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## PIRATE PIER



Harold St Drain Port  
Melbourne April 2006 001



Harold St Drain Port  
Melbourne April 2006 002



Harold St Drain Port  
Melbourne April 2006 003

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### Location

BEACH STREET PORT MELBOURNE, PORT PHILLIP CITY

### Municipality

PORT PHILLIP CITY

### Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

### Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7822-0474

### Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

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Interpretation of Site	<p>This facility formed part of the early defence networks of Melbourne, and provided training facilities for the militia and defence forces. This area has been subject to extensive development as part of the new Beacon Cove development. Extensive high and low rise housing have probably obliterated all remains of the former depot, although some may still survive under the road networks.</p> <p>Taylor (pers comms) maintains that during underwater work to lay a concrete seawall, the grab dredge raised various quantities of lead lighting, bottles and various other artefacts (from his description probably dating to the late 1880s). This could be from the torpedo depot, but the leadlight is more likely to have originated from Watson's Baths to the east.</p>
Other Names	TORPEDO DEPOT AND DRILL ROOMS, TORPEDO DEPOT PIER,
Hermes Number	13801
Property Number	

## History

The drill hall was used by the Sandridge Artillery Corps and Naval Brigade from 1876. Sandridge was an important military centre by 1881, and in 1883, the Drill Hall and harbour facilities shifted westwards. During 1885, the Russian Scare saw men were given relief work filling sandbags to build a battery west of Railway Pier. A torpedo Depot was established here before 1890 and is shown in Cox's plan of 1894 with a jetty extending into the bay, called the Pirate Pier, which had a square offset platform at the end. The depot was still here in 1906, and was to be subsequently occupied by the Commonwealth Engine Works, which built ship's engines in the 1940s. It was retained by the Department of Supply after World War II, was closed in the 1970s, and dismantled by the Sandridge City Development Company in 1991.

*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/>*