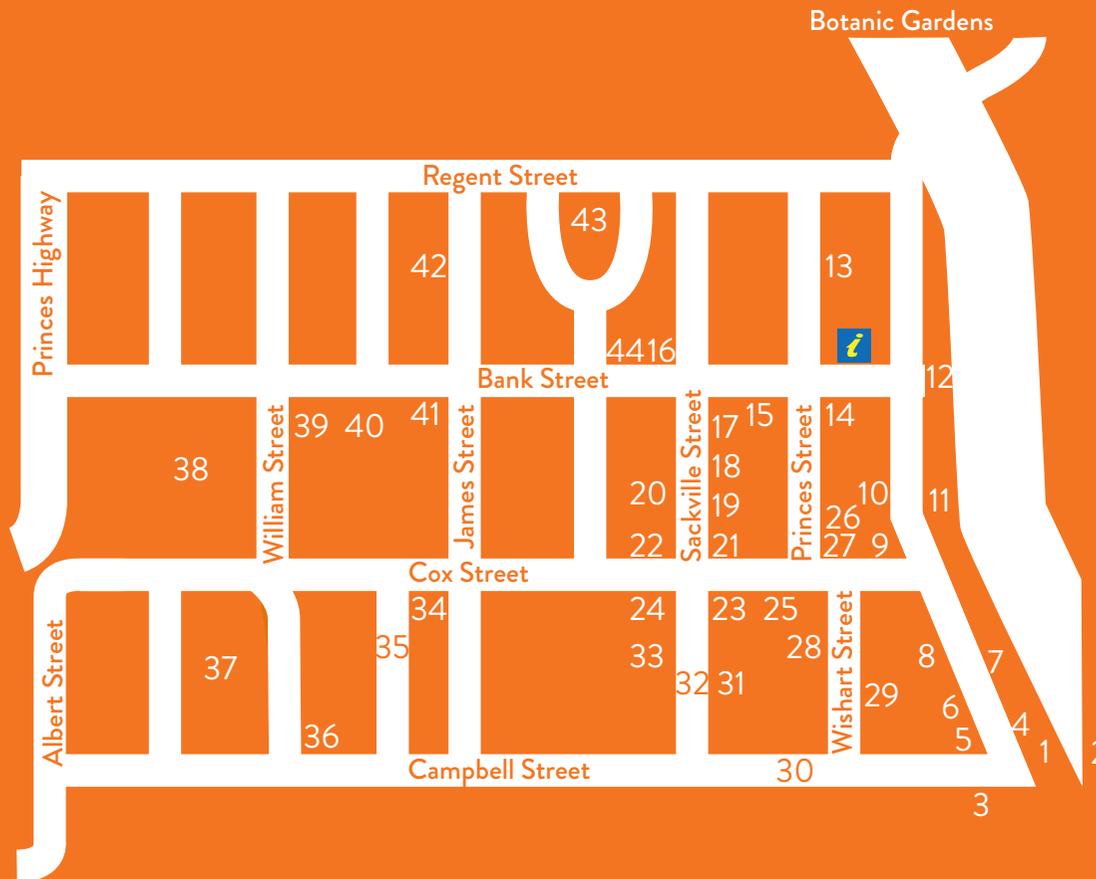# PORT FAIRY HISTORIC BUILDING WALKS

1. Customs Gauging House, 1863. For assessment of duty on tobacco & spirits.

2. Lifeboat House, 1862. For a shore-based lifeboat; the 1857 self-righting, self-draining, restored vessel.

3. Merrijig Inn, 1846. Courts sat at the Royal Merrijig Inn until 1860, also housed the officers of the Belfast District Road Board (from 1853) and the municipality of Belfast (from 1856-58).

4. King George Square, 1852. Public land established for berths for government vessels.

5. Customs House, 28 Gipps St, 1861. An office and officer's residence, when Victoria had its own customs duties.

6. Courthouse, 1859. With additions, it hosted Supreme Court sittings, later transferred to Warrnambool. Now the Port Fairy Museum.

7. Steam Packet Wharf, 37 Gipps St, 1874. The original Port of Port Fairy, extensive wharf warehouses constructed by Belfast & Koroit Steam Navigation Company.

8. Capt. Mills Cottage, 40 Gipps St, 1843. The back section is believed to be the oldest house standing in Victoria.

9. Cottage, 1839. Possibly for John Griffiths, an entrepreneur and merchant from Launceston in northern Tasmania. The first substantial house (of four rooms) on the mainland, later substantially modified.

10. Moyne House, 1844. Built and owned by Michael Connolly, named by some as "co-founder" of the town he was Griffith's partner in the whaling station from 1835.

11. SG Henty's Cottages, 1851. Originally containing six imported timber cottages, each pair share a chimney.

12. Joseph Goble's Steam Flour Mill, 1866. A steam flour mill damaged by fire in 1891, later restored as a butter factory 1914-1939.

13. Railway Goods Shed, 1890. To house merchandise to/from Melbourne. It survived the line closure in 1977.

14. Warehouse, 1852. It later served as an auction house, the Glaxo social club and now the scout hall.

15. The Royal Oak Hotel, 1856. Originally named The Commercial Travellers Association (CTA) it was the preferred accommodation for sales representatives travelling for work.

16. Star of the West Hotel, 1856. Once a staging post for Cobb & Co coaches.

17. Lecture Hall, 1882. The venue for stage performances, lectures, dances, dinners and later, films.

18. Former Mechanics Institute Library, 1865. Replacing an earlier reading room, it is now the library.

19. Cheapside Warehouse, 1864. Hutton Borthers Drapers. An example of the importance of shop frontages.

20. Artisan Shops, 1868. Originally occupied by a tailor and saddler, now a bookshop and homewares.

21. Former Post Office, 25 Sackville St, 1881. A two-storey building in Classical Revival style, in which an arcaded front section with pediment and clock forms a balcony to residential rooms of second story.

22. Former Bank of Australasia, 1857. This building is one of the finest early banks in Victoria.

23. Colonial Bank of Australasia, 1911. Began trading as the Colonial Bank of Australasia in 1911-12, later changed its name to the National Australia Bank in 1923-1924.

24. Former Stag Inn, 1847. A remarkable building for its time.

25. Jago's Garage, 1882. A blacksmiths shop, then undertakers and plumber/garage since 1900.

26. Bank of Victoria, 1870. The building was later a thread factory and now the Moyne Shire Office.

27. Emoh, 8 Cox St, 1844. Once home to William and Eliza Rutlidge.

28. Seafield, 16 Wishart St, 1852. A domestic residence, later the Shire of Belfast Office, doctor's rooms and a dwelling.

29. Wishart St, Most houses were built between 1888 and 1909, providing built heritage continuity.

30. Campbell St, The cottages from 24 to 30 were built between 1855 and 1856, 3 by immigrant masons.

31. Mott's Cottage, 1842. Built for a blacksmith, then became a rooming house, purchased by the National Trust in 1971.

32. Norfolk Island Pines, Planted from 1869, they are a signature of Port Fairy, and provide a "fence" around town.

33. Cottages, 1853 (North). Built as a bank and in 1874 (South) as the Shire of Belfast Office.

34. Apothecaries Hall, 51 Cox St, 1862. Built for undertakers, later used for doctor's rooms, restored as a residence.

35. Union St, The narrow street was confirmed in 1862 and largely built after the syndicate sale of 1885.

36. Cottage, 1856. Built by a stonemason, distinguished by the semi-circular fan light and balanced chimney.

37. Cottage, 1847. A four room timber cottage, carefully restored "as found", with a prominent front garden.

38. Presbyterian Church, 1854. In rendered basalt, viewed between the modern church and the hall.

39. Cottage & Shop, 1888. Moved from Rosebrook, used as a bakery, tinsmith's and a green grocery.

40. Dublin House, 1870. A drapery store, then a general business, bakery and butcher's.

41. Caledonian Hotel, 1844. With extensions, many of the dormers face into the unfinished attic area.

42. Wesleyan Church, 1856.(Now Uniting) Is the second Wesleyan church, with the common school (1870) behind.

43. St Johns Church, 1856. Also the second church, the tower (1967) to substitute for the intended spire.

44. Post Office/Borough Chambers, Built 1865 as a post office, occupied by the borough of Belfast/Port Fairy for 109 years.

Botanic Gardens

Regent Street

Princes Highway

43

42

13

44 16

Bank Street

Albert Street

William Street

James Street

Sackville Street

Princes Street

Wishart Street

38

39 40

41

17 15

14

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18

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Cox Street

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Campbell Street

3

A BRIEF HISTORY OF PORT FAIRY

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

In 1828 the first vessel ('Fairy') that called here, skippered by Henry Wishart voyaging between Sydney and Kangaroo Island seeking seals, named the bay 'Port Fairy'. Between 1835 and 1847 whalers and European settlers arrived to establish a colony. During this time, Irishman James Atkinson purchased about 20 square kilometres and he envisaged a town which he called Belfast. However, in 1887 a plebiscite voted to change the town's name to Port Fairy to be consistent with the name of the bay.

19TH CENTURY BUILDINGS

The national trust has classified over 50 buildings in the town and these range from small cottages to substantial homes and public buildings. With the aid of a heritage supervisor, many buildings have been restored to their former glory. The 19th Century buildings were built in a variety of styles and building materials including, bluestone and sandstone. There are many interesting decorative features particularly on the cottages, intricate barge boards and cast iron lace, stone chimneys both round and square and fanlights over doorways.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE TOWN

The township slowly emerged after James Atkinson gave land for community purposes, which encouraged business and residential investment. At this time the local population exceeded 2,000 and a number of cottages, schools, churches, banks, pubs and shops were built; including Government buildings such as the Lighthouse and the Courthouse.

William Rutledge, a colleague of James Atkinson was largely responsible for the economic growth of the town. His company 'Rutledge & Co.' was multi-faceted. Among other business, they were shipping agents, insurance brokers, wine/spirit merchants and warehouse operators. By 1862 James Atkinson had returned to Ireland, and 'Rutledge & Co.' had collapsed and was forced into insolvency, which was a serious blow to the fortunes of Belfast. Although today, we can thank this economic downturn for the preservation of many historic cottages and buildings.

Port Fairy's growth continued to fluctuate with the rise and fall of the railway, fishing, cheese and butter and various other industries. Since the late 1970's there has been increase in local manufacturers with export markets and the area is now a recognised tourist destination for home and international visitors.

MOYNE Historic Buildings walk TRAIL