

South Australian  
Heritage Act 1978-80:

HERITAGE SURVEY  
ITEM IDENTIFICATION SHEET

REGION 6 :  
SOUTH EAST

Item No. : PTM:004

ITEM NAME: 'Ye Olde Customs House' Restaurant

Former or other names: Former Government Offices

LOCATION:

Address: 3 Charles Street,  
Port MacDonnell

Allotment: 138

Section :

Hundred : MacDonnell

County : Grey

L.G.A. : Port MacDonnell

S.H.P. Region: 6

A.M.G., Ref. Z: 54 N: 5787900  
E: 473575

TYPE OF ITEM:

Description: District Offices

Subject: 3.02

Period: 1860-1880

Date: 1863

Condition: Well Kept

Architect: Col. Arch. - William Hanson

Builder: F. Reynolds

STATUS State Heritage List: Registered  
National Estate : Listed  
National Trust : Classified

HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

RECOMMENDATION: State

Description:

Random coursed stonework with stone quoins and dressed surrounds. Corrugated galvanized iron hipped roof and gables with finials on the two main elevations. String course between storeys. Flattened and semi-circular arched double hung sash windows. Doors with semicircular fanlights. Stone chimneys. Symmetrical elevation facing Charles Street.

Built as a Customs House, Court House and Telegraph Office. Also housed police and their families; the cells and stables were at the rear.

Report Text:

REFERENCES: E. Milstead, "Port MacDonnell Centenary Celebrations" p. 5  
L. Hill, "History of Port MacDonnell in Pictures"

Verbal:

PHOTOGRAPHS:

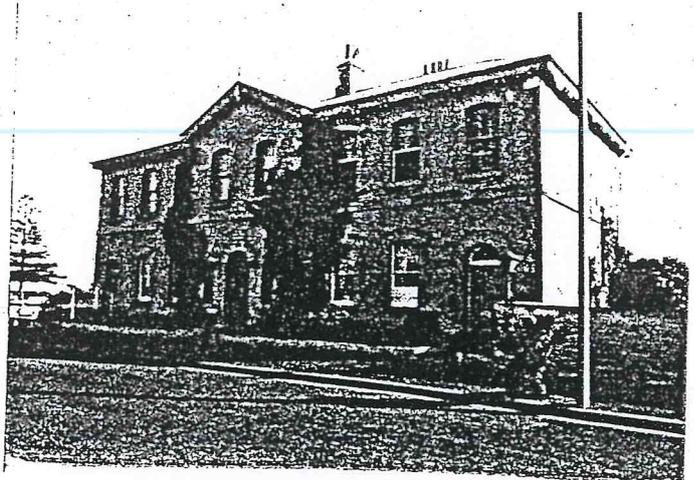
Slide No : 8/10

Film No : 7

Negative No: 34

Archival No: B2027 (1923)  
B11411 (n.d.)

DANVERS ARCHITECTS Date: 1983



PORT MACDONNELL - OLD POLICE STATION,  
COURT HOUSE, TELEGRAPH STATION & CUSTOM HOUSE.

7022-10254  
Former Government  
Offices - Port  
MacDonnell

Ref Colonial Architect Outgoing Correspondence

121/62 to Mr. F. Reynolds, Builder, Pt. Adelaide

Contract and Bond for building Court House at Pt. Mac Donnell.

470/62 17/12/1862 to Mr. Reynolds, Pt. Adelaide

Tender for building Police Stable at Port MacDonnell accepted £235.

431/62 21/11/1862 to Overseer of Works, Pt. MacDonnell

Drawings & specification for building Police Stables at Port MacDonnell to be shown to intending contractors.

330/63 21/9/1863 to Hon. Commissioner of Public Works

Buildings at Port MacDonnell including Court House, Police Station, Telegraph Station & Custom House are completed.

P.403 1875

Works executed in 1874 including Pt. MacDonnell Government buildings £748/10/0.

859/65 21/12/1865 Mr. Smith, plasterer, Mt. Gambier

Tender for cementing exterior of Customs House at Pt. MacDonnell accepted £230.

Research Note 553

Public buildings comprising court house, police quarters, custom house and telegraph station were completed in 1863 (Parl. Paper 14 of 1864 p.xv).

328/62 August 22 1862 to W. S. M. Hutton

All building at Pt. MacDonnell have been stopped during wet weather. Materials shipped. Have statement of Captain French of Pt. MacDonnell that about same amount of tonnage has been delivered.

370/62 Oct. 2 1862 to Mr. F. Reynolds

Work at Pt. MacDonnell about to be commenced again. Masons work up to stoppage of building not executed to my satisfaction. I shall therefore object to the same men being employed for the completion of the building.

418/62 Nov. 13 1862

Works again commenced at Pt. MacDonnell.

7022-10254  
Former Government  
Offices - Port  
MacDonnell

73/19/01

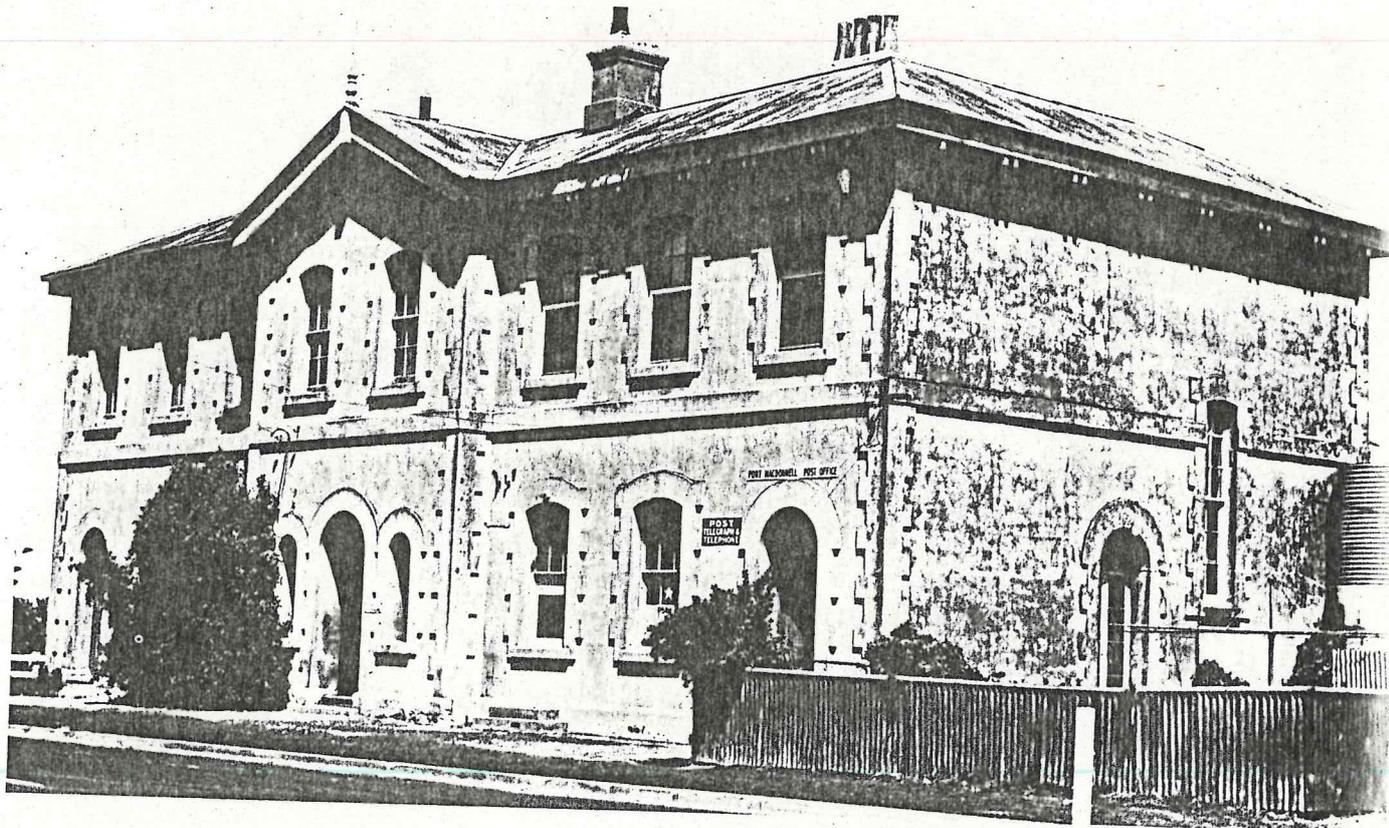
Collwell & Smith - 1973

### GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS, Port MacDonnell

Port MacDonnell, on the south-east coast of South Australia, was proclaimed a port on 4 April 1860 and named after the then Governor of South Australia, Sir Richard Graves MacDonnell.

During the 1870s it was one of the busiest ports in the State. Wool and grain was loaded on to ships of which many sailed directly to Great Britain. Customs Office returns between the years 1876 and 1882 showed a revenue of almost £2 million excise duty on imports and exports, and in its heyday the port boasted two breweries, a flour mill, three hotels, two general merchants, two shipping agents, a tannery, a bark mill, and three scouring plants.

To cater for public services, a contract for a large two-storeyed building to house a Customs House, police station, and post office was let to F. Reynolds for £2,605 about 1862.





FILM 54  
NO 1

FORMER CUSTOMS HOUSE, CORNER  
CHARLES STREET AND THE PARADE

PORT MACDONNELL  
21-2-79