

PARRAMATTA FEMALE FACTORY

Bicentenary 1821 - 2021



Front cover: *Cumberland Precinct, Ward 1, clock tower*
(Source: Maribel Rosales & City of Parramatta Council, 2015)

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This book has been compiled to commemorate 200 years of the Parramatta Female Factory.

More information and stories on these local nurses and midwives can be found on our website <https://historyandheritage.cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au/>

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We thank everyone who has helped in any way to bring about this book.

INTRODUCTION

This publication is a reflection of the journey of women who lived in the Parramatta Female Factory and hardships faced by them.

The female factories in Australia were not just places of incarceration; they also provided a space where women could work for rations and for some, find refuge and a place to sleep.

The Parramatta Female factory had a history of overcrowding, mismanagement and poor conditions, and there were various riots at the site as a result. A class system was put in place to separate women eligible for assignment, women approaching the end of their imprisonment, and women who had committed crimes in the colony or had broken the strict factory rules.

The first Female Factory, built in 1804 was located above the Parramatta gaol and was on the space that is now Prince Alfred Square. The top floor was meant to give a safe place as well a location to work for unassigned convict women.

It also served as accommodation for those newly arrived in the colony. Governor King stated that the place could be for industry as well as a confinement. Well-behaved women were chosen by settlers to undertake the work as servants and housekeepers. In this factory, women worked at looms, weaving various materials, including woollen fabric, sackcloth, linen, sail cloth and hemp. In 1806, 72 convict women were employed in this way.

Governor Macquarie laid the foundation stone of the second female factory on 9 July 1818 and by 1821; the new female factory was ready. A large stone building that included accommodation for 172 women, working space for weaving and looms, storage rooms, accommodation for some staff and large kitchens. The administrators at the second Parramatta female factory adopted the Pentonville model of surveillance, silence and separation, that was used in the Port Arthur Female Factory. However, they had little success in preventing the growth of the prisoners' subculture or from keeping the classes separate and the Parramatta factory was in fact a strange hybrid of prison, refuge, workplace, school, home and in its latter stages asylum.

Neera Sahni

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Parramatta North, Female Factory and Mental Health Precinct: Timeline of European Settlement 1788-2018

Neera Sahni & Emma Stockburn



A view of part of Parramatta Port Jackson by J.W. Lewin, 1809.

(Source: State Library of New South Wales, a1313036 / PXD 388 v3,f 6)

1788 – Area explored by Governor Phillip and named Rose Hill

1792 – Charles Smith granted a 30 acres lying on the North side of the Creek above Parramatta

1796 – First Gaol built on 'Gaol Green', now Prince Alfred Square

1800-1802 – George Caley, botanical collector establishes a botanical garden near the oval.

1800-1804 – Government Mill near the site of the Roman Catholic Orphan School completed.

1806 – Marsden acquires Smiths grant; Governor Bligh granted adjacent 105 acres

1806 – Marsden builds a watermill near junction Parramatta River and Darling Mills Creek

1813 – Samuel Marsden acquired 36 acres of land and named it as "Mill Dam Farm"

1816– Francis Greenway report on first female factory in Prince Alfred Square

1816 – 4 acres of Bligh's grant allocated for Female Factory site

1817 – January: Macquarie places the construction of a new Female Factory building on the list of essential public buildings

1817 – March: Greenway given orders to do ground plans and elevations for the original female factory building

1817 – December: Major Druitt called for tenders based on Greenway's plans and specifications

1818 –Contract to build the Female Factory given to William Watkins and Isaac Payten. Later that year the Female Factory Foundation stone is laid by governor Lachlan Macquarie

1820 – Government Mill near the site of the Roman Catholic Orphan School demolished.

1820's to 1830: A house constructed the land for Mary Betts nee Marsden

1821 – Second Female Factory designed by Francis Greenway was completed and occupied

1821 – Thwaites and reed turret clock installed in the new Female Factory building.

1823 – 1824: Governor Brisbane adds a two-story building in a separate yard to the north-west area of the Female Factory, which includes Sleeping quarters for Female Factory 3rd class women

1827 – Female Factory women riot breaks out

1828 – A pump and internal water system is installed at the Female Factory removing the need for women to go outside to get water. The height of the perimeter wall is also increased

1838 – Female Factory '3rd class gaol' built with the help of the Royal Engineers under Colonel Barney

1838 – Samuel Marsden dies. His daughter Mary and her husband John Betts occupy this property

1839 – First purpose built Lunatic Asylum in NSW was opened. This was also known as Tarban Creek Lunatic Asylum (1838 – 1868)

1839 – Sisters of Charity arrive at Female Factory

1840 – Transportation to NSW stops

1840 – Work starts on Roman Catholic Orphan School

1841 – Assignment of convict women ceased to the female factory ceased

1844 – Roman Catholic Orphan School occupied

1846 – There is now only 250 women in the factory and the government begins to move asylum inmates into the precinct

1847 – An accident at the Female Factory caused by faulty workmanship seriously injures two women in the building

1848 – Female Factory proclaimed a Lunatic Asylum. The administrative positions of the 'female factory' including those of matron had been abolished

1850 – The Female Factory Precinct officially becomes the Parramatta Lunatic Asylum

1852 – The first Surgeon Superintendent, Patrick Hill appointed to the Asylum. But is replaced in March the same year by Dr Richard Greenup

1855– The asylum acquired twenty-three acres from the Government Domain

1856 – November: 16 foot high wall separating the refractory women from the gardens falls down

1857 – Steam boilers were supplied to the Asylum to eliminate the need for a large number of open fireplaces. Work was also done on a number of walls and replaced with 'slabbed fence' and repairs were done on a number of roofs

1858 – The Asylum is given a total of 29 acres to the south side of the river and the land that would become Wistaria Gardens

1859 – Sisters of the Good Samaritan take over Management Roman Catholic Orphan School

1860 – Male shelter sheds' are built and are used as a main dining areas and shelter. The larger of the two is known as the 'Cricket Shelter Shed' and is altered in 1933

1861 – Block of cells built for the criminally insane at the Asylum

1863 – A Female shelter shed is built used a mess hall

1866 – Purchase of forty-three acre 'Vineyard Farm' from George and Ellen Blaxland

1869 and 1871 – Temporary timber buildings constructed at the Asylum for the male inmates

1870-1880s – separate male and female timber wards were constructed at the start of a building program to make buildings more appropriate for an asylum. These were changed to bricks in the 1930's

1870-1880s – Female Asylum Stores building is built this is designed by the Colonial Architects Office

1872 – Mrs. Betts' house was occupied by the Medical Superintendent of the asylum

1876 – Starting in 1876 the older buildings in the Female Factory were replaced with brick and stone buildings. The first being Wards 2 and 3 Male Asylum These had dining, dormitories and single rooms

1878 – A name change to Parramatta Hospital for the Insane

1880's – Various ha-has are built to allow barriers but also continuous views of Parramatta River

1880's – A cottage is built for the Assistant Medical Officers and is later used as Matron accommodation. Is named Pine Cottage

1882 – Approval given to destroy 1838-1839 'Female Factory' cells constructed by Governor Gipps

1881-83 – A kitchen block and sheds are built in the Female section of the Asylum. These buildings are altered in 1928 and 1943

1883 – William Cotter Williamson appointed

1885 – New 'Institute of Psychiatry Building' completed, uses sandstone blocks from 1838-1839 cells and incorporates original 1821 'female factory' turret clock

1885 – Dining Block behind the Psychiatry Building was completed

1885-1886 – main 'female factory' building demolished

1886 – Orphan School vacated

1886-87 – A recreation hall and chapel is built as it is believed that they would benefit the patients. The building was not entirely completed until 1892

1887 – Roman Catholic Orphan School site occupied as Girls Industrial School (1887 – 1912) by Department of Public Instructions. It accommodated 160 to 200 girls at a time

1887 – The Official Visitors address a special letter to the Colonial Secretary dated the 10 July 1887 related to the grievous conditions at the Parramatta Asylum

1889-90 – Ward 4 is built by Manning and Barnet

1899 – A small gardener's cottage is built with additions in 1910

Late 1890's to Early 1900's – there was a variety of building works completed on the site, including 'Frangipani' gardener's cottage, nurses quarters, additions to the Wards and repairs to the Medical Officers quarters

1890's – A Male Hospital and Day room is built

1890 – Ward 8 is built for the 'wet and dirty' incontinent patient

1892 – New kitchens are built

1893 – The Asylum at Parramatta begins to train mental nurses

1895 and 1897 – Additional patient wards (Ward 2) constructed. This building was added to and changed again 1905, 1938 and 1945

1900 – Dr William Cotter became Medical Superintendent

1900 – New Nurses Quarters, a two story building that consisted of sitting rooms, kitchen, bedrooms, bathrooms and verandahs. Added to in 1931 and becomes known as Jacaranda House

1901 – Nurses quarters building called Jacaranda House is constructed as well additions to Ward 4

1906 – New medical quarters (Glengariiff) completed. This house was called Wisteria House in 1964

1908 – A new Female Ward is completed, a long building with extended wings and verandah. Added to in 1933, 1962 and into the 2000's

1909 – Male Ward no 7 is completed. Additions added in 1933 and 1964

1909 – A new Admissions block is completed with wards attached to it

1909 – A fountain is built near the main gates and moved in 1909 – (A rusticated fountain)

1910 – A new visiting and office block completed with the demolition of the old Female Factory entrance gates. This included a library and offices for various medical and administrative staff

1910 – A new Admission Block was also completed this year, with three dormitories' and three day rooms as well as a staff dining room and kitchen. This was done by the Government Architects Office under the direction of WL Vernon

1910 – Wattle cottage built as what might have been waitress accommodation

1911 – The patients start a program of rehabilitation through gardening. At this time there was also a kangaroo park for the patient's amusement. During WW1 these gardens provided the patients with vegetable

1912 – Parramatta Girls Industrial School was renamed Parramatta Girls Training Home (1912 – 1946) under State Children's Relief Board. Parramatta Training Home was a house for girls charged with various crimes, who were on remand and not settled into foster homes. Parramatta Girls Training Home was accommodating girls as young as two years old until 1928.

1916 – The Hospital became known as The Mental Hospital, Parramatta

1920's – Workshops are constructed for the electricians, carpenters, and plumbers who worked onsite

1920s – A number of patients were taken on outings and participated in cricket matches

1928 – A second Nurses Home is built on site

1929 – 'Wistaria Gardens' were opened to the public and crafts made by the patients were sold at a fete

1929-1932 – A low rustic style stone fence is built by patients along the Fleet St side entrance

1930's – Both the Male and Female Weather Board Divisions were gradually replaced by brick buildings

1931 – Land was taken from the Asylum

1935 – TB ward constructed

1939 – A new Dining Room was built for the Female Hospital

1946 – Parramatta Girls Training School (1946 – 1974). In 1946 Parramatta Training Girls Home was renamed Parramatta Training Girls School. This school was closed in 1974 and replaced with Kamballa

1947-50 – Gungarra/Kalindyi buildings are constructed

1948 – Mrs Betts House/former Medical Superintendents House is demolished and Rebuilt as Building 68 – Gungarra. Same disposition and orientation of the earlier structure

1948 – New male sick infirmary ward (Ward 6) built

1950's – A Sport Pavilion is built in the precinct

1954 – Total renovation of bathroom and toilet facilities and food storage is completed

1956 – A canteen later known as Harriett Ward is built. It was built with bricks from the Sydney Exhibition Building (1882), donated by the Royal Australian Historical Society

1956 – New cottage built for the Medical Officer

1960 – The Ward built for the criminally insane is closed with the patients then moved to Morisset Hospital. This Ward building starts to be demolished

1961 – Hay Girls Institution established as Girls Industrial School / Parramatta Girls Home annex

1962 – The Mental Hospital is named the Parramatta Psychiatric Centre

1963 – 'Criminal Lunatic Ward' is completely demolished

1963 – Glengariff/the Former Medical Superintendents house becomes a patient hostel and activity centre

1966 – Alterations made to Former Medical Superintendents House/Wisteria House to house drug and alcohol dependant patients

1966 – A new medical centre is built to service the whole precinct

1966 – A swimming pool which started construction in 1964 is opened

1967 – Saw the closure of all farm activity on the central campus with the closure of a piggery

1971 – Weather board Wards are demolished

1974 – Parramatta Girls Training School was officially closed

1975 – Parramatta Girls Home renamed Kamballa (1975 – 1983). Kamballa was established in 1975 by Department of Youth and Community Services. It was a training school for girls having emotional or behavioural problems between the ages of 15 to 18. Taldree Children's Shelter was also housed in the same building from 1974 to 1980.

1980 – Norma Parker Detention Centre established in former Parramatta Girls Home building

1983 – Kamballa was closed in March 1983. Its functions and residents were transferred to Minda Remand Centre

1983 – The complex was named the Cumberland Hospital

1989 – Cumberland Hospital is part of a \$21.1 million redevelopment programme

1993 – A new Chapel is built in Wistaria Gardens

1995-1996 – Refurbishment and conversion of a number of buildings to house Information Services and Institute of Psychiatry

2003 – Parramatta Girls reunion

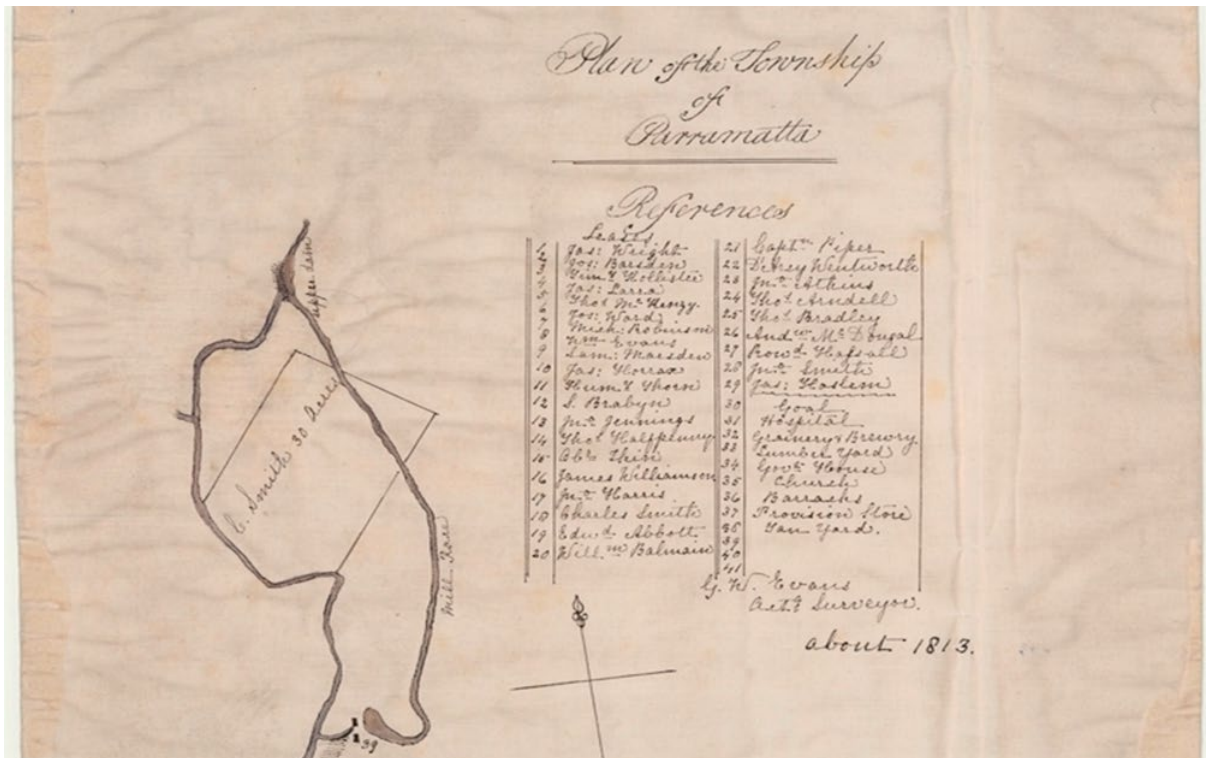
2017 – On November 14, the Female Factory gained National Heritage status, in recognition of the precinct's 'outstanding heritage value to the nation'. The Parramatta Female Factory Friends made this successful submission.

2018 – A Bicentennial event of the foundation of the Female Factory was held, with a commemorative wall established on the grounds.

2021 - A Bicentennial celebrations of Parramatta Female Factory - by the Parramatta Female Factory Friends with support from City of Parramatta Council. The commemorative wall will have 200 names inscribed on the wall.

North Parramatta, the First Land Grants

Research & Collections Team



Enlarged image of the 'Plan of the Township of Parramatta' by George William Evans, Acting Surveyor, c.1813. (Source: State Library of NSW, M Z/M2 811.1301/1813/1)

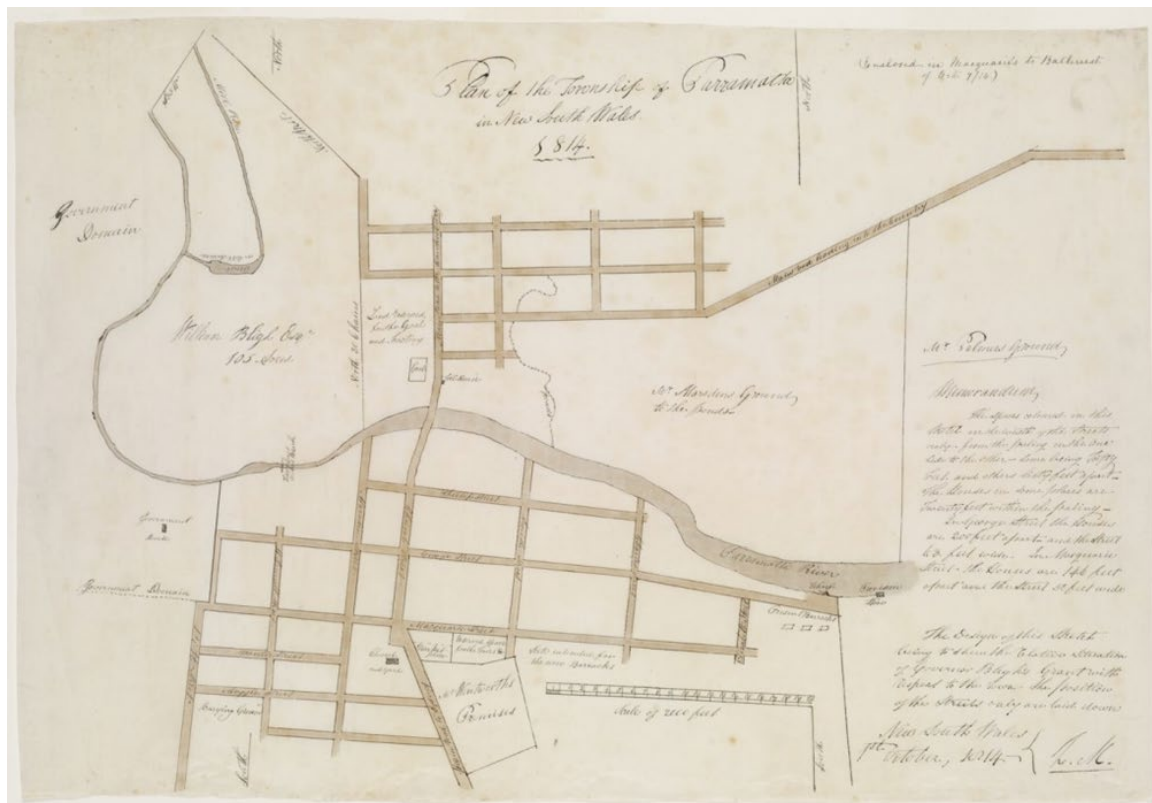
The North Parramatta Cumberland Hospital Precinct area was the site of the earliest land grant made in North Parramatta. This was made on 29 November 1792, to Charles Smith who was granted 30 acres of land on what is now the Cumberland Hospital Precinct. Smith was transported to Australia, arriving in June 1790, but became a free settler after receiving both an Absolute Pardon and his 30 acre land grant.

By 1801, Smith was living entirely off his land, producing wheat, maize and pigs. During Smith's occupation of the farm a mill race cut through the north east corner of his land heading south to the site of Parramatta's first mill, located on what was to become Governor Bligh's land grant.



Approximate locations of major land grants North Parramatta Cumberland Hospital Precinct

Sometime between 1803 and 1806 Samuel Marsden purchased Smith's land with the aim to construct his own mill. Marsden also acquired additional land between the northern part of Smith's grant and the Darling Mills Creek. Between 1810-1812 Marsden constructed his watermill adjacent to Smith's grant and it operated at least until Marsden's death in 1838.



Plan of the Township of Parramatta in New South Wales 1814 showing Bligh's land grant at the east. (Source: State Library of NSW, digital no. a1528520)

The other grant which occupied a large part of the site, was the 105 acre grant to Governor William Bligh which extended down to the site of the Kings School and included the site of the first botanical garden.

The First Female Factory, Prince Alfred Square, 1803 – 1821

Emma Stockburn & Neera Sahni



*Enlarge image of Hippolyte Vanderburch's 'Vue d'un pont a l'entree de Paramatta' [i.e. Parramatta], c. 1833 or 'First bridge at the entrance to Parramatta, circa 1802'.
(Source: City of Parramatta, Local Studies Photographic Collection, LSP00328)*

Initially the female factories in Australia were not just places of incarceration, they also provided a space where women could work for rations and for some, find refuge and a place to sleep. However over time this gave way to a system where classification, observation and separation were seen as the building blocks to reforming those Colonial Administrators felt were causing social unrest, or did not fit into society due to their own preconceived attitudes towards women.

This Pentonville model of surveillance, silence and separation was more noticeable in the Port Arthur Female Factory but was also adopted by administrators at the second Parramatta female factory. However they had little success in preventing the growth of the prisoners' subculture or from keeping the classes separate and

the Parramatta factory was in fact a strange hybrid of prison, refuge, workplace, school, home and in its latter stages asylum.

In addition early Australian Governors felt convict women were a problem because their skills were not as exploitable as the physical muscle of their male counterparts. And as a result they saw convict women as a drain on the colony's resources and economy.

To remedy this administrators married off convict women, or assigned them as servants. But in the absence of a specialised refuge, those who were unassigned as servants or married were often forced to either cohabit with a male, or earn their money through prostitution to pay for quarters. Another problem was that the women with no fixed abode found it difficult to protect their weekly rations and many spent the last days of the week without any food.

In an effort to solve this problem Governor King incorporated a plan to establish a mill for weaving wool in the Colony with the establishment of a suitable industry to employ women convicts and provide a refuge for homeless women and their children.

Before King had left England in 1799, he had engaged a master weaver, Thomas Wise, to help establish the weaving industry but he drowned on the outward voyage. In 1801 King started the embryo workshop with women manufacturing rough woollen blankets but the industry really began in earnest after August 1803, when King entered into a contract with George Mealmaker (1768-1808) to manage work at new premises built on the old Parramatta gaol.

By trade Mealmaker was a hand loom weaver and was transported as one of the 'Scottish Martyrs'. It was also agreed that he would be paid for every loom that he constructed for the Factory.

This idea of creating a 'Female Factory' had begun in 1803 during the construction of the Parramatta gaol (in what is now Prince Alfred Square) when King suggested the idea of adding an additional storey. This was to be used as a holding and a working-space for newly arrived convict women and became known as the first 'Female Factory'.

The northern wall of the gaol was altered and a courtyard added to it along with a second floor above with two large rooms about eighty feet long and twenty wide [24 x 6 metres] with no access to the gaol itself. Women prisoners were free to come and go from the refuge after they had completed the work assigned to them each day.

By August 1804 Mealmaker had nine looms operating; two each at fine linen, duck and wool, one each at sailcloth and sacking and one for variable jobs. Some 2116 yards of cloth had been bartered for wheat through the commissariat.

Mealmaker gradually increased the number of looms at the factory to twelve. Unfortunately Governor Bligh, when he succeeded to the administration from King, was disinterested in the industry and the impetus in weaving was almost lost.

A fire in The Factory in 1807 accelerated Mealmaker's death that was fast approaching because of 'a propensity for whisky and snuff'. He died in absolute poverty and was buried in St John's cemetery, unrecognised as the forerunner of the weaving industry in Parramatta.

In May 1809, *The Sydney Gazette* published an article informing the public that the Factory was re-established under the direction of Benjamin Brewer. It also made it clear that the new administration wanted to continue the emphasis on work at the factory for it claimed it was

"... open for the reception of Wool and Flax for the Fabrication of Woollen and Linen Cloths, on the same terms as when under the Superintendence of the late Mr. Mealmaker"

The work produced by the factory was however not enough to establish anyones fortunes and its standing within the community continued to be problematic right up until its demise under the administration of Mr. Oaks and Richard Rouse. This was made clear in 1818, some 14 years after it was built, when Rev. Samuel Marsden made the following observations on the factory:

"The number of women employed at the factory under Mr. Oaks, the superintendent is 150. They have seventy children, and there is not any room in the factory that can be called a bedroom for the women and children. There are only two rooms, and these are both occupied as workshops; they are over the; gaol, and are about eighty feet long and twenty wide. In these rooms there are forty-six women employed daily, twenty spinning wool upon the common wheel and twenty-six carding. There are also in them the warping machine, etc., belonging to the factory. These rooms are crowded all day and at night such women sleep in them as are confined for recent offences, amongst the wheels, wool, and cards, and a few others who have no means whatever of obtaining a better abode. The average number of women who sleep in the factory is about: thirty on the whole. Many of these women have little and some no bedding. They all sleep on the floor. There is not a cradle or bedstead belonging to the factory. I do not deem 'it either safe or prudent for even thirty women to sleep in the factory which has been crowded all day with working people, could this be avoided, as the air must be bad and contagious. Were the magistrates to compel even half the number of women, (with their children) to sleep

in the factory which belongs to it, they could not exist. Not less than 120 women are at large at night to sleep where they can. I might further notice that many of the male and female convicts are much addicted to inebriety, and that the great number of licensed houses to sell spirituous liquors considerably increases the number of crimes. There are, on the whole, under the two principal superintendents, Messrs. Oaks and Rouse, one hundred and eight men, one hundred and fifty women, and seventy children, and nearly the whole of them have to find lodgings for themselves, when they have finished their Government task."

In August 1816 the architect, Francis Greenway, and the Superintendent of Public Works, Richard Rouse, were asked to make a report on repairing the old gaol and Female Factory. By this time the two small rooms were barely able to accommodate the 200 women now trying to live and work in the space. By 1817 only 60 out of 200 women using the factory were housed on the premises.

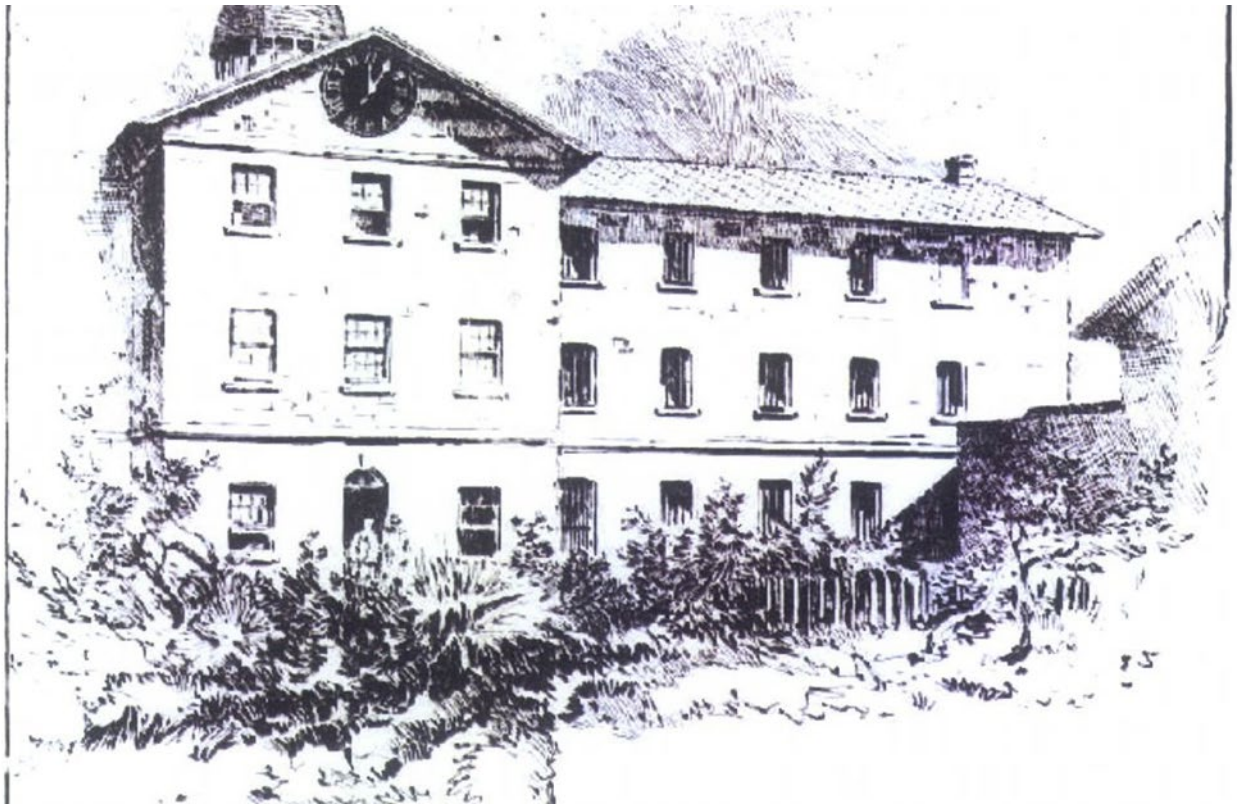
In October Greenway reported the following to Captain Gill,

"The men [in the prison] have access to the women above by what information I can obtain which should be done away with as soon as possible by removing the Factory entirely, as the present state of it is really disadvantageous and has a very bad moral tendency ..."

As a result of this report a larger second 'Female Factory', in North Parramatta [Cumberland Hospital East Precinct] was given the green light by Macquarie. This would be designed by Francis Greenway and was completed in 1821 by Isaac Payten in partnership with William Gooch.

The Second Female Factory: 1818-1848

Research & Collections Team



The female factory at Parramatta.

(Source: Illustrated Sydney News, 3 October 1889, p. 18)

History of the Site

In his 1816 report on the 'first female factory' at Gaol Green (Prince Alfred Square) the architect Francis Greenway made it clear there was a need to improve the crowded accommodation above the Parramatta goal. Macquarie was prompted to ask for the report by Samuel Marsden, who, with growing dismay had complained about the disorderliness of the women convicts. He had continually written letters to the social reformers Wilberforce, Lord Bathurst, Elizabeth Fry, lobbied Governor Macquarie, and while in England in 1808, discussed the problem with the archbishop and the secretary of state.

This report and Marsden's concerns must have resonated with Governor Macquarie for in January 1817 he placed the construction of a new Female Factory building

on the list of essential public buildings. In March 1817 Greenway was given orders to

“... make out a ground plan and elevation of a factory and barracks sufficient to lodge 300 female convicts, on an area of ground of four acres, enclosed by a stone wall nine feet high”.

As Macquarie's favoured architect Greenway was kept extremely busy. At the beginning of 1818 Macquarie had him working on the South Head lighthouse, the government stables, the Sydney military barracks, and St Matthew's Church (Windsor). Finally a site was chosen on the north side of the Parramatta River, just up from the weir constructed for the government mill.

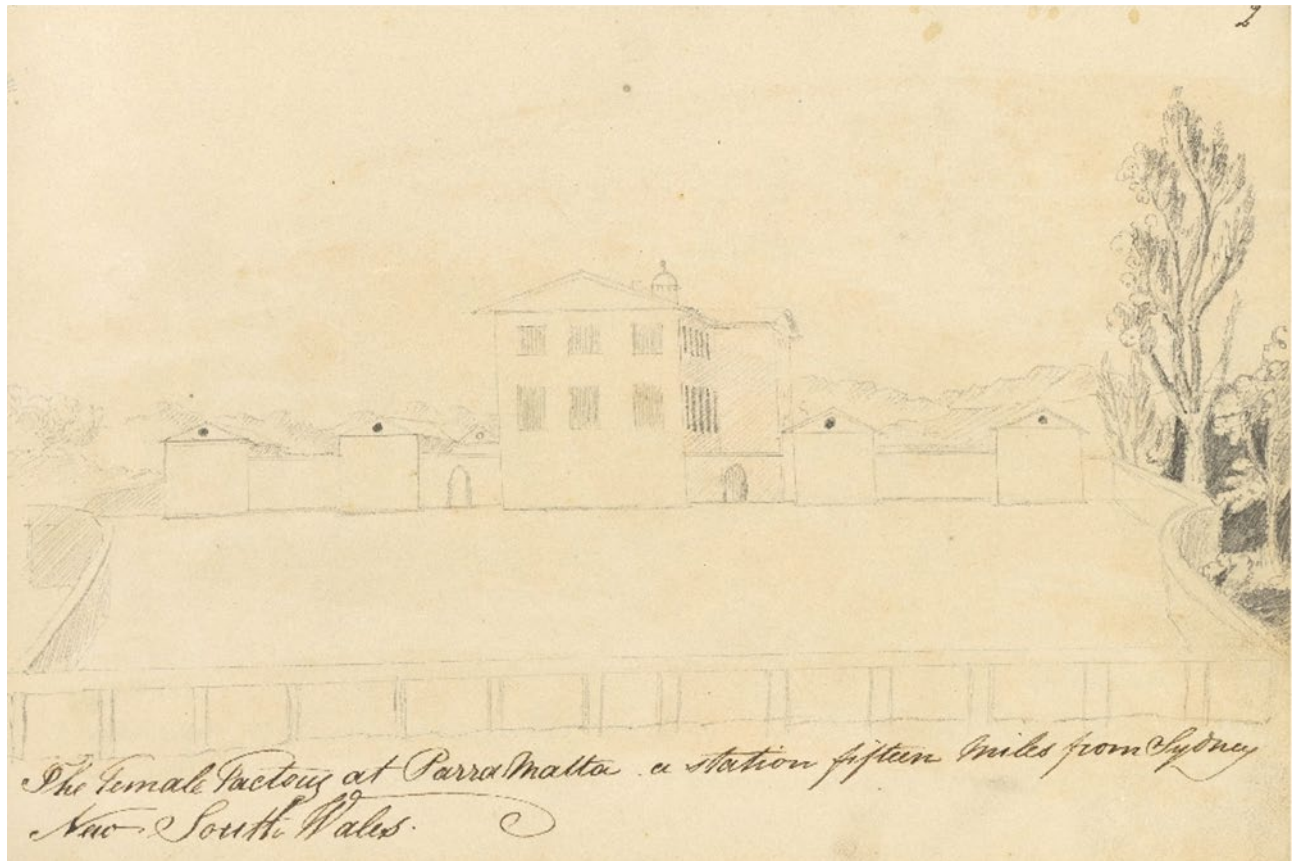
This site was on the original grant given to Governor Bligh, but resumed by Macquarie after Bligh's departure under a cloud of scandal. In December 1817 Major Druitt, the recently appointed Chief Engineer, called for tenders based on Greenway's plans and specifications. The contract was handed over to William Watkins and Isaac Payten in April 1818 under the condition they would complete it in eighteen months for the sum of 4778 pounds. On the 9 July 1818 Governor Macquarie laid the foundation stone but the work was not finally completed until January 1821.

On 1 February 1821 Macquarie and Commissioner Bigge visited the new building to watch 109 women and 71 children removed from the old gaol and lodged in the newly completed 'Female Factory'. Bigge who was at this time conducting an enquiry into wastage of funds in the colony appears to have been less than impressed and doubted such an expensive new barrack had been necessary.

Bigge described the principle building as consisting of three stories broken into two separate wings by the central staircase and cupola which aided in ventilating the whole. On the ground floor were the dining rooms while the upper floors were for sleeping. The whole was surrounded by a wall which the main building divided into a inner and outer courtyard. Inside these yards were variety of smaller buildings used to house the administrators, a small hospital, kitchens and a room for weaving cloth. A good idea of the layout of the factory can be gleaned from the maps drawn by Standish Lawrence Harris, in 1823, shortly after the building opened.

This original building covered 1.6 hectares with a three story main barrack or dormitory building with single story service buildings on either side of a front courtyard. The workshop and service buildings faced into a rear courtyard where there was also access towards the river. The design which was essentially simple and lacking ornament bore some similarities to the Hyde Park barracks also designed by Greenway. However one of the primary faults in the design proved to be its close proximity to the riverbank and which, as Bigge pointed out, had a

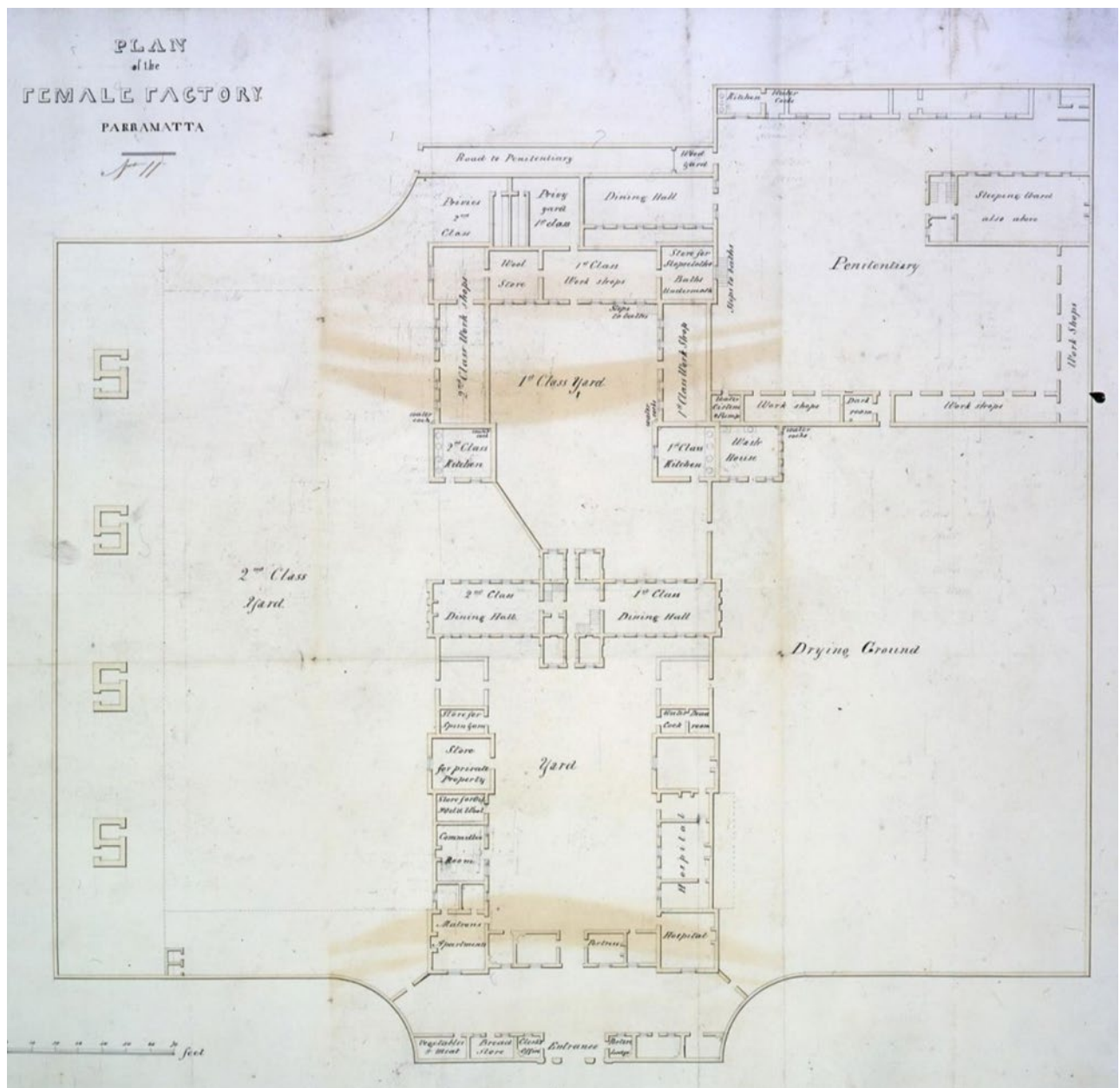
breach which threatened the foundations of the wall and required a deep buttress to protect the foundations. In fact the late decision to build a perimeter wall and the flood measures required to ensure the wall wasn't washed away increased the overall costs by 1200 pounds.



Parramatta Female Factory, pencil sketch, by Robert Charles Harry, 1823.

(Source: National Library of Australia, nla.pic-an6239017)

Greenway's 'female factory' was by no means the final solution and as demand, and attitudes, to convict women and medical treatment changed so did the factory and the precinct around it. One of the major faults of the original design was it did not allow for separation of different classes of convicts. This led to the modification of the stairwell to divide the first class and third areas. New workshops and a privy built on the river-side of the complex are clearly visible in the S L Harris elevation and plan of the buildings.

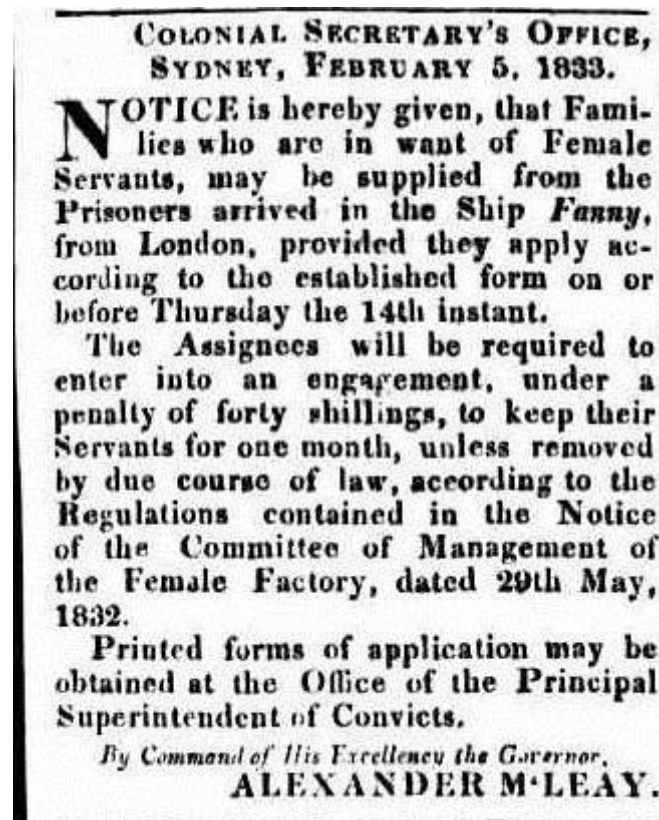


William Buchanan, plan of the Female Factory, November 1833.
(Source: National Archives UK, formerly PRO, PRO MPH 91(9))

In 1823 Governor Brisbane added a two-story building in a separate yard to the north-west as a prison wing intended to hold 60 female convicts and hold free as well as convict women charged with crimes.

Another issue was caused by that fact the 'female factory' in the 1820s treated most of the women in the colony that required medical attention. There was a hospital ward in the outer courtyard but surgeons treated women in the open in the courtyard. In 1829 they requested a verandah to be installed to give them some protection. The 1833 plans suggests they occupied the right hand range of buildings in the outer yard and by 1861 it appears a second story had been added. These buildings are still standing.

Over the ensuing years a courtyard and surrounding buildings were modified to suit the changing needs of the administrators and inmates. Separate buildings and enclosures were erected and maintained by the Royal Engineers and in 1825 buildings were constructed for females women sentenced for crimes by the Sydney law courts. These were essentially prison accommodation for what were termed 'third class' inmates and who were kept separate from the other 1 and 2 class women housed in the older sections of the Female Factory.



Female servants

(Source: The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser, 12 February 1833)

Under Governor Darling each class was provided with its own kitchens, workshops and accommodation. These were built around a series of courtyards and walls surrounding the main building. And in 1828 a pump and internal water system was installed removing the need for women to go outside to get water. At the same time the height of the wall was raised to 16 feet presumably reflecting the move toward a more prison-like precinct.

In June 1838 the Royal Engineers, under Captain Barney, started work on a new building to the east of the first female factory building which would create a more punitive environment for the inmates. This was described in 1906 by Charles White, in his newspaper serial, *Fifty Years Under the Lash*,

"In 1839 the Factory was remodelled, extensive alterations and additions being made, under the order of Governor Gipps. The number of cells was increased to seventy-two, and they were built on the plan of the American separate system. The total cost was £3767, and the Governor reported that; under a new Act that was passed for the better regulation of the female prisons, order, cleanliness, perfect obedience, and silence prevailed in the establishment to a degree scarcely surpassed in any prison in England".

This three story cell-block was completed in September 1839 and although clearly built to suit its purpose of imprisoning inmates the bottom floor was criticised by Her Majesty's Prison Inspector for being too dark. As a result new windows had to be cut into the concrete walls. Gipps was clearly interested in reforming the conditions at the factory and along with the new building he also introduced two new administrators, selected by the English reformer, Elizabeth Fry. It was during this period under Governor Bourke and Governor Gipps that the factory came to be seen primarily as a prison.

In 1840 transportation to New South Wales stopped and in 1841 assignment of convict women ceased to the factory ceased. By 1846 there were only 250 women in the factory and the government began to move a new group of inmates into the building as it was repurposed as an asylum for the insane. By 1848 the administrative positions of the 'female factory' including those of matron had been abolished. It was also at this time that the precinct was renamed the Parramatta Lunatic Asylum.

In 1849 Dr Patrick Hill who oversaw the asylum chaired a committee to consider future locations for 'convict lunatics'. While he suggested the 'female factory' could really only deal with 'lunatics' of one sex the rest of the institution could perhaps take 50-70 male mental health patients. Hill further suggested the precinct become the institution for 'uncurables' of both sexes.

By 1850 the Greenway designed 'female factory' and most of the outlying buildings were incorporated into the new insane asylum precinct. Today there you can still find some remnants of walls, courtyards and outlying buildings but sadly Greenway's original building and the 1838-1839 penitentiary extensions were demolished in 1883 when the asylum was redesigned. The sandstone from the penitentiary extensions appears to have been used construct the James Barnet designed, 'No. 1 Male Ward', now the 'Institute of Psychiatry' building.

Patients moved into this new building in 1885 and it is still standing on the site, with the turret clock from the main 'female factory' building mounted in the spire. Greenway's old 'female factory' was deemed beyond repair for the new asylum

and demolished in 1885-1886. Its stones were used for the foundations of a 'religious services and recreational activities' area.

Surviving Buildings



Parramatta Female Factory, Building 103

(Source: Parramatta City Council, Maribel Rosales and Sally Chik, 2015)

One part which did survive, although it has undergone many modifications, was the store (building 103) originally flanking a courtyard and the superintendent's quarters for the factory. Built between 1818 and 1821 it is currently used as the Institute of Psychiatry lecture rooms. One of a pair of buildings (building 111 is the other) the north-east section had a second story added sometime around 1865. More additions were made over the course of the 1900s, including Bay windows and a porch around 1915.



*North Parramatta, Female Factory, Sleeping Ward, built about 1825
(Source: Parramatta City Council, Peter Arfanis, 2015)*

A second surviving portion, although not part of the original Greenway building, is the former prison 'Sleeping Ward' (building 105). Made up of two joined sections this was part of the first major extension to the factory for 'Third Class' female convicts and was built by the Royal Engineers around 1825. It was originally two storied with a stair-well in the south-eastern room. In 1863 a verandah was added to the western side and the upper floor was removed in the 1880s and it was around this period that gothic revival timber elements were added in an attempt to make its profile more picturesque. The second section, the north wing, was constructed around 1890 and was used as the 'Wet and Dirty Ward No 8'.

Also still in existence although heavily modified over the years is the store building which originally sat adjacent to the matron's quarters and female factory Library. This originally featured a verandah across the entry to the courtyard. In 1865 it appears an attic was added to the single story section and the dormers still in place were completed. The two story section still retains the original stone work with bevelled details to the edges to prevent inmates climbing the walls. Side additions were added in the 1930s and 1940s and a skillion addition in the 1950s.



Cumberland Precinct, Ward 1, clock tower
(Source: Parramatta City Council, Maribel Rosales, 2015)

Still surviving also is the Thwaites and Reed turret clock which was first installed in the Greenway's original 'female factory' building. According to most research this clock was removed sometime around 1885 and put into the newly constructed tower of the male asylum ward. There is however some reason to question this assumption as the current turret clock has a least three faces and the old female factory only one. This would suggest the current clock is either a heavily modified version of the first or even perhaps a new Thwaites and Reed clock. We would be interested if anyone could cast more light on this as the clock remains in the clock tower to this day.



Parramatta Hospital for the Insane, Female Factory prison, sandstone blocks, courtyard wall (Source: Parramatta City Council, Geoff Barker, 2014)

Probably the most impressive section of the old female factory precinct still intact is the sandstone walls which were built around 1838, to create a walled courtyard around the central female cell block. Although these were subject to modification in the 1860s when it was used to house mental health patients. This high sandstone wall still completely encloses the space adjacent to the Roman Catholic orphan school although there obvious wear and tear obvious to some parts of the wall. The blocks themselves are all convict sandstone and each bears the individual marks of its maker. The small building at the northern entrance was possibly part of the original 'dead house' and was probably built around the same time. Sections of these walls were also rebuilt in the 1860s and in the 1880s.

Another reminder of the old 'female factory' cited by Higginbotham and Associates in their 2010 Report is the former 'dead house' erected in 1838 as a small building adjacent to the entrance of the Artisan's Yards.

Hear about the experiences of the women at the [Female Factory 200th Anniversary Podcast](#) or refer to chapter 27 to read a transcript of 'Parramatta Female Factory: Interviews with local historian – Anne Mathews'.

The Fleet Street Quarry, Parramatta North

Research & Collections Team



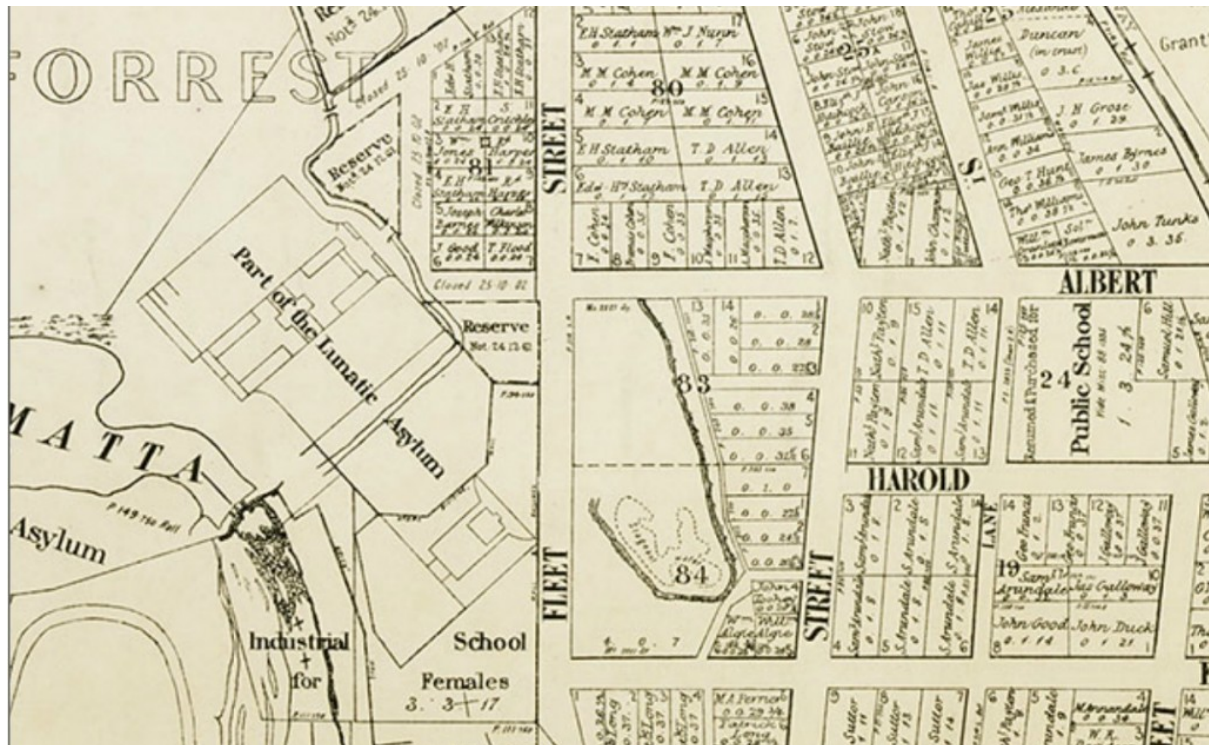
(Source: Parramatta City Council, Geoff Barker, 2014)

Walking down the steps from the end of Albert Street to Fleet Street, Parramatta North, what is most noticeable, apart from the sudden drop in street levels, is the abundance of roughly hewed sandstone fencing defining the boundaries of properties along the street. This abundance of sandstone provides an obvious clue to what was once on this site.

On the eastern side of Fleet Street, between Fennell and Albert Streets, hidden by apartment blocks and government buildings is the remnant of an old quarry from which some of Parramatta's most historic and significant buildings were constructed.

Stone from the Fleet Street quarry was used as early as 1818 to construct the Francis Greenway designed Female Factory which was completed in 1821. The quarry most certainly supplied the stone for Parramatta Gaol, as well as other

buildings located in the precinct including, perhaps, the new Lunatic Asylum which replaced the Female Factory Building. By 1861, once the construction of Government buildings ceased in the locality, the quarry was reserved for gaol purposes.



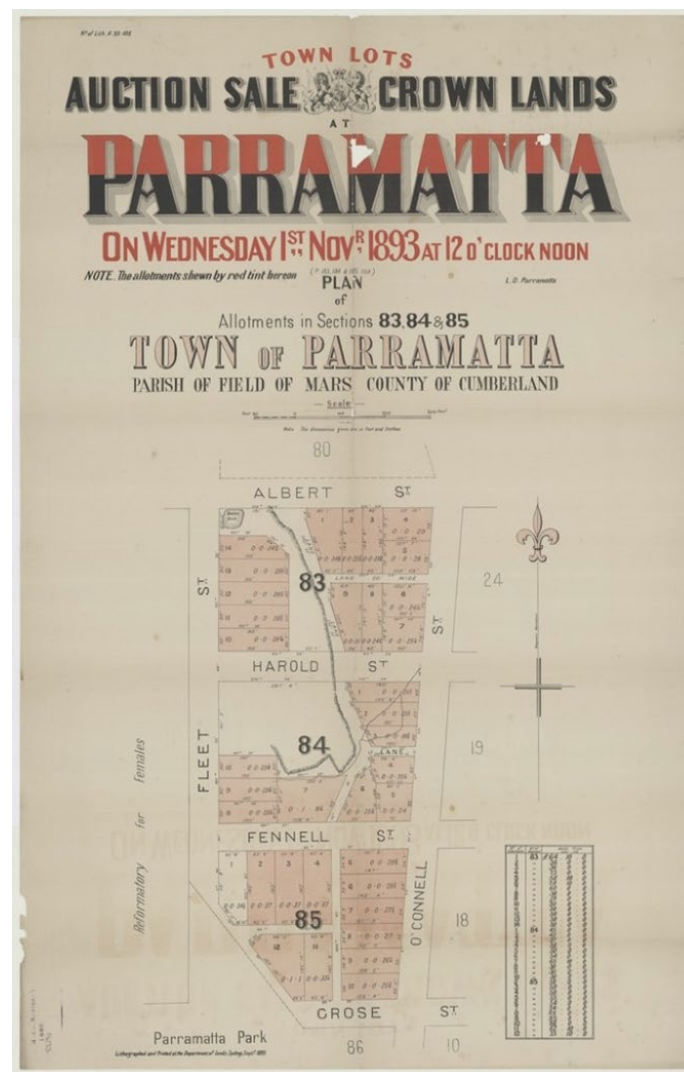
*Parramatta Town Map 1904 showing lots 83 and 84 marking the quarry at Fleet Street.
(Source: State Library of NSW, digital no. a6386001)*

In 1862, the Department of Lands made it known that quarries in the Domain area were being put up for sale. For Parramatta Council the Fleet Street quarry presented many economic advantages for municipal works. The stone provided a fine face and was hard and the quarry was within town limits and easily accessible. Mayor James Byrnes made a verbal request to the Department of Lands for the Fleet Street quarry to be used for municipal purposes.

In October 1862, the Council received a letter from the Department of Lands permitting the Council to "use the stones at the quarry of the Lunatic Asylum." By 1864 the Surveyor General instructed a survey of the Municipal Quarry be done before it was handed over to the Council in legal form. Following the formal acquisition of the quarry Council began tendering out the removal of stone from the quarry. One such tender, for example, related to the kerbing and guttering of Church Street between Macquarie and George Streets with tenders invited to supply dressed kerbing "and that guttering be procured by the Corporation Labourers at the quarry in Fleet Street..."

By 1890 the face of the quarry was almost 9 metres deep and Albert and Harold Streets had become unsuitable for traffic. There were, by this time, sixteen dwellings fronting O'Connell and Albert Streets, and Council came under increasing pressure by local residents to close the quarry. Blasting operations in the quarry was posing a serious danger to human life and property. Stones from blasting operations had fallen onto the roofs of homes, explosions "were an annoyance for women and invalids", and children attending school in Harold Street were at risk of injury. The Minister of Lands ordered a report be done by the Surveyor into the causes of the complaints.

The report was completed in May 1892 by Chief Surveyor Twynam. The report confirmed the dangers quarrying works posed to residents and though the site was valuable for stone, quarrying should cease and the land be sub-divided with a view to sale.



Auction poster 1893 showing the subdivision of land around the quarry.
(Source: State Library of NSW, digital no. c035480034h)

Based on the report the Secretary for Lands decided that the Municipal Council be informed that permission to quarry on the land be withdrawn.

Soon after the closure of the quarry an auction sale of land was advertised. The above 1893 subdivision poster shows subdivided land in and around the quarry. However it appears the quarry land remained in the hands of the government with no development occurring until the 1970s and 1990s.

~6~

Female Factory and the Thwaites and Reed turret clock

Research & Collections Team



*Cumberland Precinct, Ward 1, clock tower
(Source: Parramatta City Council, Maribel Rosales, 2015)*

The front of the 1821 Female Factory building had a clock thought to be one of the oldest public clocks in Australia. The original clock was made by Thwaites and Reed who are best known for their turret-clocks which throughout the 1900s found their way into the clock towers of cities around the globe.

For over 30 years they were also responsible for rebuilding and looking after what is arguably the most famous clock in the world 'The Great Clock' at the Palace of Westminster, more affectionately known as 'Big Ben'.

Here in Australia people would be more familiar with Thwaites and Reed's 'Royal Clock' in the 'Queen Victoria' building. While in Parramatta residents have for over a hundred years kept time using its twin, the turret clock located in the steeple of St John's Cathedral.

The turret-clock in the original Female Factory building was one of five, all made to the same specifications, which were gifted to the Colony by King George. When this clock arrived in Australia it was installed in the newly completed 'Female Factory', while another was installed in St John's Cathedral.

Anne Mathews, a volunteer at the Heritage Centre, has found Colonial Secretary Papers Reel 1055 – A directive made in 5 September 1827 by Governor Darling to Alexander Macleay, directs Mr Robertson to install a clock at Female Factory, currently in the commissariat in Sydney.

27/8/1827. No 882. Colonial Secretary's Office. 5 Sept 1827.
 Sir, The Committee of the Board of Management for the Female Factory at Parramatta having made applications for a clock for that Establishment, and His Excellency the Gov. considering it necessary that it should be supplied, I am directed to request, that you will take immediate measures for putting up the one at present in store in Sydney.
 I am &c
 Alex McLeay
 Supdt of Govt Clocks
 Mr. James Robertson
 27/8/1827. No 883. Colonial Secretary's Office. 5 Sept 1827.
 Gentlemen, In reply to your Letter of the 25 ults, I am directed by His Excellency the Gov. to inform you, that instructions have been given to Mr Robertson to take immediate measures for putting up the clock at present in the Commissariat at the Female Factory, His Excellency coinciding in your opinion that one is necessary for that Establishment.
 I am &c
 Alex McLeay
 The Board of Management
 Parramatta Factory

Colonial Secretary Papers (Source: State Archives and Records of NSW, Reel 1055)

Many researchers believe that in 1885 this Female Factory clock was reinstalled into the Asylum Building on the same site. However when I visited the site recently I noticed this clock, which can still be seen in the tower has more than one face. This would suggest that the old Female factory clock which had only one clock face was heavily modified or a new purpose-built turret clock with similar clock faces was installed instead. We would be very interested if any other researchers were able to help us shed some light on this.

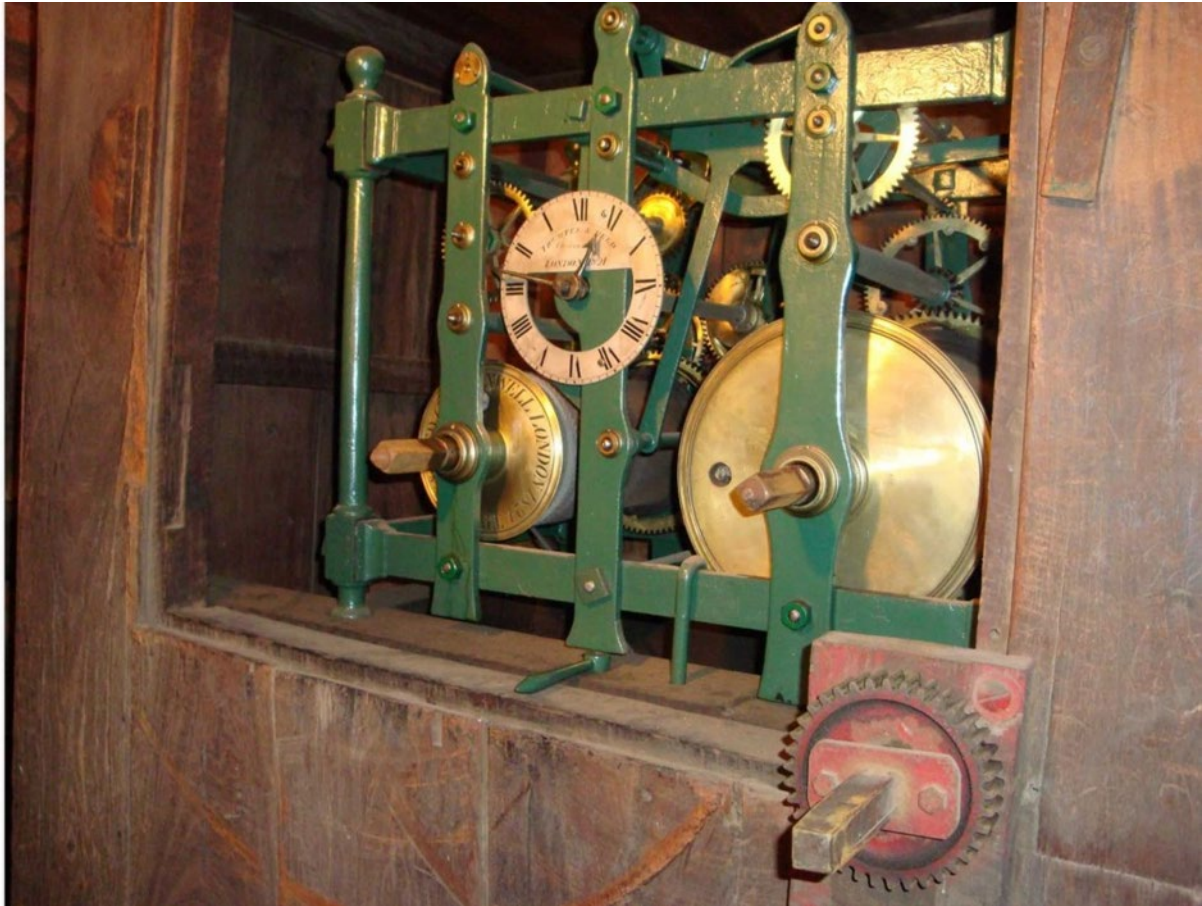
Still a listed company today 'Thwaites and Reed' are reputed to be the oldest clock-making company in the world with founder Aynsworth Thwaites first opening the doors in 1740. They became 'Thwaites and Reed' in 1816 when John Thwaites formed a partnership with George Jeremiah Reed. Although very successful and owning their own workshop in Clerkenwell, England, it appears they also contracted out a lot of their work to other prominent clock-makers on their behalf. Included in this list are names like 'Barraud and Lund', Dutton, Ellicot and Earnshaw.

By the time this clock was made the company was already one of the most respected in Britain and this was undoubtedly one of the main reasons they were commissioned to produce the five clocks for Australia.

Some 90 years later the Australian astronomer John Tebutt, who certainly knew his chronometers, praised the quality of the 'Thwaites and Reed' turret-clocks, including the one installed at the 'female factory'.

In 1932 William Freome was still praising the quality of these timekeepers claiming that,

The old clocks in the towers of St. John's, Parramatta, and St. Matthew's, Windsor, still keep excellent time, despite the fact that they are over 111 years old, and both have narrowly escaped being struck by lightning.



Turret Clock Mechanism, St John's, (Source: image courtesy of St John's Cathedral, 2015)

In 1912 Mr Fred Burgin, who had been attendant for the St John's church clock for over 40 years, wrote to the Cumberland Argus and described in detail the workings of the clocks.

The clock was made by Thwaites and Reed, Clerkenwell, London, in 1821. The works measure 2 ft. 6 in. x 2 ft. x 2 ft. The pendulum is 6ft. long. The outside dial is 6 ft. in diameter. The striking weight is round, and measures 2 feet long x. 9 inches diameter and weighs 9 cwt. The time weight is 1 foot long x 9 in. in diameter, and weighs 5cwt. The clock is wound with a crank-key, like a windlass. It goes six days, the weights falling 25 ft.

He also stated that,

"The clock was placed in St. John's tower by the Government, in 1821. Similar clocks were also erected at the following places at the same time: Parramatta Government Factory (now Parramatta North Hospital), Sydney Town Hall, Church of England at Campbelltown and the Victoria Barracks, Sydney".

In 1912 St John's Clock, was given a complete overhaul with the face being repainted and the mechanical workings sent to Sydney for repairs.

The Parramatta Female Factory and Midwives - a brief introduction

Emma Stockburn



*Female penitentiary or factory, Parramatta , New South Wales, by Augustus Earle, c. 1826.
(Source: National Library of Australia)*

The First Female Factory: 1800 – 1820

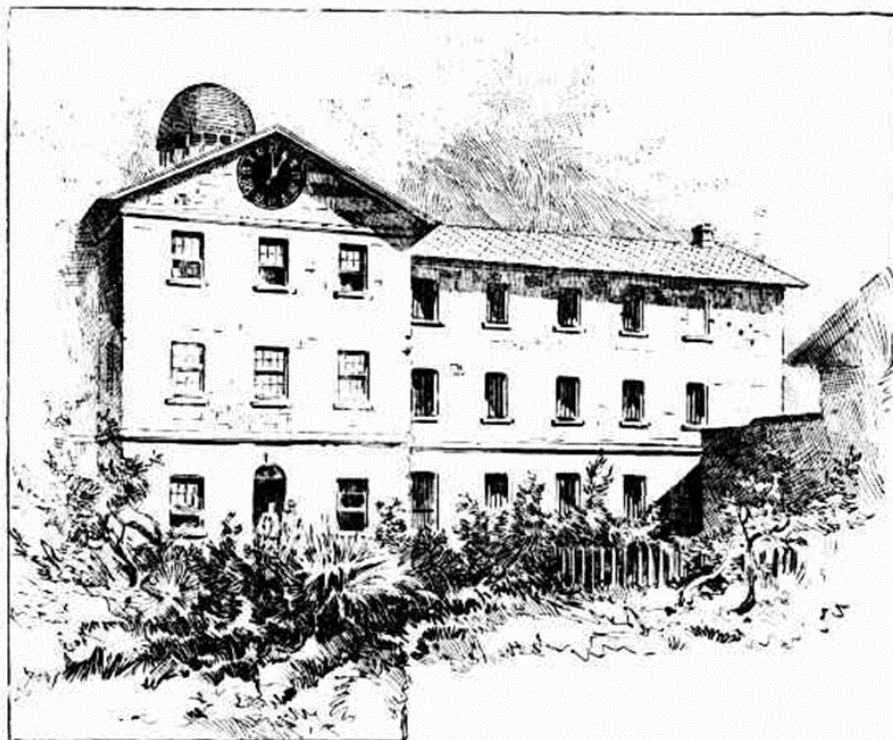
The first Female Factory, built in 1804 was located above the Parramatta gaol and was on the space that is now Prince Alfred Square. The top floor was meant to give a safe place as well a location to work for unassigned convict women.

It also served as accommodation for those newly arrived in the colony. Governor King stated that the place could be for industry as well as a confinement. Well-behaved women were chosen by settlers to undertake the work as servants and housekeepers. While those considered to be "incorrigible" of the convict women were sent to work at the Factory.

Here the women worked at looms, weaving various materials, including woollen fabric, sackcloth, linen, sail cloth and hemp. In 1806 72 convict women were employed in this way.

This same year Governor King expressed much concern over the state of women who worked and lived in the factory. He saw them as 'thoroughly depraved and abandoned.' In between 1803 – 1813 under the supervision of George Mealmaker and then Benjamin Barrow, various selectin policies and categorisations of character where used to separate the women there. This amounted to them being placed in different class group, determined by their 'behaviour' It was not until 1813 that an official enquiry was made into the treatment of the women at the factory. The enquiry was specifically made into the professional behaviour of Doctor Luttrell, the surgeon overseeing the Factory at the time, and he was found lacking in care and concern for his charges.

Large numbers of female convicts continued to arrive in the colony, including 89 Irish women on the *Caanda* in 1817. This also included women with eleven children. The factory was not equipped with cooking facilities, security and accommodation was increasingly over crowed and unhygienic. To this the women who worked at the looms preferring to stay in Parramatta town. All of these aspects lead to Commissioner J.T. Bigge to express his horror at the failures of the factory to care for the women's physical and moral health.



THE FEMALE FACTORY AT PARRAMATTA.

(Source: *Illustrated Sydney News*, 3 October, 1889, p. 1)

The Second Female Factory: 1821 – 1840

Laying-in and midwives

The problems faced by the colony's female convicts presented an issue for Governor Macquarie. In 1817 one of his many letters asking for formal assistance to build a new work and living situation for the female convict population, was given attention. It was then that Macquarie asked Reverend Samuel Marsden for his advice and thoughts. Marsden had been highly critical of, not only the factory itself but also the women held there and living in Parramatta. Calling them 'immoral and destitute' seeing many of them as concubines giving birth to illegitimate children. Moreover, it had been this condemnation that had been one of the reasons Macquarie had written to England for assistance with a solution to these problems.

The second Female factory was commissioned by Governor Macquarie in 1816 and was designed by Francis Greenway on a plan similar to the Hyde Park convict barracks. Marsden had given the Governor plans of workhouses in Yorkshire as his contribution to a solution to the colony's predicament.

The foundation stone was laid on 9 July 1818 by Governor Macquarie and by 1822, the new female factory was ready. A large stone building that included accommodation for 172 women, working space for weaving and looms, storage rooms, accommodation for some staff and large kitchens.

By 1827 the factory was home to 366 women. This number was but a small number when compared to the 803 who had passed through the stone walls over the past six months of the same year. These women were at the factory for a number of reasons and in 1824 the Factory had been seen as the first laying-in hospital in New South Wales.

By 1829 the factory was one of only two places that treated women of the colony who needed medical attention. A great number of these women needed assistance throughout pregnancy, birth and with infants. The Factory had become known as a lay-in hospital and a quote from a member of the public offers a colourful phrase of the time. The Factory "it is a favorite...and desirable place of seclusion for those convict females who are in that state, in which, Ladies wish to be who love their Lords". Many settlers sent their pregnant convict servants back to the Factory hospital to be cared for.

To this, the role of government-employed midwives was seen as an important one. To the extent that Colonial Surgeon Patrick Hill thought, the Female Factory could be a place to train midwives. Midwives were employed in New South Wales, at the Factory in between 1822 to 1839. These seven women were paid for their work and appointed with recommendation's from colonial surgeons and or the

superintendent of the Factory. These women did not always have easy lives but were respected. They are part of the history of Parramatta and the profession of midwifery and nursing.

Mary Jones - Female Factory Midwife

Emma Stockburn

A handwritten letter on aged paper. The date 'Parramatta January 15th 1822' is written in the top right. The salutation 'Sir' is on the left. The main text certifies Mary Jones as a Government Midwife at Parramatta from October 1st to December 31st, 1821, and mentions her application for a quarterly salary of twelve pounds per annum. The letter is signed 'Henry S. Inglis' and 'J. R.' in the bottom right. The bottom left is addressed to 'D'Arcy Wentworth Esqr, Treasurer of the Police Fund'. The name 'McNabane' is written at the bottom center.

Parramatta January 15th 1822

Sir

This is to Certify that Mary Jones -
Free Woman of Parramatta has been doing the
Duty as Government Midwife at Parramatta - from
the First of October to the Thirty first of December 1821 -
and has made application for a quarterly Salary at
the Rate of Twelve Pounds per annum - as ^{per} ~~ordered~~
by His late Excellency Governor Macquarie -

To D'Arcy Wentworth Esqr
Treasurer of the Police Fund }

Henry S. Inglis
J. R.

McNabane

Colonial Secretary's Papers, 31st December 1824.

(Source: State Archives and Records of NSW)

Mary Jones was the first midwife to have been called to assist at the Female Factory at Parramatta.

She arrived in New South Wales in 1814 on the *Wanstead*, under the name Mary White. In the 1814, Muster, she was registered as being employed as a midwife and having one child. Mary had been sentenced to transportation for seven years. She and a companion were convicted of theft after they admitted to stealing thirty yards of muslim fabric. Ms White married Joseph Jones in 1815 and they were married at St John Church, Parramatta. It can be seen in the Colonial Secretary correspondence that Mary received a salary for the role of midwife in 1822 and 1824.

It is believed that Mary was the first midwife to be employed by the government to work at the Female Factory. She would have also been called to assist at the

hospital and the gaol. She resigned in 1828 and at that time was still officially employed as Government Midwife.

Elizabeth Scott - Female Factory Midwife

Emma Stockburn

216	Scott Mrs	32		Bole	Scalloway	Midwife	21
217	Arthur	14				Stable boy	21

Assisted Immigration Passenger List, 1828 – 1896.

(Source: State Archives and Records of NSW)

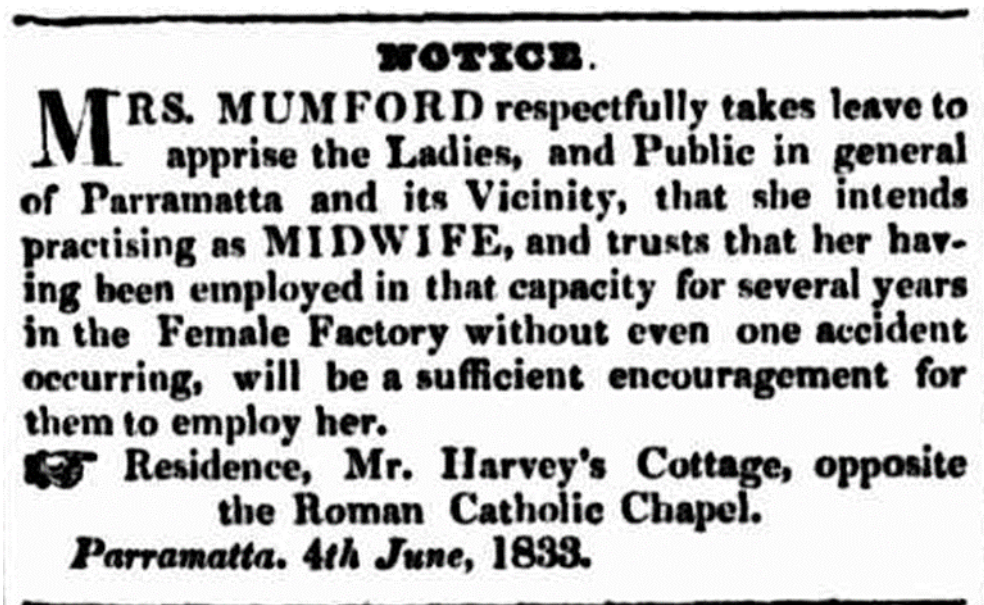
Elizabeth Scott arrived in the colony with her son Arthur in 1838.

They had travelled on the Lady Kennaway as assisted immigrants. Ms Scott was listed as thirty-two years old and a midwife and Arthur was fourteen and a stable boy, as seen above.

On her arrival Ms Scott was given a glowing recommendation from the ships Surgeon Dr Robert Waugh. That Elizabeth was 'an accomplished midwife....peculiarly qualified for the Government Establishment'. This praise was added to by J.D. Pinnock, an immigration officer who stated, the governor 'might appoint her to one in which her service may be made available for the public benefit'. Elizabeth was appointed to the Female Factory and her son was given employment with Mr Pinnock. She held the position at the Factory for a year.

Mary Mumford - Female Factory Midwife

Emma Stockburn



(Source: *Sydney Herald*, 6 June 1833, p. 1).

Mary was employed as a domestic servant near London, and while there, she stole from her employer.

This included personal items from her mistress and some household goods. She was seen by a local man, put on trial on the 11th February 1827 and sentenced to fourteen years and transportation to the colony. She was thirty seven years old when she began her journey on the *Harmony* and arrived in Sydney in late 1827.

From the start Mary was assigned as a nurse at the Sydney Infirmary on Macquarie Street. And then in 1828, she was given a recommendation by the Female Factory Committee to the Colonial Secretary, to work as a midwife at the Factory. As a midwife for the Female Factory Mary was given off-site accommodation and compensated with a salary of twenty pounds. She resided at Mr Harvey's cottage and she practised midwifery services here, as well as the Female Factory and the hospital.

Mary's time as a midwife for the Female Factory was a checked one. From 1829 to 1837 she was employed as midwife twice, but also spent time in the factory for neglecting her work and for concealing provisions. Then in 1830 she found herself

'living in a state of prostitution in Parramatta.' And yet throughout these years she was also given recommendations and character references from Dr James Bowman and the Surgeon in charge of Parramatta Hospital, Mathew Anderson. These instances speak of the uncertainty in the lives of midwives as well as the good work they did.

Mary final assignment at the female factory as a midwife was in 1838. Mary gained her ticket of leave in 1841 and it seems she married and moved to Maitland. Evidence of this can be seen in an advertisement placed in the Maitland Mercury of 1843.

Midwifery.

MRS. MARY GORDON (late Mumford) respectfully begs leave to acquaint the females of Maitland that she has commenced practising as Midwife, and promises the utmost attention and care shall be applied on her part to those individuals who may honor her with their commands. Respecting her conduct and qualifications, she has in her possession a Certificate from Surgeon Anderson, of the Colonial Hospital at Parramatta, under whose superintendence she attended the delivery of more than *nine hundred women* in eight years.

In consequence of the great depression of the times, Mrs. G. requires no higher fee than 10s., leaving it to the generosity of those who can afford it to reward her services as they find her deserving.

Shamrock Cottage, West Maitland. 935

(Source: *The Maitland Mercury and Hunter River General Advertiser*, 16 December 1843, p. 3)

Here we can see tell of an experienced and kind midwife, who has a solid reputation amongst medical professionals and a generous nature. Mary Gordon/Mumford passed away at 75 and on her death certificate; her profession is listed as midwife.

Mary Jackson - Female Factory Midwife

Emma Stockburn

STATE of the Female Factory, Parramatta, on the 16th February, 1833.
Under Colonial Sentence, 186; solitary confinement, 2; confined by order of the Committee, 8; nursing children, 84; old and infirm, 7; mistresses, servants, cooks, &c. 16; in hospital, 6; sick in factory, 4; assigned, waiting to be withdrawn, 103; number assignable, 0; total number of women, 416; children under one year, 49; under two years, 23; under three years 31; total number of children, 103.
ANN GORDON, Matron.

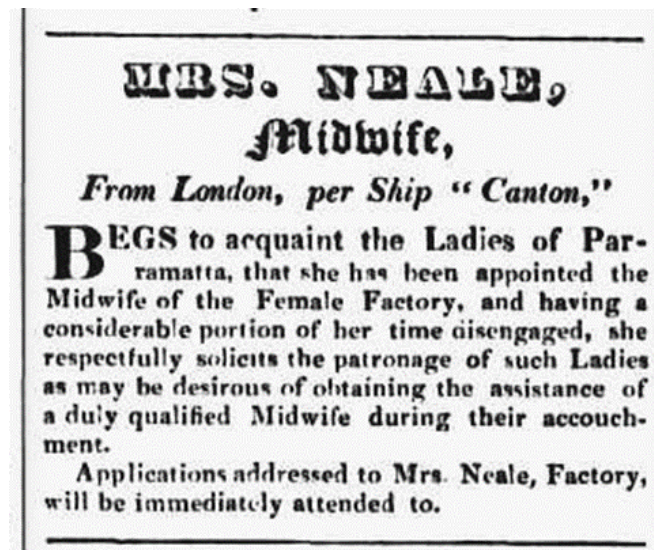
(Source: Sydney Herald, 16 February 1833, p. 4)

Mary Jackson, who arrived on the Diana, was quickly sent to the Female Factory.

In 1833 she was the midwife there. It is not known exactly how long she was at the Factory or in the role of midwife. But during this time she was paid eight pence per diem. By 1841 Mary was living at Petersham in Sydney.

Mary Anne Neale - Female Factory Midwife

Emma Stockburn

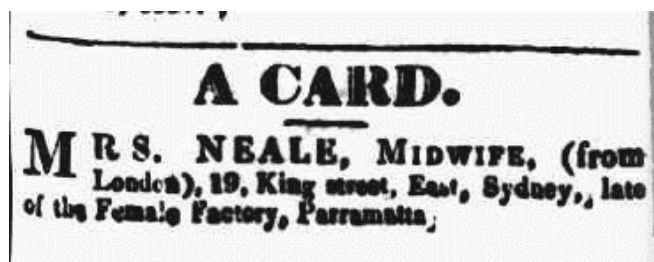


(Source: Sydney Herald, 2 November 1835, p. 1).

Mrs Neale arrived on the 8 September 1835, in the colony on the ship the Canton.

Mary was an assisted immigrant and was employed as the Female Factory midwife when she arrived. While it is not known if she had official training for her role she may have and at least had experience working in London.

The advertisement above is from November 1835, in it Mary is telling the colony of her employment and readiness to assist ladies outside of the Factory. Mary worked both as a government employee, for this she was paid fifty pounds, light and fuel, and as a private practitioner. Mary left the employ of the Factory in March 1837 and began work in Sydney, King Street.



(Source: Sydney Gazette, 20 June 1837, p. 1)

Elizabeth Donohoe - Female Factory Midwife

Emma Stockburn

CERTIFICATE OF FREEDOM.

No. *48/503* Date, *30 March 1843*

Prisoner's No *36/170*
Name *Eliza Donohoe*
Ship *Roslyn Castle*
Master *Richards*
Year *1836*
Native Place..... *Dublin*
Trade or Calling ... *housewif*
Offence *stealing wearing apparel*
Place of Trial *Dublin City*
Date of Trial *5 February 1835*
Sentence *seven years*
Year of Birth *1807*
Height *5ft 1 1/2 in*
Complexion *ruddy & freckled*
Hair *brandy*
Eyes *hazel*
General Remarks... *lost canine teeth in upper*
deliv^d by *large mark of a scald on lower left*
arm both arms freckled

Certificate of freedom for Eliza Donohoe, 30 March 1843.

(Source: State Archives and Records of NSW & Ancestry Library Edition)

Elizabeth Donohoe arrived in Sydney in 1836, on the ship Roslyn Castle

She had been sentenced for seven years for stealing. At this time Eliza/Elizabeth was twenty-nine years old and already widowed. She had been sent to the Parramatta Female Factory on arrival like many who found themselves in Sydney. Ms Donohoe had been performing the duties of a midwife in the absence of any official position before she was appointed in the role in 1839. Elizabeth was paid one shilling and had been given the position by the surgeon in charge of the Factory and Matron Bell.

Ms Donohoe was the last midwife appointed to the Factory as in 1839 the Sisters of Charity started working at Parramatta. Elizabeth received her Ticket of Leave in 1840 and her Certificate of Freedom in 1843.

Margaret Murphy - Female Factory Midwife

Emma Stockburn

STATE of the Female Factory, Parramatta, on the 27th Dec. 1834.
Under Colonial sentence, 228 ; in solitary confinement, 1 ; confined by order of the Committee, 8 ; nursing children, 101 ; old and infirm, 29 ; mistresses, servants, and cooks, 22 ; in hospital, 90 ; sick in factory, 3 ; assigned, waiting to be withdrawn, 92 ; number assignable, 53.—Total number of women, 551. Children under one year, 83 ; ditto under two years, 38 ; ditto under three years, 45.—Total number of children, 166.
ANN GORDON, Matron.

(Source: Sydney Herald, 5 January 1835, p. 4)

Ms Murphy, was a free immigrant who was employed as a midwife at the Female Factory in Parramatta in 1835.

According to records, she had qualifications and references as to her position. Margaret didn't serve for very long as the midwife at the Factory and left the same year, in 1835.

Matron Ann Gordon – Female Factory

Emma Stockburn



Matron Ann Gordon, undated. (Source: Tauranga City Libraries)

Ann Gordon, was the Matron of the Female Factory at Parramatta, between 1827 -1836. Mrs Gordon became well known in her role and synonymous as a personality of the town. During her time in the position, the Factory was given a variety of names, including Gordons' Villa, Gordon's Nunnery, Gordon's Seminary. Added to this when women were placed to live and work in the factory, they were said to be Gordonised.

Ann King was born at Portsmouth, England, in 1795. She was the daughter of James King, government courier, and his wife Ann, née Ovey. Ann married Robert Gordon of the 26th Limerick Militia in 1812.

In August the next year Ann, her husband, and their two daughters, Caroline born 1813, in Portsmouth, England and Maria, born, 1817, travelled on board the ship the Matilda and arrived in Sydney in 1813. Ann also had another daughter Letitia, who was born prior to her marriage, in 1809. Letitia remained in Ireland with her grandparents.

Robert was sent to the Newcastle garrison where Ann gave birth to two children, William/Henry and Sarah between 1820 and 1822. Following the departure of the regiment for India in 1824 the Gordons decided to remain in the colony. Land was apparently granted to them in the Burragorang Valley in 1825 was quickly sold and by 1828 Robert was employed as a storekeeper with the commissariat. Ann was the Matron of the Female Factory at Parramatta.

DISTRICT of

Parramatta

NEW SOUTH WALES.

No.

294

Census for the Year 1828.

By Act of the Governor and Council of the 9th Geo. IV. No. 4, sec 2, it is enacted, that if any Householder or Proprietor of Lands, shall refuse or neglect to answer, or shall answer falsely or untruly, any of the Questions authorised by the said Act to be put to him, and Occupied Land in the Colony, the Person so offending shall be fined, at the discretion of two or more Magistrates, in a Sum not exceeding Ten Pounds.

HOUSEHOLDER'S NAME,

Robert Gordon

RESIDENCE, Parramatta

Names of Family and Servants.	Age.	Class.	Arrival.		Season.	Employment.
			Ship.	Year.		
Robert Gordon	40	Free	Matilda	1817	✓	Storekeeper
Ann Gordon	33	D.	D.	D.	✓	Matron Female Factory
Caroline Ann Gordon	15	D.	D.	D.	✓	
Maria Gordon	11	D.	D.	D.	✓	
Henry Gordon	8	D.	Nahara	1820	✓	
Sarah Gordon	6	D.	D.	1822	✓	

1828 Census entry for the Gordon Family

(Source: State Archives and Records of NSW & Ancestry Library Edition)

Ann had been given the position of superintendent and matron of the Female Factory at Parramatta, in October 1827. The Female Factory was a place of supervision for transported women who were not assigned as servants to settlers. The organisation was also the principal female penitentiary. The institution also had an important role in the medical care for the wider female convict community. At a salary of £150 per annum, including quarters, fuel and light Ann was one of the highest paid women in the colony. With this appointment, Ann had to work with a staff, as recommended by the Board of Management. This included "assistant matrons, often soldiers wives, were appointed to the first and third classes of inmates...a storekeeper-superintendent....a clerk...portress and constable-gatekeeper

were to lighten her administrative load", and from 1835 there was also a midwife and several monitoresses chosen from the best-behaved women.

The Female Factory at Parramatta suffered with the erratic arrival of large number of convict women from England and Ireland. For example in 1827, the year of Ann Gordon's appointment, there were 366 women at the factory. These women were from a variety of challenging circumstances. This included the difference in severity of crimes they had committed and their physical conditions. Many women were ill, unable to work and or pregnant. And some like the women from the *Elisabeth* from Ireland were troublesome and caused tensions in the colony. The aim of the Factory was to assign the women that were held there, but with over a thousand women passing through its doors in 1827 and 1828 alone most were assigned. But there was still 500 were in residence in late 1829.

All of these women, those who stayed, and those who passed through be it because of assignment or lay-in during pregnancy were often looked after by a staff of five women, headed by Matron Gordon. Governor Darling commended Gordon on her ability to

"implement policies designed to achieve the smooth running of an institution that was both a place of punishment and asylum, to maintain the health and welfare of the women, alleviate overcrowding where possible, provide some employment an encourage moral improvement."

It isn't exactly known how much of this success was because of authoritarianism and an understanding of the women that were under her watch. In her letters to her oldest daughter, Letitia Garmonsway did show a kind side. This a letter regarding the death of her grandmother and shows much love for her oldest child.

"My dear child you say in your letter that you have no home now, no friend There is no doubt you lost a friend a humble friend in your poor grandmother but pray be comforted and consider you have a friend a home and a mother that never forgot you although length of time and circumstances and thousands of miles across the wide ocean separated us. Yet my poor child you were never forgotten by your mother. All I wish is to see both of you and your dear little boys"

Under Governor Richard Bourke (1831-1837) the numbers in the factory grew and conditions deteriorated. Built for 300 inmates, the population rapidly grew to over 600 women and children. This added to Ann's burdens at the time when a series of scandals occurred involving her family. This included alleged immoral conduct by her husband when an allegation was made by the the Factory's midwife, Mrs Mary Ann Neale. There were also rumours regarding Caroline Gordon and the father of her illegitimate children. And while Ann was not implicated and said to be *"a valuable public servant herself ...she had the misfortune to be surrounded by an ill*

conducted family" by Governor Burke, she lost her position in 1836 with one year's wage. Her husband Robert had lost his position of the Factory storekeeper the year before.

Robert, then held the publican's licence for the "Jolly Sailor" hotel in George Street in Parramatta and Ann applied to take on the position of Matron again at the factory but was unsuccessful. By the early 1840 the family had made their way to Maitland. From family letters it is thought that there was some financial and personal stress to Ann during her time in Maitland.

As can be seen in a letter from Ann to her daughter Letitia in England dated 5 January 1845. Ann wrote in regards to herself, her three girls and her husband.

'The three girls Caroline, Maria and Sarah and their children are at present at home with me and as for their father, I have had to keep him for this last ten years without his earning one single shilling but spending all he can get'.

Robert died in Maitland from cancer in 1863. Ann died on 6 June 1868 at Maitland. They were buried together in St. Peter's Old Burial Ground at East Maitland, along with daughter Caroline and grandson Oscar Henry.

Parramatta Roman Catholic Orphan School Site

Research & Collections Team



At 1 Fleet Street North Parramatta stands a group of buildings which provides a continuous story of the evolution of child welfare and juvenile justice in New South Wales.

Dating back to the 1840s, this is the site of the Roman Catholic Orphan School which later became the Parramatta Girls Industrial School, Parramatta Girls' Training School, 'Kamballa', and Norma Parker Detention Centre for Women. Despite the site being used for reforming, training and welfare of women and children it has a notorious and troublesome history. A number of Royal Commissions and investigations into the welfare, treatment and allegations of abuse of inmates has been conducted over the course of its history. It also has been the subject of a number of books, and plays based on the oral histories and testimonies of women who spent time there.

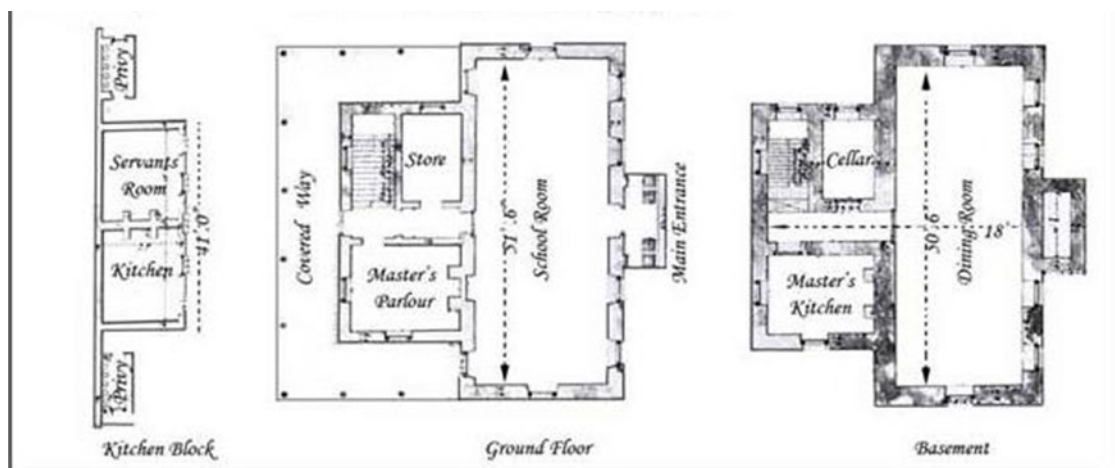
The first female orphan school was established in 1801 by Governor King in George Street, Sydney. In June 1818 the girls in Sydney were moved to a new Female

Orphan School established by Governor Macquarie at Arthur's Hill, now known as Rydalmere, on the north bank of the Parramatta River and now the site of the University of Western Sydney Parramatta Campus. It later became the Protestant Orphan School. Another Roman Catholic orphanage was established in Waverley in 1837.

Roman Catholic Orphan School

In 1841 construction began on a new orphan school at North Parramatta on the south side of the Female Factory to replace the Male Orphan School at Liverpool. Consisting of a four-storey building, and three-storey servants' wing designed by Henry Ginn, using stone from a nearby quarry in Fleet Street.

An unexplained change in plans instead saw 113 children transferred from the Waverley orphanage to the new Roman Catholic Orphan School in North Parramatta. A new wing was built around 1850 to accommodate growing numbers of orphans and to also take in male orphans following the closure of the Male Orphan School in Liverpool. This new wing now currently links the chapel with the southern courtyard block.



Henry Ginn's 1843 plan of Parramatta New Orphan School. (Source: Casey & Lowe, 2014)

Further work was undertaken by Architect William Munro from late 1859 including the addition of a wing to the 1850 building and, in 1860, a two roomed cottage for the gardener located against the northern boundary wall that separated the Female Factory. In 1862 Munro called for tenders to construct a hospital on the grounds of the Roman Catholic Orphanage. The hospital was renamed 'Bethel House' in the late 1920s.

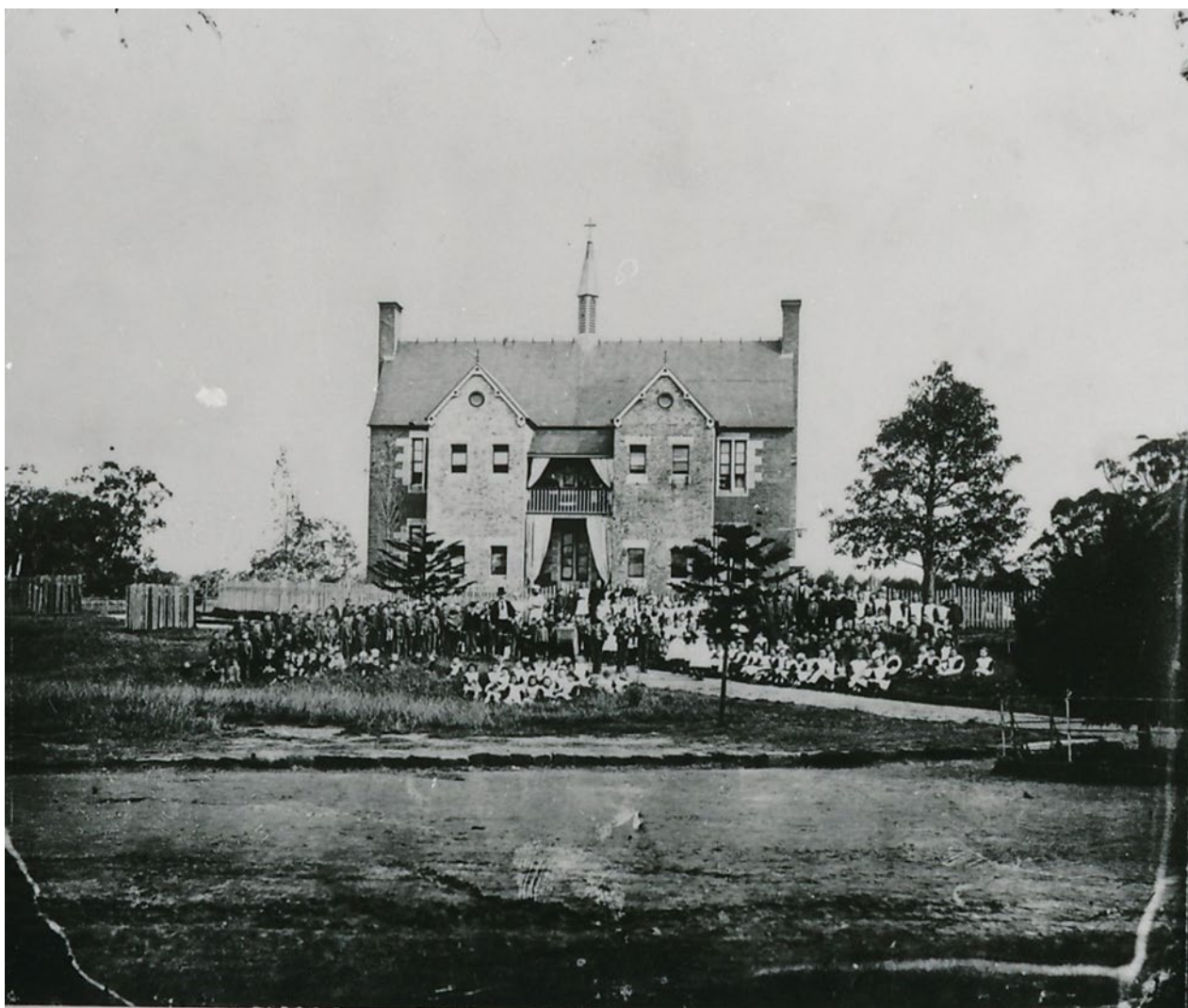
A three-storey wing was added to the main building in 1866. Other structures built during this period include the South East wing (1857), the South West range (1860) and the chapel (1865).



View of the orphanage from the stone quarry in Fleet Street c.1865. Note the infirmary wing in the left background, the gate keeper's cottage in the left foreground, the boys quarters in the centre and the main building on the bottom right.

(Source: City of Parramatta, Local Studies Photographic Collection, LSP00190)

By the 1870's the school was home to 318 children. A 1873-1874 Royal Commission on Public Charities condemned the barrack system of large orphanages and indicated that the school needed two more dormitories. The report stated that 62 boys sleep in bedroom 25 x 5.5 metres; 44 boys in bedroom 16 x 6; 43 girls in room 16 x 5.5 metres; 58 girls in room 16 x 6 metres, 33 girls in room 16 x 6 metres. In some cases there was more than one child to a bed.

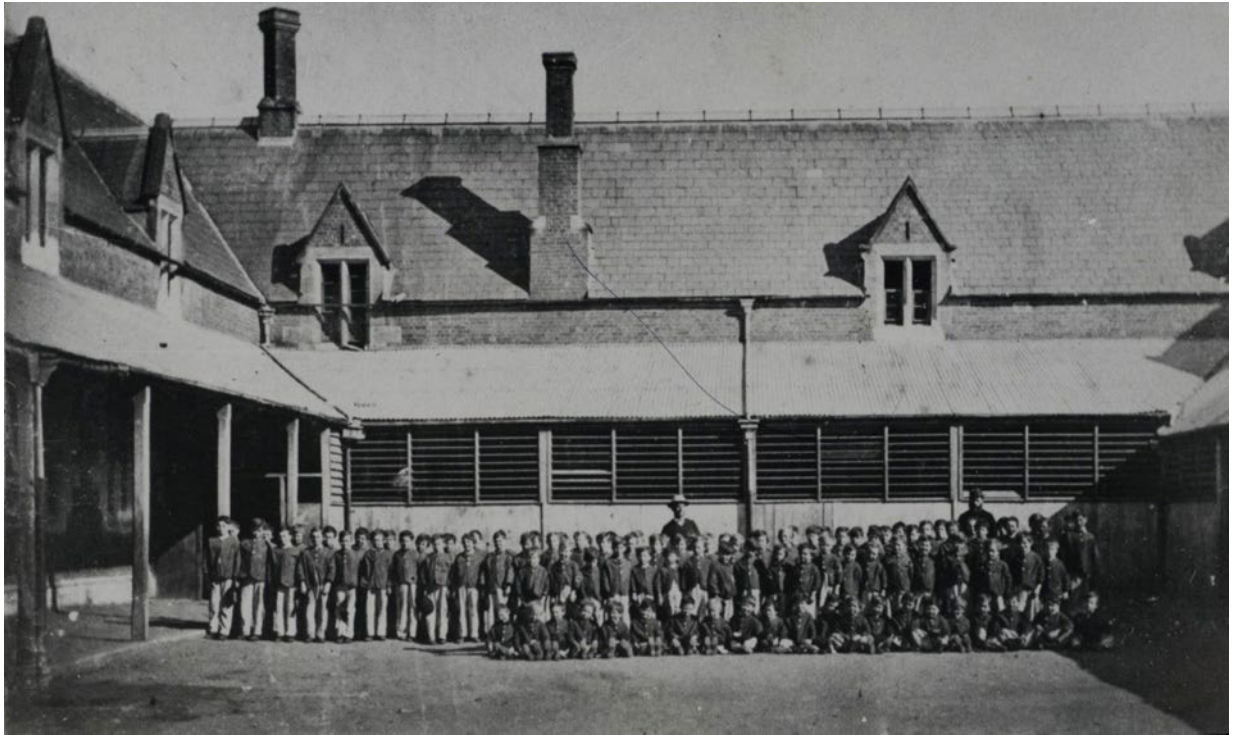


Children and staff assembled in front of the hospital. 1877.

(Source: City of Parramatta, Parramatta Heritage Centre, Archives ACC002/34/23).

Following an incident involving one of the girls in the Orphan School the Colonial Architect ordered a fence be constructed between the orphan school and the Lunatic Asylum.

In 1881 the government passed the State 'Children Relief Act' responsible for boarding out children to homes and added a new wing south of the main building. When the Orphan School was closed in August 1886 there were 41 children living there.



*Roman Catholic Orphan School, Parramatta, view of orphan boys assembled in front enclosed veranda used for dining area. Covered walkway to the right, ca. 1870.
(Source: City of Parramatta, Local Studies Photographic Collection, LSP0650)*

Industrial School for Females

Twenty years earlier the 'Industrial Schools Act' of 1866 had established a Girl's Industrial School in Newcastle. This school was relocated in 1871 to a former prison located at Cockatoo Island. There it was proclaimed a Public Industrial School and was known as Biloela Public Industrial School for girls. It remained there until 1887 when its ninety girls were moved to the site of the former Roman Catholic Orphan School at North Parramatta. A Department of Public Instruction Report of 1888 recorded 145 girls enrolled with 42 under the age of 14 years of age. By 1905 only girls older than 8 years of age were committed to the school.

A 1910 'Official Handbook of the Parramatta Industrial School' stated that The Parramatta Industrial School is designed to deal with neglected and uncontrollable girls between the ages of 13 and 16 years, more particularly that type of girl whose companionships or home associations have resulted in her developing immoral tendencies or criminal instincts. Experience has shown that, as an institution, it is especially valuable to parents whose daughters have, much to their sorrow, got beyond control, and conceived an infatuation for the society of immoral or dangerous companions.

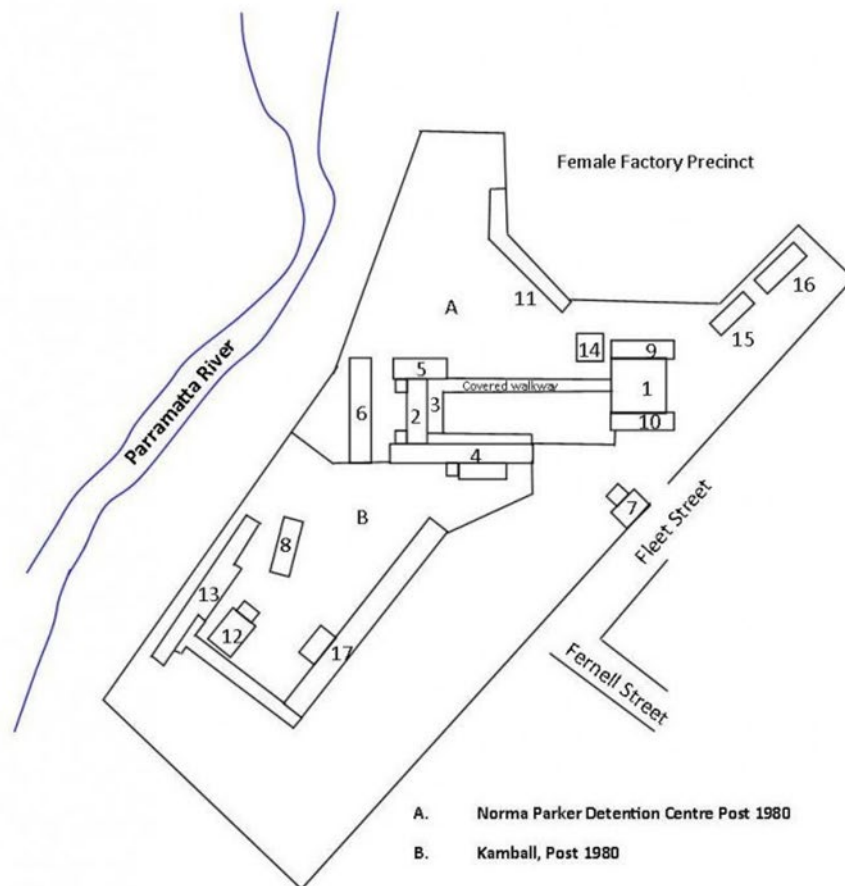
Girls' Training School

Under the provisions of the 1905, '*Neglected Children and Juvenile Offenders Act*', 'Bethel House' the former hospital became 'The Girl's Training Home' in 1918. Girls classed as "immoral" were sent to the Industrial School and those as "uncontrollable" to the Training Home. This arrangement continued until 1923 when the Child Welfare Act came into force and the Training School was merged back with the Industrial School.

In 1934 a new Hospital Block, a narrow single-storied structure, located parallel to the western boundary behind the Bethel hospital, was constructed. It included two dormitories with sleep-out verandahs, an administrative and treatment centre, kitchen, dining and ablutions wing.

Parramatta Girls Home

Ministerial reforms in 1956 saw the Department of Child Welfare separated from the Minister of Public Instruction and combined with Social Welfare under its own minister. 'Bethel House' was refurbished as a privileges cottage and renamed 'Bethel Cottage' in 1967. The laundry was turned into a modern commercial style laundry to assist in preparing girls for employment in the industry. A new classroom block boasting facilities for home economics, arts and crafts and sewing, hairdressing and typing was completed in 1970.



- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Main Dormitory Building. 1843 | 10. South Wing added to main building 1882 |
| 2. Dining Room and Dormitory Above. 1850 | 11. Toilets and clothing shed. 1912 |
| 3. Covered Walkway. c.1855 | 12. Dining Room. 1912 |
| 4. South West Range and Kitchen Annex. Staff Quarters Above. 1859 | 13. Clinic. 1927 - Keller House Dormitories 1936 |
| 5. Chapel and later Recreation Room. 1859 | 14. Isolation Block. 1925 |
| 6. Laundry and Washrooms. 1882 | 15. Superintendent's Cottage. 1912 |
| 7. Gatekeeper's Cottage. 1861 | 16. Deputy Superintendent's Cottage. 1944 |
| 8. Infirmary / Bethel House. 1865 | 17. Instructional Block. 1969 |
| 9. North Wing added to main building 1867 | |

Layout of the Catholic Orphan School
(Source: Parramatta City Council, Peter Arfanis, 2015)

Kamballa and Taldree

In 1974 the Department began planning to divide the school into a junior remand centre for boys and a unit for girls with emotional and behavioral problems. The boys' section was known as Taldree and accommodated boys in the 1930's hospital

block and Bethel Cottage. The remainder of the girls Training School made up of the courtyard buildings, main building and laundry became known as Kamballa.

Kamballa was transferred to the Department of Corrective Services in 1980 and renamed the Norma Parker Detention Centre for Women. Taldree remained under the control of Department of Youth and Community Services and used for staff training. Since 2010 the Norma Parker Centre ceased being a detention centre.

History of the "Parramatta Lunatic Asylum" 1848-1878

Neera Sahni



Parramatta Lunatic Asylum sketch by F. C. Terry (Source: The Australian Home Companion and Band of Hope Journal, 1 June 1861, p. 241)

Around 1839 Sydney opened a new asylum for destitute women and the insane at Tarban Creek near Gladesville but hopes this would solve the colonies problems for this group proved short-lived. Instead the numbers of destitute women, and people with mental health issues continued to grow and by 1846 the Tarban Creek Asylum was over crowded.

In contrast the stopping of transportation to New South Wales and problems with the facilities at the 'female factory' meant there were only 250 women in the 'female factory'. This combined with the ongoing demands to spend money wisely, impelled the Colonial Government to look at converting the 'female factory' into an asylum.

Change was clearly in the wind and the falling numbers at the factory saw Edwyn Statham, the last superintendent of 'female factory' have his position abolished in 1848. But perhaps this wasn't such bad news for Edwyn as he, and his wife, were immediately appointed to superintendent to the 'Parramatta Lunatic Asylum'. Positions they held until around 1878, when the name and administration changed.

There was clearly room at the factory for more inmates and pressure on existing asylums made it inevitable that some should be moved to the newly named 'Parramatta Lunatic Asylum'. The only issues appears to have been what kind of patients could the current facilities hold and what modifications would need to be made to take more.

In 1849 Dr Patrick Hill chaired a committee to consider locations for 'convict lunatics'. He suggested that while the 'female factory' could really only deal with lunatics of one sex, the rest of the institution could perhaps take 50-70 male mental health patients. Hill further suggested Parramatta become the institution for 'uncurables' of both sexes.

On 18 July, 1849, Governor Fitzroy released an article on the Colony's finances in which he outlined the following

"it is the intention to remove from Tarban Creek to the building at Parramatta, known as the Female Factory, incurable chronic lunatics. This arrangement, urgently required as a means of desirable classification and of relieving the present greatly overcrowded state of the Asylum, is also a measure of economy, as it will save the expense of upwards of £3000 required by the Superintendent at Tarban Creek, for the accommodation of the increased number of lunatics, now under his charge; no increase is anticipated in the expense of provisions and contingencies, beyond that hitherto provided for the establishment at Tarban Creek. By relieving the Asylum of all the chronic cases, it is confidently hoped that its efficiency as a curative establishment may be materially improved."

This process went ahead and the new arrivals were fitted into the existing buildings and in 1850 the site was officially became the Parramatta Lunatic Asylum. These quickly revealed their inadequacies which had to be overcome by the minor works and extensions as more and more patients were squeezed into the old factory grounds. In 1852 Patrick Hill became the first Surgeon Superintendent of the Asylum, but this appointment was short-lived as Hill died soon after and was replaced by Dr Richard Greenup.

In 1855 the asylum acquired twenty-three acres from the Government Domain, on the western side of the river, for use as a farm, and a further 6 acres were acquired for private access. In 1856 Dr Greenup requested a steam boiler to heat the

buildings instead of using open fires which could be dangerous for patients. A 30 yard section of the poorly built sixteen foot high wall separating the refractory women from the gardens fell down 6 November 1856. This was later replaced with a wooden fence.

But all of this did little to change the ongoing need for accommodation and treatment areas designed for asylum inmates and not convicts and criminals. In fact it appears that throughout the 1850s most of the new arrivals were made up from the destitute and low risk mental health patients.



Parramatta Lunatic Asylum, Dormitory. Sketch by F. C. Terry, 1861.

(Source: The Australian Home Companion and Band of Hope Journal, 1 June 1861, p. 243)

In 1861, the first major addition was built on a site to the north eastern side of the main entrance. Often referred to as the 'Criminal Lunatics Building', this was a new block of cells to house the criminally insane separately from the other patients. By this time Superintendent Statham was looking after about 200 male patients while Mrs. Statham looked after around 200 females. Given the following description made by visitors in May of that year they were clearly doing a reasonable job given their limited resources,

[We] entered the grounds of the asylum, this pre dates extensions, a warm pleasant day and once inside the inmates all made their way to them to talk. ... one active little man pushed his way to us and claimed our attention ... "Do not listen to these madmen," he said, "you see these marks prove- the fact," tearing, open his shirt bosom as he spoke. "I was made Pope of Rome a thousand million years ago, by the Lord Jesus Christ! I made Napoleon King and yet I am kept here locked up with these madmen.

After talking with the inmates in the yard the correspondent commented on the conditions describing the cleanliness of the place, and how the inmates were

locked in their separate dormitories at sundown. When they entered the hospital wing they found only eleven patients there. The inmates received a pint of soup, half a pound of meat, and bread, vegetables and tea each day and on fine days the meals were served outside under the large courtyard shed erected for that

purpose. Most were granted a liberal amount of freedom during the day but there were extreme cases which needed to be confined. For example they found one man in the courtyard

...whose hands and legs were constantly chained; he was a most violent man had murdered his wife some years before, and was hopelessly, dangerously mad.

Conditions for the women appear to have been worse as they were the ones occupying the old 'female factory' prison cells. But even so they found,

The women were scattered about the courtyard, standing in the shelter of trees, which adorn it, or seated in the covered compartment where, as in the men's side, their meals are served in fine weather. All was scrupulously clean, some talking and laughing, others gazing silently at us.

In 1864 a second story was added to the Criminal Lunatics building, and the second floor was finished in 1864; and the third between 1868 and 1869. Designed originally with 19 to 20 individual cells, each floor had a 'keeper's' room.

'Vineyard Farm'

In 1866 the Asylum purchased the adjacent forty-three acre 'Vineyard Farm' from George and Ellen Blaxland. This provided an administration building in the form of the old Bett's family house and gave the administrators enough new land to enable the construction of new purpose-built structures to house male and female patients separately. The first of these was the male weatherboard division (also known as Temporary Asylum, and Central Male Block), built in 1869-1870.

The male weatherboard division –

Between 1869 and 1870 The male weatherboard division was erected on five acres of land separated from the old asylum by narrow band of uncultivated ground. Designed by the Colonial Architect James Barnett it was enclosed with wooden palisading. When the building was reviewed in the Freeman's Journal in 1877, It was described as being ... *on the whole well adapted to the purpose for which it was erected.*

On the 26 February, 1870, The Sydney Mail, gave a very detailed description of these new premises which were managed separately by Superintendent Dr Wardley, and Mr. J.Rr. Firth, Assistant-Superintendent,

"entering the exercise yard by a side gate at the southern boundary, the visitor finds himself at the end of a spacious verandah floored with cement, and running down the entire front of the building, a distance of over 300 feet. [the kitchen] this is a roomy and lofty chamber, cement floored and fitted with a large patent stove, together with a large copper, etc. At the back of this is a large store, divided by a transverse partition, and to be used, one half for the reception of linen, cutlery, etc., and the other portion for wine, spirits, and such-like articles."

The first men were moved there in the early part of 1870 and although it was originally designed to house 200 patients by 1872 it housed 250.



Parramatta Hospital for the Insane, Dining Yard, 1875-1895

(Source: City of Parramatta, Local Studies Photographic Collection, LSP00171)

In 1877, The Freeman's Journal, gave the following description of the premises,

"The pavilion plan is adopted here with the greatest possible success; the inmates and their attendants having free access to all parts of the building without the inconvenience of crossing the yards in all weathers, which is unavoidable in other divisions of the institution. The terrible prison features which I have alluded to as being conspicuous elsewhere are absent in this weatherboard building; there are no bars, no high walls, but a fine area of land, which is neatly laid out as an immense flower garden, and merely enclosed in front by an open paling fence."

The building itself is ingeniously designed, and consists of three or four day rooms with dormitories running at right angles. The former can be thrown into one, or partitioned off into separate apartments at pleasure, and consequently some means of classification is at hand did the medical attendant care to avail himself of them.

The division being constructed of wood no whitewash brush is required and the whole place was, sweeter, cleaner, and in every way pleasanter to gaze upon than other portions of the asylum. I have described. The master attendant, who resides at the northern end, has the immediate supervision of the weatherboard building and is assisted by one senior attendant, a cook, a night-watchman, and ten junior attendants."

Built on the northern end of the site it was surrounded to the north by a kitchen, stores, and Chief Attendant's residence, which were added between 1877 to 1880 to support female weatherboard units.

In the 1890s more buildings were added to this area and at some stage before 1930 the Chief Attendant's residence was pulled down. From 1934 onwards the old male division weatherboard buildings were replaced with brick ones with a similar footprint. These modifications finally ended in the 1960s.

1875-1876 additions

By the 1870s the Asylum had grown to be the largest Government establishment in Parramatta, housing around 800 inmates. Of these 245 were housed in a new wing on land adjoining the main building. Between 1875 and 1876 a range of stone buildings replaced some of the old female factory buildings and improvements were made to the yards. These included one dormitory for 60 patients, 34 single cells and two corridors.

By 1878 the males who were quiet, harmless or senile were housed in the 'weatherboard division'. The buildings were surrounded by a number of open air yard labelled by the 1878 Report as being the, 'Quiet and Orderly', 'Sick Epileptic and Aged', 'Noisy and Violent', and the 'Intermediate Yard' which contained an aviary, fountain and trees.

These buildings were all on the north side of the main female factory over the eastern part of the third class penitentiary yard and were referred to as the 'spinal range' or 'Wards No 2' and 'Ward No. 3', they are now referred to as building 104.

Even with all these additions the composite nature of the site, the repurposing of buildings and the pressing need to accommodate such a broad range of psychiatric patients still presented numerous problems for the asylum. Frederick

Norton Manning after touring the world to look at asylums elsewhere gave Parramatta a damning review in General report on Asylums, report card, stating,

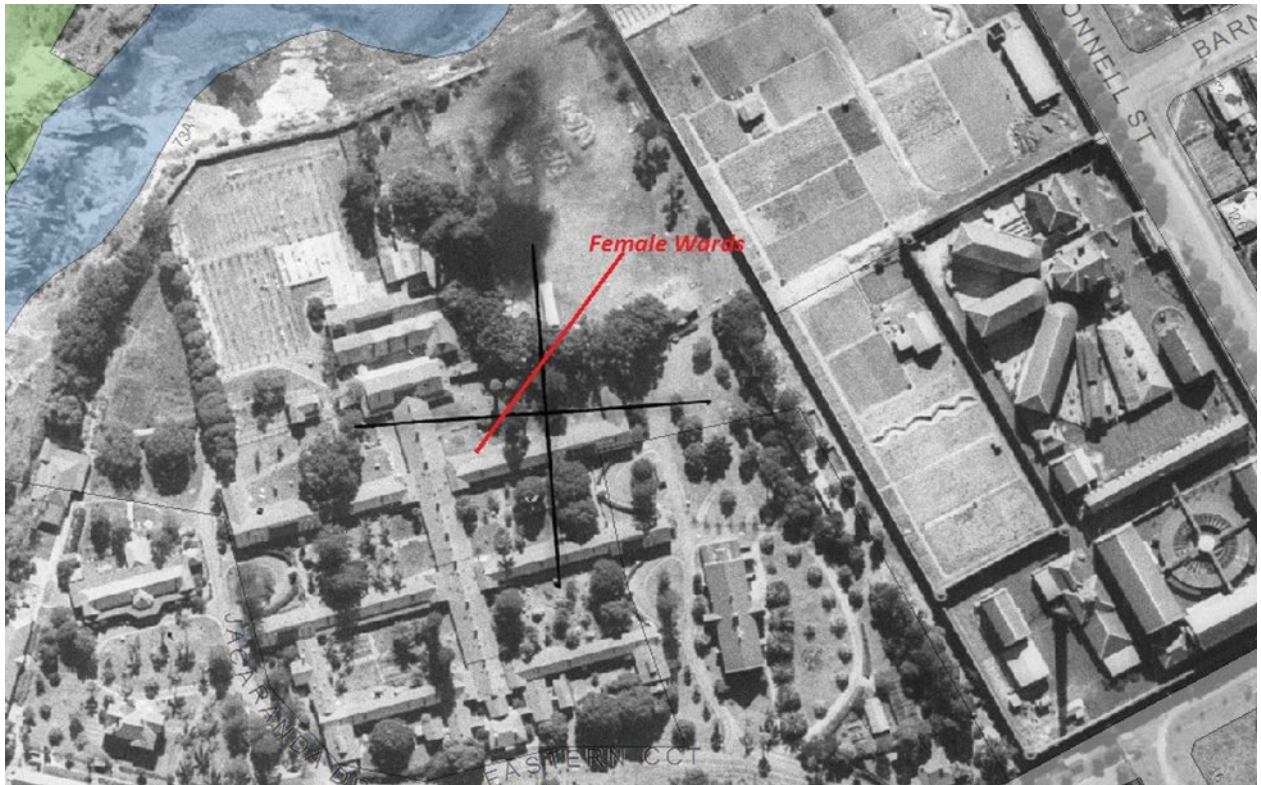
I have not seen anything so unsatisfactory and so saddening as Parramatta, except at Cairo.

As a result of the Lunacy act of 1878-the 'Parramatta Lunatic Asylum' was renamed the 'Parramatta Hospital for the Insane' and put under the direction of the Inspector General for the Insane, the first of which was Dr. F N Manning (1878-1898). Manning was replaced by Dr. E Sinclair (1898-1920s).

~18~

Lunatic Asylum Male and Female Wards 1848-1956

Caroline Finlay



Aerial View showing the Female Wards, 1943

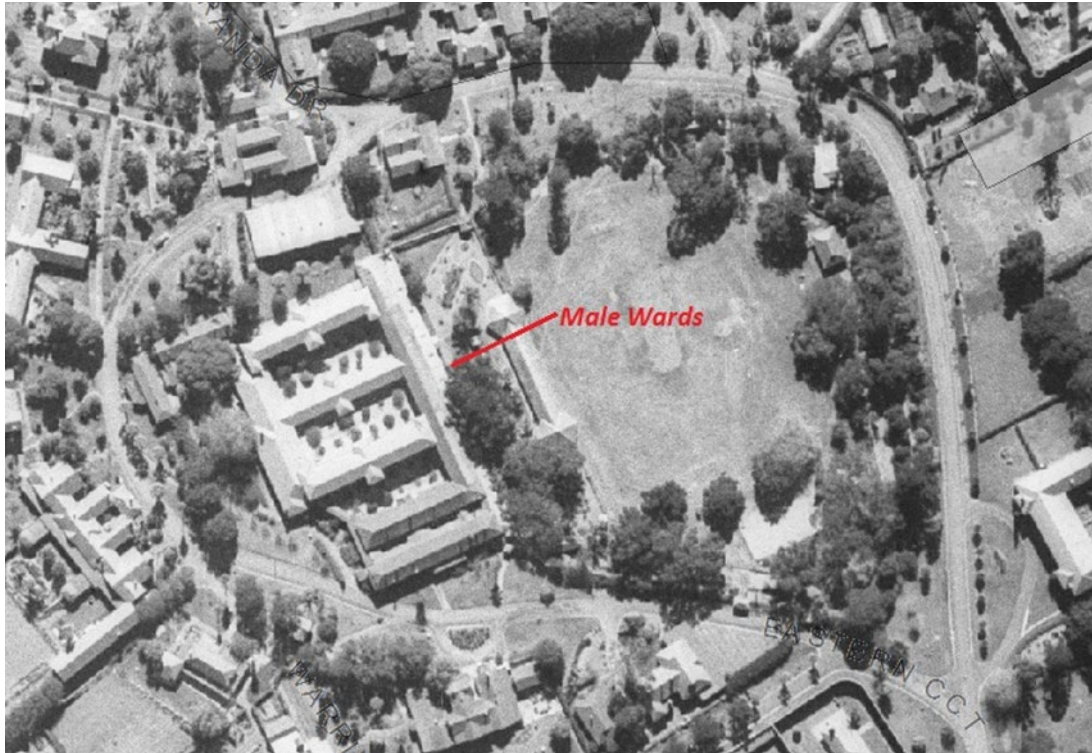
The Parramatta Lunatic Asylum, took over the buildings of the Female Factory in 1848. As the history of the Parramatta Lunatic Asylum states,

"by 1846 the Tarban Creek Asylum near Gladesville was overcrowded compelling the Colonial Government to look for a solution. In 1847 Governor Sir Charles Fitzroy agreed that "lunatic" and invalid convicts be placed in one institution."

The Parramatta Lunatic Asylum Precinct comprises a number of buildings that distinguish it from other sites and reflect its character and purpose. A major architectural feature is the Central Block of the Male Asylum which includes the Dining Room, Day Rooms, and 1800s Verandah Remnants.

The former central male block was originally constructed in the late 1800s, and was bricked in the 1930s. Separate male and female timber wards were built during the

1870s and 1880s for the building program within the Female Factory Precinct. The main reason for this was outlined by Dr Frederick Norton Manning in 1868, when he described Parramatta Lunatic Asylum "as unfit as a residence for those with mental afflictions."



Aerial View of the Site showing the Male Wards, 1943

The layout of the buildings conformed with contemporary designs for hospitals, with main services located in the spine and dormitory wards and rooms connected to the centre block. The Central Male Block complex has largely retained this courtyard design. The central sections were demolished and rebuilt close to the original design in 1934-35. The Front Verandah, Dining and Day Rooms were preserved. Day and dining rooms tended to have unbarred windows. These and other windows in ward blocks were altered in the late 1800s, and tall thin windows were installed, so that it was impossible for patients to climb out.

Also of significance is the former Canteen, now Harriett Ward, which began construction in 1956. This single brick building has a roof clad in terracotta tiles and timber weatherboards.

In 1955 the Royal Australian Historical Society donated some bricks that had been preserved from the Sydney Exhibition Building which had been destroyed by fire in 1882, and as a result the Canteen was built with recycled bricks. The After-Care Association, which ran the canteen from its opening in 1957, relinquished control of the building in 1996. It is assumed that this is when the building was renovated and the canteen was moved and became the Phoenix Café.

The precinct also has a Gardner's Cottage with a bush house and nurseries. This building which was formerly a Gardner's Cottage, has painted brick walls and a corrugated iron roof. It was constructed in 1899, with additions made in 1910 by the Government Architect Walter Liberty Vernon. The additions made were another drawing room to the west of the cottage, and an additional room added to the east. Walter Vernon who also designed the Art Gallery of New South Wales, and was responsible for additions to the Customs House building in Sydney, is known for using the most advanced materials and construction methods available at that time.

Gardener's Cottage was originally a timber framed and weatherboard structure with 2 brick chimneys. A detached wash room was located to the north west of the building. The verandah and roof have now been extended and enclosed, and the chimneys and detached wash room were removed at some stage. Stained glass windows to the rear of the building are still intact.

The former female block buildings includes the 'Kitchen Block' (now a nurse education area) built between 1881-1883.

This building has painted brick walls, and a painted corrugated iron roof. There is also a free standing timber shelter with a corrugated roof behind the building. The southern section of the building previously contained a bakehouse, and was adjacent to a store room. There is a painted chimney in the southern section of the building.

The building was converted into Occupation Work Rooms in 1928, and had further modifications in 1943. Uses of the building since the Second World War include being used as wards and sewing rooms.

The Laundry Block and Boiler House was designed by the Colonial Architect James Barnet, and was completed in 1883. The Laundry and Boiler House were located in the Female Precinct, as laundry in the 1800s was considered solely women's work. The laundry was often located near the boiling room and had four main components: *"receiving and distribution rooms; wash house; ironing rooms and drying racks and closets"*

The widespread idea at the time was that germs spread through the air, so the laundry was commonly kept at a distance from other buildings. The Laundry at the Male and Female Asylum was purposely built in the north of the Female Precinct. The Laundry Block was modified in 1901, and remains largely intact.

The Female Precinct previously had a Timber Female Asylum. The former Female Factory buildings were considered inappropriate for the needs of the female asylum patients, and so were demolished. These were replaced with

weatherboard asylums that were constructed in the 1870s and 1880s. This temporary female asylum conformed to the contemporary ideas for the design of hospitals and barracks with services located in the spine and dormitory wards and rooms connected to the centre block. The Female Timber Asylum was demolished during the 1970s.

Overview of Cumberland Medical Precinct 1850 -1983

Research & Collections Team



Like many other government institutions the change from the prison style 'female factory' to a nineteenth century asylum for mental health patients was not an easy one. From 1848 through to the middle of the 1880s buildings for a new style of asylum were erected, but Greenway's 1821 Female factory building, and the prison cells built by Governor Gipps, remained unchanged at the heart of the precinct.

In 1850 the old 'female factory' officially became the 'Parramatta Lunatic Asylum'. But the catalyst for substantial change to the site came in 1866 with the purchase of the adjacent thirty three acre 'Vineyard Farm' and the construction of substantial new purpose-built structures to house male and female patients separately. The first of these was the male weatherboard division, built in 1869-1870, and this was soon followed by a number of others. Over the same period improvements and extensions were also made to the existing buildings to bring conditions in line with new way of thinking about mental health.

But through all these early changes Greenway's iconic 'female factory' and the gloomy sandstone prison cells built by Governor Gipps were increasingly seen as

redundant icons of an antiquated method for dealing with mental health. After the male patients were moved to the male weatherboard division, and the women to a similar wooden building in the northern part of the precinct both of these 'female factory' buildings were destroyed.

In August 1883 the green light was given for the destruction of the 1838-1839 penitentiary wing and the stones from this building were used to make the new 'No. 1 Male Ward' now the 'Institute of Psychiatry' building. Patients moved in around 1885 and this building is still standing on the site, with a turret clock similar to the one from the main 'female factory' building mounted in the spire. A dining room was built behind this block about this time which is also still there.

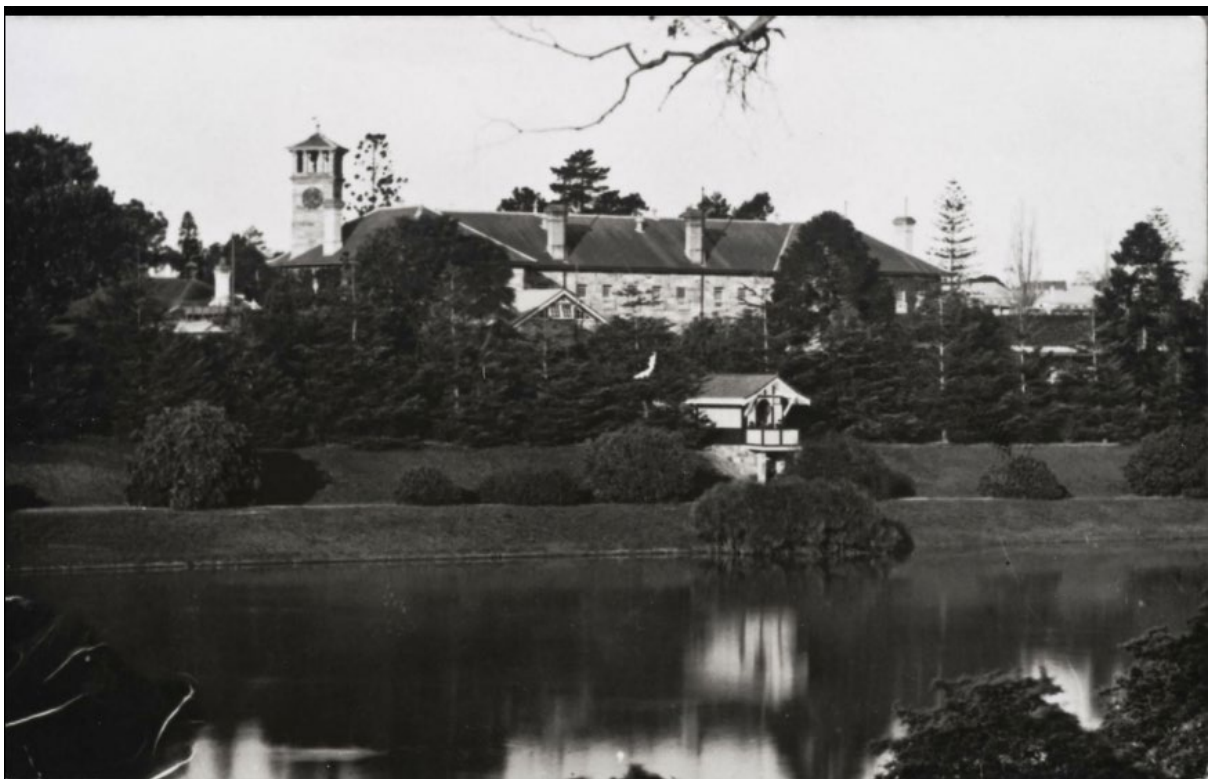
Greenway's old 'female factory' was deemed beyond repair for the new asylum and demolished in 1885-1886. Its stones were used for the foundations of a 'religious services and recreational activities' area. A recreation hall was finally built near the Parramatta gaol in 1890 but it is not certain if this is on the site where the foundations had been laid in 1886. The recreation hall was built by patients and staff of the hospital so it is possible that it was the same location and used the same materials but this has yet to be verified.

This move to a medical rather than prison and convict administration saw the site change its name a number of times right up to the present. As a result of the Lunacy act of 1878-the 'Parramatta Lunatic Asylum' was renamed the 'Parramatta Hospital for the Insane' and put under the direction of the Inspector General for the Insane, the first of which was Dr. F N Manning (1878-1898). Manning was replaced by Dr. E Sinclair (1898-1920s).

The late 1800s and early 1900s saw an increased focus on the surrounding gardens and in 1916 the hospital changed its name to the 'Parramatta Mental Hospital'. From 1962 to 1983 it was known as the 'Parramatta Psychiatric Centre' and finally from 1983 till the present it has been part of the 'Cumberland Hospital'.

"Parramatta Hospital for the Insane", Destruction of 'Female Factory' buildings, Cumberland Hospital, 1878 - 1983

Research & Collections Team



*Parramatta Hospital for the Insane, view looking towards Male Ward 1 from
the Wistaria Gardens, ca. 1907*

(Source: City of Parramatta Research and Collections LSP00079)

Throughout the 1870s a number of women patients were housed in the inappropriate prison cells constructed by Governor Gipps in 1838-1839. Dr. Manning, the 'Inspector of the Insane', conducted two reports (1868 and 1877) which challenged the current system and appears to have been one of the main factors in upgrades being made to the buildings and structures over the 1880s.

The following conditions in the old prison yard were described in 1877,

The lunatic women, whether free, convict or criminal, occupied one large yard surrounded by high prison walls. The yard was partly grassed, but had no gardens and was divided by a paling fence which separated the aged and sick from the others. The aged and sick occupied three rooms and the others slept in 'the old factory', described as a 'gloomy, three storied building' with cells, the internal corridors of which are so dark that it is never brighter than twilight on the sunniest day. This is thought to be the 1838-39 punishment cell wing. The entrance door was only 18 inches wide and there was no glass in the windows.

By August 1882 a large single story weatherboard complex for women had been completed and the patients moved in. The building was in the northern part of the Vineyard estate acquired from John and Ellen Blaxland, and once the property of Reverend Samuel Marsden but the moment of the patients was to have a momentous effect on the old 'female factory' precinct.

As a result of the movement of the female patients into their new accommodation approval was given in August 1882, to destroy the 1838-1839 prison cell complex they had vacated.

By 31 May 1884 the walls of the new Asylum building were up and workmen were completing work on the roof. Rather than waste the sandstone blocks from the old Gipp's 'female factory' cells the administration used them to construction of this building. Known as the 'Institute of Psychiatry Building' it was completed by June 1885 and it is still standing on the site today (along with the original clock from Greenway's 'female factory' building).

A Dining Block behind the Psychiatry Building was completed at the same time and this is also still standing on the Cumberland site.

Ward 4, the 'wet and dirty' building for those suffering from incontinence was built in 1889. This building had special drainage and ventilation and was attached to the original 'female factory' dormitory building erected for 3 class female convicts around 1825 (both still stand today although in a modified state).

While construction of buildings was a focus of changes to the asylum it was around this time that the grounds and gardens also started a new phase of re-design. Central to this was the appointment of William Cotter Williamson as Assistant Medical Superintendent in 1883. Cotters interests in the Sydney Gardening Movement, ensured the gardens, and the beneficial effects of these areas for the patients were more fully acknowledged. One of the first areas to be redeveloped was the site of the former 'female factory' which was laid out as gardens and shrubbery after the demolition.

Even these new buildings were not enough to alleviate the pressure and on the 10 July the Official visitors to the Parramatta site addressed a letter to the Colonial Secretary about conditions at the Parramatta Asylum.

In an attempt to deal with the increasing demand for psychiatric services 'Callan Park' in Roselle was opened in 1884. But even this could not alleviate the demand and in 1888 the Protestant Orphan School at Rydalmere was acquired and converted to an Insane Asylum.

Over 1889 and 1890 an impressive new sandstone building was erected on the ground at Parramatta. This building referred to in some reports as Male Ward 4 (or building 106) was on the western side of the original precinct and faced onto the river. Housed here were the dangerous and refractory non-criminal males.

By 1892 the buildings were already over-crowded and in 1903 the additions made to No. 4 Ward were completed at a cost of 2703 pounds along with extensions to the laundry. The removal of the old entrance gates around 1909 saw the central complex of the Asylum opened up and the new visiting and office block which replaced them was completed in 1910. The staff dining room and kitchen were completed in the same year.

By 1934 there were 700 women patients crammed into the buildings. The Criminal Lunatic Ward No 5 was demolished in 1963 and was replaced with a staff car park and walls were demolished as a part of a new open ward policy. Construction of a new medical centre to become the central medical unit began in 1966 and was completed in 1967. This was followed by the intensive care facilities and renovation of the 'chronic male block' inot wards; 9, 10 and 11.

In 1970 replacement of the weatherboard 'female division' allowed the patients to be moved out and the old buildings were then demolished.

The name of the complex was changed to Cumberland Hospital in 1983.

Recreational Facilities of the Male and Female Lunatic Asylum

Caroline Finlay



*Lunatic Asylum Parramatta, Recreation Grounds
(Source: State Library of New South Wales)*

The Parramatta Male and Female Lunatic Asylum was not designed to imprison patients but to cure and restore health to the mentally ill. Access to sunlight, gardens and recreational activities was seen as important part in assisting the recovery of the patients and this is reflected in the construction of recreational buildings and landscaping.

Recreation Hall and Chapel

Construction of the Recreation Hall and Chapel began in response to the prevailing idea that patients required a hall and chapel in order to improve their physical and mental health. It was also believed that it should be some distance from the main buildings to ensure patients received some exercise. Chapels were not normally consecrated, and had a dual purpose of being a recreation hall and place of worship.

The construction of the Recreation Hall and Chapel adjacent to the Female Asylum Precinct began about 1887, but was not completed until 1892 due to lack funds. Activities that took place here included readings, dancing, concerts and talks. The building has gabled and flat roofs clad in corrugated iron, with the main gabled roof having a central vented steeple. Further gabled brick additions and flat roof additions were made in 1967. The building also has brick arches over timber doors, and the south eastern side features original Gothic styled pointed arch windows. The building over the years has had many modifications, however the original form and details remain.

Cricket

The Parramatta Asylum also had shelter sheds that were constructed to provide covered outdoor areas for patients. The former Male Asylum Shelter Shed in the Recreation Grounds was originally constructed in the 1860s, and later altered in 1933. The original structure was most likely smaller and possibly had its timber columns replaced in 1933, as the internal face of one of the posts is marked with 'cc 1933'.

It was also known as the Cricket Shelter Shed, and is one of two male shelter sheds still remaining on the site. This building played a significant part in the cricket matches and recreational activities at the asylum.

The Cricket Oval, as well as the Cricket Shelter Shed, were marked out and constructed in 1880. Much of the landscaping from this period survives around the oval. Photographs of the site indicates that trees, figs and pines were regularly planted around the building.

The Sport Pavilion

The Sport Pavilion which was constructed in 1952, and is located at the southern end of the Oval, was designed to act as a sports pavilion and staff amenities block.

The Swimming Pool

The Swimming Pool in the Parramatta Asylum Precinct was constructed in 1966. It has a change room and other facilities. The swimming pool complex also features 2 former air raid shelters that were installed about 1940. These are located in the northern and southern corner of the northern site boundary.

Landscaping

The Parramatta Asylum originally had more noticeable paths and lawns, though the mature plants and trees associated with Central Male Courtyards have been retained, and can be seen around the buildings today. Patients would also have enjoyed outdoor entertainment, which included fish ponds, aviaries and ornamental fountains.

Remnant landscaping associated with the former Female Asylum Precinct that were planted from the 1880s into the early 1900s still remains. The former 1870s Female Division was demolished in the early 1970s, but the landscaping was left intact.

The landscaping that remains is a valuable way to remember and interpret the character of the Parramatta Asylum Precinct.

Cumberland Hospital – Forgotten Garden Precinct

Research & Collections Team



(Source: City of Parramatta Research and Collections, 2015)

The front gardens in the eastern section of the Cumberland Health precinct may look unassuming but the design and plantings reflect a long and interesting history. Before its current incarnation as part of the Cumberland Health campus, this precinct bore witness to early colonial land grants and a succession of institutions devoted to caring for the less fortunate.

The first European owner, Charles Smith, sold his farming land to the Reverend Samuel Marsden who built the government water mill on the near the site of the Roman Catholic Orphan School. A mill race was dug to bring water from the river to the mill's pond and it traversed several precincts within the Cumberland Hospital site. The original alignment ran along the western border of the gardens however this was diverted to the area north of the gardens in the 1820s. Of additional significance is that this mill race was potentially incorporated into a drainage system associated with later institutions, such as the Female Factory and the

Parramatta Hospital for the Insane. On the eastern side of the gardens is Fleet Street and this was named after the mill race or 'fleet' for the mill.

This garden precinct has remained the main entry point, for successive institutions built on the Cumberland precinct, from the mid-1800s to the present day. The landscaping of the site was originally intended to be read as a whole and it was designed to maximise views of the Parramatta River and surrounding farmland. By the 1890s, the basic framework of the gardens had been established. According to a National Trust of Australia report,

...the pathway system, garden areas and shrubberies throughout the hospital were established with orchards, vegetable gardens and vineyard on the periphery. Trees were supplied by the Botanic Gardens and plants listed as being supplied in the 1870s such as the Schinus terebinthifolia and Plane Trees still survive on the site today.



*Front gardens along Greenup Drive by E.W.Searle, ca 1935.
(Source: National Library Australia, un4654261-u)*

The Female Factory was the first institution to occupy the site between Fleet Street and the Parramatta River from 1818 to 1848. It was designed by Francis Greenway as a series of sandstone buildings to house female convicts. In the late 1840s the Colonial Government made the decision to turn the Parramatta Female Factory into the Asylum for Invalid and Lunatic Convicts (1848 – 1849) after the nearby Tarban Creek facility (in Gladesville) had reached capacity. For the duration of the Asylum, the administrative offices, residences for officials and stores were all clustered near the Fleet Street entrance gates.

In 1852 Dr Richard Greenup was appointed as the first Medical Superintendent. He believed that engaging patients in meaningful work was beneficial and during the day patients were involved in tasks such as cleaning, sewing, laundry, along with maintaining the buildings and gardens. Unfortunately, his humanitarian approach to mental health care came to an abrupt end when he was killed by one of his patients. During his time at the Asylum, Greenup was involved in discussions about encouraging patients back into the community. Unfortunately his murder put a halt to this thinking and the institutionalisation of mental health patients continued apace. Greenup Drive on the western side of the gardens is named after him.

In 1876, Dr Frederick North Manning was appointed the first Inspector General of the Insane NSW. Following a study tour of institutions in the USA, England, France and Germany, Manning introduced the Lunacy Act 1878. This resulted in major improvements to mental health care in the colony and the precinct was renamed Parramatta Hospital for the Insane. This period saw major modifications with changes to the layout of the site, additions and replacement of older buildings. Manning advocated for mental health to be treated as an illness rather than a crime. He encouraged public visitation to the hospitals in an effort to break down the stigma. At Parramatta, one of the primary aims of the improvements was to encourage patients to take part in healthy outdoor activities,

A large sports oval and cricket ground was created in 1879 with an open air shelter pavilion added the following year to encourage healthy participation in physical activities. This amenity, along with a bowling green in front of Ward 1, became important social venues for activities between patients and staff and visiting teams from other institutions. With landscaped park-like grounds, an aviary, fountains, terraced riverbanks, formal gardens and new buildings, some re-using the stone from earlier structures, the Asylum environment was considerably enhanced. The ha-ha kept patients within the grounds, but afforded views of the landscape and a sense of freedom. Windows, although barred, were given decorative treatment, rather than prison-like bars.



Aerial View of Northern Gardens, Cumberland Hospital, Parramatta, 1943
(Source: State Archives Six Maps Project)

Reporting in the Australian Town and Country Journal of 1885, the Parramatta Asylum is described as being about a mile above Lennox Bridge and covering about 120 acres on both sides of the Parramatta River. Within that land parcel, 30 acres was devoted to a farm growing fruit and vegetables, 60 acres as pasture for the animals and the remainder comprised buildings, private enclosures and recreation grounds. The main entry through the Fleet Street gates is described as follows,

What strikes the visitor on entering the main gates is the exquisitely clean and neat appearance of the buildings and their surroundings. Closely shaven lawns, well-rolled gravel paths, and flower-beds bright with coloured walls covered with ivy and the climbing ficus, and in some cases the gorgeously-tinted bougainvillea, all be token a great amount of case on the part of the gardener and his assistants, and show that amongst other curative, or palliative measures used, that of beautiful surroundings holds no small place in the system adopted. Ornamental fountains and statuary, some the work of attendants, are also frequently met with: one of the former especially worth attention having been constructed by an attendant out of clinkers from the steam boiler furnaces.



Gardens inside the Parramatta Lunatic Asylum.

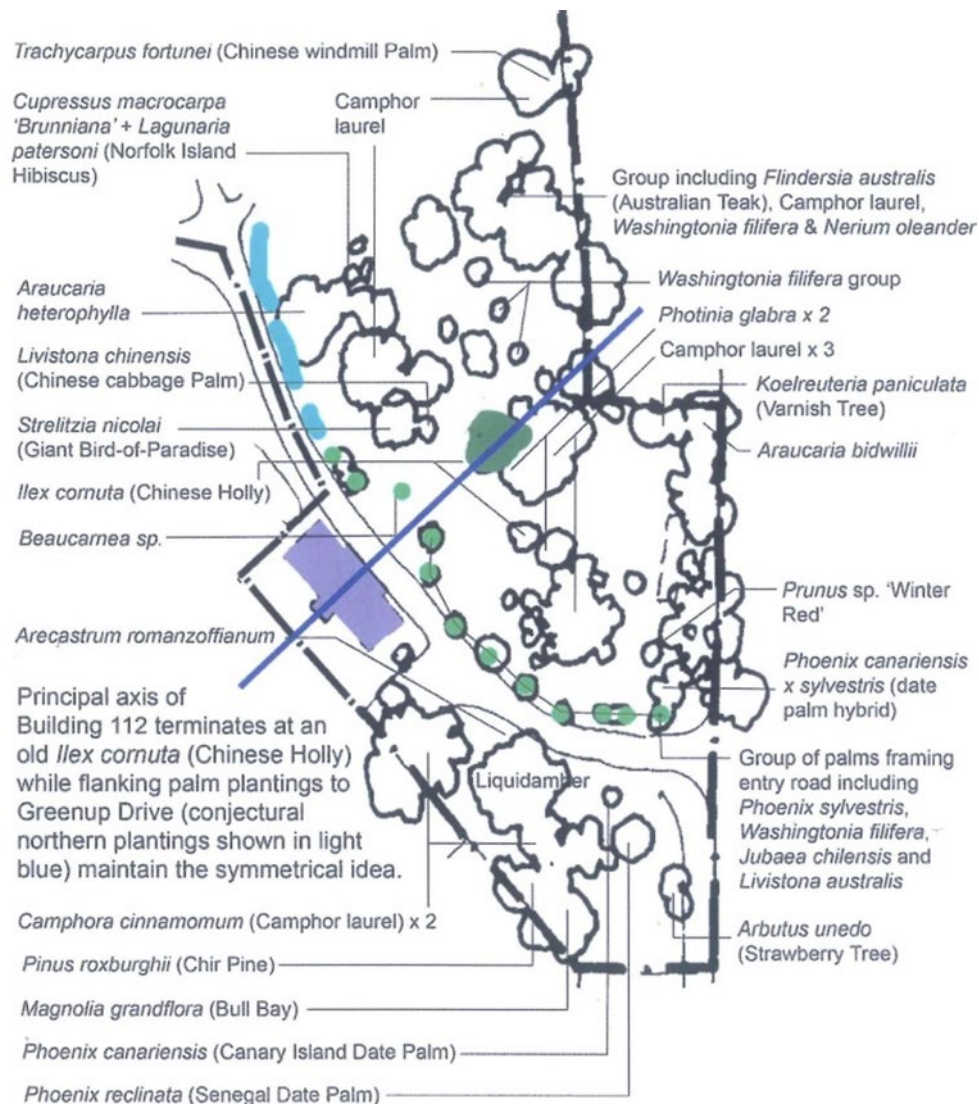
(Source: Australian Town and Country Journal, 12 January 1895, p. 26)

Changes to the site continued in the early 1900s, and are still evident today. Between 1901 and 1960, the site was known as the Parramatta Psychiatric Hospital. The Government Architect, Walter Liberty Vernon was responsible for designing a series of buildings on the site that interacted and celebrated the importance of the garden setting in mental health care. His planning was informed by the Garden City Movement and there remains a significant collection of plants which have been attributed to the involvement of Joseph Henry Maiden, Director of the Royal Botanical Gardens between 1896 and 1924. During this time, the Royal Botanic Gardens supplied many government institutions with plant materials and advice. The importance of the garden setting can still be seen today in the nomenclature of the buildings throughout the whole site using non-scientific botanical names, such as Rose, Figtree, Wisteria, Willow, Acacia, Banksia, Jarrah and Pine.

*Evidence of the major 1900s hospital redevelopment phase includes the substantial group of plantings that dominate the precinct and forms a major part of the plant collection within the campus notable for its extant and botanical diversity. It includes six species that represent an impressive campus-wide collection of Australian rainforest species. A species of the Mexican/Southern USA genus *Beaucarnea* (syn. *Nolina*) is rare in cultivation and certainly at this age. The rare *Beaucarnea* and some of the Australian rainforest species were probably*

used by the Botanic Gardens as an exercise in testing the cultural application of species hitherto little used horticulturally in Australia.

The Department of Environment and Heritage describes the site as housing a rare and substantially intact public landscape designed between 1860 and 1920. Included within the grounds are rainforest species, both native and exotic, conifers and palms. Of particular note are five large specimens of Canary Island pine trees (*Pinus Canariensis*). Scattered throughout the grounds are shrubs and climbers that represent 1800s and early 1900s garden design.



Survey of key plantings by Geoffrey Britton (Source: Perumal Murphy Alessi and Higginbotham, Britton, Kass, Conservation Management Plan Cumberland Hospital East Campus and Wisteria Gardens, 2010, p. 294)

As Medical Superintendent during the period 1900 to 1921, Dr William Cotter Williamson was another strong advocate for the inclusion of landscaped grounds within and around the institution, believing they were an essential part of patient

care and therapy. In 1907 at a Council meeting, Dr Williamson requested permission to plant a row of plane trees in the gardens along the Fleet Street. His request was granted as it was recognised that Dr. Williamson had contributed greatly to the hospital and its grounds.

His Worship stated that Dr Williamson had done much and was doing much, not only to improve the grounds (and to make them a place well worth visiting for the sake of their own attractiveness), but also to improve that part of Parramatta North in the vicinity of the Hospital.

To undertake the improvements, Dr. Williamson utilised patient labour for both practical and therapeutic reasons. A newspaper article in 1917 reported that:

...patients are privileged to work but are never forced to do it. There are recreation grounds where cricket and tennis can be played. Outdoor exercise is necessary for the well-being of some of the patients, and these often find an outlet for their energies in helping with gardening work or other undertakings in the hospital.



*Stone wall entrance from Fleet St-northern side.
(Source: Parramatta City Council & Alison Lykissas, August 2015)*

Patient labour is also evident in the low stone wall between the gardens and Fleet Street. It was built during the depression (1929 and 1932). Extending along both sides of the entrance, it was constructed by groups of patients using stone rubble obtained from the former Hospital quarry across the road. The walls follow the alignment of Fleet Street and are interspersed with small capped piers. Much of the wall along the north and south points of entry from Fleet Street are overgrown with garden. The north part of the stone wall follows the contours of the front garden area to the hospital.

Of note inside the front gardens are two brick buildings and a water fountain. Upon entering the Fleet Street garden precinct, the first building on Greenup Drive is a toilet block. It is a small brick building with a gabled roof of terracotta tiles. It was constructed in 1955 and is surrounded by grass apart from a large tree immediately adjacent and several palm trees close by.



Public Toilet block c 1955. .

(Source: Parramatta City Council & Alison Lykissas, August 2015)

The next building along Greenup Drive houses a Mental Health Services Centre, the former Administration block for the Parramatta Hospital for the Insane. Designed as part of the Walter Liberty Vernon master plan, it was built in 1909. Located on the western side of Greenup Drive the building is the most prominent within the front garden precinct. It is a single storey brick building with sandstone details and a hipped slate roof. The front of the building has a recessed front porch supported by round sandstone columns.



GPMS Mental Health Services Unit (former Administration block Parramatta Hospital for the Insane. (Source: Parramatta City Council & Alison Lykissas, August 2015)

The old entrance gates of the Female Factory, which were then part of the Parramatta Lunatic Asylum, were demolished to make way for the building. The building's alignment is with the original central axis of the Female Factory and it used to have direct visual and axial connection to the Parramatta River. Visiting today one can see the surviving portions of the Female Factory buildings flanking each side. Facing the gardens and directly in front of the building is a large Chinese Holly (*Ilex cornuta*) tree which continues the central axis of the layout (which can be seen in the preceeding planting layout by Geoffrey Britton).

To the north-west of the administration building is a water fountain with three tiers, which is thought to have been built by asylum patients. The exact date of construction is unknown however it is thought to be prior to 1909 when the Administration block was built, and the fountain was moved north to make way for the construction. Water fountains, and later drinking fountains, were an integral part of the overall garden design within the precinct. The image below shows the original location of the water fountain at the entrance gates to the Parramatta Lunatic Asylum. The following photo, in its new location, shows it overgrown and surrounded by lawn.



Rusticated fountain, Greenup Drive .

(Source: Parramatta City Council, Parramatta Heritage Centre, Maribel Rosales, July 2015)

From the 1960s to present day, the site has been under the management of Cumberland Hospital. Very little additional changes have been made. However, given the extensive European activity on this site since the early 1800s, several archaeology and landscape assessment reports have been conducted. In addition to the above ground sites mentioned in this precinct, Archaeologist Edward Higginbotham has detailed the significant below ground archaeology of the historic sites that were located within the garden precinct, including,

...the sites of a former gatehouse and a residence ...located on the Fleet Street frontage, north of the main entrance. The site of a house and outbuildings is located within the front gardens, opposite Albert Street and on the north side of the present main entrance. It was built prior to 1876. By the early 20th century, the house seems to have been replaced by a gatehouse, now also demolished."

As well as containing several important botanical species, it is additionally important to consider the front garden precinct as part of the overall landscape for the Cumberland Precinct.

The extent, layout (evidence of spatial planning), integrity, plant diversity and maturity of the study site landscape constitutes a major component of the setting of the place. Along with the traditional views of the river corridor and surrounding areas such as Parramatta Park and Wisteria Gardens this setting should be conserved.

Room to recover: expansions to the Parramatta Mental Hospital

Research & Collections Team



(Source: City of Parramatta Research and Collections)

The passing of the 1878 *Lunacy Act* had a significant effect on what is today the Cumberland Hospital Precinct.

The Act was a consolidation of two previously existing Colonial acts: the *Act to Provide for Custody and Care of Criminal Lunatics of 1861* and the *Dangerous Lunatics Act, 1868*.

This later Act was heavily based on a comparative study of lunatic asylums and their conditions written by Dr Frederic Norton Manning, the then Superintendent of the Tarban Creek mental facility. The report did not reflect well upon the present state of Asylums and called for a radical overhaul of their management and methods of care. Essentially, Manning called for a more humane approach to caring for the insane. To achieve this, he wanted to

"secure for the management of such an asylum, the highest medical talent, the largest amount of experience, and the greatest benevolence."

Manning's proposals also called for a professional inspector to oversee the institution, named the General Inspector of the Insane, who would have executive and legal capacity over the asylums of the State.

On January 1, 1878, Dr Manning was appointed as the first Inspector General of the Insane in New South Wales. In a report he delivered on the Parramatta Asylum, Manning reiterated his criticisms of a decade earlier, especially those relating to the old Female Factory buildings. He noted the poor conditions of overcrowding with multiple patients often confined to a single cells and characterised the so-called "airing yards" as being "unpleasantly suggestive of arrangements at the Zoological Gardens."

Despite these criticisms, Terry Smith, a former Cumberland Hospital Nurse, noted that "following the proclamation of the Lunacy Act, The *Parramatta Lunatic Asylum* became known as the *Parramatta Hospital for the Insane*." Smith explains that this change in terminology was a surprisingly significant marker, reflecting the changing attitudes towards mental health and its treatment."

Men of Vision: The Inspector-General for the Insane and the Architect

Executing Norton Manning's plans to improve the quality and quantity of available accommodation and treatment facilities at the Parramatta Hospital for the Insane proved to be a slow process. However, by 1883, a large, single-story weatherboard complex had been built in the northern part of the old 'Vineyard' estate acquired from John and Ellen Blaxland, which had once the property of Reverend Samuel Marsden.

Following Manning's retirement as Inspector General for the Insane, Dr. Eric Sinclair was appointed to the role. Under his tenure, the site's facilities continued to expand, with their layout reflecting the theories of Dr Sinclair himself, in their departure from overly institutional aesthetics. Instead, the new buildings were constructed under the principle that "build composition[s]" must "*emphasise a community for homes within a predominately landscaped setting.*"

The area now known as the "Hospital for the Insane Precinct" is notable for being constructed from a single, integrated master plan in which access, buildings, and landscaping were coordinated as part of the broader hospital expansion from 1899 to the 1910s.

During this period, Dr. William Cotter Williamson, the medical superintendent of the Parramatta Hospital for the Insane, presided over a series of extensions located

along the river bank to the north west of the existing weatherboard division, as well as numerous new wards, all under the direction of Government Architect Walter Lindsay Vernon.



Walter Liberty Vernon (Source: State Library of NSW, gpo1_08265r)

Plans for a new Admissions and Hospital Block were prepared in 1908. According to an entry in the 1912 *Public Works Report*, contractor J L Thompson completed the construction for the sum of £8384. The report also noted that:

The erection of this building will complete the new mental hospital, which consists of two pavilions, one for male and one for females, an Administration block with accommodation for nursing staff on the upper floor

Dr Williamson also initiated a program in which patients themselves were involved in further beautifying the hospital grounds. By late 1911, the Precinct was described

as *"one of the show-places of Parramatta; and this is not at the expense, but the material benefit of the patients."*

This construction phase also included a dedicated TB treatment facility on the pre-existing Asylum farm orchards.

The layout and form of the buildings features uniquely curved alignments, which reflect the curve of the river, where the ward buildings radiate out from the central axis of the Administration building. The departure from the "enclosure and isolation" paradigm of institutional structures allowed Vernon to design buildings that were designed as integrated "elements in a landscaped setting that related to and addressed the river and the campus."

Precinct Features

In 1893, Medical Superintendent Edwin Godson noted that many of the female staff still slept in rooms off the patients dormitories. He wrote of the need to provide a separate dining room for the nurses, and to provide a detached cottage, particularly for the night nurses, as they were constantly disturbed by noise during the day.

Unfortunately this was not acted upon until 1911, when the Inspector General of the Insane reported that the *"department had altered its policy concerning the accommodation of staff within the hospital for the insane,"* deciding that staff accommodation should be positioned as far from patients as possible.

Jacaranda House was constructed soon after, providing new nurses' quarters as part of a series of hospital extensions that were carried out in the early twentieth century. The design was based on a suburban villa, with the ground floor accommodating two sitting rooms, a dining room, kitchen, pantry, and lavatory, while the upper floor featured another sitting room and several bedrooms for nursing staff.

Jacaranda House itself was surrounded by landscaped lawns and sat at the end of a camphor laurel-lined avenue to the south.

Admissions Building (currently the Transcultural Mental Health Centre)

This building was initially an admissions building, forming the axis from which the associated male and female wards radiated. Designed by Government Architect WL Vernon, with assistance from G McRae, it was completed in 1909. The building was designed to be in symmetry with its surrounds, and to be closely linked to the two adjacent ward buildings. The original portion of the building maintains its

federation features and character, with gabled ends and a continuous veranda that looks out over the riverfront. In 1929, an x-ray plant was installed on the ground floor. This plant serviced all NSW mental hospitals.



*Admissions Building, Parramatta Psychiatric Hospital c.1920
(Source: State Library of NSW, bcp_01641r)*

Female and Male Wards No.7 (Formerly the Wisteria Centre, currently the Centre for Addiction Medicine and Work skills Program Buildings)

The number 7 Female and Male Wards were also constructed in 1909 under the design of W.L. Vernon. These buildings were constructed concurrently with the female ward to the north of the new Admissions building and the male ward sitting to the south at the junction of Eastern Circuit and Bridge Road. Each of these wards featured a continuous veranda along the western façade facing the river front and associated garden areas. The original buildings have now had a number of extensions, however the interiors still retain a number of original pressed metal ceilings, stained glass panels and curved bay windows. The modifications made in 1933 resulted in a new rectangular shaped wing at the eastern end of the male ward building. This was extended again in 1964 following the construction of a southern wing and additions to the south western end of the building. Similar modification were made to the female ward. Unfortunately, these modifications effectively enclosed the courtyards, and blocked the views from the original 1909 building to the river.



*View from Male Ward veranda, facing towards Parramatta River
(Source: State Library of NSW, d1_07744r)*

TB Ward Currently the New Street Adolescent Services

Situated to the far north-west of the Admissions building, the current building occupying this site was constructed c. 1935 as a TB treatment ward. It replaced an earlier timber framed building that was burnt and demolished. Its location however, generally responds to Vernon's master plan and is surrounded by landscaped lawns and a number of mature trees and plantings.

Timber Wharf/ Boat Shed

There is little known about the timber wharf and boat shed remains on the banks of Toongabbie Creek in this precinct. Perhaps it was utilized to move quickly between the upper precinct of the Parramatta Mental Hospital and the Wisteria Garden across the water. A similar wharf was constructed at the Gladesville Hospital to allow residents the opportunity to participate in short day-trips on the river.

Glass House and Nurseries

These buildings are dated from approximately 1950 and are located on the river bank area that was previously part of the hospital farm. A resident reflected upon his time working in the hospital farm in the February 1952 Edition of the Wisteria Journal:

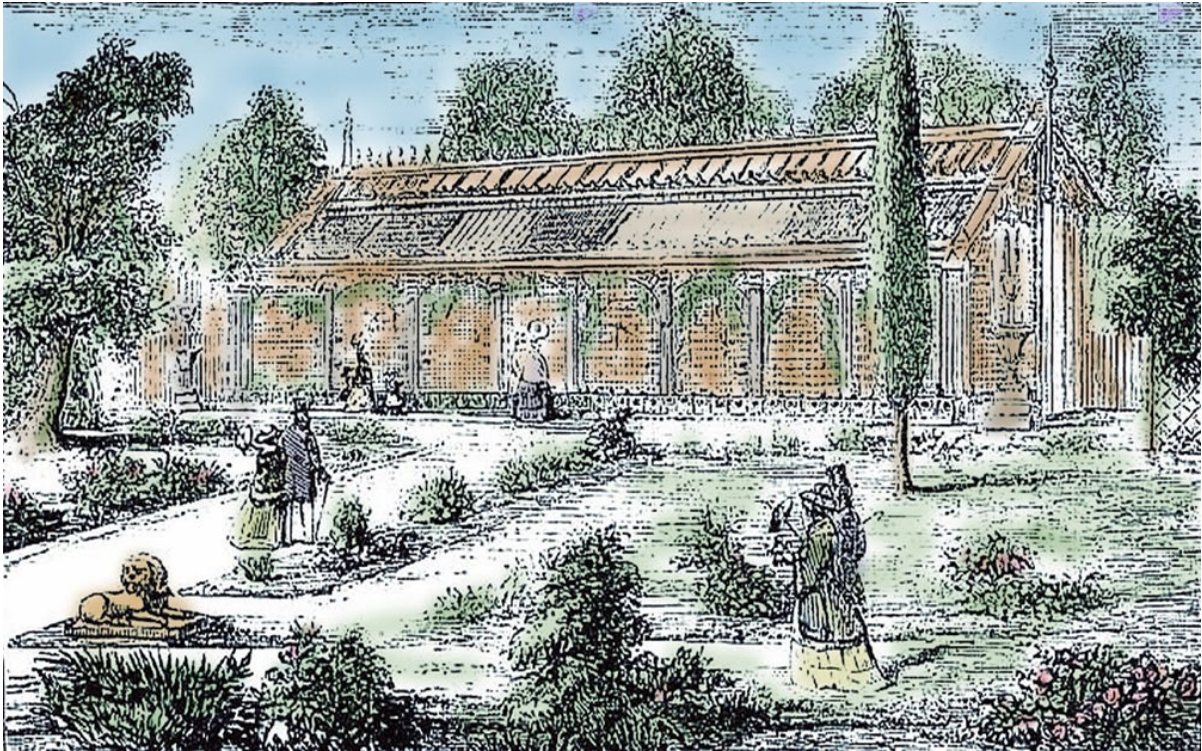
"It is with pride that I state that the vegetables grown in our garden constitute the greater part of our requirements, the only exception being potatoes, which are not grown here... We have growing at present vegetable marrows, pumpkins, spinach, tomatoes, beetroot, lettuce and onions. An orchard, which runs in conjunction with the vegetable garden. We have glasshouses for raising the delicate little seeding, and bamboo trellis on which we grow chokos"

Extensions and Changing Purpose

Today, the vast majority of buildings found in the Hospital for the Insane Precinct have had significant alterations or additions to the original structures. However, these buildings have also retained a number of their original features and architectural qualities. The precinct thus continues to reflect the architectural and design innovations of its initial construction, and is still closely integrated within its Parramatta River setting.

A Description of the 'Parramatta Lunatic Asylum', 1871

Research & Collections Team



The aviary, botanic gardens, Sydney

(Source: Australian Town and Country Journal, 12 August 1871, p. 24)

By the 1870s the Asylum had grown to be the largest Government establishment in Parramatta, housing around 800 inmates. Of these 245 were housed in a new wing on land adjoining the main building. Clearly of great significance as an illustration of the importance of these reforming institutions the *Australian Town and Country Journal*, published the following account in 1871

On entering the large gate which forms the front entrance, I was courteously received by the superintendent, Dr. Wardloy, and shown throughout the whole building. Going down a pathway and entering a gate to our right, we found ourselves in the main refractory yard (about three-quarters of an acre in extent) when a never-to-be-forgotten sight met my eyes. It is in this yard that the refractory patients to the number of 200 are kept during the day. Their meals are served out in a large open shed in the mid.

Crossing this yard and passing a gate to the left, we entered another enclosure about a quarter of an acre in extent, where the imbecile or quiet patients roam about. At one side were cells or cages for refractory patients or those afflicted with epilepsy. In the centre and around this yard, are a number of dormitories, the hospital, lavatories, etc.

Dormitories Nos 1 and 2 are in a two-storey building apart from the rest. In the hospital there were but two or three patients actually laid up; a fact which speaks well for the management of the establishment considering the large number in the asylum. On a former visit, a remarkable case, worthy of note, attracted my attention: that of a fine strapping fellow completely nude. The poor maniac could not be compelled to wear clothing, and wonderful to relate seemed to thrive remarkably well. He has since been partially cured of this mania, though when in the presence of strangers he even now strips himself.

The epileptic dormitory contains twenty-two beds, and another compartment is called the "flogward," wherein the dangerous patients are confined at night. The lavatories are fitted with arrangements in which the patients bath once a week. We next visited the criminal yard, which is at the northern end of the refractory yard. It is also about a quarter of an acre in extent, and near the centre is the building for the safe keeping of patients at night. This is a fine stone structure, three stories high, each floor containing nineteen cells. Of the fifty original inmates here, I was informed that at least half were confined for murder, and many are termed 'Q.P.'s,' or 'Queen's pleasure men'.

The culinary department for this large establishment deserves more than a passing notice. The whole of the cooking required is done in the institution, principally by patients, and the food is of the best quality. Vegetables, meat, and bread form the principal portion of their food, and soup is also served up daily. The green yard, or more properly, garden, is on the men's side of the building to the left going in. It is about an acre in extent and nicely planted with fruit trees and flowers. An elegant fountain works in it and plays into an aquarium with gold-fish-the gift of the present mayor, Hugh Taylor, Esq.

The fountain and aquarium are of nicely cut stone, made by the patients of the Institution. In the large pavilion in the centre of the green yard, the patients (about eighty or ninety) dine in the day time. The female department is under the management of an excellent lady named Mrs. Burn, who has been in charge for a number of years. About two acres of ground is devoted to them (numbering 210, including children).

In the women's hospital only a few were laid up. In a small yard fenced off at the corner the refractory patients are confined. The sleeping apartments for the women are in a large stone building in this yard. The rooms at the west end are used as a laundry, and at each side to the end are the cells for the violent patients. The cells on the second and third floors of this building are used for general dormitories, but the want of sufficient accommodation, is greatly felt and complained about, not only in this but in other parts of the institution.

It may be interesting to state that several of the immense buildings which now form the lunatic asylum, were not originally erected with this object. Some forty or fifty years ago they were built for a Female Factory, and at one time contained 1300 women who were sent to the colony in those days.

Among the patients now confined here are many professional (particularly medical) gentlemen. I was introduced to the once-famed Dr. B, also a former medical attendant of the institution, Dr. R, Dr. S, or rather Dr. Murphy, as he prefers to designate himself, was exceedingly polite to us, though somewhat pompous in his bearing to the other patients.

Another patient (a surveyor) was marching up and down the yard labouring under the extraordinary delusion that a number of demons were endeavouring to force gas into his body, and from the materials within his reach he had formed a kind of bonnet or covering for his face to prevent this.

A patient, whose delusion was that he is son-in-law to the Governor, was declaiming in a refractory cell. The insanity of a well-known and comical character, known as 'Foggy Dhu' evinces itself in an inordinate weakness, for the volunteer uniform. He strongly recommended me to join the ranks.

Messiahs, Kings, Emperors, Nobles, Generals, and owners of large properties are numerous, and many of them were moving about what they seemed to think proper pomp and circumstance of their position. In the criminal ward Cameron, the murderer of the respected Dr. Greenup, and Bertrand the perpetrator of the "Kinder tragedy," were pointed out to us. In one cell was Kennedy, the man who assaulted Mr. D. Buchanan. The attendants dare not open his door for fear they would be immediately knocked down by this extraordinary character, who is represented as an educated gentleman.

In the "green yard" the former Jack Ketch of the colony was pointed out. He is hopelessly mad and on inquiring who and what he was, he replied by tracing a line with his fore-finger round his neck, at the same time giving an ominous jerk and click!

Extensive additions to the Asylum were completed about fifteen months since. They are built on grounds 'about five acres in extent, and surrounded by high palisading, and are situated at the western side of the asylum proper. The principal addition is a large wooden 'structure nearly 300 feet long, and has a wide verandah running the whole length of the building, and in which the patients (when not in the field enjoying themselves) rest, and have from it a view of the northern part of the town.

The large mess room or hall is 250 feet long, but is separated into three divisions; two of fifty feet each, and one of 150 feet in length. The latter can again be divided by folding doors which can be used if necessary. These rooms are fitted from end to end with tables and forms, and are lofty and well ventilated throughout in the most complete manner. Opening to the westward are five doors at equal distances, which enter the five wings or dormitories each of a total length of 120 feet and a width of thirty feet, and again divided by a semi-partition, making ten chambers in all.

Each of these dormitories afford sleeping accommodation for twenty-five patients and, one attendant, or for 250, patients and ten attendants in all. The number at present in the new wing is 243, so there is little room left. A long covered-in passage runs from end to end at the rear of these dormitories, and branching off are lavatories, baths, etc., arranged in a convenient manner.

The kitchen is lofty and fitted up with patent stove and large coppers. A most pleasing feature was the great cleanliness observable throughout the whole of these establishments. The grounds are being laid out tastefully, and planted with shrubs and flowers and a large portion of the thirty acres reserved for the Lunatic Asylum is being cultivated with vines, fruit trees, and vegetables. In fact, the vegetables, with the exception of potatoes for the whole of the establishment are now grown on the ground.

The following are the officers in charge of the institution:-superintendent, Dr. Wardley; assistant; Mr. J. R. Firth; matron, Mrs: Burn; medical visitor, Dr. Brown; dispenser, Mr. Ranshaw; master attendant, Mr. Prior; head-wardsman, Mr. Brown and about forty male and female warder.

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Dr. Sydney Evan Jones: Mental Health Pioneer

Michelle Goodman



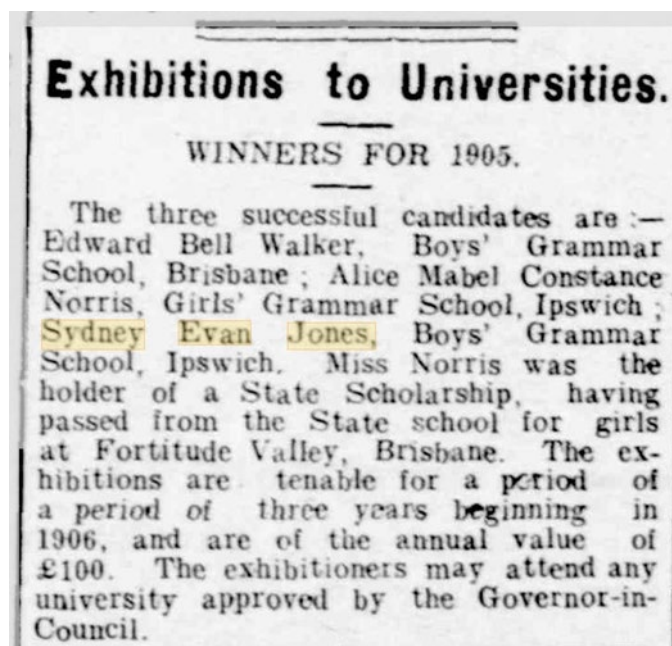
*Portrait of Sydney Evan Jones as a medical student, c.1910.
(Source: Friends of Mays Hill Cemetery Photograph Collection)*

The ground-breaking career of Dr Sydney Evan Jones (1887-1948), one of Australia's earliest psychiatrists and doctor on Sir Douglas Mawson's expedition to the Antarctic, has strong connections to the Parramatta area. Parramatta is also Dr Jones's final resting place.

A brilliant and innovative medical professional, Dr Jones was an early practitioner of psychotherapy, revived the application of animal assisted therapy, and actively promoted the importance of calming and attractive surroundings when treating mental health illnesses.

Early life

Sydney Evan Jones was born in South Australia in 1887. Shortly after, his family moved to Queensland, where Sydney attended Boys' Grammar, Ipswich. A brilliant student, on graduation in 1905, Sydney won a scholarship to attend university. From 1906 until 1910, he studied Medicine at University of Sydney. On graduation in 1910, Dr Jones was appointed Resident Medical Officer at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney.



A brilliant student, Sydney Evan Jones was awarded a scholarship to attend university in 1905. (Source: Gympie Times and Murray River Mining Gazette, 21 December 1905, p.3)

One of "Mawson's Men"

At Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, the young Dr Jones worked closely with another University of Sydney graduate, Dr Archibald McLean. In 1911, both young doctors joined Sir Douglas Mawson's Australasian Antarctic Expedition.

A practical man, Dr Jones's contributions to the Antarctic expedition were not confined to medical duties – he helped construct the famous hut named 'The Grottoes', as well as an igloo for a magnetic observatory. Jones also contributed to *The Glacier Tongue*, the station's publication, and was the camp plumber and cook. It is said thoughts of marrying his beloved Olive Booth, whose image hung beside his bed at Base Camp, on his return "sustained Jones during the most difficult times".



Dr Jones in camp at the Antarctic, with a photograph of his fiancé, Olive Booth, hanging beside him. (Source: State Library of NSW)

The 'New South Wales Mental Hospital Branch'

On return from Antarctica, perhaps inspired by his friend and colleague Dr McLean's challenges treating episodes of paranoia and delusions at Main Base in Antarctica, Dr Jones decided to study and practice as a psychiatrist. In 1914, Dr Jones joined the New South Wales Government Mental Hospitals Branch. His first appointment was as a Junior Medical Officer at Parramatta Asylum for the Insane, where he treated patients traumatised by their experiences on the battlefields of the First World War.



An early example of animal assisted therapy, in a ward of the Parramatta Asylum for the Insane, c. early-1900s.

(Source: City of Parramatta, Local Studies Photograph Collection, LSP00060)

Marriage and tragedy

In February 1915, following a long engagement, Dr Jones finally married his fiancé, Olive Booth. Sadly, little more than 18 months after their wedding Olive, aged only 23, died from complications following the birth of their daughter. The child survived, and was given the name Olive in honour of her mother.



Olive Booth at her wedding to Dr Sydney Evan Jones, 1915. Tragically, Olive died in childbirth a little over a year later. (Source: ACT Museums and Galleries)

Following Olive's death, Dr Jones transferred to Rydalmere Hospital for the Insane, again as a Junior Medical Officer. The building, originally the Female Orphan School, had undergone extensive renovations in the 1890s to accommodate patients with mental health illnesses. Particular emphasis had been placed on the natural environment around the building in the belief that this would assist the recovery of patients. The land around the building was landscaped extensively – in 1893, the Royal Botanic Gardens donated hundreds of trees and shrubs to improve the gardens on the site.

Broughton Hall and pioneering therapies

By 1920, Dr Jones had accepted a post as Medical Officer at Callan Park Mental Hospital, and in 1921 he was appointed Government Medical Officer at Broughton Hall Mental Hospital, on the site now known as Rozelle Hospital. Having initially served as a hospital for soldiers returned from the First World War, the buildings had been re-opened as a voluntary admission mental health clinic. In 1925, Dr Jones was promoted to Medical Superintendent of Broughton Hall.

Drawing from experiences during his years of training at the Parramatta and Rydalmere hospitals, Dr Jones began to develop pioneer treatments of mental

illness at Broughton Hall. Seeing voluntary patients who had previously avoided treatment because of the stigma of mental health certification, the clinic introduced various new 'occupational therapies' of short timescales, moving away from earlier mental health hospital models of segregation and long-term incarceration.



Dr Jones spent part of his formative early career in psychiatry at Rydalmere Hospital for the Insane, c.1910. (Source: City of Parramatta Local Studies Photograph Collection, LSP00744)

The importance of animals and gardens also figured prominently in Dr Jones's treatments at Broughton Hall. Although the value of animal assisted therapy is believed to have been recognised in the earliest of human societies, the first formally documented use of the therapy applied to the mentally ill took place in the late 18th century at a retreat in England, where patients were allowed to wander the grounds shared by a population of small domestic animals.

Adopting this approach at Broughton Hall, Dr Jones created grounds incorporating a fish-bearing stream, ornamental bridges, and a planted forest. Later, embracing the practice of animal assisted therapy, zoological gardens were created with peacocks, kangaroos, emus and other Australian fauna, as well as a well-stocked aviary. Over time, with changes to mental health treatment practice, the zoo was closed and the animals were dispersed. The last of the zoo structures, the Kangaroo House, was eventually demolished, in 1972.

Death and legacy

Broughton Hall became Australia's largest facility for treating voluntary mental health patients. The establishment of a chair in psychiatry at the University of Sydney at the same time as Dr Jones's appointment to Broughton Hall allowed the clinic to take on undergraduate students, making a generation of Australian psychiatrists aware of his work. In 1963, his contribution to psychiatry was recognised in Broughton Hall's new Evan Jones Lecture Theatre.

Dr Jones also played an important role in the professional membership body for psychiatrists in Australia. He led the neurology and psychiatry section of the British Medical Association (NSW Branch), and then became a foundation member of the Australasian Association of Psychiatrists when it was formed in 1926.

In summary, a brilliant medical graduate, Dr Jones played an important role as one of 'Mawson's Men' during the famous Australasian Expedition to the Antarctic in 1911 to 1914. Choosing to study and practice in the newly-developing speciality of psychology on his return, Dr Jones spent his formative training years at 'hospitals for the insane' in the Parramatta area. In the 1920s, Dr Jones established the pioneering Broughton Hall Mental Health Clinic, where he introduced innovative treatments including animal assisted therapy and occupational therapies. Dr Jones also promoted the positive outcomes of green and pleasant environments in the treating of troubled minds.



A young Dr Sydney Evan Jones as one of "Mawson's Men" on the Antarctic Expedition. c.1911. (Source: National Library of Australia)

Dr Jones died of cancer in his residence at Broughton Hall in 1948. Although he had remarried twice following the premature death in childbirth of his first wife thirty years earlier, he chose to be buried next to Olive at Mays Hill Cemetery. [\[17\]](#) His sandstone memorial, with scrolled sides and white marble top reads simply, and modestly, 'Sydney Evan Jones 1887-1948'.

Timeline of life

- 1887 – Born in South Australia, shortly after family moves to Queensland
- 1905 – Graduates from Boys' Grammar School, Ipswich – wins scholarship to attend university
- 1910 – Graduates from Medicine at University of Sydney
- 1910 – Appointed Resident Medical Officer at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney
- 1911 – Joins medical team on Sir Douglas Mawson's expedition to the Antarctic
- 1914 – Joins the New South Wales Government Mental Hospitals Branch
- 1914 – Serves as Junior Medical Officer at Parramatta Lunatic Asylum
- 1915 – Marries Olive Booth
- 1916 – Death of Olive from complications after childbirth
- 1916 – Appointed Junior Medical Officer at Rydalmere Hospital for the Insane
- 1920 – Appointed Medical Officer at Callan Park Mental Hospital
- 1921 – Appointed Government Medical Officer at Broughton Hall Mental Clinic
- 1925 – Appointed Medical Superintendent of Broughton Hall Mental Health Clinic
- 1946 – Foundation Member of the Australasian Association of Psychiatrists
- 1948 – Dies of cancer at Broughton Hall and is buried at Mays Hill Cemetery

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Then and Now Asylum and Female Factory Site North Parramatta

Neera Sahni & Emma Stockburn



(Source: City of Parramatta Research and Collections, 2015)

The site of the Former Parramatta Mental Hospital in North Parramatta is located on Fleet Street, where the Cumberland Hospital campus grounds now stand. Approaching the site, we could see the remains of some historically significant landmarks. Around 65 years onwards, we can see the ways that the buildings have been repurposed, reconditioned and preserved throughout the years. Further, remnants of the Female Factory (demolished around 1883) and Asylum, pre-dating the Mental Hospital, are still visible on the grounds. The following images have been selected to show the transition between then and now.



Image 1: Parramatta Mental Hospital, view of M1 Ward from across the bowling green, ca. 1950. (Source: City of Parramatta, Local Studies Photograph Collection)



Image 2: Male Ward 1 as seen in 2015. (Source: City of Parramatta, Parramatta Heritage Centre. Photo by Maribel Morales, 2015)

Featuring the former Airing Yard in front of Male Ward 1 and view of the clock tower and bell. This bowling green was well-known in the day as a lawn bowls rink and used as part of Recreational and Occupational Therapy.

The Male Ward 1 building is on the site where the main building of the Female Factory used to be. This building was completed in 1884, the clock tower was originally from the Female Factory main building. In 1885, 675 male and 384 female patients were present.

On the inside, the beds of the ward were often lined up in rows under the windows so the sun could shine through the room. There were two rows down each side of the ward with an aisle down the centre. The ward designation was important as patients often identified themselves by gender followed by ward number (such as "C.K., of Male 1") to share writings such as book reviews and poetry in the hospital publication, *Wisteria Journal*.

This bell is located in front of Ward 1, beneath the clock tower (visible in Image 2). Fixed to an iron frame, you can imagine it might have been used for alerting patients of meal times or activities. Rules existed for "Ringing of the Bell" by staff as continuous ringing of the bell would indicate an emergency situation.

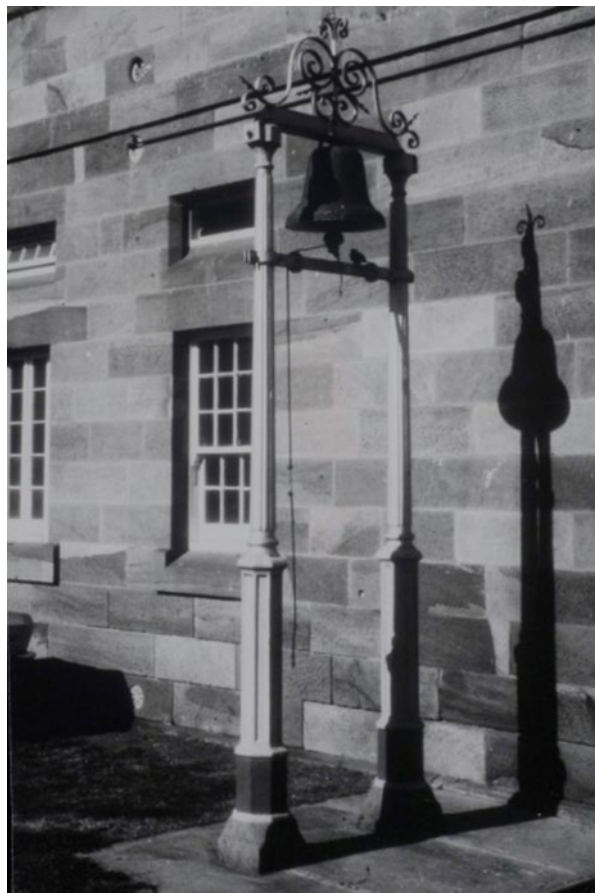


Image 3: Parramatta Psychiatric Centre, view of old emergency bell outside ward 1, ca. early 1980s. (Source: City of Parramatta, Local Studies Photograph Collection, LSOP 64)



Image 4: View of bell in 2015. (Source: City of Parramatta, Parramatta Heritage Centre. Photo by Sally Chik, 2015)

The clock was one of the only remnants kept from the Female Factory and relocated to this present site. The bell is dated 1820, additionally the clock is engraved "Thwaites and Reed, Clerkenwell, London 1821".



Image 5: Parramatta Psychiatric Centre, view of male ward 1 clocktower, ca. early 1980s, (Source: City of Parramatta, Local Studies Photograph Collection, LSOP 67)

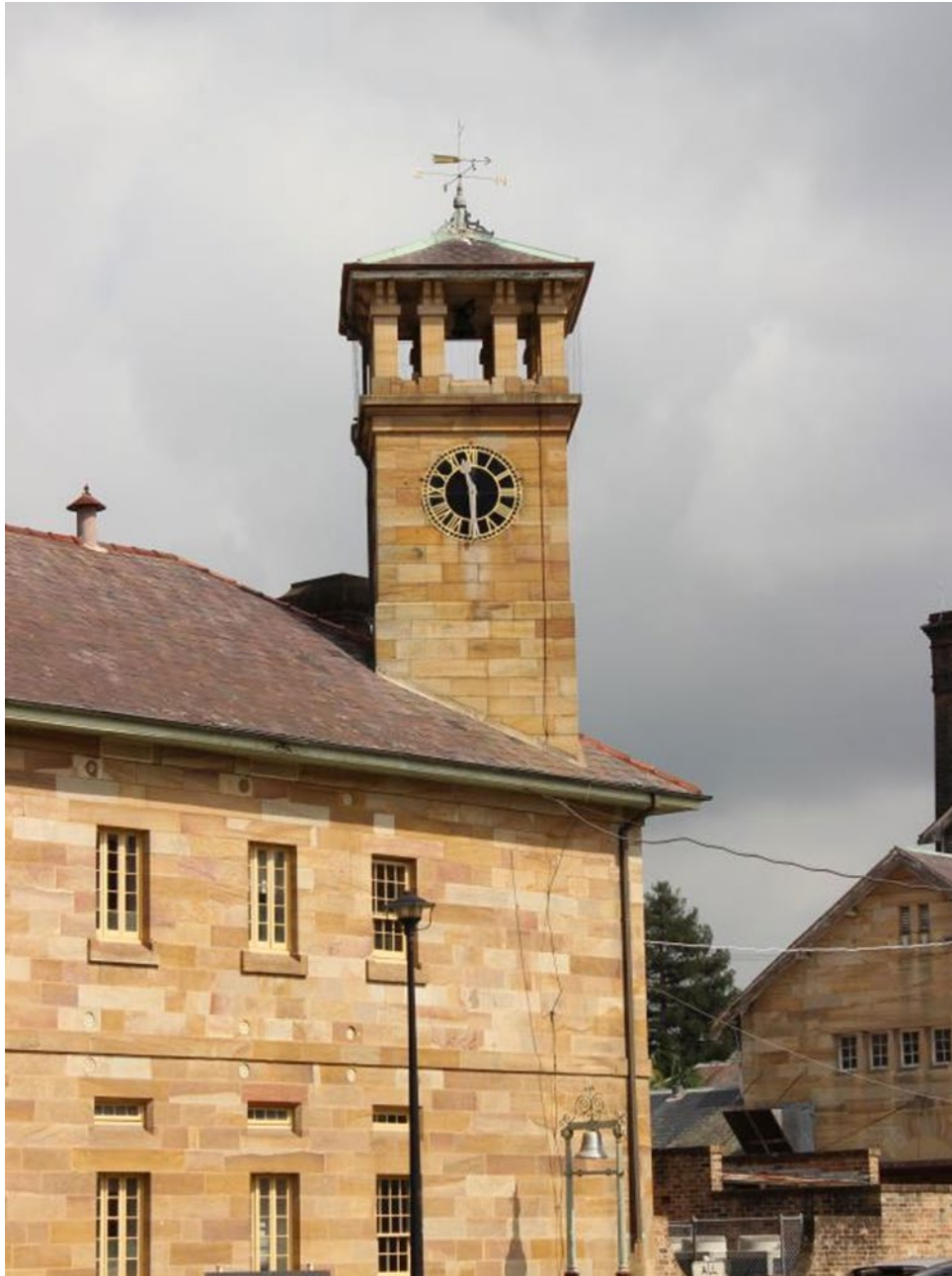


Image 6: Clock in 2015. (Source: City of Parramatta, Parramatta Heritage Centre. Photo by Maribel Morales, 2015)

An anonymous contribution to the Wisteria Journal featuring patient writings included a joke about the clock as follows:

One nice morning a doctor happened to go past the clock tower (Ward Male One) and met a patient from an open ward.

Patient to doctor: "Good morning, doctor. How are you this very good morning, how are you feeling? Could you tell me, doctor (pointing to tower) is that clock right?"

Doctor (after looking at wrist watch): "Yes, yes, she's all right".

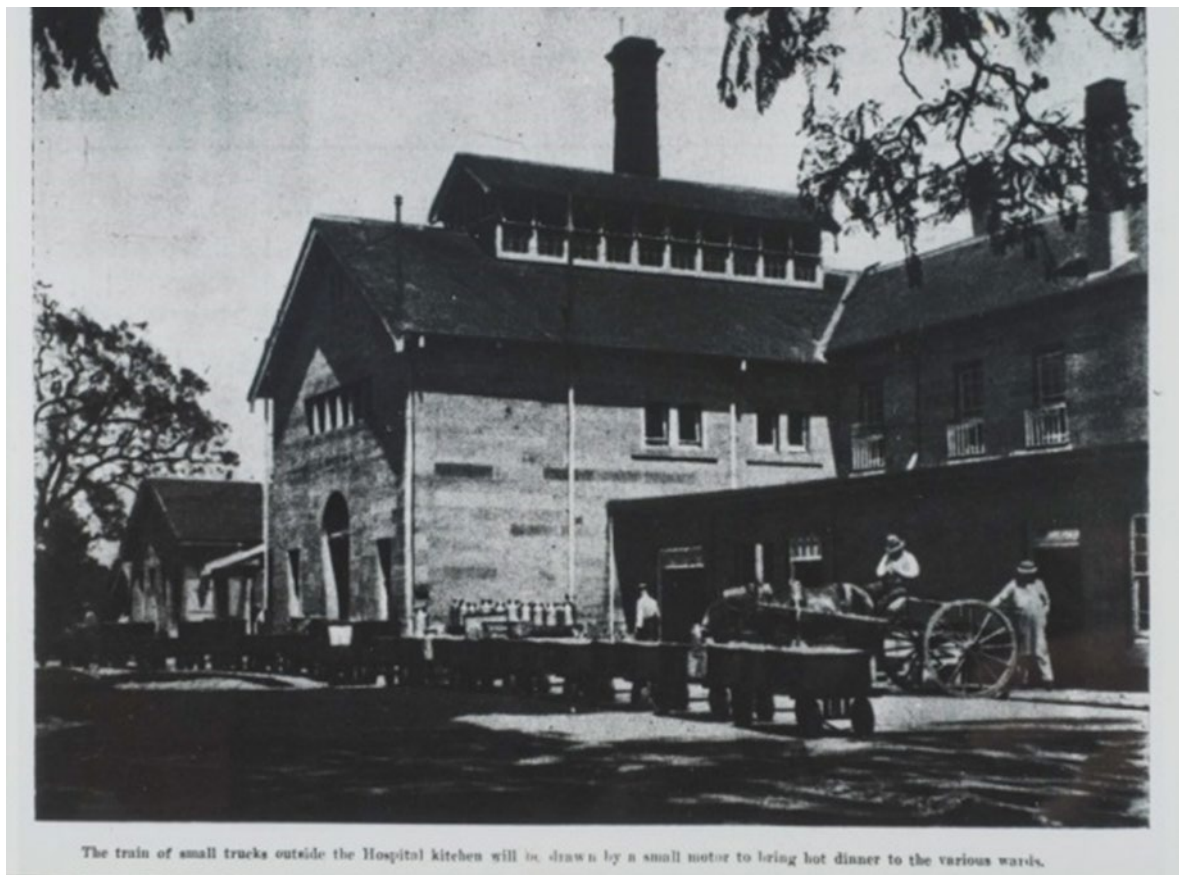


Image 7: Parramatta Mental Hospital, view of food delivery trucks outside the hospital kitchen, ca. 1950. (Source: City of Parramatta, Local Studies Photograph Collection, LSOP 58)



Image 8: The former Main Kitchen (Male) building is now vacant. Source: City of Parramatta, Parramatta Heritage Centre. Photo by Maribel Morales, 2015)

The exhaust vents and chimney can still be seen today. A patient from Male ward 1 publically thanked the cooks in *Wisteria Journal*, noting that they had prepared an Anzac Day breakfast. It is clear that the cooks were much loved by staff and patients as evident in the condolences offered in the same publication. Meals were cooked in huge vats and then placed in a train of small trucks (as pictured above) so that hot dinner could be brought to the wards).



Image 10: The rusticated fountain at Eastern Circuit. (Source: City of Parramatta, Parramatta Heritage Centre. Photo by Maribel Morales, 2015)

This image shows the rusticated fountain which was once part of the main entrance to the Mental Hospital, now known as Cumberland Hospital. Constructed with mixed materials bound by cement mortar and rubble, the style of the fountain has sunk joints and a roughened surface.

Parramatta Female Factory: Interview with a Local Historian - Anne Mathews

Michelle Goodman



(Source: Courtesy of Anne Mathews, 2018)

The year 2018 marked the Bicentenary of the laying of the foundation stone for the largest and oldest surviving convict women's site in Australia: the Parramatta Female Factory.

Originally located in the upper floors of a goal that stood on the site of that is now Prince Alfred Square, Governor Lachlan Macquarie laid the foundation stone for the second Female Factory on May 4, 1818. The Factory, situated on grounds near the river in North Parramatta, became the first destination for all convict women sent to colonial Australia and a model for female convict sites built around Australia.

From 1821, convict women at the Factory laboured as weavers and spinners, establishing Australia's textile industry. The site, which housed over 5000 women and children until 1848, was also used as a workhouse, a refuge, a marriage bureau and women's hospital.

Interview with a local historian

To mark the Bicentenary of the Female Factory in North Parramatta, a recorded interview with a local historian, Anne Mathews, was undertaken by Michelle Goodman, Archivist at the Parramatta Heritage and Visitor Information Centre.

Master copies of the recordings were transferred to the City of Parramatta Council Archives, and the recordings were developed and broadcast as a podcast series of ten episodes in 2018.

You can listen to the Female Factory 200th Anniversary Podcast episodes here:

<https://historyandheritage.cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au/blog/2018/06/29/200-years-of-the-female-factory>

Interview transcripts of the Female Factory 200th Anniversary Podcast episodes are provided below:

Introduction

[MG:] Australia's first purpose-built establishment for convict women sent to the colony of New South Wales was built on a four-acre portion of land on the upper reaches of the Parramatta River. Designed by emancipated convict Francis Greenway, the foundation stone of the Female Factory was laid in 1818 by Governor Macquarie. In 1821, convict women were transferred from their living spaces above the town gaol. The Female Factory operated as an assignment depot, prison, place of industry and medical facility until 1847, when it was repurposed as an invalid and 'lunatic asylum'.

Here, Anne Mathews shares her knowledge of the history of the Female Factory.

Episode 1: The Female Factory: The First Women

[AM:] The female convicts that came out, they were in those buildings and one in seven of the Australians today have an ancestor who was in those buildings. The female convicts that came out to Australia and that were in the Female Factory, had a hard time.

They were brought to a land that they didn't know, away from their family and friends. And a lot of them had to leave their children behind, their husbands or

maybe their husbands were even out here already. They might have been sent out as convicts.

The ladies were bewildered, I think, by the time they got here and a lot of them did play up which, of course, the military and the magistrates and everybody, were very hard on them and they added to their sentences.

They may have got sent out here for seven years for something very trivial but it might have been added onto that they finished up ten years or even longer in the factory. They were able to be assigned out but even that, they weren't treated properly when they were assigned out. And they finished up back in the Factory, they were able to marry and they had a choice – it wasn't forced onto them.

A lot of them used marriage as a way of getting out of the Factory. A lot of them, once they were out, they absconded and finished up back in the Factory. Some of them made a go of it and went onto become good Australians, good citizens. They were farmers or they ran a shop or the husband might have been a tailor or might have been a shoemaker, you know. Their children went on and became decent people.

Episode 2: The Female Factory: The First Building

[AM:] The original Factory was the top floor of the gaol in Prince Alfred Square: it was 80 feet long by 20 feet wide and it was established for 30 women. Unfortunately, there was more than 30 women staying there. There were no sleeping quarters or anything for them. They had to sleep on what they were working with, which was greasy wool or 'flax', because it was a factory.

They spun the wool and they had it woven into fabric for the colony and that's what was used to make the slops for the convicts. Some of the Settlers would bring their wool in and they would spin it and weave it and the Settlers would pay to have it done.

At one stage there were 200 or 300 women connected with this Factory. Because it was overcrowded, the magistrates said that anyone that was sent there by the magistrates had to stay there but anyone that was sent from the ship could go out and get their own accommodation. Unfortunately, that led to a lot of them being sent to the Factory anyway because they had to pay for their accommodation and they had to earn the money whichever way they could. And a lot of that didn't go over with the magistrates very well.

So, in 1816 after Samuel Marsden pushed to have a new Factory built because what was there wasn't standing up to all the wear and tear, they asked for tenders to build a new factory for 300 women. Francis Greenway got the job of designing...

of tendering for the new building and it was built between 1818 and 1821. On the first of February 1821 the ladies from the old Factory marched up to the new Factory in Fleet Street.

Episode 3: The Female Factory: The "classes" of women

[AM:] The new Factory was to house 300, and everyone was in together. There were girls that had a little bit more spirit than other girls. The spirited ones, unfortunately, were encouraging the not-so-spirited ones to misbehave. So, they decided in 1822 that it had to be split up into three 'classes'.

First Class were those women that used it as a refuge. They were the ladies that came straight from the ship; they may have had children, they may have been elderly, or they just weren't assigned straight from the ship, they were waiting to be assigned, they were waiting to be married, or their husband might have been in jail, or he might have been deceased. So they used it as a refuge, or they may already have been assigned out, and their master didn't have any further use for them so they were sent back to the First Class. Those ladies did needlework for the orphanage, they did it for the hospital, they did it for the Factory. They also took in needlework from the Settlers, and the Settlers would pay.

Then there were the Second Class – they were the ladies who were sent there for being drunk in the street; they might have misbehaved in First Class. They might have assaulted somebody or they might have behaved themselves in First Class and were sent down to Second Class. Those girls did the washing for the Factory, for the Orphan School, for the hospital and for Settlers if they sent it in to be washed.

Then there was Third Class, and Third Class were the real spirited ones. They were the ones that had been in and out of the Factory few times, they were the ones that were continually going before the magistrate. They were drunk all the time and they just misbehaved. They would be insolent to their mistress or their master, so they were sent to Third Class. And Third Class is the ones that you can find the most information about. And Third Class unfortunately had their hair cropped when they were sent into Third Class as that was one of your punishments. They would break stones for the Parramatta roads, they would even chop the wood if the male convicts could not get there to chop the wood... if they weren't available. They will do the oakum picking which is picking the tar off the ropes from the ships and they would spin the wool or the 'flax'.

The fabrics that were made in the Factory were Parramatta Cloth. They would make a course cloth that was used for convict clothes; they would make sail cloths that was used to make the sails for the ships to go back to England.

Episode 4: The Female Factory: The men of the Factory

[AM:] The Female Factory was actually built by the male convicts, so the story of the Female Factory is as much a male story as it is a female story. Male convicts would be marched from the barracks in Macquarie Street down to Fleet Street, they would quarry the stone in Fleet Street from the quarry there and take it across the road. And they built the Female Factory before the girls moved in.

They had rusticated blocks and each convict had to do a certain amount a day so, he would mark it either with his sparrow picking going diagonally one way or the other way, or up or down, or big holes or little holes, or even with crosses on them.

And because of the way it was done, when the girls moved in they found that the girls could use it as a ladder to climb out and there were quite a few girls did that and escaped. So they got the male convicts to come in and shave them all back so that they... well, first of all they beveled off the top edge of the blocks, and that was to stop the girls. Well, they had to get them back again a third time to shave them all back so that they were flat. And you can see it on the stones that are still there where they were shaved back. But they also somehow or other left one just one wall on the back of the hospital that has the beveled edge and the markings of the male convicts. Why that wall got left, I don't know, but I'm so grateful because you can see the work of the men.

The male convicts were also used to chop the wood, to bring the stones in for the Third Class to break up and they also were used to clean out privies. But the ones that were cleaning out the privies were brought from the jail in irons. Sometimes those privies had been overflowing for a week or so, and those poor men had to do that. So it wasn't just the females that had a hard time, it was the males also.

Episode 5: The Female Factory: The buildings still standing

[AM:] We still have actually four buildings at the Female Factory that are original.

We have the Matron's Quarters, although it has been extended up and it's had bits and pieces added to it, but the body of the building is still there.

And we have the hospital, which is a similar building, and they were both built in 1818.

We have the 1823 building of the Third Class which was a two-storey building, but is now only a single-storey. It only had portholes around the top floor as ventilation, and small windows on one side of the bottom floor, but now has larger windows and it has windows up the top, even though there's no floor in there.

And the fourth one was a little building that was built in 1838 and it was called the 'Dead House', or the morgue, and that is near the Gipp's Yard.

Episode 6: The Female Factory: The riots

[AM:] Because of the riots that were at the Factory, the first one being 1827, and that was when the girls broke out because their rations had been cut on the changeover of matrons; they broke out and came to Parramatta to collect their own food. And the residents in Parramatta threw out food and drink and locked themselves and their families in their residences. The girls collected up what they could carry, and a lot of them were quite happy to be brought back to the Factory. Some of them went off into the bush to eat it and others went a bit further into the bush, but were brought back eventually. The military and the constables were sent out to bring the girls back... the military were sent out with fixed bayonets and were told to shoot to kill; thank goodness they didn't have to. The girls... when they got back, the ring leaders were told that they would be put into solitary confinement and the girls said 'one in, all in'. So they were punished, but they weren't put in solitary confinement.

In 1831, we had another break-out in February... another riot. With that one, we sent 37 girls up to Newcastle for the Factory up there. The girls were on a good wicket when they went up there. They were sent there for 3 year's transportation; within 3 months, they had all been assigned out, so the girls, actually, were very lucky.

November of 1831, there was another riot, but it was only a small riot, and the girls from that one were put into solitary confinement.

In 1836, we had another riot, and the girls were sent to the jail cells in Prince Alfred Square as well as the ones at the Female Factory.

Episode 7: The Female Factory: Gipp's extensions to the Factory

[AM:] In 1838, Governor Gipps decided he was going to build another set of cells. He built 72 cells. It was three-storey building and there were 36 cells on the bottom floor that were 5 foot wide, 8 foot long and 9 foot ceilings. The next two floors had 36 between them; they were 12 foot wide, 8 foot long and 10 foot ceilings. The girls had a bed and a bucket.

There were no windows downstairs or ventilation, and they were dark cells; they were supposedly for short-term prisoners.

Governor Gipps had them built and sent the plans to England and when he got the information back from England, they said you cannot build them like that, you must have ventilation, so he had to go through then and put ventilation in downstairs.

There was a Matron's cottage built beside it; the Matron was upstairs and downstairs was Administration for when the girls went into the cells.

These cells were used mainly for Third Class ladies, because Third Class were the ones that misbehaved the most and that... and the original 1818 dormitory, the main building, were pulled down when the Asylum took over and they were replaced by the building that is there now.

The clock that was in the original building when the building was pull down and the new one built... the workings of the clock were put into the building that is there now, and it had two extra dials added to it, and it is the one in the Clock tower; it is dated 1821. The bell that is above it is the original Female Factory bell, and it is dated 1820.

Episode 8: The Female Factory: The importance of water

[AM:] The Female Factory had a water system put in in 1827. Up until then, the girls used to go down to the river to collect water, and they had the pump put in in 1827, and I believe it was for the washing and everything else.

The Second Class girls did the washing and at one stage that was one of their punishments; and they had a least 12 of them at once at the tub doing the washing, so the laundry was built against the dividing wall between what is now Gipp's Yard, and where the bowling green is now.

The Female Factory also supplied the orphan school next door with water; the Roman Catholic Orphan School was built in 1842, and they were getting their water from the Female Factory, because when the Female Factory closed and the Asylum took over in 1848, there is a letter that says that the water was to cease going to the orphan school. So, I suspect the orphan school had their own water supply from down the river. Prior to the Factory getting the laundry area and water, the girls used to take the washing down to the flat rocks near the river behind the Factory and they would do the washing down there.

Episode 9: The Female Factory: Everyday life for the women

[AM:] [The girls] would also go out the back to pick brush to make brooms, and at one stage the races were on... the first race track was in the Governor's Domain which is the other side of the river to the Female Factory... and the girls were out picking brush one day, and they could hear everybody enjoying themselves over the other side of the river, and they decided, well, they wanted to go to the races too, so off they went. According to the newspaper one of the girls even ended up on the back a horse with the jockey. Some of the male convicts at also joined in, I

don't know where they came from but evidently they were there also, so the girls went to the races that day.

The girls made brooms and I believe it was just for their own use in the Factory, I don't know that they sold them at any stage. The girls had sewing to do, and if the Settlers wanted anything, the girls would do it after they had finished their allotted amount and they could earn money if they wanted to. This money was taken on their behalf and put into a bank account. Unfortunately, not all the money made it into the bank accounts but, you know, most of it did and at least they could earn a little bit. They didn't really need it in the Factory unless they were buying contraband; there was a problem at one stage of spirits being thrown over the fence or delivered in bladders.

Episode 10: The Female Factory: From Factory to Asylum

[AM:] Towards the end of the Factory, after the transportation of female convicts finished, the Female Factory became redundant; it was just used for the infirm or what was classed as the 'asylum inmates', or the odd one that was sent there for a few days for being drunk in the street.

So in 1848 it was taken over by the Asylum, and they brought out the people from the other asylums and it became the main asylum along with Gladesville.

Conclusion

[MG:] You have been listening to Anne Mathews discussing early experiences of the women of the Female Factory.

The podcast recording was prepared by the City of Parramatta Council in 2018, and features music by Chad Crouch.

The City of Parramatta acknowledges the Darug people as the traditional custodians of the land on which the Female Factory buildings either stood or still stand.

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Back cover: *Parramatta Hospital for the Insane, Female Factory prison, sandstone blocks, courtyard wall*
(Source: Geoff Barker & City of Parramatta Council, 2014)

