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# FISHERMEN'S BEND TIMBER WHARVES



Fishermen's Bend Timber Wharves Yarra River March 2003 001



Fishermen's Bend Timber Wharves Yarra River March 2003 002



Fishermen's Bend Timber Wharves Yarra River March 2003 003



Fishermen's Bend Timber Wharves



Fishermends\_Bend\_Timber Wharves\_H13803\_Feb\_2013\_(7).JPG



Fishermends\_Bend\_Timber Wharves\_H13803\_Feb\_2013\_(5).JPG



Fishermends\_Bend\_Timber Wharves\_H13803\_Feb\_2013\_(3).JPG

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## Location

231-261 LORIMER STREET PORT MELBOURNE, MELBOURNE CITY

## Municipality

MELBOURNE CITY

## Level of significance

## Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7822-0439

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - February 21, 2005

This place is included on the Victorian Heritage Inventory, for its potential to contain historical archaeological remains associated with the settlement and growth of early Melbourne. Under the terms of the Heritage Act 2017 there is protection for all historical archaeology sites and objects in the state.

Please visit the Heritage Victoria website to find out more about the Heritage Inventory.

Interpretation of Site	The structures are probably the remains of the former wharf structure shown in the Cox plan of 1894. The extant pier and other pier piles to the south are probably the remains of the original timber wharves structure.
Other Names	WHEELAND'S SHIPBREAKERS YARD,
Hermes Number	13803
Property Number	

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## History

The timber wharves are the only extant example of the early fire safety procedures implemented to protect the port, and demonstrate the beginning of a later trend to designate given maritime trades to specified areas, in this case to isolate flammable (timber) materials from the central city.

As part of fire safety measures in the 1890s to protect the port, a large timber depot was later established at Fishermens Bend, and a number of wharves and piers were built to service the yards. Millars Karri and Jarrah Company occupied the timber yard site west of Johnson St around this time, and the area became a base for saw and moulding mills. Six finger piers and 1100ft of wharves were built in 1889 (Heritage Victoria File S782), and are shown here in 1894, 1910, and 1920, along with an associated wharf at the northern end. It was planned for moats to be built in the area behind the wharves, which was to be divided into blocks surrounded by water filled moats to prevent any potential fires spreading. However, before this work was completed, the timber trade collapsed, and the site was used as an area where old ships were moored and abandoned, which was known as Rotten Row or Siberia (Heritage Victoria File S782). A shipbreakers yard operated by Mr Wheeland once occupied this site, and derelict vessels were brought here for dismantling (Somerville, pers comms). Old and derelict craft were a problem for the MHT around this time, and many ships often sunk at there moorings along the Yarra. Wooden vessels in particular posed a fire problem, and were often sunk deliberately to put out fires, but were often not raised again (Heritage Victoria File S782). The Yarra Unidentified Hulk #1 may be either one of

these vessels, or could be associated with the former ship breaking yard run by Wheeland. The timber wharves were subsequently used during WWII as part of the aircraft production factories situated directly behind (Somerville Pers Comms).

*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/>*