

## Customs houses in South Australia

Prior to Federation in 1901 the South Australian colonial Customs Department maintained a number of offices at points of entry to the colony for the collection of customs duties.

The most important Customs House was located at Port Adelaide. Other Customs houses were at Beachport, McDonnell Bay, Port Augusta, Port Pirie, Robe, and Wallaroo. These buildings, along with customs and excise related properties at locations such as Semaphore, and Terowie, were transferred to the Commonwealth at Federation. Properties at Robe and Beachport were returned to South Australian government ownership in 1920.

### Records of Customs House buildings

The National Archives office in Adelaide holds records relating to a number of the Customs House buildings. Information about the National Archives holdings relating to other Australian customs houses is available in the following fact sheets:

- *Fact sheet 23 - Customs House, Sydney*
- *Fact sheet 93 - Customs House, Port Adelaide*
- *Fact sheet 226 - Customs House, Brisbane*

### Architectural drawings

Title or description of record	Date range	Series, item number
<u>Semaphore Boarding Station</u>	1824–1958	D1051, FOLDER 70B
<u>Wallaroo Customs House</u>	1862–1911	D1051, FOLDER 17A
<u>Port Pirie Customs House (old Court House)</u>	1882–1970	D1051, FOLDER 64
<u>Port Augusta Customs House</u>	1884–1919	D1051, FOLDER 15
<u>Port Germein Customs House</u>	1890	D1051, FOLDER 63D
<u>Port MacDonnell Post Office and Customs House</u>	1908	D1051, FOLDER 113A DRAWING 1
<u>Customs and Excise quarters – Reynella</u>	1932	D1051, FOLDER 24A DRAWING 1
<u>Customs and Excise quarters – Renmark</u>	1933	D1051, FOLDER 24A DRAWING 5
<u>Customs and Excise quarters – Tanunda</u>	1935	D1051, FOLDER 24A DRAWING 8
<u>Customs and Excise quarters – Nuriootpa</u>	1936	D1051, FOLDER 24A DRAWING 6
<u>Customs and Excise quarters – Lyndoch</u>	1936	D1051, FOLDER 24A DRAWING 4

## Correspondence records relating to Customs Houses in South Australia

Title or description of record	Date range	Series, item number
<u>Protection against fire – Port Adelaide, Port Pirie and Wallaroo</u>	1910	D596, 1910/3789
<u>Customs House Port Augusta</u>	1917–46	D596, 1944/104
<u>Port Pirie official residence of sub-collector</u>	1918–19	D596, 1919/5096
<u>Port Pirie Customs House works</u>	1919–42	D596, 1941/356
<u>Wallaroo Customs House quarters</u>	1932	D596, 1932/2789
<u>Wallaroo official residence</u>	1944–50	D596, 1948/33
<u>Port Pirie Customs House</u>	1947–51	D596, 1948/4579
<u>Proposed outpost – Robe</u>	1949–64	D596, 1958/1018
<u>Port Augusta – Returned Soldiers Club – part 2 purchase</u>	1943–51	A877, CL20759
<u>Wallaroo Customs House</u>	1946–50	A877, CL25037
<u>Office copies of specifications for works, repairs, and maintenance</u>	1941–62	AP567/1
<u>Information folders relating to National Estate buildings</u>	1976–91	D5159

## Records held by other institutions

State Records of South Australia holds many nineteenth century records relating to Customs Houses. These include correspondence records of the Colonial Secretary's Department and drawings of the Colonial Architect. The South Australiana photographic collection at the State Library of South Australia is also a valuable source.

### State Records of South Australia

GPO Box 464  
Adelaide SA 5001

Tel: (08) 8343 6800  
Fax: (08) 8204 8777

### **Research Centre:**

115 Cavan Road  
Gepps Cross SA 5094

### State Library of South Australia

Corner North Terrace and Kintore Avenue, Adelaide

GPO Box 419  
Adelaide SA 5001

Tel: (08) 8207 7250  
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## **Records of Customs control of Murray River trade**

Very few records of South Australian Customs control of pre-Federation trade on the Murray River are known to have survived. This subject has been covered in the following article:

Ewins, Ken, 'Murray Trade and Customs Control', *Australian Customs History Journal*, no. 3, 1991.