RESEARCH PROPOSAL FOR 1999
HONOURS THESIS

AN ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF THE
HOLDFAST BAY ARTEFACTS

SUPERVISOR: MARK STANIFORTH

STUDENT: JENNIFER RODRIGUES (9600030)
AN ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF THE
HOLDFAST BAY ARTEFACTS

INTRODUCTION
The aim of this research is to analyse and interpret the artefacts that have been recovered near Glenelg Jetty in Holdfast Bay, Adelaide, South Australia. Majority of the artefacts were recovered by members of the Society For Underwater Historical Research Inc. (SUHR) between 1974 and 1978 but it is understood that there are also a number of artefacts that have been recovered by recreational or sport divers at the site who would have kept these artefacts for their own private collections.

It is intended that this study will analyse these material artefacts recovered from the site and provide a comprehensive explanation regarding the history, origin and nature surrounding these artefacts while also attempting to draw parallel and connecting theories to similar artefacts found near or along jetty sites elsewhere in Australia and perhaps overseas. It is also intended that this information will be placed in a wider context to interpret the social status and way of life of the makers and users of these artefacts as well as the general trading/consumer patterns of early settlers to the site at the time. The result of this research is aimed at providing sufficient information to document the historical and social significance of settlers and traders to Holdfast Bay itself from the study of these artefacts and the history of the site, which will also explain the reasons for the site having been developed into a colony. This information, therefore, will not only be relevant to the historical and archaeological significance of Holdfast Bay itself but also to other similar sites in Australia.
RELATED RESEARCH

Archaeological work was conducted at the Holdfast Bay Jetty area between 1974 To 1978 by SUHR (The Maritime Archaeology Association of South Australia) and a report 'The Holdfast Bay Project, 1974 To 1978' was published in 1983. During this survey and excavation, the society concentrated its efforts in the area at the end of the old jetty approximately 300m off shore. Remains found in the area at the time included the old pylon remains of the jetty and other scattered pieces and an excavation and mapping of the site was carried out by the team.

In the course of this work being conducted, a collection of artefacts were also recovered and it eventually came to be evident that the site contained enough material remains to warrant continuation of the project. However, no recording was made of the artefacts that were recovered with regards to their location within the site. There was also no certainty at the time if the outer extremities of the site had been located.

Another project of a similar nature, the Fremantle Long Jetty project, was carried out in Bathers Bay Fremantle in Western Australia by a team from the Western Australian Maritime Museum. The Long Jetty (initially named Ocean Jetty before the extension was built) had fallen into disuse by the turn of the century and in 1912 all but the original Ocean Jetty was demolished. During the next twenty years the Long Jetty and its surrounds was a source of enjoyment for fishermen and divers and for decades, bottle collectors and souvenir hunters had been aware of the vast array of artefacts that could be found along the length of the jetty site.

The team from the Western Australian Maritime Museum responded to this with a project aiming to assess the extent of the material in the area and to raise, catalogue
and conserve a representative sample of artefacts for public display as well as undertake research on the historical importance of the jetty. A total of 1,500 items were recovered from the site which included bottles, jars, cutlery, whale and sheep bones as well as several types of personal belongings. The bulk of the material was found to have been ship’s cargo which had fallen during loading and unloading. The result of this work and the realisation of the historical significance of the area saw the remains of the jetty declared as an historic and protected site in 1988 under the Maritime Archaeology Act of Western Australia.

AIMS

It is intended that this research will concentrate on the portable artefactual material recovered from the site with attempts to site, as accurate as possible, the location where these artefacts were discovered. However, because of the volume of artefacts that needs be covered in this research, they will be grouped in representative categories instead of individually and examined as such, that is, in groups of different collections.

Materials recovered from Holdfast Bay include numerous items which have been classified under the following categories: coins, jewellery, ceramic, glass and metal. One of the aims of this research is to examine the time period in which these items were made and utilised, their country of origin and their purpose for having been transported to Holdfast Bay and in which time period this transportation took place. Attempts will also be made to examine and compare similar artefacts that may have been discovered elsewhere in Australia or overseas near or along jetty constructions, and where applicable parallel or connecting theories will be drawn to investigate the possibility of any similar
patterns occurring in terms of trade, migration and consumer behaviour. It is also intended that this research will relate to and build upon existing related work and show consistency with existing theories regarding similar artefacts from jetty sites elsewhere in Australia including ‘The Long Jetty’ project in Bathers Bay Fremantle, Western Australia.

Excavation had been conducted by SUHR on the remains of the jetty pylons but to date no research or investigation have been conducted on the artefacts recovered from the area. This research, therefore, aims to concentrate on these artefacts by further elaborating on the nature and history of the items.

As far as possible, consideration will also be taken into account of possible agencies that may have altered the state of some of the artefacts and before they were discovered and allowance given if alterations have taken place. In other words, this research will attempt to take into account the possibilities that factors may have affected the modification or position of the artefacts which in turn may affect their final analysis and interpretation such as their function and features. It will also take into account some of the conservation issues surrounding such material. Where it is not possible to define the extent of such alterations, estimations may be made instead but only where evidence is sufficient.

The study of the artefacts is expected to reveal information relevant to the history and archaeology of Holdfast Bay and the colony that it developed into. Various approaches to the artefacts will be undertaken. These will include the country of origin, the social status/class of the people who owned and used them, their gender associations, general consumer behaviour, the means by which they were transported to Holdfast Bay
and the reasons behind it, the time period in which they were manufactured and transported to Holdfast Bay, their social/occupational associations and to some extent the conservation issues surrounding them.

These artefacts currently number some several thousand. Majority of the artefacts are currently stored at the South Australian Maritime Museum with some of the more valuable material being kept by the State and Aboriginal Affairs office in Adelaide. However, it is understood that over a period of time there have been a number of divers who have salvaged some of these artefacts for their own private collections. It is expected, therefore, that attempts will be made to contact these divers in order to pursue all of the artefacts that have been recovered from the site. Where possible and necessary, oral interviews will be conducted with these divers in order to obtain information on these artefacts and so that no artefacts that have been recovered from Holdfast Bay be left out of the research.

CONCLUSION
The aim of this research, therefore, is to concentrate on the analysis and interpretation of the artefacts recovered near Glenelg Jetty at Holdfast Bay. The artefacts themselves will be examined but it is intended to put them into a wider social and historical context in order to be able to interpret the social and historical features of the early settlement as well as to deal with the issues of colonial and trade influences that may have affected the character and social patterns of the early settlers. Research will also be made to determine the means by which these material came to be located at Holdfast Bay.
It is intended that the result of this research will help to determine the significance of the site and consequently the reasons for the development of the site into a colony. Attempts will be made to draw any parallel or associated theories between Holdfast Bay and other similar sites at a local and/or international level. It is intended that this information will be useful in reinforcing existing theories regarding trade and migration patterns in Australia, the development of a site into a colony as well as the lifestyle and social/consumer behaviour of people who resided in that area. In other words, it is intended that the results of this research will provide information regarding the level of significance of Holdfast Bay, the lifestyle and social class/status of the people who would have owned or used the artefacts found in the area and finally the reasons that led to the development of Holdfast Bay into a colony of the state.
RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. Analyse and interpret the nature and origin of the artefacts recovered near the jetty at Holdfast Bay.

2. Examine and explain the nature/type of the artefacts and their uses.

3. How and why were the artefacts located near the jetty at Holdfast Bay?

4. What role did the artefacts play in terms of the social and historical aspects of its makers and users?

5. Did these artefacts have an impact on any aspect of the social features and consumer behaviour of the early settlers of Holdfast Bay and Adelaide?

6. Do they provide any information or indication in terms of the colonial, migration or trade influence/practices in the area?

7. Do the artefacts provide us with any insight into the gender, class or social status of the people who owned or used them?

8. Can the lifestyle and social/consumer behaviour of the people at the time be interpreted from the material artefacts and from their uses?

9. Have there been similar artefacts discovered in similar circumstances elsewhere in Australia or overseas?

10. Are there parallel/connecting theories with other sites containing similar artefacts?

11. Is there any relation between the artefacts and vessels that have come through or been wrecked in the immediate vicinity? How and why did the artefacts come to be located at Holdfast Bay?

12. Do the study and interpretation of the artefacts provide us with information about the role and usefulness of Holdfast Bay in relation to vessels arriving and departing for the purpose of trading as well as the transportation of goods and services?

13. What contributions did the presence of the jetty make to the development of the area into a town or colony?

14. What were the reasons for Holdfast Bay being chosen as a site for a settlement and colony? What practices/events (eg. trade, vessels arriving) played a role in contributing to this development?
SOURCES TO BE CONSULTED

Primary sources (Published and unpublished)

Manuscripts/Government sources

Customs House Register


Lloyd's Register of Shipping

1987, Glenelg Town Council, First seven years of its existence (1855-1862).


Notes on the voyage of the Lord Glenelg from London to Adelaide 1841 (research paper).

Perry, Dulcie M., 1985, The Place of Waters, A Story of Glenelg's First Fifty Years, published by the author in conjunction with the City of Glenelg and the National Trust of South Australia (Glenelg Branch), August.


South Australian State Archives, GRG 51 (Government Record Group), Archives for Marine Board.

South Australian Tourism Commission, 1986, Glenelg Tourism Profile, Adelaide, SATC.

Western Australia Environmental Protection Authority, 1986, Service Vessel Facility, Princess Royal Harbour, Albany, Perth, The Authority.

Newspapers

Adelaide Chronicle
Advertiser

Daily Commercial News

Herald

Observer. (particularly, 3 April, 1880).

Register. (also called South Australian Register and Gazette).

Sunday Mail.

Maps and Photographs/Images

Plan of Approach to the Jetty, Port Victoria, 1879, [map]/surveyed by J. W. Jones.

Plan of the Southern portion of the province of South Australia, 1883, [map]/compiled by Surveyor General.

Port Adelaide and Holdfast Bay, 1846, [navigation map]/surveyed Commr Stokes H.M.S. Beagle.

Plan of the Township of Glenelg, 1839, [map]/designed and surveyed by Light, Finnis and Co.

Settled Districts of South Australia, 1855, [map]/Lithographed by J. B. Higginson and John W. Painter, Edw. Stanford, London.

The Maritime Portion of South Australia, 1838, [map]/From the surveys of Captain Flinders and of Colonial Light, Surveyor General.

1881, Glenelg, Foreshore, looking north of the jetty.

1933, Storm damage, Glenelg, (storm damage of the original jetty, 18 Mny).

1848, Glenelg Jetty, (after a severe storm, 11 April).

1939, Glenelg, Ariel view of Glenelg township and jetty.

1930, Glenelg Jetty and foreshore. (December), by Government photolithographer, photographer.

1911, Glenelg Jetty alterations.


1906, The Jetty at Glenelg, South Australia, (Newspaper cutting).

1902, Glenelg Jetty, by New Ltd., Newspaper photographer.

1836, Landing at Holdfast Bay, Government photolithographer, photographer.
Secondary sources

Thesis and Unpublished sources/manuscripts


Fletcher, Dorothy, 1985, The Paper Tiger, South Australia.

Higlett, Peter, May, Margaret and Polvere, Anthony, 1983, Glenelg Heritage Survey, Stage 1, February, South Australia.

Jenice, W.H., 1955, Historic Glenelg, Birthplace of South Australia, 1836-1870, South Australia, Keswick.

Kirkwood, Scott, 1982, Glenelg Mania, South Australia, University of South Australia.

Light, W., 1839, Brief Journal of William Light, Adelaide.

Lloyd, Mark, 1990, Management Strategy for the Rapid Bay Jetty and Foreshore, South Australia, South Australian College of Advance Education.


Pinnington, C.C., Notes Relative to the Glenelg Breakwater, 1915-1918.


Royal Geographical Society of Australasia, 1926, The Centenary History of South Australia, Adelaide.


Smith, Russell, 1973, 1838: A Very Good Year in the Colony of South Australia, Sydney, Shakespeare Head.
Stokes, 1846, Port Adelaide and Holdfast Bay, South Australia.

Taylor, H.A.F., 1936, History of Brighton (South Australia), Adelaide.


Thomson, Barry Keith, 1990, Glenelg - Town and City, South Australia.


Wakefield, E.G., 1832, Plan of a Company to Establish the Colony of South Australia, London.


Wiles, Bill, 1971, Nautical Archaeology, published by the author.


Published sources


Lee, John, 1883, Glenelg Historia Guia and Directory, Austaprint, South Australia.


REFERENCES


