

# ATTACHMENT C

## ATTACHMENT C

**STATEMENTS OF SIGNIFICANCE  
FOR MILLERS POINT**

## Millers Point Conservation Area

**Name of item:** Millers Point Conservation Area

**Type of item:** Conservation Area

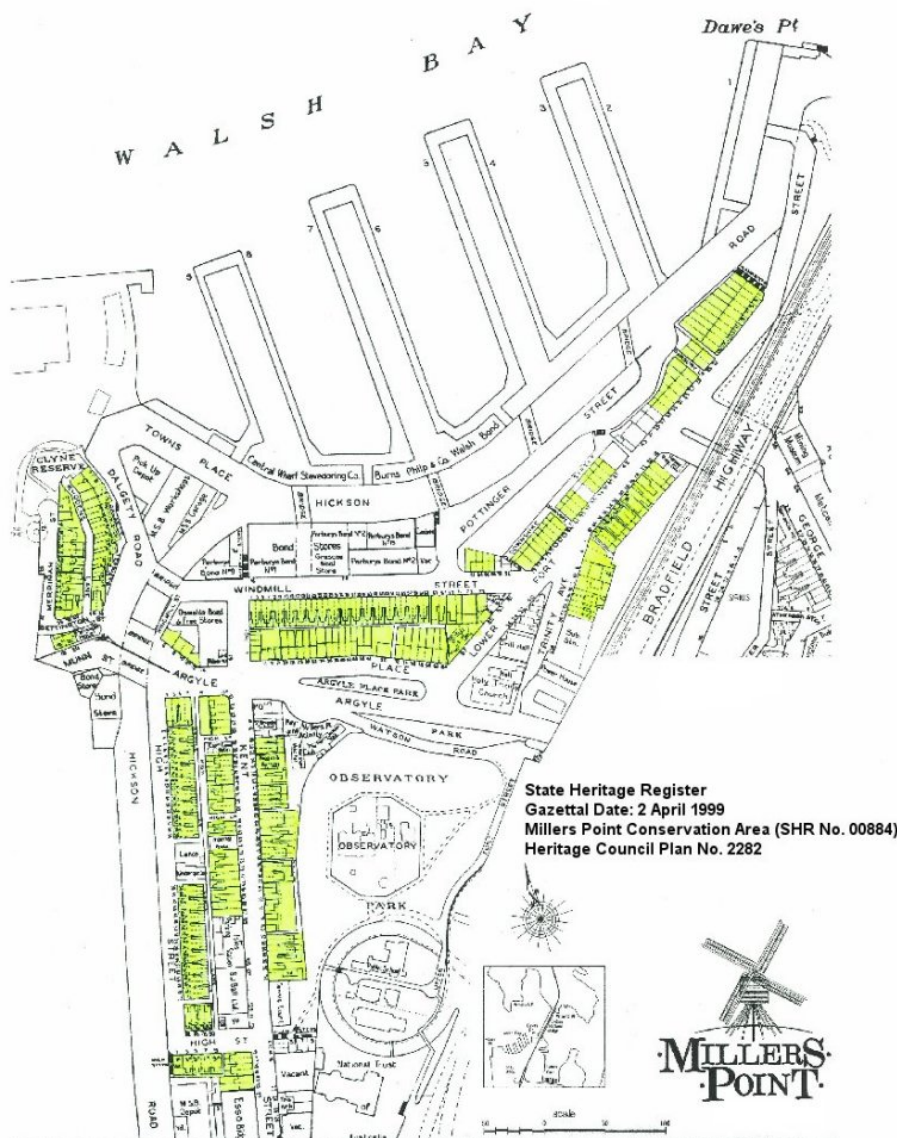
**Dated updated:** 29 October 2001

**Webpage link:** <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=5001049>

Note: The Millers Point Conservation Area, is defined by the State Heritage Register (SHR) as including all Housing NSW owned property. It is also within the large Millers Point and Dawes Point Village Precinct, which is listed on the SHR.

### Statement of significance:

Millers Point Conservation Area is an intact residential and maritime precinct of outstanding State and national significance. It contains buildings and civic spaces dating from the 1830s and is an important example of nineteenth and early twentieth century adaptation of the landscape. The precinct has changed little since the 1930s.



## Millers Point & Dawes Point Village Precinct

**Name of item:** Millers Point & Dawes Point Village Precinct

**Type of item:** Conservation Area

**Date updated:** 28 Nov 2003

**Webpage link:**

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=5054725>

### Statement of significance:

Millers Point & Dawes Point Village Precinct is of state significance for its ability to demonstrate, in its physical forms, historical layering, documentary and archaeological records and social composition, the development of colonial and post-colonial settlement in Sydney and New South Wales.

The natural rocky terrain, despite much alteration, remains the dominant physical element in this significant urban cultural landscape in which land and water, nature and culture are intimately connected historically, socially, visually and functionally.

The close connections between the local Cadigal people and the place remain evident in the extensive archaeological resources, the historical records and the geographical place names of the area, as well as the continuing esteem of Sydney's Aboriginal communities for the place.

Much (but not all) of the colonial-era development was removed in the mass resumptions and demolitions following the bubonic plague outbreak of 1900, but remains substantially represented in the diverse archaeology of the place, its associated historical records, the local place name patterns, some of the remaining merchants villas and terraces, and the walking-scale, low-rise, village-like character of the place with its central 'green' in Argyle Place, and its vistas and glimpses of the harbour along its streets and over rooftops, the sounds of boats, ships and wharf work, and the smells of the sea and harbour waters.

The post-colonial phase is well represented by the early 20th century public housing built for waterside workers and their families, the technologically innovative warehousing, the landmark Harbour Bridge approaches on the heights, the parklands marking the edges of the precinct, and the connections to working on the wharves and docklands still evident in the street patterns, the mixing of houses, shops and pubs, and social and family histories of the local residents.

Millers Point & Dawes Point Village Precinct has evolved in response to both the physical characteristics of its peninsular location, and to the broader historical patterns and processes that have shaped the development of New South Wales since the 1780s, including the British invasion of the continent; cross-cultural relations; convictism; the defence of Sydney; the spread of maritime industries such as fishing and boat building; transporting and storing goods for export and import; immigration and emigration; astronomical and scientific achievements; small scale manufacturing; wind and gas generated energy production; the growth of controlled and market economies; contested waterfront work practises; the growth of trade unionism; the development of the state's oldest local government authority the City of Sydney; the development of public health, town planning and heritage conservation as roles for colonial and state government; the provision of religious and spiritual guidance; as inspiration for creative and artistic endeavour; and the evolution and regeneration of locally-distinctive and self-sustaining communities.

The whole place remains a living cultural landscape greatly valued by both its local residents and the people of New South Wales. (HO)



## Millers Point Heritage Conservation Area

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| <b>Name of item:</b> | Millers Point Heritage Conservation Area  |
| <b>Listing date:</b> | 14 December 2012  |
| <b>Last updated:</b> | 11 January 2012   |
| <b>Webpage link:</b> | <a href="http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=2426306">http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=2426306</a> |

### Statement of significance:

Millers Point Heritage Conservation Area is a substantially intact residential and commercial precinct of outstanding State and National significance. It contains buildings and civic spaces dating from the 1830s and is an important example of nineteenth and early twentieth century adaptation of the landscape. Millers Point has changed little since the 1930s.

The natural rocky terrain, despite much alteration, remains the dominant physical element in this significant urban cultural landscape in which land and water, nature and culture are intimately connected historically, socially, visually and functionally.

The close connections between local Aboriginal clans and the place remain evident in the historical records and the geographical place names of the area, as well as the continuing esteem of Sydney's Aboriginal communities for the place.

Much (but not all) of the colonial-era development was removed in the mass resumptions and demolitions following the bubonic plague outbreak of 1900, but remains substantially represented in the diverse archaeology of the place, its associated historical records, the local place name patterns, some of the remaining merchants villas and terraces, and the walking-scale, low-rise, village-like character of the place with its central 'green' in Argyle Place, and its vistas and glimpses of the harbour along its streets and over rooftops and views from the harbour to the area.

The post-colonial phase is well represented by the early 20th century public housing built for waterside workers and their families, the technologically innovative warehousing, the landmark Harbour Bridge approaches on the heights, the parklands marking the edges of the precinct, and the connections to the wharves and docklands still evident in the street patterns, the mixing of houses, shops and pubs, and social and family histories of the local residents.

The Millers Point Heritage Conservation Area has evolved in response to both the physical characteristics of its peninsular location, and to the broader historical patterns and processes that have shaped the development of New South Wales since the 1780s, including the British occupation of the continent; cross-cultural relations; convictism; the defence of Sydney; the spread of maritime industries such as fishing and boat building; transporting and storing goods for export and import; immigration and emigration; astronomical and scientific achievements; small scale manufacturing; wind and gas generated energy production; the growth of controlled and market economies; contested waterfront work practises; the growth of trade unionism; the development of the state's oldest local government authority the City of Sydney; the development of public health, town planning and heritage conservation as roles for colonial and state government; the provision of religious and spiritual guidance; as inspiration for creative and artistic endeavour; and the evolution and regeneration of locally-distinctive and self-sustaining communities.

The area contains numerous original and characterful views to and from the harbour that are formed by a combination of dramatic topography and long physical evolution. It is the extent, the expansiveness, the change of view of individual buildings as the viewer moves around the water that gives the place distinction and significance. The variety, complexity and scale of views from the wharfs, observatory hill, from roadways, edges of escarpments and walls are significant in defining the character of the area. The area is significant, as aside from the southern edge of the precinct, it is not overpowered by city scale development. The area contains numerous streets and lanes of historical and aesthetic significance. The area contains numerous features such as steps, fences, rock cuttings of historical and aesthetic interest.

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The whole place remains a living cultural landscape greatly valued by both its local residents and the people of New South Wales. The value of the area is further enhanced by its separation from the Rocks precinct, which is predominantly commercial in use with Millers Point retaining its residential character, in particular worker housing. This is a rare continuing use. The character of the area is almost defined on a street by street basis rather than a broad precinct basis, but the most striking element is the homogeneity of the whole. With very few exceptions every element of the precinct contributes to the whole in a significant way.

The relative intactness (or interpretation in cases of redevelopment) of the area is representative of measures taken to protect the heritage values of individual buildings and the precinct as a whole since the 1950s by the local community and Heritage/Historic Groups. This led to the listing of Millers Point Heritage Conservation Area and individual listings for items in the area within planning control documents.

The Millers Point area is of State and National Significance as a rare urban residential area remnant of early port of Sydney dating from the early 1800s which remains relatively unchanged since the 1930s; exhibits a range of fine buildings and spaces from the 1830s-1920s with high individual integrity, important collection of Government housing (built for port workers) and community maritime associations from European settlement to 20th century. The area has changed little since the 1930s, the high degree of integrity and authenticity area and of individual buildings.

The National Trust Centre and associated structures are significant as fine examples of mid-nineteenth century buildings constructed in the Victorian Free Classical and Victorian Regency styles. The buildings have a prominent position and an important visual and contextual relationship with the former Military Hospital building. These buildings have significance as part of the largest national school to be established in the colony during the mid 1850's. They have had a lengthy association with a variety of historically important persons and organisations and are significant as a design of the colony's first Schools Architect, Henry Robertson. The buildings have social significance for their association with the change from denominational to government schooling and for their association with community functions since their construction. The buildings have scientific significance for demonstrating the sequential development of an educational institution.

An important feature of this precinct is the circular stone excavation for the Cahill Expressway that separated the school grounds from observatory hill and from the National Trust Centre (former school buildings) as it marks a phase of development of the city where the whole of the Millers Point area was at considerable risk of loss through new planning policies and development.

The Observatory Hill Park is of outstanding historical significance and a major component of the Observatory Hill precinct. The park commands panoramic views to the north, west and south.

The Observatory is of exceptional significance in terms of European culture. Its dominant location beside and above the port town and, later, City of Sydney made it the site for a range of changing uses, all of which were important to, and reflected, stages in the development of the colony. These uses included: milling (the first windmill); defence (the first, and still extant, fort fabric); communications (the flagstaffs, first semaphore and first electric telegraph connection); astronomy, meteorology and time keeping.

The surviving structures of the Observatory Hill precinct, both above and below ground, are themselves physical documentary evidence of 195 years changes of use, technical development and ways of living. As such they are a continuing resource for investigation and public interpretation.

Observatory Hill has an association with an extensive array of historical figures most of whom have helped shape its fabric. These include: colonial Governors Hunter, Bligh, Macquarie & Denison; military officers and engineers Barrallier; Bellasis and Minchin; convicts: the as yet unnamed constructors of the mill and fort; architects: Greenway (also a convict), Lewis, Blacket, Weaver, Dawson and Barnet; signallers and telegraphists such as Jones and the family Moffitt; astronomers: particularly PP King, Scott, Smalley, Russell, Cooke and Wood.

The elevation of the site, with its harbour and city views and vistas framed by mature Moreton Bay fig (*Ficus macrophylla*) trees of the surrounding park, make it one of the most pleasant and spectacular locations in Sydney.

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The picturesque Italianate character and stylistic interest of the Observatory and residence building, together with the high level of competence of the masonry (brick and stone) of all major structures on the site, combine to create a precinct of unusual quality.

Finally, the continued use of the observatory for astronomical observations and the survival of astronomical instruments, equipment and some early furniture although temporarily dispersed, and the retention of most interior spaces, joinery, plasterwork, fireplaces, and supports ensure that the observatory can remain the most intact and longest serving early scientific building in the State (Kerr 1991: 39). The site is also of significance for relationship of Commonwealth and State powers. It is the site of the first intercolonial conference on meteorology and astronomy. (Pearson et al 1999)

The building is an excellent example of a Colonial building erected for scientific purposes and continuing to perform its function at the present time. The structure makes an imposing composition atop the historic hill originally known as Flagstaff Hill and occupies the historic Fort Phillip site (1804-45). It was designed by the colonial architect Alexander Dawson and built in 1858.

