

CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA

CONSERVATION AREA	Maritime Quarter (inc. Cambrian Place)
Date of Notification:-	1980 amended 21.01.98
National Grid Reference:-	SS 66000092850
O.S. 1:10,000 Sheet No.:-	SS 69 SE
Conservation Area No.:-	CA:021

Notes:-

“The Burrows” as the area was known, was an ancient common of the Burgesses of Swansea which was enclosed under the Townhill and Burroughes Enclosures Act of 1762. After the building of Cambrian Place, The Assembly Rooms, Gloucester Place and Adelaide Street in the 1810’s and 1820’s the area became the genteel district a “gay resort of fashion” noted for its “good air”. Lady Beaconsfield, The Mumtzes and other notabilities kept house for the summer season; the annual Regatta was held in Swansea Bay, races were held on the Burrows Race Course and the Assembly Rooms played host to numerous concerts, balls and entertainment of all kinds. It was here on 28th July 1839 that a grand dinner was held in celebration of the coronation of Queen Victoria together with other civic functions including the celebration breakfast on the occasion of the opening of the South Wales Railway to High Street Station in 1850. Equally rich but less demure characters lived here: the notorious Doctor Sparadrop, alias Baron Spolasco lived in Adelaide Street in the 1840’s and frequently rode around in an open carriage driven by a Negro coachman resplendent in cockade.

The opening of the North Dock and South Dock in 1859 heralded the end of the fashionable Burrows and for many years seriously retarded the growth of the town as a seaside resort. With the coming of the rail system given direct access to the warehouses and coal hoists, Burrow Square was taken up as a timber yard. The late Victorian and Edwardian periods saw the buildings of most of the dignified brick and stone office buildings which characterise the area today.

The South Dock began to decline in the 1920’s and was finally closed to shipping activities by the British Transport Act 1969. Although office use of the area is still high the area saw its worst decline in the 1960’s. With the implementation of the first stage of the South Dock Redevelopment many buildings have been given a new lease of life, two ships chandleries have recently opened, justifying the revitalisation of the maritime activities in the Burrows.