



QUEENSCLIFFE MARITIME MUSEUM Inc

William Ferrier Ship Paintings

Two William Ferrier paintings from the walls of the South Channel Pile Light are currently on loan to the Queenscliffe Maritime Museum from the National Trust of Victoria.

The ship paintings were created on the internal walls of the South Channel Pile Light by lighthouse keeper William Ferrier. The Pile Light had living quarters of 4 rooms, in which William, his wife and some of his children lived between approximately 1905 and 1915.



South Channel Pile Light
in original position, early 20th Century



William Ferrier circa 1905



South Channel Pile Light
rebuilt 1998

The original South Channel Pile Light was built in 1874 to mark the centre of the Port Phillip South Channel. The structure is the sole survivor of the few lightstations in Australia which were built in the water. Classified by the National Trust in 1983, the light was decommissioned in 1985 and demanned. In 1998 it was restored and relocated approximately 3km from the original position, to the south of the shipping channel.

Prior to the restoration of the Pile Light three wall paintings were removed for safety and have been preserved by the National Trust. The paintings on loan to Queenscliffe Maritime Museum are in house paint on red pine lining boards and depict a clipper ship and a sloop, both in full sail.



Above: William Ferrier Sloop painting

Left: William Ferrier Clipper painting

The paintings are on display in the south east gallery of Queenscliffe Maritime Museum for some months whilst the Polly Woodside Museum is refurbished. The support of the National Trust in making this loan available is greatly appreciated.

Further information:

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