
HILARIA BATHING SHIP SITE AND MOWLINGS SOAP AND CANDLE WORKS

Location

31-33 MARIBYRNONG STREET FOOTSCRAY, MARIBYRNONG CITY

Municipality

MARIBYRNONG CITY

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7822-0620

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Interpretation of Site

The bathing ship was one of three such facilities located in the study area, and was socially significant at its time. It was the only bathing ship known to exist in the Maribyrnong River. The candle works was an important contemporary employer, and hence of social significance to the area. It is possible that the candle industry used the former explosives store dock for its operations, which now likely lies either under, or incorporated into the current Saffcol wharf. Cultural deposits may lie on the seabed close inshore, but deposits further offshore have probably been removed during dredging operations.

Other Names MOWLINGS SOAP AND CANDLE WORKS PIER,

Hermes Number 13795

Property Number

History

Before 1895, young boys swam in two swamps on the river flat opposite Angliss Meatworks. These informal baths were called Bat and Bell swamps, and were safe swimming locations for boys too young to swim in the river. In 1895, an American sailing ship (the Hilaria) caught fire at the wharves and was later towed up on the riverbank near Mowling's Candle Works by William Philip, who converted it into a swimming baths. Mowling's Soap and Candle Works occupied the site from 1870 onwards, after the works was moved there when noxious trades were being discouraged in the Melbourne area. The works produced Gondolier brand candles and Empire Soap as well as refining oleo, margarine and glycerine. It was one of the most up to date works of its kind in its day. Cheetham Salt company later used the site, which is currently occupied by the Saffcol Factory.

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/>