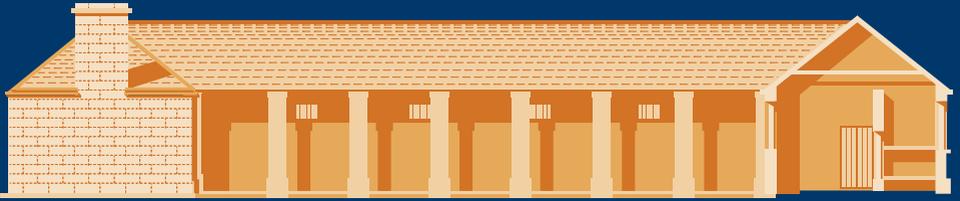


Australian Convict Sites — World Heritage Property



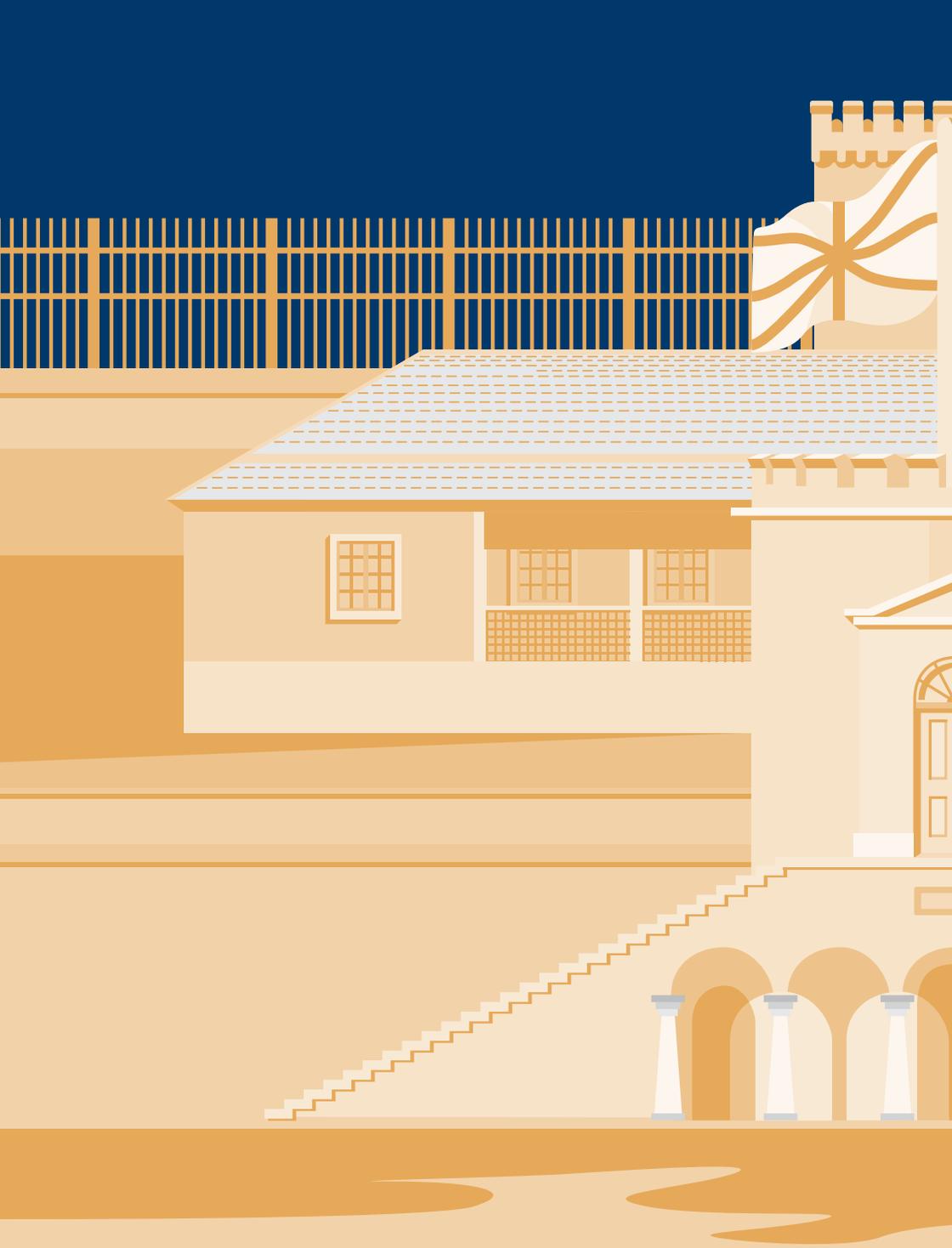
KINGSTON & ARTHUR'S VALE HISTORIC AREA  
OLD GOVERNMENT HOUSE AND DOMAIN  
HYDE PARK BARRACKS  
COCKATOO ISLAND CONVICT SITE  
BRICKENDON—WOOLMERS ESTATES  
DARLINGTON PROBATION STATION  
PORT ARTHUR HISTORIC SITE  
COAL MINES HISTORIC SITE  
CASCADES FEMALE FACTORY  
OLD GREAT NORTH ROAD  
FREMANTLE PRISON



Australian Convict Sites — World Heritage Property

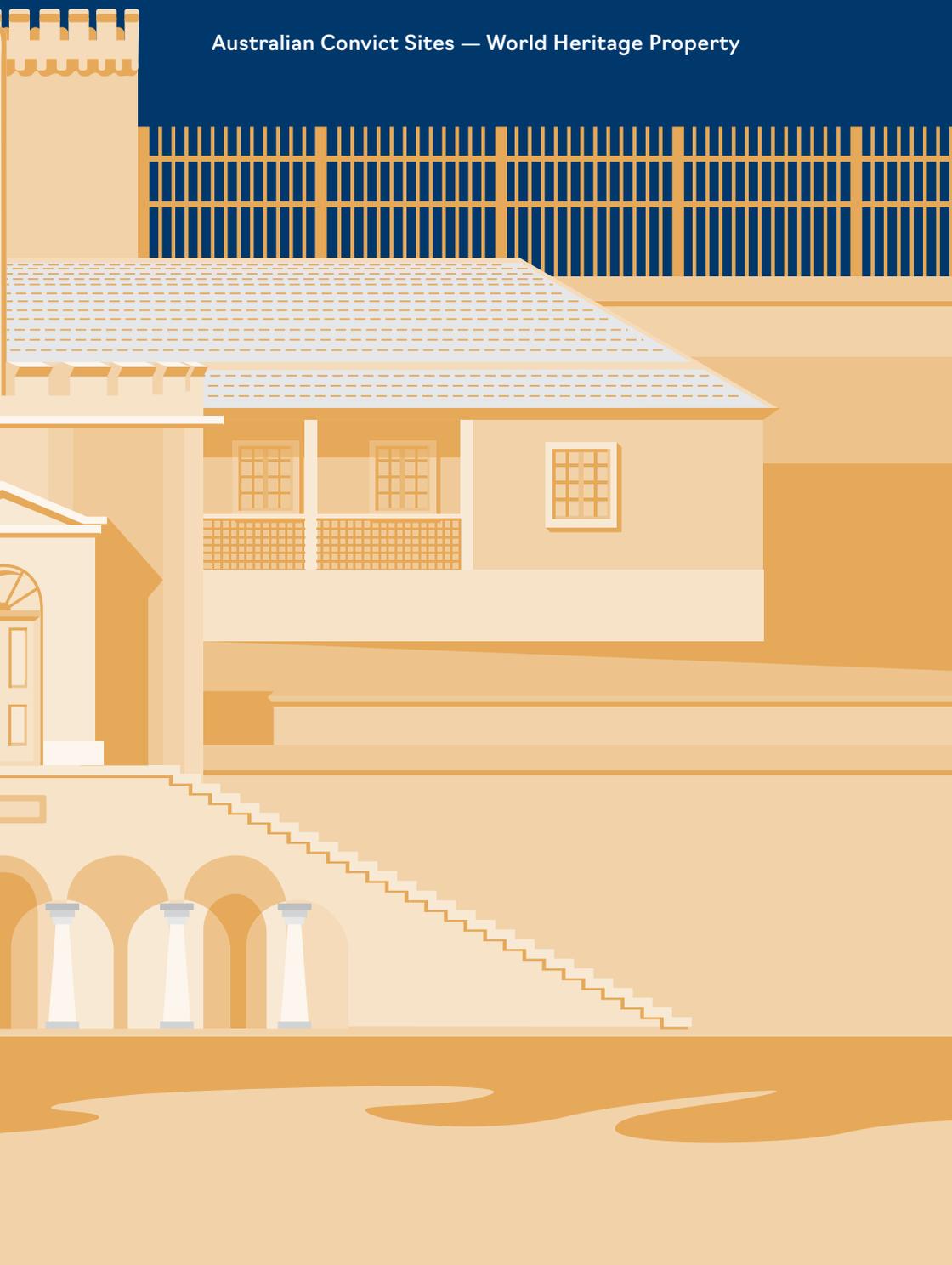


Portrait of Frederick Ward alias Thunderbolt,  
1870 Sydney: Gibbs, Shallard, 1870, National  
Library of Australia, nla.obj-138077510



Guard House, Port Arthur Historic Site.

# Australian Convict Sites — World Heritage Property





This brochure tells the story of the convict sites that make up the Australian Convict Sites World Heritage Property. The Australian Convict Sites Steering Committee (ACSSC) acknowledges that Australia's contact history, like that of many colonial countries, is one of intense conflict, displacement and trauma for Indigenous Peoples. Truth telling about the history of colonisation and its impacts today should be shared as part of the comprehensive Australian heritage story.

The ACSSC recognises that while the Australian Convict Sites represent the building of a nation, this was to the detriment of the First Peoples of Australia. The ACSSC believes that telling the truth about Indigenous history is the foundation for a full understanding on the basis of which all Australians can come together in acknowledgement of a shared past and a shared future.

## INTRODUCTION

# World Heritage

Heritage is our legacy from the past, what we live with today, and what we pass on to future generations. Our cultural and natural heritage are both irreplaceable sources of life and inspiration. Places as unique and diverse as the wilds of East Africa's Serengeti, the Pyramids of Egypt, the Great Barrier Reef in Australia and the Baroque cathedrals of Latin America make up our world's heritage.

What makes the concept of World Heritage exceptional is its universal application. World Heritage sites belong to all the peoples of the world, irrespective of the territory on which they are located.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) seeks to encourage the identification, protection and preservation of cultural and natural

heritage around the world considered to be of outstanding value to humanity. This is embodied in an international treaty called the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (the World Heritage Convention), adopted by UNESCO in 1972.

The World Heritage List is administered through the World Heritage Convention by the World Heritage Committee on behalf of UNESCO. There are currently 20 World Heritage properties in Australia that have been inscribed on the World Heritage List for their outstanding universal natural and/or cultural value.

Old Military Barracks guard tower and well,  
Kingston & Arthur's Vale Historic Area.  
Photographer: Robin Nisbet



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



**Australian Convict Sites**  
inscribed on the World  
Heritage List in 2010



## The Australian Convict Sites

KINGSTON & ARTHUR'S VALE HISTORIC AREA

OLD GOVERNMENT HOUSE AND  
DOMAIN (PARRAMATTA PARK)

HYDE PARK BARRACKS

BRICKENDON — WOOLMERS ESTATES

DARLINGTON PROBATION STATION

OLD GREAT NORTH ROAD

CASCADES FEMALE FACTORY

PORT ARTHUR HISTORIC SITE

COAL MINES HISTORIC SITE

COCKATOO ISLAND CONVICT SITE

FREMANTLE PRISON

The Australian Convict Sites World Heritage Property is a series of heritage places which collectively are representative of the global phenomenon of convictism and its association with global developments in the punishment of crime in the modern era. The 11 sites are spread across Australia, from Fremantle, Western Australia in the west to Kingston and Arthur's Vale, Norfolk Island in the east, a distance of 5,500 kilometres; and from Old Great North Road, New South Wales in the north to Port Arthur, Tasmania in the south, a distance of 1,500 kilometres.

Each site represents key elements of the forced migration of convicts and is associated with global ideas and practices relating to the punishment and reform of the criminal elements of society during the modern era. The 11 sites included in the inscription are the pre-eminent examples of Australia's rich convict history with more than 3,000 convict sites remaining around Australia representing different aspects of the story of convictism. This is unique in the world today.

The term 'convictism' relates to the forced migration of convicts to penal colonies. The transportation of criminal offenders to penal colonies dates back to the early 17th century and occurred in many parts of the world until the abolition of transportation to French Guiana and the Andaman Islands in 1938. Britain, France, Spain, Portugal, the Netherlands, Russia and Argentina transported criminals to penal colonies across the world.

The primary motivating influences for the rise and spread of the transportation system included: geo-political ambitions which were advanced by using convicts to build or expand colonies across the globe; the punishment of an increasing number of criminal offenders to deter crime in the home state; and the reform of the criminal elements of society.

With the end of transportation to America in 1775, Britain had to find a new way to deal with a large population of criminals. The British government was pressured to resume transportation to a new destination, or to establish a new national penitentiary system. As a result, Britain commenced transportation to Australia in 1787 and established the colony of New South Wales in what had once been known only as New Holland. Other penal colonies were established in Van Diemen's Land (now known as Tasmania) and the Swan River Colony (now known as Perth).

British transportation to Australia was the world's first conscious attempt to build a new society on the labour of convicted prisoners. Around 166,000 men, women and children were transported to Australia over 80 years between 1787 and 1868.

For more information about the World Heritage Convention and the World Heritage list, see [whc.unesco.org/en/about/](http://whc.unesco.org/en/about/) or scan the QR code.



## LOCATIONS

# Australian Convict Sites

- 1 Kingston and Arthur's Vale Historic Area**  
Norfolk Island, 1788-1814 & 1824-55
- 2 Old Government House and Domain (Parramatta Park)**  
Parramatta, New South Wales, 1788-1856
- 3 Hyde Park Barracks**  
Sydney, New South Wales, 1819-48
- 4 Brickendon—Woolmers Estates**  
Longford, Tasmania, 1820-50s
- 5 Darlington Probation Station**  
Maria Island National Park, Tasmania, 1825-32 & 1842-50
- 6 Old Great North Road**  
Wiseman's Ferry, New South Wales, 1828-35
- 7 Cascades Female Factory**  
South Hobart, Tasmania, 1828-56
- 8 Port Arthur Historic Site**  
Port Arthur, Tasmania, 1830-77
- 9 Coal Mines Historic Site**  
Norfolk Bay, Tasmania, 1833-48
- 10 Cockatoo Island Convict Site**  
Sydney, New South Wales, 1839-69
- 11 Fremantle Prison**  
Fremantle, Western Australia, 1852-86







World Heritage area

Convict structure

Convict ruin

Convict archaeological site

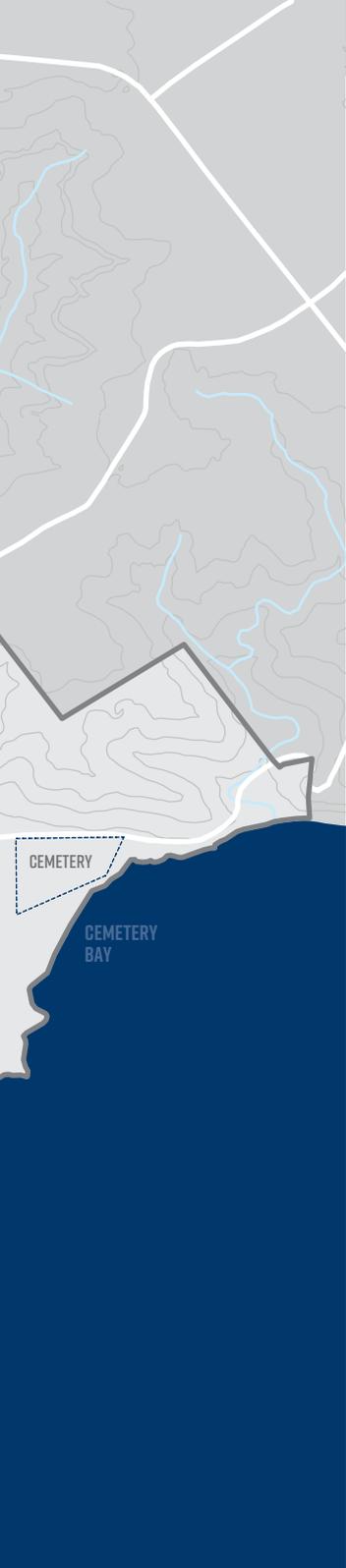
Compound wall + arched gateways

Convict built sea wall + drainage system

Non-convict structure

# Kingston and Arthur's Vale Historic Area

NORFOLK ISLAND (1788–1814 & 1824–55)



Located more than 1,600 kilometres north east of Sydney, Kingston and Arthur's Vale Historic Area (Kingston) dominates the southern side of remote Norfolk Island which operated as an outposted penal station of New South Wales over two periods, spanning the era of transportation to Australia between 1788 and 1855. Visited and named in 1774 by Captain James Cook RN, the British arrived on Norfolk Island on 6 March 1788, five weeks after the First Fleet landed at Port Jackson. The first (British Colonial) settlement was closed in 1814 as it was unable to become self-sufficient and could not provide resources to support the colony of New South Wales. In 1824 the island was reoccupied as a site of secondary punishment for transported convicts who re-offended in the colony.

While the first (British Colonial) settlement aimed to relieve the food pressures in New South Wales, the second (British Penal) settlement on Norfolk Island was designed to be the extreme in convict degradation. Intended to deter crime in Britain, it came to stand for the worst of the transportation system. As Kingston was located far from the main colony, commandants were able to exercise absolute rule over the convict population, with the exception of execution. Convicts worked from sunrise to sunset, undertaking agricultural work by hand, as labour saving technologies, such as animal and machine power, were prohibited in order to deliberately increase the hardship of labour. This harsh treatment, combined with poor and unsanitary accommodation and a meagre diet of one meal every 48 hours, was intended to break the convicts and it resulted in poor health and many deaths. However, a period of radical penal reform occurred between 1840 and 1844 under Commandant Maconochie. He introduced the 'mark system' of penal discipline, which worked on the principle that the prisoner could secure freedom

if they were industrious and well behaved. However, for a number of reasons, Maconochie's approach was not continued by his successors.

Britain ordered the closure of the second (British Penal) settlement in 1846 and most convicts were gradually transferred to Van Diemen's Land, with some sent to Cockatoo Island. Convicts continued to serve out their sentences at Kingston until 1855 when the last of them were removed to Hobart. The island was managed by a small group of caretakers until 8 June 1856, when the Pitcairn Islanders - descendants of the HMAV Bounty mutineers and their Tahitian brides who had outgrown their Pitcairn Island home - arrived at Norfolk Island.

Set on the coastal plain and bounded by hills, Kingston comprises more than 40 buildings, groups of buildings, substantial ruins and archaeological remains set within 225 hectares of relatively undisturbed land. The layout of the site reflects the strategic placement of buildings that separated penal authorities from convicts, demonstrating both the real and symbolic power of the authorities to scrutinise and control the convict population. All of the structures were built by convicts from limestone quarried on the island and local timber. The site encompasses an exceptional landscape that has survived largely unchanged since the convict era.





## KINGSTON AND ARTHUR'S VALE HISTORIC AREA

1. Government House (1828-29)
2. Stipendiary Magistrate's Quarters (1845-47)
3. Cemetery (1825)
4. Murderers' Mound (1846)
5. Superintendents' of Convicts Duplex (c.1844-45)
6. Civil Commandant's Chief Clerk's Quarters (1843-44)
7. Commissariat Storekeeper's Quarters (1842-43)
8. Commissariat Clerk's Quarters (1842-43)
9. Protestant Clergyman's Quarters (1836)
10. Commissariat Officers' Quarters (1842-43)
11. Royal Engineer's Quarters (1839-40)
12. Foreman of Works' Quarters (1844)
13. Old Military Barracks (1830-32)
14. Roman Catholic Clergyman's Quarters (1832-33)
15. Officers' Bath (1832-33)
16. New Military Barracks (1835-37)
17. Commissariat Store (1835)
18. Underground Grain Silos (1839)
19. Civil Hospital (1829)
20. Surgeon's Quarters (1827)
21. Crankmill (1827-38)
22. Pier Store (1825)
23. Kingston Pier (1839-47)
24. Flaghouses (c.1840s-50s)
25. Single Boatshed/Former Police Office (1828-29)
26. Settlement Guard House (1826)
27. Royal Engineer's Office (1850-51)
28. Double Boatshed (1841)
29. Constable's Quarters (1850-53)
30. Blacksmith's Compound (1846)
31. New Gaol (1836-47), solitary confinement cell (1836)
32. Prisoners' Barracks (1828-47)
33. Protestant Chapel (1840)
34. Lumber / Mess Yard (1833)
35. Lime Kilns (1845)
36. Salt House (1848)
37. Windmill (1842-49)







View from Flagstaff Hill, Kingston & Arthur's  
Vale Historic Area. Photographer: Robin Nisbet



# Convict stories: William Westwood

FROM KINGSTON AND ARTHUR'S VALE HISTORIC AREA



Drawing of the Cooking Pot Riot,  
1846, Norfolk Island. Source: Facsimile,  
Norfolk Island Museum Trust, NIM4461.  
Original held in the Launceston  
Reference Library Collection.



William Westwood arrived in the penal colony of New South Wales in 1837 at age 16, sentenced to transportation for 14 years for stealing a coat.

Upon reaching Sydney, he was assigned to a station near Bungendore. Over several years from 1837 to 1845, Westwood escaped repeatedly from the station and then a chain gang, Darlinghurst Gaol and the Cockatoo Island and Port Arthur settlements, sometimes on multiple occasions. Each time he was recaptured he faced increasingly severe punishments.

While on the run, Westwood took up bushranging. Known as 'the gentleman bushranger', he often showed up in a suit to a robbery and reportedly never hurt his victims.

Westwood was approved for probation by the Port Arthur settlement commandant in May 1845 after helping to rescue two men from drowning.

However, in September 1845, he was again tried for robbery and was this time sentenced to transportation for life to Norfolk Island. After nine months he led an uprising triggered by the confiscation of the prisoners' cooking pots and utensils, during which four prison officers were killed. In October 1846, William Westwood and 11 other men were hanged for their roles in the 'Cooking Pot Riot'. They were buried together in an unmarked mass grave outside the consecrated cemetery grounds, known as 'Murderers' Mound'.

It was a brutal end to a short life. Prior to his execution, Westwood wrote to a clergyman: *...Sir, out of the bitter cup of misery, I have drank from my sixteenth year — ten long years — and the sweetest draught is that which takes away the misery of living death; it is the friend that deceives no man; all will then be quiet — no tyrant will then disturb my repose, I hope...* He was only 26 years old.



PARRAMATTA PARK

Parramatta

**The Vice  
Regal Domain  
1788 - 1856**

PARRAMATTA RIVER



World Heritage area



Convict structure



Convict  
archaeological site



Non-convict structure

# Old Government House and Domain (Parramatta Park)

NEW SOUTH WALES (1788–1856)

Located on Burramattagal Country by the Parramatta River, Old Government House and Domain (Parramatta Park) formed a residence and office of the governors who administered the colony of New South Wales during its convict era.

Governor Phillip began cultivation of crops for the fledgling colony immediately on arrival at Sydney Cove. When the first crop failed and a food shortage ensued, he came up the Parramatta River to find fertile soil and a supply of fresh water. He brought convicts to Parramatta to work as servants, on land clearance, construction of buildings and food production that led to the establishment of agriculture in the colony. The work of the convicts was critical to the survival of the penal colony. Farming continued in the area under a succession of governors, enabling the colony to achieve self-sufficiency and to be independent of food and supplies from England.

The first Government House was built in the heart of Sydney Cove in 1788, however in 1790 a new Government House was built in Parramatta, at the site of the 1788 military redoubt and government farm. Governor Hunter built an improved Government House in 1799, which was extended by Governor Macquarie from 1815. Under Macquarie the Government Domain was expanded, providing more area for farming activities for the government stores. It operated as a hub for the colonies of New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land. Here vice-regal decisions were made about the control and administration of the colonies and management of convicts.

The governors had unprecedented powers over the functioning of the colonies, often making decisions on the assignment of individual convicts to private persons, formation of convict gangs, issuing ticket-of-leave documents, the amount of rations given



to convicts and the granting of pardons and lands. Much of the administrative, social and political life of the colony was also decided by the governors at Old Government House from the very beginning of the colony until the last convicts served their sentences. Completion of a new Government House on the shores of Sydney Harbour in 1845 led to a decision to put aside part of the Domain as a public park and end vice-regal use of the house. Parramatta Park was gazetted as a Park for the people in 1858. Old Government House was established as a museum in 1970 and is managed by National Trust Australia (NSW).

The site is located on 85 hectares of landscaped parklands and includes the Dairy, gatehouses and widespread archaeological remains. The layout of the house and landscape reflect patterns of the penal colony's administration under the governors, as well as the lives of the convicts who worked for them. Convicts built many of the structures at Old Government House and Domain and the changes to the buildings that occurred over time reflect both the evolving penal philosophies and the character of the governors who occupied them.



Newton's New and Improved Terrestrial  
Globe, c1857, National Trust (NSW) collection.  
Photographer: Jenni Carter.





## OLD GOVERNMENT HOUSE AND DOMAIN (PARRAMATTA PARK)

1. The Crescent (1788)  
Convict orchard and vineyard area
2. Brisbane's Bath House (1823)
3. Brisbane's Observatory (1821)
4. Hunter's Stables (1799)
5. Phillip's Government House (1790-93)
6. Back Range (c.1820-40's)
7. Phillip's Carriage Way (1790)
8. Dovecote (1816)
9. Gardener's Cottage (1804)
10. North Pavilion, Governor Macquarie era extension (1816)
11. Old Government House, Governor Hunter (1799)
12. Store house, Phillip-era (1816)
13. Rose Hill (1788)
14. Guard House (1847)
15. The Redoubt (Military Post) (1788)
16. Sentry Box (1790)
17. Sentry Box (1790)
18. Pitt Row 1790
19. Bridge Street (1790)
20. Brewery & Granary (1790)
21. Convict Allotments and Huts (1790)
22. High Street (1790)
23. Convict Allotments and Huts (1790)
24. Governor's Dairy (1815-16)
25. Milk room (1822)
26. Cattle yards (1790)
27. Lumber yard (1789)
28. Botanic gardens (1800)



Old Government House,  
National Trust of Australia (NSW).



# Convict stories: Daniel Moowattin

FROM OLD GOVERNMENT HOUSE & DOMAIN (PARRAMATTA PARK)

Aboriginal man Daniel Moowattin (c.1791-1816) acted as a guide and interpreter for George Caley, the botanical and natural history specimen collector.

Born into the Burrumattagal in approximately 1791, Daniel was orphaned at a young age and adopted at age five by Richard and Mary Partridge. Daniel was the name given to him by his adoptive parents, and he was commonly known as Dan during his childhood. After his initiation at about 15 years old, his adult name became Moowattin (meaning 'bush path').

Unlike many other colonists, Caley appreciated and acknowledged the many skills and traits the Aboriginal people possessed. After arriving in New South Wales aboard the *Speedy* in 1800, Caley first met Moowattin in 1802. Moowattin became Caley's guide, translator and travelling companion in 1805.

In their explorations Moowattin helped Caley find dozens of different plant specimens and fauna that would have been impossible for Caley to find alone. In acknowledgment of the contribution that Moowattin made, Caley labelled many plant specimens discovered by him as "got by Dan." Many of these can still be found at the National Herbarium of New South Wales today. Over the next few years Caley and Moowattin travelled extensively together. In 1805 they travelled to Norfolk Island and Van Diemen's Land collecting new plant species.

A hut was specifically built for Caley to the north-east of Old Government House, bordered by O'Connell and Marsden Streets. In 1805, Moowattin began living with Caley in this cottage. Governor King allowed Caley to use the surrounding Domain for a botanical garden, possibly Australia's first. Governor King also allowed Caley the use of Old Government



House to dry his botanical specimens. In the image Caley's hut is most likely the one standing on its own to the right of the image, just above the bridge.

Through their time together, Moowattin and Caley accomplished a great deal. Many of their specimens were sent back to Sir Joseph Banks in England, the famous naturalist, and used to vastly increase understanding of the natural world. These specimens now form part of the Australian Collection at the Royal Kew Botanic Gardens, London.

View of part of the town of Parramatta in New South Wales, taken from the north side of the river, Drawn by J. Eyre, engraved by P. Slaeger, Published by A. West, Sydney, 1812, Courtesy of the National Library of Australia.



MACQUARIE STREET

PRINCE ALBERT ROAD

Hyde Park



World Heritage area

Convict structure

Perimeter wall

Non-convict structure

- 1 & 2. Gate Lodges
- 3. Convict Barracks
- 4. Courtyard
- 5. Corner Pavilion (Confinement Cells)
- 6. Store
- 7. Bakehouse
- 8. Quarters and Office of the Deputy Superintendent of Convicts
- 9. Accommodation for New Arrivals (Magistrate's Bench between 1829 and 1830)
- 10. Site of the convict's vegetable garden
- 11. Flogging Yard (where convicts were flogged)
- 12. Convicts attended St James' Church opposite the Barracks

# Hyde Park Barracks

NEW SOUTH WALES (1819–48)

The Hyde Park Barracks is located in the central business district of Sydney and operated between 1819 and 1848 as the colony's principal convict establishment. Built to provide accommodation for male convicts who worked outside the depot during the day, the barracks later functioned as a place of confinement and reassignment for male convicts who re-offended in the colony. Lachlan Macquarie, the Governor of New South Wales from 1810-21, ordered the convict architect Francis Greenway to design a self-contained dormitory building on Sydney's eastern ridge, overlooking the colony.

Macquarie's vision of a civilised colonial society included monuments, churches, buildings and roads. The Hyde Park Barracks would house the convict artisans and labourers required to carry out his ambitious program of public works. Architecturally sophisticated and eye-catching, the new institution symbolised government control over a captive workforce and at the same time provided convicts with the means for re-entry into society. Prior to its construction, convicts were responsible for their own 'lodgings and fire' in private houses and hotels. With spare time and wages, and lax supervision, convict men mixed openly with women and settlers, often in public houses. As the colony's population grew, concerns over disorderly behaviour, violence and robberies, prompted the need for greater regulation of convict living arrangements. Most convicts laboured in 'gangs' on construction sites around town or in specialist workshops and yards, returned to the barracks each lunchtime and evening. Those who challenged the barracks' rigid new routines, such as compulsory attendance at musters or religious services, faced solitary cells, a flogging or reduced rations. Increased supervision and surveillance aimed to develop habits of industry while greater restrictions on the movement of convicts about town lessened the likelihood of mischief and crime.



Hyde Park Barracks.  
Photographer: Nicholas Watt (above)  
Photographer: James Horan (right)

Over 29 years of operation, an estimated 50,000 convicts passed through the complex. The three storey dormitory contained hammocks for 600 men, although evidence suggests that sometimes more than 1400 were needed. Surrounding the central dormitory was an open courtyard, ringed by perimeter buildings, with cells, mess halls, kitchen, store rooms and administration offices. Perched high on the building's front was the Barracks' clock.



Chiming on the hour, day and night, this public timepiece symbolised the importance of regularity and routine in the management of convicts. After 1830, Hyde Park Barracks became the colony's nerve centre of convict administration. Here, clerks and officials managed all aspects of convict life, authorising the assignment of convicts across the countryside, as well as processing secondary punishments, pardons and tickets of leave, requests for family reunions and even requests to marry. The Hyde Park Barracks ended its convict operation in 1848 when the last of its prisoners were transferred to Cockatoo Island. For the next four decades, its dormitories, kitchens and offices, remained in heavy use, as waves of female immigrants and later destitute asylum inmates sheltered within its walls.



Hyde Park Barracks.  
Photographer: Doug Riley



# Convict stories: William Earp

## FROM HYDE PARK BARRACKS

William Earp was transported to New South Wales after stealing clothes, cloth and a handkerchief from his father's tailor's shop in Melbourne, Derbyshire, England in November 1823. The theft apparently followed a family feud; he seems to have been a rebellious and hot-tempered young man, tall for the time at 5 feet 9½ inches with blue grey eyes, brown hair and a pale complexion. Earp travelled to Australia on the convict ship *Minerva*, where he was treated for dysentery, and was assigned as a tailor to William Pendray after he arrived in Australia.

Earp was seemingly incapable of keeping out of trouble. In 1824-25, he was registered as working in a government clearing gang. He was again assigned as a tailor but appeared before the Magistrates for stealing a coat he was altering. Earp was then sentenced to receive 50 lashes and returned to government

work on 26 July 1826, but absconded from Hyde Park Barracks and was sentenced to 10 days on the treadmill. By 1828, he was in Iron Gang No.4 at Wisemans Station working on the construction of the Great North Road. His gang was responsible for getting the road from the top of the ridge down the sandstone escarpment to the river. A year later he had been transferred to Road Party 25 at the bottom of Devine's Hill but again absconded. He had earned the status of 'Notorious Runaway' by this stage.

Earp was caught and given further secondary punishment, although he was given another chance assigned as a tailor to Moses Brow. He absconded for the final time and was sent to Port Stephens, but died on 24 March at Carrington Hospital after a severe attack of 'Angina Pectoris.'







# Brickendon Estate

# Woolmers Estate

BRICKENDON FARM VILLAGE

BRICKENDON HOMESTEAD



World Heritage area



Convict structure



Convict ruin



Convict archaeological site



Non-convict structure

# Brickendon — Woolmers Estates

TASMANIA (1820–50s)

Brickendon and Woolmers are two neighbouring estates located on the Macquarie River in northern Tasmania, where convicts were assigned to 'private masters' to undertake agricultural work. The estates, which were owned by the Archer brothers, operated as large farming properties with convict labour from the early 1820s until the 1850s. The assignment system was set up to provide labour to settlers in exchange for food and clothing for assigned convicts. Masters were also responsible for the physical and moral wellbeing of assigned convicts. Convicts were skilled and also quite young, with the average age being 23. Male convicts at the estates worked as blacksmiths, tanners, bricklayers, agricultural hands, gardeners and shepherds, while female convicts worked in domestic service. Male and female convicts were kept separate from each other, with female convicts housed in quarters in the main homesteads and male convicts accommodated in barracks on the farms.

Convicts provided the labour and the skill necessary to establish and operate these prosperous agricultural estates. The assignment system also aimed to rehabilitate criminals through work and moral guidance and integrate them into the penal colony. The landscape of Brickendon Estate is comprised of 20 timber and brick buildings set in 420 hectares of farming land and includes convict-built roadways. The estate is still owned and worked by the descendants of the Archer family.

Woolmers Estate, owned by the Archer family until 1994, was bequeathed by Thomas Archer (6th) to a not-for-profit Foundation which is a registered charity. This suite of structures represents the living and working conditions of assigned convicts and the vast majority remain in their original form. The layout and architecture of these structures demonstrates the strong distinction



Brick Granary, Brickendon Estate.  
Photographer: Anna Foroozani, 2018 (above)  
Woolmers Homestead, early 1840s,  
property of Woomers Estate (right).

between masters and convicts. Each estate includes homesteads, farming structures and fields built and worked by convict labour and include rare surviving personal effects and furnishings.

With a combined annual convict population of over 100, Brickendon and Woolmers Estates formed the second largest pool of convict labour in private hands in Van Diemen's Land. The assignment system was important in the economic development and expansion of the new colony. It helped to develop colonial infrastructure, reform convicts, assist settlers in establishing their estates and, in the case of Brickendon and Woolmers Estates, develop the foundations of successful pastoral properties.



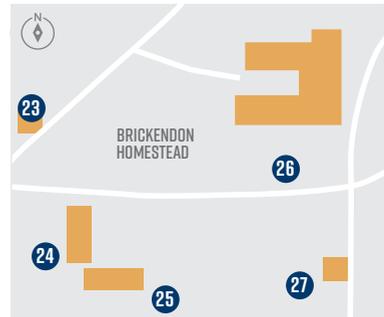


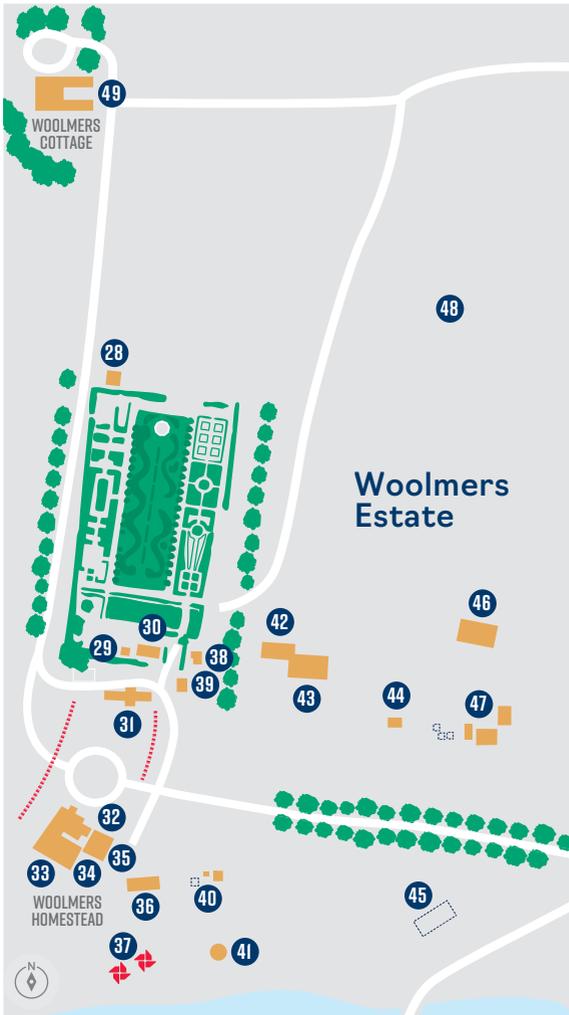
## BRICKENDON FARM VILLAGE

- |                                    |                                              |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| 1. Pillar Granary (1829-31)        | 13. Slaughter House (1841-82)                |
| 2. Sussex Barn (1829-31)           | 14. Brick Granary (1831-41)                  |
| 3. Sussex Barn (1829-31)           | 15. Cook House (1831-41)                     |
| 4. Stables (1829-31)               | 16. Outhouse (1831-41)                       |
| 5. Hay Shed (1829-31)              | 17. Convict Chapel (1836)                    |
| 6. Cart Shed (1829-50)             | 18. Overseer's Cottage (1829-41)             |
| 7. Poultry Shed (1831-41)          | 19. Carpentry Shop (1831-41)                 |
| 8. Smoke House (1831-41)           | 20. Convict Single Men's Quarters (pre 1831) |
| 9. Original Homestead (pre 1829)   | 21. Convict Single Men's Quarters (pre 1831) |
| 10. Farm Cottage / Dairy (1831-41) | 22. Blacksmith's Shop (1831-41)              |
| 11. Stables (1829-41)              |                                              |
| 12. Woolshed (1829-41)             |                                              |

## BRICKENDON HOMESTEAD

- |                                  |
|----------------------------------|
| 23. Coachman's Cottage (1829-50) |
| 24. Stables (1829-41)            |
| 25. Stables (1829-50)            |
| 26. Female convicts housed       |
| 27. Gardener's Cottage (1831-41) |





## WOOLMERS ESTATE

28. Gardener's Cottage (1840s)
29. Coachman's Cottage Shed (1840s)
30. Coachman's Cottage (1840s)
31. Coach House & Stables early (1840s)
32. Cellars (underneath)
33. Woolmers Homestead (c.1819)
34. Female Convict Quarters (attic)
35. Kitchen & Servant's Quarters (1840s)
36. Provisions Store (1820s)
37. Windmills
38. Jacob Mountgarrett's Cottage (Surgeon) (1820s)
39. Convict Chapel (1840s)
40. Bakers Cottage (1840s)
41. Pump House (1840s)
42. Cider House (1843)
43. Woolshed (1819)
44. Blacksmith's Shop (1822)
45. Male Convict Barracks
46. Farm Stables (1840s)
47. Worker's Cottages (1840s)
48. Convicts laboured in agricultural paddocks
49. Woolmers Cottage (1830s)

-  Convict structure
-  Convict ruin
-  Convict archaeological site
-  Convict planted hedges
-  Windmill
-  Tracks
-  Non-convict structure



Brickendon Farm Village,  
Brickendon Estate.



# Convict stories: William Archer's Diary 1829

## FROM BRICKENDON ESTATE

The male convicts at Brickendon Estate were both farm and homestead workers and therefore ranged in duties from ploughman to gardener. William Archer did his best to keep the male convicts separate from the female servants in the main house.

He comments in the diary that "I find it necessary to live amongst the men" with his cottage situated within 40 metres from their barracks.

Petty theft was the most likely crime committed by all convicts at Brickendon Estate and this could be a shovel, food or in this case clothing and material from a chest of drawers in the house.

Sarah Collins was employed by William to work as a housemaid on the property. While she was known to have held convictions for theft both in England and Van Diemens Land, the landowners were in desperate need of workers regardless of background.

The diary entry indicates that Sarah stole items on the farm and needed an on-seller, she passed the stolen items to a male convict John Welsh from the farm village.

John Welsh was a rebellious character and is repeatedly misbehaving throughout 1829, his main tasks being turning the dunghill and hoeing weeds and he had asked to be accommodated separately from the other male convicts (many conflicts were between convicts, living closely together with bullying being very common).

William searched Welsh's belongings 'box', discovered the items and knowing of the forced opening of a drawer in the house, informed the police of Welsh's and Collins' alleged crimes.

The diary entry explains that they were both convicted, Welsh sent to solitary confinement for 40 days but able to return to Brickendon Estate to work.

Friday 9th October 1824. Fine Night and a very warm Day  
 Welsh and the Maid Servant having been lodged in Prison last Night  
 were tried before the Police Magistrate Capt. Smith to day and were  
 convicted of the crimes charged upon them. The Woman to be sent to the  
 Factory to be placed in the Crime Class for the remainder of her Term (13 years  
 never more to be assigned - and Welsh to solitary Confinement for 10  
 28 of them on bread and Water and 12 with some indulgence) all pending  
 on his behavior and then to be returned to our Service.  
 Lucke Farley Dunows Paol.  
 Murray Mook Lowen Wobley.  
 Timber Dood and Glove with Ten brot home a large Gum log - a better  
 Rolling Ditchfete with Six and No 1 Roller, hauling 2 Harrows, on the  
 Fortu with Four and No 2 Roller upon the Barley ground  
 Collier Wolstencroft with Six moving the three and three ponies at  
 at the N.W. Corner of the Dick  
 at the End

Welsh continued to misbehave, feigning injury, arguing with the overseer and being drunk. Collins was sent to the Female Factory to be "placed in the crime class for the remainder of her term (13 years) never more to be assigned".

History tells us that such was the shortage of women in the colony that she was assigned to many other settlers until eventually becoming a free woman.

The story explains why most items used by convicts at Brickendon Estate were branded 'W.A.' and all drawers, cupboards and doors in the homestead could be locked.



Woolmers Homestead  
c1820, Woolmers Estate.



# Convict stories: Croquet Lawn

FROM WOOLMERS ESTATE





The Woolmers Estate croquet lawn is one component of the four main parts of the Walled Garden established in the mid-1840s. The greater walled garden is surrounded by high brick walls to the south and east which served as a private pleasure ground for the Archer family and their guests. This extensive area of lawn lies to the north of the house museum and may have accommodated a pre-1840s ornamental garden of some sort, but by the late 1860s the lawn was well established and used for games of croquet. This area was to separate the domestic realm from the working parts of the estate and were seen as of prime importance in the convict era.



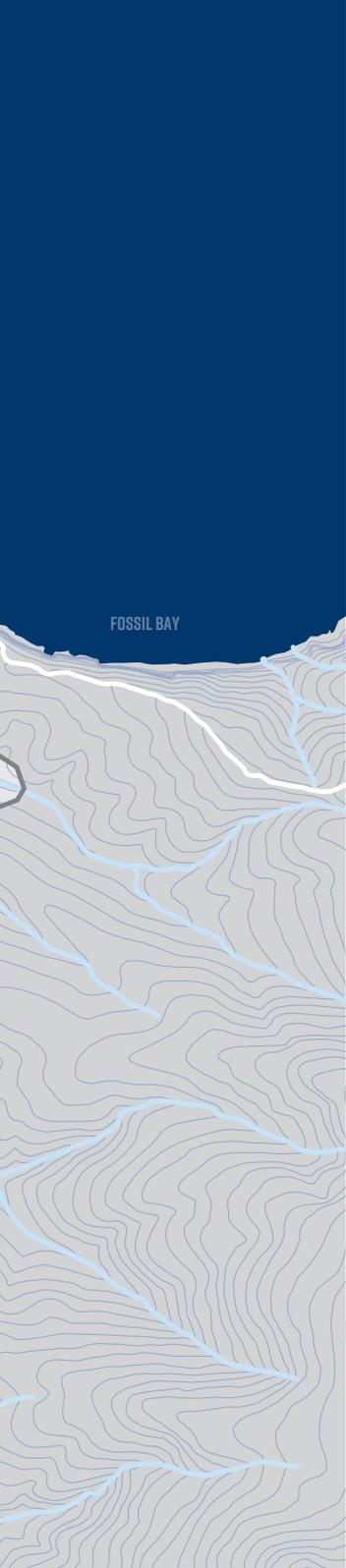
# Darlington Probation Station

TASMANIA (1825–32 & 1842–50)

Darlington Probation Station, located within the Maria Island National Park off Tasmania's east coast, initially functioned as a convict station and later as a probation station for male convicts. The convict station operated at Darlington between 1825 and 1832 and was set up to relieve pressures on other penal settlements due to the increasing number of convicts. Following the closure of the earlier station, a probation station reoccupied the site from 1842.

The location of Maria Island was ideal for a probation station, as it was located away from free settlements; boasted an abundance of natural resources that could be exploited through convict labour; and being an island, was a difficult place from which to escape. Under the probation system, convicts progressed through separate classes which determined both their living and working conditions, including labour detail, sleeping and eating arrangements and privileges. Convicts could advance through the classes—'crime class', 'second class' and 'first class' according to their behaviour—with unruly conduct being met with demotion to a lower class, or time in solitary confinement.

The physical architecture of the buildings and their situation within the landscape clearly reflects the operation of the probation system including the varied living and working conditions for the three classes of convicts. A strict regime of surveillance and routine was also enforced with convicts mustered four times daily as well as work, meal, school and church hours being stringently enforced. Unlike most penal stations, the accommodation for the civil and military officers was in close proximity to the convict compound where convicts lived and worked, reinforcing the focus on surveillance and rehabilitation. To emphasise this, the site was well lit and regular



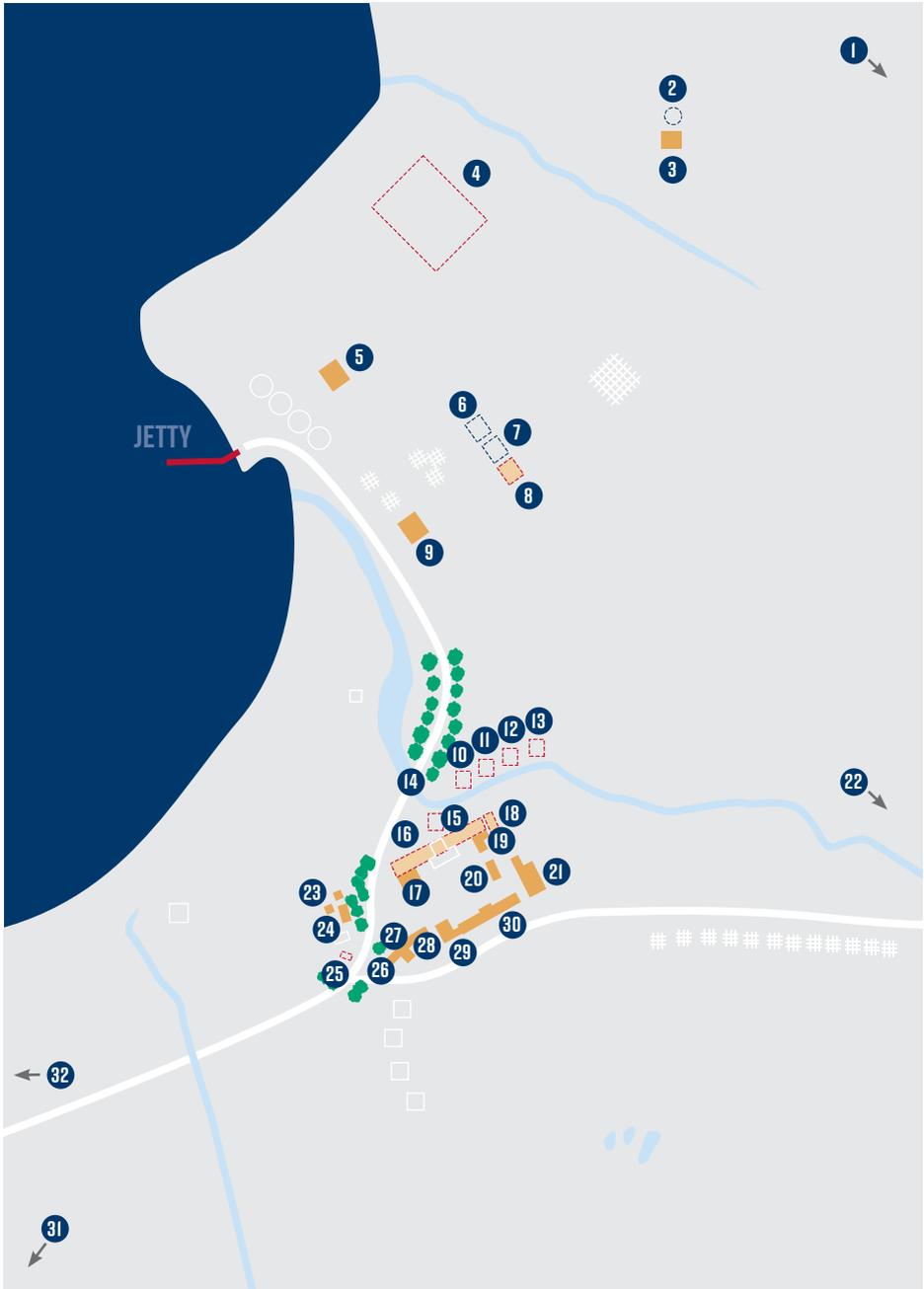
FOSSIL BAY

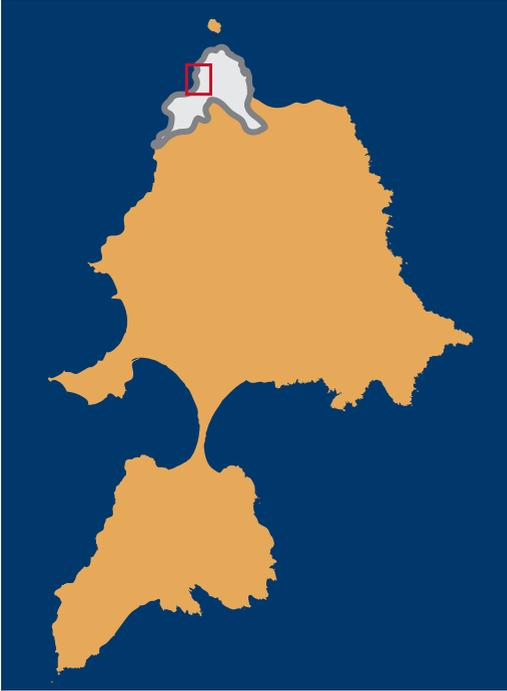
patrols took place. Darlington is the most representative and intact example of a probation station in Australia with 14 convict buildings and substantial ruins in a layout that reflects the key features of the probation system in Van Diemen's Land. The bushland setting of 361 hectares has remained relatively unchanged since the convict era. Most of the buildings are Old Colonial Georgian style and are simple and functional with plain, whitewashed brick walls and very little decoration. At its peak, the convict population reached 492 in 1846; however Darlington was closed in 1850, following the cessation of the probation system in Van Diemen's Land and the island opened up for public leasehold.





The Barn at Darlington, Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service (above). View from Bernacchi Creek towards the Commissariat Store and silos, Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service (left).





## DARLINGTON PROBATION STATION

1. Convict Brickfields and Lime Kilns
2. Mill ruins
3. Miller's Cottage
4. Cemetery
5. Convict Barn
6. Surgeon's Quarters
7. Hospital
8. Religious Instructor's Quarters
9. Commissariat Store
10. Washhouse & Laundry
11. Store Building
12. Military Barracks
13. Convict Gaol
14. Bridge
15. Convict Workshops
16. Separate Apartments
17. Convict Administrative Offices
18. Solitary Cells
19. Bakehouse/Clothing Store
20. Cookhouse/Bread Store
21. Mess Hall/School Room/  
Roman Catholic Chapel
22. Reservoir
23. Assistant Superintendent's  
Quarters
24. Senior Assistant  
Superintendent's Quarters
25. Superintendent's Quarters
26. Clergyman's Quarters
27. Smith O'Brien's Quarters
28. Officers' Quarters
29. Protestant Chapel
30. Convict Barracks
31. Oast House/Hop Kiln ruins
32. Commandant's Cottage ruin



World Heritage area



Convict structure



Convict ruin



Convict archaeological site



Convict archaeological remains



Non-convict remains



Non-convict structure



Aerial view of Darlington,  
Maria Island National Park.  
Photographer: Joe Shemesh



# Convict stories: William Smith O'Brien

FROM DARLINGTON PROBATION STATION

**BREAKING TIES WITH THEIR LOCAL SUPPORT NETWORKS, EXPELLED POLITICAL PRISONERS WERE OFTEN SENT FAR FROM HOME. POLITICAL PRISONER, WILLIAM SMITH O'BRIEN, WAS HELD AT DARLINGTON PROBATION STATION.**

William Smith O'Brien entered the Irish parliament in 1828 at a time when English rule was seen as particularly oppressive, particularly towards the Catholic majority. Although a Protestant country gentleman, he was outspoken on justice for the Irish people and supported Catholic emancipation. He was a humanitarian and stood for equal access to education, with a focus on Irish Catholics and the poor. During the potato famine, he actively sought relief for the starving

masses. Despairing at the lack of improvement, he was involved with an uprising for which he was charged with high treason and sentenced to be hung. This was commuted to transportation for life. Sent to Maria Island in 1849, Smith O'Brien was held at Darlington Probation Station. He was imprisoned in a small cottage and isolated from all contact apart from the two men who delivered his food and inspected his quarters. After a failed attempt at escaping by boat in 1850, he was moved to Port Arthur. A great thinker, Smith O'Brien's period of imprisonment compelled him to generalise his ideas on the running of society and gave rise to his two-volume *Principles of Government* (1855). Written "as a citizen of the world" largely for political students to discuss, he suggests principles and solutions for the organisation, legislation and administration of public affairs.



Chapters were titled Police, Treatment of Prisoners, Relief of the Poor, Public Works, Education of the People, Amusement of the People, Finance, Foreign and Colonial Affairs are included. On education he said, "The state ought to take measures for bringing within reach of every child in the community that sort of instruction which is best suited to its circumstances, and best calculated to promote its welfare and advancement in life..." Even today this legacy makes for fascinating and thought provoking reading.

Yengo National Park

Dharug National Park

Old Great North Road

DEVINES HILL

FINCHS LINE

▲ MT WISEMAN

Dharug National Park

WISEMANS FERRY

1. One mile marker
2. Arrow engraving
3. '25 Rd Party' engraving
4. Convict stockade and hut remains
5. Hangmans Rock
6. 'JB' engraving
7. 'J.T.S.' engraving
8. Stockpile - abandoned store
9. Mile marker
10. Hut site



Quarry



World Heritage area



Convict engraving



Convict ruin



Convict archaeological remains



Hangmans Rock



Track

# Old Great North Road

NEW SOUTH WALES (1828–35)

Old Great North Road, located near Wiseman's Ferry, approximately 60 kilometres north west of Sydney, is a 7.5 kilometre portion of the Great North Road (250 kilometres long) constructed by convict gangs.

The Great North Road was part of a network of 'Great Roads' that was designed to mirror the 'Great Roads' of England and was built between 1826 and 1836 by around 720 convicts under secondary punishment. Governor Darling promoted the building of roads to assist in the development of the colony. Built as one of the Governor's three 'Great Roads', it linked Castle Hill just west of Sydney to the fertile and recently settled Hunter Valley. Expansion of the colony and exploration were key aims of Governor Darling's administration, sanctioned by the British Government, which saw the economic opportunities they would bring, taking the colony from penal outpost to colonial settlement.

The system of using convicts in road gangs was a form of additional punishment for re-offending convicts or offences committed in the colony. It was the product of an extensive public works program and was designed to usher in harsher punishment for convicts as a method of deterrence for criminal activity in Britain and Australia. The road gangs worked in isolated and harsh conditions for months on end with limited shelter from the elements and reduced rations. Convicts quarried huge sandstone blocks out of steep hillsides, blasted massive sandstone formations, cleared trees, carried and broke up rocks, and graded and constructed heavy masonry retaining walls, side drains and culverts. The very worst convicts were forced to work in leg irons. Despite the overwhelming focus on harsh labour for punishment, the moral redemption of convicts through labour was still important to the colonial authorities.



The Old Great North Road landscape incorporates a 1.8km kilometre section known as Devine's Hill and a five kilometre road called Finch's Line (abandoned before completion) in a natural bushland setting undisturbed since the convict era. This segment of the road contains a vast array of features associated with convict road building, including archaeological remains of a convict stockade which housed convicts during the building of the road, the landscape settings of the roads including the massive retaining walls and buttresses on Devine's Hill, culverts and the landscape along the roads and between the routes. The layout of the site reflects the operation of convict road gangs to punish re-offending convicts and revive the fear of transportation, while expanding and linking settlements at the same time. By the late 1830s the road route was replaced by steamboat travel and never functioned as the intended main road to the north.

Retaining wall, Old Great North Road. Photographer: Sarah Abad, 2019 (above). Hangman's Rock, Devines Hill. Photographer: Sarah Abad, 2019 (right).





Interpretation at Devines Hill,  
Old Great North Road.  
Photographer: Sarah Abad, 2019.



# Convict stories: Henry Martineer

FROM OLD GREAT NORTH ROAD

Henry Martineer was born on 24 January 1803. He was a member of a gang of eight men who counterfeited banknotes and was sentenced to 14 years of transportation to NSW in 1821. Martineer arrived in Sydney in 1822 and was assigned to Lieutenant Croker and, later, Lieutenant Ovens. He submitted petition for indulgence in October 1825 but was refused due to lack of supporting documentation. Martineer absconded from his master in 1826 and was sent to a Road Gang working between Parramatta and Baulkham Hills. He was promoted to overseer of No.9 Iron Gang and worked at Mount Manning, 25 miles north of Wisemans Ferry, between January and December 1830.

Solomon Wiseman had refused to cart supplies for the road gang from Wiseman's Ferry so Martineer was assigned the job of collecting the rations for his gang and carting them up the road. Martineer apprehended

two runaway convicts and was granted a ticket-of-leave on 1 May 1830. One month later, he requested a transfer away from the road gangs at Wisemans Ferry due to alleged threats from Solomon Wiseman. According to Martineer, Wiseman:

*Threatened that he would take his horse, ride off and have his ticket taken because Martineer had refused to take a greater quantity of meat for his gang than the regulations stipulated.*

Percy Simpson intervened and recommended that Martineer be transferred. Martineer then became overseer of a road gang at Parramatta. He married Elizabeth Gorman on 9 March 1831 and had at least seven children, but his wife was sent to the Female Factory at Parramatta in 1836. On her release the family moved to Sydney, where Henry Martineer worked in his last job as a coachman. He died on 14 December 1857.

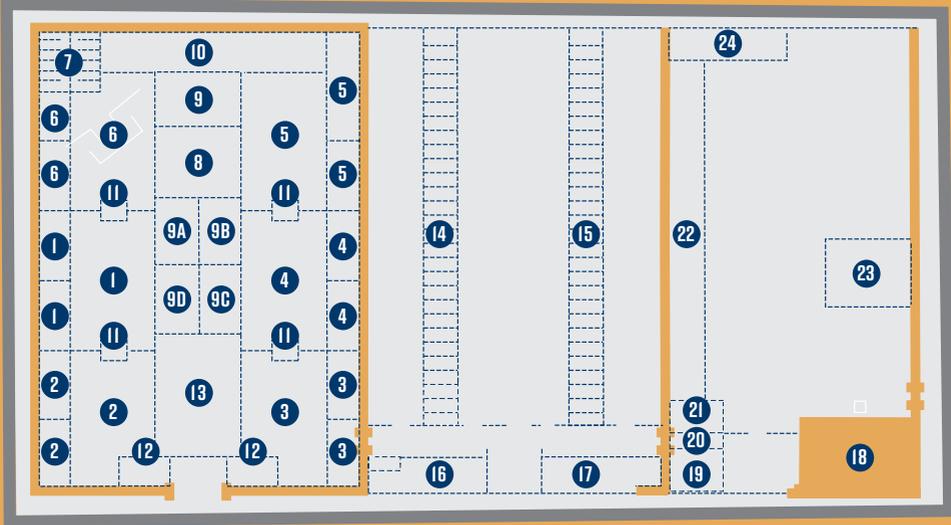




## YARD I (1828)

## YARD I (1828)

## YARD 4 (1850)



- |                                         |                                     |                                             |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| 1. Kitchen area                         | 9b. Assignment class sleeping rooms | 16. Office and Apartment West               |
| 2. Nursery for mothers and infants Yard | 9c. First class sleeping rooms      | 17. Offices and Apartments East             |
| 3. Hospital Yard                        | 9d. Cooks sleeping rooms            | 18. Matron's Cottage                        |
| 4. First Class Yard                     | 10. Work shops                      | 19. Submatrons Cottage                      |
| 5. Assignables Class Yard               | 11. Privies                         | 20. Covered walkway to Yard 3               |
| 6. Crime Class Yard                     | 12. Office's/Store room             | 21. Cookhouse / Washhouse                   |
| 7. Solitary punishment cells            | 13. Wood Yard                       | 22. Nursery apartments for babies and women |
| 8. Original Chapel                      | 14. Solitary Apartment blocks West  | 23. Shelter Shed                            |
| 9. Second Chapel                        | 15. Solitary Apartment blocks East  | 24. Privies                                 |
| 9a. Crime class sleeping room           |                                     |                                             |



World Heritage area



Evidence of convict buildings



Convict structure



Non-convict structure

# Cascades Female Factory

TASMANIA (1828–56)

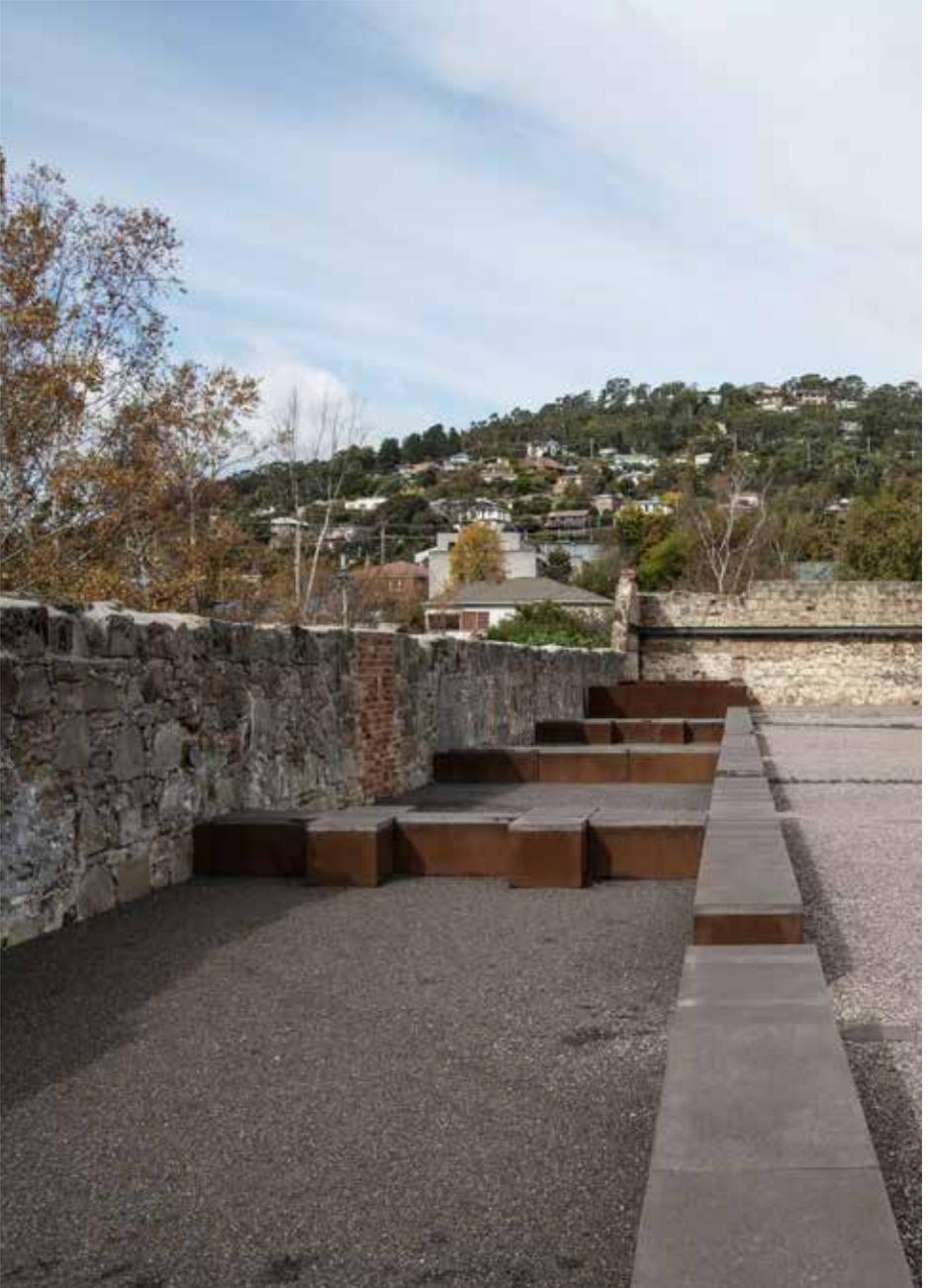
The Cascades Female Factory was built in a cold valley at the base of Kunanyi/Mount Wellington. It was separated and hidden from the main colony, yet played a pivotal role in the penal transportation system. Approximately 25,000 female convicts were transported to Australia, comprising only 15 to 17 percent of the convict population. However, convict women made an important contribution to the development of the colonies through their labour and their vital role in family formation, ultimately leading to greater social cohesion. Concerns about the potentially corrupting influence of women led to the establishment of female factories to house, employ, manage, control and reform female convicts.

Female factories were self-contained, multifunctional, purpose-built institutions serving as places of incarceration, punishment, hospital care, work and reform of female convicts. Upon arrival, girls and women were classified into three classes according to their behaviour. The third class (crime class) convicts required punishment, were given a meagre diet and had their clothes labelled with a large yellow 'C'. Members of the second class (probation class) received a better diet and bore the letter 'C' on only one sleeve.

Female convicts in the first class (assignable class) wore unmarked clothing and could be assigned to free settlers. There was also a hospital class and nursery class for convicts with babies. While in the factory, women worked at sewing clothes, carding and spinning yarn and providing substantial needlework and laundry services. The labour of female convicts in Van Diemen's Land was significant in offsetting the penal costs of the colony. The Cascades Female Factory quickly became notorious for lack of industry, overcrowding, disease, high birth and mortality rates.



By 1842 there were more than 500 women in the factory, which was originally designed for less than 250 women. By 1838 the infant mortality rate was estimated to be one in four, with a total of 900 infant deaths. The treatment of women and their infants was the subject of numerous inquiries. The original infrastructure of the factory included a hospital, nursery, laundries, cook houses, offices, administrators' apartments, separate convict apartments, solitary cells, assorted workshops, stores and a church. Yards were successively developed as the population of female convicts increased. Following the end of transportation of convicts to Tasmania, the Cascades Female factory was used as a prison from 1856 until 1877, and later as a depot for the poor and the insane. It was also used as a hospital and for assorted welfare activities. Today, Cascades Female Factory comprises three of the original five yards, the matron's cottage and substantial ruins of perimeter wall, and is one of the most intact surviving female convict sites in Australia.





Cascades Female Factory,  
Photographer: A Bett, 2018



# Convict stories: Sarah Dickinson

## FROM CASCADES FEMALE FACTORY

On 26 December 1851, convict Sarah Dickinson found herself sentenced to six months hard labour at the House of Correction, also known as the Cascades Female Factory, adjacent to the Hobart Rivulet and in sight of the imposing kunanyi/Mount Wellington. Charged for being absent from her assigned service, this was her first misdemeanour following her arrival in Van Diemen's Land four months earlier in August 1851. A single and literate housemaid from Cheshire, on 28 November 1850, Sarah had been tried at the Preston General Sessions for stealing £5.18. Found guilty, and sentenced to 7 years transportation, she arrived in Hobart aboard the *Aurora*; she was 19.

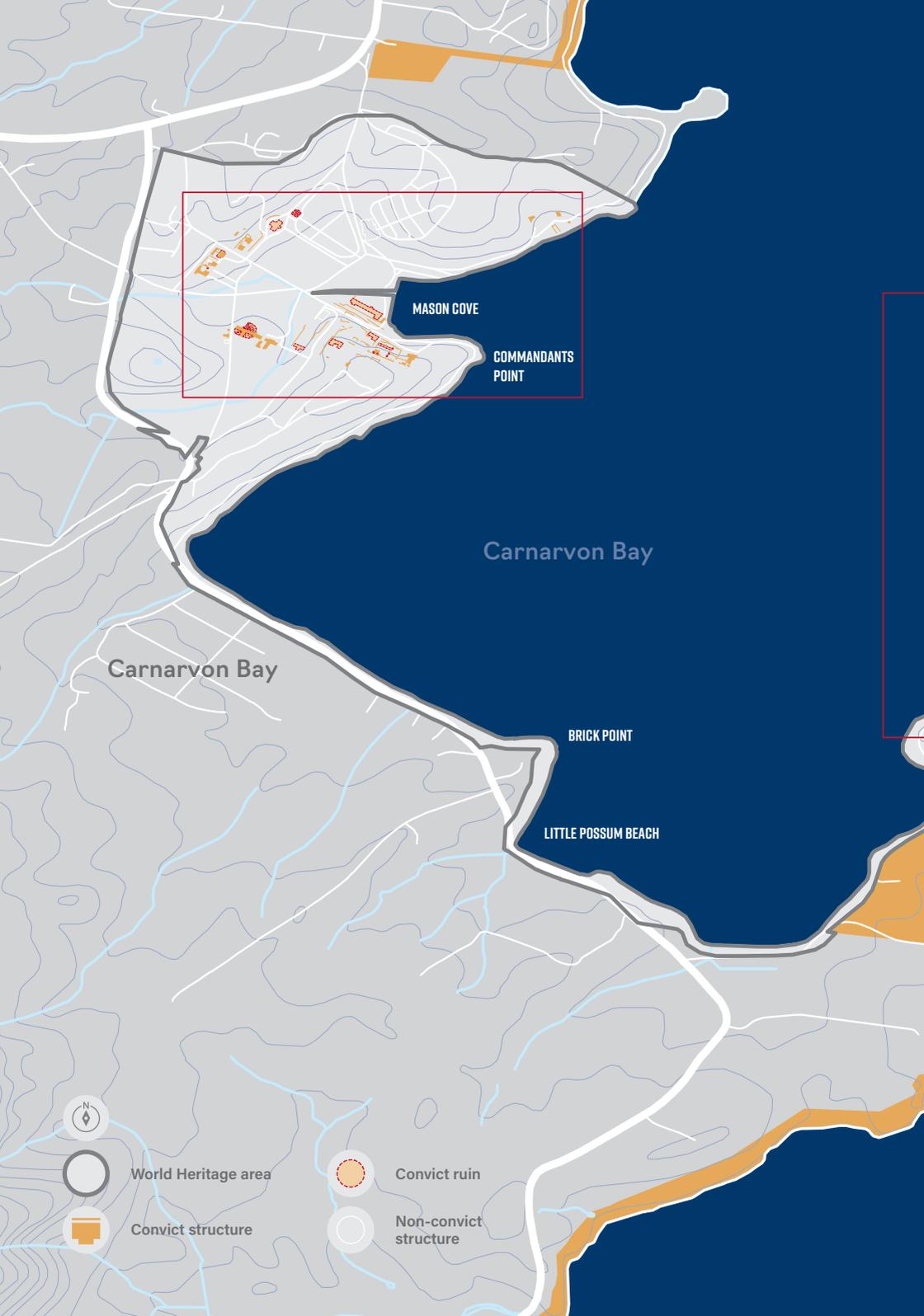
Sarah arrived at a time when transportation to the colony was nearing cessation, and serving a period of detention 'on probation' had mostly ceased. Hence on arrival, many convicts were assigned to free settlers

to work in return for food, clothing and shelter, and this was no different for Sarah. She was assigned first to Battery Point, then to a J Watkins in New Town Road, from whom she was charged with being absent in December 1851. Once her sentence at Cascades Female Factory ended, Sarah relocated to the north of the island following an order "not to enter service in the district of Hobart Town". By August 1852, Sarah was assigned to Mrs T W Archer at the historic Woolmers estate where she remained for a few months before transferring to Longford. It is here that she most likely met her husband to be, George Castell, also a convict having been transported in 1848 for desertion from the 3rd Dragoons; he was also a musician and copperplate printer. Their application for permission to marry was approved and they married at the Wesleyan Chapel in Longford on 14 April 1852.

John Skinner Prout (1805-1876),  
The Female Factory from Proctor's Quarry 1844,  
hand coloured lithograph, 27.3 cm x 40.7 cm  
(image), 35.7 cm x 49.5 cm (sheet), Purchased  
1939, Collection: Royal Society of Tasmania,  
Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, AG695.



Sarah gained her ticket-of-leave in July of 1854, and apart from receiving fines for drunkenness on three separate occasions in 1855, she received her Conditional Pardon in 1856 and Free Certificate at the completion of her original term of transportation in 1858.



Carnarvon Bay

Carnarvon Bay

MASON COVE

COMMANDANTS POINT

BRICK POINT

LITTLE POSSUM BEACH



World Heritage area



Convict structure



Convict ruin



Non-convict structure

# Port Arthur Historic Site

TASMANIA (1830–77)



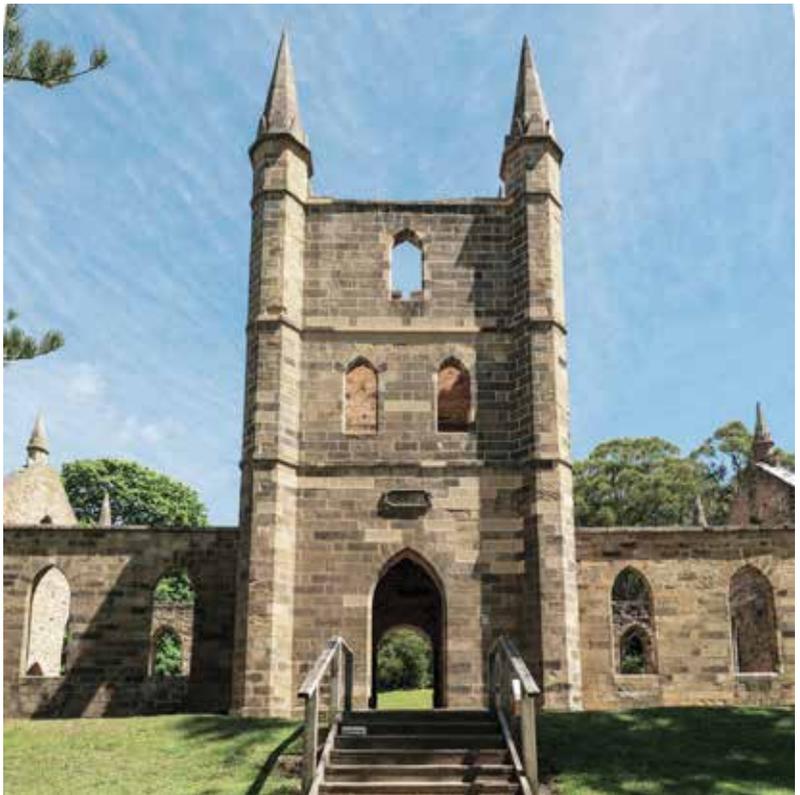
The Port Arthur Historic Site, located on the south side of the Tasman Peninsula, began as a timber-getting station in 1830. The site then operated as a penal station for secondary offenders between 1833 and 1877. Lieutenant-Governor Arthur envisaged that Port Arthur would be ‘a place of terror’ that combined hard labour and unremitting surveillance. His aim was to produce both useful goods—such as timber and shoes—and useful citizens, as reformed men rejected their previous lives of crime and embraced a law-abiding future.

Convicts were employed in dangerous and arduous labour including timber felling and quarrying sandstone. This was part of the punishment regime imposed on convicts at Port Arthur but also part of the drive to economic self-sufficiency. As an incentive to reform, convicts were taught a trade, and to read and write as well as regularly exposed to moral and religious teaching. Until 1848 convicts could be punished with flogging but a shift in ideas about punishment of convicts occurred after 1848, and psychological coercion replaced corporal punishment. From 1849 to 1877 all new arrivals were confined for varying periods in the Separate Prison. Men who reoffended on the settlement would also be punished by incarceration here. Each man spent 23 hours each day alone in his cell and silence was enforced at all times; one hour’s exercise and Sunday religious service at the Chapel were the only respite. By the late 1850s, Port Arthur was also a welfare station, and the Asylum and the Paupers’ Deport were built to accommodate those broken in body and mind. Across the bay from Port Arthur is Point Puer, the site where about 3,500 convict boys, aged nine to eighteen, were sent between 1834 and 1849. The boys were to be rehabilitated through religious and moral training, instruction in basic literacy and training for a trade. These included boat-building, tailoring, shoemaking, carpentry,



Penitentiary, Port Arthur Historic Site.  
Photographer: James Westcott (above)  
Port Arthur Historic Site.  
Photographer: A. Bett (right)

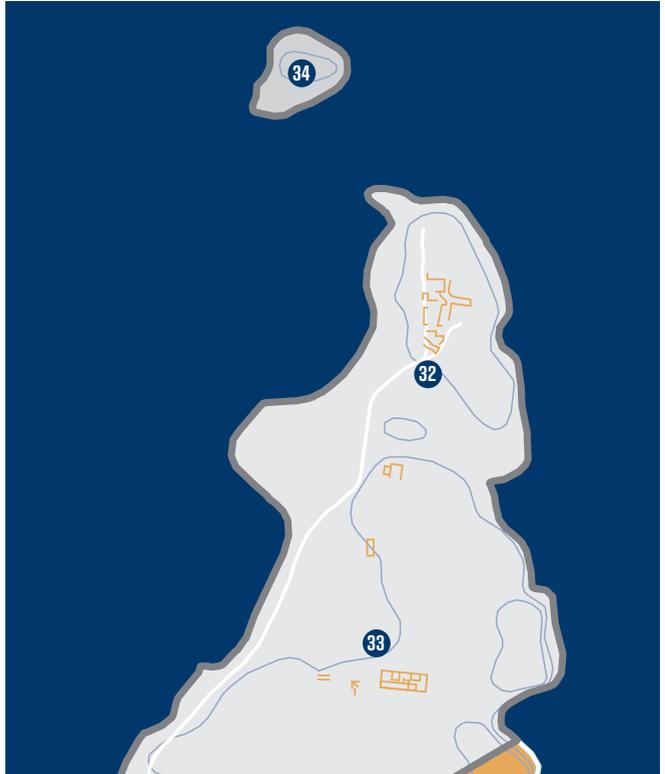
blacksmithing, stone masonry and agricultural skills. Although the convict boys were younger than the male convicts, they often received similar punishments to adults, such as reduced rations, beatings, incarceration in separate solitary cells or hard labour including stone breaking or timber getting. Many elements of the site reflect the operation of the penal station as a major industrial complex. Port Arthur today comprises more than 30 convict-built structures and substantial ruins in a picturesque landscape of 136 hectares. The extensive suite of structures and their layout reflect the importance of the penal station, its efforts towards self-sufficiency and the evolution of global and local penal practices over several decades. Port Arthur was eventually closed as a penal settlement in 1877, more than 24 years after transportation to Van Diemen's Land ceased.





## PORT ARTHUR

- |                                                 |                                                 |                                              |
|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| 1. Commandant's House (1833)                    | 12. Penitentiary (1845)<br>(Former granary)     | 22. Junior Medical Officer's<br>House (1848) |
| 2. Senior Military Officer's<br>Quarters (1833) | 13. Workshops site (1830)                       | 23. Accountant's House (1845)                |
| 3. Guard Tower (1836)                           | 14. Sawpits site (1856)                         | 24. Parsonage (1843)                         |
| 4. Law Courts (1846)                            | 15. Prisoner Barracks<br>site (1830)            | 25. Church (1837)                            |
| 5. Officer's Quarters (1844)                    | 16. Paupers Mess (1864)                         | 26. Government Cottage (1853)                |
| 6. Military Barracks site                       | 17. Asylum (1868)                               | 27. Quarry and stone yards<br>sites (1855)   |
| 7. Smith O'Brien's Cottage<br>(c.1850)          | 18. Separate Prison (1849)                      | 28. Overseers' Quarters<br>sites (1847)      |
| 8. Hospital (1842)                              | 19. Farm Overseer's Cottage<br>and Dairy (1858) | 29. Clerk of Work's House<br>(1848-57)       |
| 9. Officers' Quarters<br>sites (1834)           | 20. Visiting Magistrate's<br>House (1847)       | 30. Master Shipwright's House<br>(1834)      |
| 10. Commissariat Store<br>site (1830)           | 21. Roman Catholic Chaplain's<br>House (1844)   | 31. Lime Kiln (1854)                         |



## POINT PUER

### 32. Workshops area includes:

Workshops, Barracks, Stonecutters Shop, Boat Builders Shop, Exempt room, Cookhouse, Bakehouse, Jetty site, Superintendent's House, Catechist's House, Sawpit, School/Chapel, Timber yard, Wharf, Stone lined pit, Ponds, Earthworks, Foundation trenches, Quarry

### 33. Gaol area includes:

Soldiers hut, Line of demarcation, Solitary cells, Separate Apartments, Keepers hut, Cell foundations, Gaol, Aqueduct, Well, Gaol Keepers House, Military Barracks, Separate Apartments, Southern Jetty

### 34. Isle of the Dead includes:

Headstones, Tidal benchmark



World Heritage area



Convict structure



Convict ruin



Port Arthur Historic Site.  
Photographer: D. Kramer, 2016



# Convict stories: Henry Singleton

FROM PORT ARTHUR HISTORIC SITE

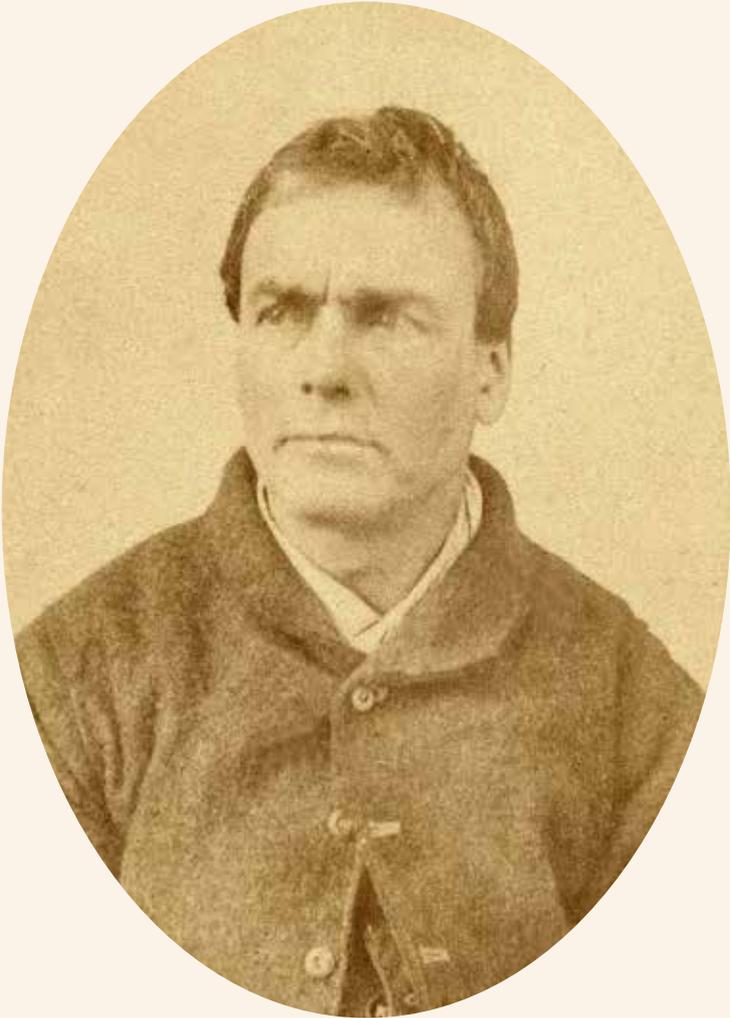
Drunken and incompetent warders were easy prey for the enterprising Henry Singleton. When they gave him access to keys, he saw his chance.

Henry Singleton arrived on Norfolk Island in 1851, sentenced to 14 years for stealing shirts. He was 'a bad character,' constantly in trouble for refusing to work, being dirty and disobedient, talking and having money improperly in his possession, insubordination and using threatening language. He received many short sentences of hard labour or solitary confinement. Sent to Port Arthur in 1853, he continued to refuse to work, and to be disobedient and insolent, and received more spells in solitary for his pains.

After a brief period of freedom, he was tried again in 1860 for stealing five pigs, and sentenced to four years at Port Arthur. Free again, he then broke into a building to steal and was sent back to Port Arthur for five years. While in the Separate Prison, he was caught with a crowbar trying to break

out with another man, and received three more years' imprisonment, including a year in the Separate Prison with 30 days in the punishment cell.

Later that same year Henry was contemplating a solo escape. He had got hold of a set of keys; drunken warders gave them to him so he could let them back into the Prison when they were incapable, and he made his own set. But his nerve failed him, and he handed the keys in. He was not punished but the warders involved were sacked. By 1875 he was free with a ticket-of-leave. After two more offences, larceny and a burglary that earned him 14 years' imprisonment, he disappears from the records. By then he would have been 65 years old. The Separate Prison was built so that prisoners could be reformed through solitary contemplation of their sins. Visitors today can experience the profound isolation in which prisoners were held there.



Henry Singleton circa 1873-4,  
photograph attributed to Boyd,  
Reproduced courtesy of Queen  
Victoria Museum and Art Gallery.



SURFACE WORKING / SHAFTS

SURFACE WORKING / SHAFTS

SURFACE WORKING / SHAFTS

MAIN SETTLEMENT

PLUNKETT POINT

Norfolk Bay



World Heritage area



Convict ruin



Coal dumps and mullock heaps



Coal workings and transport

# Coal Mines Historic Site

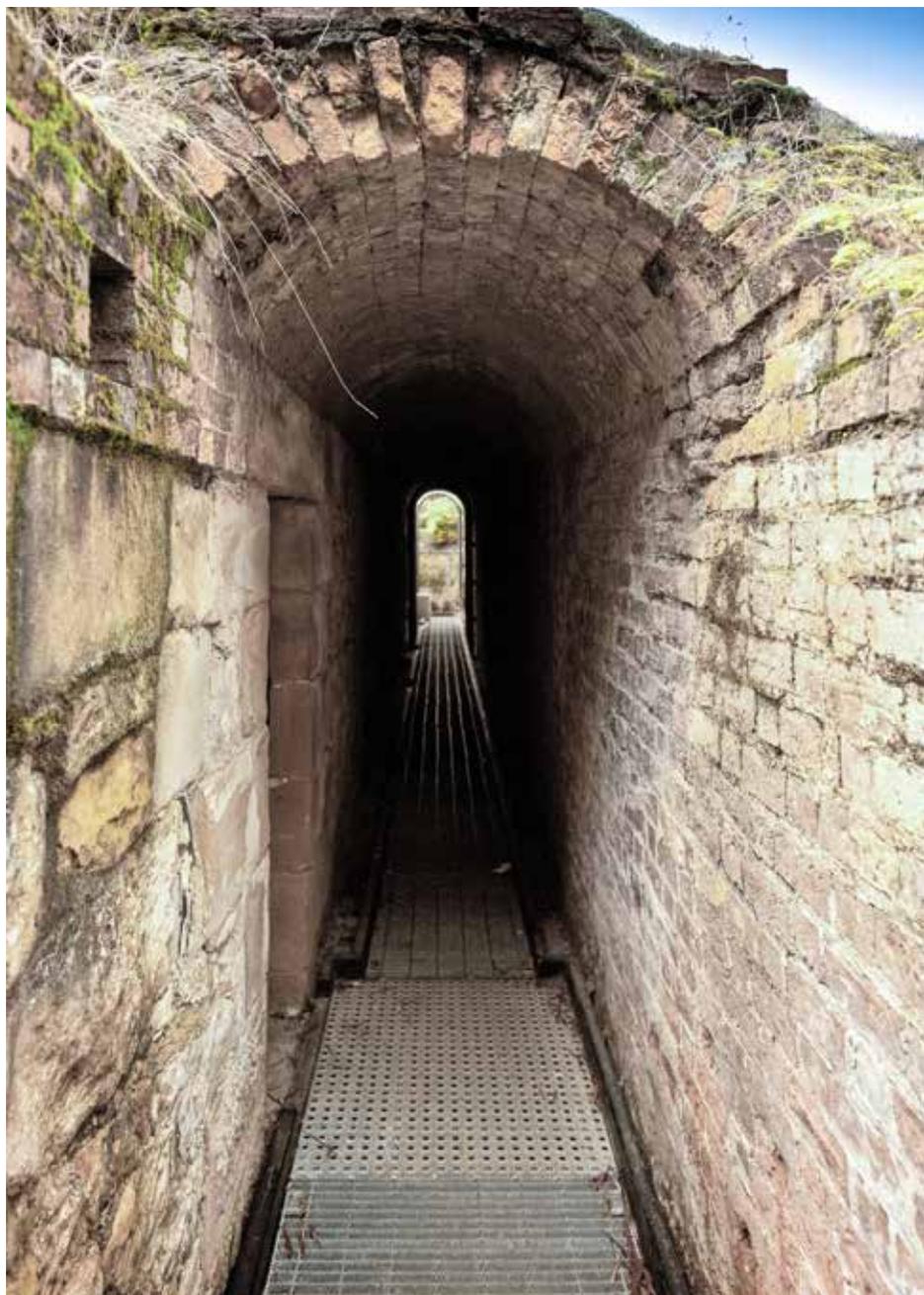
TASMANIA (1833–48)

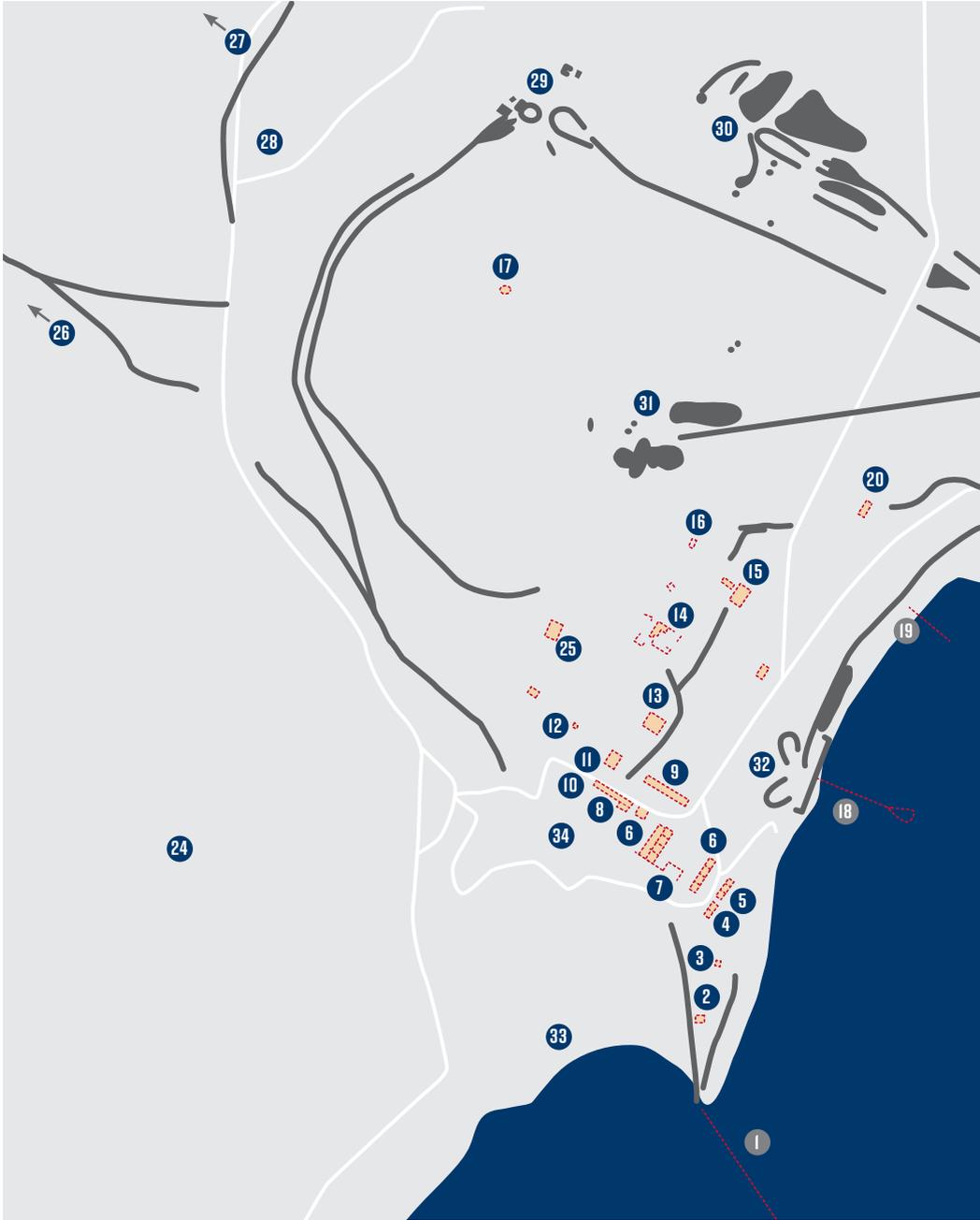
The Coal Mines Historic Site, which operated as a penal colliery between 1833 and 1848, is located on the north side of the Tasman Peninsula, beside the tranquil waters of Little Norfolk Bay. The Coal Mines played an important role in the development of the colony of Van Diemen's Land. At its peak the Coal Mines held up to 500 convicts plus another 100 people including officers, guards and their families. In 1840, when the assignment system was abandoned, it was reorganised as one of several probation stations established on the Tasman Peninsula; it was designed to exploit natural resources and provide for the reform of convicts through hard labour in a secure and isolated environment.

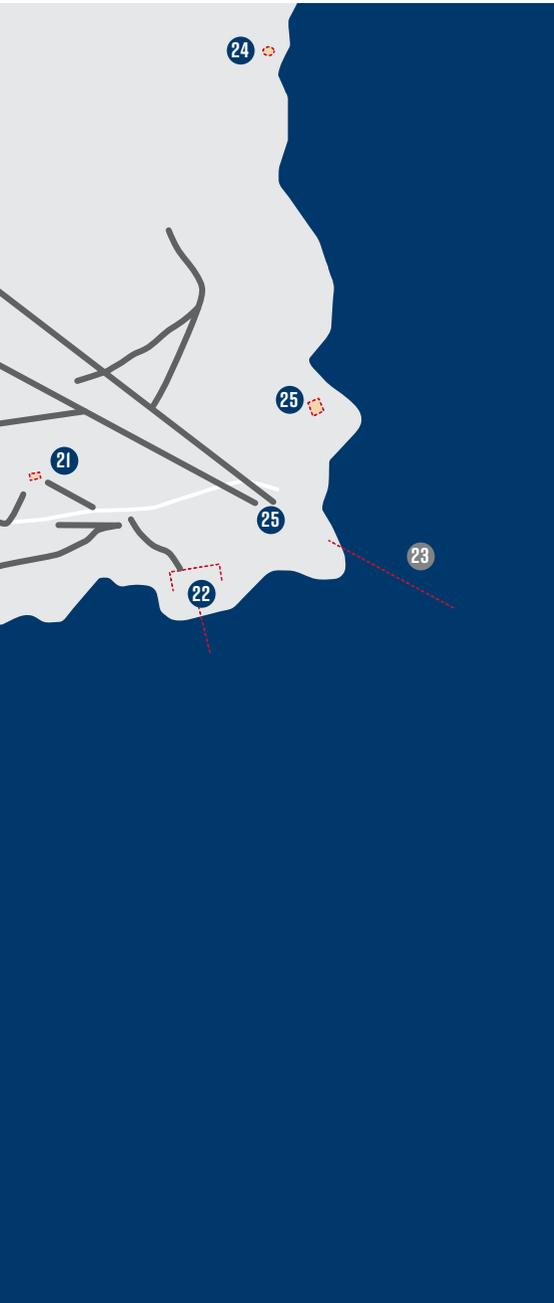
The site was considered to be a place of severe punishment and the records of floggings and additional punishments demonstrate the British government's objective of punishing criminals as well as deterring crime in Britain. Men worked for eight-hour shifts day and night in the appalling conditions of the mines, while other convicts were engaged in the building of infrastructure and the operation of the station. These operations included quarrying sandstone for buildings, making and firing bricks from local clay, lime burning to provide lime for mortar and leather tanning. During its operation the mines produced over 60,000 tonnes of coal, but the Coal Mines were officially closed as a probation station in 1848 on moral and economic grounds. The poor reputation of the Coal Mines contributed to the demise of the probation system, and was also used as an argument to sway British public opinion against the further transportation of convicts to Van Diemen's Land. The site comprises over 25 substantial building ruins as well as the remains of coal mining activities in an undisturbed bushland setting of around 214 hectares. Different types of prisoner accommodations can be seen in the ruins: the barracks with dormitory accommodation

and solitary cells, 18 solitary cells remaining from the original 36 built in 1845–46 to isolate convicts from contact with fellow prisoners, and the site of two blocks of separate convict apartments, built in 1847. The site is relatively intact and is a unique example of the important role that convicts played in the economic development of the colony.









## COAL MINES HISTORIC SITE

1. Coal Jetty site (c.1837)
2. Surgeon's House (1838)
3. Coxswain's House (c.1842)
4. Assistant Superintendent House (c.1842)
5. Engineer's Store (c.1842)
6. Prisoner Barracks (c.1838)
7. Chapel (c.1838)
8. Officer's Quarters (c.1848)
9. Bakehouse and Workshops (c.1848)
10. Solitary Punishment Cells (c.1843)
11. Separate Apartments (c. 1845)
12. Hospital (c.1848)
13. Superintendent House (c.1843)
14. Military Barracks (c.1837)
15. Senior Military Officer's House (c.1837)
16. Military cemetery (c.1848)
17. Semaphore Station (1837)
18. Coal Wharf and Jetty (c.1833)
19. Lime Kiln and Jetty (c.1837)
20. Commissariat Officer's House (c.1842)
21. Catechist (c.1842)
22. Commissariat Store and Jetty (c.1842)
23. Coal Jetty c.1842)
24. Quarry (c.1837)
25. Unidentified Buildings (c.1848)
26. Brick Kilns and Clay Pits (c.1842)
27. Stone lined shaft (c.1842-48)
28. Trial shafts (1842)
29. Surface workings / shafts (1845)
30. Surface workings / shafts (1842-43)
31. Surface workings / shafts (1842-43)
32. Surface workings / shafts (1833)
33. Shaft site (1837)
34. Main Settlement



Convict ruin



Coal dumps and mullock heaps



Coal workings and transport



Coal Mines Historic Site.  
Photographer: Jo Shemesh.



# Convict stories: John Twitty

FROM THE COAL MINES (ALSO PORT ARTHUR,  
CASCADES AND NORFOLK ISLAND)

Described as having a bad character and connections, John Twitty's home life in Birmingham came to an end when he was sentenced in October 1842 to transportation to Van Diemen's Land for 15 years, having broken into a house and stolen jewellery and clothing. A blacksmith by trade, Protestant, and unable to read or write, he was 24, married with one child, and his mother, two brothers and two sisters were all living nearby. Two previous offences had not deterred him and John and his partner in crime William Willcox, both arrived in Hobart Town on the *Gilmore* on 20 August 1843, leaving their respective families behind.

On arrival, John was ordered to serve 30 months labouring in probation gangs, including stints at Broadmarsh, Jericho, Browns River, and the Cascades Probation Station on the Tasman Peninsula not far from Port Arthur. Only one offence

was committed during this period and he emerged from gang labour in May 1846. From this point he fell into a state of repeated offending. Between 1846 and 1850 John was repeatedly absent, found concealed on board the *Prince Regent* with intent to escape from the colony, and while a constable, found under the influence of liquor – the sentence for which removed him to the Coal Mines. He had absconded one too many times when, in November 1850, the magistrate sentenced him to 12 months imprisonment and hard labour at Norfolk Island plus a directive to serve 4 months' probation on his return. He was disorderly and disobedient at Norfolk Island, and though on his return he stayed out of trouble until he gained a ticket-of-leave in May 1853, this was not to last for long.



Five months later on 19 October 1853, John was tried at the Hobart Supreme Court and sentenced to 14 years, again at Norfolk Island, for receiving a stolen carpet bag. To add to the hardship, he was ordered to be worked in heavy irons in the Quarry Gang at Port Arthur until he could be sent to Norfolk Island. *The Lady Franklin* departed Hobart, and on the night of 28 December the vessel was seized by a party of convicts led by John Twitty and two others. On 8 January 1854, when 80 miles from the north of Norfolk Island, John and 21 other convicts, launched the long boat and cutter, and fully laden with provisions, absconded – for good.

Owen Stanley, (1811-1850) *Penal Settlement, Van Diemen's Land Convict prison near the Coal Mines, (Saltwater River), 1841*, pencil and watercolour, 15.9 x 23.7cm, Gift of Mrs Charles Stanley (Eliza), the artist's sister-in-law 1900 Collection: Royal Society of Tasmania, Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery. AG1969.

## Cockatoo Island



World Heritage area



Convict structure



Convict archaeological site



Plateau



Convict ruin



Non-convict structure

1. Fitzroy Dock (c.1845-57) (excavated & partly built with convict labour)
2. Engineers & Blacksmiths Shop (c.1853-60s)
3. Underground grain silos (c.1839-41)
4. Clerk of Petty Sessions Cottage (c.1845-50)
5. Superintendent's Residence (c.1841)
6. Convict Garden Area
7. Free Overseers Quarters (c.1850-57)
8. Free Overseers Cottage foundations
9. Free Overseers Cottage
10. Lumber Yard
11. Quarry Yard
12. Solitary Cells and Stores (1839-41)
13. Convict Mess Hall and Kitchen (c.1847-51)
14. Military Officers Quarters (c.1845-57)
15. Military Guard House (1842)
16. Guard House Kitchen (1842)
17. Isolation Cells
18. Hospital (c.1839-42)
19. Prisoner Barracks (c.1839-42)
20. Water tanks

# Cockatoo Island Convict Site

NEW SOUTH WALES (1839–69)

Cockatoo Island is located in Sydney Harbour, within easy reach of Sydney, and was established as a penal station in 1839 for re-offending male convicts. It was the first time a place of secondary punishment had been located on the edge of a colonial capital close to a main settlement. Governor Gipps selected the location as it was the ideal place for hard labour due to its isolation, easy access for provisions and security, and clearly 'under the eye of the authority.'

In 1839 an initial contingent of 60 prisoners was sent to Cockatoo Island under military escort. Convicts were put to work building a prison barracks, a military guardhouse and official residences. Soon after, a strategic military and industrial decision was made by Governor Gipps to build a dry dock on the island. The Royal Navy contributed to the cost of the dock on the condition that Royal Navy ships had preferential use rights. In total over 1,400 convicts were transferred from Norfolk Island to undertake hard labour on this important infrastructure project, as well as other public works on the island. They were joined by convicts from Hyde Park Barracks in 1849. Convicts sent to Cockatoo Island were subject to harsh living and working conditions, manually excavating solid sandstone and constructing all buildings and other structures around the island. Convicts excavated 580,000 cubic feet of rock creating 14 metre sandstone cliffs just to prepare the area for the dock, a huge technical achievement in itself. Recalcitrant convicts were often confined in underground solitary cells on the edge of a cliff face, only accessible by a ladder through a trap door, that were cold, dark and damp. The construction of the Fitzroy Dock officially commenced in 1847, but the entire dockyard was not completed until 1857.



BALMAIN

The site has a range of convict-built structures including buildings, a dry dock, underground silos, and isolation cells. The layout of the station shows the segregation of military and administrative functions from areas where convicts worked and were housed. A series of underground bottle shaped silos averaging 5.7 metres deep and 6 metres wide that were hand cut by convicts out of solid sandstone can also be seen. The silos were built in response to the severe drought of 1837-39 and were part of a strategy to reduce the colony's reliance on infrequent grain shipments.

The transportation of convicts to New South Wales was suspended in 1840 and the number of convicts declined significantly over the following years until the penal station eventually closed in 1869.





Convict Barracks Kitchen, Cockatoo Island, 2013, (above). Military Guardhouse, Cockatoo Island, 2013, (left). Images courtesy of Stephen Fabling and the Harbour Trust.



Convict Barracks Courtyard and Mess Hall,  
Cockatoo Island, 2013. Images courtesy of  
Stephen Fabling and the Harbour Trust.



# Convict stories: Fredrick Ward aka 'Captain Thunderbolt'

## FROM COCKATOO ISLAND

By far the most famous for he escaped from Cockatoo Island! The threat of shark-infested waters, or drowning, did not deter him. Fred's wife, Mary Ann Bugg, swam to the island — leaving getaway tools. Fred broke free two nights later, swimming to Balmain. His wife was waiting on a fast white steed, and together they rode off into the night. For the next six and a half years he travelled highways and byways known as the infamous bushranger Captain Thunderbolt. He was eventually tracked and killed by police in Uralla, New South Wales, in 1870.

### MARY ANN BUGG

Thunderbolt's Rock is a time-worn cluster of granite boulders located just six kilometres south of Uralla on the New England Highway, New South Wales. In the town stands a life-size statue of Captain Thunderbolt. Nearby is a memorial to Constable Alexander Binning Walker, the officer who brought an end to the bushranger's

career. Largely forgotten is Mary Ann Bugg, the woman whose bush skills, charm and intelligence make her the true hero of this story.

Mary Ann was a proud Worimi woman, born to an Aboriginal mother and convict father near Gloucester on the mid-north coast of New South Wales on 7 May 1834. As a child, she was sent to an orphanage in Sydney where she was raised in the ways of the European colonists and learnt literacy, numeracy, and domestic skills.

### THE CAPTAIN'S LADY

In June 1848, less than a month after her 14th birthday, Mary Ann married ex-convict Edmund Baker in Stroud, New South Wales. She then gave birth to the first of her 15 children. Never one to sit still, she moved to Bathurst and then to Mudgee. It was there, in 1860, that she met ticket-of-leave convict Frederick Ward. He later became Captain Thunderbolt and she the Captain's Lady.



When Mary Ann fell pregnant, Ward returned her to her father's farm, near Dungog, for the baby's delivery. In taking Mary Ann home, however, Ward was in breach of the ticket-of-leave regulations, which required him to remain in the Mudgee district and attend three-monthly musters. Running late for his muster, he made his situation worse by riding into town on a stolen horse, which led to his arrest. Ward was sent back to the penal establishment on Cockatoo Island to serve the remaining six years of his previous ten-year sentence plus an additional three years for horse thievery.

### LEGENDARY BREAKOUT

In 1863, Ward became the only known convict to successfully escape Cockatoo Island. According to one legend, Mary Ann was instrumental in her husband's feat. Namely, she swam to the island from Balmain and left a file for Ward to remove his chains. After a swim through shark-infested waters, Ward made it to shore where Mary Ann was waiting with a horse and they rode to freedom.

Four years later, Mary Ann was arrested for not having a receipt for fabric bought in Maitland and was convicted for being in possession of stolen goods. She spent three months in jail but wrote a letter of petition to the New South Wales governor, explaining her situation. A visit to the fabric shop proved her innocence the shop keeper vouched for her, recalling that Mary Ann was very well spoken.

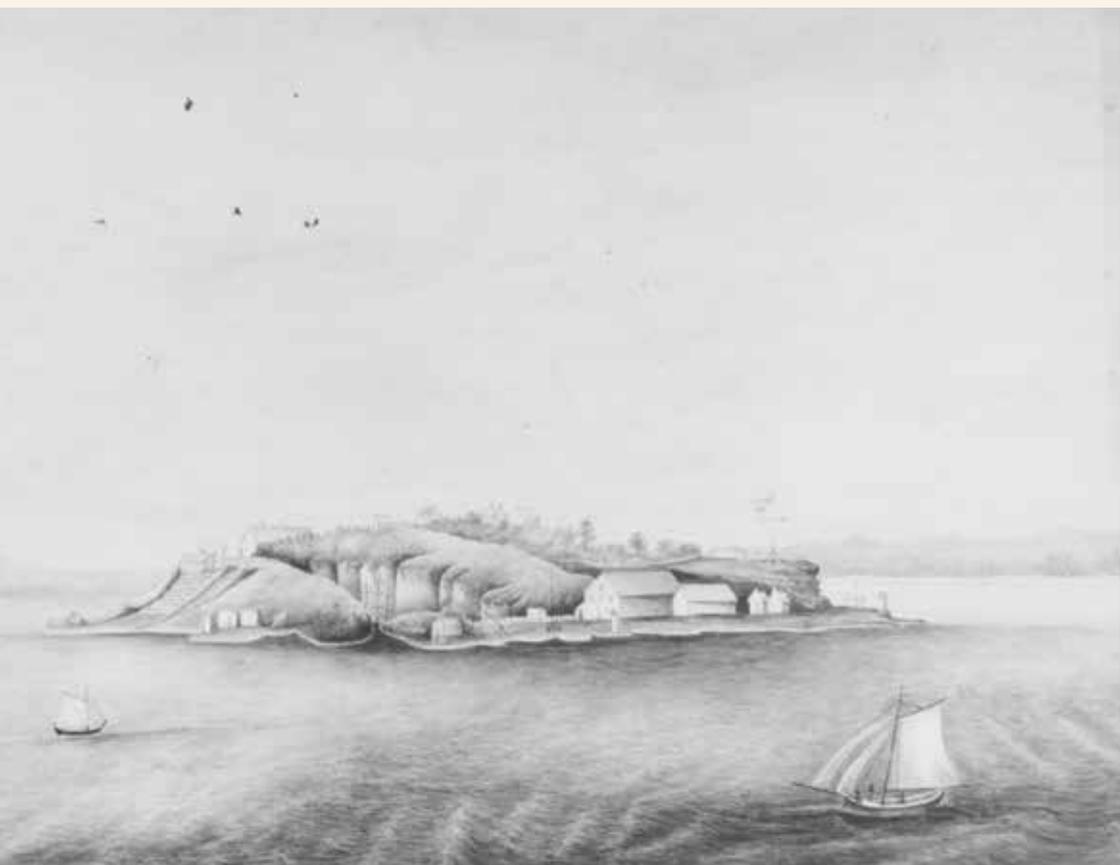
### UNDERDOG STORY

Although reports differ regarding Mary Ann's death, most believe she lived a long and quiet life as a nurse before passing away in April 1905. Her patients had no idea the woman taking their temperature was once 'Thunderbolt's Lady.'

Thunderbolt is recognised for having the longest bushranging career in New South Wales, but it is unlikely he would have survived for so long without Mary Ann's help. She taught the illiterate Thunderbolt to read. She helped provide food and shelter, spread false information to help him stay ahead of the authorities and nursed him back to health after he was shot.

There are no statues or monuments to celebrate the role of Mary Ann or other Aboriginal people as part of the bushranging experience. If what we love about bushrangers is an epic underdog story, then nobody better fits that mould than Mary Ann Bugg.





McNeilly, Mrs. Cockatoo Island from Balmain, near the Coal Mine: [Original Water Colour], 1864 / Mrs. McNeilly, 1864.



World Heritage area



Convict structure



Perimeter wall



Non-convict structure

1. Prison Perimeter Wall (1853)
2. Hospital (1857-60)
3. Exercise yards
4. East Workshops (1854-57)
5. Refractory Cell Block
6. Roman Catholic Chapel
7. Main Cell Block (1852-59)
8. Church of England Chapel
9. Fremantle Hospital & Health Services
10. Bakehouse, Cookhouse & Laundry (1855)
11. Military Guardhouse (1854)
12. Warder's Guardhouse (1854)
13. Gatehouse Courtyard
14. Convict Warder's Guardroom (1857)
15. Chaplain's residence (1857)
16. Chaplain's first residence (1853)
17. Gatekeeper's residence (1854)
18. Deputy Superintendent's residence (1854)
19. Superintendent's residence (1854-55)
20. Surgeon's residence (1855)

# Fremantle Prison

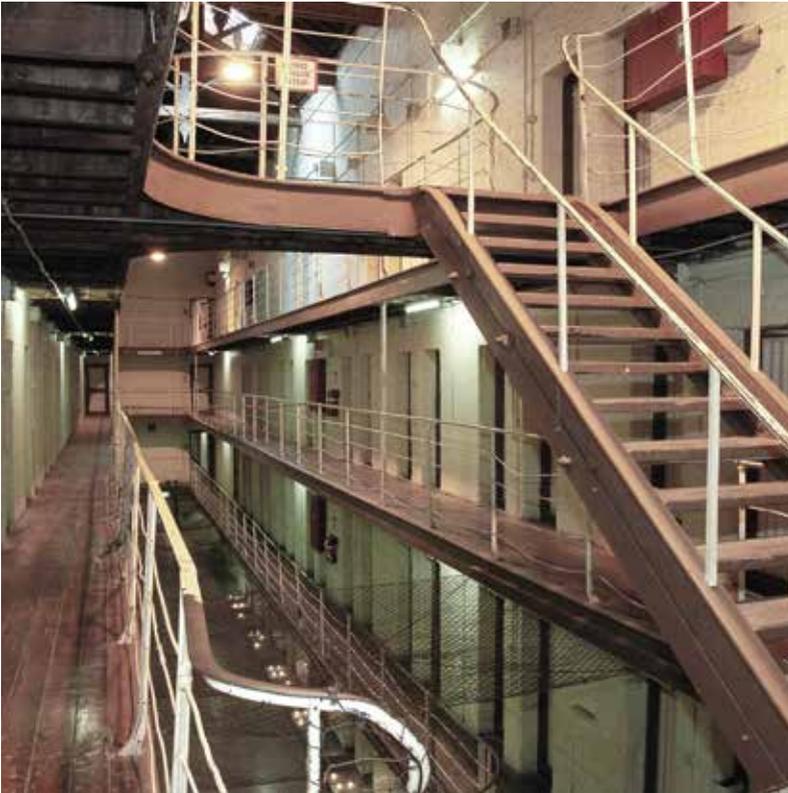
WESTERN AUSTRALIA (1852–86)

Fremantle Prison was used as a convict barracks and prison for male convicts between 1852 and 1886. While transportation had ceased in the eastern colonies by 1853—due to increasing hostile opposition and immigration stimulated by the gold rushes— it did not commence in Western Australia until 1850. Gold fever had struck eastern Australia in the 1800s, but in the west a shrinking population of settlers was struggling to make a living from the inhospitable land. Convicts were seen as the solution to the lack of resources and infrastructure that thwarted the settlers' progress in Western Australia.

Convicts supplied the physical labour needed to construct roads, bridges, houses, lighthouses, jetties, footpaths and public buildings and some convicts were also hired out to free settlers. Construction of the Prison began in 1852 using convict labour and was completed in 1859. Convicts were moved into the partially completed Main Cell Block in 1855. The conditions at Fremantle Prison differed markedly from those at penal prisons in the other colonies within Australia. The authorities in Western Australia generally had a more enlightened outlook and introduced more humane systems of punishment and reform compared to those that had existed in places like Port Arthur and Norfolk Island.

The design of the Prison was modelled on the modified panopticon design of Pentonville in Britain and includes features that reflect the penal principles of the 'Separate System.' The theory was that complete isolation was an effective form of rehabilitation. Prisoners had only minimal contact with each other while on work parties during the day. At night they were held in cells in complete isolation. Nevertheless, colonial authorities established a strict prison regime with a strong emphasis on instilling habits of industry and religious instruction, and rewards or punishments were handed out to convicts based on their behaviour.

Fremantle Prison today comprises 16 intact convict-built structures surrounded by a six metre high limestone perimeter wall. Eight of the buildings are located within the perimeter wall and eight just outside, all constructed from locally quarried limestone. The form and location of the structures at the Prison display a deliberate arrangement which reflects the order and hierarchy of the site's function as a barracks and prison. While transportation to Western Australia ceased in 1868, the Prison remained under Imperial authority until it was transferred to colonial authorities in 1886. Convicts continued to serve out their sentences at Fremantle Prison until 1906, and the site remained a place of incarceration in Western Australia until 1991.





Gatehouse, Fremantle Prison (above).  
Main Cell Block, Fremantle Prison (left).



Fremantle Prison.  
Photography: Jessica Wyld, 2013.



# Convict stories: Moodyne Joe

## FROM FREMANTLE PRISON

Joseph Bolitho Johns, aka Moodyne Joe, was Fremantle Prison's most slippery convict. He was transported to Western Australia on the *Pyrenees* for stealing food and a kettle, arriving in Fremantle on April 30th 1853.

After being conditionally pardoned in 1855, he settled in an area the local Aboriginal people called "Moodyne", but in 1861 Johns stole a horse and was arrested. He escaped by unscrewing the hinges of his cell, stole the constable's saddle and rode off on the horse he was accused of stealing.

Johns was captured and sentenced to more time at the Convict Establishment (Fremantle Prison). After earning a ticket-of-leave he was arrested for stealing an ox and sentenced to ten years. He soon absconded from a work party, and was caught after three weeks, adding another year in irons to his sentence. An attempted escape in 1866 resulted in another six months.

Johns then escaped from Fremantle Prison by absconding from solitary confinement while still in irons.

A huge manhunt was instigated and he was eventually captured and taken back to Fremantle. Governor Hampton ordered an escape proof cell specially prepared for Moodyne Joe, with jarrah lined walls and a mesh covered window. However the dark, unventilated cell, and bread and water diet, was making Johns unwell, so he was taken out to the Parade Ground daily to break rocks for exercise. When his pile of broken rocks eventually became high enough to hide him from view, Johns began to tunnel through the perimeter wall. He created a dummy of himself, using a pickaxe draped in his uniform, and escaped in his underwear. Moodyne Joe was free for two years. He was eventually recaptured in 1869 by accident, after being discovered in a vineyard cellar by a group of off-duty policemen.

Johns got his final ticket-of-leave in 1871, and married in 1879. He spent the next 21 years in and out of trouble before dying in the Fremantle Lunatic Asylum in 1900.



XVIII



## THIS BROCHURE WAS A JOINT PROJECT WITH THE FOLLOWING:



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Loop hole to the Military Guard House,  
Cockatoo Island, Photographer:  
Ashley Mackevicius, 2010 (left).

Cover illustrations: Elevation of  
Mess Shed, Cockatoo Island.



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
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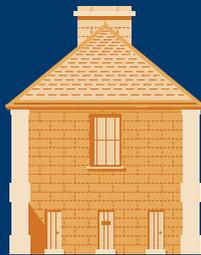


**Australian Convict Sites**  
inscribed on the World  
Heritage List in 2010

*'AS A MEANS OF MAKING MEN  
OUTWARDLY HONEST, OF CONVERTING  
VAGABONDS, MOST USELESS IN ONE  
COUNTRY, INTO ACTIVE CITIZENS OF  
ANOTHER, AND THUS GIVING BIRTH TO  
A NEW AND SPLENDID COUNTRY, IT HAS  
SUCCEEDED TO A DEGREE PERHAPS  
UNPARALLELED IN HISTORY'*

— Charles Darwin 1836





## Australian Convict Sites