

SITE INVESTIGATIONS:

SITE DEVELOPMENT HISTORY

The Star is located on the eastern side of Pyrmont peninsula, one of Australia's most densely populated suburbs. It also occupies the enviable position of being a waterfront site on the western foreshore of the Darling Harbour waterway, one of the city's most vibrant waterfront precincts. The Pyrmont peninsula, including Darling Harbour, has a varied and fascinating history with the development of each location being inextricably linked to one another. Understanding the relationship the site has to both its land-side and waterfront context is essential in understanding the identity of the site.

Investigations into a series of historical maps depicting development and planning on the site over time reflects this dual characteristic. This analysis reveals the site has always been configured of two parts at different times relating both to its waterfront context of the Darling Harbour waterway and its land-side context of the Pyrmont peninsula.



This map (1855) depicts the first subdivision in Pyrmont accessed off Pyrmont Street along with the original alignment of the harbour foreshore. Overlaying the current day site of The Star reveals that it was originally located half on the peninsula of Pyrmont and half within Pyrmont Bay. In this map Darling Island, a small rocky island only connected to the mainland by a tidal mud flat, is located to the north of the site.



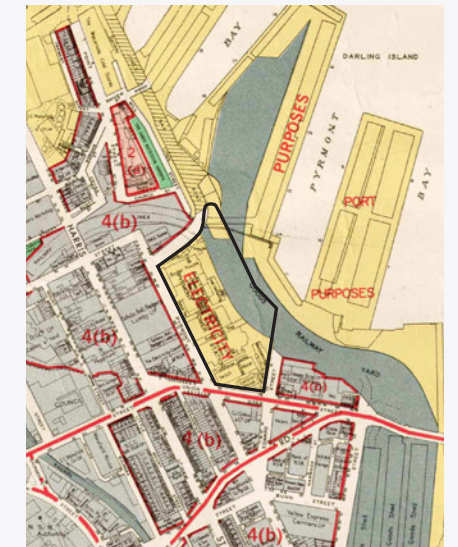
Industrial development gradually modified the foreshore connecting Darling Island to land by a permanent causeway and eventually into a series of large wharf structures with long straight berth edges extending out over the water. Within the site, the foreshore area was filled to accommodate the Goods Line railway out to Darling Island. This reflects the gradual but significant transformation of the natural waterway into a working harbour (1903).



The Goods Line was then extended around the Pyrmont peninsula and the site became home to one of the city's first power stations. The industrial age saw the transformation of Pyrmont in which many of the fine grain buildings gave way to larger industrial scale buildings (1965).



One of the first planning schemes for the City of Sydney identified the site as part of the industrial scale of uses that characterised Darling Harbour with the finer grain of Pyrmont being defined to the western side of Pyrmont Street (1958).



Subsequent planning schemes for the City of Sydney also maintained the distinction of the site as more closely related to Darling Harbour uses than to Pyrmont especially in terms of its role and function in the city (1971).

FIGURE 28: Historic map series of the site depicting the change in landform, development patterns and planning framework