

## PORT AUTHORITY OF NSW HERITAGE INVENTORY

### State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number: 4560028		Study Number: N/A	
Item Name: Obelisk Bay Obelisks (Front and Rear Leads)			
Location: Middle Head, Mosman			
Address: Middle Head, Mosman		DUAP Region: Sydney North	
Suburb / Nearest Town: Mosman 2088		Historic Region: Sydney	
Local Govt Area: Mosman		Parish: Willoughby	
State: NSW		County: Cumberland	
Other/Former Names:			
Area/Group/Complex:		Group ID:	
Aboriginal Area:			
Curtilage/Boundary:			
Item Type: Built	Group: Maritime Industry	Category: NAVAID	
Owner: Port Authority of New South Wales			
Current Use: Front and rear day markers, used when navigating the entrance to Sydney Harbour (Port Jackson). Aids to Navigation under the Port Operating Licence.			
Former Uses:			
Assessed Significance: State		Endorsed Significance: State (as part of Middle Head Military Fortifications SHR 00999)	
Statement of Significance: Of significance as a pair of two obelisks located in visually prominent positions at the entrance to Sydney Harbour, and for their associations with the navigation aids employed during the 19th century, still in use today (Anglin 1990:3005).			
Historical Notes or Provenance: Erected 1857-59. Probably erected at the suggestion of Captain Denham to Marine Board September 4, 1857. They appear on his chart of the Harbour published in 1859. These are the two white obelisks above Obelisk Bay which, in-line, clear the end of South reef. (Pilotage Service P 151-152) In 1909 the decision was made to erect lights at Grotto Point (No 4560006) and Rosherville (No.4560030, Spit Lighthouse) to facilitate the increased amount of night sailings into the Port. The introduction of these lights lessened dependence on the Obelisks however they continue to be used by commercial shipping.			
Themes:	National Theme:	State Theme:	Local Theme:
	3. Economy	Technology	(none)
	3. Economy	Transport	(none)
Designer:			
Maker / Builder:			
Year Started: 1857	Year Completed: 1859	Circa: Yes	

Physical Description: 2 sandstone Obelisks, 9 metres high, painted white which continue to be used as day leads. They are unlit. The alignment (274deg.) of the two obelisks (White both 9m high) standing on the north side of Obelisk Bay clears close north of South Reef. (Admiralty Sailing Directions P323).					
Physical Condition: Generally good, with the exception of areas of stonework delamination and graffiti damage, but structurally sound					
Modification Dates:					
Recommended Management: Retain in situ and conserve  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.  Preparation of a Maintenance and Conservation Works Schedule to ensure acceptable condition and assist in long-term conservation.					
Management: Statutory Instrument					
Further Comments: Aids to navigation under the Port Safety Operating Licence.					
Criteria a) Of historical significance for their associations with the navigation aids employed during the 19th century, still in use today and essential to the safe operation of the Port of Sydney. (Anglin 1990:3005)					
Criteria b)					
Criteria c) Of significance as part of a collective group of obelisks located in visually prominent positions at the entrance to Sydney Harbour. (Anglin 1990: 3005)					
Criteria d)					
Criteria e)					
Criteria f)					
Criteria g)					
Integrity / Intactness: Intact, appear in generally good condition and are largely unchanged from original construction					
References:	Author:	Title:			Year:
		Admiralty Sailing Directions. Australia Pilot Vol 2			1999
	Sydney Harbour Trust	Sydney Harbour Trust Commissioners Tenth Report Year ended 30th June 1910			1910
Studies:	Author:	Title:		Number:	Year:
	Godden Mackay Logan Pty Ltd	Mosman Heritage Study			1996
	Anglin Associates	Sydney Harbour Maritime Services Board Heritage and Conservation Register			1990
	Travis Partners Pty Ltd Architects, Planners	Mosman Heritage Study			1986
Parcels:	Parcel Code:	Lot Number:	Section:	Plan Code:	Plan Number:

Latitude: West Obelisk (Rear Lead): -33.82973 East Obelisk (Front Lead): -33.829951		Longitude: West Obelisk (Rear Lead): 151.259432 East Obelisk (Front Lead): 151.263324		
Listings:	Name:	Title:	Number:	Date:
	Heritage Act – S.170 NSW State agency heritage register	Obelisk Bay Obelisks (Front and Rear Leads)	4560028	1/07/2004
	Heritage Act – State Heritage Register	Middle Head Military Fortifications	SHR No. 00999	
	Mosman Local Environmental Plan 2012	Pair of navigational obelisks	I465	
	National Parks and Wildlife Register			16/01/1998
	Heritage study			1/01/1986
Within a National Trust conservation area	Sydney Harbour Landscape Conservation Area		24/01/1983	
Data Entry:	Date First Entered: 07/07/2004	Date Updated: 18/01/2023	Status: Basic	

Image: 1



Caption: Obelisk Bay Obelisks

Copyright: Port Authority of New South Wales

Image By: Susan McIntyre-Tamwoy Heritage Consultants

Image Date:

Image File: 4560028b1.jpg

Image: 2



Caption: Obelisk Bay Obelisk, front marker

Copyright: Port Authority of New South Wales

Image By: Zach Nix - NBRIS

Image Date: 15.12.2022

Image File: 4560028b2.jpg

Image: 3



Caption: Obelisk Bay Obelisk, front marker as seen from rear

Copyright: Port Authority of New South Wales

Image By: Zach Nix - NBRS

Image Date: 15.12.2022

Image File: 4560028b3.jpg

Image: 4



Caption: Obelisk Bay Obelisk, front marker, corner detail

Copyright: Port Authority of New South Wales

Image By: Zach Nix - NBRS

Image Date: 15.12.2022

Image File: 4560028b4.jpg

Image: 5



Caption: Obelisk Bay Obelisk, front marker, base

Copyright: Port Authority of New South Wales

Image By: Zach Nix - NBRIS

Image Date: 15.12.2022

Image File: 4560028b5.jpg



Image: 6



Caption: Obelisk Bay Obelisk, front marker, closeup

Copyright: Port Authority of New South Wales

Image By: Zach Nix - NBRS

Image Date: 15.12.2022

Image File: 4560028b6.jpg

Image: 7



Caption: Obelisk Bay Obelisk, rear marker as seen from Chowder Bay Road

Copyright: Port Authority of New South Wales

Image By: Zach Nix - NBRS

Image Date: 15.12.2022

Image File: 4560028b7.jpg

Image: 8



Caption: Obelisk Bay Obelisk, rear marker as seen from rear from carpark off Middle Head Road

Copyright: Port Authority of New South Wales

Image By: Zach Nix - NBRS

Image Date: 15.12.2022

Image File: 4560028b8.jpg

Image: 9



Caption: Fortifications at Georges Head showing the Obelisk Bay Obelisk (Front Lead) in the background

Copyright: Out of copyright, courtesy of Mosman Library, LH PF 444

Image By:

Image Date: undated

Image File: 4560028b9.jpg