

Victorian Heritage Database Report

Report generated 29/02/20



CUNNINGHAM PIER AND RAILWAY PIER

Location

Geelong, GREATER GEELONG CITY

Municipality

GREATER GEELONG CITY

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7721-0175

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Heritage
Study/Consultant

Heritage Victoria - Maritime Infrastructure Assessment Project, Heritage Victoria,
2005;

Interpretation of Site

Although the site of the original curved pier has probably been extensively dredged at its shorewards extremities, remains of the original piles and other discard may have survived at the north western extremity, which has never been subject to major pier development. The jetty section is likely to be extant under the land reclamation that occurred up to the 1930s. Original pier piles appear to have been incorporated into subsequent alterations to the pier.

Other Names

RAILWAY JETTY, RAILWAY PIER #1, RAILWAY PIER #2,

Hermes Number

111486

Property Number

History

Work began on the pier in 1854 and was completed in 1855 by the Geelong and Melbourne Railway Company, who also constructed a branch line to the proposed railway station. The new pier was badly needed in the colony in 1854, as the other contemporary piers and wharves (Moorabool St and Steamboat Wharves, Yarra St and Customs House (Eastern) Pier) were either falling apart or inadequate for shipping needs (Brownhill, 1990: 45, 284). The pier's pronounced curve to the west proved a hindrance to other pier development in the area. By 1862, plans were adopted to build a new 1000ft long straight pier extending to 22 ft depth of water, and the contract was awarded to Hugh Dalrymple. Work began in 1863 and was completed by 1864. It was 24 ft wide for a length of 250ft from shore, where it widened to 44ft for its remaining length. The pier was originally known as Railway Jetty, then Railway Pier, and later as Cunningham Pier, and has been an integral part of Geelong's import and export trade (Brownhill, 1990:291, 292; G448). The pier was renovated in the late 1990s, with a new restaurant pavilion, Smorgy's, built at the seaward extremity.

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 data owner.

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