

CHINAMAN'S HAT - CAISSON M

Location

OFF PORTSEA PORT PHILLIP BAY, UNINCORPORATED

Municipality

UNINCORPORATED

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7821-0073

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Interpretation of Site	The centre post originally supported a small octagonal shaped building and also the photo-electric light, which was positioned on top of the pole. Two timber struts also supported the building. The concrete and timber platform has become loose since the building was removed. The site is now home to a group of seals.
Hermes Number	12390
Property Number	

History

Built in 1942, locally known as Chinaman's Hat, but also known as the electric eye, magic eye, caisson M and Station M. It was designed as a defence structure for the Port Phillip Bay. An electric light or beam was transmitted from the structure to both Point Lonsdale and Portsea and could detect incoming enemy ships by a break in the beam. When the beam was broken an alarm was activated. Structure proved unsuccessful as birds,

fog and heavy rain broke the beam frequently.

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/>