

a similar purpose. He was annoyed by the Lands Department decision, as numerous fishermen around the bay had erected such huts for similar purposes. Consequently he decided to allow himself to be summonsed in order to make a test case of the matter. As stated, he eventually complied with the court's decision and demolished the hut. As the building itself was some three-quarters of a mile from the baths and built on the beach at the same level, it is difficult to understand why anyone would complain that it overlooked them and spoiled the view. The true reason would appear to be its proximity to private bathing boxes on the beach. His neighbours, men of substance, were not impressed with the idea of a fisherman's hut near their swimming beach. One of them, Dr. Blair, had a box 40 yards from Watson's hut, and was known to have resented this commercial intrusion.

Watson found it hard to accept any argument which allowed bathing boxes on the beach, but denied him the right to build a hut. As a fisherman he considered it essential to have shelter for his nets and boats which could be damaged in bad weather. He did not, however, wish to engage in expensive and possibly ruinous litigation in order to prove his point, so let the matter drop. His final attempt to defeat officialdom consisted of an application to the Lands Department for permission to build a bathing box, the same pattern as Dr. Blair's on the beach opposite his new house.

After Watson's departure from Point Franklin some earthworks and guns were positioned in the area. In 1889 these were removed and a new concrete fort was constructed by Morris & Beggs, contractors. Fort Franklin's role was to prevent enemy shipping using the South Channel and gaining access to Melbourne. To this end its fire was co-ordinated with a sister fort at South Island. The armament consisted of two four inch guns. In addition to the fortifications, a barracks was erected to provide accommodation for the troops. There was also a small hospital ward in which five soldiers returning from the South African war died during August 1902 and were later buried in the Sorrento General Cemetery. The grave site is marked by a handsome memorial erected by public subscription.

Over the years Portsea almost became a garrison town as both permanent and volunteer militia forces made use of Franklin