

LIMEBURNERS POINT HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL PRECINCT

Location

LIMEBURNERS ROAD AND GARDEN STREET EAST GEELONG, GREATER GEELONG CITY

Municipality

GREATER GEELONG CITY

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7721-0003

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - March 8, 2022

What is significant?

How is it significant?

Why is it significant?

Other Names LIMEBURNERS POINT,

Hermes Number 7590

Property Number

History

Eastern Beach Limeburning

Limeburning in Geelong began on the Western side of Lime Burners Point as early as 1838, when James Boucher and Patrick Melville established quarries and kilns (Harrington, 2000: 34). The first exports of lime were sent to Launceston in 1841, as it was cheaper to transport it there than to Melbourne. The formative years of lime burning in this area were characterised by ad hoc ventures, before it became an organised industry. The Eastern Beach area was a focus for the industry. One of the earliest formulated attempts to quarry the stone was undertaken by Boucher and Taylor in 1848. They were taken over by Messr Taylor in 1852, and passed again soon after to George Cakebread (by 1858 - G134), who played a major role in its formulation.

Limeburners Point West Limeburners

Criticism was often levelled at the damage done to the beach slopes by quarrying and drays transporting timber. Most of the early lime was carted around the back of the Botanic Gardens to the Portarlington Road. Lime burning was originally undertaken close to the deposits themselves, but the limeburners were later required to conduct their activities closer to the eastern foreshore on the beach after public concern was raised for the tourism and recreational facilities at Eastern Beach. Four kilns were operating by 1866, and the fires burned continuously to keep up with the ever increasing need for lime in the colonies.

By 1873, when demand for lime peaked, a temporary extension of quarrying area was proposed that encroached on the Botanic Gardens Grounds, but the lease was encouraged by the Minister. An area from the Beach Battery to near the Powder Magazine was proposed, and the allotments were leased by the Victorian Lime and Cement Company (who were represented by Blair and Campbell) in 1875 for seven years, which also operated the other quarries at Limeburners Point (Cakebread, Dyer and Co.). To reach the stone, the land face was cut away for 100 yards for several feet deep. The venture did not prove overly profitable, as it had to be undertaken close to the scrutiny of a popular beach front and the limestone was being slowly exhausted. By the 1880s, only one kiln was operating, and the weekly returns had been reduced tenfold (Brownhill, 1990: 403 -406; Harrington, 2000:34).

Limeburners Point was originally known as Galena Point, with the original name Limeburners Point being allocated to the entrance of what is now known as Limeburners Bay (in the 1950s called Limeburners Creek, entrance to the Duck Ponds) (Brownhill, 1990:406).

Limeburning was undertaken at the Duck Ponds, which in 1875 was producing superior quality lime to that at Limeburners Point. Test showed that the Duck Ponds lime retained its supportive qualities in wet conditions, whereas the Point lime fell apart. The Duck Ponds were run by the Melbourne Builders Lime and Cement Company (Brownhill, 1990: 402, 403). The Duck Ponds are labelled in Henry's 1864 chart of Geelong near the current location of the Geelong Grammar School foreshore.

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/>