

**Submission
No 140**

**INQUIRY INTO INQUIRY INTO MUSEUMS AND
GALLERIES**

Name: Mr John Harris

Date Received: 11 August 2016

**Submission
No 140**

INQUIRY INTO MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES

Name: Mr John Harris

Date received: 11 August 2016

John Harris Submission to the Inquiry into Museums and Galleries

I am a descendant of Surgeon John Harris (1754-1838) who was the original European owner of Ultimo and half of Pymont.

The Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences (now the Powerhouse Museum (PHM)) took up a location in 1892 on land in Harris Street Ultimo which the NSW Government bought from a member of the Harris family. It moved to the Powerhouse further up Harris Street in 1988 and has been at that location since that time. So for 124 years it has been an important icon of historical and cultural benefit to the people of this part of Sydney.

In addition to Surgeon Harris, several members of the Harris family lived at Ultimo in the 19th century, and two attained prominent civic and political office, namely John Harris (1838-1911) who was Mayor of Sydney 1881-2-3 and 1888-1889 and an MLA between 1878 and 1885, and (Sir) Matthew Harris (1840-1917) who was Mayor of Sydney 1898-1900 and an MLA around 1900. John opened the Sydney Town Hall in 1889 and Matt opened the Queen Victoria Building in 1898.

Over more than one hundred years past, various Harris family members have donated many historic items to the PHM, and these are collected under the title "Harris Family Collection" on the PHM website, and I respectfully request members of the Committee to view these online.

Most of these family items relate to Ultimo and Pymont or the City of Sydney and are primarily of interest to the people of this part of Sydney.

In addition, I have more items which I would like to give to the Ultimo Museum, including the six land grants dated between 1793 and 1818 signed by early Governors Grose, King and Macquarie which made up Surgeon Harris's 232 acres in Ultimo-Pymont, and the satin Mayoral robes which Mayor John wore at the opening of the Town Hall in 1889.

I earnestly request that the proposal to move the PHM and its collection away from Ultimo be reconsidered.

John Harris