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# SHEPHERD SWINGBRIDGE ABUTMENT FOUNDATIONS



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EXCAVATION



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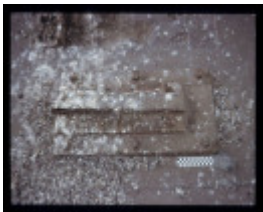
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## Location

NAPIER STREET FOOTSCRAY AND FOOTSCRAY ROAD WEST MELBOURNE, MARIBYRNONG CITY,  
MELBOURNE CITY

## Municipality

MARIBYRNONG CITY

## Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

## Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7822-0434

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

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### Interpretation of Site

The abutments probably date to the original bridge construction from 1895. Underneath the current Shepherd bridge on both sides of the river are the remains of the bluestone bridge abutments of the swing bridge. Somerville (pers comm) has indicated that the wooden traffic divider was removed some time ago to allow vessel navigation along the river. It is unlikely that remains of this structure exist as they would lie in the path of the current shipping channel and would have been removed as a navigation hazard.

This feature would be highly significant if it had been designed by John Monash, and was the only swing bridge in the study area. Further work required to assess full significance of the site.

Other Names SHEPHERD SWING BRIDGE ABUTMENT FOUNDATIONS,

Hermes  
Number 13583

Property  
Number

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## History

In 1895, the Melbourne Harbour Trust constructed a swing bridge over the West Melbourne Swamp, connecting Napier Street and Footscray Road. The wrought iron lattice truss bridge, designed by John Monash, allowed allowed boats further access to the river by pivoting from a central pier. The bridge was replaced in 1958 and named after Ernie Shepherd (Leader of the Labour Opposition), who died suddenly that year.

The abutments from the eastern side of the swing bridge were removed under Consent C316. It was discovered at that time that the western abutments were no longer there, with only the bolt holes remaining in the 1959 bridge stonework. It is believed the wing walls remain within the existing bridge foundations

*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/>*