

WHITEHALL STREET BOTTLE DUMP

Location

105A WHITEHALL STREET FOOTSCRAY, MARIBYRNONG CITY

Municipality

MARIBYRNONG CITY

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7822-2348

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

The Whitehall Street Bottle Dump located in Footscray contains the archaeological remains of a rubbish dump which is likely to relate to any one of a number of industries (wharves, noxious trades and hotels) that operated in the area in the late nineteenth to early twentieth century. Though only a small sample of artefacts were able to be recovered from the site during the current investigation, the number of ink wells may indicate a higher likelihood of connections to industry over being a domestic dump location. Archaeological features include the remains of a bottle dump feature.

Due to the manner in which the site was located, little information is available as to its development. Stratigraphy identifiable through the open cut of the bottle dump shows historical material to be mixed throughout four stratigraphic layers between 0.5 and 1.5 metres in depth. This may be the result of multiple layers of burial, or the result of disturbance activities which have occurred in the area impacting on the dump site location. The site represents a bottle dump which is likely to have belonged to one of the near by industrial or residential buildings in the area. Due to the limited material culture that could be recovered from the site, it is not possible to assume that the bottle dump is residential or industrial at this point in time.

Hermes Number 200159

Property Number

History

Land sales took place shortly after the Footscray township was surveyed in the late 1840s. Soon after Footscray became a busy shipping centre with ships laden with produce unloading at the wharves then anchoring in Saltwater River to reload with Footscray bluestone which would serve as ballast for the ship (Carstairs & Lane, 1988, p. 1). This stone could then be sold and used as building material across early Victoria. Directly northeast of the Parker Street Reserve, a 1930 Plan of the Port of Melbourne (Plate 1) shows, the block bounded by Napier, Moreland, Parker and Maribyrnong Streets as being occupied by 'Stone Cutting Works'. Along the western boundary of Parker Street Reserve, east of Moreland Street, Wharves occupied the river frontage. Noxious trade industries quickly sprung up around the Parker Street Reserve and along the Maribyrnong River. The mix of industry in and adjacent to the Whitehall Street Bottle Dump included a tannery, a stone cutter, a cooperage, gas works, a soap and candle factory (Butler, 1989). It is likely that the Whitehall Street Bottle Dump is related to one or more of these industries as the Parker Street Reserve appears to have remained as open reserve land through the nineteenth and into the twenty-first century

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/>