

PORT AUTHORITY OF NSW HERITAGE INVENTORY

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number: 4560003		Study Number: 4920034	
Item Name: Eastern Channel Front Lead			
Location: 80 Wentworth Road (corner Fitzwilliam Rd), Vaucluse			
Address: 80 Wentworth Road (corner Fitzwilliam Rd)		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: Eastern Channel Leading Light - Front Lead; Vaucluse Bay Leading Lights, Vaucluse Bay Range Front Light, Watsons Bay Anchorage Front Lead			
Area/Group/Complex: Category 2 Aid to Navigation Port Safety Operating Licence (SYD-013A)			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:	
Statement of Significance: <p>Significant as part 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 Front 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>			
Historical Notes or Provenance: <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 1910 additional land was purchased by the Sydney Harbour Trust Commissioners in connection with the lighthouse for £579, five shillings and five pence. In June of that year, the illuminant for the light was changed from oil to gas. In 1916 it was converted to the AGA system (Dalén light), which was a method</p>			

for the automation of lighthouses incorporating acetylene gas and a sun valve, invented by the Swedish engineer, Nils Gustaf Dalén.			
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, decorated pointed apex with decorative corbelling below. (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. The tower is accessed via a small enclosure with white, rendered walls, a triangular parapet with decorative cornices, and a corrugated metal hipped roof.</p> <p>The Eastern Channel Front Lead is used in conjunction with the Eastern Channel Rear Lead (SYD-013B) with which it lines up.</p>			
Physical Condition: The lead's exterior appears in generally good condition with no identifiable significant issues noted (December 2022)			
<p>Modification Dates:</p> <p>1896 – repairs conducted by W Steel</p> <p>1910 – converted from oil to gas illuminant</p> <p>1916 – converted to AGA system</p> <p>c2000 – lead paint removed, and structure repainted with lead-free paints (according to occupant of property)</p> <p>2019 – the door was replaced with a like-for-like hardwood timber. Corroded section of roof as well as a section of the 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 aid to navigation under the Port Safety operating Licence. Mains power red fixed light.			
Criteria a) Of historical significance for its use in navigation of Sydney Harbour over the past century. It has been an intrinsic part of a group of leading lights (Anglin 1990:3001). The tower 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 aesthetic significance as a notable example of a purpose-built structure, historically associated with navigation since 1881 It is visually prominent in Sydney Harbour and has landmark values.				
Criteria d)				
Criteria e) Of research significance for its association with 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:	
	MSB	Sailing Directions, NSW	1983	
	Ward, A M	The Entrance Channels, Port Jackson in Port of Sydney 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	
	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:
	Heritage Group, Dept of Public Works	NSW Marine Ministerial Holding Corporation, Heritage and Conservation Register	4920034	1998
	Susan McIntyre-Tamwoy Heritage Consultants	Sydney Ports Corporation Heritage and Conservation Register	4560003	2004
	Anglin Associates	Sydney Harbour Maritime Services Board Heritage and Conservation Register	30001	1990

	Trueman Ludlow Pty Ltd: Howard Tanner and Assoc: Prof Ian Jack; W Ashton	Woollahra Heritage Study				1984
Parcels:	Parcel Code:	Lot Number: 1	Section:	Plan Code: DP	Plan Number: 1131534	
Latitude: -33.849555			Longitude: 151.273935			
Listings:	Name: Heritage Act – S.170 NSW State agency heritage register	Title: Eastern Channel Front Lead	Number: 4560003	Date: 1/07/2004		
	Woollahra Local Environmental Plan 2014	Eastern Channel Lighthouse–Front Lead	419			
	Heritage study	Watsons Bay				
	Within a National Trust conservation area	Sydney Harbour Landscape Conservation Area				
Data Entry:	Date First Entered: 06/12/2006	Date Updated: 10/01/2023	Status: Basic			

Image: 1



Caption: Eastern Channel Front Lead

Copyright: Port Authority of New South Wales

Image By: Susan McIntyre-Tamwoy Heritage Consultants

Image Date:

Image File: 4560003b1.jpg

Image: 2



Caption: Eastern Channel Front Lead

Copyright: Port Authority of New South Wales

Image By: Zach Nix - NBRS

Image Date:

Image File: 4560003b2.jpg

Image: 3



Caption: Eastern Channel Front Lead

Copyright: Port Authority of New South Wales

Image By: Zach Nix - NBRS

Image Date:

Image File: 4560003b3.jpg

Image: 4



Caption: Eastern Channel Front Lead

Copyright: Port Authority of New South Wales

Image By: Zach Nix - NBRS

Image Date:

Image File: 4560003b4.jpg