
WILLIAMSTOWN OBSERVATORY (1863)

Location

KANOWNA STREET AND RAILWAY TERRACE WILLIAMSTOWN, HOBSONS BAY CITY

Municipality

HOBSONS BAY CITY

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7822-0612

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Interpretation of Site

The site is now used as a car park, and it is possible that some archaeological remains have survived the works carried out during the railways construction.

The high railway embankments that previously existed in this area necessitated the in-filling of large areas to level ground in this area after it was abandoned by the railways. An inspection of the current Timeball Tower entrance reveals that it is now one metre below ground level.

This site has housed some of the earliest maritime infrastructure in Port Phillip Bay, including the earliest lighthouse the first flagstaff; first observatory; first telegraph station; light-keepers quarters; Lighthouse Battery; convict quarry tramway and railway workshops. The archaeological potential of the site is high given the level of landfill activities and the significance of the sites area extremely high. No industrial excavation work should take place in this area without a preliminary archaeological survey and subsequent watching brief.

Hermes Number

13932

Property
Number

History

The Observatory was relocated to Kanowna Street from the Timeball Reserve & built on the same block as the Telegraph station sometime prior to 1857 when the Pier Railway Station was built on same site (Allom Lovell, 1987: Fig 11).

This site is shown in 1858 as being located between Railway and Ann St Pier (inland), the exact coordinates given are 37° 42' 42", 144° 55' 15". The Observatory was relocated to Kanowna Street by on the same block as the Telegraph station sometime prior to 1857 when the Pier Railway Station was built on same site.

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/>