

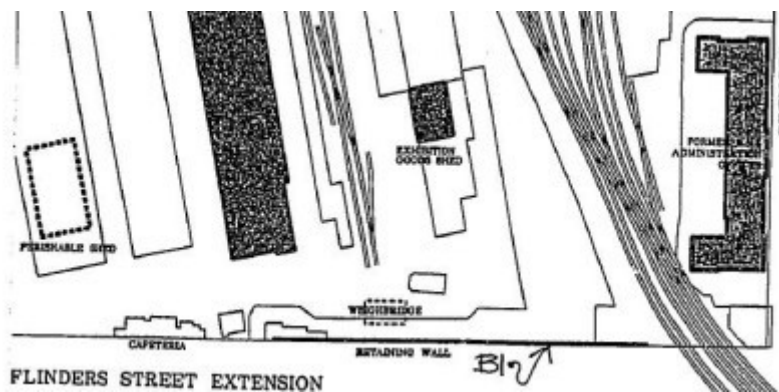
## RETAINING WALL



RETAINING WALL SOHE  
2008



1 flinders street extension  
retaining wall street view  
mar1999



h00932 plan h0932

### Location

614-666 FLINDERS STREET DOCKLANDS, MELBOURNE CITY

### Municipality

MELBOURNE CITY

### Level of significance

Registered

### Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H0932

### Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO651

## VHR Registration

September 2, 1992

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - May 23, 2000

What is significant?

The Retaining Wall was constructed at Flinders Street Extension by the Victorian Railways in 1890. The establishment of the Melbourne Harbour Trust in 1876 and the implementation of Sir John Coode's scheme for the development of the Port of Melbourne had emphasised the need for a main road to the river wharves. Flinders Street Extension was constructed as the main access road to the docks, and the new wall was to retain what was left of Batman's Hill. Batman's Hill was one of the sites most closely associated with the foundation of Melbourne. The wall is approximately 220m long, rises in shallow steps to a maximum height of 5.5m, and is built in red, yellow and brown polychromatic brickwork with bluestone copings. The wall, which predates the opening of the Victoria Dock by almost two years, was also part of the reconstruction and growth of the Melbourne (Railways) Yard, and is related to a significant group of railway structures including the former "A" Goods Shed (1890), the Railways Administration Building (1893) and the Spencer Street Viaduct (1897). Before the Second World War the wall was known as the 'wailing wall' and was the place where unemployed waterside workers would congregate and try to pick up work. A portion of the wall was dismantled and reconstructed for the widening in the 1970s of the viaduct between Spencer Street and Flinders Street Stations, and a door was cut in 1986 to provide access to a carpark.

How is it significant?

The Retaining Wall is of historical significance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

The Retaining Wall is historically significant for its ability to graphically illustrate the location of Batman's Hill, a place associated with Melbourne's foundation. Batman's own house was located in the vicinity of the crest of the wall. The retaining wall, with its patterned brickwork and general detail reflects the importance of Flinders Street extension as a gateway to Victoria Dock and is an expression of the interface between the city, the rail yards and the docks. The decorative brickwork is unusual for a retaining wall, and indicates the civic nature of a road which was effectively an extension of the regularity of the city grid. The Retaining Wall is of historical significance as a gathering place for waterside workers during the boom years of the port, between 1900 and the start of the Second World War.

## Permit Exemptions

### General Exemptions:

General exemptions apply to all places and objects included in the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR). General exemptions have been designed to allow everyday activities, maintenance and changes to your property, which don't harm its cultural heritage significance, to proceed without the need to obtain approvals under the Heritage Act 2017.

Places of worship: In some circumstances, you can alter a place of worship to accommodate religious practices without a permit, but you must **notify** the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria before you start the works or activities at least 20 business days before the works or activities are to commence.

Subdivision/consolidation: Permit exemptions exist for some subdivisions and consolidations. If the subdivision or consolidation is in accordance with a planning permit granted under Part 4 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the application for the planning permit was referred to the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria as a determining referral authority, a permit is not required.

Specific exemptions may also apply to your registered place or object. If applicable, these are listed below. Specific exemptions are tailored to the conservation and management needs of an individual registered place or object and set out works and activities that are exempt from the requirements of a permit. Specific exemptions prevail if they conflict with general exemptions.

Find out more about heritage permit exemptions [here](#).

### **Specific Exemptions:**

General conditions 1. All exempted alterations are to be planned and carried out in a manner which prevents damage to the fabric of the registered place or object. 2. Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of works that original or previously hidden or inaccessible details of the place or object are revealed which relate to the significance of the place or object, then the exemption covering such works shall cease and Heritage Victoria shall be notified as soon as possible. 3. If there is a conservation policy and plan approved by the Executive Director, all works shall be in accordance with it. 4. Nothing in this declaration prevents the Heritage Council from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions. 5. Nothing in this declaration exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the relevant responsible authority, where applicable. Minor works: Any Minor Works that in the opinion of the Executive Director will not adversely affect the heritage significance of the place may be exempt from the permit requirements of the Heritage Act. A person proposing to undertake minor works may submit a proposal to the Executive Director. If the Executive Director is satisfied that the proposed works will not adversely affect the heritage values of the site, the applicant may be exempted from the requirement to obtain a heritage permit. If an applicant is uncertain whether a heritage permit is required, it is recommended that the permits co-ordinator be contacted. Specific permit exemptions • Minor repairs and maintenance which replace like with like (including bricks and type of mortar) to maintain the presentation and existing materials/finishes to the wall. • Removal of graffiti by way of a chemical (non-abrasive) method. The Executive Director of Heritage Victoria is to be advised of the proposed removal method at least 24 hours prior to the graffiti removal. • Maintenance and repair of approved signage and interpretation panels and plaques, maintaining their existing presentation and content to match existing. • Replacement, repair or painting of metal cladding to wall openings and services cupboard. • Emergency stabilisation and repair to the wall in the instance of vehicle collision to match existing finishes and presentation of the wall, and provided the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria is advised within 24 hours of the collision. • Maintenance, repair, removal, installation or replacement of services within services

Construction dates 1890,

Heritage Act Categories Registered place,

Hermes Number 3722

Property Number

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## **History**

Contextual History:  
(Allom Lovell, Retaining Wall Submission, February 1999)

Batman's Hill, which was located west of the intersection of Collins and Spencer Streets, marked the western limit of Hoddle's original town site. The hill was about 20 metres high, conical in shape and was a well-known reference point. According to Garryowen (Chronicles of Early Melbourne) the hill was originally known as Shw-Oak Hill and was used as a natural grandstand for early race meetings.

The hill was home to John Batman, once he convinced his rival John Pascoe Fawkner to move to the other side of the river. Batman built himself a substantial cottage on the hill with materials he had brought with him from Tasmania. The cottage was on the south side of the hill and appears on Hoddle's 1839 survey. Once Port Phillip was officially recognised by the Crown in 1836 Batman tried to obtain a land grant and recompense for the improvements he made to the land. The government finally took control of the land in 1841, but paid little in compensation. The cottage was levelled in 1863 along with the hill to make way for the expansion of the station yard. Thousands had flocked to the hill to witness the opening of the first railway line, from Melbourne to Williamstown, in January 1859. With the development of the docks the Melbourne Harbour Trust was established in 1876, and in 1878 Sir John Coope produced a report for possible future development. One of his main recommendations was for a new main road to connect the docks to the city, a need that was emphasised by the economic boom of the 1880s and the increase in the volume of goods. The recommendation to extend Collins Street was considered impractical to the Railways Department but they were in approval of the Flinders Street Extension. An Act of Parliament was passed in 1889 allowing the new road to be larger than normal, an increase from 99 feet to 132 feet.

Associated People:

## **Extent of Registration**

### **AMENDMENT OF REGISTER OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS**

Historic Building No. 932-

Retaining Wall, Flinders Street Extension.

(To the extent of the retaining wall, Flinders Street Extension, marked B-1 on Plan 605132R(A) and located on part of that land contained in Certificate of Title Volume 9808 Folio 879 endorsed by the Chairperson, Historic Buildings Council and held by the Director, Historic Buildings Council.)

[*Victoria Government Gazette* No. G34 2 September 1992 p.2590]

*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/>*