

# Parramatta Heritage Ride

## How to Use this Guide



This self-guided tour of Parramatta's history is aimed to help you enjoy the area's heritage on your bike. Cycling is a wonderful way to get to know Parramatta. It allows you to experience it in a more intimate way than on a car or bus, while making it easier to cover a wider area than on foot.

Make sure you also view the Parramatta Heritage

Ride Website, at:

<http://camwest.pps.com.au/heritage>

We especially suggest you view the sites along the route on the website before going for your ride. Photos and descriptions are organised by area and themes. Make sure you also view our riding tips and links pages.

The guide has three parts:

- **Map:** Gives you the 'big picture' of the area. Use it together with the cue sheet.
- **Route Cue Sheet:** Gives you simple directions to follow. Historic sites are in **bold**. You can find a description for these in the Site descriptions sheet.
- **Site Descriptions:** These are organised in the tour order. (You can see many of these sites at the website)

You can fold this guide vertically in the middle so it fits easily in your pocket while you're riding.

## Getting There and Back

**Cycling:** From the East, come along the Parramatta Valley Cycleway. From the South, take the Liverpool-Parramatta RailTrail. Call the RTA on 13 17 82 to ask for free cycling maps to be mailed to you.

**Public Transport:** Parramatta is a key station in the Western (from Richmond and Penrith), Cumberland, and North Shore lines. If you're coming from other areas, changing at Granville, Strathfield, and Central will be your best option. You may like to check timetables and check for trackwork before you go. It's free to take your bike on the train at off-peak times (including weekends).

**Car:** If you need to drive, you may find a parking spot at Park Ave, Westmead.

## Riding Tips

Riding is a fun, healthy, and friendly way to get around. We have designed the tour along cycling or shared path where possible, with some parts on quiet roads.

- Ride with others. Form a small group that you can enjoy the group with.
- Riding on a Saturday or Sunday morning is a good idea, as it's often quieter than usual.
- There are public toilets and water at Parramatta Park (see the map).

- Plan to finish up at a café or restaurant to reward yourself. There is plenty of choice at Parramatta's popular Church Street.

Make sure you know the road rules for cyclists, by visiting the RTA's website at [www.rta.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au). Some of the key points you need to remember are:

- As a cyclist, you are a legal road user. This gives you the same rights and responsibilities as other road users.
- Wear a helmet.
- Signal your intentions (whether stopping or turning) to other road users.
- It is illegal to write on footpaths unless it's designated a shared path or you are riding with a child under 12 years old.

## About CAMWEST

This guide and its companion website (<http://camwest.pps.com.au/heritage>) were developed by CAMWEST, a community cycling group, with the help of a grant from Parramatta City Council.

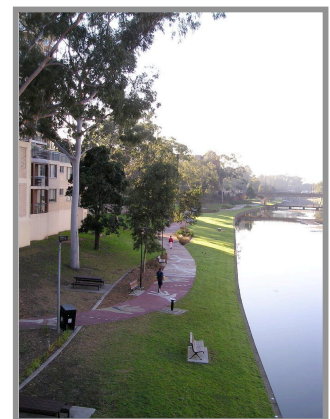
We are a group of dedicated cyclists who work with local Councils, the RTA and other bodies that provide for cyclists in Western Sydney. CAMWEST has played an integral role in the development and implementation of many projects, including the Bay to Mountains Cycleway, as well as the Hawkesbury, Baulkham Hills, Parramatta, Bankstown and Blacktown Bike Plans. Other achievements include: Cycle lanes, stand up lanes and smooth sealed shoulders on main roads. We have many social rides, like the Tizzana Winery Luncheon Ride, and the Bay to Mountains Ride but advocacy is our main focus.

## Copyright and Legal Disclaimer

All contents in this document are Copyright © 2005 Martin Olmos unless otherwise stated. All photos Copyright © 2005 Martin Olmos, except where otherwise stated. The content You may not use any content without prior written permission from Martin Olmos.

While we have taken care in the production of this site, we accept no responsibility for any accidents or loss.

You are responsible on the road. You need to follow the road rules at the RTA bicycle web page, and take care to ride in places where you feel confident, according to your riding ability and experience. We have taken care in our research of Parramatta's history. However, if you see any mistakes, please don't hesitate to contact us at [info@camwest.pps.com.au](mailto:info@camwest.pps.com.au).



View of the beautiful Riverside Walk from Lennox Bridge

# Site Descriptions

---

## 1. Macquarie Street Gatehouse

The gatehouse was built in 1887. The many roses were donated by late Heather and Roy Rumsey, from a Dural nursery.

## 2. Rumsey Rose Garden

The many roses were donated by the late Heather and Roy Rumsey, from a Dural nursery.

## 3. Observatory

The observatory was built by Governor Brisbane, a distinguished astronomer, in the 1820s. Brisbane was the first governor to reside permanently in Parramatta. It was demolished in the 1840s. The transit stones are all that remains. A telescope and clock from the observatory can be found in the Sydney Observatory at Observatory Hill. This is the marker for where the Observatory built by Gov Brisbane was located. Interestingly, the Sydney Observatory, which houses relics from the Parramatta one including a telescope and clock, reckons this marker is in the wrong place and marks the kitchen instead of the observatory!

## 4. Bath House

Also built for Governor Brisbane in 1823 to soothe his arthritis. Designed by convict architect Francis Greenway, it had a twin domes roof and grand circular windows.

## 5. Boer War Memorial

Unveiled in 1904, the doric columns were from the original Parramatta Courthouse (built in 1837) and replaced in 1898. Cannons are from the shore batteries that protected Port Jackson in the 1850s.

## 6. William Hart Memorial

William Hart was a Parramatta dentist who was the first Australian to fly a plane and held the first pilot's licence in Australia. This memorial commemorates his flight from Penrith to Parramatta Park on 4 Nov 1911. His journey then continued on to Sydney showgrounds.

## 7. Dairy Precinct

George Salter built the cottage between 1798 and 1806, and grew wheat and maize. He sold it to Governor Macquarie in 1813 who converted it into a dairy with a sunken milk room. This is visible under the Rangers Cottage (latter built in 1875).

## 8. Wisteria Gardens

These gardens were originally built for the Superintendent of the Parramatta Lunatic Asylum, in 1906. The wisteria plants were brought from Japan by his daughter.

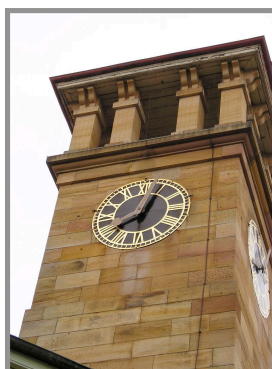
The gardens are only open the last two weekends in September (during the Wisteria festival). You can get there via the Cumberland Hospital entrance at other times, but they really look their best in September.

## 9. Norma Parker Centre

This was the Roman Catholic Orphanage from 1844 till 1882. It later became the notorious Parramatta Girls Home. It has been a correctional facility since the 1980s.

## 10. Male Ward No. 1

From 1804 female convicts were housed in the original Female Factory, atop the first gaol on the site of Prince Alfred Park. By 1817 this had become overrun, and in 1818 Gov Macquarie instructed Francis Greenway to



design an institution for 300 female convicts. This was completed in 1821. It ceased to be a prison in 1848 (transportation had ceased in 1840), and it became part of the Parramatta Lunatic Asylum until it was demolished in 1883. Some of the walls from the Female Factory remain. The sandstone blocks from the Female Factory were used to build

the Male Ward No. 1. The clock which graced the front arch of the Female Factory was transferred into a purpose built tower over the northern corner of Ward 1. This clock was made in London in 1820, the bell in 1821. The clock was one of 5 given to the colony by King George IV in 1822. The other four are in St John's Cathedral Parramatta, St Matthew's Church Windsor, St Luke's at Liverpool, and Government House Hobart. [The site is in Cumberland Hospital's property - please check permissions with them]

## 11. Parramatta Gaol

The gaol was built by James Houison and Nathaniel Payten between 1837 and 1853.

## 12. Old Government House

Old Government House is Australia's oldest publicly-owned building. The original was built for Arthur Phillip in 1790. While it was being built, Governor Phillip lived with Henry Dodd, the farmer who planted the first crops in Parramatta. (Henry died in 1792 and is buried in St Johns Cemetery, in the oldest remaining marked grave in Australia). Phillip's building collapsed and in 1799 Governor Hunter replaced it with the Georgian structure present today. Governor Macquarie added significantly to it, to complete in 1818 the buildings that are seen today.

## 13. Lady Fitzroy Memorial

Governor Fitzroy's wife was killed in 1847, starting out on a journey to St James Church (city) for a wedding. Her carriage overturned when the horses bolted. Governor Fitzroy was the last governor to reside in Old Government House in Parramatta.

## 14. Tudor Gatehouse

It was built in 1885 and designed by Gordon McKinnon, a Parramatta architect. There are four sets of gates into the Governor's Domain (now Parramatta Park) - on the western end, the southern end (Pitt St), and south (Great Western Highway).

### 15. Brislington

Built in 1821, this is the oldest residence in central Parramatta. It was owned by doctors from 1851 to 1949, mostly by Dr Walter Brown and his descendants. In 1949 it transferred to Parramatta Hospital and is now a medical and nursing museum with memorabilia dating back to the 1880s.

### 16. Courthouse Tower

This tower is all that remains of Parramatta's second court house, which was built in 1890. The first was built in 1837 by Houison and Payten, in Church St. Part of a wall still remains (see Courthouse Wall).

### 17. Woolpack Inn

Reputed to be Australia's oldest licensed hotel, it was originally established in 1796 as the Freemason Hotel, and was given its current name in 1821. It was moved to its current site for the construction of the second courthouse.

### 18. Courthouse Wall

Remnants of the first courthouse which was built in 1837 and used till 1890. The columns from this courthouse form part of the Boer Memorial in Parramatta Park.

### 19. Lennox Bridge

Completed in 1839, this was David Lennox's third bridge, with the Lennox Bridge at Lapstone (1833) and the Lansvale bridge (1836) preceding this one.

### 20. Parramatta Heritage Centre

This is the place to find all kinds of information about Parramatta. There is bike parking at the front. It includes a number of great displays and very helpful staff.

### 21. Prince Alfred Park

Site of the Parramatta's first two gaols. The first, a timber gaol, was completed in 1797 but was burnt down two years later by the inmates. In 1804 a two-storey stone structure was built, the upper floor being used as the first female factory.

### 22. St Patrick's Catholic Cathedral

The sandstone church on the site was built in 1935, the 4th church on the site. This burnt down in 1996 leaving just a sandstone shell. A completely new church, which incorporates the old one, was opened in 2003.

### 23. Riverside Walk



This is a lovely winding path along the north side of the Parramatta river. It is a great place to enjoy a break in your bike ride.

### 24. Parramatta Rivercat Wharf

This is where you can catch the Rivercat to the city.

### 25. Harrisford



The original Kings School from 1832 to 1835. It was used for other schools until 1865, when it became home to the Harris family, hence its name.

### 26. Macarthur St (Gasworks) Bridge

Often known as the 'Gasworks bridge' because of the gasworks that once occupied the block southeast of the bridge, it was completed in 1885. The south side of the bridge was the site of Howell's wind and watermill, which was built and 1828 and used until 1868.

### 27. Macarthur Girls High School

Samuel Marsden had a residence built for his wife on this site in 1835, though she died before it was completed. Called "Newlands", it was demolished in the 1930s.

### 28. Boundary Stone

Erected by George Gipps in 1839, this was one of nine laid by George Gipps to mark the boundaries of Parramatta. You can find surviving markers at the corner of Alice and Weston Streets, and on Oak Street. Other boundary stones can be found at Hambledon Cottage, Boundary and Balfour Sts Northmead, Domain Creek (Parramatta Park), and Alfred and Alice Sts, Harris Park.

### 29. Female Orphan School

Built under Governor Macquarie it opened in 1818 with 70 girls. Girls remained here until they were apprenticed as servants at 13. Elizabeth Macarthur employed girls from the school. In 1888 it was gazetted as a Psychiatric Hospital which it remained until the 1990s when the site was turned over to the University of Western Sydney.

### 30. All Saints Church

Built by James Houison and Nathaniel Payten and completed in 1847. It was financed by Samuel Marsden. It was enlarged in the 1860s with spire and bells added.

### 31. Elizabeth Street Bridge

This wonderfully designed bridge replaced a narrow old bridge carrying a pipe. It was opened in 2002.

### 32. Convict Canal

Remains of a convict-built brick barrel drain to the Parramatta river.

### 33. Perth House

Built by James Houison around 1841, it was the home of politician George Oakes (1813 - 1881, member for Parramatta of the first Legislative Council of NSW), and a private school in the late 1880s.



#### 34. Roxy Cinema



A beautiful old theatre originally built in 1930. It became a cinema and is now a night club.

#### 35. Queens Wharf

This was once a bustling wharf area, where paddle steamers and overseas sailing ships exchanged their trade goods for agricultural produce. You would have been able to see Old Government House from here. It also housed the commissariat stores. The reserve also houses part of the hull of a former HMAS Parramatta. Much more information can be gleaned from the signboards on the walk. The Harris Park Heritage Walk starts here.

#### 36. Elizabeth Farm

Residence of farming pioneers Elizabeth and John Macarthur, who arrived in 1790. Named after John's wife, it was originally 1100 acres, though only four remain. The Macarthurs also brought Merino sheep from Spain to Australia. They went on to become the biggest land owners in NSW. Elizabeth Farm was built in 1793 and is Australia's oldest privately-owned building.

#### 37. Our Lady of Lebanon

This Maronite church (a branch of the Catholic church) is a significant architectural icon in the area. The building was started on 1963 and completed on 1978.

#### 38. Experiment Farm Cottage

James Ruse was granted land here by Phillip in 1791, the first convict to be granted land. He developed Australia's first private farm. In 1793 he sold it to Surgeon John Harris (after whom Harris Park is named). Harris built the cottage on the site in 1834.

#### 39. Hambledon Cottage

Built in 1824 for Miss Penelope Lucas, governess to John and Elizabeth Macarthur's three daughters.

#### 40. Old School House

Now part of Arthur Phillip High School, this building was completed in 1876.

#### 41. Leigh Memorial Church

Completed in 1885 it was dedicated to Samuel Leigh, the first Methodist Minister in Parramatta, who preached in the area from 1816.

#### 42. Kia Ora

This was James Houison's own house which he built in the 1840s. Behind where it now stands was a cottage in which John Batman, who went on to found the city of Melbourne, was born.

#### 43. Centenary Square

The clock in the square was built in 1888 to mark the Australian centenary.

#### 44. Town Hall



Built in 1883 on the site of the first agricultural fair held in Australia in 1813.

#### 45. St John's Church

The first church opened on this site in 1803. It became the church of Samuel Marsden, the "Flogging Parson". It was the only church in the colony until 1809. In 1810 Macquarie began remodelling, and the towers were completed in 1819. The original building was demolished in 1851, replaced by the current structure designed by James Houison. The transepts were added in 1882 by Edmund Blackett.

#### 46. World War I Memorial

This War Memorial, creating an arched entrance to St John's Park, was erected to commemorate those killed in World War I.

# Route Cue Sheet

Start – Parramatta Station	
② →	Argyle St, S side, head W
① ☒	Church St, to path on N side of Argyle St
① ↑	Argyle St path to the end
② ☒	Pitt St carefully
② →	Pitt St two blocks, ← into Park Entrance
Parramatta Park	
★ Ⓒ	<b>Macquarie Street Gatehouse</b>
① ← ↗	W along main path, up the hill
★ ↻	<b>Observatory, Governor's Bath House, Boer War Memorial</b>
① ↑	Continue N along rd (veering → at Y intersection)
★ Ⓒ	<b>William Hart Memorial</b>
① ↑	N along road
★ ↻	<b>Dairy Precinct</b>
① ↑	N along road
★ Ⓒ	<b>Wisteria Gardens</b> midway through the right bend
① ←	Across footbridge (at end of R bend, just before the Visitor Centre)
North Parramatta	
② ←	To the Parramatta Leagues Club car park, across to park exit onto Grose St
② ←	Onto lane, ← Fennell St
② ↑	Fleet St
★ Ⓒ	<b>Norma Parker Centre</b>
★ Ⓒ	<b>Male Ward No. 1</b> (in Cumberland hospital), walls of old <b>Female Factory</b> , and <b>Parramatta Gaol</b>
② ↑	Return S to Park along Fleet St, ← Fennell St, → O'Connell, → Grose St, across car park and footbridge, and back onto Park cyclepath
★ Ⓒ	<b>Parramatta Park Visitors Centre</b>
① ↑	Continue S on path
★ Ⓒ	<b>Oak trees</b> along Parramatta River
★ ↻	<b>Old Government House</b>
★ Ⓒ	<b>Lady Fitzroy Memorial, Tudor Gatehouse</b>
Parramatta CBD South	
② ↑	George St
★ Ⓒ	<b>Brislington</b> . Across Marsden St, Ⓒ <b>Courthouse Tower</b> , ↻ <b>Woolpack Inn, Courthouse Wall</b>
② ←	Church St Alternative (for a shorter ride which doesn't cover some busier areas): → Mall, ← Darcy St, to 🚉 Parramatta Station

## Key

↑	Go straight	★	Interest Site
←	Turn left	Ⓒ	On left
→	Turn right	↻	On right
☒	Cross	🚉	Rail
①	Shared/cycle path	↗	Hill
②	Quieter street	↘	Downhill
③	Busier street		

Parramatta CBD North	
★	<b>Lennox Bridge</b> , ↻ <b>Parramatta Heritage Centre</b> . Ⓒ <b>Prince Alfred Park, World War I Memorial</b>
② →	Palmer St, → Sorrell St to end near river
① ← ↘	<b>Riverside Walk</b> path
★ ← ↗	ramp to <b>Elizabeth St Bridge</b> , cross river
② ←	Phillip St to end
② →	Charles St, ← George St
★ Ⓒ	<b>Harrisford</b>
① ←	Macarthur St across <b>Gasworks Bridge</b> Alternative (to head straight to Harris Park and avoid Female Orphan loop): ↑ George St, pick up at Harris Park area
★ Ⓒ	<b>Macarthur Girls High School</b>
① →	Soon after bridge, cross Macarthur St to follow cycleway towards university
① ↑	Follow cycleway E to end
② ←	Morton St, → Thomas St till end, cross under James Ruse Dr ↘
James Ruse Drive area and back	
★ ↻	<b>Boundary Stone</b> (under James Ruse Dr)
① ↑	Follow path, and go up staircase on the left (you could lock bike to one of the light posts)
★ Ⓒ	<b>Female Orphan School</b> . Return E
② ↑	Thomas St to the end, → Elizabeth St to the intersection with Victoria Rd
★ ←	<b>All Saints Church</b>
② ↑	Head S along Elizabeth St, cross bridge and Phillip St to Ferguson Centre
★	<b>Convict Canal</b>
① ↑	Follow path through to George St, turn ←
★ ↻	<b>Perth House</b> , and a bit further along, Ⓒ <b>Queen's Wharf</b>
② ←	Head E on George St to end, → Arthur St, 3 <sup>rd</sup> → Alice St
Harris Park	
★ ↻	<b>Elizabeth Farm</b>
② ↑	Alice St
★ ↻	<b>Our Lady of Lebanon Church, Experiment Farm</b> site
① →	Walkway to Experiment Farm Cottage
★ Ⓒ	<b>Experiment Farm Cottage</b>
① ↑	Head N along path
★ ↻	<b>Hambledon Cottage</b>
☒	Cross Hassall St at lights, then ← along path
★ ↻	<b>Nursery</b>
② →	Macarthur St, cross at lights into Macquarie St, until just before Smith St
Parramatta CBD South	
★ ↻	<b>Old School House</b>
② ↑	Macquarie St
★ Ⓒ	<b>Leigh Memorial Church</b> , ↻ <b>Kia Ora</b>
① ←	Parramatta Mall
★	<b>Centenary Square, Town Hall &amp; Market Place, St John's Anglican Cathedral</b>
① →	At end of Mall (under railway) on shared path
② ←	Darcy St to Parramatta Station
End - Parramatta Station	