



Australian Government
Australian Maritime Safety Authority

Smoky Cape Lighthouse

Captain James Cook sighted and named Smoky Cape on Sunday 13 May 1770

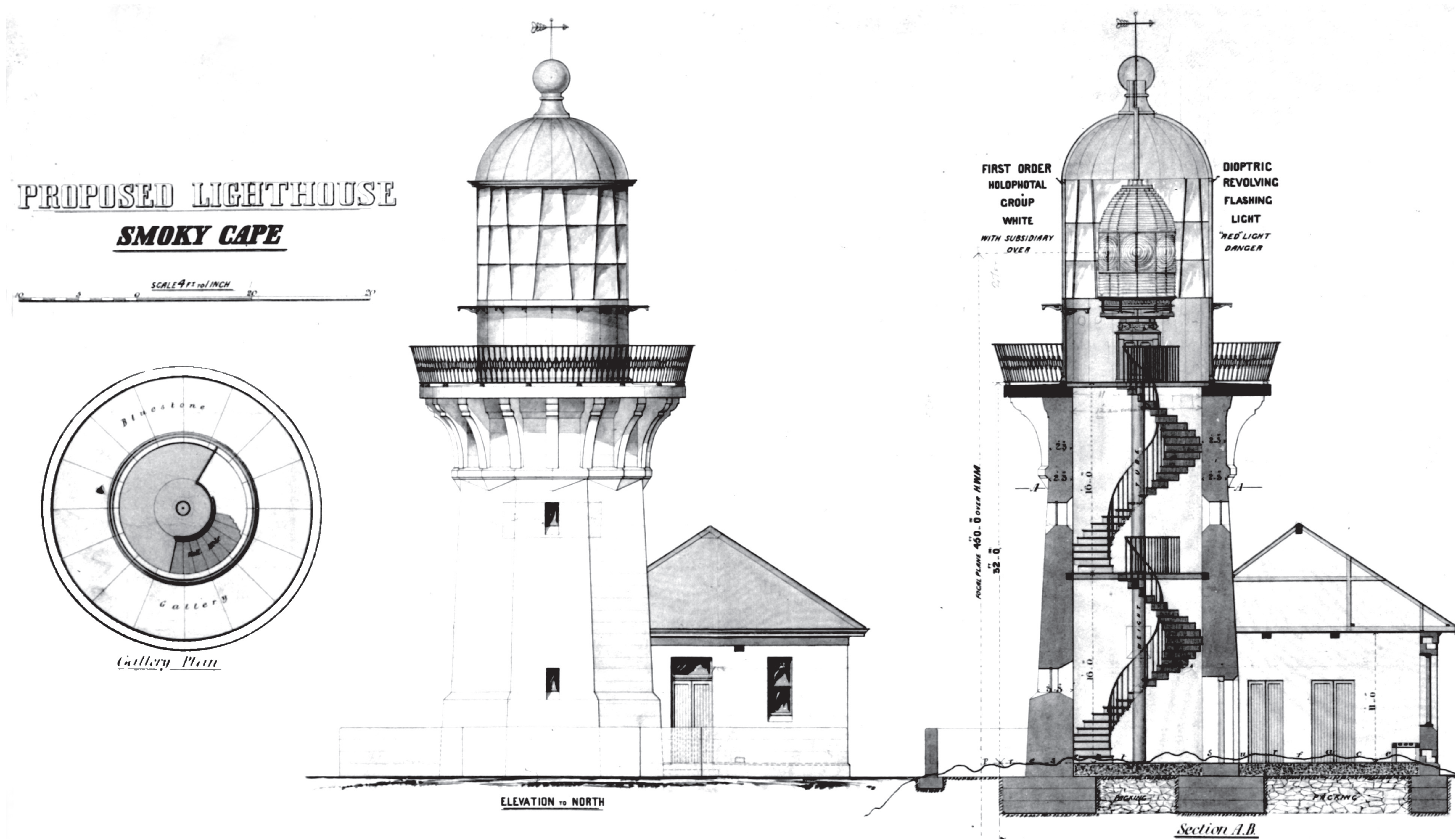
Smoky Cape Light was first exhibited on Sunday 15 April 1891

In 1791, convicts built Australia's first manned light, a wood fired beacon on the south head of Sydney Harbour. This eventually became the site for Australia's first light tower, Macquarie Lighthouse built in 1818.

In 1886, Alexander Kethel, member for West Sydney proposed the need for a light at Smoky Cape. James Barnet the Colonial Architect was summoned to design and have the light built. Cecil W Darley Engineer in Chief took over from Barnet due to a change in administration before final plans were completed. Tenders were called on 2 January 1889 and a contract was awarded to Messers Oakes and Co. Unfortunately Mr Oakes died during the construction, but the work was carried on by his executors.

The cost of construction, including tower, optical apparatus, quarters and ancillary buildings, amounted to £1600.

The light still operates from the original lens and lantern. However in 1962 when the light was converted to electric operation, the clockwork weight driven machinery was removed together with the vaporised kerosene lamp.



The current characteristics of the light are:

POSITION:	Latitude 30 deg 55.4 min South Longitude 153 deg 05.2 min East	LENS:	920mm focal radius, 9 panels, catadioptric. One revolution every 60 seconds.
CHARACTER:	Flashing (3) ever 20 seconds Length of flash, 0.1 seconds Short Eclipse 3.1 seconds Long Eclipse 13.5 seconds	LAMP:	120 volts, 1000 watt, tungsten halogen
		INTENSITY:	1 000 000 candelas
		RANGE:	Nominal 25 nautical miles Geographical 28 nautical miles
		ELEVATION:	128 metres above sea level