

Port Arthur

Tasmania



Source: Google Earth

THE MILITARY DISTRICT

Comprising: *Guard Tower* (4), *Senior Military Officer's Quarters* (6), *Officers' Quarters* (7)

For most of the convict period, the Senior Military Officer's Quarters was the home of the Military Officer in charge of the Port Arthur. The soldiers of Port Arthur were responsible for security and for pursuing and capturing escaped convicts. A small number of soldiers were accompanied by their wives who washed, sewed and provided basic nursing care for the men and their husband's company. Children of the soldiers and lower ranking settlement officials and free staff were educated together in the Port Arthur Free School.



CONVICT ADMINISTRATION

Comprising: *Commandant's House* (5), *Law Courts* (3)

The Commandant was Port Arthur's most senior official. A residence befitting this rank and position was erected on high ground in 1833 and housed five of Port Arthur's ten Commandants. The Law Courts introduced convicts to Port Arthur's regime of 'ceaseless vigilance', discipline and punishment designed 'for grinding rogues into honest men'.

Commandant Charles O'Hara Booth
by Thomas Lemprière
Collection: Tasmanian Museum & Art Gallery



POINT PUER BOYS' PRISON (32)

Point Puer operated from 1834 to 1849 and was the first purpose-built juvenile reformatory in the British Empire. Juvenile offenders were separated from the older convicts to protect them from criminal influence. Most of the boys were aged between 14 and 17, with the youngest just 9 years old. Point Puer was renowned for its regime of stern discipline and harsh punishment, but all the boys received an education while some were given the opportunity of trade training. Tours operate daily.

THE ISLE OF THE DEAD (31)

Between 1833 and 1877 around 1100 people were buried at the settlement's cemetery. The Isle of the Dead is the final resting place for military and civil officers, their wives and children, and convicts. The most common causes of death among convicts were industrial accidents, and respiratory disease. Tours to the Isle operate daily.

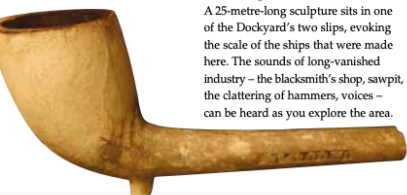
MEMORIAL GARDEN (25)

On Sunday 28 April 1996, a tragic chapter was added to Port Arthur's history when a gunman took the lives of 10 people and physically wounded 10 others in and around the Port Arthur Historic Site. Among them were members of staff from the Historic Site. The Memorial Garden incorporates the shell of the Broad Arrow Café, where 20 people were killed during the massacre, and has been created as a place of remembrance and reflection.

THE DOCKYARD

Comprising: *Slipway & Sculpture* (27), *Limekiln* (28) *Clerk of Works' House* (29), *Shipwright's House* (30)

During its 15 years of operation, Port Arthur's Dockyard produced 16 large decked vessels and around 150 small open boats. At its peak, more than 70 men worked here. The precinct included a blacksmith's workshop, two sawpits, two steamers for bending timber, a rigging shed and several other workshops. The lime produced from the Limekiln was an essential ingredient for building construction at Port Arthur. A 25-metre-long sculpture sits in one of the Dockyard's two slips, evoking the scale of the ships that were made here. The sounds of long-vanished industry – the blacksmith's shop, sawpit, the clattering of hammers, voices – can be heard as you explore the area.



THE WELFARE AREA

Comprising: *The Hospital* (9), *Paupers' Depot* (11), *the Asylum* (12)

In the Hospital convicts were commonly treated for numerous conditions including respiratory or rheumatic ailments contracted from working outdoors and sleeping in cold cells and wet clothing. By the early 1860s, many convicts were housed and treated in the Paupers' Depot or the Asylum, according to new ideas that included creating a calm environment. The Asylum now includes a Museum, Convict Study Centre and the Museum Coffee Shop.

SMITH O'BRIEN'S COTTAGE (8)

This cottage housed one of Port Arthur's most famous political prisoners – Irish Protestant Parliamentarian, William Smith O'Brien (right). Transported for life, he was sent to Port Arthur after an attempted escape from Maria Island.



CONVICT WATER SUPPLY TRAIL (10)

This trail tells the story of an ambitious project that aimed to make the convict settlement self-sufficient in the production of flour. A 600 metre, self-guided trail reveals the surviving artefacts from this convict-built hydro-engineering project. The walk takes about 30 minutes.

THE SEPARATE PRISON (13)

The Separate Prison was designed to deliver a new method of punishment, of reforming the convicts through isolation and contemplation. Convicts were locked for 23 hours each day in single cells. Here they ate, slept and worked, with just one hour a day allowed for exercise, alone, in a high-walled yard. A major conservation program for the Separate Prison began in 2007.

CIVIL OFFICERS' ROW, GOVERNMENT COTTAGE AND GOVERNMENT GARDENS

Comprising: *Visiting Magistrate's House* (16), *Roman Catholic Chaplain's House* (17), *Junior Medical Officer's House* (18), *Accountant's House* (19), *Parsonage* (20), *Government Cottage* (22), *Government Gardens* (23)

Civil Officers' Row separated senior officers and their families from the convict population and provided them with housing suited to their status. The Government Gardens offered a quiet and beautiful space, free from the unwanted presence of the convicts.

- 1 *The Penitentiary* (1857)
- 2 *Police Station* (1936)
- 3 *Law Courts* (1846)
- 4 *Guard Tower* (1835)
- 5 *Commandant's House* (1833–56)
- 6 *Senior Military Officer's Quarters* (1833)
- 7 *Officers' Quarters* (1844)
- 8 *Smith O'Brien's Cottage* (1840s)
- 9 *Hospital* (1842)
- 10 *Convict Water Supply Trail* (1842)
- 11 *Paupers' Depot* (1864)
- 12 *The Asylum* (1868)
- 13 *The Separate Prison* (1849)
- 14 *Soldiers' Memorial Avenue* (1918)
- 15 *Trentham* (1898-1904)
- 16 *Visiting Magistrate's House* (1847)
- 17 *Roman Catholic Chaplain's House* (1843)
- 18 *Junior Medical Officer's House* (1848)
- 19 *Accountant's House* (1842)
- 20 *Parsonage* (1842)
- 21 *The Church* (1837)
- 22 *Government Cottage* (1853)
- 23 *Government Gardens* (1846)
- 24 *St David's Church* (1927)
- 25 *Memorial Garden*
- 26 *Ferry Dock*
- 27 *Dockyard Slipway* (1834-48) & *Sculpture*
- 28 *Limekiln* (1854)
- 29 *Shipwright's House* (1834)
- 30 *Clerk of Works' House* (1848)
- 31 *The Isle of the Dead* (1833)
- 32 *Point Puer Boys' Prison* (1834)

CARNARVON TOWNSHIP

Comprising: *Police Station* (2) *Soldiers' Memorial Avenue* (14), *Trentham* (15), *St David's Church* (24)

Several buildings and areas remain from the post convict period. Trentham was lived in by members of the Trenham family up to 1920. The house and garden have been restored and are open to the public. The Soldiers' Memorial Avenue was planted to honour the 15 men from the Carnarvon and Oakwood districts who lost their lives serving in the First World War. The Police Station was home to the township's policemen from 1936 to 1972. The building is open to the public and has an Archaeology display. St David's Church was built after years of Anglican Church services in the Town Hall (Asylum). Services are held regularly and visitors are welcome.

Information

- Toilets
- Disabled Toilets
- Food
- First Aid
- Telephone
- Post Box
- Eftpos
- Rubbish Bins
- BBQ
- Designated Smoking Area
- House Museums

A NOTE ON DATES

Buildings and gardens at Port Arthur were constantly being adapted and changed. To avoid long lists of dates, the date given for each place usually represents the year when it was first used.



THE PENITENTIARY (1)

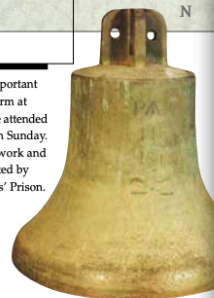
In the early days of the penal settlement, convicts were housed in rough timber huts. These were located in the area next to the Police Station. Later, as convict numbers increased, the flour mill and granary was converted into a four-storey Penitentiary, due to its failure to supply adequate flour for the settlement.

The Penitentiary's two lower floors contained 136 cells for 'prisoners of bad character'. The top floor provided space for 480 better behaved convicts to sleep in bunks.

A very large industrial area near the Penitentiary included workshops where prisoners worked and were trained in a range of skills including carpentry, shoemaking, wood turning and blacksmithing. There is no longer any evidence visible above the surface.

THE CHURCH (21)

The Church represents the important role of religion in convict reform at Port Arthur. Up to 1100 people attended compulsory services here each Sunday. Much of the decorative stonework and joinery in the church was crafted by boys from the Point Puer Boys' Prison.





Source: Shutterstock



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