

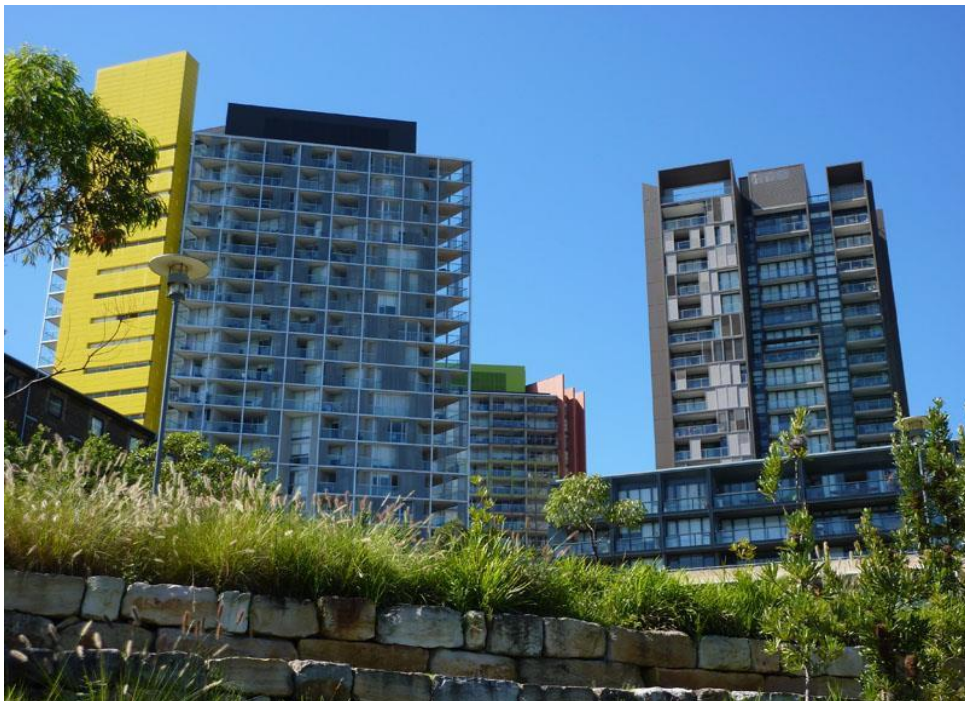
## KNOX ON BOWMAN

**Date Built:** 2006

**Architect:** Tzannes Associates

**Building:** 6 storeys - 24 apartments. It overlooks Waterfront Park.  
It is the site of CSR storage tanks.



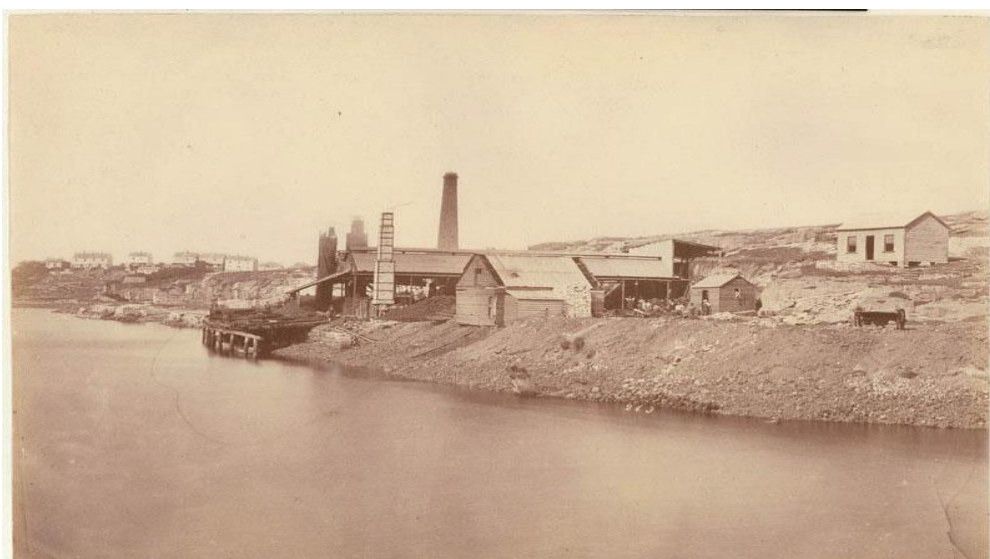


This site commanded a fine view of the foreshore, where quarries supplied ships' ballast and building material. After the 1850s gold rush, Pyrmont yellowblock sandstone was in huge demand for the buildings that transformed Sydney. Teams of horses dragged great blocks of sandstone to city building sites.

Other activities sprang up on the shore. Thomas Chowne bought land at Elizabeth Macarthur Bay in 1840, to build ships. This initiative attracted other processes that would otherwise disturb the citizens of Sydney. A bridge linked Glebe Island to Pyrmont in 1857 and cattle to (and carcasses from) Glebe Island abattoirs were another trade that Sydney chose not to smell.



City Iron Works opened in 1865. By 1871 The City Iron Works employed sixty men. Scrap iron was worked up here and pig iron was puddled [in furnaces, to produce wrought iron] About 100 tons a month was rolled here, and railway wheels and tires for contractors' locomotives were also turned out. Even before the arrival of the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, this was a busy industrial location.





This building commemorates Edward Knox (1820-1901) and his son Edward William Knox (1863-1932), general managers of CSR, which they helped create and build into an industrial giant.

Edward came to Australia in 1840, and rose rapidly in business, becoming (among other things) director of the Australasian Sugar Company (ASC). When ASC became insolvent in 1855, Knox pulled the wreckage together to create CSR. As chairman of directors (until 1901) his business skills helped the enterprise through early crises. He organised the move from Chippendale to Pyrmont, and its expansion through Australia to New Zealand and Fiji.

In 1880 he handed over to his second son as General Manager: Edward William had joined from school and worked his way up. He recruited first-rate chemists and engineers to apply science and technology to every aspect of sugar production. As a manager, he resented state intervention and adopted a paternalist approach to industrial relations. As CSR came to dominate the sugar industry, he defended it from the charge of monopoly, defied two Royal Commissions, and negotiated from strength with the Australian, Fijian and British governments.

Edward William's brother Thomas was managing director of Dalgety & Co.; another brother, Adrian, became chief justice of the High Court of Australia.

Like its neighbours, Knox on Bowman occupies a site dominated (after 1900) by the huge tanks which stored molasses as part of CSR's distilling and industrial chemicals operations.

Items and photographs of CSR's industrial heritage enliven the foyer and the corridors.







In 1984, as industries quit Pymont, the State government resolved to redevelop the area, and in 1987 decided that the peninsula needed its own plan. In the same year CSR asked Lend Lease to study the feasibility of redeveloping the industrial site.

Pymont residents were deeply divided: some were forced to leave the area, others welcomed development, but in 1979 opponents formed UPROAR (Ultimo Pymont Residents Opposed to Arbitrary Redevelopment) and endured years of being consulted (or, in their view, coerced). In August 1992 a few activists proclaimed the Republic of Pymont. In this brilliant but forlorn gesture the republicans issued visas, and publicised their critique of top-down planning, and in particular to Jacksons Landing, the casino and the helipad.

Meanwhile in 1997 Lend Lease bought the CSR site, and by April 1999 Jacksons Landing was under construction. The storage tanks were dismantled, and Bowman Street opened up as a thoroughfare, so that residential buildings could be built with views over the water to Balmain.

