

Place name Powder Magazine (Port Albert)

Survey Date: 31/07/2002

Other name

Id: 790

Street off Bay Street (near East Street)

Last Update 4/10/2006

Locality Port Albert

Postcode

Official Locality

Property No HO32

Local Government Area Wellington Shire

Property Info

Precinct: Precinct - Port Albert

Easting 473750/473783

Northing 5719725/5719761

Map 8220

Workshop number

Workshop votes

Field survey number

Community priority

Designer Public Works Department

Builder

Ownership Private

Built Date 1866

Change Date

Description The visible remnants of the Port Albert Powder Magazine include the basalt footings and a few remaining piles of the original 192 feet long jetty. Now extremely disturbed and used as jetty or mooring.

SOURCES

Graeme Butler, 'Port Albert Conservation Study', 1982

Victorian Heritage Inventory - Site ID: H8220-0003

Condition Poor

Integrity Major Alterations

Neglect

Archaeological potential

Ruins/remnants

National Themes

Local Themes

4. EXPLOITING NATURAL RESOURC

4.1 Gold mining

5. TRANSPORT & COMMUNICATION

5.1 Shipping

History An act passed in 1857, required all persons possessing more than 100 lbs. of gunpowder to store it in a government magazine for safety (1). As a result magazines were constructed at the towns of Fryerstown, Beechworth (1859-60), Heathcote (1864) and Eaglehawk (1866), being proximitous to gold fields and at Port Fairy (1860) allegedly for defence purposes (2).

Port Albert also was the port serving the Omeo, Baw Baw, Jordan and Dargo goldfields and hence a contract was let to Thomas Alpin and Co. to construct a powder magazine, in 1866, for 786 pounds 14 shillings (3). Later in the year, J. Robertson and Co. won the tender for a jetty, to serve the magazine, for 295 pounds (4)

Like Castlemaine (1867) and Heathcote (1864) the powder magazine was a simple gabled roof, bluestone structure with buttressed walls, whilst the jetty was 192' 0" in length, to gain the deep water at a hammer-head landing. (5) Operations began with the 'Victoria' bringing in 2721 kg of gunpowder to be stored mostly for use on the goldfields (6).

This was one of two powder magazines erected in Gippsland, the other was erected at Sale in 1864-5 (refer to separate citation in this Study).

REFERENCES

(1) Saunders, 'Historic Buildings of Victoria', p. 253

(2) 'The Heritage of Australia', 3/112, 162, 165, 173

(3) Gov.Gazette 1866, p.357

(4) ibid 1866, p.2332

(5) P. & H., HWJ 3266

(6) John Adams, 'From These Beginnings: History of the Shire of Alberton (Victoria)', Alberton Shire Council,

Heritage Protections Register	Reference	Zoning	Status
Planning Scheme	HO32		Listed
Victorian Heritage Inventory	H8220-0003		Listed

National Estate

Research Required

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

Fieldwork priority?

Stage 1 Ranking Assessed: Port Albert Herit **Stage 2 priority** No Action: Already include

Final Ranking Local significance **Final Recommendation** Amendment C26

Statement of significance The site and ruins of the Port Albert Powder Magazine and Jetty, constructed 1866, are of local historic significance to Wellington Shire. One of only two powder magazines erected in Gippsland, it demonstrates the early importance of Port Albert as one of the key entry points to the Gippsland goldfields and the early development of government and port facilities in the township. (RNE criteria A.4, B.2 & D.2)

Extent of designation

Informant Gary Broche, owner

Notes

Follow up

Bibliography Butler, Graeme, (1982), Port Albert Conservation Study (Place no. 33), South Gippsland Publishing Company, Foster, 53
Context Pty Ltd, (2005), Wellington Shire Heritage Study: Stage 1
Graeme Butler & Associates, (July 2002), Alberton - Port Albert Heritage Review (Wellington Heritage Study)

Pier St 0014 PowderMagazine3, ID 0790.JPG

28/03/2006

Invalid File Path

Pier St 0014 PowderMagazine1, ID 0790.JPG

28/03/2006

Invalid File Path

Pier St 0014 PowderMagazine2, ID 0790.JPG

28/03/2006

Invalid File Path