
UNDERGROUND TOILETS

Location

NAPIER STREET FOOTSCRAY, MARIBYRNONG CITY

Municipality

MARIBYRNONG CITY

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7822-2297

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Archaeological Significance	The sub-surface structure of the underground toilet block is intact and in good condition. There is high archaeological significance.
Interpretation of Site	The 1930's site is a public toilet for both males and females.
Historical Significance	The underground toilets hold both local and state cultural heritage significance. It offers insight into contemporary attitudes of public decency, as well as exemplifying contemporary architecture and technological advancement with the development of underground water and sewerage in Melbourne.
Hermes Number	161822
Property Number	

History

The underground public toilets in Napier Street, Footscray were constructed in 1936. Eleven other toilets were built in the Melbourne area during this period due to the general societal view that above ground public toilets were indecent. The underground public 'conveniences' offered more discreet access and usage of bathroom facilities.

The toilets were possibly decommissioned in the 1970's as the site had been begun to be used by people to take illegal drugs, and attracted unwanted criminal activity to the area. The site was filled in and covered over. Very few written records have been found relating to the site. Full details are available in the report by Mitchell, J & A. Timms dated November 2010.

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/>