

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

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**Heritage Place:** Shed 21

**PS ref no:** HO1383

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**Street Address:** 206 Lorimer Street, Docklands

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### What is significant?

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Shed 21, constructed in 1956 for mechanised handling of steel, is significant at the local level.

Elements that contribute to the significance of the place include (but are not limited to):

- The steel framed open shed comprising four gabled bays, steel columns, flat parallel chord trusses and tracks for travelling cranes (cranes no longer intact) that extend past the roof towards Lorimer Street.
- The road apron and hard stand to the south and east of the shed that demonstrate the significant scale and innovation of the Shed's steel handling facilities;
- The ongoing connection of the shed to the Yarra River

### How it is significant?

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Shed 21 South Wharf at 206 Lorimer Street Docklands is of local historical and technical significance to the City of Melbourne.

### Why it is significant?

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Shed 21 South Wharf, at 206 Lorimer Street is of historical significance as it represents an important phase of development of Melbourne's docks, being post-war expansion and mechanisation. Steel was seen as vital to the economic growth of Victoria and, for 27 years, Shed 21 played a major role in its importation (Criterion A).

Despite the loss of the cranes, Shed 21 South Wharf is of technical significance for its demonstration of mechanisation in the mid-twentieth century. The transverse alignment of the overhead cranes across the shed was unique in the port as all other overhead cranes ran longitudinally in their sheds, with projections at the end for loading. The Shed 21 arrangement allowed simultaneous unloading of steel from the river berth and vehicles to be loaded directly in the southern bay (Criterion F).

Shed 21 has some historical significance for its association with the Painters and Dockers Union but not at the threshold level for local significance. There appears to be little fabric around Melbourne directly related to this union but the association with Shed 21 is only through the dumping of a car and the demolished Port Workers' Amenities building.

### **Primary source**

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Fishermans Bend In-Depth Heritage Review (HLCD Pty Ltd, February 2021)