

## Warrnambool Flagstaff Hill Precinct



LADY BAY LIGHTHOUSE  
COMPLEX SOHE 2008



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h01520 1 lady bay lighthouse  
complex chartroom jun04  
pm1



h01520 lady bay lighthouse  
complex 1962



h01520 lady bay lighthouse  
complex battery jun04 pm1



h01520 lady bay lighthouse  
store flagstaff hill  
warrnambool rear view of  
lighthouse may1984



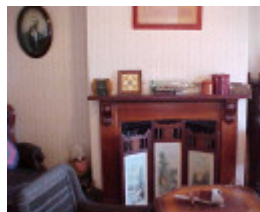
h01520 lady bay lighthouse  
complex cottage jun04 pm1



h01520 lady bay lighthouse  
complex flagstaff jun04 pm1



h01520 lady bay lighthouse  
complex kitchen jun04 pm1



h01520 lady bay lighthouse  
complex living room jun04  
pm1



h01520 1 lady bay lighthouse  
complex chartroom jun04  
pm1



h01520 lady bay lighthouse  
complex privy jun04 pm1



h01520 plan 2004

## Location

83-89 MERRI STREET WARRNAMBOOL, Warrnambool City

## Municipality

WARRNAMBOOL CITY

## Level of significance

-

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1520

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO125

## Heritage Listing

## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - July 27, 1999

What is significant?

The Lady Bay Lighthouse Complex was originally built in 1858-9 of basalt quarried on the Salt Water (Maribyrnong) River, Melbourne. The upper tower, chartroom, cottage and privy were originally located on Middle Island, and the lower light was formerly located on a timber tower on the beach. In 1871 the lights were moved to Flagstaff Hill as leading lights for the entry to the treacherous and shallow Warrnambool Harbour. The lower light was placed on a bluestone obelisk that had been erected there as a navigation marker in 1854. A flagstaff had been erected on the hill as early as 1853. The battery of two 80 pounder rifled, muzzle loading guns was added in 1887 as part of a general upgrade to the defences of Victoria which saw Port Phillip Bay transformed into a fortress and the nearby ports of Belfast (Port Fairy) and Portland receive a similar armament to Warrnambool. The fortifications and guns were in a derelict condition until they were restored after the complex was integrated into the Flagstaff Hill Maritime Museum in the 1970s.

How is it significant?

The Lady Bay Lighthouse Complex is of historical, scientific (technological) and architectural significance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

The Lady Bay Lighthouse Complex is of historical significance as a reminder of Victoria's maritime heritage and the important role played by regional ports in the process of colonial expansion. When Warrnambool was first established, in 1847, its bay was considered to provide a safe harbour. This opinion changed after shipping first began to use it and the need for navigational aids was soon realised. Lighthouses were a vital part of the maritime infrastructure of a colony that was largely dependent on shipping for its communication with the metropolis, for its migrant intake and for its trade with the other Australian colonies and the rest of the world. These lighthouses provide an excellent example of the kind of navigational aids constructed in the early years of regional expansion in Victoria.

The Lady Bay Lighthouse Complex is of historical significance for its intact battery and guns, a strong reminder of Victoria's wealth and determination to protect itself from the perceived threat of invasion in the 1880s. The remaining guns are scientifically (technologically) significant as physical reminders of a time when these weapons represented advanced design in artillery.

The Lady Bay Lighthouse Complex is of architectural significance as a fine example of Public Works Department architecture of the 1850s and 1880s. The modest but dignified and sturdy lighthouse structures are indicative of the importance of lighthouses to the communities that relied upon them to facilitate safe passage for shipping, at a time when such transport was crucial to relatively isolated towns like Warrnambool. The battery revetments and mounds and the magazine chambers are typical of this specialised form of design.

Construction dates	1859,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place, Registered object,
Other Names	LADY BAY UPPER LIGHTHOUSE, FLAGSTAFF HILL,
Hermes Number	125241

Property Number

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## Physical Description 1

Date Started 1859; Date Finished ; Storeys 0; Desc NAVIGATIONAL AID; Walls BLUESTONE;  
Date Started 1871; Date Finished ; Storeys 0; Desc INDIVIDUAL BUILDING OR GROUP; Walls BLUESTONE;  
Builder W K PATERSON;  
Date Started 1875; Date Finished ; Storeys 0; Desc INDIVIDUAL BUILDING OR GROUP; Walls BLUESTONE;  
Builder R THEWLISS;  
In the 1870's the complex was moved under the supervision of Public Works Department architect W F Pleydell.

## Usage/Formal Usage

; UNKNOWN ; 1859 lighthouse ; 1871 ; UNKNOWN ;

## Physical Conditions

State of Historic Environment survey report - good condition. See Events.

## Veterans Description for Public

The Warrnambool Flagstaff Hill Precinct, on Merri Street, includes a light house complex originally built in 1858-9 of basalt quarried on the Salt Water (Maribyrnong) River, Melbourne. The upper tower, chartroom, cottage and privy were originally located on Middle Island, and the lower light was formerly located on a timber tower on the beach. The fortifications were established in 1887 and augmented with the provision of a third cannon, manufactured in 1898 . It was subsequently removed to the suez and the other cannon dismantled in 1910.

The battery of two 80 pounder rifled, muzzle loading guns was added in 1887 as part of a general upgrade to the defences of Victoria which saw Port Phillip Bay transformed into a fortress and the nearby ports of Belfast (Port Fairy) and Portland receive a similar armament to Warrnambool. The Jervois-Scratchley reports led to major works in the 1880s, when the system of coastal fortifications was augmented. The fortifications and guns were in a derelict condition until they were restored after the complex was integrated into the Flagstaff Hill Maritime Museum in the 1970s.

The Lady Bay Lighthouse Complex with its intact battery and guns is a strong reminder of Victoria's wealth and determination to protect itself from the perceived threat of invasion in the 1880s. The remaining guns are scientifically (technologically) significant as physical reminders of a time when these weapons represented advanced design in artillery.

## Extent of Registration

1. All of the land shown L1 on Diagram Number 1520 held by the Executive Director.
2. All of the following buildings marked as follows on Diagram Number 1520 held by the Executive Director:
  - B1 Upper Lighthouse
  - B2 Lower Lighthouse
  - B3 Lightkeeper's cottage
  - B4 Chartroom
  - B5 Signal building
  - B6 Privy
  - B7 Battery mounds and magazines
3. All of the following objects and features marked as follows on Diagram Number 1520 held by the Executive Director:

F1 & F2 80 pounder rifled muzzle loading guns  
F3 Flagstaff

*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/>*