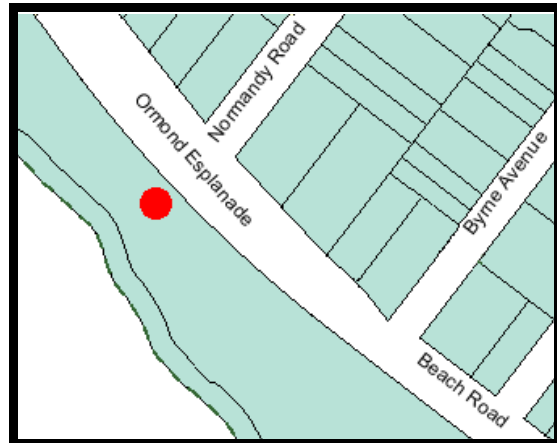


Identifier Beach kiosk
Formerly Unknown



Not within a HO area

Address Ormond Esplanade (at Normandy Road) ELWOOD
Category Public
Constructed 1921?
Designer Unknown

Significance

What is Significant?

The beach kiosk is a small weatherboard structure on an octagonal plan, with hipped metal roof and a surrounding verandah. It was erected by the St Kilda Council, possibly in 1921.

How is it Significant?

The beach kiosk is of historical and aesthetic significance to the City of Port Phillip.

Why is it Significant?

Historically, the beach kiosk is significant as the oldest surviving structure along Elwood Beach which, unlike the beaches at Port Melbourne, South Melbourne and St Kilda, did not begin to develop as a recreational facility the suburb became more settled (and accessible by public transport) in the 1910s. Possibly erected in 1921, the kiosk provides thus evidence of the earliest phase in the development of Elwood Beach as a popular recreational destination. Its ongoing operation as a refreshment kiosk right up to the present day also demonstrates a highly significant continuity of use.

Aesthetically, the kiosk is a fine and relatively intact example of a small Edwardian-style beach pavilion, of note for its distinctive octagonal form and fine decorative timberwork including turned finials and verandah with slatted frieze. One of a number of surviving pieces of early seaside recreation infrastructure along the City of Port Phillip foreshore, the kiosk remains as a prominent and distinctive element on the Elwood beach landscape.

Description

The beach kiosk is a small weatherboard structure, octagonal in plan. It has a hipped roof of corrugated galvanised steel, with ogee profile guttering and a turned timber finial to the apex. The building is encircled by a verandah, with a skillion roof supported on stop-chamfered timber posts with curved timber brackets and a timber slat frieze (the latter now mostly concealed by advertising signage). The kiosk proper has three servery windows, with heavy timber sills, metal roller shutters (not original) and heavy metal bar grilles. Two of the windows have concrete steps, of relatively recent origin, to facilitate access by small children. A fourth wall has an entrance doorway, with a heavy timber threshold, plain architraves and a metal security door of recent origin.

History

During the nineteenth century, Elwood Beach scarcely developed as a recreational centre in the way that the adjacent beaches at St Kilda and Port Melbourne had done. By the late 1860s, the council had made some effort in planting trees and establishing a coastal promenade, but the coastline – particularly in the vicinity at Point Ormond – otherwise retained a somewhat salubrious reputation, retaining connotations with the quarantine station, manure depot and abattoirs. All three had ceased to exist by the turn of the century, followed in 1907 by the closure of the rifle butts along present-day Head Street.

In 1915, the St Kilda Council erected a refreshment kiosk on Point Ormond, to a design ‘studiously made in conformity with the buildings already erected by the St Kilda Foreshore Committee’. This substantial timber building, a conspicuous element on the point for many years, has since been demolished. The only other kiosk to be erected along the Elwood foreshore was erected by the St Kilda council in 1921 to the design of H P Brady. This first appears in the *Sands & McDougall Directory* in 1921, with Mrs Margaret Olingue listed as its proprietor. The wife of a local bootmaker, Mrs Olingue (1878-1968) ran the kiosk for about fifteen years. It was thence occupied by Ernest Druce (c.1936-43), B & D Passioura (1940s) and P Grieg (1950s). From the late 1950s until at least the mid-1970s, the kiosk was apparently operated by A L Crichton, listed in directories as a confectioner.

Comparative Analysis

The small timber kiosk at Elwood can be compared with the numerous items of beach recreation infrastructure that developed along the foreshore at Port Melbourne, South Melbourne and St Kilda during the 1910s. Examples that have been previously identified in heritage studies include the octagonal bandstand at 70 Beach Street, Port Melbourne (1919), the series of gable-roofed timber beach shelters on Beaconsfield Parade, South Melbourne (c.1914), the former Pavilion Tea Rooms at 60 Jacka Boulevard, St Kilda (1916) and the St Kilda Pier Kiosk (1904) – the last, now no longer extant. The most pertinent comparison, however, can be drawn with a pair of previously unidentified timber kiosks on Jacka Boulevard, of unknown date but, on stylistic grounds, appear to be contemporaneous with the kiosk at Elwood. Virtually identical, these two structures (currently known as the Sunset Kiosk and the Boulevard Ice Creamery Kiosk) are rectangular in plan, with stop-chamfered frames and diagonal boarding; they have distinctive bellcast roofs of corrugated galvanised steel and canted perimeter verandahs with stop-chamfered posts and slat friezes. While they are slightly larger than their polygonal counterpart in Elwood, and slightly more elaborate in their detailing, they are also somewhat less intact, having been altered and otherwise disfigured by wall- and roof-mounted advertising hoardings.

Recommendations

recommended inclusions:

Schedule to the Heritage Overlay Table in the City of Port Phillip Planning Scheme

References

J B Cooper, *A History of St Kilda, 1851 to 1931*, pp 233-34.

Sands & McDougall Directory, various.

Miles Lewis (ed) *Australian Architectural Index*. s v Elwood Park Kiosk.