

PORT AUTHORITY OF NSW HERITAGE INVENTORY

State Heritage Inventory

SHI Number: 4560008		Study Number: 4920046	
Item Name: Shark Island Lighthouse			
Location: Off Northern End of Shark Island, Shark Island, Port Jackson			
Address: Off Northern End of Shark Island		DUAP Region:	
Suburb / Nearest Town: Shark Island Port Jackson		Historic Region: Sydney	
Local Govt Area: Unincorporated Waterway		Parish:	
State: NSW		County:	
Other/Former Names: Shark Island Light			
Area/Group/Complex: Category 2 Aid to Navigation – Port Safety Operating License (SYD-018)		Group ID: 2	
Aboriginal Area: Boowambillee or Boambilly (dual name)			
Curtilage/Boundary:			
Item Type: Built	Group: Maritime Industry	Category: Lighthouse Tower	
Owner: Port Authority of New South Wales			
Current Use: Aids to navigation under the Port Safety Operating License			
Former Uses:			
Assessed Significance: State		Endorsed Significance:	
Statement of Significance: Shark Island Lighthouse is an integral part of a collective group of lighthouses and beacons which together are of State significance as the system that enables the safe movement of international and domestic shipping through Sydney Harbour. It is of architectural and aesthetic significance as an example of its type and for its contribution to the cultural landscape of Sydney Harbour.			
Historical Notes or Provenance: The first light constructed in the shoal extending from Shark Island was a white pile light built on a wooden platform in 23 feet of water, and first exhibited on 15 November 1890. Tenders for construction of a 'stage to carry a light' at Shark Island were called by the Office of the Engineer-in-Chief for Harbours and Rivers, Sydney in May 1890. The pile light was switched to acetylene gas plant in lieu of kerosene in 1904. Tenders for a 'reinforced concrete light tower' at Shark Island were called by Harold F Norrie, Secretary of the Sydney Harbour Trust in September 1911. The Sydney Harbour Trust's report for the period ending 30 June 1912 notes work on a 'new structure', a 'light tower', was nearing completion to a cost of £742, 19 shillings and nine pence. The structure was to replace the former pile light and the lightship known as 'Bramble', which was decommissioned. The 1913 Sydney Harbour Trust report described the 'new reinforced concrete light tower, fitted with a fourth order dioptric lens and lighted with acetylene gas, was erected in lieu of the old wooden structure on the north-west side of Shark Island' at a cost of £606, and ten pence.			

The Sun newspaper reported the structure was being improved by the Harbour Trust to 'resemble the one at Robertson's Point (Cremorne)', while the Daily Telegraph reported the 'novel lighthouse' was being constructed of 'reinforced concrete, in six sections' by Messrs Stone and Siddeley, engineers and architects. According to the article the moulding was done at the Harbour Trust works on Dawes Point, with the heaviest section weighing 15 tons, and the 'method of construction' was 'quite new'. Another article described the light tower as 'unusual, if not unique' and 'made in the shape of a frustum of a cone.' The segments were lifted into place using the Trust's crane.

This was not the first application of reinforced concrete in Sydney Harbour Trust projects. In his report for the year ending 30 June 1907, Engineer-in-Chief, H D Walsh, noted reinforced concrete was being incorporated in various wharf projects including the extensions to the wharves at Millers Point.

Edward Giles Stone had previously worked as a draftsman in the Engineering Branch of the Sydney Harbour Trust from its establishment in 1901 until his resignation in December 1908, after which he formed his own practice. He became known for his innovative work with reinforced concrete on residential, commercial and public structures, being a proponent of the work of the French engineer, Armand Considère. In an interview published in 1911 he was quoted as saying he could build cottages 'that will still be standing in 3000 A.D., still safe from fire' and that 'ferro-concrete structures will be the buildings of the future'.

In 1911 he entered a partnership with Ernest J Siddeley, who managed many of the firm's projects, and registered as a limited company on 6 October 1915 with capital totalling £50,000. Their offices were at 11 Moore Street, Sydney and the firm worked on other Harbour Trust works including a reinforced concrete pontoon at Circular Quay in 1914, purportedly the first of its kind in Australia and largest in the world. They also worked on the sewerage aqueduct over the Barwon River in Geelong, Victoria in 1913-15.

Initially it had a fixed white light which was changed to a flashing white light in 1924, and in 1947 it was changed to red group flashing light every eight seconds.

The lighthouse was extensively refurbished in 2003.

Themes:	National Theme: 3. Economy	State Theme: Transport	Local Theme: None
---------	-------------------------------	---------------------------	----------------------

Designer: Engineering Branch, Sydney Harbour Trust

Maker / Builder: Edward Giles Stone and Ernest J Siddeley, engineers and architects

Year Started: 1912	Year Completed: 1913	Circa: No
--------------------	----------------------	-----------

Physical Description: The current reinforced concrete tower is similar to the Robertson Point Lighthouse, but it has a larger base that was used to store the acetylene cylinders prior to its conversion to solar power in 1990 (Ibbotson: 2003). It has a solar powered flashing red light. Flash rate FIR (3) 8sec. The lighthouse is generally cylindrical in shape with the principal barrel structure supported above a reinforced concrete pier. The upper deck of the structure is topped with a concrete balustrade and a central lantern structure with a dome roof and decorative orb shaped finial. The lighthouse is accessed by a small timber deck structure located on its southern elevation.

Physical Condition: The lighthouse is in generally good condition with no major condition issues identified upon inspection from harbour. The existing landing platform is in good condition having been recently replaced.

Modification Dates:

1890: A wooden structure was built extending from the northern end of Shark Island

1904: switched from kerosene to acetylene gas plant

1912-13: Replacement of wooden structure with reinforced concrete light tower and fourth order dioptric lens and lighted with acetylene gas

<p>1924: Light changed from fixed white light to flashing white light on 1 July</p> <p>1947: Light changed to red group flashing light every eight seconds</p> <p>1990: Converted to solar power</p> <p>2003: Major renovation of concrete and steel reinforcing</p> <p>2022: Timber landing deck replaced to address deteriorated condition</p>			
<p>Recommended Management:</p> <p>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>			
<p>Management: Statutory Instrument</p>			
<p>Further Comments: Port Authority of NSW Category 2 aid to navigation under the Port safety Operating Licence</p>			
<p>Criteria a) Part of a collective group of Lighthouse Towers in Sydney Harbour. Of historical significance for its association with navigation aids employed during the 19th and early 20th century and still in use.</p>			
<p>Criteria b)</p>			
<p>Criteria c) Of architectural and aesthetic significance as an excellent example of its type, because of the artistic merit and rarity of its form and contribution to the cultural landscape. (Anglin1990:3022)</p>			
<p>Criteria d)</p>			
<p>Criteria e)</p>			
<p>Criteria f)</p>			
<p>Criteria g) It is representative of a collective group of Lighthouse Towers which together form the core of the navigational system in Sydney Harbour. The series of lights enable the safe navigation of the Harbour so that it functions as a world class port.</p>			
<p>Integrity / Intactness: Integrity is linked to the 'system' of harbour lights of which it is an integral part. Further no later modifications or condition issues identified have substantially altered the integrity of the item and its subsequent ability to demonstrate its significance.</p>			
References:	Author:	Title:	Year:
	Anon	Sydney Cove to the Heads: A guide to Sydney Harbour place names	
	Bayldon, F. J	'History of the Pilotage Service' in RAHSJ Vol22	1936
	Ibbotson, J.	Lighthouses of Australia - A Visitors Guide	2003
	MSB	Sailing Directions NSW	1983
	Catie Gilchrist	'Shark Island', The Dictionary of Sydney	2014,

			http://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/shark_island	
	New South Wales Government	'Tenders for Public Works', New South Wales Government Gazette	6 May 1890, page 3595, http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article219919262	
	New South Wales Government	'Notice to Mariners', New South Wales Government Gazette	4 November 1890, page 8620, http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article221645316	
		'Reinforced Concrete', Sunday Times	28 May 1911, page 15, http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article120786027	
	New South Wales Government	'Tenders', New South Wales Government Gazette	4 October 1911, page 5346, http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article227593189	
	Sydney Harbour Trust	Sydney Harbour Trust Commissioners' Report being for the year ended 30 June, 1912	1912, page 6	
	Sydney Harbour Trust	The Sydney Harbour Trust Commissioners' Thirteenth Report being for the year ended 30 June, 1913	1913, pages 13 and 19	
		'The Harbor Trust', The Sun	17 April 1912, page 10, http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article228867792	
		'A Novel Lighthouse', The Daily Telegraph	4 June 1912, page 11, http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article238756209	
		'Lighthouse to be lifted', The Daily Telegraph	30 July 1912, page 9, http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article238638118	
		'Sydney Harbor Trust', Construction Weekly Supplement to Building	5 January 1914, page 9, http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article234765052	
	Dun's Gazette	Dun's gazette for New South Wales, Vol 14, No. 15	11 October 1915, page 228	
		'Harbor Lights', The Sun	23 June 1924, page 8, http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article223389633	
Studies:	Author: Heritage Group, Dept of Public Works	Title: NSW Marine Ministerial Holding Corporation, Heritage and Conservation Register	Number: 4920046	Year: 1998

		Susan McIntyre-Tamwoy Heritage Consultants		Sydney Ports Corporation Heritage and Conservation Register		4560008		2004	
		Anglin Associates		Sydney Harbour Maritime Services Board Heritage and Conservation Register		3022		1990	
Parcels:	Parcel Code:	Lot Number:	Section:	Plan Code:	Plan Number:				
Latitude: -33.856528				Longitude: 151.257211					
Listings:	Name:		Title:		Number:		Date:		
	Heritage Act – S.170 NSW State agency heritage register		Shark Island Lighthouse		4560008		1/07/2004		
	State Environmental Planning Policy (Biodiversity and Conservation) 2021		Navigation light tower		132				
Within a National Trust conservation area		Sydney Harbour Landscape Conservation Area				24/01/1983			
Data Entry:	Date First Entered:		Date Updated:			Status:			
	24/06/2004		22/12/2022			Basic			

Image: 1



Caption: Shark Island Lighthouse

Copyright: Port Authority of NSW

Image By: Susan McIntyre-Tamwoy Heritage Consultants

Image Date:

Image File: 4560008b1.jpg

Image: 2



Caption: Shark Island Lighthouse

Copyright: Port Authority of New South Wales

Image By: Nicole Cama - NBRIS

Image Date: 12/10/2022

Image File: 4560008b2.jpg

Image: 3



Caption: Shark Island Lighthouse

Copyright: Port Authority of New South Wales

Image By: Nicole Cama - NBRIS

Image Date: 12/10/2022

Image File: 4560008b3.jpg

Image: 4



Caption: Shark Island Lighthouse

Copyright: Port Authority of New South Wales

Image By: Zach Nix - NBRIS

Image Date: 12/10/2022

Image File: 4560008b4.jpg

Image: 5



Caption: Shark Island Lighthouse shortly after its construction

Copyright:

Image By: Reproduced from Sydney Harbour Trust, The Sydney Harbour Trust Commissioners' Thirteenth Report being for the year ended 30 June, 1913, page 48

Image Date: 1913

Image File: 4560008b5.jpg

Image: 6



Caption: Shark Island Pile Light (constructed 1890)

Copyright: Copyright expired, citation: Australian Town and Country Journal, 23 August 1902, page 32,
<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article71491884>

Image By: National Library of Australia via Trove

Image Date: 1902

Image File: 4560008b6.jpg

Image: 7



Caption: Shark Island Pile Light (constructed 1890, altered 1904)

Copyright: Copyright expired, Australian Town and Country Journal, 2 February 1910, page 29,
<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article264080899>

Image By: National Library of Australia via Trove

Image Date: 1910

Image File: 4560008b7.jpg