
Point Gellibrand Lighthouse (Former) - The Timeball Tower'



Point Gellibrand Lighthouse
(former), Bay Heritage Study
2006

Location

6-18 Battery Road WILLIAMSTOWN, Hobsons Bay City

Municipality

HOBSONS BAY CITY

Level of significance

Incl in HO area contributory

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1649

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO44

Heritage Listing

Hobsons Bay City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

What is Significant?

The former Point Gellibrand Lighthouse also known as the Timeball Tower, designed by Henry Ginn and constructed in 1849 by James Linacre at 6-18 Battery Road, Williamstown.

How is it Significant?

The former Point Gellibrand Lighthouse or Timeball Tower is of local historic and aesthetic significance to the City of Hobsons Bay. It is also of historical, scientific and technical importance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it Significant?

Historically, it is significant as the earliest lighthouse at Port Phillip Bay; the second constructed under the New South Wales Colonial Government in the Port Phillip area and it also occupies the approximate site of Victoria's first 'lighthouse'. The earliest surviving public building in Williamstown, if not Melbourne, it is a local landmark, which is evocative of Williamstown's special role as Melbourne's first port. (AHC criteria A4 and G1)

Aesthetically, it is significant as an unusual early lighthouse design, which is notable for its unique square plan and castellations (not used elsewhere) and as one of the few constructed of basalt. (AHC criteria B2, E1 and F1)

Note: The former Port Gellibrand Lighthouse is also of State significance and is included on the Victorian Heritage Register as VHR H1649

Heritage Study/Consultant	Hobsons Bay - Hobsons Bay Heritage Study, Hobsons Bay City Council, 2006;
Architect/Designer	Ginn, Henry,
Hermes Number	14973
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

The former Point Gellibrand Lighthouse is a tapered, square-plan quarry faced basalt masonry tower with dividing string moulds and four rectangular windows on each face, aligned vertically. It is distinguished from other similar buildings by its square plan and primitive ladder access.

Between 1987 and 1989 the building was returned to a form expressing the time ball function of c1855 by removing the added brick tower, restoring the crenellations of the stone tower and recreating the time ball.

Integrity

External Integrity and condition

Integrity - Moderate. Condition - Good.

Physical Description 2

ContextThe lighthouse is the only surviving part of an historic complex which once included the observatory, pilots quarters, the telegraph office, railway terminus and pier and the flagstaff. The nearby Alfred Graving Dock lends a period and functional context.

Historical Australian Themes

Establishing lines and networks of communication, Developing electronic means of communication

Physical Description 3

Associations

Victorian Colonial Government, Henry Ginn

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/>