



FLASHBACK: Cape Town's old harbour pier and pavilion at the bottom of Heerengracht were demolished in 1939 when the foreshore was reclaimed from the sea

Picture: PAUL GILOWAY

Cape excavation unearths historic pier

APHIWE DEKLERK

CONSTRUCTION teams working on the expansion of the Cape Town International Convention Centre have discovered part of the old Cape Town harbour pier.

The discovery was made during underground work on the foreshore for a tunnel connecting the new building to the existing one.

Centre CEO Julie-May Elling-

son said work on the tunnel had to be halted.

“Our contractor uncovered a portion of the historic Cape Town harbour pier, which meant that construction had to be put on hold while our archaeologist assessed options to preserve [it],” she said.

“Following consultation with, and approval from Heritage Western Cape to proceed, we removed

a portion of the pier for preservation.”

Additional support was needed for the side walls of the tunnel, and construction was delayed for two months.

The 13 000m² extension is expected to be opened in June.

The harbour pier was built at the bottom of Heerengracht in 1910 and included a pavilion for ballet and concert performances.