

PORT AUTHORITY OF NSW HERITAGE INVENTORY

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number: 4560018		Study Number: N/A	
Item Name: Moore's Wharf Building			
Location: Towns Place/Corner Dalgety Street, Millers Point			
Address: 4 Towns Place, Millers Point		DUAP Region: Sydney South	
Suburb / Nearest Town: Millers Point, 2000		Historic Region: Sydney	
Local Govt Area: City of Sydney		Parish: St. Philip	
State: NSW		County: Cumberland	
Other/Former Names: The MSB Survey Building			
Area/Group/Complex:		Group ID:	
Aboriginal Area: Gadigal clan			
Curtilage/Boundary:			
Item Type: Built	Group: Maritime Industry	Category: Warehouse/storage	
Owner: Port Authority of New South Wales			
Current Use: Office spaces			
Former Uses: Warehouse			
Assessed Significance: Local		Endorsed Significance:	
Statement of Significance: Of historical significance for its association with the waterside warehouse activities of the early 19th century that has made an important contribution to industrial settlement and establishment of storage facilities at Walsh Bay in the Port of Sydney (Anglin 1990:1048).			
Historical Notes or Provenance: A group of 3 storey sandstone walled waterfront warehouses built by Captain Robert Towns in stages from the early 1830's to the late 1840's. Captain Towns commanded emigrant ships to Australia in the 1820's building up a fast fleet of clippers and his ship "The Brothers" was the first to carry a full cargo of wool to England. He married the sister of the late W C Wentworth in 1833 and about this time began establishing himself in Sydney. By 1842 his firm was fully established at Millers Point and in 1844 he entered the whaling industry and Pacific and China cargo trades. He later did much to open up North Queensland and the city of Townsville was named in his honour (D Sheedy 1976). From the mid-1860s Towns was involved in the importation of South Sea Islander labour, an event synonymous with the practice of 'Blackbirding' for which Towns is also associated with. The Moore's Wharf Store was built of local sandstone (quarried on - site) in 1836 -37 by William Long and James Wright, it was sold to Captain Joseph Moore and his son Henry who, in the early 1840's, added a fourth segment at the western end of the store to accommodate their expanding business as the colony's first P&O agents. During the 19 th century the store was the scene of many first occasions. In 1851 the clipper "Phoenician loaded the first shipment of Australian gold to England from Moore's wharf. In 1852 the first P&O screw steamship to arrive from England, the "Chusan" berthed there with the first mails brought out under contract. The colony's first rail locomotive was unloaded there in 1855.(MSB Brochure			

1981) For over 60 years Moore's wharf was one of the busiest on The Point and it was not until the early 1900's that Moore's Road was renamed Dalgety Road. (S Fitzgerald & C Keating 1991).

In 1978 redevelopment plans at Darling Harbour necessitated the move of the building. MSB let a contract for \$680,000 to take down the building stone by stone, and reconstruct it 50 yards west across the dock facing Walsh Bay. It was reopened in 1981 and currently houses a marine operations base for Port Authority of NSW as well as office space.

Themes:	National Theme: 3. Economy	State Theme: Commerce	Local Theme: (none)
	3. Economy	Transport	(none)

Designer:

Maker / Builder: William Long and James Wright

Year Started: 1836

Year Completed: 1837

Circa: No

Physical Description:

A group of 3 storey sandstone walled waterfront warehouses built by Captain Robert Towns in stages from the early 1830's to late 1840's of a simple form with a well-hipped roof form and slate tile roofing. The building features a copper roof drainage system including gutters, rain heads and downpipes. The building's facades contain three small gables central to each bay, containing hoist beams and a set of timber framed openings running below. On each floor of the building, either side of the central gable sections runs a set of two equidistant arched windows with large sandstone sills. This façade configuration is largely consistent throughout the building. In the brick-by-brick rebuilding of the structure (1978) the building elements were repaired and refitted where necessary, leading to a building in an improved condition, but somewhat altered state.

Physical Condition: The Moore's Wharf Building appears to be in generally good condition.

Modification Dates:

1978 – the building was moved stone by stone to its new position at the western end of Walsh Bay overlooking the new wharf area (The corrugated iron roofing mentioned by Sheedy above was replaced with shingle to replicate the original.) It was then internally refurbished for customs and delivery officers and amenities for port workers (Anglin 1990:1048). The fourth segment of the building built in the 1840s was not reconstructed as its stonework had deteriorated beyond repair. (MSB Brochure 1981) 1974 – additional grain silos opened (extant, item 4560016)

2014 – interior timber replaced

2017 – shingled roof replaced with slate and removal of rooftop plant to ground level

2019 – in-ground diesel fuel tank on the northern end of Moore's Wharf was replaced with an above ground tank

Recommended Management: Retain in situ and conserve

Preparation of a Heritage Assessment to provide a comprehensive understanding of the significance of the site for documentary purposes (S170 inventory form) as well as to assist with its long-term management. This assessment should investigate whether the site could meet the threshold for listing as an item of State heritage significance.

Preparation of a Maintenance and Conservation Works Schedule to ensure acceptable condition and assist in long-term conservation.				
Management: Statutory Instrument				
Further Comments:				
Criteria a) Of historical significance for its association with the waterside warehouse activities of the early 19th century that has made an important contribution to industrial settlement and establishment of storage facilities at Walsh Bay in the Port of Sydney. (Anglin 1990:1048)				
Criteria b)				
Criteria c) Of environmental significance as a visually prominent manmade feature.(Anglin1990:1048)				
Criteria d)				
Criteria e)				
Criteria f)				
Criteria g)				
Integrity / Intactness:				
References:	Author:	Title:	Year:	
		A Nations Birthplace - a Pictorial Review Ports of NSW Journal Vol 2-No 3	1978	
		Commissioning of No 3 Berth Darling Harbour and Moore's Wharf Store 6 April, 1981	1981	
		Darling Harbour: Hub of the port at the peak of Development in Ports of NSW Vol14 #1	1982	
	Lampert, R.J and M.C Truscott	Excavation at Moores Wharf and Store, Darling Harbour- Interim report	1980	
	Mathews, F.	The Wharfage System of Port Jackson in Sydney HarbourTrust Officer's Journal Vol 4 #6	1928	
	S Fitzgerald & C Keating	Millers Point: The Urban Village	1991	
	Sheedy, D	National Trust Listing Report	1976	
	Walker, F	The Wharves of early Sydney	1936	
	Watson, Capt J H	The Mercantile marine- Its contribution to Australian History	1914	
Studies:	Author:	Title:	Number:	Year:
	Susan McIntyre-Tamwoy Heritage Consultants	Sydney Ports Corporation World War II Monument Glebe Island: SOHI	4560018	2004
	Anglin Associates	Sydney Harbour Maritime Services Board Heritage and Conservation Register	1048	1990

	Design 5 Architects		Darling Harbour Wharves 3 - 8 Sydney NSW - Overview of Heritage Issues		2000
Parcels:	Parcel Code:	Lot Number: 51	Section:	Plan Code: DP	Plan Number: 1213772
Latitude:			Longitude:		
Listings:	Name: Heritage Act – S.170 NSW State agency heritage register		Title: Moore’s Wharf Building	Number: 4560016	Date: 2004
Data Entry:	Date First Entered: 30/06/2004	Date Updated: 11/01/2023			Status: Basic

Image: 1



Caption: Moore's Wharf Building

Copyright: Port Authority of New South Wales

Image By: Susan McIntyre-Tamwoy Heritage Consultants

Image Date: c2004

Image File: 4560018b1.jpg

Image: 2



Caption: Moore's Wharf Building, eastern facade

Copyright: Port Authority of New South Wales

Image By: Nicole Cama - NBRIS

Image Date: 21.09.2022

Image File: 4560018b2.jpg

Image: 3



Caption: Moore's Wharf Building, southern facade

Copyright: Port Authority of New South Wales

Image By: Nicole Cama - NBRIS

Image Date: 21.09.2022

Image File: 4560018b3.jpg

Image: 4



Caption: Moore's Wharf Building, western facade

Copyright: Port Authority of New South Wales

Image By: Nicole Cama - NBRIS

Image Date: 21.09.2022

Image File: 4560018b4.jpg

Image: 5



Caption: Moore's Wharf Building, looking onto eastern façade from Towns Place

Copyright: Port Authority of New South Wales

Image By: Nicole Cama - NBRIS

Image Date: 21.09.2022

Image File: 4560018b5.jpg

Image: 6



Caption: Moore's Wharf Building, northwest corner, view facing east

Copyright: Port Authority of New South Wales

Image By: Nicole Cama - NBRIS

Image Date: 21.09.2022

Image File: 4560018b6.jpg

Image: 7



Caption: Watercolour of Moore's Wharf and warehouses, Millers Point

Copyright: Out of copyright, courtesy of State Library of New South Wales, DG V1A/26

Image By: Frederick Garling

Image Date: 1840s

Image File: 4560018b7.jpg

Image: 8



Caption: 'Shipping Horses for the Government of India at Millers Point Wharf' [watercolour]

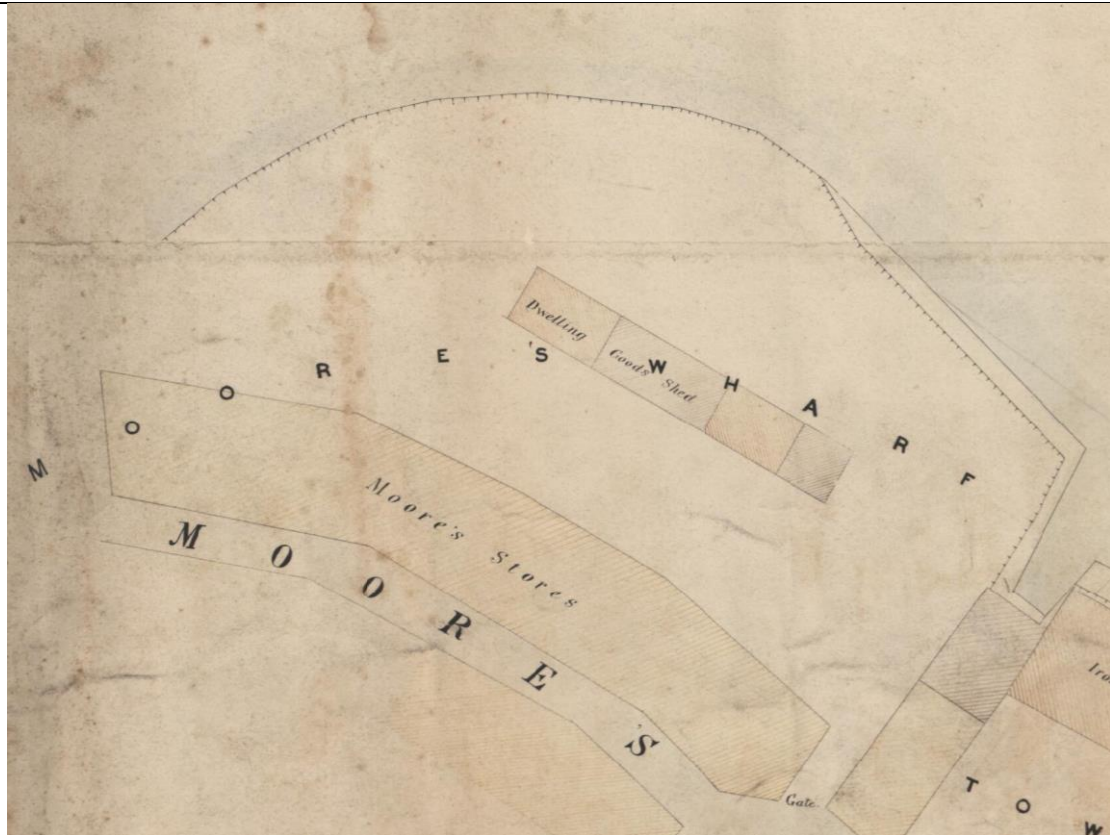
Copyright: Out of copyright, courtesy of State Library of New South Wales, DG SV1A/9

Image By: Frederick Garling

Image Date: 1847

Image File: 4560018b8.jpg

Image: 9



Caption: Wharves at Millers Point, Walsh Bay, Sydney (detail) showing the stores and a dwelling and goods shed in front, facing the harbour

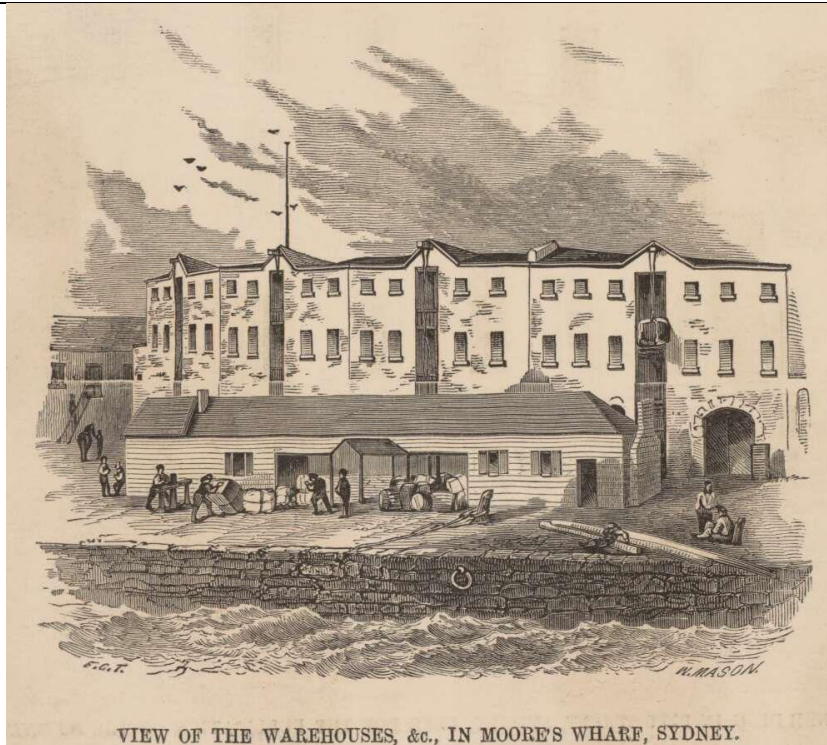
Copyright: Out of copyright, courtesy of National Library of Australia, MAP F 866

Image By:

Image Date: c1840s – 1850s

Image File: 4560018b9.jpg

Image: 10



VIEW OF THE WAREHOUSES, &c., IN MOORE'S WHARF, SYDNEY.

Caption: View of the warehouses &c. in Moore's Wharf, Sydney

Copyright: Out of copyright, courtesy of National Library of Australia, PIC Volume 6A #S1412

Image By: Walter G Watson

Image Date: 1857

Image File: 4560018b10.jpg

Image: 11



Caption: Moore's Wharf Building reconstruction

Copyright: R.J. Lampert and M.C. Trustcott in 'Archaeological investigation of the Bond Store, Moore's Wharf: a draft report for the Maritime Services Board and the Heritage Council of NSW', 1984

Image By: R.J. Lampert and M.C. Trustcott

Image Date: c1980

Image File: 4560018b11.jpg

Image: 12



Caption: Moore's Wharf Building Curtilage Plan

Copyright: Port Authority of New South Wales

Image By: Port Authority of New South Wales

Image Date: 14/03/2023

Image File: SDHP252A_Final