

BELLARINE HERITAGE STUDY RECORD SHEET

Site No.	Street/Site Name	Town / Suburb	Postcode	Record No.
Address 420	Pt Henry Rd	Point Henry	3221	188
Site Name fmr Navigation Station				Page No. 1 of 4

Key Dates: Original **1939** Major Changes **1993**

Existing Use/Type
Resource centre

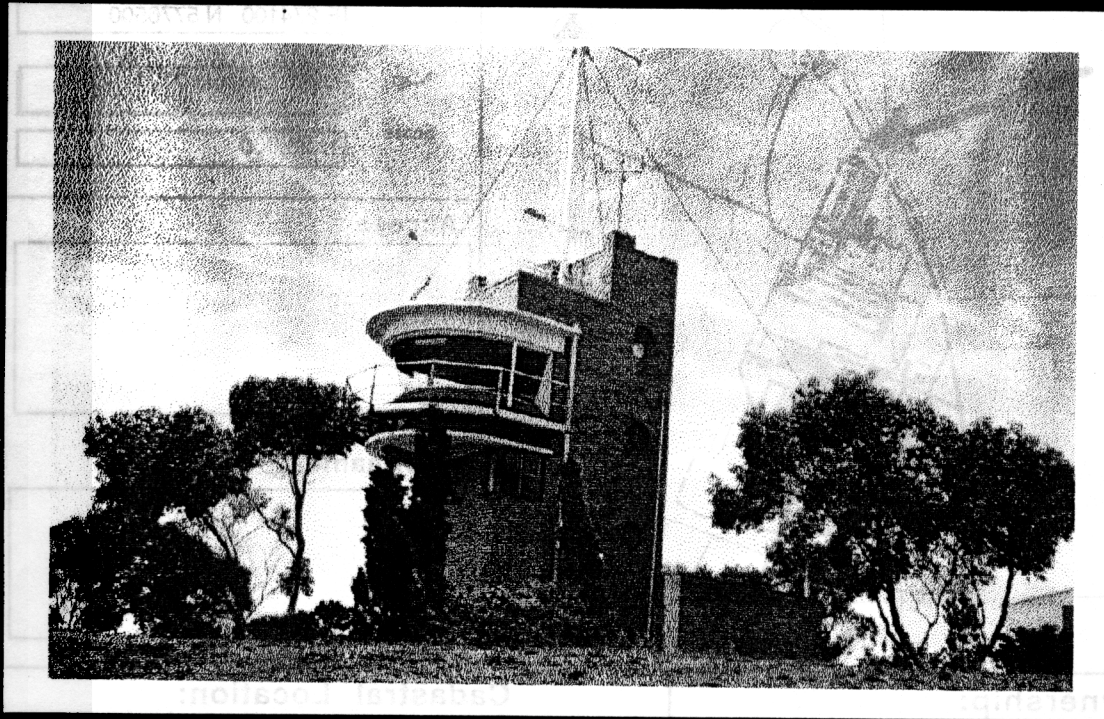
Precinct Name

Survey Date
22/1/1996

Neg. No.
9/33

Video Track No.

Recorded By
RL/KF



Heritage Status:

CATEGORY REGISTRATION NUMBER

National Estate:

Nominated

Registered

Historic Buildings Register

Nominated

Registered

National Trust Register:

Planning Scheme:

Historical Archaeological Register :

Other:

AHS Degree of Significance

A B C D

Condition of the fabric:

Excellent Good

Fair Poor

Ruinous Unexposed

Integrity of the site:

Excellent Good

Fair Poor

Partially excavated

Fully excavated

Present Threats:

Human; mining

Human; visitor erosion

Human; vandalism

Human; development

Human; conservation/maintenance

Human; stock

Natural Forces; erosion

Natural Forces; vegetation

Not threatened

Significant Architectural Features:

Original Materials

Original Chimneys

Wall Decoration

Verandah Structure

Verandah Decoration

Original Parapet

other prominent elevations

Original Roof **form & finish**

Original Openings **doors & windows**

Original Decoration

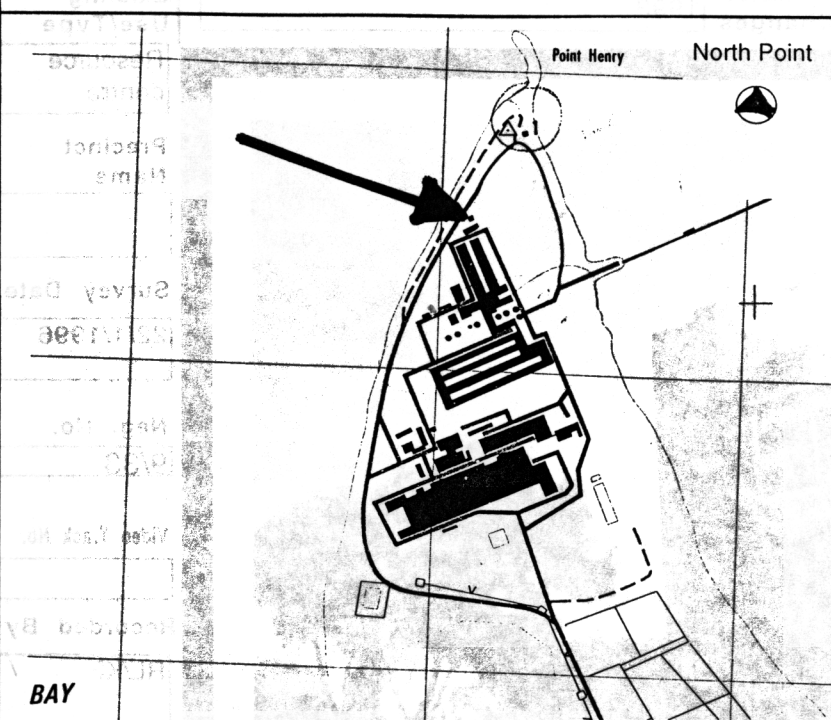
Original Finish **unpainted**

Early Garden

Early Fence

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Site Plan/ Location Sketch Not To Scale 	Australian Map Grid Co-ordinates E 274100 N 5776500 Map DSM Leopold 7721-1 SE Scale 1: 25,000 Access Informants
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Ownership: <input type="checkbox"/> Crown <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Resident owner <input type="checkbox"/> Occupier only Local Govt Area <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City of Greater Geelong	Cadastral Location: County Grant Parish Moolap Allotment Block
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Physical Description of Site:

This freestanding purpose-built tower is on an open site, on the rise at Pt. Henry, looking north to Corio Bay, with Alcoa directly south. The cream brick clad structure has a rectangular base with a cantilevered semi-circular concrete lookout station mid way up the tower, on the north elevation. The north elevation has aluminium framed windows under the cantilevered section, as well as a semi-circular glassed-in lookout station, surrounded externally by a semi-circular rail. The west elevation has three round 'porthole' windows directly above one another on the south-corner stairwell, and the return of the aluminium framed window under the cantilever. A tall, white painted steel lookout mast and ladder is secured on the roof, with the access stairwell on the south elevation protruding above the roof. There is a tensile steel cable connecting the south cantilever with the lookout mast, and connecting the mast to the ground, on the south side of the tower.

Relevant Special Interest Groups:

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Types of Sites:

<input type="checkbox"/> monument	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> maritime	<input type="checkbox"/> tree(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> machinery
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> relic/ruin	<input type="checkbox"/> garden	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building
<input type="checkbox"/> agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> residential	<input type="checkbox"/> fence	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> miscellaneous
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> recreational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/> gate	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	

Historical Themes:

Early Settlement		Communities	
Maritime	mmHarbour	Landscapes	
Tourism		The Wider World	wwCommunication
Workforce	wfFishing industry	Cultural Activity	
Townships		Miscellaneous	

History of Site/Object/Place:

Point Henry is ideally located at the entrance to Corio Bay with a panoramic view of all piers, harbours, channels in the Port of Geelong and across to Point Wilson. The Hopetoun Channel linking City and Corio Channels with Wilson Spit Channel is only a few hundred metres from Point Henry (see additional information) providing clear passage through to the Inner Harbour.

This building is part of the network of structures which includes beacons and other navigation aids, put in by the Geelong Harbour Trust, to observe and control shipping activity. It was designed by architect, N. Schefferle of Buchan, Laird & Buchan and erected at Point Henry in 1939. On November, 1940 a continuous watch of the entrance to Corio Bay which lasted for over 52 years.(1)

Communication between shipping and Port Authorities was an essential part of the efficient and safe running of the port. The activity of the signalman is described by Chris Gordon: "Apart from controlling the traffic, the signalmen came to keep a fatherly eye on everything that went on in the bay-the movement of Harbour Trust floating plant, fishermen, yachts, the illumination of beacons which were checked each night, and the observation of the weather. All activity was carefully logged, and also the text of messages passed. The station became the communication link between the ship and a multiplicity of shore authorities and people who had an interest in the vessel's arrival, including agent, provedores and the harbour master."(2)

Technological changes from telegraphic services such as Morse Code to radio telephonic services were to take place and the signal men MacDonald, Burns, Wilson, Huntley, Higgins, Morton, Attwood, Cowley and Sargent played an integral part in the station's operation from 1940 to 1993.(3)

Additions such as the observation deck and radar masts and alterations to the main living area were made at various times as the technology changed. The station ceased operation in January 1993 and is now used as a Resource Centre and is owned by Alcoa.

References:

1. Gordon, C.P.C, "Point Henry Station", *Investigator* vol.28, no.4, December 1993 pp.116-132
2. *ibid.*, p.120
3. *ibid.*, p.120, 123 and 132

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Statement of Cultural Significance:

This former Navigation Station, a freestanding purpose built brick tower situated at the entrance to Corio Bay, was a vital link in the communication between shipping and the Port of Geelong for over 50 years of continuous use.

This place has aesthetic, scientific, historic and social value to the state and region of Greater Geelong.

It demonstrates important visual qualities of a functionalist International style building with the use of nautical features in the design by architect N.Schefferle of Buchan, Laird and Buchan. It illustrates the technological process associated with marine communication and displays the changes in technology over time.

The former Navigation Station is one of the few examples of marine communication structures in the State and demonstrates a distinctive activity that no longer exists in this region as this form of communication with shipping has ceased.

It is of STATE cultural significance

Additional Information

