

## 6 The Bath House

*History:* The Bath House was completed in 1823 for Governor Brisbane. It is believed that, due to his war wounds, the Governor wanted a private place with warm baths. This building has been associated with the two colonial architects Francis Greenway and Standish Harris. The Bath House contains archaeological remains related to the pumping system which was developed to bring water to the Bath House, as well as to heat the water. In 1886 the Park Trustees converted the Bath House to a pavilion, which is the form in which the building still survives today.

*Significance:* The building is of national significance as it represents both the period of use of the Park as the Governor's Domain, and its subsequent history as a public park. The building has landmark qualities as it is prominently located on the top of the Crescent. The archaeological evidence associated with the Bath House is highly significant for its ability to demonstrate convict-built heating and pumping systems.

## 7 Boer War Memorial and cannon

*History:* The Boer War Memorial was erected in 1904. It is one of comparatively few memorials to the Boer War throughout Australia. This particular example is an important one, as the first of the Australian troops to arrive in Africa in 1899 to take part in the Boer War came from the Lancer Barracks, Parramatta. 100 Lancers from the surrounding districts took part in engagements which inspired Banjo Patterson to write a poem celebrating the pride with which the Lancers represented their country:

*And out in front the Lancers rode that New South Wales had sent,  
With easy stride across the plains the long lean 'Walers' went;  
Unknown, untried these squadrons were, but proudly out they drew,  
Beside the British regiments that fought at Waterloo.*

The Memorial incorporates four Doric columns, and the entablature blocks and cornices which were recycled with very little alteration from the Parramatta Courthouse built by Mortimer Lewis in 1837. The gun on top of the memorial was one of six nine pound field guns purchased by New South Wales in 1856, and was originally intended to be raised as part of the defence of Port Jackson.

*Significance:* The Boer War Memorial is of regional significance for its commemoration of the first overseas military engagement in which troops representing Australia, as distinct to Britain, took part. The memorial is located in a prominent position on the ridgeline within the Park, a symbolic setting which serves as a landmark when viewed from outside the Park boundaries.

## 8 Memorial to William (Billy) E. Hart

*History:* This memorial commemorates an early pioneering cross country flight, the first in Australia, from Penrith to Parramatta Park on 4 November 1911 by William Hart. Flying against Wizard Stone of America, Hart won in 23 minutes after Stone lost his way and landed at Lakemba.

*Significance:* The memorial is of great cultural significance commemorating an important and enterprising pioneer in the history of aviation in Australia. Hart was the first Australian to fly a plane and the first qualified pilot in Australia.

## 9 The Dairy Cottage and sunken milk room

*History:* The Dairy Cottage was constructed between 1798 and 1805 as a two roomed cottage by ex-convict George Salter. It is one of the earliest intact cottages surviving in Australia today. In about 1811-1815 Governor Macquarie purchased Salter's land and had the cottage converted to a Dairy and constructed a sunken milk room adjacent to it. This is still visible today as a cellar, beneath the c1870 Rangers Cottage. This milk room was originally in one of two pavilions which were added to either side of the Dairy Cottage by Governor Macquarie. The northern pavilion survives only in the archaeological record.

*Significance:* The Dairy Precinct is a site of great significance at a national level. It contains rare and intact structures dating from the earliest years of European settlement in the colony of New South Wales. As a result of this intactness from such an early period, the Dairy Precinct has an extraordinary ability to demonstrate its entire history as well as the technology and materials used by early settlers. The Dairy Cottage is believed to be the most intact 18th C structure known to survive in Australia and has remained substantially unchanged since c1820.

## 10 Parramatta Park Café

Finish your walk at the café adjacent to "Little Coogee", a popular swimming spot in the 20th century.

## Park Opening Times

Parramatta Park is open every day from 6am to 6pm  
(8pm in daylight savings)

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Boer War Memorial

# Parramatta Park Monuments and Sites

## A self-guided walking tour

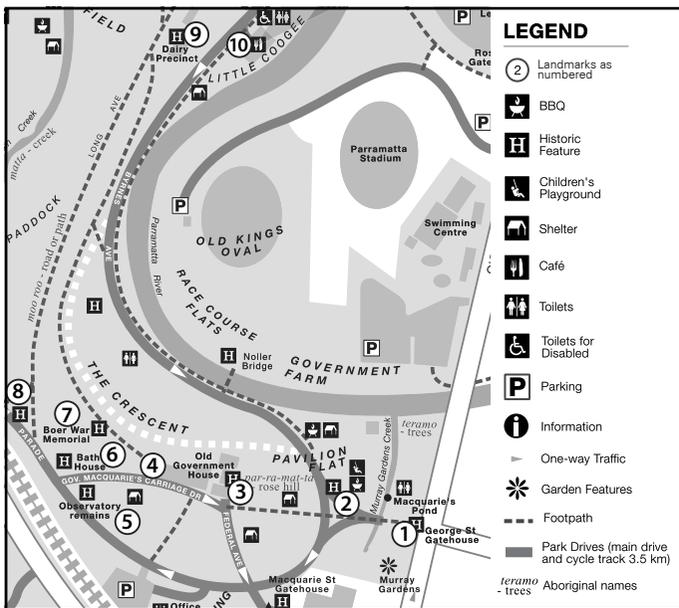
### Introduction

Parramatta Park is one of Australia's most significant cultural landscapes. It contains over 100 archaeological sites relating to Aboriginal and early Colonial history, as well as monuments and buildings in a rare combination of cultural and natural landscape features.

The environment of Parramatta Park demonstrates Aboriginal land management practices, the processes of colonization from first exploration to occupation and dispossession of the Burrumatta clan of the Darug people and the subsequent land clearing, agriculture, town planning and building which took place on a grand scale. The Park also contains evidence related to the earliest successful colonial farming in Australia and the beginnings of the cattle industry. This evidence survives surrounded by one of Sydney's most urban environments.

This brochure provides a self-guided walking tour of some of the Park's key sites and monuments.

## Begin your tour at the George St Gatehouse.



## 1 Park Gatehouses

*History:* There are six gatehouses in Parramatta Park located at entrances on George Street (the Tudor Gatehouse), Ross Street, Park Road, Macquarie Street, Great Western Highway at Mays Hill and Queens Road. These gatehouses date from the 1870s and represent an intact collection of park accommodation structures. Four of the gatehouses have been conserved and three are tenanted. The Queens Road and Mays Hill Gatehouses are stabilised awaiting more extensive conservation works. (NB view gatehouse exteriors only)

The style of the gatehouses reflects their strategic location, ranging from the grand entrances of the Tudor-style George St gatehouse and the Gothic-style Macquarie St Gatehouse, to the humble utilitarian entrances of the Park. The George St Gatehouse is a key entry point for the Park and an iconic landmark in Parramatta. It was built by the Parramatta Park Trust in 1885, on the site of Governor Macquarie's small stone lodge. The architect was Scottish born Gordon McKinnon and it was built by local builders Hart and Lavors. The wrought iron gates were made by local blacksmith T Forsyth. Individually and as a group the gatehouses demonstrate the importance of English cultural references and concepts of nineteenth century landscape enhancement and utility.

*Significance:* As a group, the Parramatta Park gatehouses make an important contribution to the cultural landscape values of Parramatta Park. They represent the recreational phase of this landscape from 1858 to the present and are important entry points. They are part of the evolution of the Park from the Governor's Domain to a public park.

## 2 Lady FitzRoy Memorial

*History:* The Lady FitzRoy Memorial was erected to commemorate the place where Lady FitzRoy and the Governor's Aide, Lieutenant Charles Masters, were killed when their carriage, driven by Governor FitzRoy, overturned and hit a tree within the Park in 1847. The "lamentable death" of Lady Mary FitzRoy was widely viewed at the time as being "an irreparable misfortune to the colony". A commemorative oak tree was planted to mark the site of the accident. The accident marked the beginning of the decline of the area as a Government Domain. Governor Fitzroy survived the accident but visited the area less frequently and this began a period of decline and Government House fell into disrepair. The current oak tree, is the third tree to be planted within the memorial enclosure on the site and was planted c.1996.

*Significance:* The monument is significant as the event it commemorates was of enormous public interest and because it marks a turning point in the use of the Governor's Domain. The monument is part of a collection of monuments from which one can piece together some of the significant events which affected both Parramatta and the colony of New South Wales as a whole.

## 3 Government House Parramatta

*History:* Governor Phillip laid out the area of the Domain in 1790 as part of the settlement of Rose Hill and constructed a small timber cottage for the Governor's residence. Nine years later Governor Hunter replaced this building with a two storey Georgian house of plastered brick. This in turn was enlarged to its present form in 1815 by Governor Macquarie, who added the wings, colonnades and portico. After the Vice Regal period the building was used as a private residence, a boarding house and by the Kings School after restoration by the Government Architect in 1908. Management was taken over by the National Trust of NSW in 1967.

*Significance:* Government House Parramatta is significant for its association with the early governors of the Colony of NSW and as a focal point for colonial society. The house is aesthetically significant as a direct translation of the English built form to an Australian landscape and as an example of the work of important early colonial architects.

## 4 The Crescent

*History:* The Crescent is a natural ridgeline which once framed a small billabong on the bank of the Parramatta River. Aboriginal sites along the top of the Crescent indicate that it was a location favoured by the Burrumatta Clan of the Darug people before colonisation. It is a landmark which was described and named by Governor Phillip in early 1788. Governor Phillip identified the land around the billabong as

suitable for agricultural purposes and in November 1788 he established the settlement of Rose Hill here amidst farming and cattle grazing. This area became the site of facilities associated with Government House Parramatta, including Governor Macquarie's stables (demolished) and Governor Brisbane's Bath House and Observatory, parts of which still remain today. The Crescent was formally landscaped when Mrs Macquarie established a lemon hedge walk along the top of the Crescent. None of this landscaping survives today. Against much opposition the amphitheatre was constructed by Parramatta City Council within the Crescent landform in 1975.

*Significance:* The Crescent is of national significance for its association with local Aboriginal people as well as early colonial farming and grazing practices. The Crescent provides the setting for some of the Park's most important heritage items including the Bath House, the Boer War Memorial and Old Government House. The Crescent is significant as the view from this vantage point has been painted from earliest colonial times. From this area one can still see a number of important views to early buildings and landmarks including the Parramatta River, the Old Kings School, Brislington House and the spires of Saint Patrick's and Saint John's Cathedrals.

## 5 The Observatory Transit Stones

*History:* The observatory was built by Governor Brisbane in 1822. Two marker trees were planted to the south of the transit stones with two additional trees in the southern domain (in the May's Hill area). All four trees marked a north-south alignment across the Governor's Domain. This was the third observatory built in Australia and reflected the personal interests of the Governor as well as the spirit of discovery of the time. It was at this observatory that the first extensive and systematic cataloguing of the Southern skies was carried out by astronomers Charles Rumker and James Dunlop, who were employed by Brisbane. Accurate star positions were invaluable for precise navigation and surveying, and the information generated at the observatory was very important to the colony. The observatory building fell into ruin and was demolished in 1848, with only the transit stones on their plinth left standing. A 16 inch repeating circle and the 5 foot six inch transit telescope which were housed in the observatory and are now on display at the Powerhouse Museum.

*Significance:* The transit stones and associated marker trees are of national, cultural and scientific significance because of their association with Governor Brisbane and because the site is associated with some of the most important early astronomical observations in the southern hemisphere. The stones were also used as the meridian mark for Thomas Mitchell's first trigonometric survey of Australia in 1828.