



## Historical timeline of the Sydney Harbour YHA site

Date	Use of the site
<b>Pre 1788</b>	Part of the territory of the Cadigal people, although no archaeological evidence of their occupation has been discovered on the site.
<b>Late 18<sup>th</sup> century</b>	The rocky ridges after which The Rocks is named were transformed by the early convict settlers by cutting tracks, terracing and draining. One of these tracks leading up from Sydney Cove is Cribbs Lane, transecting the site.
<b>1795</b>	George Legg, a first fleet convict, and his wife, Ann Armsden, who arrived on the “floating brothel” Lady Juliana in 1790, built a house on the site. This is the earliest remnant visible on the site.
<b>1807</b>	Irish convict and stonemason, Richard Byrne, built on the site. The Byrne family lived on the site until the 1850s.
<b>1809</b>	The convict George Cribb settled on the site and worked as a butcher, slaughtering animals and burying their remains on the site. As his wealth grew he built a row of tenements, a butcher shop and hotel on the site. In the late 1820s his land was purchased by land speculators.
<b>1830s</b>	Carahers Lane was established, providing access between Cribbs Lane and Longs Lane.
<b>1844</b>	Robert Berry established a bakery at the western end of Cribbs Lane. His sister operated a pub on the other side of the lane called the “Plymouth Inn”, later to be known as “The Australian”.
<b>1850s-1890</b>	Further houses were built on the site occupied by immigrant families from Ireland, England, Scandinavia and other parts of Europe. Up to 300 people lived on the site.
<b>1900-1</b>	Bubonic plague arrived in Sydney, with the expectation that the densely occupied Rocks area would be hard hit. In preceding years, the Rocks had gained a reputation as a slum as the houses were poorly maintained and water and sewerage systems fell into disrepair. The NSW Government bought large areas of The Rocks and condemned it to demolition.
<b>1901-1915</b>	Areas of The Rocks are cleared, including this site. Clearing stops with the start of World War 1.
<b>1917-1930s</b>	An engineering shed built on the site
<b>1950s-1970s</b>	Site covered with concrete paving and used as a bus parking yard
<b>1970s-1990s</b>	Site used as a car park and storage yard
<b>1994</b>	Archaeological excavations begin attracting considerable media interest and public attention. Up to 750,000 artefacts recovered from the site and remnants of over 30 houses discovered.
<b>Early 21<sup>st</sup> century</b>	Sporadic archaeological excavation by the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority continues.
<b>2006</b>	Development of the site subject to an open tender process administered by Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority. YHA NSW Ltd selected as the preferred developer with a proposal for a youth hostel and education centre.
<b>2007</b>	YHA submits development application for site.
<b>2008</b>	Development approval granted and construction of Sydney Harbour YHA and The Big Dig Archaeological Education Centre begins.
<b>2009</b>	Sydney Harbour YHA opens and The Big Dig Archaeological Education Centre hosts its first school

*YHA is part of the world's largest budget accommodation network, Hostelling International, which provides more than 4,000 YHA/Hi hostels in more than 60 countries. Renowned for its unique properties, YHA hostels include heritage castles, log cabins and beach houses. A membership based organisation, YHA provides travellers with quality accommodation and the opportunity for personal growth through travel, fostering cross cultural understanding and environmental responsibility. YHA is a not for profit organisation, with profits invested in the accommodation network and the experience it provides.*

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