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# Chinaman's Hat

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## Location

Port Phillip Bay, UNINCORPORATED

## Municipality

UNINCORPORATED

## Level of significance

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## Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7821-0073

## Heritage Listing

Vic. War Heritage Inventory

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - July 10, 2003

CHINAMAN'S HAT - CAISSON M

Spatial Information: 38.2917, 144.7250

Construction dates 1942,

Other Names Electric eye, magic eye, caisson M and Station M.,

Hermes Number 126065

Property Number

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## Physical Description 1

Circular concrete caisson base approx 7m diameter with a timber and concrete platform. One timber post remains standing with loose pieces of timber joining it near the top. It is octagonal in shape and lop sided.

Relatively stable with foundations in sandy shoal of 6m of water.

## **Historical Australian Themes**

Providing administrative structures and authorities - defence

## **Usage/Former Usage**

Historic interest

## **Veterans Description for Public**

A defence structure locally known as Chinaman's Hat, or the electric eye, magic eye, caisson M and Station M resembles a light transmitter built for Port Phillip Bay in 1942. The structure would beam light to both Point Lonsdale and Portsea and could detect incoming enemy ships by a break in the beam. When the beam was broken an alarm was activated. Ultimately the structure proved unsuccessful as birds, fog and heavy rain broke the beam frequently.

The structure features a circular concrete caisson base approximately 7 metres in diameter with a timber and concrete platform. One timber post remains standing with loose pieces of timber joining it near the top. It is octagonal in shape and lop sided. It has relatively stable with foundations in sandy shoal of 6m of water. A new facility was completed during 2002 and most of the old structure has now been removed.

*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/>*