

3.2 HISTORY AND HERITAGE

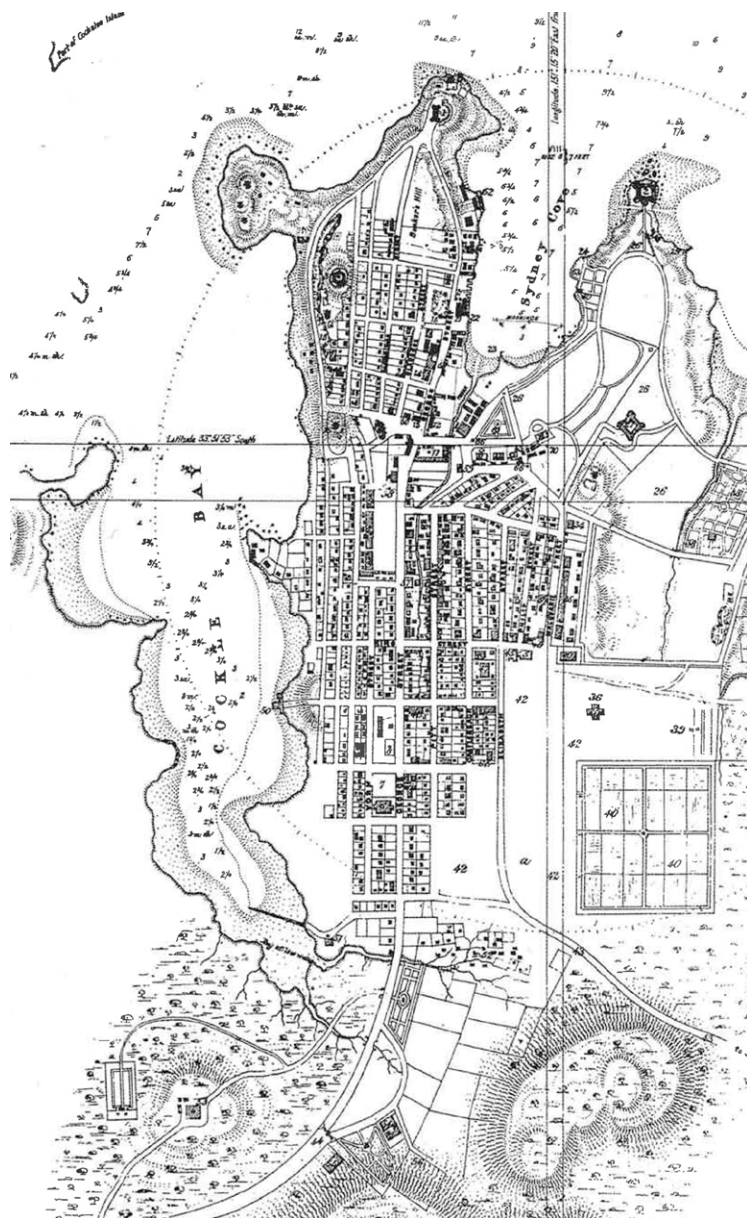


Figure 3.2.1 1822
The Thriving Industrial suburbs of Darling Harbour and Pyrmont with the valley floor at the mouth of the bay.

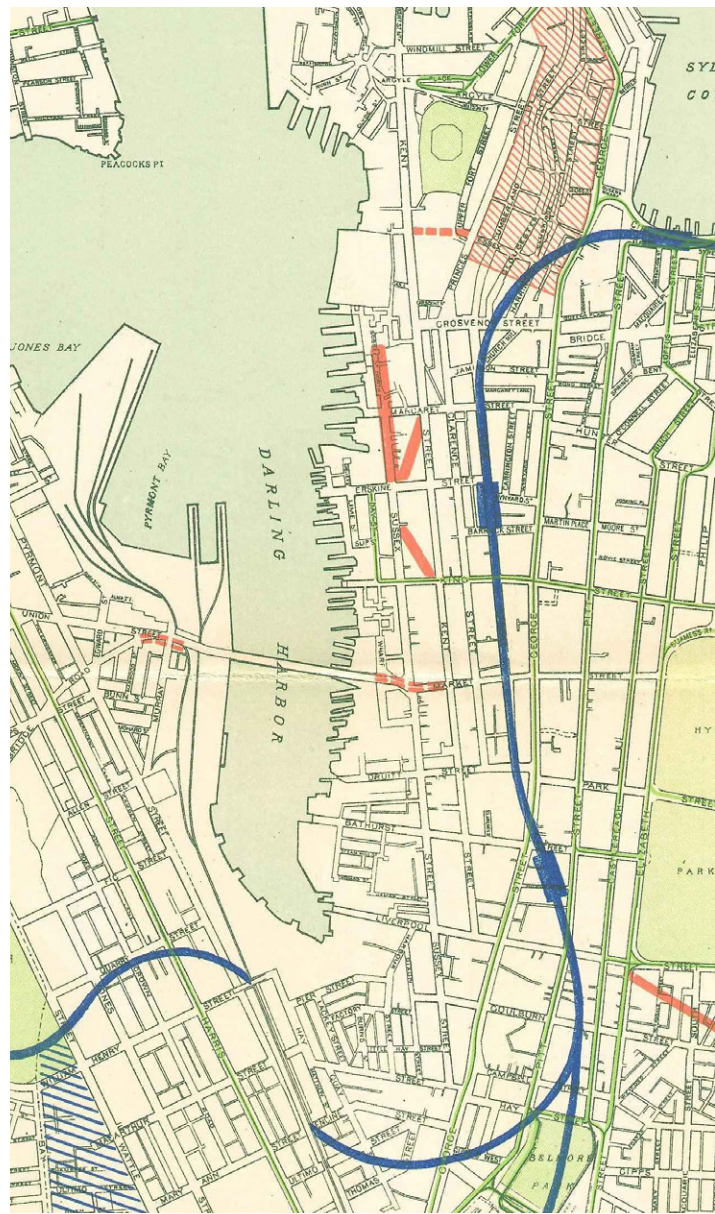


Figure 3.2.2 1880
Increased development along the harbour frontage with the construction of the Iron Wharf and rail line

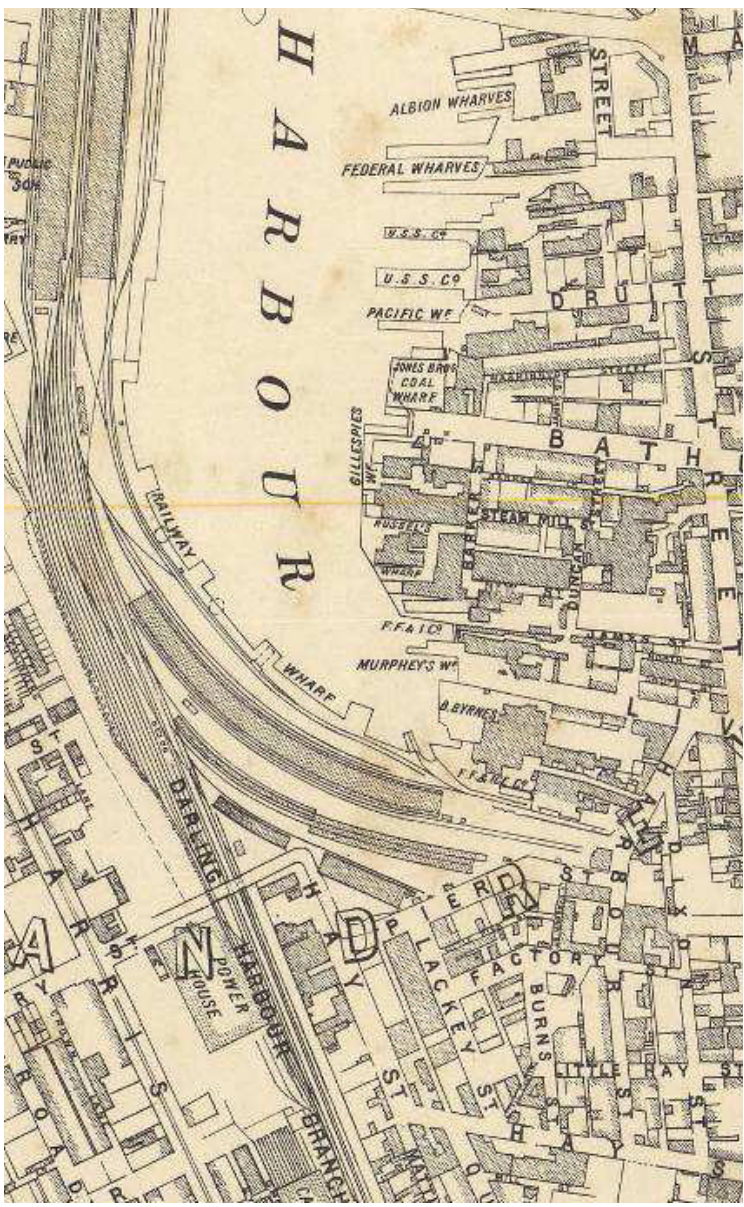


Figure 3.2.2 1903
Wharfage developments began in 1901, the railway and associated infrastructure expanded.
Source - City of Sydney Archives

The **Cadi People** are the traditional owners of The Haymarket study area. They were estimated to be a band of 50-60 people who lived along the shores of Sydney Harbour, surviving as hunter-gatherers on a diet of cockles, oysters, mussels and fish from the harbour and fruits and roots from the surrounding vegetation.

Settlement in Cockle Bay began early within the colonial history of Sydney and the effect of colonisation of the area was devastating to the Cadi People who were all but wiped out through loss of food sources and water plus exposure to diseases such as smallpox.

Cockle Bay quickly became an important wharf, and land reclamation and wharf building subsequently changed the shape of the land forever.

1815 - The 1800s were a time of rapid technological change and **Australia's engineering industry was born in Darling Harbour**. Scottish engineer John Dickson arrived in Sydney with the **colony's first steam engine**, sawmill and machinery for grinding grain. To provide water for the steam engines, Dickson **dammed a stream that ran down to Darling Harbour**.

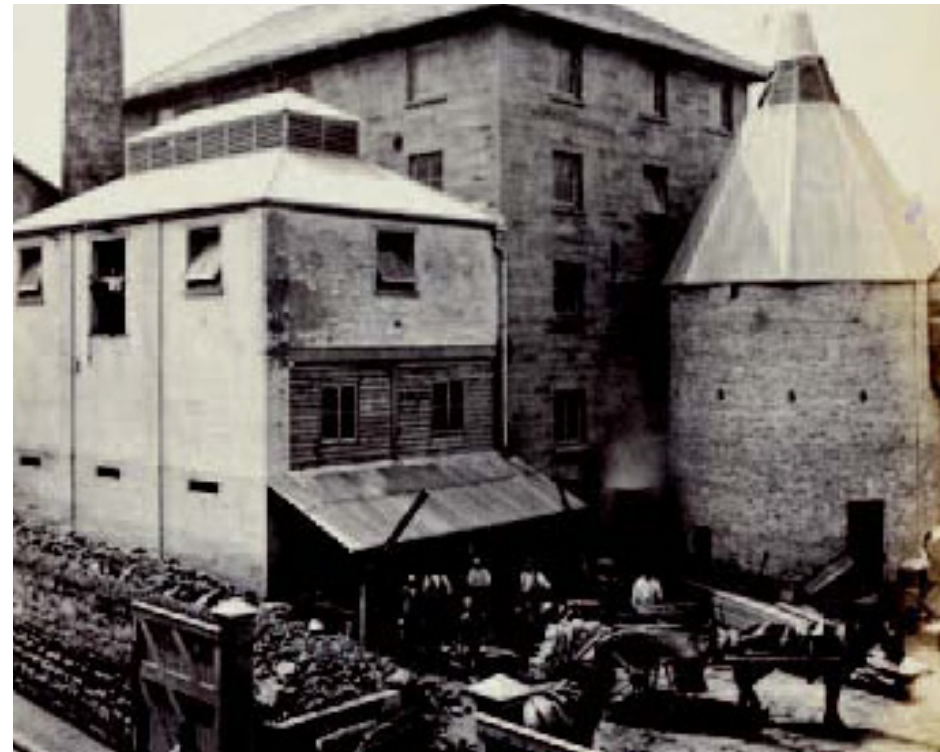
1853 - Sydney Railway Company acquired 3 hectares from the Harris Street Estate (Ultimo House Land) to build a **rail and terminus goods yard**. **Sydney's food markets were located in the heart of the city**, all of the meat, fish, fruit and vegetables were delivered either via Pyrmont Bridge, the Darling Harbour Rail Yard, or unloaded at a series of nearby wharves.

1860 - **Hay Street Stormwater Channel** was constructed around 1860 and was one of the first five original combined sewers constructed in the city, and Australia. The channel greatly improved public health by diverting stormwater and sewage off the streets and distributing it into the harbour. It is an excellent example of the city's early infrastructure.

1874 - At the time of construction, Darling Harbour's **Iron Wharf** was considered to be an engineering masterpiece. Parts of the wharf still remain buried at the site and are considered significant remains.

1883 - **Sydney's first wool store opened**, the Richard Goldsbrough warehouse built on the corner of Pyrmont and Fig Streets.

1891 - **Hydraulic Pumping Station 1** played an important role in the industrial, commercial and architectural development of Sydney.



1815, Dickson's Mill- powered by steam from a dammed stream.
Source - 'Telling the Stories of Darling Harbour' SHFA

It was **Sydney's first and major public hydraulic power provider**. The remaining Pumphouse building is one of the few industrial landmarks in this part of the city.

1898 - **Ultimo Powerhouse** dates from one of the key periods of the development of Ultimo. It came after the subdivision of Harris and Macarthur estates and industrial redevelopment of the area at the turn of the century.

1960s - Many of the woolstores and other port functions started moving out of Sydney.

1971 - Darling Harbour was a series of **empty warehouses, wharfs and rarely used train tracks**. Since electric power took over, the Pumphouse became disused and was saved from demolition. The building became The Pumphouse Brewery and Tavern.

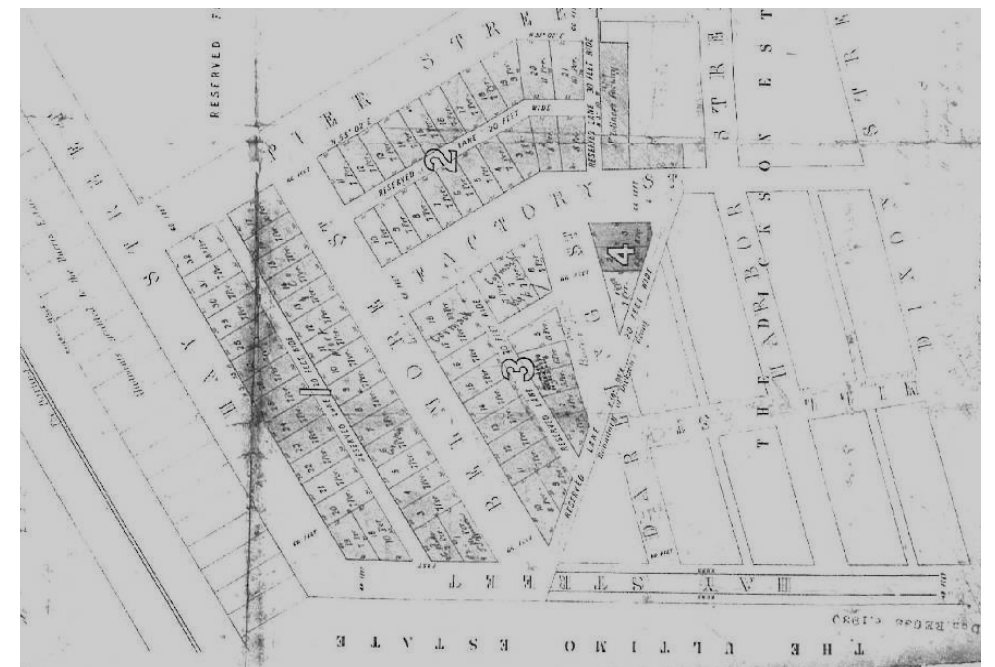
The City of Sydney proposed to turn Darling Harbour into a **recreational and residential precinct**.

1988 - Darling Harbour was redeveloped, and was one of the **most ambitious urban renewal projects undertaken in Australia**.

1990s - The railway line north of Hay Street was utilised for the light railway through Pyrmont.



1983 redevelopment had begun with The Sydney Entertainment Centre (SEC)
Source - City of Sydney Archives



1870 Subdivision of reclaimed land where presently Sydney Entertainment Centre (SEC) and adjacent carpark are located. Source - State Library of NSW

Visible heritage

Although the history of the site is rich, very few visible remnants remain. The stream that was once dammed and fed Dickson's steam engines still flows but underground within the Hay Street Sewer. The Sydney Entertainment Centre (SEC) now stands upon the site of Dickson's Dam. In 1992, archeological excavation uncovered the sandstone floor of the mill on the corner of Pier and Harbour Streets. The surviving wall of Baker's Mill has been placed in storage.

There are three significant industrial heritage buildings around the site that create site context:

- The Pumphouse dates back to 1891 – the first major public hydraulic power provider
- The Market City building dates back to 1834 – established as a market for farmers selling food and grain, quickly becoming a thriving market for second hand goods.
- The John Mills wool store dates back to 1883

A memorial to workers who have died in the line of their work sits within a grassed parkland area at Little Pier Street.



The Pumphouse, Little Pier Street - present day facade. Source - HASSELL



Paddy's Markets, Hay Street facade - present day. Source - HASSELL



Paddy's Markets, Hay Street, circa 1940