

MOYNE RIVER FORD RUINS

Location

2 REGENT STREET AND 111 GRIFFITHS STREET PORT FAIRY, MOYNE SHIRE

Municipality

MOYNE SHIRE

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7321-0084

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO13

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Interpretation of Site

The current bridge is on a slightly different alignment to where the ford was located in historical maps. The eastern bank appears to be unmodified by cultural processes though it appears some bluestone boulders have been placed in an effort to stabilise the bank, while the western side has been built up to form the approach for the current bridge. There are Norfolk pines where the western landing may have been. It is reported that at very low tides, sections of the cut/flattened rock can be observed. It has been interpreted that the rock was cut to facilitate the movement of carts up the bank of the ford.

Archaeological Significance

The possible archaeological significance of the site lies in what modifications were made to the river banks to allow for the passage of carts, animals and people as well as the whether the approaches to the ford were formalised in the form of paved surfaces. This could also inform whether the crossing was an important one for the town and also whether it was crossed on all tides.

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| Historical Significance | The site was the earliest recorded crossing over the Moyne River. It linked the young town with farming settlements to the east. |
| Hermes Number | 147048 |
| Property Number | |

History

Prior to the construction of a timber bridge over the Moyne River at the northern extent of Gipps Street in the early 1850s, the only available crossing point appears to have been a ford located at a bend in the river north of the township that could be used to wade or ride accross. This ford is marked on plans dating to 1850.

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/>