
YARRA STREET JETTY

Location

EASTERN BEACH GEELONG, GREATER GEELONG CITY

Municipality

GREATER GEELONG CITY

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7721-0195

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - January 1, 2004

This site is significant as one of the first major jetties in Geelong. It is of high significance at local level for its association with the wool and wheat trades, excursion steamer trade, the gold rush and immigration in general.

Heritage Study/Consultant Heritage Victoria - Maritime Infrastructure Assessment Project, Heritage Victoria, 2005;

Interpretation of Site The second built section of the Jetty structure is still extant, and is constructed of dressed square sided bluestone blocks. The original jetty probably is extant under the present car park at the northern end of Yarra St. Piles from the pier structure are evident above water at the northern end of the jetty section Multiple piles still remain offshore, as the old piles were not removed when being replaced, but new piles were driven alongside them (Elstone, pers comms).

Hermes Number 111631

Property Number

History

A small jetty was shown at this site as early as 1848 (G12). It had been extended to its current length by 1858 (G134). A short pier section had been added in 1851 (G80), and a narrow cross wharf connected to the Steampacket Jetty for the convenience of Bay Steamer passengers. By 1854, the stonework and earthen interior was crumbling into the bay (Brownhill, 1990: 45, 284). The pier was extended to its full length by the 1920s (F81), after several alterations including the addition of a number of landings and goods sheds. A side pier was added by 1880, the Fishermans Jetty or Arm (PRO RFCL 1684, Downes 1893), and this formed the basis of a fishing boat harbour.

The Yarra St Pier was extensively used for international wool exports during the period following the gold rush. Many clipper ships docked here to load wool for English markets (Henry, 1944:11).

Craig Elstone, who was contracted to remove the pier piles in the late 1980s, said that although he was told there would be an estimated 1000 piles to remove in total, he gave up when he reached 1500 piles, and that was just over halfway out on the pier's length from the shore. Anderson, Mills and Elstone (pers comms) have all described " a forest of piles" left in the area.

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/>