

## SEVEN UNIDENTIFIED SUPPORT VESSELS – Garden Island

Seven of the vessels abandoned in the North Arm prior to the mid 1940s were support craft, owned and operated by the South Australian Harbors Board. As they were generally unnamed, had significant modifications during their working life or show extensive salvage, accurate identification is not possible.

These remains – a wooden barge, a hopper barge/dredge, four iron pontoons and a dredger – represent the number and variety of vessels which maintained shipping operations within ports around the State. They carried out or assisted with the general tasks of lightering, towing, maintenance and salvage, as well as the essential role of widening and deepening shipping channels.



Unidentified Dredge



Unidentified Hopper Barge



Unidentified Wooden Barge



Unidentified Pontoon

Today the iron pontoons show some evidence of metal salvage but are relatively intact, with corroded deck plating and sections of wooden fenders still in place. The forward section of the hopper barge/dredge is largely intact, but substantial salvage of the stern makes it difficult to identify specifically as a barge or dredge. Only the stern section of the iron dredge remains, while side and bottom frames protruding from the silt are the only obvious remains of the wooden barge.