



6. The Roxy

Moore & Dyer in association with Herbert & Wilson Architects, 1930

Constructed from stuccoed brick and terracotta tiles in 1932, The Roxy is the best surviving, public example of classic Inter-War Spanish Mission style.



7. Barrack Lane

Linking George and Macquarie streets, this lane harks back to 1814 when Governor Macquarie's soldiers used it as a short cut from the military barracks to High (now George) Street.

Just off the lane is a row of tiny wardens' cottages constructed between 1842 and 1844. The wall behind the cottages is convict built and marked the front boundary of the old convict barracks.

8. Sydney Water Building

Brookfield Multiplex, 2009

The underpinning aim of the design of this building was to cut typical office building greenhouse gas emissions by 30% and use of drinking water by 75%.



9. Parramatta Transport Interchange

Hassell Ltd, 2007

This award-winning interchange services the fifth busiest railway station on the Sydney metropolitan network. Heritage buildings have been conserved including the original 1859 station entrance.

This represents a significant shift in the planning of the major transport route between Parramatta and Sydney – from river to road to rail.

10. Escen Building

Fire Station 27 1937, Converted in 1992 Conservation and redevelopment 2006–7

Parramatta Fire Station was rebuilt in 1937. Adaptive re-use brings a vibrant residential development into the heart of the city centre.



H. NSW Police Headquarters

Bates Smart, 2003

Winner of the 2003 RAIA Interior Architecture Award and Silver Medal for Green Buildings Awards. The building's green glass facade incorporates sunshades and light shelves to increase energy efficiency.

The Colonial Era

As Parramatta developed, its buildings began to reflect the aspirations and lifestyles of its residents.

C. Perth House and Stables

James Houison, 1841

Designed and built for George Oakes – a prominent politician of the time. Drop in for a coffee and take in the heritage-listed cedar joinery.

D. Harrisford House

1823-29

This building was leased to the King's School until the construction of the school's own building in 1836.

The Harris Park Precinct

Very few dwellings from the early decades of colonial settlement have survived intact. This area is home to three.

E. Hambleton Cottage

Built by John and Elizabeth Macarthur as a residence for their children's governess. Conservation works in the 1950s and recently to address rising damp have ensured its survival. The garden retains the layout and plant species of the early colonial era.

F. Experiment Farm Cottage

1834

Built on the site of James Ruse's Experiment Farm by Surgeon John Harris, this dwelling is a fine and rare example of an early colonial farmhouse.



G. Elizabeth Farm House

1793

Single storey and made from rendered brick, this cottage is an excellent example of early colonial architecture in the English style. It contains part of the oldest surviving building in Australia. The design evolved as verandahs were added to provide much-needed shade. Governor Macquarie thought it was "...a most excellent brick house...".



For more information or to find other self-guided walking tours, go to www.discoverparramatta.com pop into the Parramatta Visitor Information Centre or call 1300 889 714

The information in this document is for information purposes only. While care has been taken in preparing it, Parramatta City Council does not represent or warrant the accuracy or completeness of this document and you should make your own enquiries before relying on the information in it.

Except for liability that cannot by law be excluded, the Council will not be liable, whether in contract, tort (including negligence) or otherwise, for any loss or damage, whether to people or property, arising directly or indirectly as a result of reliance on this document.

Cover image shows Florentine Dome building, corner Church and Phillip Street and Jeffrey House

Images by: Terence Chin, Bates Smart Architects
Maps by: visualvoice.com.au

Printed May 2010
© Parramatta City Council

Proudly supported by



Australian Government
Department of Resources
Energy and Tourism



Architecture & Design

Colonial to contemporary, Parramatta's architecture spans centuries and styles. Discover the city's significant buildings on this walk.





Exciting juxtapositions of old and new are transforming the urban landscape of Parramatta.

As far back as 1791 Governor Phillip had a clear vision for a well laid out town with a wide High Street that provided an uninterrupted view from Queens Wharf on the river to Old Government House up on the rise.

Public buildings from the colonial era such as barracks, hospitals, schools and churches shaped the early city just as the more recently built, innovatively designed government buildings continue to shape the public domain today.



Main walk: 2.5 km, 60 mins
 Parramatta Park extension: 0.8 km, 15 mins
 The Colonial Era extension: 2.5 km, 60 mins
 NSW Police HQ extension: 0.7 km, 20 mins



1. St Patrick's Cathedral

Mitchell, Giurgola & Thorp, 2002

The purity and serenity of the cathedral's interior are at odds with the turbulent history of this place of worship. The new Cathedral incorporates Vatican II design principles featuring spectacular contemporary Australian religious art and craft works.



2. Old Kings School

Ambrose Hallen (Colonial Architect), 1836

This imposing example of Georgian architecture with commanding views over the river and the Governor's Domain reflects its importance as one of only two King's Schools built in the colony. The third storey addition was completed in 1925. The Old King's School is listed on the State Heritage Register and is now home to the NSW Heritage Office.



3. Parramatta Justice Precinct

Opened in 2007 the new Justice Precinct reflects Parramatta's diverse and constantly evolving urban face and long standing connection with law and order.



Jeffrey House

Cobden Parkes, 1943

Built in the moderne style and heritage listed as part of the Old Parramatta District Hospital site. Jeffrey house still operates as a public medical facility today in the oldest continually occupied public health site in Australia.

Heritage Pavilions & Archaeology Courtyard

Bates Smart, 2007

Explore these spaces and see how the city's past and present converge here.



Sydney West Trial Courts

Lyons Architects, 2007

Overhanging walkways have been designed to represent the transparency of the NSW justice system.



Justice Building

Bates Smart, 2007

This is the first NSW Government building to achieve a 5 Green Star rating. A 10-storey, timber-panelled atrium admits natural light to each storey reinforcing a sense of community among the building's occupants. The double-height lobby creates a sense of civic presence and complements the adjoining courtyard.



Brislington

John Hodges (former convict), 1821

Brislington is the oldest example of a privately built, colonial townhouse in mainland Australia. Bought in 1851 by Thomas Robertson, one of Parramatta's first doctors, it became part of the Parramatta Hospital in 1949. The verandah was added about 1910.

4. Court House Tower

Walter Liberty Vernon (Government Architect) 1896

Parramatta's earlier courthouse once stood opposite the site of today's busy Justice Precinct. The Victorian Italianate tower is all that remains of Vernon's design.



Lachlan Macquarie Chambers

A.W. Edwards (Rural Bank Architectural Department), 1938

Originally the Rural Bank, this inter-war classical building boasts an eclectic façade and Doric portico.

The adjacent laneway once provided access for horse-drawn carriages.

Look across the street and you will see the original sandstone wall and laneway of the first courthouse. Laneways demonstrate the development of Parramatta as a bustling city.



Parramatta Park Precinct

A: Tudor-style gatehouse

Gordon McKinnon, 1885

With its distinctive red and white bricked and stuccoed façade, this formal gatehouse is the key entry point into Parramatta Park. It replaced the stone lodge built by Governor Macquarie in 1810 to keep convicts and other trespassers out. It marks the boundary of the Governor's Domain with its commanding view down George Street to the river.

Take a close look at the detail of the ornate wrought-iron gates.



B: Old Government House

James Bloodworth (aka Bloodsworth, former convict) 1799

1815 additions designed by John Watts
 Governor Hunter's modest building underwent major additions for Governor Macquarie between 1815 and 1818. This Palladian-style country house is now the oldest public building in Australia. The timber portico is thought to be designed by Francis Greenway.



5. Sandstone fronted Georgian shops

1823-1844

These retail premises have housed various and many merchants and retailers reflecting Parramatta's early development as a vibrant commercial centre.

