**UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE CRITERIA**

**AND THE PARRAMATTA FEMALE FACTORY**

The Parramatta Female Factory, the first purpose built Female Factory was a new model for incarceration, care and distribution of colonial convict women and an expression of this social history. It predates all but three of the current World Heritage Convict Sites. It is also on the Australian National Heritage Register.

**WORLD HERITAGE CRITERA RELEVANCE**

**The Parramatta Female Factory fulfills the following World Heritage Criteria:**

**(ii)**

**to exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town-planning or landscape design;**

The Parramatta Female Factory (1818) represents the values relating to women and their incarceration during the British colonial transportation period. It is an evolution of the bridewells and penitentiaries of Britain drawing their uses of incarceration, health care and work. To this was added a marriage bureau social experiment; colonial assignment; addition to the small piecework activities in the British institutions (oakum picking) including straw plaiting, knitting, sewing and a viable manufacturing industry through spinning and weaving within the site.

**(iii)**

**to bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living, or which has disappeared;**

Female Factories no longer exist as an institutional phenomenon was a greatly expanded vision than the Female Factory ‘room above the gaol’ that was located in Prince Alfred Park. At the time of its operation, it was a model for all other female factories in the Colony. It predates and influenced the later Cascades Female Factory and retains significantly more material evidence than Cascades Female Factory or any other factory that existed. Apart from wall remnants and a later cottage at Cascades the remaining evidence of other female factories is archaeological in nature. The other factory systems included Bathurst, Newcastle, Port Macquarie, (two factory sites), Moreton Bay (two factory sites), Hobart, Cascades, Ross, Launceston, Georgetown and the Emu Plains Farm experiment.

Parramatta Female Factory was a barracks, hospital, marriage bureau, assignment bureau, penitentiary, and manufacturing site.

This phenomenon was the end point of a Colonial cultural tradition of incarceration of women. As the first of its kind and in the absence in other sites of extant buildings and walls that formed the original design and with only a small number of artefacts relating to these women in the factory period (for Parramatta 1818-1848) apart from Government documentation, and only four images of convict women still existing from the period, the significance of the site itself is critical to understanding the practices and lives of the women in this context.

**(iv)**

**to be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history**

The Parramatta Female Factory is a corporeal representation of the philosophies that supported transportation as the dominant method of dealing with convicted criminals in the late 18th and early-mid 19th centuries. It is what to-date has been the missing final expression of that philosophy as applied to convict women through the first example of its kind.

As the earliest example in the world of a Female Factory which includes an ensemble of buildings and landscape with the specific design purpose to service as a barracks, hospital, marriage bureau, assignment bureau, penitentiary, and manufacturing site. It is the only site left that still has the penitentiary barracks and yard, the hospital, the matron’s quarters, meeting rooms, storage and significant areas of original walls in the original architectural form. There have also been significant archaeological excavations revealing manufacturing workrooms, and previous administration and processing rooms.

**INCLUSION IN WORLD HERITAGE CONVICT SITES**

Parramatta Female Factory is reaching a point where it is ready to be included in the Australian Convict Sites group nominated for serial inscription on the World Heritage List as it is reaching a level of custodianship that will mean it will meet the UNSCO requirement in relation to custodianship. The Convict Sites group has been accepted as of World heritage Value and yet this site is arguably more significant than the others in terms of its unique place in convict incarceration in world examples. and is highly significant in Australian women’s history, eclipsing other female convict sites in all aspects of the museum identified criteria for judging significance.

**NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE**

In terms of national significance, it fulfils Criteria A, B and H.

1. **it is *a place of outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place’s importance in the course, or pattern, of Australia’s natural or cultural history***

Parramatta Female Factory illustrates and represents a significant stage in Australian Colonial Life and women’s history. It represents a new approach to management of British female convicts in Australia. It included:

* enabling the more systematic control and surveillance of convict women instead of living in Parramatta and attending the 1804 ‘room above the gaol’ for work
* the penal philosophy of control, work and punishment
* one of the earliest colonial manufacturing sites
* first dedicated female health service
* site of first women’s industrial action in Australia
* provided a model for the other female factories in the Colony
* represents the ideas of incarceration as promoted by Elizabeth Fry and implemented by Governor Macquarie including that of reform of convicts through skills development in manufacturing
* systematised accommodation and control over the use and allocation of convict labour

The Parramatta Female Factory is the sister site of Hyde Park Barracks and construction was commenced 12 months after Hyde Park Barracks with Governor Macquarie laying the first stone 9th July 1818. It is the first site and set of buildings of substantial design and construction to be built for convict women.

The values of place and buildings are reflected in the Georgian idea of balance with a central range. Two extant buildings are mirror reflections flanking a central courtyard with original vista on entry looking towards the three-storey barrack, a symbol of order and control. It was sited on the third point of a triangle of government control with the Macquarie military and convict barracks collocated site and the government house with Macquarie extensions. The factory was in a direct site line of other two in the landscape as they both were on a rise with the Female Factory adjacent to a river flat. The buildings and the site embody Governor Macquarie’s vision of order and rform

The quality of stonework reflects a unique complex of convict stonemasonry including reticulated profile and sparrow pecking detail still remaining on two buildings and walls. There are also mason marks existing that have not been identified elsewhere to-date. It is also from material identified as part of the natural landscape adjacent to its location.

1. ***The place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place’s possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of Australia’s natural or cultural history;***

Parramatta Female is a rare example of Australia’s Cultural History. It has the only remaining barracks building and complex from the Macquarie era of convict administration specifically of female convicts. It is a highly significant representation of what has until recently been hidden women’s history. Its provenance is apparent and is a result of being in government custodianship since its construction. What still exists constitutes the only surviving examples of female factory administration, assignment, medical care and barracks.

**H. *The place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place’s special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in Australia’s natural or cultural history.***

Parramatta’s Female Factory is the only remaining place which represents the intersection between Governor Macquarie’s vision of architectural and social symbols for the colony and the incarceration of women. It was part of his expression of an established colony with ordered social structures. In fact as a new form of women’s prison it predates Millbank in Britain which was also a new form of prison that catered only for women.

Francis Greenway evolved his vision from bricks and mortar to a more permanent and imposing stone structured complex resonant of those major architectural expressions of government in Britain. The Female Factory is both the first example of a women’s prison design in the British Empire of this kind and the last significant structure by Greenway as the first Colonial Architect.

**CONCLUSION**

In terms of inclusion on the World Heritage Convict Sites group the Parramatta Female Factory meets all the criteria and is now ready for an application for inclusion, supported by the Government of NSW and the Federal Government of Australia.