
AUSTRALIAN WHARF

Location

NORTH WHARF ROAD DOCKLANDS, MELBOURNE CITY

Municipality

MELBOURNE CITY

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7822-0606

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

This place is included on the Victorian Heritage Inventory for it's potential to contain archaeological features and deposits relating to the Australian Wharf. Any work that will effect the subsurface of this site will require a consent from Heritage Victoria. Please contact Heritage Victoria for further information on this listing.

During the early 1800s, increased water traffic & industry along the Yarra River led to the need for additional wharfs. In 1855, the Australian (North) wharf was constructed along the river bank to accommodate the increased traffic from the gold rushes. The area was used as a wharf up until the construction of the Charles Grimes Bridge in 1975. The area has been unused since the mid 1970s.

Located on the north side of the Yarra between Spencers Street (to the adjacent west of the Spencer St Ferry Dock) and the Charles grimes Bridge area, this wharf is labeled as Australian Wharf in 1855 (Jones). The Melbourne Gas and Coke Company built a small dock for coal delivery in 1855, but it was filled in again in 1870 when a wharf was built for this purpose. A tramway also linked the wharf to the gas company, and special bucket cranes were installed to transfer coal from cargo steamers. The Australian Wharf was removed and replaced onto adjoining Railway land in 1882 when the river was widened, and had been extended by 1910 to the mouth of Victoria Dock. The wharf is shown in 1926 as being used for goods from the Metropolitan Gas Company, along with other Victorian and interstate vessels. The wharf was an important loading facility, especially for the gasworks.

Interpretation of Site	Bluestone paving area - Possibly a slipway for small boats and/or unloading of cargo for nearby industry. Pavement laid prior to construction of the Australian (North) Wharf in 1855. Following construction of the wharf, the site was forgotten and covered in flood deposits and construction/demolition rubble.
Archaeological Significance	Site has limited archaeological significance, as the bluestone pavement overlays sterile deposits and is now covered by unstratified rubble & flood deposits.
Historical Significance	Site has limited historical significance, apart from an addition to our understanding of early river bank modification in Melbourne.
Other Names	MELBOURNE GAS AND COKE COMPANY DOCK, BLUESTONE SLIPWAY,
Hermes Number	13853
Property Number	

History

During the early 1800s, increased water traffic & industry along the Yarra River led to the need for additional wharfs. In 1855, the Australian (North) wharf was constructed along the river bank to accommodate the increased traffic from the gold rushes. The area was used as a wharf up until the construction of the Charles Grimes Bridge in 1975. The area has been unused since the mid 1970s.

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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/>