gazetted in June 1841) (2). Then came the news that the company was about to establish a town and Melbourne merchants were invited to journey on the 'Corsair' and 'Sea Horse' to view the site, along with prospective settlers and their supplies (Butler 1982:91). Among them, Reeve and Wentworth took the journey only to be informed, on reaching the Old Port, of Governor Gipps five mile radius reservation, gazetted in March 1841. This reservation was to stop private occupation of strategic port areas. Despite the governor's edict, about one hundred persons had begun to erect tents and small cottages along the beach awaiting the government survey of the

Special Survey boundaries which would allow settlement to proceed (3).

By August 1841, the company's stores and goods were offered for sale and by December, the new settlement was 'verging on starvation' (4). Relief came when the Van Dieman's Land cattle trade commenced early in 1842 (5), supplying the Melbourne market with much needed meat. Meanwhile, surveyor Townsend resumed his measurement of the Special Surveys and reported that the land around the settlement was 'useless, barren ... covered with scrub and swamps (6).' The survey for the government town of Alberton was completed in mid 1842 and, unexpectedly, the government allowed the sale of the strategic 180 acres at Shipping Point (now part of Port Albert) to Major Alex Davidson in September 1845, despite its lack of fresh water.

This left the Old Port settlement as an illegal occupation until land sales alienated the area in 1858. Thus when Tyers (Land Commissioner) arrived in January, 1844, he sought licenses from these 'squatters' which they did not care to pay. Meanwhile, Turnbull, Orr and Co. had commenced to erect a store at Shipping Point by March 1844 and apparently had shifted the 'frame-house' from the Old Port to act as the Port Albert Hotel, thus taking the economic base from the beach settlement whilst sales of lots of at Victoria had taken place in July 1843 (9).

HB. Morris, journeying with surveyor Robert Russell, described the Old Port in 1845 as 8-10 slab huts roofed with bark, two stores and a shop, but G.H. Haydon noted in December 1844, that a few deserted and dilapidated huts existed at the Old Port and that a heap of bottles showed the site of a public house (11). Robert Russell's water colours of May 1845 show a flagstaff at least two boarded houses and a number of huts set in a clearing on the water's edge (12).

M.J. Campbell's Government Survey of 1856 was the long awaited alienation of the beach reserve providing a line of small allotments at the Old Port beach which faced a proposed 5 chain road reserve. They were distributed around the starting point of the dray track to Macallister's station which was perpetuated in the survey as a straight road to Myrtle Point: this was the line of track blazed by Angus McMillan after his arrival there in February 1841(14).

Campbell noted that the vegetation was tea tree scrub on sandy ground, with honeysuckle gum, and 'thick Gum scrub' Today, coastal banksia (then called honeysuckle), 'Eucalyptus viminalis' (mannan gum) and E. Ovata (swamp gum) are evident as is Coast Beard Heath ('Leucopogon parviflorus'), 'Acacia oxycednis', Coast Salt Bush ('Atriplex cinerea') and the 'Bossiaea cinerea'. Hence some of the vegetation of 1856 still exists there as does remnants of the old settlement of 1841-4 in the form of broken bottles and English size bricks, scattered on the beach and inland. Excavations around the site mark the recent activity of bottle searchers in the early 1980s (Butler 1982:91).

Between them (Tarry and Albert River channels), is the government township reserve of Alberton ... the old settlement being at the beach (situate in relation to the township of Alberton much as Liadet's (sic) to Melbourne) and containing some dozen huts, a good inn and store, and more to the eastward, a point of land used as the shipping place of the port - denominated the "Stock Yard" (Port Phillip Herald, 14/11/1843) (1).

Heritage Protections	Register	Reference	Zoning	Status
	Planning Scheme	HO35		Listed
	Victorian Heritage Inventory	H8220-0002		Listed

#### National Estate

#### Research Required

**Recommendations** Heritage Inventory Policies: Foreshore reserve/agricultural zone.

Victorian Heritage Inventory listing means a permit is required from Heritage Victoria for any disturbance to place (including conservation works).

Preservation of the site would involve retention of the following elements: the vegetation stated and the remnants of the occupation. Enhancement of the site would require development control of allotments 38-43 to ensure retention of the above elements (Butler 1982:91).

A defined area encompassing the remnants of the settlement should be declared an area of special significance which would require a permit for any alteration to the existing physical state of the site. Council should oppose adverse possession claims over CAs 38, 39 & 41-43; investigate Council or State acquisition of CAs 38-43; encourage State compulsory acquisition of CAs 40A, B; and ensure inclusion in proposed Nooramunga Fisheries and Wildlife foreshore reserve. Council should locate present brick, glass

remnants on detailed re-establishment survey of Cas 38-43) (Butler 1982:93).

**Fieldwork priority?**

**Stage 1 Ranking** Not seen in Stage 1 fieldwork **Stage 2 priority** No Action: Already include

**Final Ranking** **Final Recommendation** Amendment C26

**Statement of significance** The site is significant to the Gippsland RFA region and the State as the first white village or urban settlement in Gippsland, following official land sales at Melbourne, Williamstown, Geelong and Portland in Victoria (RNE criteria B2).

It was a precursor to the Port Albert settlement which served as Gippsland's defacto capital and primary port for many years and was the focus of early endeavours to open up the region and the destination of early dray tracks which linked with the pastoral leaseholds to the north. (RNE criterion A4).

Despite the damage done to surviving evidence, the views taken by Robert Russell of the settlement during the 1840s and the re-establishment of the indigenous planting around the site provide valuable evidence which would aid in the understanding of the place. (RNE criterion C2) (Butler 1999)

This settlement, as apart from pastoral occupation, was the first in Gippsland and the next after Melbourne, Williamstown, Geelong and Portland in Victoria. The site is of historic importance to the State (Butler 1982:91).

**Extent of designation**

**Informant**

**Notes**

**Follow up**

**Bibliography**

Butler, G. 1982. References.  
1) Quoted by Rev. Cox  
2) Rev.Cox cites gazettal  
3) a) NSW G.G. 4/3/1841 p231  
b) Rev. Cox cites: Port Phillip Patriot 9/8/1841 and Brodrib  
4) Port Phillip Patriot 13/12/1841  
5) Port Phillip Patriot 13/12/1842  
6) Rev. Cox  
7) Rev. Cox cites: correspondence to Survey General; report in Port Phillip papers of sale 26/7/1843  
8) Lennon, 9147  
9) Rev. Cox  
10) Lennon. 9147  
11) Op. Cit. p149  
12) Picture collection (SLV) MFN542: H6286, 27751, 1608  
13) PRO; A-8 A-6  
14) Ibid  
Adams, John., (1990), (1990) 'From these Beginnings History of the Shire of Alberton' Yarram  
Butler, G, ( 1982), 'Port Albert Conservation Study',: 97- cites government sources, contemporary newspapers, State Library of Victoria picture collection;  
CPO Alberton parish plan A6, 1843;  
Butler, G, (1982), Port Albert Conservation Study (Significant Areas No. 1), South Gippsland Publishing Company, Foster, 91-93  
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Graeme Butler & Associates, (July 2002), Alberton - Port Albert Heritage Review (Wellington Heritage Study)  
Morgan, P, (1997), 'The Settling of Gippsland A Regional History' : 37-;