

## PORT AUTHORITY OF NSW HERITAGE INVENTORY

### State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number: 4560024		Study Number: N/A	
Item Name: Overseas Passenger Terminal - Mural			
Location: Level 3, Overseas Passenger Terminal, Circular Quay, Sydney			
Address: Passenger Terminal Circular Quay		DUAP Region: Sydney South	
Suburb / Nearest Town: Sydney 2000		Historic Region: Sydney	
Local Govt Area: Sydney		Parish: St. Philip	
State: NSW		County: Cumberland	
Other/Former Names: Foundation of European Settlement, Sydney Cove Passenger Terminal			
Area/Group/Complex: Overseas Passenger Terminal		Group ID: 4	
Aboriginal Area: Warrane / Sydney Cove (dual name), Gadigal clan			
Curtilage/Boundary:			
Item Type: Movable / Collection	Group: Transport - Water	Category: Other - Transport - Water	
Owner: Port Authority of New South Wales			
Current Use:			
Former Uses:			
Assessed Significance: Local		Endorsed Significance:	
Statement of Significance: The Overseas Passenger Terminal Mural was displayed at the first point of entry for immigrants into Australia arriving by ship to Sydney from the 1960s. Due to its position in the customs hall of the Terminal the mural would have social significance to the people arriving. The mural also has an association with its creator, Australian painter and Archibald Prize winner, Arthur Murch, as a major work of the artist.			
Historical Notes or Provenance:			
<p>The Overseas Passenger Terminal was constructed on the western side of Circular Quay by the Maritime Services Board (MSB) and opened on 20 December 1960 by the Deputy Premier of New South Wales, John Brophy Renshaw.</p> <p>The Maritime Services Board commissioned Australian artist, Arthur James Murch (1902-1989), to paint a mural for the new Sydney Cove Passenger Terminal in 1960. The mural, 'Foundation of European Settlement', depicts events connected with the arrival of the First Fleet in Sydney Cove. It is a symbolic portrayal of two episodes, the flag raising ceremony held on 26 January 1788 and the subsequent landing of the women, children, baggage and farm implements. On the subject matter, Murch wrote: 'The early designs for the mural explored the suitability of the chosen wall area to the subject – the flag-saluting ceremony of the 26th January 1788 at Sydney Cove. One design included convicts, the other none' (Michelle Murch, 'Mural – The Foundation of European Settlement Overseas Terminal, Circular Quay', 2016).</p> <p>The Sydney Morning Herald reported the mural 'would make the terminal something of a show place' (21 July 1962, page 14). It noted Murch worked on the mural at the back of his home in Avalon, in a studio he</p>			

had constructed of timber, reinforced wire and fibreglass, nicknamed 'The Cathedral' (Michelle Murch, 'Arthur Murch', 2016). He was assisted by artists, David Schlunke, Helga Lanzendorfer and Julian Hall, and produced a 50-foot-long oil painting comprising 13 panels of compressed pine board joined together on a timber framework. The mural was unveiled on the northern wall of the Customs Hall at the terminal 1 February 1963 by W D Donaldson a Nominated Commissioner of the Maritime Services Board.

The painter, sculptor and teacher, Arthur Murch, was born in the Sydney suburb of Croydon on 8 July 1902. He attended Sydney Technical High School in Ultimo before being apprenticed to John Heine and Son Ltd, Leichhardt, manufacturers of sheet-metal-working machinery in about 1917. From 1920 he studied part time at the he studied part time at the Royal Art Society of New South Wales and joined the sculpture classes at East Sydney Technical College under Rayner Hoff. After spending time abroad in Europe, he became assistant to the prominent Australian painter, George Lambert. He made at least four trips during his lifetime to Central Australia and painted several portraits of Aboriginal residents of Ntaria in the Northern Territory. In 1949 Murch won the Archibald Prize for his portrait of Bonar Dunlop. Other works by Murch included a mural for the university of Queensland (1950s) and a 150-foot-long mural at the Glasgow Trade Fair (1938).

Themes:	National Theme:	State Theme:	Local Theme:
	2. Peopling	Convict	(none)
	2. Peopling	Migration	(none)
	8. Culture	Creative endeavour (Cultural life)	(none)

Designer: Arthur Murch

Maker / Builder: Arthur Murch, with assistants David Schlunke, Helga Lanzendorfer and Julian Hall

Year Started:	Year Completed: 1963	Circa: No
---------------	----------------------	-----------

Physical Description: Large mural in oil paint, located on the north wall of the customs and baggage hall. Painted on sheets of compressed wood fibre board and joined together on a timber framework. Overall length more than 50 feet, maximum height 13 feet 10 inches, diminishing to 5 feet 7 inches. Located near the landing place of Captain Phillip the mural depicts two separate episodes; the flag raising ceremony held on 26 January 1788, and the subsequent landing of the women, children, baggage and farm implements during the next 10 days.

Physical Condition: The mural appears in generally good condition, with only minor frame chipping identified during inspection.

Modification Dates:

1987-88 – the mural was pulled down so the asbestos wall cladding could be removed from the terminal.

Restored during renovations to the Terminal 2001-02 and replaced on the northern wall of the Customs Hall. (Sydney Ports Corporation Annual Report 2002)

Removed, stored and replaced for renovation works to the Terminal in 2014.

Recommended Management:

Preparation of a Heritage Assessment to provide a comprehensive understanding of the significance of the item and assist with its long-term conservation. This assessment is to be undertaken by a suitably qualified art historian to confirm the significance of the artwork. In addition, the assessment should investigate the social impact of the mural and any potentially adverse outcomes arising from its retention in situ, and subsequent management guidance to address these outcomes.

Preparation of a Moveable Heritage Management Plan for Port Authority of NSW moveable heritage assets including the Overseas Passenger Terminal - Mural to provide a comprehensive guide to the future conservation and management of the items.			
Management: Statutory Instrument			
Further Comments:			
Criteria a) The mural has some historic significance as a commissioned work for the new terminal unveiled in 1963 shortly after completion of the terminal in 1960. The mural was constructed specifically for its place in the terminal and its subject matter included as it was considered symbolically relevant to arrival at the Overseas Passenger Terminal, providing a snapshot of attitudes towards Australian history and culture at the time of the mural's construction.			
Criteria b) The mural has an association with its creator Arthur Murch and assistants David Schlunke, Helga Lanzendorfer and Julian Hall. Archur Murch a painter, sculptor and teacher, was winner of the 1949 Archibald prize, and noted for his significant works " <i>The arts of peace</i> " and " <i>The arts of war</i> ", located at the University of Queensland, his work as part of a collective on a 150ft mural for the 1938 Glasgow Empire Exhibition, and his work as an official war artist during the Second World War. The mural "Foundation of European Settlement" represents a significant work of Arthur Murch commissioned for an important public building the 1963 Sydney Overseas Passenger Terminal.			
Criteria c)			
Criteria d) The Overseas Passenger Terminal played an important role as the first point of entry for immigrants into Australia. Due to its position in the customs hall, the mural would have social significance to the people arriving. Additionally, the mural reflects attitudes towards Australian history and culture at the time of the mural's construction and lacks acknowledgment of the First Nation's history of the site and the events portrayed in the mural. Subsequently, the mural could be considered problematic in relation to contemporary understandings of Australian history and culture, magnified by its significant position at the first point of entry for many visitors to Australia.			
Criteria e)			
Criteria f)			
Criteria g)			
Integrity / Intactness: The mural is in generally good condition and complete from its original production, subsequently, the item is considered to be intact.			
References:	Author:	Title:	Year:
	John Kenny	'Engineers Remake the Cove', Sydney Morning Herald, page 15	30/05/1959
	Sydney Morning Herald	'Pageant in Paint', page 14	21/07/1962
	Good Neighbour	'Mural greets newcomers', page 3 <a href="http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article176530249">http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article176530249</a>	1/04/1963
		Sydney Ports Corporation Annual Report	2002
	Maritime Services Board	News of the Ports Port of Sydney Journal Vol 8 - 4	1963
	Jan Roberts	Murch, Arthur James (1902–1989), Australian Dictionary of Biography, National Centre of	2012

		Biography, Australian National University, <a href="https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/murch-arthur-james-15030/text26226">https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/murch-arthur-james-15030/text26226</a>			
	Michelle Murch	'Arthur Murch', <a href="https://arthurmurch.com/about/">https://arthurmurch.com/about/</a>			2016
	Michelle Murch	'Mural – The Foundation of European Settlement Overseas Terminal, Circular Quay', <a href="https://arthurmurch.com/mural-the-foundation-of-european-settlement/">https://arthurmurch.com/mural-the-foundation-of-european-settlement/</a>			2016
	Meg Stewart	'Arthur Murch' [documentary], <a href="https://arthurmurch.com/portfolio/arthur-murch-1975-australia-council-documentary-by-meg-stewart/">https://arthurmurch.com/portfolio/arthur-murch-1975-australia-council-documentary-by-meg-stewart/</a>			1975
Studies:	Author: Godden Mackay Logan	Title: Sydney Cove Passenger Terminal - Heritage Impact Statement		Number:	Year: 1999
Parcels:	Parcel Code:	Lot Number:	Section:	Plan Code:	Plan Number:
Latitude:			Longitude:		
Listings:	Name: Heritage Act – S.170 NSW State agency heritage register	Title: Overseas Passenger Terminal - Mural		Number: 4560024	Date:
	State Environmental Planning Policy (Precincts-Eastern Harbour City) 2021	Sydney Opera House Buffer Zone			
Data Entry:	Date First Entered: 05/07/2004	Date Updated: 19/12/2022	Status: Basic		

Image: 1



Caption: Overseas Passenger Terminal - Mural unveiling

Copyright: Daily Telegraph

Image By: Daily Telegraph

Image Date: 2/02/1963

Image File: 4560024b1.jpg

Image: 2



Caption: The Mural 2006

Copyright: Port Authority of New South Wales

Image By: Greg Walls, Sydney Ports Corporation (now Port Authority of New South Wales)

Image Date: 3/11/2006

Image File: 4560024b2.jpg

Image: 3



Caption: The Mural 2022

Copyright: Port Authority of New South Wales

Image By: Zach Nix - NBRS

Image Date: 05/10/2022

Image File: 4560024b3.jpg

Image: 4



Caption: Close up of the mural 1/5

Copyright: Port Authority of New South Wales

Image By: Zach Nix - NBRS

Image Date: 05/10/2022

Image File: 4560024b4.jpg



Image: 5



Caption: Close up of the mural 2/5

Copyright: Port Authority of New South Wales

Image By: Zach Nix - NBRS

Image Date: 05/10/2022

Image File: 4560024b5.jpg

Image: 6



Caption: Close up of the mural 3/5

Copyright: Port Authority of New South Wales

Image By: Zach Nix - NBRS

Image Date: 05/10/2022

Image File: 4560024b6.jpg

Image: 7



Caption: Close up of the mural 4/5

Copyright: Port Authority of New South Wales

Image By: Zach Nix - NBRS

Image Date: 05/10/2022

Image File: 4560024b7.jpg

Image: 8



Caption: Close up of the mural 5/5

Copyright: Port Authority of New South Wales

Image By: Zach Nix - NBRS

Image Date: 05/10/2022

Image File: 4560024b8.jpg