

Garden Island Signal Mast

From 1912 this signal mast stood at the Garden Island Naval Base in Sydney. The signal station was built at the high northern tip of the island in 1909. The mast signalled by flag to all naval vessels entering, lying in or leaving Port Jackson. Later it displayed meteorological data every 30 minutes for all mariners. The signal station also used visual flashing and semaphore.

Judged as a hazard to the Catalina and Sunderland flying boats using Rose Bay, the middle section was removed to lower its height in 1945.

In February 1978 the mast was removed because of dry rot. It was taken by helicopter to the Rydalmere Naval Stores where it was treated and stored. It was moved by barge along the Parramatta River to the National Maritime Museum to become a major landmark in Darling Harbour. It now stands 20 metres tall – less than one third its original height.

ANMM Collection

Gift from Australian Defence Industries

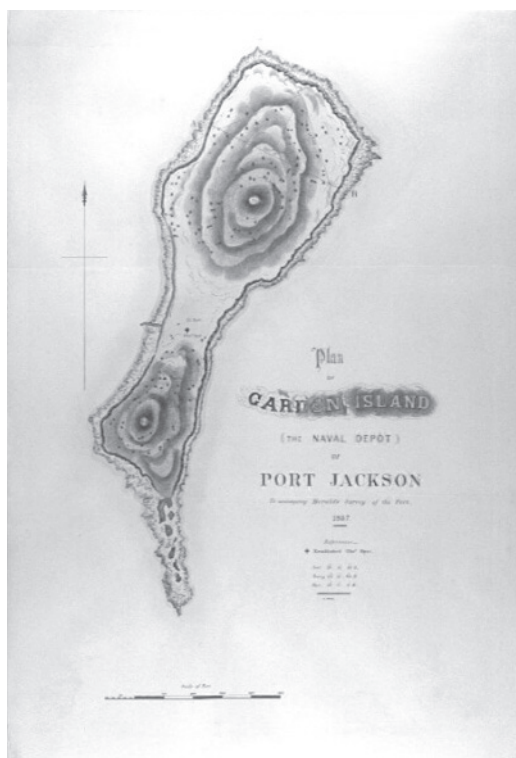
Restored with assistance from NSW Department of TAFE and Western Wood Products



Specifications

Built 1912

Overall height	72 m (as built 1912) 36 m (modified 1945) 20.70 m (reconstructed 1991)
Yard	12.90 m (reconstructed)
Gaff	8.60 m (reconstructed)
Built	1912 Garden Island
Dismantled	1978
Re-erected	1991 (National Maritime Museum)
Masts and spars	Oregon (Douglas fir)
Rigging	Galvanised wire rope
Base and fittings	Galvanised iron and steel



Front: Nelson's signal on Trafalgar Day 21 October Photographer ANMM
Above: Plan showing elevations of Garden Island 1857 ANMM Collection