





Queenscliff Pier, Shelter Shed and Lifeboat Shed, Symonds Street, Queenscliff



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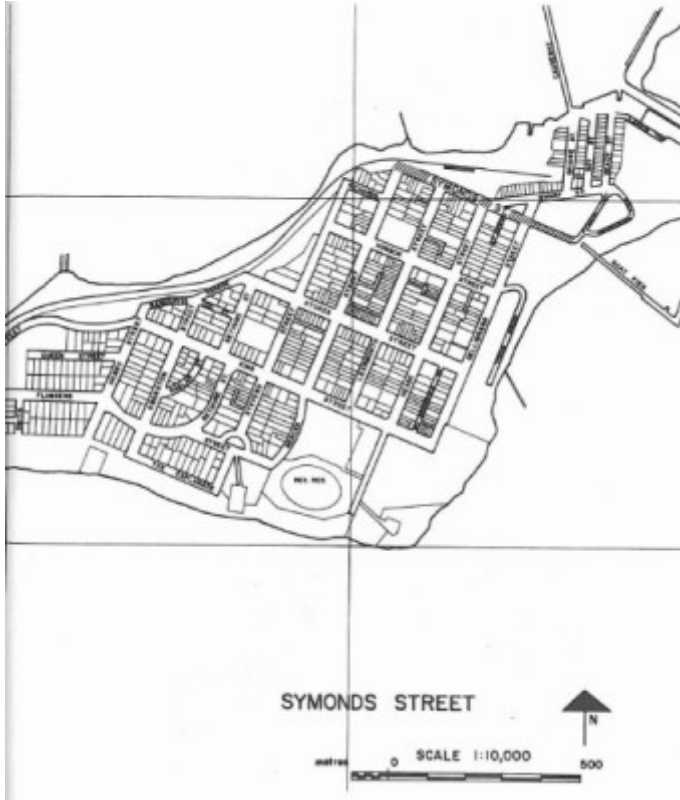
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### **Location**

Symonds Street QUEENSCLIFF, QUEENSCLIFFE BOROUGH

### **Municipality**

QUEENSCLIFFE BOROUGH

### **Level of significance**

Incl in HO area indiv sig

### **Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number**

H1515

### **Heritage Overlay Numbers**

HO57

HO3

### **Heritage Listing**

Queenscliffe Borough

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - November 1, 2009

Statement of Significance as recorded under the Queenscliff Heritage Study 2009

The following is taken from the Heritage Victoria Statement of Significance:

What is Significant?

Queenscliff Pier was built between 1884 and 1889, a shelter shed in 1886-87 and a new lifeboat shed between 1926 and 1929 to house the newly-arrived lifeboat Queenscliffe. The first jetty at Queenscliff was constructed in about 1856 and was located at the end of Wharf Street. A lifeboat was added soon afterwards and a lifeboat shed in 1860. This pier became known as the Fisherman's Pier. As the town prospered, the increasing use of steamers for pleasure and for carriage of goods created a need for a new pier extending to deeper water. A new pier known as the Steamer Pier was constructed in 1884 to the south of the first pier. John Knox of South Melbourne was the contractor for this pier. This is the pier that remains today. A series of extensions to both piers over the next few years culminated in the early twentieth century with the formation of a completely enclosed boat harbour. The Steamer Pier was extended a year after it was constructed, and again during 1886-7. On the 1886-7 extension to the Steamer Pier, Campbell and Grey constructed a shelter shed, which is the one in existence today. Following an extension to Fishermen's Pier, a new lifeboat shed was built between 1926 and 1929 by D O'Dorward to house the newly-arrived lifeboat Queenscliffe. The lifeboat shed included a slipway with roller, channel, keelway and cradle supplied by Herbert Brookes' Austral Otis Engineering Co., the firm, Ellinston and O'Neill added a petrol engine for the slipway. The lifeboat shed was relocated in 1946 to its current site on Queenscliff Pier (formerly Steamer Pier) and Fisherman's Pier was later demolished. The surviving lifeboat, which is now housed at the Queenscliff Maritime Museum, was the fourth lifeboat to be used at Queenscliff. It is a Watson Class boat built by A. McFarlane and Sons at Port Adelaide and was commissioned into service on 6 March 1926, and officially launched at Queenscliff on 9 April 1926.

How is it significant?

The Queenscliff Pier and Lifeboat Complex is of historical, architectural, aesthetic and technological significance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

The Queenscliff Pier and Lifeboat Complex is of historical significance for its associations with the lifeboat service, the sea pilot service, and the famous bay ferries and paddle steamers. Queenscliff Pier, built between 1884 and 1889 is of historical significance as a symbol of the early bay steamers and the numerous distinguished patrons brought by them from Melbourne to Queenscliff and Point Lonsdale. The pier perpetuates the memory of the Bay Steamer trade and the now demolished Fishermen's Pier. It contains the last lifeboat shed to be constructed over the water in Queenscliff.

The Queenscliff Pier and Lifeboat complex is of architectural significance as a collection of rare surviving intact timber pier structures. The lifeboat shed is of architectural significance as a rare intact example of a jetty mounted lifeboat shed. Few if any of these sheds remain in Victoria. Similarly the barrel shape of the shed roof is an uncommon aspect generally seen only in nineteenth century railway goods sheds. The shelter shed too, with its arched wrought iron truss work and panelled timber interior is a more sophisticated and direct reminder of the bay steamer days. The pier and its buildings are of aesthetic significance as a prominent landmark on the bay representing a bygone era in Queenscliff's history.

The lifeboat is of technological significance as it is the only example of its type known to exist in Australia. It demonstrates boat building and rescue technologies at the time of its construction in 1926.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Queenscliffe - Queenscliffe Urban Conservation Study, Allom Lovell & Associates P/L, Architects, 1982; Queenscliffe - Queenscliffe Heritage Study, Lovell Chen, 2009;
Construction dates	1884,
Other Names	Steamer Pier,
Hermes Number	120761
Property Number	

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## Physical Description 1

Extract from the 1982 study

The barrel shape of the housing roof is an uncommon aspect generally seen only in nineteenth century railway goods sheds. It provides an unexpected visual form together with characteristics which relate specifically to the function of the life-boat slipway winch system and is prominently placed as the focal point of the pier termination.

The shelter shed too, with its arched wrought iron truss work and panelled timber interior is a more sophisticated and direct reminder of the bay steamer days. As an archway, placed midway along the pier, it both provides a visual gateway to the lifeboat house and the foreshore.

## Physical Description 2

Extract from the 2009 study

The Queenscliff Pier consists of sections of white painted timber balustrade and a timber deck on timber piles, which extend out from the beach with two timber structures at the end; the shelter shed and the lifeboat shed.

### Shelter Shed

The shelter shed is of timber frame construction ten bays long with timber clad over an arched wrought iron trussed roof and a panelled timber interior. At the west end (nearest the shore) the shed sits asymmetrically over the pier with the large openings at either end of the shelter being aligned with the timber walkway of the pier. At the east end of the shelter shed the pier widens to include a launching platform for vessels.

### Lifeboat Shed

The lifeboat shed is situated at an angle to the pier at the east end. It is of corrugated metal sheet cladding with a barrel roof also of sheet metal; and consists of a storage/workshop area, with a slipway within the northern section. The lifeboat shed is one of the last surviving examples of such facilities to be constructed off of a jetty structure.

## Intactness

GOOD

*This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.*

*For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>*