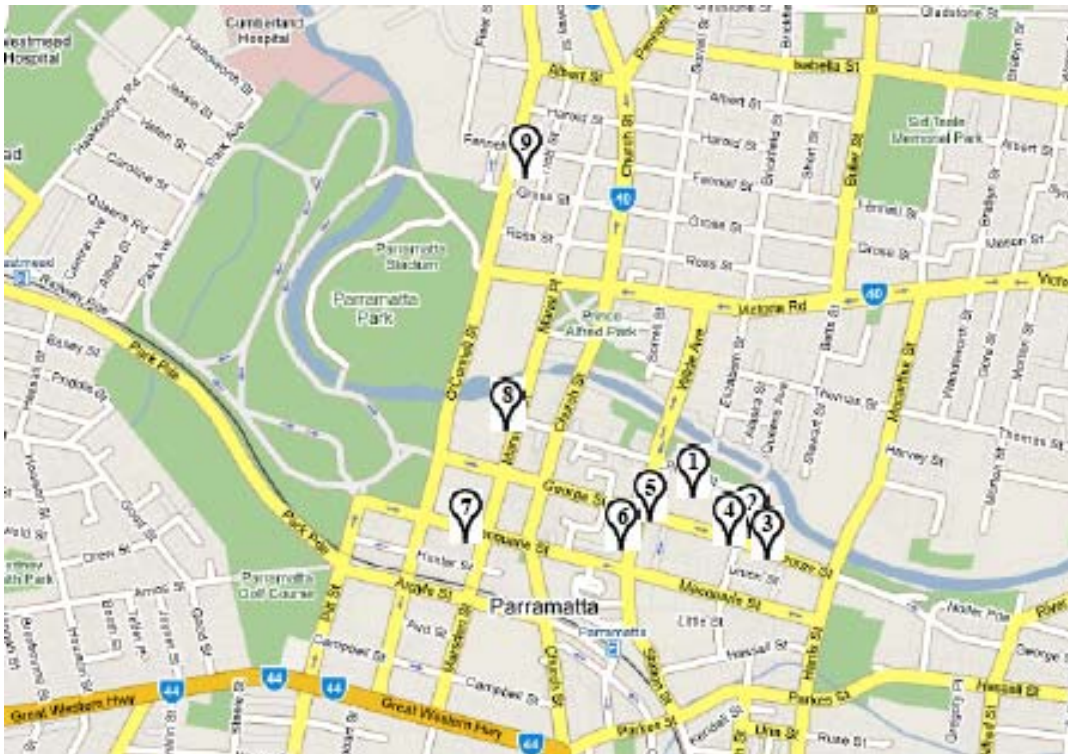


PARRAMATTA

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES WALKING TOUR

THIS BROCHURE WILL GUIDE YOU ON A SHORT WALK AROUND THE PARRAMATTA CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT WHERE A NUMBER OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES ARE PRESERVED WITH HISTORIC INTERPRETATION AND ARTEFACT DISPLAYS.

Commencing at the Charles Street Wharf on the Parramatta River, the route visits Phillip, Charles and George Streets, Smith Street, Macquarie Street Marsden Street and O'Connell Street. 5 to 6 kilometres of easy grade walking is required to complete the entire route and return to the Charles Street Wharf.

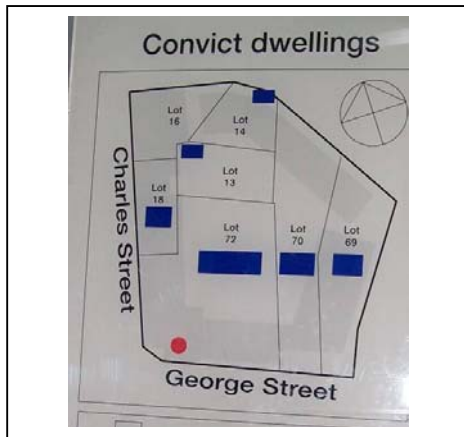


1. Convict Built Brick Barrel Drain (126-138 George St, at rear, facing Phillip St)



Part of a large brick barrel drain was uncovered in Phillip Street in 1980. In 1981 the drain was investigated by archaeologist Edward Higginbotham before the construction of a new office building. The drain is constructed of cylindrical brickwork, with 2 courses of 200mm brick and an internal diameter of 1200 to 1300mm. The sandstock bricks were bonded with lime mortar and were laid parallel along the length of the drain. Some of the bricks bear the 'arrow' frog mark indicating Government property, i.e. bricks used for public works. The drain was built between 1822 and 1827. About 50 metres of intact drain was found running through the building site. A small section was kept and interpreted in a new outdoor plaza.

2. Convict Huts & William Byrnes' Store (Meriton Apartments 180 George St)



This site contained 5 Convict huts dating from the 1790s. It was excavated by archaeologists Casey & Lowe in 2002 prior to redevelopment. Remains of 2 huts were found along with some early and probably locally made pottery including two red clay smoking pipes. Also found was evidence of the house, cellar and warehouse/store built by William Byrnes by 1830. The Byrnes family lived here for more than 80 years. Evidence of their occupation included 2 stone reservoirs, cesspits, and a number of burials of family pets, even a pony. A large quantity of artefacts were found including ceramics such as a teapot, 'shell edge' and banded wares, glass toilet and medicine or pharmaceutical bottles and many metal items.

The site also provided evidence related to the occupation of market-gardener Ah Chee, demonstrated by Chinese artefacts and agricultural implements dating from the early C20th.

Below the historic occupation layers the Meriton site also provided evidence of a much-earlier archaeological landscape, a sandy river terrace deposit south of Parramatta River, occupied by Aboriginal people for several thousand years. Large flaked ironstone cores were found.



3. Rowland Hassall's House & Pleistocene Aboriginal Occupation (109-111 George St)

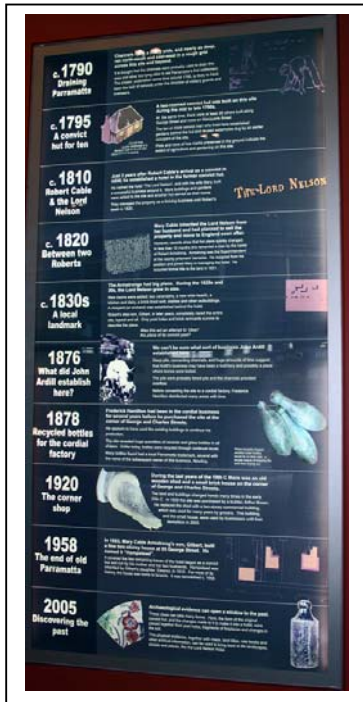


The missionary clergyman Rowland Hassall (1760-1820) occupied a house on this site by 1810 and conducted services in a weatherboard barn. His son Thomas also conducted 'the first Sunday School in NSW' here from 1813. Archaeologists Casey & Lowe excavated this site in 2004. Little archaeological evidence of the house was found since the building was sold for demolition when the family sold the site in the 1880s. Later 20th century impacts from rebuilding also cut-down the site.

The basecourse of the cellar, a brick well and some timber lined pits filled with domestic rubbish were found. Relatively few artefacts were related to the Hassall family occupation (c1804-1834).

Below the historic occupation layers the site proved extremely important for more evidence of the Parramatta sand sheet Aboriginal occupation. The site yielded an intact sequence of human occupation, with changes in site usage and stone artefact technologies over time. Carbon dating confirmed occupation c.6,000 - 8,000 years ago and perhaps reaching back even further. This date more than doubled the accepted time-frame for Aboriginal occupation of the Cumberland Plain. Items included stone hatchets and grindstones, heat-treated stones, hearths, flaked stone and cores.

4. The Lord Nelson Hotel (95-101 George Street)



Like most of early George Street this site contained at least 2 early convict huts and garden allotments. By 1809 part of the site on the George St frontage was occupied by Robert Cable and his wife Mary. They established a public house known as The Lord Nelson. The inn had several outbuildings & a garden. In 1820 Robert Cable died. His wife subsequently married Robert Armstrong. After Mary died in 1852 the site was inherited by her adopted son Gilbert Hunter Smith. He built 2 substantial houses Hampstead and Corio. Both houses survived into the 20th century.

The land on Charles Street was originally part of the Hassall family land. It was severed from the main property when Charles St was formed in 1811. It remained largely vacant until the 1850s when Henry Kidd Harpur established a general store or warehouse along Charles St.

The site was excavated by archaeologist Wendy Thorp of Cultural Resources Management in 2005 prior to redevelopment. Remains of early drainage works c1790s; a two-roomed convict hut and 'hoe marks' from early agriculture/gardening were found. The Lord Nelson was found and evidence showed it was rebuilt and expanded in the 1830s. Evidence of other activities included drainage pits, channels and lime for an abattoir or boiling down works in the 1870s, followed by a cordial factory operated by

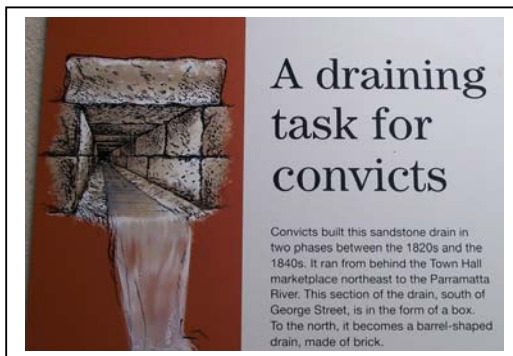
Frederick Hamilton and then Mr Newling.

5. Well from 'The Babes in the Wood' (Barrack Lane, Smith St cnr Macquarie St).



The Hawkesbury Settler hotel was on this site by 1817. By 1829 the hotel had changed its name to The Babes in The Wood. The old hotel was demolished between 1878 and 1882 when it was replaced by a large Victorian house. That building remained until c1960. In 1989 Prospect Electricity commissioned an archaeological 'dig' prior to the redevelopment of the site. The work was undertaken by archaeologist Edward Higginbotham. Remains found included a brick well which was subsequently dismantled and rebuilt in the foyer of the new office building.

6. 25 Smith Street, Convict drain and former Exeter Manor



The new building at 25 Smith St, corner Macquarie St, was built on the site of the former Exeter Manor, a 1930s block of flats embellished with Art Deco detailing. It is believed to have been designed by local architect B D McDonald. Although listed as a heritage item in the Parramatta LEP the building was demolished with only the facades retained. The facades were demolished in 2005. Some remnants were salvaged.

Archaeological work undertaken as part of the redevelopment uncovered evidence of 19th

century occupation. Some artefacts are now incorporated in the new artwork 'Shard' in the foyer. Part of the convict-built drain which commences near the intersection of Argyle St and Church St, then crosses Macquarie, Smith, George and Phillip Sts before entering the River, was also found. The section of the drain found here is in the form of a sandstone box-drain.

**7. Wheatsheaf Hotel and Convict Hut with Brick Floor and Wheelwright's Workshop
(140 Marsden Street corner 45 Macquarie Street)**



The archaeological excavation of the site was undertaken in 2005 by Dr Edward Higginbotham.

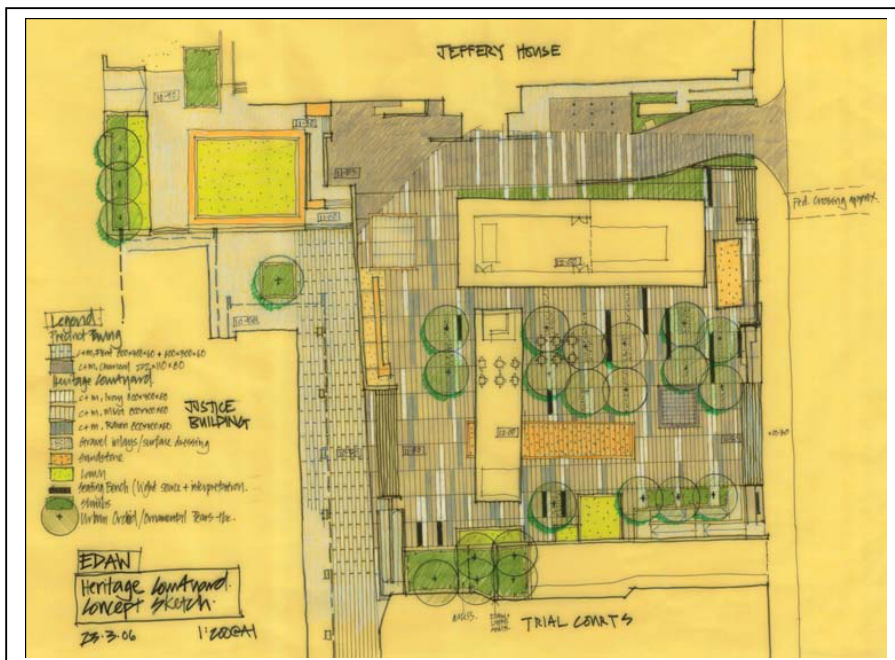
The excavation revealed some exceptionally intact and rare archaeological remains dating from the first phase of the Colonial settlement of Parramatta. Finds included a cellar built of sandstone rubble masonry with an internal timber floor from the early "Wheatsheaf" hotel circa 1801-1808.

The brick footings of 1840s houses were also found. Those footings overlie the site of a convict hut circa 1790s with some early additions. The site of the hut contains a brick floor, a feature which has not previously been found on any other early hut sites in Parramatta. Additions to the hut include an early wheelwright's forge and workshop which related to the occupation of Allotment 16 by John Walker from 1823. It is rare for a specific trade and person to be so clearly evident in the early historical archaeological record. A new development will preserve, interpret and display these significant traces of early Parramatta. The development will include an interpretation centre showcasing some of the artefacts and a public plaza where the in-situ remains can be viewed.

8. Parramatta Justice Precinct (former Parramatta Hospital site) George & Marsden Sts

The new Justice Precinct contains State significant archaeological remains. The site has been occupied for hospital uses for over 200 years. Early and significant archaeological remains were confirmed by initial archaeological testing programs in 1994 and 2001. In February 2003 a Conservation Management Plan was prepared which recommended that if the hospital site was subject to redevelopment that future open space areas should be planned to coincide with the probable areas of archaeological remains. In 2004 a Masterplan was prepared. The positioning of the major building envelopes in the proposed Masterplan created an open area in the centre of the site which anticipated in situ retention of the likely archaeological resource and its interpretation and/or presentation in an 'archaeology courtyard' created between the proposed new buildings (Trial Courts and Justice Offices) and the existing Jeffery House.

Presence of significant and intact archaeological remains within the area of the courtyard was confirmed by large scale archaeological investigations in 2005 and 2006. These were directed by Dr Mary Casey of Casey & Lowe Pty Ltd.



Design of the architecture and landscape of a new 'Heritage Courtyard' was subsequently developed to include two pavilion buildings within the courtyard to interpret and partially expose the archaeological remains of the third Colonial Hospital (1818-1848).

Hard landscaping was used to define the extent of the hospital curtilage, the location of other hospital buildings and other evidence of early convict settlement. Soft landscaping provides shade and amenity for users and it also reinforces the history of the site. Plant selection includes medicinal herbs and citrus trees, species associated with early hospital practice. The peppercorn trees reflect the "Peppercorn" a periodic journal issued by hospital nurses.

The new 'Heritage Courtyard' also includes interpretation in the form of: plaques, photographic images, signage, artefact displays and other devices, not least the architectonic representations of the former buildings in the form of new lightweight pavilion structures.



9. Baker's Mews, 52 O'Connell Street corner Grose Street



Archaeological work was completed at this site by Dr Edward Higginbotham in 2004. The work recorded evidence of a bakery operated by the Parramatta Master Baker, John Downey from the 1880s. Remnants, including evidence on standing buildings of the baker's ovens such as flues and dampers, is preserved and interpreted at Baker's Mews. In a nearby yard is a section of preserved paving from the stables which were used as part of the bakery operations. Evidence of an 1831 cottage was also found near the O'Connell Street frontage.

Another interesting occupation at the site was evidence of a vineyard established by George Suttor (1774-1859) a prominent horticulturalist in the early Colony of NSW. Suttor had been employed by the famous botanist and President of the Royal Society, Sir Joseph Banks. In 1838 Suttor acquired land near O'Connell and Grose Streets, known as the Lisle Estate. Here he established a vineyard between 1845 and 1859. Evidence found by the archaeologists included deep soil trenching along a north-south orientation related to the placement and growing of grape vines to maximise the sunlight received.

There are a series of interpretative panels which tell the story of the occupants at the site within an internal courtyard (with public access) and also some panels on the adjoining Grose Street frontage. Some artefacts selected from those found during the 'dig' are also displayed.

