



# A Self-Guided Tour of Parramatta Campus

## THE RIVERSIDE FRONTAGE

The Female Orphan School looked south across the river to John Macarthur's Elizabeth Farm Estate. On the north the Orphan School land extended as far as Kissing Point Road. A marshy track to Ryde was improved in 1887 and became Victoria Road. An earlier generation remembered it as The Vineyard, home of Hannibal Macarthur, John's nephew. On the western boundary was the estate of John Palmer, who also owned Woolloomooloo. Towards Parramatta was the Newlands estate of the Reverend Samuel Marsden. These neighbours were members of the supervisory committee of the Female Orphan School when it opened in 1818.

## EZ – THE FEMALE ORPHAN SCHOOL

The foundation for the Female Orphan School was laid by Governor Macquarie in September 1813. The building was modelled on Mrs Elizabeth Macquarie's family home 'Airds' in Scotland. It predates Hyde Park Barracks in Sydney and the Female Factory in Parramatta, and was the first three-storey brick building erected in Australia.

The Female Orphan School operated from 1818–1887. Children aged from 2–14 were given a basic education then apprenticed, usually as domestic servants. The Orphan School opened with 100 girls; in 1841 it had 128 girls; in 1870 there were 230 boys and girls. The children came from all sections of colonial society – children of convicts, single-parent families, those orphaned during the voyage to Australia, Aboriginal children, and children referred by the clergy.

The school closed in 1887 when a change in government policy favoured placing orphaned children into foster care. In 1888 Rydalmere Hospital for the Insane opened in the building with 30 patients, and grew to 1300 patients before closing in 1976.

## ET – MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT'S HOUSE

A residence was built for the 'Master of the Orphanage' around 1868–1870. It became the quarters for the Medical Superintendent of the psychiatric hospital in 1888. It is now home to the Whitlam Institute and the Whitlam Reading Room.

## ES – THE DRILL MASTER'S BUILDING

The Drill Master was responsible for the education and physical training of the boys of the Orphan School. Built around 1865–68, the Drill Master lived on the ground floor, and there was a small library and games for the boys. Upstairs were the boys' dormitories. The building now houses the offices of UWS International.

## EQ – THE OLD SCHOOL

A large school room, originally featuring polychrome brick work and clerestory windows, was built in 1870. It provided class rooms for 250 children and was linked to the main building by a covered walkway. The elaborate windows and slate roof were removed in 1904 when an additional storey was added to increase hospital accommodation. The building houses the School of Management.

## EV – THE RIVER COTTAGE

The River Cottage, built in 1895, was the residence for the hospital's chief attendant. Many original architectural features have been retained including the redwood shingles and woodwork on the southern veranda. It houses offices of the School of Medicine.

## EZa – THE MORTUARY

Built in 1899 as the hospital's mortuary, the small building has been restored. A campus visitor who worked for the Medical Superintendent in the 1920s tells the story of a supposedly 'dead' patient waking in the night and screaming to be let out!

## EM – THE ORPHAN SCHOOL HOSPITAL

The Orphan School Hospital was built in 1854, with a boys' ward located on the ground floor, and matron's quarters on the second floor next to the girls' ward. Later it was used as the hospital's day rooms. Concealed behind closed verandahs during the 1930s, it was uncovered during UWS renovations. It houses the Centre for Cultural Research.

## EO & EK – THE STABLES, PHARMACY AND WORKSHOPS

These sandstone, L-shaped buildings date back to 1899 – early 1900s, and were the stables, pharmacy and workshops for the hospital. It now houses offices for the School of Law and the Moot Court where law students practise their courtroom techniques.

## EJC – WARDS AND THE OLD LIBRARY

These single-storey wards were built by the hospital on the site of the Orphan School's laundry. The hospital carpenter was based in the small building to the north. It later became the hospital library. It now houses UWSConnect Books.

## UNION SQUARE – THE STEAM LAUNDRY

A new steam laundry and engine room for the site were built around 1900, but the weatherboard-clad buildings were destroyed by fire in 1994. The chimney and the boiler house have been retained as a campus landmark.

## EG – RECREATION HALL

The beautiful Recreation Hall was designed by Government Architect Walter Vernon and built in 1898. With its stage and floor area, it was the scene of dances, film nights and theatre for both the hospital and local community. An alcove at the northern end provided a chapel, and its stained glass windows have survived.

## EJA – ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

Built in 1891–93 as the Epileptic Ward, this was one of the first buildings to face north as part of a new philosophy to create pleasing environments for psychiatric patients. During these years the land to the west was planted with orchards and vineyards. The building is now 'Student Central'.

## ED – VERNON BUILDINGS

The Vernon buildings reoriented the institution from the Parramatta River to Victoria Road, and represent the philosophical change in psychiatric care with the cell accommodation giving way to open wards and landscaped gardens. Named after their designer, Walter Vernon, they were built around 1900.

JAMES RUSE DRIVE

FIFTH ST

Vernon Buildings



Building ED

P5

P16

P6

P15

P2

EBa

Recreation Hall



Building EG

Administrative Building



Building EJa

The Old School



Building EQ

The Drill Master's Building



Building ES

EG

EJa Student Central

Union Square  
(the Steam Laundry)

The Steam Laundry



Building EN

ER

EJd

EJc

EI

EE

Superintendent's Cottage



Building ET

ES

EQ

EM

EK

EY

EN

ENa

Female Orphan School



Building EZ

P9

P10

River Cottage



Building EV

EV

P14

ENb