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# EXPLOSIVE FACTORY BARGE LOADING GANGWAY

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## Location

2 CORDITE AVENUE MARIBYRNONG, MARIBYRNONG CITY

## Municipality

MARIBYRNONG CITY

## Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

## Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7822-0624

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

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Sometime around the 1940's barges were used to transport ammunition, explosives and other sundry items between Jacks Magazine, the Commonwealth Explosives Factory and the Footscray Explosives Factory (formerly the Colonial Ammunition Company). The barges were tied along the river bank outside the Commonwealth explosives factory, and timber topped iron framed gangways hinged onto a rectangular iron frame were lowered on to the barges to enable loading/ unloading (Somerville, pers comms).

Interpretation  
of Site

Somerville has shown the author two sets of collapsed gangway frames that are still evident on the river bank amongst the reeds. The iron gangway frames are about 4m high and approximately 30cm wide, with rectangular iron gangways. One is located downstream from the Maribyrnong Sand Mining Company, and the other just upstream. The upstream frame also has evidence of a set of brick and cement stairs leading down to the waterline.

These are unique examples in this area of former hinged loading facilities associated with defence facilities.

Hermes  
Number

13735

Property  
Number

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## History

Sometime around the 1940's barges were used to transport ammunition, explosives and other sundry items between Jacks Magazine, the Commonwealth Explosives factory and the Footscray Explosives Factory (formerly the Colonial Ammunition Company). The barges were tied along the river bank outside the Commonwealth explosives factory, and timber topped iron framed gangways hinged onto a rectangular iron frame were lowered on to the barges to enable loading/unloading (Somerville, pers comms). Smoke barges were employed during armed conflicts to create a visual cover used to camouflage troop movements, and this area was also used to test smoke barges which had been primed at the explosives factory. Somerville (pers comms) maintains that the area was often "so thick with smoke from these tests during the wartime years that even the birds couldn't see where they were going".

*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/>*