

Shed 5
Queen's Wharf



Images: *Charles Collins, 2015*

Summary of heritage significance

- Shed 5 is a very good example of a style of shed building – long narrow form, continuous ventilator along the ridge of the roof, and simple functional lines – that was once common on the wharfs and is now rare
- The building is one of a group of heritage buildings and objects that have an association with the Wellington Harbour Board and contribute to the character of the Wellington waterfront.
- Shed 5 has historic value for its association with the shipping industry and harbour board, both of which were crucial to the economic life of early Wellington. The building is one of the oldest, and best preserved, remaining examples of a building type that was fundamental to the operation of the wharves.

District Plan:	Map 17, reference 257 <i>This item is listed for information purposes only. The jurisdiction for this item under the RMA 1991 lies with the Wellington Regional Council)</i>
Legal Description:	
Heritage Area:	None 2013
HPT Listed:	None 2013 Proposed Wellington Harbour Board Historic Area
Archaeological Site:	Pre 1900 building; Pre 1900 reclaimed land; Central City NZAA R27/270
Other Names:	Shed 5 The Crab Shack Shed 5 Restaurant Shed 5 Fish Market 'A' Shed (renumbered in 1921)
Key physical dates:	1886- 87
Architect / Builder:	William Ferguson
Former uses:	Harbour shed / warehouse
Current uses:	Restaurant
Earthquake Prone Status:	SR211385 , Bdg StrengthInv, Bldg - Shed 5 - Wellington Waterfront., NOT Earthquake Prone, 5/05/2010

Extent: Cityview GIS 2013



1.0 Outline History

1.1 History

Under the 1852 NZ Constitution Act, provinces were given the responsibility of controlling harbour activities. With the abolition of the provinces in 1876, there followed a period of indecision and inefficiency. In 1878 the Harbours Act was passed, under which many of New Zealand's harbour boards were established. Wellington had its own act, the Wellington Harbour Board Act of 1879, which created a body of appointees representing provincial and commercial interests. It first met on 20 February, 1880.¹ One of the prime considerations for the new board was the provision of wharves and, in 1883, new Chief Engineer William Ferguson drew up a plan of wharf development which was largely followed for next 50 years. The Board also began a building programme. For the first ten years the Board built warehouses and stores, predominantly in timber, for the storage, organisation and distribution of the goods for which it was responsible. Within decades a range of timber buildings occupied all the wharves and jetties from Taranaki Street to Pipitea Wharf.

One of these buildings was Shed 5, which was designed by Ferguson and built on the north side of Queens Wharf, which had itself just been extended. Work on the building began in 1886 and it was finished the following year. As was the case with so many of the wharf buildings it served no special purpose beyond the storage of goods.

In 1964, the Wellington Harbour Board cleared two of the Queens Wharf sheds and then another in 1973 when it also removed the line of sheds along Jervois Quay.² This left Sheds 3 and 5 as the oldest Harbour Board buildings; Shed 5 retains much of its external original built fabric, but Shed 3 has been much altered.

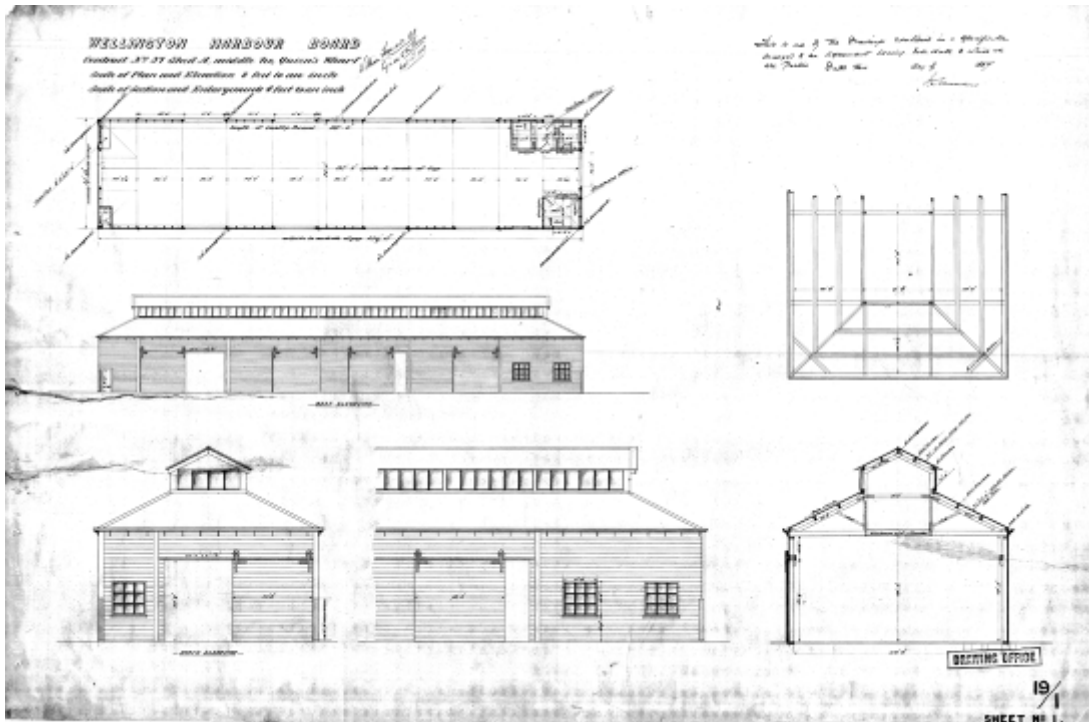
Lambton Harbour Management was established in 1989 to develop the waterfront for a mixture of commercial and public uses and one of the first projects pursued was the conversion of Sheds 3 and 5 into restaurant bars. Shed 5 also became a fish market. A great many changes were made to the building, including a glazed addition to the east. The building reopened in November 1992. Ironically the building was largely unknown to the public until it acquired its new use.

The building currently houses two restaurants that are held in the same ownership - 'Shed 5' and the 'Crab Shack' (2013). The property is let on a 25 year lease by Wellington Waterfront Ltd.³

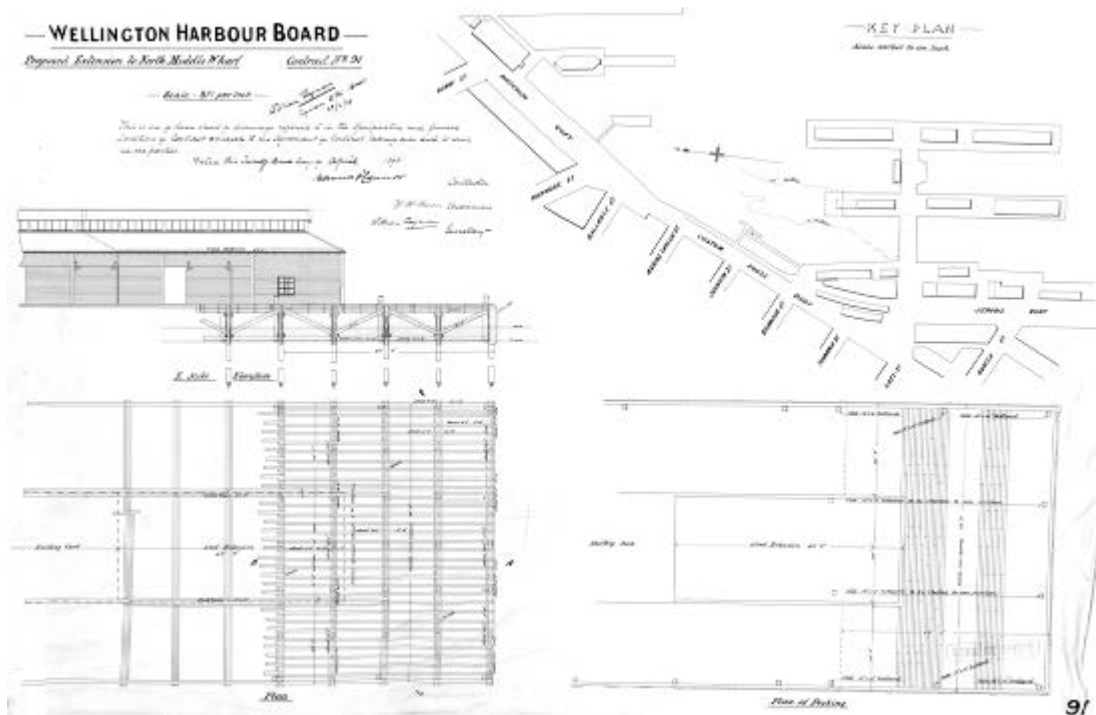
¹ Bowman, I. 1994. "Wellington Maritime Museum Conservation Plan", Wellington Maritime Museum

² Inventory of Wellington Harbour Board Buildings, Appendix D, Circular 9457, Wellington Harbour Board, 1981.

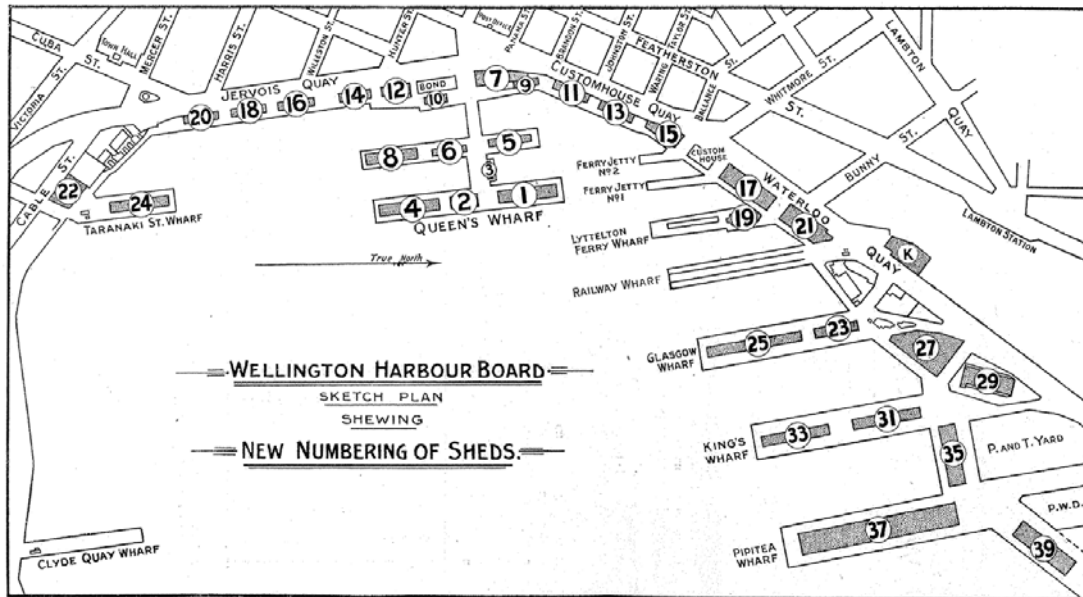
³ 'Expressions of interest invited to revitalise Shed 5', Colliers International New Zealand website posted 28 February 2012, accessed July 2013 <http://www.colliers.co.nz/News/2012/February/Expressions-of-interest-invited-to-revitalise-Shed-5-549/>



1887 Wellington Harbour Board Contract 37 to build 'Shed A' (Shed 5) on the middle tee of Queen's Wharf.



1898 Wellington Harbour Board Contract 91 (approx 20 metre) extension to 'Shed A' (Shed 5)



1921 Wellington Harbour Board plan to show the proposed 'New Numbering of Sheds.' WCC Archives ref 1921_shed_changes_plan

1.2 Timeline of modifications

- 2013 SR 278884. BLDG CONSENT 2.2 Commercial - Shed 5 - Crab Shack - Restaurant fit-out, division of existing restaurant/bar to form 2 restaurants.

1.3 Occupation history

- 1887 – Wellington Harbour Board warehouse (assumed)
 c.1989 Restaurant / fish market
 by 2006 Shed 5 restaurant & bar
 c.2013 Shed 5 restaurant & bar / the Crabshack

1.4 Architect

William Ferguson (1852- 1935)

William Ferguson graduated with an MA in Engineering from Trinity College, Dublin in 1881 and sailed to Dunedin in 1883. He was appointed engineer, secretary (and later treasurer) of the Wellington Harbour Board in 1884 and acted as wharfinger (general manager of operations) and chief engineer for the Harbour Board.

Although the overall scheme for the harbour development was designed by consulting engineer C. Napier Bell, Ferguson is credited with the decision to align all breastwork and wharves with the prevailing winds. This minimised the requirement for tug-boats to assist in the berthing of vessels. Ferguson was also known for his specialist knowledge of hydraulic machinery, including hydraulic cranes, and under

his leadership the port became known as one of the 'best equipped in the southern hemisphere.'⁴

Ferguson retired from the Harbour Board in 1908 and was retained as a consulting engineer until 1913.⁵ He later became general manager / managing director of the Wellington Gas Company, and worked as a consultant on various harbour, engineering and transport projects throughout the country.

2.0 Physical description

2.1 Architecture

This Victorian maritime shed was refurbished in 1993-93 and significant alterations were made to the building's fabric, including the addition of a large conservatory to the harbour side of the building and a complete re-modelling of the interior space. The outstanding original feature preserved on the building's exterior is the long gabled lantern that runs the length of the roof and acts as a clerestory. The queen-post roof truss system in the interior is impressive, too. The shed is clad in rusticated weatherboards, boxed at the corners, and the roofs are sheathed in corrugated iron.

This simple and functional building is one of the very few timber structures surviving on the Wellington waterfront and makes a valuable contribution to the character of the Queen's Wharf area.

2.2 Materials

Timber structure

Timber rusticated weatherboard cladding

2.3 Setting

Shed 5 is located on the Wellington waterfront and serves as a waterside bar/restaurant. The building is set within a precinct of original harbour board buildings and wharves, modern retail/commercial buildings and the TSB Arena sports/entertainment venue.

The most notable heritage buildings in the near vicinity of Shed 5 include its near neighbour, Shed 3, and the group of buildings and objects that make up the adjacent Post Office Square Heritage Area. This heritage area includes two sets of harbour board railings and gates (1899), a telephone box (c.1938) and post box (c.1879-1910), the diminutive Clarrie Gibbon's building/former tram shed and traffic island (1912), Head Office and Bond Store (Museum of Wellington - City and Sea, 1891-92), Shed 7 /former Harbour Board Offices & woolstore (1896), Shed 11 (1904-05), Shed 13 (1904-05), Huddart Parker Building, 2-6 Jervois Quay (1924), and the Tower Building, 50 – 64 Customhouse Quay (1936).

⁴ F. Nigel Stace. 'Ferguson, William - Ferguson, William', from the Dictionary of New Zealand Biography. Te Ara - the Encyclopedia of New Zealand, updated 30-Oct-2012

URL: <http://www.TeAra.govt.nz/en/biographies/3f4/ferguson-william>

⁵ OBITUARY *Evening Post*, 21 June 1935, Page 11

3.0 Sources

Bowman, I. '*Wellington Maritime Museum Conservation Plan*'. Wellington Maritime Museum. 1994.

'Expressions of interest invited to revitalise Shed 5', Colliers International New Zealand website posted 28 February 2012, accessed July 2013
<http://www.colliers.co.nz/News/2012/February/Expressions-of-interest-invited-to-revitalise-Shed-5-549/>

Inventory of Wellington Harbour Board Buildings, Appendix D, Circular 9457, Wellington Harbour Board, 1981.

Stace, F. Nigel. 'Ferguson, William - Ferguson, William', from the Dictionary of New Zealand Biography. Te Ara - the Encyclopedia of New Zealand, updated 30-Oct-2012
URL: <http://www.TeAra.govt.nz/en/biographies/3f4/ferguson-william>

OBITUARY *Evening Post*, 21 June 1935, Page 11

WCC Archives ref 1921_shed_changes_plan

WCC Heritage Building Inventory 2001 ref QUEE2

Criteria for assessing cultural heritage significance

Cultural heritage values

Aesthetic Value:

Architectural: *Does the item have architectural or artistic value for characteristics that may include its design, style, era, form, scale, materials, colour, texture, patina of age, quality of space, craftsmanship, smells, and sounds?*

Shed 5 is a very good example of a style of shed building – long narrow form, continuous ventilator along the ridge of the roof, and simple functional lines – that was once common on the wharfs and is now rare.

Townscape: *Does the item have townscape value for the part it plays in defining a space or street; providing visual interest; its role as a landmark; or the contribution it makes to the character and sense of place of Wellington?*

Group: *Is the item part of a group of buildings, structures, or sites that taken together have coherence because of their age, history, style, scale, materials, or use?*

The building is one of a group of heritage buildings and objects that have an association with the Wellington Harbour Board and contribute to the character of the Wellington waterfront.

Historic Value:

Association: *Is the item associated with an important person, group, or organisation?*

Shed 5 was designed by Wellington Harbour Board Engineer – William Ferguson

Association: *Is the item associated with an important historic event, theme, pattern, phase, or activity?*

Shed 5 has historic value for its association with the shipping industry and harbour board, both of which were crucial to the economic life of early Wellington. The building is one of the oldest, and best preserved, remaining examples of a building type that was fundamental to the operation of the wharves.

Scientific Value:

Archaeological: *Does the item have archaeological value for its ability to provide scientific information about past human activity?*

Pre 1900 building; Pre 1900 reclaimed land; Central City NZAA R27/270

Educational: *Does the item have educational value for what it can demonstrate about aspects of the past?*

Technological: *Does the item have technological value for its innovative or important construction methods or use of materials?*

There is some technical value in the original fabric, particularly the roof trusses.

Social Value:

Public esteem: *Is the item held in high public esteem?*

Symbolic, commemorative, traditional, spiritual: Does the item have symbolic, commemorative, traditional, spiritual or other cultural value for the community who has used and continues to use it?

Identity/Sense of place/Continuity:
Is the item a focus of community, regional, or national identity?
Does the item contribute to sense of place or continuity?

The building exterior has had few intrusive modern alterations over the past 100 years (with the notable exception of the conservatory addition) and contributes to the sense of place and continuity of the Wellington waterfront.

Sentiment/Connection: Is the item a focus of community sentiment and connection?

The building is in ongoing use as a bar/restaurant and is likely to be a focus of community sentiment and connection for bar and restaurant patrons and for the many people who have attended corporate and social events at this venue over the years.

Level of cultural heritage significance

Rare: Is the item rare, unique, unusual, seminal, influential, or outstanding?

Shed 5 has rarity value as the oldest remaining Wellington Harbour Board shed/warehouse.

Representative: Is the item a good example of the class it represents?

Shed 5 is a good representative example of a timber framed waterfront shed, of which many were built but few survive.

Authentic: Does the item have authenticity or integrity because it retains significant fabric from the time of its construction or from later periods when important additions or modifications were carried out?

The building exterior retains much of its original built fabric

Local/Regional/National/International

Is the item important for any of the above characteristics at a local, regional, national, or international level?

4.0 Appendix

Research checklist (desktop)

Source	Y/N	Comments
1995 Heritage Inventory		
2001 Non-Residential heritage Inventory	Y	
WCC Records – building file	Y	
WCC Records – grant files (earthquake strengthening, enhancement of heritage values)	Y	
Research notes from 2001 Non-Residential heritage Inventory	none	
Plan change?		
Heritage Area Report	None	
Heritage Area Spreadsheet	None	
Heritage items folder (electronic)	Y	
HPT website	none	
HPT files		
Conservation Plan	none	
Searched Heritage Library (CAB 2)	y	

Background research

Insert any relevant background information into this section. This may include:

- *Additional plans, such as those for alterations*
- *Chunks of text from other sources such as Cyclopedia of NZ, Papers Past*
- *Additional images*