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# THE LAGOON TRAINING WALLS, WHARVES, AND DRAIN



Lagoon Training Walls  
Wharves And Drain April  
2003 Lagoon Pier East Stone  
001



Lagoon Training Walls  
Wharves And Drain Port  
Melbourne April 2003 Lagoon  
Pier Pile 002



Lagoon Training Walls  
Wharves And Drain Port  
Melbourne April 2003 Groyne  
And Drain 003



Lagoon Training Walls  
Wharves And Drain Port  
Melbourne April 2003  
Construction Site 004



Lagoon Training Walls  
Wharves And Drain Port  
Melbourne April 2003 Sugar  
works 005

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## Location

1 BEACH STREET AND ESPLANADE EAST AND ESPLANADE WEST PORT MELBOURNE, PORT PHILLIP CITY

## Municipality

PORT PHILLIP CITY

## Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

## Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7822-0466

## Heritage Listing

### Victorian Heritage Inventory

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|------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Interpretation of Site | Archaeological deposits may remain buried in the silt under this complex, as water table restrictions have limited the construction depth of the basements to one level only. Components of the former wharves may lie under the current street near the former flour mill. The former depth of the harbour was around 12 ft deep.<br><br>The wharf was one of the only harbour for small vessels in this area. It was predated by a small boatbuilding industry and is an important component of the recreational and industrial landscapes of Melbourne. |
| Other Names            | LAGOON TRAINING WALLS, LAGOON WHARVES,                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Hermes Number          | 13833                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Property Number        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |

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## History

This area began as a swamp lagoon and was once the mouth of the Yarra River. Situated between Rouse and Graham Streets, the lagoon once covered an area of 27 hectares and was used as an outlet for most of Sandridge's sewerage until local residents petitioned for it to be converted into a dock to alleviate the health risks it presented. First use of the maritime use of this area was undertaken by Herneker, who built flat bottomed boats in the lagoon from 1862. In 1868, the lagoon was surveyed with the aim of opening it for light draughted shipping access. A 1320ft canal was proposed, and the area was gazetted from Spring, Raglan, Esplanade East and Esplanade West as a reserve by the Emerald Hill Council in 1869. Arguments over sewerage drainage proposals and a lack of Public Works funding led to delays in its construction, and other proposals including diverting water from the river Yarra into the lagoon to flush it out were put forward. By 1872, the mouth of the lagoon was regularly open to the sea, as vessels were using the area to mine sand for ballast. Grass was planted at the entrance of the lagoon, and tidal dock gates were even suggested as a means of preventing sand accretion that occurred across the lagoon entrance. In 1875, a rubble wall was built across Bridge Street to stop water flooding the northern end of the lagoon, but this was removed again in when the embankments for the dock wharves were begun in 1878. Work was delayed until 1881, when a large storm wrecked many small boats and calls were renewed for a harbour. In 1890, the Australian Sugar Company bought the land on the western side of the lagoon, and finally ended almost two decades of political turmoil that had had delayed the lagoon's construction. The wharves were built by 1890 (Messum) and the dock had to be dredged four times in twenty years to keep it navigable. The lagoon was filled by 1929, when the pollution problem became too intolerable.

*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/>*