

BETTER HERITAGE INFORMATION SUMMARY OF STATE HERITAGE PLACE

COMMENTARY ON THE LISTING

Description and notes with respect to a place entered in the South Australian Heritage Register in accordance with either the *South Australian Heritage Act 1978* or the *Heritage Places Act 1993*.

The information contained in this document is provided in accordance with s14(6) of the *Heritage Places Act 1993*.

NAME: Former Customs House **PLACE NO.:** 10261

KNOWN AS: Robe Customs House Maritime Museum (approved)
Nautical Museum (former Robe Customs House) (former)

ADDRESS: Bunganditj Country
1 Royal Circus, Robe SA 5276
CT 5730/902 T441801 A19
Hundred of Waterhouse

CONFIRMED IN THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE REGISTER:

24 July 1980

STATEMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

Former Customs House demonstrates Robe's economic importance to South Australia during its heyday as a major seaport town between the 1840s and 1860s. For several years during this period, Robe collected over £5,000 annually in customs revenue, making it the colony's second most valuable port after Port Adelaide. Former Customs House was built by the colonial government in 1863 to better facilitate the collection of this revenue. Accordingly, Former Customs House is associated with enabling the economic security of the fledgling colony of South Australia.

RELEVANT/INDICATIVE CRITERIA (under section 16 of the *Heritage Places Act 1993*)

(a) it demonstrates important aspects of the evolution or pattern of the State's history

The former Customs House demonstrates Robe's importance as one of South Australia's most economically prosperous and vital seaports during the 1840s to 1860s. Prior to Federation in 1901, each Australian colony collected customs revenue on certain imported goods, whether intercolonial or international in origin. Towards this end, a Sub-Collector of Customs was established at Robe as early as 1846 to assist with the collection of customs duties on goods shipped to South Australia through the town's port.

At its peak in the 1850s and 1860s, Robe typically collected over £5,000 in revenue annually, making it the colony's second most valuable port, surpassed only by Port Adelaide. Recognising the importance of Robe's place in collecting this revenue and the need for improved facilities, the colonial Government built the Customs House in 1863. Given the Sub-Collector of Customs at the time was also the Harbour Master and Receiver of Wrecks, it was used as an office for all three purposes. Robe continued to be a major port and source of revenue until the 1870s. Reflecting its diminishing importance, the Customs House eventually ceased operating and became the District Council of Robe's head office in 1888, remaining as such until a new Council office was built in the late 1960s.

SITE PLAN

Former Customs House
1 Royal Circus, Robe

PLACE NO.: 10261



Location of the former Customs House (SHP 10261) in relation to the Royal Circus and Sea wall Historic Site (SHP 12547).

N ↑

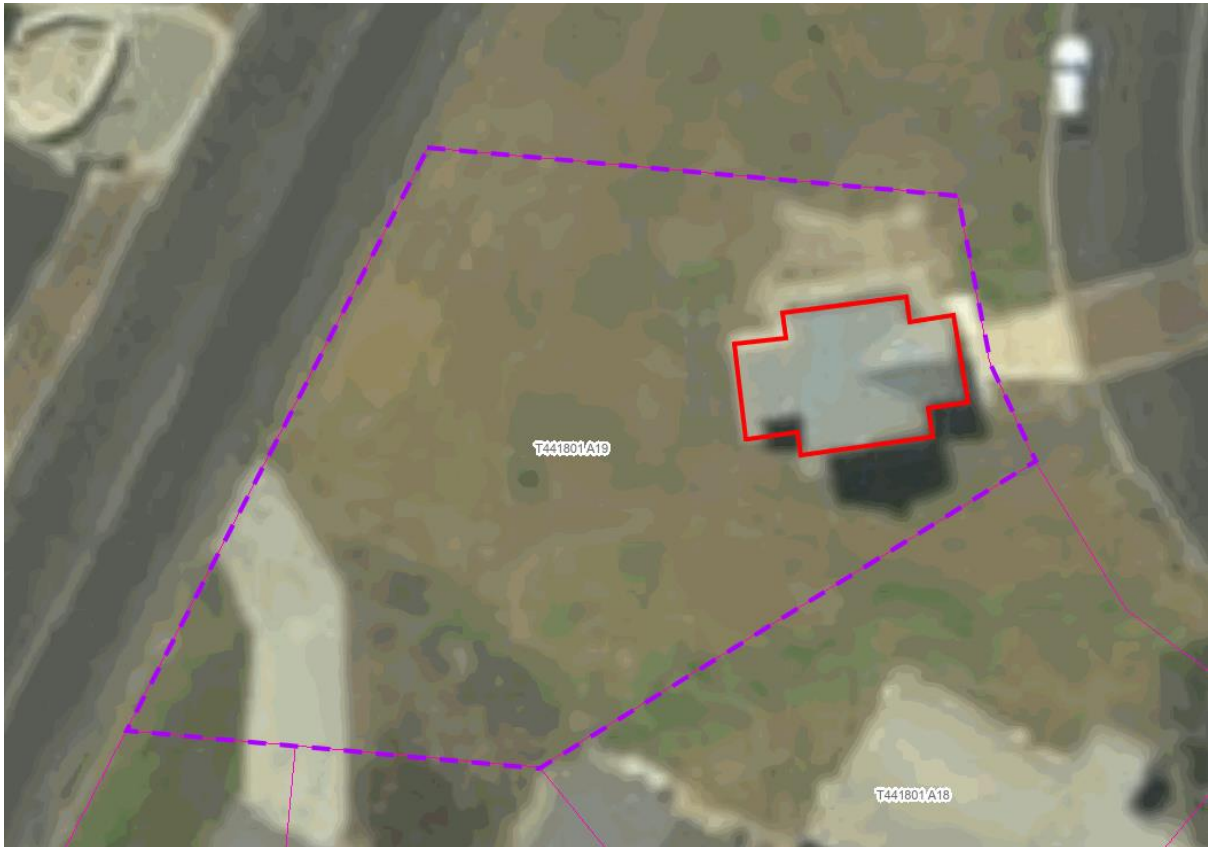
LEGEND

-  Parcel boundaries (Indicates extent of Listing)
-  Outline of Elements of Significance for State Heritage Place

SITE PLAN

Former Customs House
1 Royal Circus, Robe

PLACE NO.: 10261



Former Customs House (SHP 10261), 1 Royal Circus, Robe, CT 5730/902 T441801 A19, Hundred of Waterhouse.

N ↑

LEGEND

-  Parcel boundaries (Indicates extent of Listing)
-  Outline of Elements of Significance for State Heritage Place

Physical Description

The former Customs House at Robe is a T-shaped building facing the Royal Circus, with a lean-to to the rear. The walls are built of tuck-pointed coursed random limestone rubble and feature red brick quoins.

The building has a parapet gabled roof with corbels, a corbelled brick chimney, six-paned sash windows, a semi-circular arched fanlight over double doors to front, and a circular attic vent.

The interior includes one main room, an entrance room, and a smaller room in the lean-to, slate floor at the entrance, wooden floorboards and skirting boards, a fireplace, and white paint to walls.

Elements of Significance:

Elements of heritage significance include (but are not necessarily limited to):

- T-shaped building with lean-to to rear,
- Tuck-pointed coursed random limestone rubble walls with brick quoins,
- Parapet gabled roof with corbels,
- Brick chimney,
- Paned sash windows,
- Semi-circular arched fanlight,
- Circular attic vent,
- Slate slab floor inside front door,
- Wooden floorboards and skirting boards,
- Fireplace and mantel.

Elements not considered to contribute to significance of place include (but are not necessarily limited to):

- Internal fittings and fittings associated with the museum, such as track and fluorescent lighting, hanging system, cabinetry display furniture.
- Contemporary signage and plaques,
- Brick pathway between the building and the Royal Circus.

HISTORY OF THE PLACE

Establishing Robe

Guichen Bay in the South East of South Australia forms part of the traditional lands of the Bungandidj people, who have been present in the area for at least 30,000 years.¹ Europeans first charted the coastline of the region in 1802 during the Baudin and Flinders expeditions and sealers established a presence at Guichen Bay in 1831.²

European exploration of the South East took place from 1839 and settlement began as early as 1840.³ Much of the South East was initially settled by pastoralists and by 1847, approximately half of the region was held under pastoral licences. As primary production expanded the colonial government began to provide a series of government towns as service and staging centres. The provision of ports to ship goods to market was also viewed as essential and Robe was established in 1846, to provide a port for the burgeoning wool clip then being obtained from the South East.⁴ Robe was officially declared as a port by the Government in 1847.⁵

Situated towards the south of Guichen Bay, the town at Robe (or Robetown) went on to become the first major town of the South East.⁶ Robe became the administrative centre of the region when a Government Resident was appointed in 1846.⁷ Over the next two decades, Robe developed as an international port that serviced the local wool industry and import and export markets. It also facilitated the arrival of thousands of immigrants, including British and Irish people, as well as Chinese prospectors during the Victorian gold rush.⁸

Customs Duties in Colonial Australia

Each of the Australian colonies collected customs duties prior to federating as the Commonwealth of Australia in 1901. Tariffs were first instated in 1800 by the Governor of New South Wales and for the next hundred years, each colony imposed duties on certain goods, whether international or inter-colonial in origin.⁹ Economic historian P. J. Lloyd divides this period into two sub-periods: the 'period of Imperial control of tariff-fixing, 1800 to 1855' and the 'period of colonial control after the passage of the Australian Colonies Government Act by the Imperial Parliament in 1850'.¹⁰ This Act paved the way for colonial self-government.

At first, to ensure that South Australia fulfilled its imperial customs obligations, colonial administrators established a Collector of Customs immediately upon settlement. In 1836, the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Customs in Britain appointed Captain Thomas Lipson as South Australia's Collector of Customs. Lipson also served as the colony's principal Harbour Master and Administrator of Marine Affairs, demonstrating the interconnection between trade and seaports in the mid-nineteenth century. While he remained in the latter two roles until 1855, he resigned as Collector of Customs in

1840 and was replaced by Robert Torrens.¹¹ The role changed hands many times over the years that followed.

While the Collector of Customs oversaw operations across the entire colony, the position was based at Port Adelaide, South Australia's principal port. The Collector operated from a dedicated customs house in Port Adelaide, the first of which was built in 1838.¹² As the colony expanded and outports were established, Sub-Collectors of Customs were appointed to facilitate customs operations outside of the capital. The government also built several dedicated customs facilities throughout the colony. A Sub-Collector and a customs building were built in Glenelg in 1839, though both were short-lived.¹³ In the last four decades of the nineteenth century, at least eight customs houses were built, not including the three new customs houses built at Port Adelaide in 1840, 1860 and 1880.¹⁴

During the period of Imperial control, South Australia collected duties on a narrow range of goods, including 'spirits, wine, beer, and tobacco'.¹⁵ However, beginning in the early 1850s, the amount of taxable goods increased dramatically. The tariff schedule had grown to around 120 lines and customs revenue began to proliferate in 1853.¹⁶ Although South Australia did not gain responsible self-government until 1856, South Australia had already commenced the process of taking control of its customs procedures, items, and rates.

Customs House

Robe's surveyors set aside land for a dedicated customs building when they designed the town in 1846. Specifically, they reserved a site at the Royal Circus, a roundabout and the town's administrative and business epicentre.¹⁷ This location was selected due to its proximity to the port. Despite their plan, the government did not at first construct a customs building.

Although Robe initially lacked a dedicated customs house, colonial administrators established a Sub-Collector of Customs at Robe as early as 1846, evidenced by the appointment of Berry J. Lipson in December that year.¹⁸ J. G. O'Keefe took over the position in 1854, presumably succeeding Lipson,¹⁹ though his tenure was brief. He was replaced by Henry Dudley Melville in 1855, who remained in the position for the next fourteen years.²⁰ Without a customs house, Melville's office was initially located in a 'small wooden house' occupied by a large family.²¹

After being gazetted in 1847, the port at Robe became one of the government's most economically important assets. Throughout the 1850s and 1860s, over one million pounds of wool was exported from Robe. Various other goods were shipped out of Robe, including 'wattle bark for tanning, cheese, butter, wood and a quantity of horn, and even copper ore'. Livestock and horses were transported to and from the port and many goods were imported into the colony via Robe.²²

Owing to this activity, Robe typically collected over £5,000 in annual revenue, making it the colony's second most lucrative port, surpassed only by Port Adelaide.²³ The bulk of this revenue was generated during Melville's tenure during the 1850s and 1860s.²⁴ A small but noteworthy part of this revenue derived from duties collected on opium imported by Chinese migrants between 1856 and 1857.²⁵

Edward Hamilton, the Colonial Architect, drew plans for a boatshed and customs house at Robe in 1857. These plans were forwarded to the Commissioner of Public Works in July and tenders for both were advertised shortly thereafter.²⁶ Four tenders had been received by August,²⁷ but by September, the Commissioner decided to postpone the construction of the customs house.²⁸

Preparations to construct a customs house recommenced in 1862. Hamilton's successor as Colonial Architect, William Hanson, drafted new plans for a customs house and forwarded them to the telegraph officer at Robe to seek tenders.²⁹ The Government then accepted the tender from builders Pearse and Savage for £364/18/0.³⁰ Construction commenced afterwards, and the new Customs House at the Royal Circus was completed in 1863.³¹

Melville soon occupied the building. As he also served as Robe's Harbour Master and Receiver of Wrecks, the Customs House served as an office for all these services.³² Melville remained in these roles until 1869, when he was reposted to Port Caroline (Kingston SE) and replaced as Sub-Collector of Customs by John Archibald Graeme Little.³³ George James Paris followed in 1884.³⁴

Subsequent History

Beginning in the early 1870s, Robe's heyday as a major intercolonial and international port began to decline. By 1891, its population had reduced from 600 residents in the late 1860s and early 1870s to 170.³⁵ While Robe's decline occurred due to many factors, the rise of competition from other port towns, such as Kingston, and the emergence of railways in the region are notable.³⁶

Customs House continued to serve its intended purpose until 1888.³⁷ Beginning that year, the Government allowed the District Council of Robe to use the building as its head office free of charge, on the condition that it did not disturb the customs records located in the lean-to at the rear.³⁸ Customs operations nonetheless continued to take place elsewhere in Robe until ceasing entirely in May 1907.³⁹

Despite no longer being used for customs operations, the property's ownership was transferred to the Commonwealth Government in 1901, which had assumed responsibility for all customs buildings across Australia owing to the Commonwealth *Customs Act 1901*. The Customs House was later returned to South Australian government ownership in 1920.⁴⁰ Fourteen years later in 1934, the State Government

officially granted the property to the Council for £10.⁴¹ The Council had occupied the premises all the while.

Robe District Council remained at Customs House until the 1960s. Favouring the construction of a new head office, the Council planned to demolish the building in the mid-1960s.⁴² In response, locals initiated a campaign to save the building, which was then taken up by the National Trust of South Australia. The campaign was successful, and the National Trust acquired the lease to Customs House in 1969. It was subsequently restored and reopened as a local maritime museum in 1971, a role it fulfils into the twenty-first century.⁴³ The Robe Branch of the National Trust of South Australia has cared for the former Customs House since the early 1970s and the building has received occasional conservation work.

Chronology

Year	Event
1838	First iteration of a customs house is built at Port Adelaide.
1839	Customs house built at Glenelg.
1840	Second iteration of a customs house is built at Port Adelaide.
1846	Counties of Grey and Robe are proclaimed by the colonial government and are opened to claim under pastoral license. Government of South Australia establishes Robe as the administrative centre of the South East; Capitan Villiers Butler is appointed as the first Government Resident. The township of Robe is surveyed from a location that becomes the Royal Circus.
1847	Robe is officially gazetted as a port by the government.
1855	Henry Dudley Melville is appointed as Customs Officer at Robe.
1857	Colonial Architect draws plans for a customs house and boatshed for Robe and forwards them to the Commissioner of Public Works in July. Tenders are advertised for the Customs House and Boatshed. Four tenders are received in August. Commissioner of Public Works postpones the construction of a customs house in September.
1860	Third iteration of a customs house is built at Port Adelaide.
1862	Colonial Architect forwards a plan and specifications for a new customs house at Robe to the officer in charge of the telegraph station at Robe to seek tenders. Tender from Pearse and Savage for £364/18/0 is accepted. Construction of Customs House commences. Customs house built at Wallaroo (SHP 10144). Customs house built at Port MacDonnell (SHP 10254).
1863	Customs House built at the Royal Circus, Robe opens.
1866	Customs house built at Victor Harbor (registered name Station Master's Residence - Former) (SHP 12739).
1869	John Archibald Graeme Little is appointed as Collector of Customs at Robe. Henry Dudley Melville is transferred to Port Caroline (Kingston SE).

- The District Council of Robe is established. Local administration is transferred from the Colonial Government to the Council.
- 1875 Customs house built at Port Pirie (SHP 10147).
- 1880 Fourth iteration of a customs house built at Port Adelaide (SHP 10882). This version remains in operation until 1987.
- 1882 Customs house built at Port Augusta (since demolished).
- 1884 Customs house built at Border Cliffs (SHP 10433).
- 1888 The District Council of Robe relocates to the Customs House, where it remains for the next 80 years.**
- c.1890 Customs house built at Port Germein.
- 1901 Ownership of all customs buildings and related properties are transferred to the Commonwealth Government upon Federation.
- 1920 Commonwealth Government returns ownership of customs buildings in Beachport and Robe to the South Australian government.
- 1969 The National Trust of South Australia leases the former Customs House.**
- 1970 The former Customs House is restored and opens as a nautical/maritime museum.
- 1980 The former Customs House is listed as a State Heritage Place (SHP 10261).**
- 1987 Fifth iteration of a customs house is built at Port Adelaide.
- 1993 The State Heritage Branch provides \$3,000 for repairs to the former Customs House. This money comes from \$107,000 in funding allocated to restore historic buildings. This allocation is part of the Commonwealth Government's 'One Nation' economic package. The State Government's Heritage Branch is tasked with administering the funds.
- 2003 Development Application DA 822/90/09 to replace the roof of the former Customs House is approved.
A Heritage Fund Grant of \$3,000 is awarded to the District Council of Robe to complete repairs to the roof.
- 2006 Development Application 822/120/06 to erect signage and repair the interior of the former Customs House is approved.
- 2012 Development Application DA 822/03/12 to repair the external walls is approved. The repairs involve replacing 'inappropriate concrete' with lime mortar mix.

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- Bermingham, Kathleen. *Gateway to the South East: A Story of Robetown and the Guichen Bay District*. Millicent: The South Eastern Times Ltd., 1961.
- Bermingham, Kathleen. *The Second Eleven Tales of Robe*. Millicent: The South Eastern Times Ltd., 1971.
- Brown, Tom. *Glenelg, 1836-1972: Growth and Function of an Urban Village*. Adelaide: T. J. Strehlow, 1973.
- Harfull, Liz. *Almost an Island: The Story of Robe*, reprinted edition. 2013; Mile End: Wakefield press, 2015.
- Marsden, Susan. *A Glimpse of Golden Days*. Robe: District Council of Robe, 1985.

Journal Articles

- Lloyd, Peter. 'The First 100 Years of Tariffs in Australia: The Colonies'. *Australian Economic History Review* 57:3 (2017): 316-344.
- Lloyd, Peter. 'The First 100 Years of Tariffs in Australia: The Colonies', working paper, Faculty of Business and Economics, University of Melbourne, 2018: 1-38.

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- 'Appointments', *South Australian Register* (Adelaide), 29 August 1884, 3.
- 'Government Gazette Notices'. *South Australian Register* (Adelaide), 12 December 1846, 3.
- 'The Late Captain Lipson, R.N.', *South Australian Register* (Adelaide), 26 November 1863, 6.
- 'Robe Customs Station Closed'. *Express and Telegraph*, 5 June 1907, 1.

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- Dallwitz, John, and Marsden, Susan. *Robe Historical Interpretation Study: Stage 1 in the Establishment of the Robe Historical Interpretation Centre*. Adelaide: Department of Environment and Planning, 1983.
- 'Customs Houses in South Australia', Fact sheet No. 92, National Archives of Australia.

Archival Documents

- All from Heritage Survey Item Identification Sheet, Region 6: South East, ROB:003, DEW research packet:
- Colonial Architect Outgoing Correspondence, 373/57, 27 July 1857.
- Colonial Architect Outgoing Correspondence, 415/57, 26 August 1857.
- Colonial Architect Outgoing Correspondence, 429/57, 8 September 1857.
- Colonial Architect Outgoing Correspondence, 162/1862, 3 May 1862.
- Colonial Architect Outgoing Correspondence, 212/1862, 6 June 1862.

Websites

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'The Customs Houses', District Council of Robe. <https://www.robe.sa.gov.au/explore/history/customshouse>

Hunter, James. 'Customs Houses of Port Adelaide'. SA History Hub, History Trust of South Australia. <https://sahistoryhub.history.sa.gov.au/subjects/customs-houses-of-port-adelaide>.

'Developing Trade and Port Histories: Outports – Robe'. SA Memory, State Library of South Australia, 2009. <https://www.samemory.sa.gov.au/site/page.cfm?u=685>

Whalan, Douglas J. 'Torrens, Sir Robert Richard (1814-1884)'. Australian Dictionary of Biography, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, first published as hardcopy in 1976, accessed online 10 July 2023.

[https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/torrens-sir-robert-richard-4739#:~:text=On%2012%20December%201840%20in,350%20\(later%20%C2%A3500\).](https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/torrens-sir-robert-richard-4739#:~:text=On%2012%20December%201840%20in,350%20(later%20%C2%A3500).)

SITE DETAILS

Former Customs House

PLACE NO.: 10261

1 Royal Circus, Robe

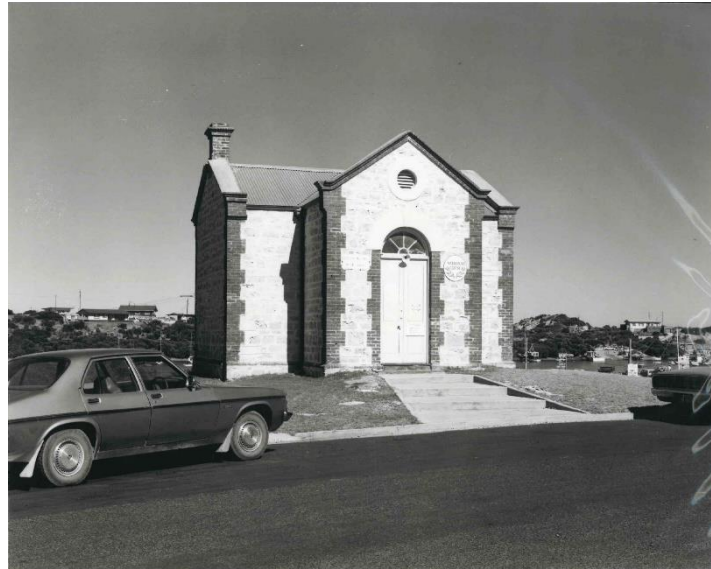
DESCRIPTION OF PLACE:	T-shaped building with parapet gabled roof and lean-to at rear, built of tuck-pointed coursed random limestone rubble and featuring red brick quoins.
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION:	1863
REGISTER STATUS:	Confirmed 24 July 1980
CURRENT USE:	Maritime Museum 1970 -
PREVIOUS USE(S):	Council Chambers 1888 - 1968 Customs and harbour master headquarters 1863 - 1888
ARCHITECT:	William Hanson 1862
BUILDER:	Pearce and Savage 1862-1863
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:	District Council of Robe
LOCATION:	Street No.: 1 Street Name: Royal Circus Town/Suburb: Robe Post Code: 5276
LAND DESCRIPTION:	Title Reference: CT 5730/902 Lot No.: A19 Plan No.: T441801 Hundred: Waterhouse

PHOTOS

Former Customs House

PLACE NO.: 10261

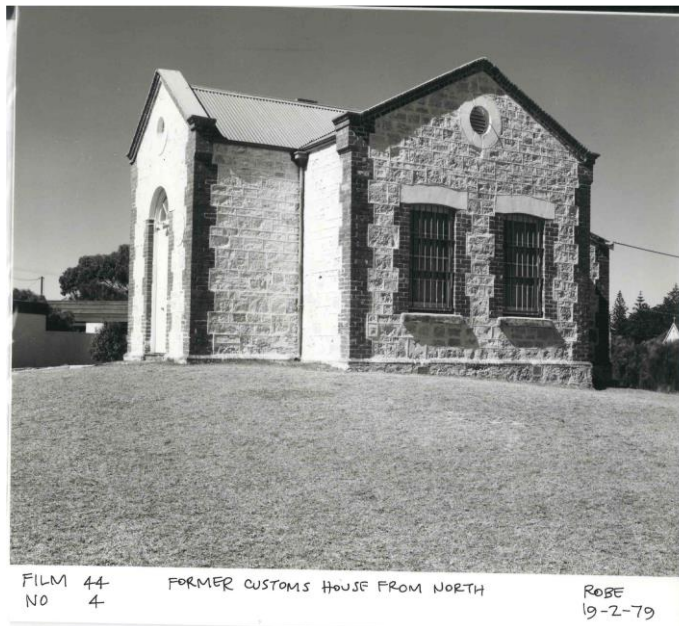
1 Royal Circus, Robe



FILM 44 FORMER CUSTOMS HOUSE, EAST WALL ROBE
NO 3 19-2-79

The front of the former Customs House, 1979.

Source: DEW Files



FILM 44 FORMER CUSTOMS HOUSE FROM NORTH ROBE
NO 4 19-2-79

The north-facing side of Former Customs House, 1979.

Source: DEW Files

BHI Summary of State Heritage Place: 10261

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Confirmed in the South Australian Heritage Register on 24 July 1980

The South Australian Heritage Council endorsed the content of this BHI - SSHP on 17 August 2023

PHOTOS

Former Customs House

PLACE NO.: 10261

1 Royal Circus, Robe



The front and south-facing sides of the former Customs House, July 2023

Source: DEW Files



The north-facing and rear sides of the former Customs House showing the lean-to and chimney, July 2023.

Source: DEW Files

PHOTOS

Former Customs House

PLACE NO.: 10261

1 Royal Circus, Robe



The large main room inside the former Customs House showing the fireplace, floorboards, and skirting boards, July 2023.

Source: DEW Files



The front door and entrance room inside the former Customs House, July 2023.

Source: DEW Files

PHOTOS

Former Customs House
1 Royal Circus, Robe

PLACE NO.: 10261



Slate slab flooring inside the former Customs House, July 2023.

Source: DEW Files



Smaller room inside the lean-to, July 2023.

Source: DEW Files

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- ¹ Liz Harfull, *Almost an Island: The Story of Robe*, reprinted edition (2013; Mile End: Wakefield press, 2015), 12-14; Susan Marsden, *A Glimpse of Golden Days* (Robe: District Council of Robe, 1985), 11-12.
- ² Harfull, *Almost an Island*, 11; Marsden, *A Glimpse of Golden Days*, 12.
- ³ Harfull, *Almost an Island*, 14-16; Marsden, *A Glimpse of Golden Days*, 14.
- ⁴ Roger André, 'Wool', SA History Hub, History Trust of South Australia, 19 March 2014. <https://sahistoryhub.history.sa.gov.au/subjects/wool>. Accessed 9 June 2023; Michael Williams, *The Making of the South Australian Landscape: A Study in the Historical Geography of Australia* (London; New York: Academic Press, 1974), 339-341.
- ⁵ Dallwitz and Marsden, *Robe Historical Interpretation*, 4-10.
- ⁶ Dallwitz and Marsden, *Robe Historical Interpretation*, 4-10.
- ⁷ Marsden, *A Glimpse of Golden Days*, 21-24.
- ⁸ Dallwitz and Marsden, *Robe Historical Interpretation*, 10-16.
- ⁹ Peter Lloyd. 'The First 100 Years of Tariffs in Australia: The Colonies', *Australian Economic History Review* 57:3 (2017): 316-317
- ¹⁰ Lloyd. 'The First 100 Years', 316-317.
- ¹¹ 'The Late Captain Lipson, R.N.', *South Australian Register* (Adelaide), 26 November 1863, 6; Douglas J. Whalan, 'Torrens, Sir Robert Richard (1814-1884)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, first published as hardcopy in 1976, accessed online 10 July 2023. [https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/torrens-sir-robert-richard-4739#:~:text=On%2012%20December%201840%20in,350%20\(later%20%C2%A3500\).](https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/torrens-sir-robert-richard-4739#:~:text=On%2012%20December%201840%20in,350%20(later%20%C2%A3500).)
- ¹² James Hunter, 'Customs Houses of Port Adelaide', SA History Hub, History Trust of South Australia. <https://sahistoryhub.history.sa.gov.au/subjects/customs-houses-of-port-adelaide>.
- ¹³ Tom Brown, *Glenelg, 1836-1972: Growth and Function of an Urban Village* (Adelaide: T. J. Strehlow, 1973), 22-23.
- ¹⁴ James Hunter, 'Customs Houses of Port Adelaide'.
- ¹⁵ Lloyd. 'The First 100 Years', 329.
- ¹⁶ Peter Lloyd, 'The First 100 Years of Tariffs in Australia: The Colonies', working paper, Faculty of Business and Economics, University of Melbourne, 2018: 10.
- ¹⁷ Kathleen Bermingham, *Gateway to the South East: A Story of Robetown and the Guichen Bay District* (Millicent: The South Eastern Times Ltd., 1961), 82 and 115.
- ¹⁸ 'Government Gazette Notices', *South Australian Register* (Adelaide), 12 December 1846, 3.
- ¹⁹ 'The Government Gazette', *Adelaide Observer*, 14 January 1854, 8.
- ²⁰ Bermingham, *Gateway to the South East*, 121; Bermingham, *The Second Eleven Tales of Robe* (Millicent: The South Eastern Times Ltd., 1971), 11; Marsden, *A Glimpse of Golden Days*, 19.
- ²¹ Harfull, *Almost an Island*, 64.
- ²² 'Developing Trade and Port Histories: Outports – Robe', SA Memory, State Library of South Australia, 2009. <https://www.samemory.sa.gov.au/site/page.cfm?u=685>
- ²³ Bermingham, *Gateway to the South East*, 121; Bermingham, *Second Eleven Tales*, 13; Marsden, *A Glimpse of Golden Days*, 19.
- ²⁴ *Cof Robe* (Millicent: The South Eastern Times Ltd., 1971), 13.
- ²⁵ Bermingham, *Gateway to the South East*, 109.
- ²⁶ Colonial Architect Outgoing Correspondence, 373/57, 27 July 1857 in Heritage Survey Item Identification Sheet, Region 6: South East, ROB:003, DEW research packet; Colonial Architect Outgoing Correspondence, 415/57, 26 August 1857 in Heritage Survey Item Identification Sheet, Region 6: South East, ROB:003.
- ²⁷ Colonial Architect Outgoing Correspondence, 415/57, 26 August 1857 in Heritage Survey Item Identification Sheet, Region 6: South East, ROB:003.
- ²⁸ Colonial Architect Outgoing Correspondence, 429/57, 8 September 1857 in Heritage Survey Item Identification Sheet, Region 6: South East, ROB:003.

²⁹ Colonial Architect Outgoing Correspondence, 162/1862, 3 May 1862 in Heritage Survey Item Identification Sheet, Region 6: South East, ROB:003.

³⁰ Colonial Architect Outgoing Correspondence, 212/1862, 6 June 1862 in Heritage Survey Item Identification Sheet, Region 6: South East, ROB:003.

³¹ Bermingham, *Gateway to the South East*, 121; Bermingham, *Second Eleven Tales*, 11; Marsden, *A Glimpse of Golden Days*, 19.

³² Historian Susan Marsden has noted that Melville was also Robe's telegraph officer, though these operations were likely conducted at the nearby post office and telegraph station. Marsden, *A Glimpse of Golden Days*, 23.

³³ 'The Customs Houses', District Council of Robe.

<https://www.robe.sa.gov.au/explore/history/customshouse>

³⁴ 'Appointments', *South Australian Register* (Adelaide), 29 August 1884, 3.

³⁵ Harfull, *Almost an Island*, 42.

³⁶ Marsden, *A Glimpse of Golden Days*, 46-48.

³⁷ Bermingham, *The Second Eleven Tales*, 11.

³⁸ Bermingham, *The Second Eleven Tales*, 12.

³⁹ 'Robe Customs Station Closed', *Express and Telegraph*, 5 June 1907, 1.

⁴⁰ 'Customs Houses in South Australia', Fact sheet No. 92, National Archives of Australia.

⁴¹ Bermingham, *The Second Eleven Tales*, 12.

⁴² Bermingham, *The Second Eleven Tales*, 12.

⁴³ 'The Customs Houses', District Council of Robe.