

PORT AUTHORITY OF NSW HERITAGE INVENTORY

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number: 4560007		Study Number: L14	
Item Name: Eastern Channel Rear Lead			
Location: 12A Wentworth Avenue, Vaucluse			
Address: 12A Wentworth Avenue		DUAP Region: Sydney South	
Suburb / Nearest Town: Vaucluse 2030		Historic Region: Sydney	
Local Govt Area: Woollahra		Parish: Alexandria	
State: NSW		County: Cumberland	
Other/Former Names: Vaucluse Bay Leading Light; Eastern Channel Leading Light - Rear Lead, Vaucluse Bay Range Front Light, Watsons Bay Anchorage Rear Lead			
Area/Group/Complex: Category 2 Aid to Navigation Port Safety Operating Licence (SYD-013B)			Group ID: 2
Aboriginal Area: Birrabirragal people			
Curtilage/Boundary:			
Item Type: Built	Group: Maritime Industry	Category: Leading Lights	
Owner: Port Authority of New South Wales			
Current Use: Aid to navigation under the Port Safety Operating Licence			
Former Uses:			
Assessed Significance: State		Endorsed Significance:	
<p>Statement of Significance: Representative of a group of lighthouse towers and leads that together form the core of the navigational system of Sydney Harbour that enables it to operate as a world class port. The collection of lights which form this system are together of State significance in that they have facilitated the operation of Sydney Harbour as a World Class Port and so have been instrumental in the development of the City of Sydney. The Eastern Channel Rear Lead is also aesthetically significant due to its landmark value, as well as having historical significance as evidence of differing approaches to lighthouse and lead design throughout Sydney's maritime navigational history.</p>			
<p>Historical Notes or Provenance:</p> <p>In May 1881 the Office of Engineer-in-Chief for Harbours and Rivers, Sydney published a call for tenders for the 'erection of two leading towers in connection with the navigation of the Harbour, on the Vaucluse Estate' which were to replace 'temporary beacons' in the channel. By December 1881 the Evening News noted the 'leading light towers, Eastern Channel' would be exhibiting a red light from 20 December from sunset to sunrise. According to R G Fenn, electrical engineer for the former Maritime Services Board, the two identical leading lights at Vaucluse had a 'chromium-plated parabolic reflector and red window'.</p> <p>In June 1910, the illuminant for the light was changed from oil to gas. In 1913 a red sector light was installed to enable vessels to clear the Bottle and Glass Reef. In 1916 it was converted to the AGA system (Dalén light), which was a method for the automation of lighthouses incorporating acetylene gas and a sun valve, invented by the Swedish engineer, Nils Gustaf Dalén.</p>			

Themes:	National Theme: 3. Economy	State Theme: Transport	Local Theme: (none)
Designer:			
Maker / Builder: Marine Board of New South Wales			
Year Started: 1881	Year Completed: 1881	Circa: No	
<p>Physical Description: The current tower has been described as a 'Disney Castle' style. It is a cylindrical white, rendered, small navigation tower approximately 12m high x 1.5m wide, with a decorated pointed apex. (Hughes, Trueman, Ludlow, Ashton 1984:L14)</p> <p>It houses a fixed red light which acts as a leading beacon for the Eastern Channel at the entrance to Sydney Harbour. Used in conjunction with the Eastern Channel Front Lead (SYD-013A) with which it lines up.</p> <p>Both the Front and Rear Eastern Channel Leads were established in 1881 and replaced the use of the navigational obelisk in Parsley Bay.</p>			
Physical Condition: Fair to good condition. The exterior of the structure appears in generally good condition. Interiors were unable to be accessed upon most recent inspection, however, recent repair/maintenance works were undertaken to the structure in 2019.			
<p>Modification Dates:</p> <p>1896 – repairs conducted by W Steel</p> <p>1910 – converted from oil to gas illuminant</p> <p>1913 – red sector light was installed</p> <p>1916 – converted to AGA system</p> <p>2019 – Repair and maintenance works - Door replaced like for like with hardwood timber, tower interior scraped back and repainted. Corroded section of roofing and guttering removed and replaced.</p>			
<p>Recommended Management: Retain in situ and conserve</p> <p>Preparation of a Heritage Assessment of Port Authority of NSW Sydney Harbour Aids to Navigation in order to confirm relevance of group listing, assessed State significance and applicability of individual items.</p> <p>Preparation of a Maintenance and Conservation Works Schedule to ensure acceptable condition and assist in long-term conservation.</p>			
Management: Statutory Instrument			
Further Comments: Port Authority of New South Wales Category 2 aid to navigation under the Port Safety Operating Licence.			
Criteria a) The rear leading light is an intrinsic part of a collective group of leading lights at the entrance of Sydney Harbour. It is of historical significance for its associations with 19th century navigation. (Anglin 1990:3007) The lead also acts as evidence of different approaches to lighthouse and lead design throughout the developmental history of navigation aids within Sydney Harbour.			
Criteria b)			
Criteria c) Of architectural and aesthetic significance as a notable example of a purpose-built structure housing a navigation aid. (Anglin 1990:3007)			

Criteria d)				
Criteria e) Of technical significance for its associations with 19th century navigation.				
Criteria f)				
Criteria g) Representative of the group of leads and lighthouse towers that together form the core of the navigational system of Sydney Harbour that enables it to operate as a world class port. Of State significance as part of the group.				
Integrity / Intactness: The building is in generally good condition and continues to reflect its original construction, subsequently the item is considered intact.				
References:	Author:	Title:	Year:	
	Bayldon, F J	'History of the Pilotage Service' RAHSJ Vol 22	1936	
	Ibbotson, J	Lighthouses of Australia- A Visitors Guide	2003	
	Maritime Services Board	Sailing Directions NSW	1983	
	Ward, A	'The Entrance Channels, Port Jackson' in Port of Sydney Journal Jan-April	1951	
	Sydney Harbour Trust	The Sydney Harbour Trust Commissioners' Tenth Report being for the year ended 30 June 1910	1910	
	Sydney Harbour Trust	The Sydney Harbour Trust Commissioners' Eleventh Report being for the year ended 30 June 1911	1911	
	Sydney Harbour Trust	The Sydney Harbour Trust Commissioners' Thirteenth Report being for the year ended 30 June 1913	1913	
	R G Fenn	Lighting in the Port of Sydney, Port of Sydney Journal, vol 2, no 8, page 249	1950	
	NSW Government	'Tenders for Public Works', New South Wales Government Gazette, page 2667, http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article221680389	13/05/1881	
		'Along the Wharves', Evening News, page 4, http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article107225302	3/12/1881	
		'Sydney Chamber of Commerce', Sydney Morning Herald, page 9, http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article13487799	19/03/1881	
	'Tenders', Evening News, page 5, http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article108217528	7/10/1896		
Studies:	Author:	Title:	Number:	Year:
	Trueman Ludlow Pty Ltd: Howard Tanner and Assoc : Prof Ian Jack;W Ashton	Woollahra Heritage Study	L14	1984

	Heritage Group, Dept of Public Works	NSW Marine Ministerial Holding Corporation, Heritage and Conservation Register	4920035	1998	
	Susan McIntyre-Tamwoy Heritage Consultants	Sydney Ports Corporation Heritage and Conservation Register	4560007	2004	
	Anglin Associates	Sydney Harbour Maritime Services Board Heritage and Conservation Register	3007	1990	
Parcels:	Parcel Code:	Lot Number: 2	Section:	Plan Code: DP	Plan Number: 739195
Latitude: -33.858198			Longitude: 151.272952		
Listings:	Name: Heritage Act – S.170 NSW State agency heritage register	Title: Eastern Channel Rear Lead	Number: 4560007	Date: 1/07/2004	
	Woollahra Local Environmental Plan 2014	Eastern Channel Lighthouse – Rear Lead	409	2014	
	Heritage study		L14		
	Within a National Trust conservation area	Sydney Harbour Landscape Conservation Area		24/01/1983	
Data Entry:	Date First Entered: 24/06/2004	Date Updated: 10/01/2023	Status: Basic		

Image: 1



Caption: Eastern Channel Rear Lead

Copyright: Port Authority of New South Wales

Image By: Susan McIntyre-Tamwoy Heritage Consultants

Image Date:

Image File: 4560007b1.jpg

Image: 2



Caption: Eastern Channel Rear Lead

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Image File: 4560007b2.jpg

Image: 3



Caption: Eastern Channel Rear Lead

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Image: 4



Caption: Eastern Channel Rear Lead – Tower Closeup

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Image: 5



Caption: Eastern Channel Rear Lead – From Wentworth Road

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Image File: 4560007b5.jpg