



Department of Planning,  
Lands and Heritage




FREMANTLE PRISON  
The Convict Establishment



**Martha Rendell**

"Died protesting innocence"

Martha Rendell was a prominent figure in the Fremantle Prison community. She was known for her activism and her role in the 'Died protesting innocence' case.



**Brenden Abbott**

The Postcard Bandit

Brenden Abbott was a notorious criminal known as 'The Postcard Bandit'. He was involved in a series of robberies and was eventually sentenced to life in prison.



**Sydney Sutton**

Escaped and changed with rape

Sydney Sutton was a convict who escaped from Fremantle Prison. He was later found to have been involved in a rape, which led to his re-arrest and sentencing.

# FREMANTLE PRISON

# INTERPRETATION MANAGEMENT PLAN 2022



## Acknowledgement of Country

The Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage acknowledges the Whadjuk people, as the traditional custodians of Walyalup, the land on which Fremantle Prison is located. The Department pays respect to Elders past and present, and all Western Australian Aboriginal communities.

THIS STONE STANDS WITNESS TO THE COURAGE OF THE ABORIGINAL PEOPLE IN THEIR FIGHT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN AUSTRALIA

ERECTED ON 21ST SEPTEMBER 1994

IN MEMORY OF ALL ABORIGINAL PEOPLE WHO HAVE DIED IN CUSTODY AND HALLS OF THEIR FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES AND THE COURAGE TO SPEAK UP FOR JUSTICE

THIS LED TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ROYAL COMMISSION INTO ABORIGINAL DEATHS IN CUSTODY

THE COMMISSIONERS INDICATED THE DEATHS OF 39 ABORIGINAL PEOPLE AND REQUESTED MAY 1991, MAKING 350 RECOMMENDATIONS TO RIGHT THE WRONGS WHICH LED TO THEIR DEATHS

THIS MEMORIAL SIGNIFIES A COMMITMENT BY THE PEOPLE OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA TO ENSURE THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL

**JOHN PAT**

VOICE OF LIFE / THE PINUS SAID  
 ABOUT THE PAST / THE PAST IS AN  
 BUT ALL USE / IN FOOT OF A  
 IN A CONCRETE FLOOR / A CELL DUMB / AND JOHN PAT

NOT FEAR BUT THE EDGE / ABOUT THE AGE  
 WITH SILENCE / THE SILENCE / THEY'S WHO HE HEED  
 BUT FEAR'T ABOUT THE SILENCE  
 OF A CONCRETE FLOOR / A CELL DUMB / AND JOHN PAT

THE END PROBUDY / OF GIBBS / I WOULD HAVE A  
 IN A VASTNESS / FOR KING / AND CLAY  
 AND A PLACE TO DREAM / THE REMEMBRANCE'S DEAR  
 OF A CONCRETE FLOOR / A CELL DUMB / AND JOHN PAT

IT'S THERE - WHERE?  
 HERE IN THEIR BODIES NOW / BEEN NOTHING  
 HERE IN PRISON / A SHEDDING GLASS / A SHED  
 TO REMIND THEM ALL / OF A GIBBS WALL  
 OF A CONCRETE FLOOR / A CELL DUMB / AND JOHN PAT

**JACK DAVIS**, WRITER, POET, ACTIVIST

JOHN PAT WAS 16 YEARS OLD WHEN HE MET HIS DEATH IN A PRISON CELL IN DARWIN ON 28th SEPTEMBER 1983

Above: John Pat Memorial outside No.8 The Terrace.  
Cover image: True Crime panels, East Workshops.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Interpretation is a critical component of heritage conservation. An Interpretation Management Plan provides a holistic strategy that takes all factors of a site into account to ensure best practice heritage interpretation is achieved.

Fremantle Prison is recognised on the World Heritage List (as part of a serial listing), the National Heritage List and the Western Australian State Register of Heritage Places. Each listing carries different requirements and heritage values. As a national award winning cultural heritage attraction, it welcomes a diverse range of visitors to the site, with equally diverse expectations and motivations.

The Fremantle Prison Interpretation Management Plan (IMP) ensures a balanced approach to promoting an understanding of the multiple layers of heritage values to this broad audience.

The IMP has been developed with consideration to other guiding documents within the Fremantle Prison heritage management framework, and specifically addresses a number of recommendations from the Fremantle Prison Heritage Management Plan 2019 (HMP).

The IMP provides an interpretive vision for the site and makes recommendations on the content, research, design, development, conservation and ongoing management of sustainable interpretation programs. It examines this site's history and its heritage assets (built fabric, collections and histories), assesses current and potential site visitation and reviews existing tours and interpretive works.

Importantly, this IMP defines five key themes to consider the rich interweaving histories that were created, impacted and resonated throughout the Prison. These are:

- **Theme 1:** Convictism
- **Theme 2:** Punishment and reform
- **Theme 3:** People's experiences
- **Theme 4:** Built environment
- **Theme 5:** Living history.

The IMP will ensure these themes are expressed in a holistic way and are consistently applied across site interpretive programs, projects and strategies.

The IMP includes policies to guide future interpretive actions, with five priority actions identified. These are:

1. Deliver a thematic approach to interpretation, based on the five identified key themes.
2. Conduct audience research.
3. Generate and manage knowledge.
4. Complete Interpretation Management Strategies for specific areas and projects:
  - Prison perimeter and beyond
  - Gatehouse entrance
  - Interior
  - Online.
5. Review and monitor interpretive activities.

The IMP will be reviewed every five years.



**DANGER  
GO BACK**

**PLEASE  
KEEP OFF**

**DA  
KEE**

**DANGER  
KEEP BACK**



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Left: Stairs leading to the Hospital from Special Handling Unit alley.

1



Officers' quarters and guardroom, convict prison, Fremantle, W. Australia 1859, Henry Winny  
National Library of Australia

# STATE HERITAGE SITE

**Fremantle Prison was constructed by convicts between 1851 and 1859. It was Western Australia's main place of incarceration until its closure in 1991.**

In recognition of its exceptional cultural heritage value Fremantle Prison was placed on the Register of Heritage Places (WA) in 1995.

Fremantle Prison contains major evidence of the physical apparatus of an imperial convict public works establishment and of its adaptation for subsequent colonial use. The establishment is the most intact such complex in Australia, and is an outstanding symbol of the period in which Western Australia was developed using convict labour.



Above: Series of three signs on Fairbairn Ramp interpreting heritage significance.



# INTERPRETATION

Interpretation encompasses all potential activities intended to heighten public awareness, inspire appreciation and enhance understanding of the heritage values of a place.

Interpretation highlights why a place is heritage listed and conserved by sharing values of the site. As such, interpretation is a key aspect of the management of a heritage place.

*"...the work of revealing, to such visitors as desire the service, something of the beauty and wonder, the inspiration and spiritual meaning that lie behind what the visitor can with their senses perceive"*  
(Tilden 1957)

The International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) Charter for the Interpretation and Presentation of Cultural Heritage Sites sets out seven principal objectives for interpretation:

1. Facilitate understanding and appreciation of cultural heritage sites and foster public awareness and engagement in the need for their protection and conservation.
2. Communicate the meaning of cultural heritage sites to a range of audiences through careful, documented recognition of significance, through accepted scientific and scholarly methods as well as from living cultural traditions.
3. Safeguard the tangible and intangible values of cultural heritage sites in their natural and cultural settings and social contexts.

4. Respect the authenticity of cultural heritage sites, by communicating the significance of their historic fabric and cultural values and protecting them from the adverse impact of intrusive interpretive infrastructure, visitor pressure, inaccurate or inappropriate interpretation.
5. Contribute to the sustainable conservation of cultural heritage sites, through promoting public understanding of, and participation in, ongoing conservation efforts, ensuring long-term maintenance of the interpretive infrastructure and regular review of its interpretive contents.
6. Encourage inclusiveness in the interpretation of cultural heritage sites, by facilitating the involvement of stakeholders and associated communities in the development and implementation of interpretive programmes.
7. Develop technical and professional guidelines for heritage interpretation and presentation, including technologies, research, and training. Such guidelines must be appropriate and sustainable in their social contexts.

The development and delivery of interpretive activities and programs at Fremantle Prison is informed by, and aims to be consistent with, the above objectives.



Above: Convict Depot exhibition.

## INTERPRETATION AT FREMANTLE PRISON

The purpose of the Fremantle Prison Interpretation Management Plan 2022 is to explore ways in which the significance and history of the site's built fabric, collections, intangible heritage and landscape can be communicated to audiences whilst retaining authenticity.

Fremantle Prison has a range of heritage values, recognised on local, State, National and World Heritage registers. Fremantle Prison, as a member site of the Australian Convict Sites World Heritage Property (ACS), contributes to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the ACS.

Not all of Fremantle Prison's heritage values are recognised on all heritage registers. For example, the site's heritage values associated with its post-Second World War modern history are recognised on the City of Fremantle Heritage List and the State Register of Heritage Places (Western Australia), but not on the National Heritage List (Australia) or the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage List. On the other hand, the site's heritage values associated with its convict era history are recognised on all of these heritage registers.

The management (including conservation and interpretation) of Fremantle Prison's heritage significance needs to account for all of the place's heritage values and to ensure that no aspects of cultural significance are over-emphasised at the expense of others. The Fremantle Prison Interpretation Management Plan's thematic approach to interpretation recognises all aspects of the site's cultural significance.

Fremantle Prison is significant to different people for different reasons. Fremantle Prison ceased operation as a place of State incarceration in 1991 and the experience of Fremantle Prison continues in the living memory of many people. This includes former prisoners, former prison officers and other employees, victims of crime, and the families and communities of these people. Fremantle Prison was a place of Indigenous incarceration, a place of juvenile incarceration, and a place where women were imprisoned. These different groups of people have different associations with Fremantle Prison.





Above: Contemporary signage showing tours and departure times.

Fremantle Prison was experienced differently by staff, visitors and prisoners. There is no single narrative for the site and the different and difficult histories will be offered to visitors in multiple perspectives, allowing the visitor to navigate their personal meaning from all the different ways Fremantle Prison has been experienced. As increasing empathy can lead to tolerance and solidarity (Gonzales 2020), there is an opportunity for Fremantle Prison to explore colonisation and its impact on Aboriginal people with over representation in prisons.

Because Fremantle Prison is significant to different people for different reasons, its audience is varied. Visitors include local visitors (some with living memory of operational history), former employees and prisoners, international and interstate visitors with little prior site knowledge, historians and heritage practitioners, commercial tenants, school students and social groups.

Such a diverse audience demands that the interpretive program be multi-layered to accommodate different levels of interest, education and understanding. In response, this plan recommends interpretation through a variety of media – including but not limited to object displays, static images and text panels, interpretive artworks, dynamic multimedia displays, soundscapes, multi-sensory, guided tours, audio guides in different languages, public programs and printed material – to explore the place’s history and stimulate interest amongst all visitors.

Profiling current and potential future audiences will inform learning styles, motivations and expectations of those engaging with interpretive experiences, and assist in planning future strategies.

## STUDY AREA

The IMP focuses on the 6.295 hectare Fremantle Prison site which is bounded by The Terrace, Fothergill Street, Knutsford Street and Hampton Road in the City of Fremantle. It also makes reference to the ramp of Fairbairn Street.

Fremantle Prison is an asset of the State of Western Australia, vested in the Minister for Heritage for the purpose of 'conservation and management of historic buildings and ancillary beneficial uses thereto'. The Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage manage the Prison on behalf of the Minister for Heritage. The 6.295 hectare Fremantle Prison site is part of the original 16 hectare Convict Grant, as per the City of Fremantle's West End Heritage Policy.

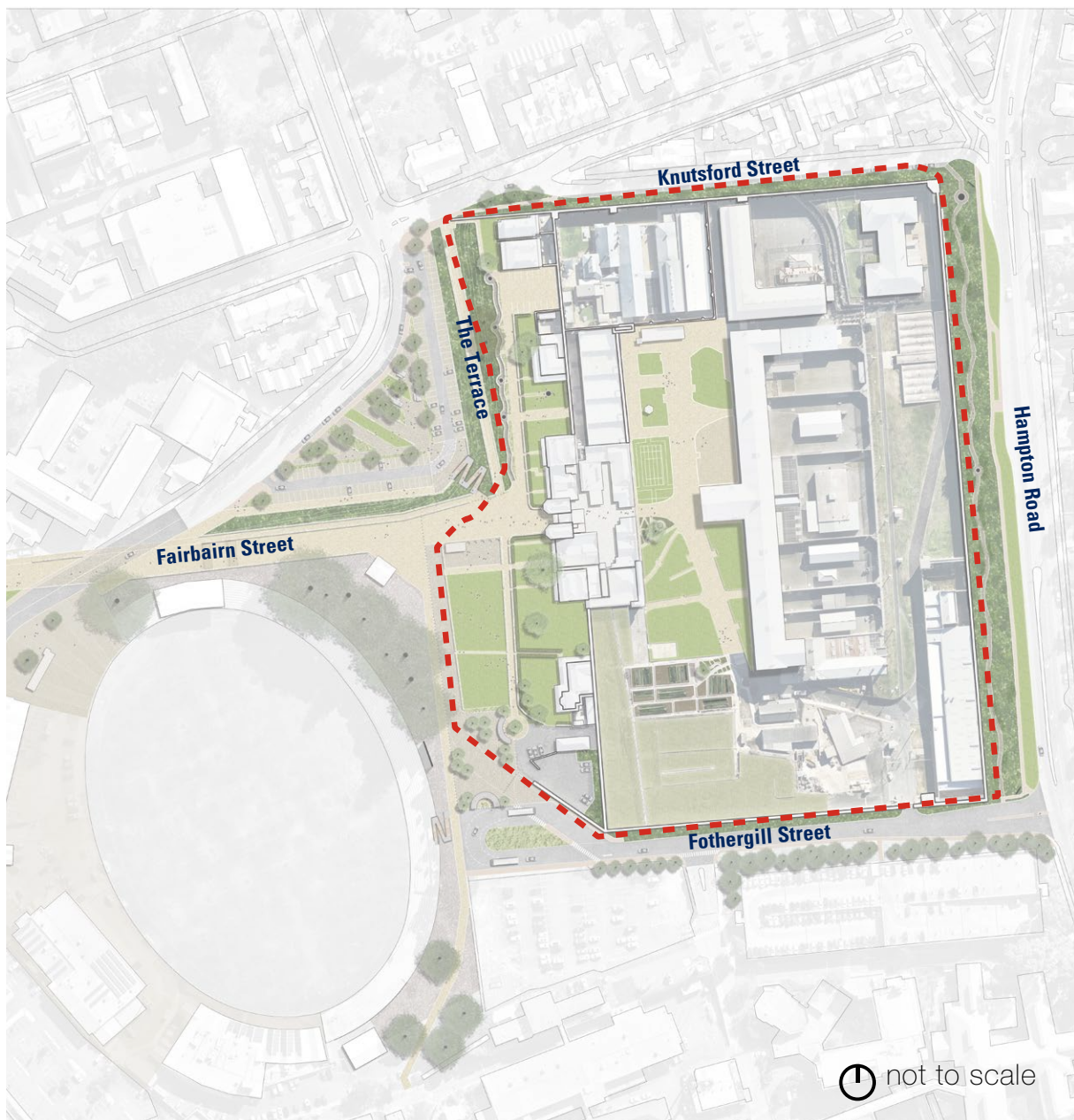


Figure 1. Map showing Fremantle Prison within the City of Fremantle.



Above: The Terrace.

## OBJECTIVES

Interpretation at Fremantle Prison aims to convey histories of the site summarised by the overarching thematic statement:

*The history of Fremantle Prison reflects the impact of colonisation on Aboriginal land and peoples, transportation of a convict work force to establish a colony, concepts of punishment and reform – both dispensed and experienced – during its 136-year operational life, all in a unique architectural landscape that has significant social meaning to many.*

The following outcomes are sought through the implementation of the IMP. Interpretation at Fremantle Prison:

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**1** Preserves the site's cultural heritage value and its authenticity.

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**2** Communicates the historic and social significance of the place and its cultural heritage values.

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**3** Presents accurate information that links directly to one or more of the five interpretive themes described.

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**4** Is of an international standard and encourages engagement.

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**5** Is accurate, innovative, accessible, provocative, respectful, informed by human rights and social justice principles, sustainable and reversible.

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**6** Caters to all learning styles and is accessible to multiple audiences, including intrastate, interstate and international visitors, adults and children, people with disabilities, and visitors for whom English is not their first language.

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**7** Encourages further engagement with Fremantle Prison's histories.

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**8** Creates and strengthens linkages with related local, national and international historic sites.

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# POLICIES

To ensure sustainable future interpretation, the following policies have been developed.

## FREMANTLE PRISON INTERPRETATION MANAGEMENT PLAN POLICIES

### Policy 1 Cultural significance

Interpretation to reflect and communicate the cultural significance and the historic and social heritage values of Fremantle Prison.

### Policy 2 Themes

Convey cultural significance of Fremantle Prison through five themes:

- **Theme 1:** Convictism
- **Theme 2:** Punishment and reform
- **Theme 3:** People's experience
- **Theme 4:** Built environment
- **Theme 5:** Living history.

### Policy 3 Interpretation Management Strategies

Interpretation Management Strategies to guide all interpretation decisions, based on defined areas in the Prison precinct.

### Policy 4 Audience research

Research and respond to audience behaviour including learning style, expectations and motivations to deliver high quality and authentic interpretation to diverse audiences.

### Policy 5 General research

Interpretive content to be accurate. Underpin interpretation with extensive research of diverse sources.

### Policy 6 Best practice heritage

Interpretation to be sustainable (in relation to maintenance, evaluation and review), reversible (in relation to heritage fabric), acknowledge cultural protocols and sensitivities, and be appropriate to the area.

### Policy 7 Audiences

Interpretive content to accommodate and engage multiple audiences, including intrastate, interstate and international visitors, adults and children, and visitors for whom English is not their first language.

### Policy 8 Accessibility

Interpretation to be accessible to people with disabilities.

### Policy 9 Innovation

Interpretation to be creative and provocative.

### Policy 10 Human rights

Interpretation of Fremantle Prison's history to be dignified and respectful of the stories of Fremantle Prison's prisoners and officers and victims of crime, and informed by human rights and social justice principles.

### Policy 11 Relationships

Interpretation to refer to, create and strengthen linkages with related local, national and international historic sites.

These policies align with recommendations from the Master Plan 2019-2029 (MP) and the Heritage Management Plan 2019, as shown in the table below. For more detail, refer to the relevant documents.

IMP Policy	IMP Objective	Relevant IMP section	MP objective	HMP policy
<b>Policy 1</b> Cultural significance	1	Introduction	5 Enthral with spectacular interpretation	58
	2	Themes		62
	3			85
				87
<b>Policy 2</b> Themes	3	Themes	5 Enthral with spectacular interpretation	58
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<b>Policy 4</b> Audience research	4	Audience	2 Care for visitors	61
	6		5 Enthral with spectacular interpretation	85
<b>Policy 5</b> General research	5	Knowledge generation	5 Enthral with spectacular interpretation	36
			7 Invite partnerships and innovation	39
				85
<b>Policy 6</b> Best practice heritage	5	Interpretation Management Strategies	5 Enthral with spectacular interpretation	62
	7		7 Invite partnerships and innovation	85
				87
<b>Policy 7</b> Audiences	4	Interpretation Management Strategies	2 Care for visitors	61
	6		5 Enthral with spectacular interpretation	85
<b>Policy 8</b> Accessibility	6	Interpretation Management Strategies	2 Care for visitors	83
			5 Enthral with spectacular interpretation	
<b>Policy 9</b> Innovation	4	Interpretation Management Strategies	5 Enthral with spectacular interpretation	83
	5		7 Invite partnerships and innovation	
<b>Policy 10</b> Human rights	5	Introduction Interpretation Management Strategies	5 Enthral with spectacular interpretation	62
			7 Invite partnerships and innovation	
<b>Policy 11</b> Relationships	8	Introduction Interpretation Management Strategies	5 Enthral with spectacular interpretation	83
			7 Invite partnerships and innovation	

## HERITAGE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

The IMP is a key element in the Fremantle Prison heritage management framework. The preparation of this document is a priority objective outlined in the HMP, especially regarding ‘Telling the story’.

Recommendations in this IMP have been prepared taking into consideration other guiding documents within the Fremantle Prison heritage management framework. Where conflicts occur between future use and conservation, conservation considerations outlined in the HMP will always take priority.

The IMP sits below the HMP, alongside, and complementary to, other second tier policy documents such as the Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan (currently in draft), the Accessibility and Inclusion Plan 2022,

Archaeological Management Plan 2021, the Collection Policy 2019, and the Landscape Management Plan 2021, see Figure 2.

The IMP provides broad interpretive concepts and approaches, projects and programs that will be further detailed in a series of supporting Interpretation Management Strategies (IMSSs).

The development of this IMP has also been influenced by the Fremantle Prison Master Plan 2019-2029, the UNESCO Nara Document on Authenticity 1994 that describes values of authenticity and integrity, as well as the Heritage Council of Western Australia’s guide on interpretation (see Bibliography for more details).



Figure 2. Heritage management framework.



Above: 2 Division, Main Cell Block.

## AUTHORSHIP

This IMP was prepared by the Heritage Interpretation Officer (Dr Oonagh Quigley) with input provided by the wider Heritage Conservation Branch as well as Tour Guides and Visitor Services staff at Fremantle Prison.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This document has greatly benefitted from stakeholder feedback provided by staff from Aboriginal Engagement (Department of the Premier and Cabinet); Australian Convict Sites; Education, Employment and Transitional Services (Department of Justice); Heritage Development (Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage); Rottnest Island Authority and Volunteer Heritage Guides (Roundhouse).

## GLOSSARY OF ABBREVIATIONS

<b>ACS</b>	Australian Convict Sites
<b>EPBC Act</b>	Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999
<b>HMP</b>	Heritage Management Plan
<b>IMP</b>	Interpretation Management Plan
<b>IMS</b>	Interpretation Management Strategy
<b>MP</b>	Master Plan
<b>NHL</b>	National Heritage List
<b>OUV</b>	Outstanding Universal Value
<b>SOS</b>	Statement of Significance
<b>SOUV</b>	Statement of Outstanding Universal Value
<b>SRHP</b>	State Register of Heritage Places
<b>UNESCO</b>	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

# 2



# THEMES

Above: Gatehouse and Main Cell Block.



Themes allow content to be organised for clear communication. Themes capture the cultural value of built heritage as well as the importance of movable and intangible heritage.

Fremantle Prison's historic and cultural values are numerous and varied, and relate to built fabric, objects, artworks and oral histories in Fremantle Prison Collection, and intangible and associative values and community connections. In order to take this variety into account, all the values ascribed under local, State, National and World Heritage listings and the Fremantle Prison Collection Policy 2019 were reviewed and categorised into five overarching themes:

- **Theme 1:** Convictism
- **Theme 2:** Punishment and reform
- **Theme 3:** People's experiences
- **Theme 4:** Built environment
- **Theme 5:** Living history.

Each of the five overarching themes described below link directly to either the:

World Heritage List – Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (WHL-SOUV)

National Heritage List – Statement of Significance (NHL-SOS)

State Register of Heritage Places (Western Australia) – Statement of Significance (SRHP-SOS)

Sub-themes are expanded upon in the Appendix.

## THEME 1: CONVICTISM

The cultural and physical landscape of Western Australia was irrevocably changed by the effects of colonisation, particularly through convictism and the transportation of convicts by the British Empire. First Nation peoples were displaced from their different Countries, convicts were exiled from their homeland and a new community was built by indentured labourers. The repercussions of this historical phenomenon still impact Australian identity today.

The Australian Convict Sites constitute an outstanding example of the way in which conventional forced labour and national prison systems were transformed, in major European nations in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, into a system of deportation and forced labour forming part of the British Empire's vast colonial project. Within the colonial system established in Australia, the convict settlements simultaneously led to the Aboriginal population being forced back into the less fertile hinterland, and to the creation of a significant source of population of European origin. (WHL-SOUV)

Fremantle Prison is a major component of the British convict system constructed in Australia. The system is an example of a nineteenth century European colonial strategy of exporting prisoners and using their labour to establish a colonial economy. In Australia, this strategy impacted on early colonial development and on the overall Australian psyche. (NHL-SOS)

The prison is the outstanding symbol of the period in which Western Australia was developing using convict labour. (SRHP-SOS)

### Sub-themes

- Impact on pre-convict world
- Transportation of convicts
- Building a colony

## THEME 2: PUNISHMENT AND REFORM

The concepts of punishment and/or rehabilitation in prisons were enforced through the physical environment and changed over time as the site transitioned to a modern prison. Changes were influenced by the social and political climate, as well as the personal attitudes of the Superintendent and/or Comptroller-General (head of the Convict Establishment).

The property shows the various forms that the convict settlements took, closely reflecting the discussions and beliefs about the punishment of crime in eighteenth and nineteenth century Europe, both in terms of its exemplarity and the harshness of the punishment used as a deterrent, and of the aim of social rehabilitation through labour and discipline. (WHL-SOUV)

The British colonial penal system, evident in post-1788 Australia, is demonstrated at Fremantle Prison. London's Pentonville prison, one of the first model prisons erected between 1840 and 1842, was based on changes in British penal philosophy which advocated reform rather than punishment. The design of the Main Cell Block at Fremantle Prison was adapted from Jebb's design at Pentonville. (NHL-SOS)

### Sub-themes

- Penal philosophy
- Punishment enforced
- Reform offered
- Implementation through fabric.

## THEME 3: PEOPLE'S EXPERIENCE

The lived experience of being in the Prison when it was operational comes from multiple perspectives including staff, visitors and prisoners. Each prisoner's experience was different and would have varied whether they were men, women, Aboriginal, non-Aboriginal, juveniles or World War Two internees, or according to their crime, health, sentence length, sexuality or profession.

They illustrate an active phase in the occupation of colonial lands to the detriment of the Aboriginal peoples, and the process of creating a colonial population of European origin through the dialectic of punishment and transportation followed by forced labour and social rehabilitation to the eventual social integration of convicts as settlers. (WHL-SOUV)

It demonstrates aspects of the system and the conditions in which convicts lived. The place allows the closest observation of the conditions in which many convicts served out their sentences in the nineteenth century. (NHL-SOS)

### Sub-themes

- Male prisoners
- Female prisoners
- War time use
- Protest
- Comparisons to other prisons
- Staff.

## THEME 4: BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Fremantle Prison is a highly intact and authentic architectural ensemble and cultural landscape related to the convict experience in Australia and the transformation of an Imperial convict system into a modern Australian prison system. The prison buildings, structures and spaces, to a high degree, relate to the changing philosophies of punishment and reform through the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, as well as to the economic and environmental conditions of Western Australia.

The sites illustrate the different types of convict settlement organized to serve the colonial development project by means of buildings, ports, infrastructure, the extraction of resources, etc. They illustrate the living conditions of the convicts, who were condemned to transportation far from their homes, deprived of freedom, and subjected to forced labour. (WHL-SOUV)

Fremantle Prison is an exceptionally intact architectural ensemble due to years of continuous use as a prison. Fremantle Prison contains major surviving physical evidence of an imperial convict public works establishment and of its adaptation for subsequent colonial (1886) and state use. (NHL-SOS)

The establishment is the most intact such complex in Australia. The austere and monumental quality of the longest and tallest cell range in Australia set in a precinct characterised by a homogeneity of form, materials, texture and colour make it a landmark feature of Fremantle. (SRHP-SOS)

### Sub-themes

- Historic and philosophical influences
- Spaces of punishment, surveillance, reform and administration
- Technical achievements
- Rarity
- Adaptation and change.

## THEME 5: LIVING HISTORY

The way in which the site is understood, researched and conserved is continually evolving. For example, living history manifests through people's perspectives and personal connections to the place as a functional prison (whether former prisoners, former staff, family members or descendants) or as a heritage site (local residents, heritage practitioners, tourists). This collective living memory of Fremantle Prison contributes to social value, community engagement and a strong sense of local community value. This theme also relates to the new ways that are emerging on how to consider the site, including expanding historical narratives or using technology to realise research potentials.

For Australians broadly, particularly those of Anglo-Celtic background, Fremantle Prison is a place to reconnect with their colonial roots, real or imagined, and reflect on the meanings of the past. For some, the search for early family associations and identity has led to Fremantle Prison and the rediscovery of personal links with convictism. (NHL-SOS)

The place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Australia's natural or cultural history. (NHL-SOS)

Fremantle Prison touches the lives of thousands of Western Australians through links with convict ancestors, connections with wartime prisoners from the armed forces and wartime ethnic internees, and the immediate past prisoners and their relatives, particularly the large numbers of Aboriginal men and women imprisoned in the twentieth century. Fremantle Prison has also a strong connection for the relatives and families of those in positions of authority at the prison. (SRHP-SOS)

The prison in its present form also demonstrates with some precision the facilities, conditions and attitudes prevailing in a major Western Australia prison – an experience rarely available to the public and made more immediate by the retention of graffiti, murals, signs, notices and recent evidence of use. (SRHP-SOS)

### Sub-themes

- People who interacted with the place as a functional prison
- People who interact with the place as a heritage site
- Conservation
- Future research potential.

### Summary

A theme is a statement that unites different strands of information, and uses an idea or a concept as a way of understanding a place (Carter 2001: 23). These themes have been derived from all the values that relate to Fremantle Prison. There are overlapping strands in the histories of Fremantle Prison, and therefore the themes overlap also. For example the expression of punishment and reform (Theme 2) in architecture resulted in the built environment (Theme 4) that influenced people's experience (Theme 3). As Fremantle Prison is so multilayered, the themes are not mutually exclusive but interweave.

The five themes form a chronological narrative. Starting from the establishment of the Prison through convictism and its impact on the pre-colonial landscape to how punishment and reform was exercised and encountered and the experiences of people on site when it was operational; continuing to how the architecture reflects convictism and punishment and reform philosophies in the built fabric. The temporal continuation of the narrative into living history highlights the contemporary social values attributed to the site by different groups as well as the site's research potential and what it can reveal.

The presence of a chronological narrative aligns with the HMP advice regarding National Heritage List values. One example is the NHL value that Fremantle Prison's history reflects the changes in Australian and British views about the use of forced labour as a basis for British Empire expansion. The HMP argues:

*Fremantle Prison was not a static environment. Those parts that illustrate the evolution of the Prison system are important. Therefore the continued effects of colonisation (i.e. beyond the time period of 1850-1886) are examined, for example the impact on Aboriginal people.*

Consistent with this is the five themes concisely described in the statement:

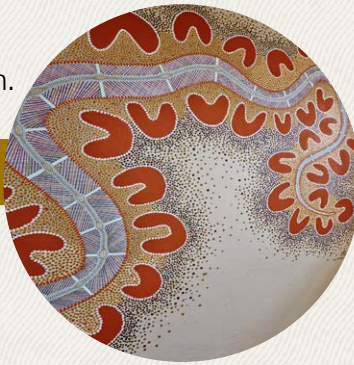
*The history of Fremantle Prison reflects the impact of colonisation on Aboriginal land and peoples, transportation of a convict work force to establish a colony, concepts of punishment and reform – both dispensed and experienced – during its 136-year operational life, all in a unique architectural landscape that has significant social meaning to many.*



The following historical summary of Fremantle Prison incorporates information from various sources compiled for the local, State, National and World Heritage listings as well as previous reports and historical images. This summary is largely based on information in the HMP, but expands further to discuss prominent dates and periods in history where significant changes took effect at the site and also to align to how archaeological time periods are categorised. The periods are more nuanced than those in the Fremantle Prison Collection Significance Assessment 2018 (Convict Era (1850-1885), Colonial Era (1886-1901), Early Twentieth Century (1902-1946), Late Twentieth Century (1947-1991)). This history also includes a post closure time period as actions taken since have had an impact on the site, as will future actions.



Right: The Rainbow Serpent and Spirit Children (detail), cell E30, 4 Division - 1991, Peter Cameron.



### Pre Colonisation

The Whadjuk people have been the custodians of Walyalup (Fremantle) for tens of thousands of years.

### Colonial Pre-Convict Era (1829 – 1849)

Establishment of Swan River Colony.  
Planning of Convict Establishment.

**1886** Control of Fremantle Prison is transferred to Western Australian Colonial Government.

**1888** Prisoners are relocated from Perth Gaol to Fremantle Prison. Gallows are built at the Prison; a tunnels system for water supply is constructed.

**1889** Female Division (Women's Prison) is constructed north-west of site.

**1898** A Royal Commission is undertaken into the operation of the penal system.

### Prison Colonial Era (1886 – 1901)

1829

1849

1886

1900s

### The Convict Era (1849 – 1886)

**1849** Colony of Western Australia is declared a penal colony.

**1850** First ship, carrying 75 male convicts and 50 Pensioner Guards and families, arrived in Fremantle. Elevated site for permanent Convict Establishment is selected.

**1851–53** Construction of the southern wing of the Main Cell Block, Terrace residences, and the Warders' Cottages begins. East Workshops are constructed.

**1857–59** Guard room, Hospital and Carpenter Shop are constructed. Northern wing of Main Cell Block is completed.

**1859** Fremantle Convict Establishment is officially opened on 31 December.

**1867** Fremantle Convict Establishment is renamed Fremantle Prison.

**1868** Transportation of convicts to Western Australia officially ceases. Nearly 10,000 convicts were transported to the colony.

### Federation and WWI Era (1901 – 1918)

**1900s** West Workshops constructed in 1900–1901; alterations are made to Main Cell Block and Exercise Yards. New Division with radial exercise yard is constructed north-east of site.

**1902** First teacher appointed, George William Ward.

**1911** A Royal Commission into Fremantle Prison results in the implementation of additional reforms.

### Inter-War and WWII Era (1918 – 1945)

**1920** A portion of the Prison is set aside as a reformatory prison.

**1940–45** A part of the Prison is occupied by the Department of Defence during World War Two, and is returned to civil use after the war.





**Post-1945** A variety of structures constructed on and below South Knoll terraces.

**1964** The last legal execution takes place in Western Australia with the hanging of Eric Edgar Cooke.

**1968** Prisoners riot over conditions.

**1992** Fremantle Prison opens to the public as a museum and cultural attraction.

**1992** Municipal Inventory of Heritage Places – City of Fremantle is prepared, Fremantle Prison placed on it.

**1994** John Pat Memorial installed outside No.8 The Terrace.

**Post-War Era  
(1945 – 1970)**

**Post Closure Era**

1945

1970s

1990s

Today

**Modern Era  
(1970 – 1991)**

**1970** Inmates of Female Division and staff transferred to Bandyup Women's Training Centre. Female Division buildings become part of the now all-male Prison.

**1972** Royal Commission into various allegations of assaults on or brutality to prisoners in Fremantle Prison and of discrimination against Aboriginal prisoners.

**1979** Fremantle Prison Museum opens, located at No. 16 The Terrace.

**1987–1991** Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody.

**1988** A major fire occurs in the Main Cell Block during a riot at the Prison.

**1991** Fremantle Prison is closed as a penal institution and prisoners are transferred to other prisons.

Left: Photograph of damage to the Main Cell Block from 1988 fire, Fremantle Prison Collection.

**Heritage Site**

**1995** Registered in State Register of Heritage Places – Heritage Council of Western Australia.

**2005** Listed on National Heritage List – Australian Government.

**2010** Inscribed on World Heritage List (Australian Convict Sites Serial Listing) – UNESCO.

**2017** Winner Australian Tourism Awards – Cultural Tourism.



1829 – 2022

# 4



# AUDIENCE

Above: Panels that list other Australian Convict Sites and World Heritage listing details, Gatehouse area.



Awareness of the audience make-up, expectations and learning styles will inform which interpretive devices are most appropriate.

All priority actions described in the Fremantle Prison Master Plan 2019-2029 include interpretive considerations. Increased knowledge of current and potential future audience profiles will inform what interpretive devices will be most effective.

## CURRENT AUDIENCE

Prior to the COVID-19 global pandemic in 2020, Fremantle Prison welcomed approximately 200,000 visitors per year: intrastate (average 44%); interstate (average 21%); and international (average 35%).

Visitor feedback is gathered from visitor surveys on site. Online comments and reviews are assessed daily. Visitor satisfaction levels to the site are high. In 2018-19, feedback from 968 respondents, showed:

- 94% had an excellent/very good experience;
- 97% would recommend to others; and
- 96% indicated their experience met or exceeded their expectations.

Visitor motivation of a national market audience (Australian) was investigated in the 2019 report by Initiative Media, *Hello. Fremantle Prison – Market Evaluation*. Some visitors wished to experience local culture/history and travel to become more open-minded and knowledgeable, which suggests that heritage is a major attraction for some visitors. Visitors were interested in escape stories, convict era history and stories associated with specific prisoners.

Additionally, visitors were more likely to visit the site due to its World Heritage status.

A further outcome of this study was that visitors to the site wanted free experiences. There is an opportunity to draw on this audience segment by creating curiosity with online content or interpretive strategies outside the Prison perimeter or in the free display areas in the Prison Gatehouse area.

## AUDIENCE RESEARCH

In order to discover audience make-up and what interpretive approaches are most appropriate for different spaces and types of visitors, audience awareness beyond their point of origin is required to determine:

- the profiles of current visitor types (age, interests, knowledge, preferred language, spending power, presence of any barriers to visiting (physical, sensory, intellectual, emotional or financial) time available, solo or group visitor, preconceptions, misconceptions, previous experiences of site, knowledge of site histories);
- expectations and preferred learning styles (visual, auditory, verbal, or kinaesthetic);
- response to current interpretation;
- response to proposed future interpretation; and
- potential future audience profiles that may be interested in Prison experiences based on proposed interpretation.

Knowledge provided through audience research will inform future interpretation.

# KNOWLEDGE GENERATION 5

**ATTENTION!**

**REFORM**

There is nothing so completely futile in this world as a prison sentence, if the person undergoing it has idled the time away and goes out to be better than he was when he went in.

Prisons have punished criminals to reform them. These days by discovery and reward. Although

**PUNISH**

"You can only deal with them as you deal with naughty children – whip them ... Give them a little stick when they really deserve it, and it does them a power of good."

Before the rise of prisons in the 1700s, punishments such as hangings, floggings and burnings were public events and physically brutal. Society abhorred these violent spectacles. Prisons were constructed to conceal punishment of criminals behind doors.

Pre-convict era punishments included labour in leg irons, punishment, floggings and ... Apart from leg irons, ... continued well into ... Prison.



A major requirement of all interpretation is a sound research basis of material. More research, increased collection of oral histories from multiple perspectives, and improved data management systems will support enhanced interpretation of the five themes.

The HMP outlines the following relating to 'Keeping a Record':

### **POLICY 36**

Fremantle Prison will continue to support and encourage broad-ranging research into the history of the Prison, as a means of enhancing Prison management and interpretation.



Above: Contact/Non-Contact exhibition

## RESEARCH

A key avenue to generate further knowledge includes archive based research of material located in different areas, ranging from Western Australia to archives and collections in other states in Australia and other countries such as Ireland and Great Britain. Different archives have legislation around what records can be accessed so that as each year passes, new material is made available. There is complexity of legislation over access to medical records, military records or prisoner records.

In 2019 and 2020, most of the Fremantle Prison archives were digitised and made available to staff and researchers. However, given historical storage practices, it is possible that not all of the archival material available on site has been digitised nor organised in an easily accessible and searchable format.

New findings from the site also add to site knowledge. For example, discoveries through archaeological finds (see Archaeological Management Plan 2021 for more detail) and conservation works. New knowledge is also gained from objects being donated to collection. The objects themselves and the attached stories contribute to our understanding of Fremantle Prison.

Additionally, inviting specialists such as conservators and historians, or former prisoners and officers, to speak about different aspects of Fremantle Prison to staff contributes to a better understanding of the site histories.

Research avenues to be explored:

- New findings from the site – including archaeological finds and how buildings were treated/used as discovered through conservation works
- Invite interviewees on a recorded walk through buildings
- Fremantle Hospital Museum archives, record of convict labour, hospital admissions of prisoners
- Fremantle Library local history archives
- Fremantle Studies and other local history societies
- Rottnest Island/Wadjemup historical archives
- Royal Perth Hospital Museum archive, hospital admissions of prisoners
- Art Gallery of WA, James Walsh material and convict era images for context
- Local history museums where convict depots were located
- Roman Catholic Archbishop of Perth, records relating to convicts
- State Records Office of WA
- State Library of WA
- Western Australia Police Historical Society Inc.
- Department of Justice
- Trove – historic newspapers
- National Archives of Australia
- Department of Defence, relating to when the Prison was under different management during World War Two
- Colonial office in the UK (Records of the Colonial Office, Commonwealth and Foreign and Commonwealth Offices, Empire Marketing Board and related bodies)
- Online platforms that gather information from different sites, e.g. Wadjemup – The Land Beyond the Shore project and the the Digital Panopticon project.



Above: Carrolup style artwork in cell B45, 3 Division, Main Cell Block.

## ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Given the increasing age of people with a lived experience of the Prison as a maximum security institution, priority focus must be given to the immediate resourcing of a comprehensive oral history program. The program should include videography for future interpretive use.

## DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

An awareness of emerging technologies will be maintained to continue to improve knowledge around collection processes, preservation systems, accessibility and usability.

# 6

# REVIEW AND MONITOR



Above: Guided Tour.

Ongoing reviews are fundamental to a well maintained interpretive program. A focus on continuous improvement, with awareness of current best practices and new design innovations, will ensure the continued delivery of world class interpretive experiences.

## CURRENT INTERPRETATION REVIEW

A review of current interpretation strategies and whether they explore the five themes was conducted. This will inform future IMSs. As the five themes have only been defined for the purposes of this IMP, there are a number of gaps.

The following summary of Fremantle Prison's current interpretive experiences is presented based on location and how the interpretive content is accessed. See Figure 3 for the three areas described (Prison perimeter and beyond, Gatehouse entrance and Interior).



Figure 3: Fremantle Prison areas for purposes of interpretation planning.

## PERIMETER AND BEYOND

This area extends around the site and into the City of Fremantle. A portion of this space is owned by Fremantle Prison, with local government, other State Government agencies and private entities owning the broader area of the original Convict Grant.

Interpretation in these areas is free to access and can be accessed at all times.

The Landscape Management Plan 2021 offers strategies to continue interpretation of the Prison into the City of Fremantle – to reinstate the character of the convict precinct and create a strong sense of arrival to the place. Some guidance is also provided in the City of Fremantle West End Conservation Area Local Planning Policy.

### External signage

There are many different signs located around the site in different formatting styles depending on the date of their installation. The different signage mostly relates to heritage interpretation and includes:

- Series of three signs on Fairbairn Ramp – interpreting heritage significance
- Depiction of convict work party on Fairbairn Ramp
- Australian Convict Sites sign on The Terrace – interprets World Heritage serial listing
- Terrace Panels – interprets Terrace buildings
- John Pat Memorial – commemorates John Pat's death in 1983 in Roebourne and the Royal Commission into Deaths in Custody.

## GATEHOUSE ENTRY AREA

This encompasses the area in the Gatehouse Complex that is currently free for visitors, with access limited to opening hours.

This area includes exhibitions, the café, gift shop and visitor amenities.

### Internal signage

#### Gatehouse Entry Complex

- Panels that interpret the Prison's history through previous uses of the buildings in the immediate area
- Panels that interpret previous conservation projects
- Panels that list other Australian Convict Sites and World Heritage listing details
- 'Don't sit on the toilet' convict themed signs
- Prisoner Mug Shot panel
- Tour information, timing and costs.

### Exhibitions

All exhibitions in the Gatehouse area can be accessed for free by visitors.

- The Contact/Non-Contact exhibition illustrates the contemporary history of the Prison, including 1991 video footage of the Prison site. It re-creates a person visiting a prisoner on site, either behind a barrier (Non-Contact Visits) or without a barrier (Contact Visits). There is also a display case of objects from Fremantle Prison Collection. There is text interpretation about the operational history of the Prison.
- The Convict Depot exhibition is dedicated to the site's convict story, and includes interactive displays, a searchable database of all convicts transported to the Swan River Colony, archaeological material and replicas. There is text interpretation throughout the exhibition.



- The Visible Storage Facility is a means to showcase best museum practice as well as offer an opportunity for visitors to view objects in storage (as the majority of objects in the collection are in storage). The Visible Storage Facility is divided into two rooms, Visible Storage Room 1 and Visible Storage Room 2, coming off a central corridor. A variety of material can be seen through the large windows and there is text interpretation for several objects. The areas allow visitors to view collection items that are not part of an exhibition. At times, curatorial staff working on the collection can be observed.
- The Front Gallery and Side Gallery house temporary exhibitions, temporary defined as per Fremantle Prison Collection Policy 2019.
- The Gallery space features quarterly contemporary prisoner art exhibitions, curated by the Department of Justice. These exhibitions are called 'Insider Art'.

## INTERIOR

This encompasses the area beyond the Wray Gates. Guided tours (as well as some functions and events) are the only way to access the site past the Wray Gates and there is a fee. All tours are guided due to the nature of the site and which ensures visitors are safe and avoids negative impacts to fabric such as graffiti. Access is limited to the operational hours of the Prison.

There are currently five guided tours (Convict Prison, Behind Bars, True Crime, Tunnels and Torchlight) which run regularly at Fremantle Prison (see Figure 4). The five tours examine different histories and visit different areas and buildings of the site, complementing each other whilst also allowing for variety between the products. There are also occasional bespoke tours for specific community groups or private tour groups. All tours are led by trained Tour Guides or specialist staff. The tours are given in Auslan, English, French, German, Japanese, Mandarin and Korean.

## Tours

- The Convict Prison Tour explores the history of Fremantle Prison from its construction in the 1850s until the end of the convict era in 1886. Areas covered include Parade Ground, Main Cell Block locations (1 Division ground floor, Library/Association Ward, Anglian Chapel, 3 Division E/F landing, Moondyne Joe cell, Catholic Chapel, Refractory Block and Flogging Post).
- The Behind Bars Tour explores Fremantle Prison's history as a maximum security prison from 1887 to 1991, and examines different types of prisoners and their routines. Areas covered include Reception, Parade Ground, Shower Block (exterior only), Main Cell Block locations (Kitchens, 1 Division Yard, 2 Division Yard, 2 Division ground floor, Gallows, 3 Division ground floor, 4 Division ground floor, Crown Theatre), New Division, Female Division and Parade Ground.
- The True Crime Tour explores real life stories of some of the Prison's most notorious prisoners (from convict to recent times) and how their crimes gripped the community. Areas that can be covered (different to other tours in that Guides can choose from a range of choices) include Parade Ground, South Bank, East Workshops, East Bank, Female Division, Hospital, East Workshops, Main Cell Block (4 Division and yard), New Division, Watch Tower No. 1 and Watch Tower No. 6.
- The Tunnels Tour explores the creation of an elaborate network of tunnels excavated to supply Fremantle Prison and the City of Fremantle with potable water. Areas covered include the Parade Ground, Pumphouse (in East Workshops) and parts of the tunnels. The Tunnels Tour includes a display in the tunnels area which is only accessible by being on the tour.

- The Torchlight Tour explores the darker side of Fremantle Prison's history – stories of loneliness, pain and suffering, of executions gone wrong, of the innocent unjustly imprisoned and the guilty punished. Areas covered include Reception, Parade Ground, Main Cell Block locations (1 Division, Kitchen, 1 Division Yard, 2 Division, Section 43 (Cell 57), Flogging Post, Refractory Block, Gallows, 3 Division and 4 Division and when accessible the Morgue).
- Bespoke tours have focused on women's experiences, prisoner and convict art tours, Aboriginal incarceration (noting the development of an Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan will expand on this) and behind the scenes of the collection. These are typically run in relation to an event, for example International Women's Day, International Museum Day or the National Trust Heritage Festival. Themes and areas covered in tours range according to the topic of the tour. Bespoke tours can also be offered as part of functions and events.

### **Interior: displays**

#### **Main Cell Block**

- 1 Division: cell reconstruction
- 2 Division: barber shop reconstruction
- 3 Division: cell reconstructions in a timeline
- Catholic Chapel: interpretive panels
- Administration wing: office reconstructions.

#### **Reception**

- Objects and office reconstruction.

#### **Tunnels**

- Objects.

### **Interior: signage**

In addition to interpretation signage there are signs from when the Prison was operational as well as directional and occupational health and safety signs.

#### **East Workshops**

- Interpretive panels relating to True Crime Tour.

#### **Female Division**

- Seven reproduced pages from Prisoner Registers of female prisoners (sourced from State Records Office).

#### **Main Cell Block**

- 1 Division: conditions relating to convict (1850-1886) era experience
- 2 Division: schedule relating to prisoner experience
- 3 Division: reproduction of photograph after 1988 riot
- 3 Division: Panels that explain the different cell sizes and their changes through time, with re-created cells.

#### **New Division**

- Interpretive panels relating to True Crime Tour.

#### **Tunnels**

- Relating to tunnels system.

### **Interior: soundscape and audio visual**

#### **Main Cell Block**

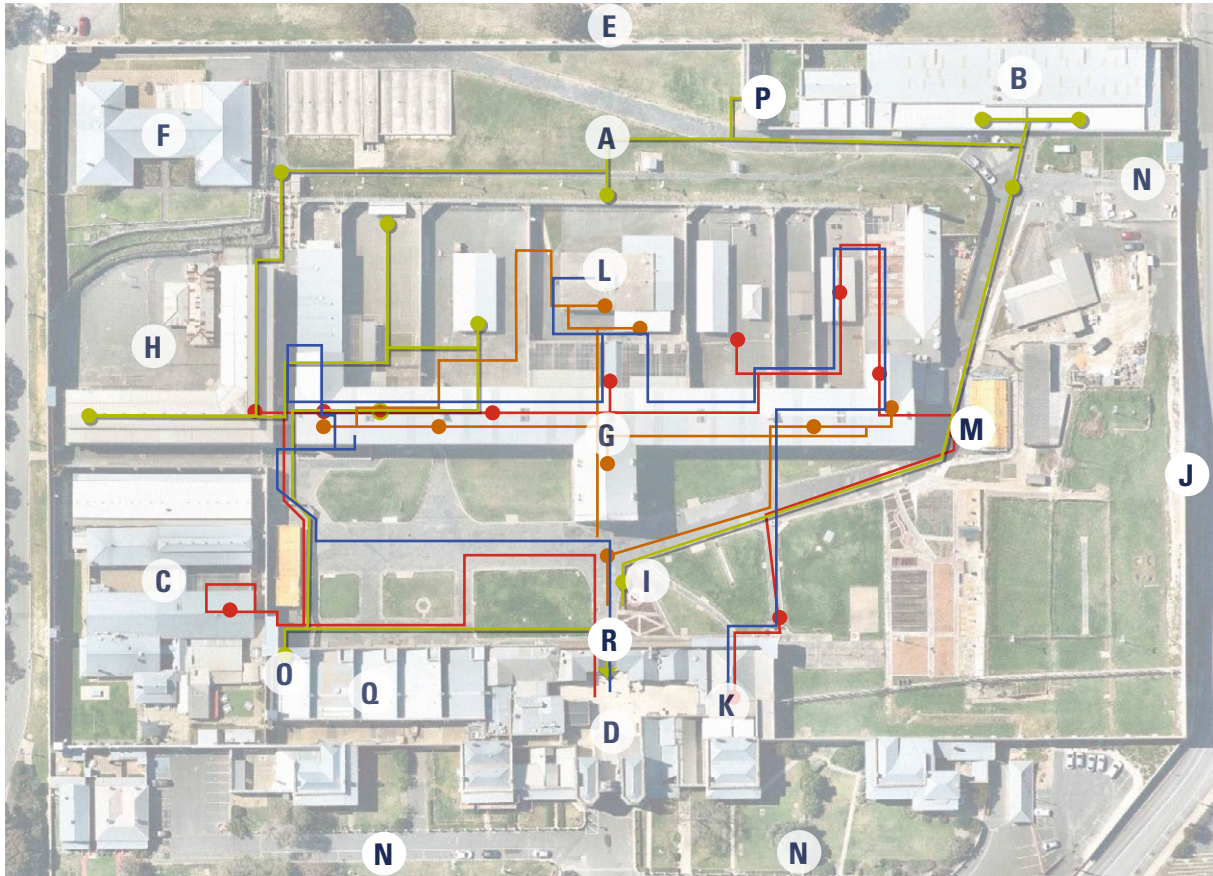
- Crown Theatre – visual projection of operational Prison footage from 1991
- Kitchen – soundscape.

#### **Tunnels**

- Video covering history of tunnels and safety features of tour.

### **ONLINE – DIGITAL**

This includes material from the Fremantle Prison Website and the Fremantle Prison Facebook page and Instagram account.



- **Convict Prison Tour route**
- **Behind Bars Tour route**
- **True Crime Tour route**
- **Torchlight Tour route**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="border: 1px solid orange; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px 5px;">A</span> <b>East Bank</b></li> <li><span style="border: 1px solid orange; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px 5px;">B</span> <b>East Workshops</b></li> <li><span style="border: 1px solid orange; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px 5px;">C</span> <b>Female Division</b></li> <li><span style="border: 1px solid orange; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px 5px;">D</span> <b>The Gatehouse &amp; Entry Complex</b></li> <li><span style="border: 1px solid orange; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px 5px;">E</span> <b>Hampton Road Reserve</b></li> <li><span style="border: 1px solid orange; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px 5px;">F</span> <b>Hospital</b></li> <li><span style="border: 1px solid orange; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px 5px;">G</span> <b>Main Cell Block</b></li> <li><span style="border: 1px solid orange; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px 5px;">H</span> <b>New Division</b></li> <li><span style="border: 1px solid orange; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px 5px;">I</span> <b>Parade Ground</b></li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="border: 1px solid orange; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px 5px;">J</span> <b>Perimeter Walls</b></li> <li><span style="border: 1px solid orange; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px 5px;">K</span> <b>Reception</b></li> <li><span style="border: 1px solid orange; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px 5px;">L</span> <b>Refractory Block</b></li> <li><span style="border: 1px solid orange; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px 5px;">M</span> <b>Shower Block</b></li> <li><span style="border: 1px solid orange; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px 5px;">N</span> <b>The Terrace</b></li> <li><span style="border: 1px solid orange; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px 5px;">O</span> <b>Watch Tower No. 1</b></li> <li><span style="border: 1px solid orange; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px 5px;">P</span> <b>Watch Tower No. 6</b></li> <li><span style="border: 1px solid orange; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px 5px;">Q</span> <b>West Workshops</b></li> <li><span style="border: 1px solid orange; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px 5px;">R</span> <b>Wray Gates</b></li> </ul> |
|---|---|

Figure 4. Current tour routes and locations visited.

The review also considered how Fremantle Prison performs against other prison museums/ attractions in WA, Australia and internationally (see table below). In comparison to other prison museums, Fremantle Prison's tour program is performing well. Interpretive products which Fremantle Prison is not currently offering include podcasts, virtual tours, immersive tours, sensory tours, self-guided tours and paranormal focused tours. These gaps will be examined in each IMS.

<b>Australian Convict Sites</b>	Brickenden-Woolmers Estates, Tasmania
	Cascades Female Factory, Tasmania
	Coal Mines Historic Site, Tasmania
	Cockatoo Island Convict Station, New South Wales
	Darlington Probation Station, Tasmania
	Hyde Park Barracks, New South Wales
	Kingston and Arthur's Vale Historic Area, Norfolk Island
	Old Government House and Domain (Parramatta), New South Wales
	Old Great North Road, New South Wales
Port Arthur Historic Site, Tasmania	
<b>Other prisons (local)</b>	Roundhouse
	Rottneest Island/Wadjemup
<b>Other prisons (WA wide)</b>	Albany Convict Depot/Albany Convict Gaol and Museum
	Cossack Townsite Precinct
	Dorre and Bernier Island Lock Hospitals
	Old Police Lockup & Boab Tree, Broome
	Roebourne
	Toodyay Convict Depot/Newcastle Gaol Precinct
York Convict Depot	
<b>Convict built in WA</b>	Fremantle Arts Centre
	Perth Town Hall
<b>Other prisons (Australia)</b>	Adelaide Gaol, South Australia
	Boggo Road Gaol, Queensland
	Maitland Gaol, New South Wales
	Old Melbourne Gaol, Victoria
<b>International (prison related)</b>	Alcatraz, USA
	Cayenne, French Guiana
	Coiba Island, Panama
	Eastern State Penitentiary, USA
	Holloway Prison, UK
	Kilmainham Gaol, Ireland
	Peterhead Prison Museum, Scotland
	Robben Island, South Africa



Above: Guided tour outside Watch Tower No. 4.

## FEEDBACK

Fremantle Prison collects feedback through electronic visitor surveys, and manages social media engagements and commentary to maintain a keen awareness of visitor responses to the products offered. Feedback can also be received through direct phone calls and emails. These feedback monitoring systems will be maintained.

Tour Guides interact with visitors daily. Suggestions from Guides were gathered in consultation workshops.

During the tour, Guides wish to:

- Provoke the visitor, make them feel excited, engaged, curious and have their imagination piqued
- Provide secret/little known information about the site, as well as share general history
- Manage services on tour, including accessibility, toilets and water access
- Enable access to information in different languages (audio guides)
- Link with other prison sites, convict built sites and historical sites.

After the tour, the desire is for visitors to:

- Continue to engage in different ways, for example, research their convict past, volunteer in cultural heritage organisations, and/or do something in relation to social activism and justice
- Come back for another tour
- Recommend a visit to others
- Engage with social media
- Visit other sites related to Fremantle Prison locally as well as other Australian Convict Sites.

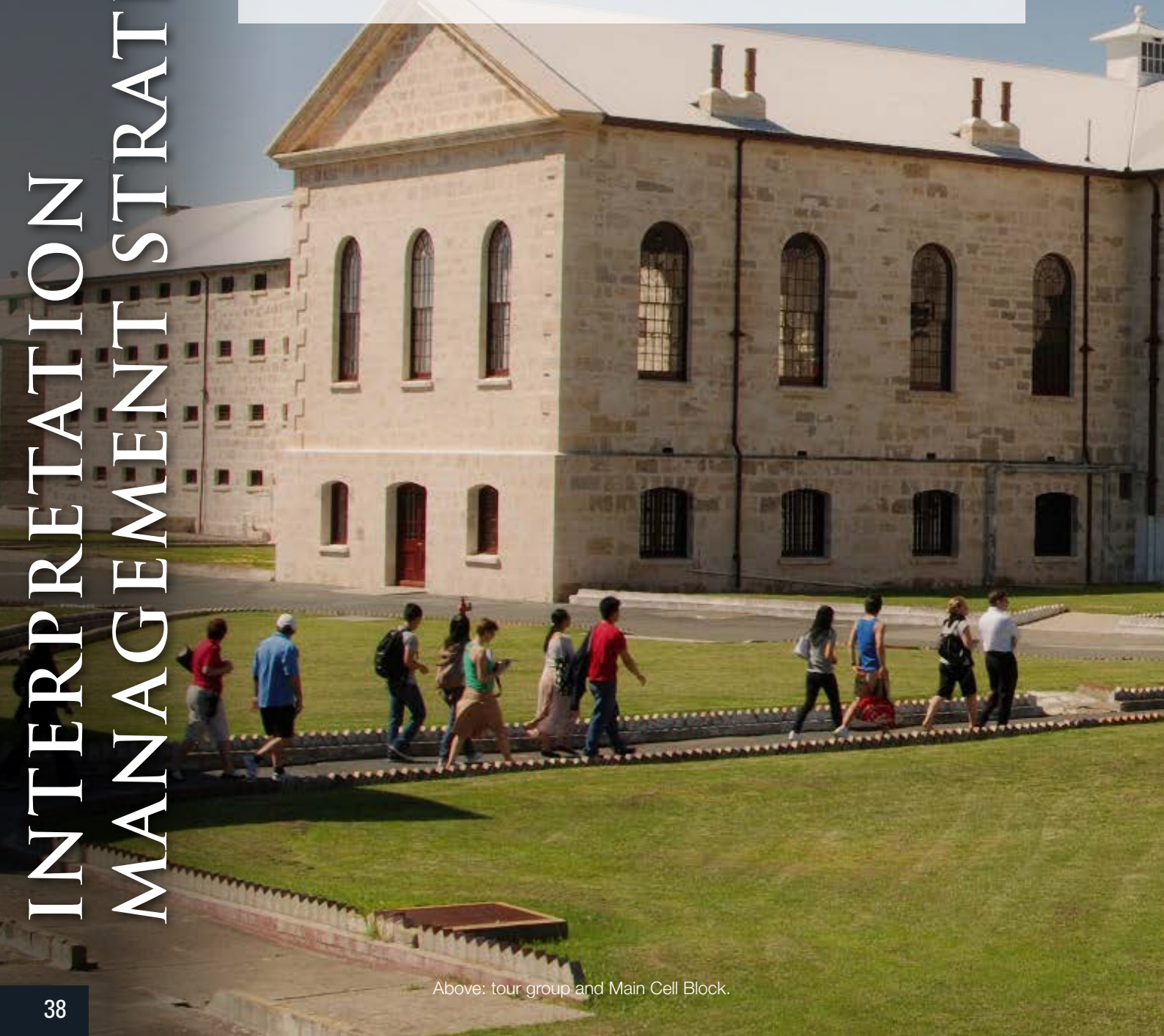
Donations and memberships are not currently possible within government framework, but were suggested by Guides.

# 7 INTERPRETATION MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

Interpretation Management Strategies will underpin all interpretation activities. Each IMS will detail actions specific to an area or project.

Each IMS will be reviewed every five years. Future reviews will consider refreshing activities and experiences to maintain appeal to the significant local market. When contemplating the entire area of the original Convict Grant from an interpretation perspective, consideration is given to who owns, manages and maintains the land, and how each space is used and accessed. In this way the space can be defined for the purposes of a detailed IMS into the following three 'zones' and online (see Figure 3 for location of zones). Each IMS will determine the appropriate themes, and weighting of each, in each space.

- Prison perimeter and beyond (free, accessible all times)
- Gatehouse entrance (free, accessible during opening hours only)
- Interior (requires payment, accessible during opening hours only)
- Online (free, accessible all times).



Above: tour group and Main Cell Block.

## INTERPRETATION PRIORITY

Any changes to the current suite of interpretive experiences based on reviews and/or feedback, will require decisions. The HMP avoids the application of a universal 'rule' for decision-making, but rather advises that conservation management decisions, including interpretive activities, will need to be made on a case-by-case basis, balancing co-existing heritage values.

The HMP argues that the convict era is of greatest significance as it contributes to the OUV that is linked to the World Heritage Listing. The HMP also maintains that the appropriate management of Fremantle Prison demands a holistic approach to conservation.

The strength of interpretation is when it is in context. If a building is conserved and material removed to another site (for example put on display), the material can be interpreted but it is no longer in its original context and the interpretive potential of the material is lessened. Therefore, a more ideal outcome is for buildings to be conserved and for the fabric to have remnants/signifiers of previous use which will demonstrate in situ the ways people interacted with the building and purposes the building served.

If interpretation is considered at the same time as conservation, a more ideal outcome will occur. While the two are different, they are intertwined. The IMP is primarily focused on interpretation with conservation taken into account. However, for conservation matters, the HMP and relevant Conservation Management Strategies should be consulted.

Factors to be considered to guide discussion to support decision making and balance potentially competing interpretive purposes are condition, impact on surrounding fabric and rarity. If there is conflict over interpretation options, these factors will be dissected as part of the purpose section in the Interpretation Management Strategy.

**Condition** refers to the amount of work required to improve the state of the material under consideration. It does not dictate what is to be conserved or not conserved.

The **impact on surrounding fabric** means any action taken can either have an impact, or not have an impact, on the surrounding fabric. One action can have both positive and negative impacts on fabric, depending on what is under discussion. An impact is one that removes fabric or allows it to degrade. No impact does not remove or expose material to degradation and leaves fabric in place.

**Rarity** is considered in the context of the Fremantle Prison site. If there is more than one interpretation option possible and one is rare while the other is not, then the rare interpretive purpose is the more appropriate option. This factor allows for context to be included in discussions. An example of something that has more than one interpretation purpose is the Library in 1 Division, Main Cell Block. It could be used to interpret a former use as an Association Ward or to retain the space as the Library. The area behind the Catholic Chapel in 4 Division, Main Cell Block could also be interpreted as an Association Ward. However the Library as it was in 1991 cannot be interpreted elsewhere. Therefore it is a more appropriate option to interpret the area in 1 Division as the Library and not an Association Ward.

# IMS TEMPLATE

Each IMS will address five core considerations:

<b>1</b>	<b>Purpose</b> <p>The intention is to communicate the five themes. All five themes will be touched upon in all areas to varying degrees. To ensure an holistic approach and that deliberation has gone into actions that could result in a particular theme/s being obscured, consider the interpretation factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• condition</li><li>• impact on surrounding fabric</li><li>• rarity.</li></ul>
<b>2</b>	<b>Target audience</b> <p>All IMS will be cognisant of current audiences, while including initiatives to appeal to new and different visitors. This will be informed by audience research.</p>
<b>3</b>	<b>Desired outcome</b> <p>The overall result of interpretation initiatives will be increased awareness of a site that was built by convicts and adapted to a State prison, and that colonisation changed the cultural and physical landscape of Western Australia. Individual IMSs will include different desired outcomes for different areas. Knowledge generation and management will support the continual improvement of outcomes delivered.</p>
<b>4</b>	<b>Location</b> <p>Describe the physical boundaries of the specific Interpretation Management Strategy.</p>

<b>5</b>	<b>Devices</b> <p>All future interpretive devices will consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Accessibility (see Fremantle Prison Accessibility and Inclusion Plan 2022 for further detail)</li><li>• Logistics, including insurance, security, and maintenance/life span.</li></ul> <p>The interpretive devices, where possible and appropriate, will be made from robust material and secure elements that will require minimal ongoing supervision and maintenance. Devices will be made in accordance with materials palette (as recommended from Landscape Management Plan 2021). It is envisaged that routine general cleaning of signage, showcases and exhibitions and other works will be carried out by the Grounds Keepers and cleaning contractors. Handling and cleaning of any objects from the collection must only be done by the Curatorial team. Repairs to built fabric must only be done following consultation with the Heritage Conservation team and undertaken by skilled heritage tradespersons. It is also noted that Tour Guides often report any issues they see on their tour route. Devices which will be located in outdoor public spaces may need periodic replacement due to the effects of UV exposure, vandalism and accidental damage. Regular inspection of interpretive works will be conducted on a 6-monthly basis by the Heritage Conservation team to review signage condition, object conservation conditions and security, lighting and multimedia operation. Aspects such as renewal schedule, insurance, security, maintenance, cleaning and checks will be documented.</p>
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## POTENTIAL INTERPRETIVE DEVICES

The exact mechanism of interpretation will be described in detail in separate IMSs. Broad desired outcomes for each area and possible interpretive devices are listed below. These potential devices will be adapted with innovative new technology as it emerges.

### PRISON PERIMETER AND BEYOND

Visitors with a distance to cover to the Prison will be offered interpretation that outlines the uniqueness of the site and motivates visitors to come to site (as they will either be in the City of Fremantle area or online and will not be near the interior). The majority of interpretation will focus on the approach to the main entrance but the surroundings will also be considered. The aim for interpretation is to create curiosity and be slightly informative in a way to provide foundation for stories that will be heard in more detail when the visitor is experiencing the Prison interior. Online material could offer an opportunity to showcase objects. Interpretation will also aim to invite visitors to a site with architecture that was purposely designed to be imposing.

The perimeter will tie the site into the bigger story of colonisation and the other convict and heritage sites in the immediate Fremantle area and beyond.

The area outside the Prison will provide a space for reflection, potentially with a memorial garden inviting visitors to decompress after their experience and for people to be aware of trauma of imprisonment and impact of colonisation.

#### Approach to the Prison

The landscape around Fremantle Prison has changed. How the Convict Establishment would have been approached by convicts and Pensioner Guards is different to prisoners, and again different today for visitors to a heritage site. To inform visitors of the Convict Grant area and encourage their journey to the Prison from the City of Fremantle, the Prison will partner with the City of Fremantle to develop a materials palette within the Convict Establishment boundary. The development of the surrounding City of Fremantle, including car parks and trees, has impacted significant sightlines of the Prison. Re-establishing the connection of the current Prison site to the Convict Grant area and making the approach to the Prison more impactful could be achieved with lighting, plantings and other landscape interpretation. All actions to align with Landscape Management Plan 2021 recommendations for area.

#### Reflection area

The Fremantle Prison Master Plan 2019-2029 recommends a contemplative walk and reflective garden spaces. As outlined in the Landscape Management Plan 2021, this will most likely be along the Knutsford Street ramp embankment, adjacent to the existing Deaths in Custody memorial. Elements of the walk could be audio recordings, or scent trails that continue in the interior, or endemic vegetation all of which could explore the Aboriginal perspective of life prior to colonisation (dependent on Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan outcomes).

#### Signage

To address new interpretive outcomes and purposes, new signage will be introduced around the perimeter. Signage could be interpretive or text based. Signage to be installed at accessible heights with legible font and potentially in braille. A signage suite will be considered.

### **Tactile sitemap**

The interior of Fremantle Prison is only visible from inside the prison, or a few locations on higher ground outside the walls. A tactile site map outside the Prison would allow visitors to envisage what the site looks like. It could be outside so people can interact with it even if the Prison is closed. In order not to repeat other map/model interpretative devices proposed for other areas, the model would be of buildings currently standing. This would encourage people to continue to do a tour and engage with the site. A tactile site map provides a physical understanding of spaces, useful for people who cannot immediately sense the expanse of what is inside, and the tactile element would be useful for visitors who are blind or have vision impairments. The map could indicate how the site of the Prison relates to the Convict Grant area and could be made from natural materials (e.g. limestone or grass).

### **Perimeter/back of Prison**

There is a variety of potential audiences that pass the Prison on Hampton Road. Interpretation will be considered to entice passers-by to visit in addition to referring to histories of the site.

The referring to histories could take the form of a site specific trail. For example, escapes occurred near Hampton Road and signage could be installed alluding to this and other events. The archaeological remnants of the former 1851 Warders' Quarters (excavated in 1989) could also be interpreted in the grass or on walls. Lighting could be used to mimic search lights and/or a figure escaping, bring attention to the Watch Towers or for different interpretation aims. As well as being of interpretive value the lighting offers safety, as there is a duty of care if people are being invited to walk around the site. The duty of care could also include shelters for weather extremes of heat or rain. The tunnels extend out to Hampton Road; possible interpretive devices could be a gravel path through green areas that articulates the network of tunnels underneath and/or interpretation on the road that articulates network of tunnels underneath. With all potential interpretation, it is necessary to take into account the hierarchy of information offered for speed of people passing by, whether in cars, cycling or walking.

## GATEHOUSE ENTRANCE

The entrance area will continue to encourage curiosity and pique interest in the visitor. There will be a focus on sensory questions to entice visitors to want to step inside the interior and walk the same corridors as convicts, prisoners and guards. Visitors' senses will be primed, imagination excited and visitors will be inspired to explore the site with a paid tour.

The entrance area will be similar to the perimeter in which themes will be interpreted, however there will be a focus on which objects/physical material can be used in entrance area. Interpretation will provide a way in to concepts such as convictism and punishment and reform, with objects on display and give context and foundation to interior interpretation. Visitors' attitudes on colonisation and punishment will also be interrogated.

### **Acknowledgment of Country**

To recognise the impact of colonisation and ensure visitors are aware the Prison is on Whadjuk Country, an Acknowledgment of Country will be placed in the entrance area. It could be an interpretive element in the ground and will be done in collaboration with stakeholders as a part of the Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan.

### **Wayfinding signage for entrance area**

Wayfinding is necessary to ensure visitors are aware of location of toilets, amenities, exhibitions, and also situate the visitor to how the Prison links with other sites. A tiered sign could use one pole with the lowest arrows indicating location of facilities in the Gatehouse area, next tier Fremantle area prison/convict related site, next tier convict sites in WA and top tier Australian Convict Sites. The tiers and colours could differentiate between the type of information offered. The signage needs to align with accessibility requirements and the Fremantle Prison Accessibility and Inclusion Plan.

### **Exhibitions**

The existing Visible Storage area currently housing the collection allows visitors to see objects stored in appropriate climate controlled conditions. This space will act as one of the interpretive hubs of Fremantle Prison, combining objects and multimedia to provide an historical overview of the site in line with the interpretive themes.

As the exhibitions Contact/Non Contact and Convict Depot have been in place for approximately 10 years, they will be reviewed, an exhibition that examines drivers for criminal sentencing, from convict era to now, will be considered. Regarding past crimes, a display at Kilmainham Gaol, Ireland, contextualises world events/social pressures as affecting types of crimes. This could be extended to the impact colonisation had on Aboriginal people, investigating how legislation has been targeted at Aboriginal people, and the current over representation of Aboriginal people in prison systems. Similar to a display at Eastern State Penitentiary, USA, contemporary conditions of prisons could be explored and concepts of how punishment and reform have changed/not changed in WA could also be included. Eastern State Penitentiary exhibitions have featured a graph of prisoners by demographics (highlighting over representation in certain communities) and a call to action where visitors are invited to respond to questions around the prison system and their answers posted to them two months, one year and three years after

their visits. Musée POP, Canada – a museum on the site of a former prison – invited visitors to the exhibition En d'dans! La prison comme solution? [translation In the Big House: Prisons, a Solution?] to contribute their thoughts on prisons that created a digital artwork.

A facet of the Prison being part of the cultural landscape of Fremantle is that most interpretation is contemplated from within the physical site. Thus an issue with interpretation of Fremantle Prison is the reach and impact of the actions carried out on/by the site to the Swan River Colony and then the whole state of Western Australia. It may not be visible on the site where visitors are standing today, but the work of the Prison rippled out from the site across the State. Imaginative and evocative ways are needed to articulate how the Prison was central in a web of convict parties and depots, being a colonial instrument to diminish Aboriginal people and culture and change the physical landscape. There are also physical connections locally, such as the Knowle, the Warders' Cottages and other prisons (the Roundhouse, Rottne Island/Wadjemup and Roebourne) that are not visible from Fremantle Prison, but are associated with the site. A digital interactive walking booth/display could be created where visitors can travel through space and time. For example, a person can walk through an audio visual presentation of what the site would have looked like before convicts built the Prison (1800s), or while the Prison was being built (1850s), or post construction what a Pensioner Guard walking to work from the cottages down the ramp would have seen (1860s). The connection of Fremantle to other convict depots or movement of convicts or prisoners between sites could also be explored in this way. This would situate the visitor in the Prison stories but not reveal the majesty of the interior in order to fuel imagination and encourage uptake of a tour.

Exhibitions are typically delivered through printed English. Investigate ways to deliver text in different languages and to make text more accessible to people with disabilities.

### Site model

A large 3D site model is proposed to explain the chronology of construction and routes of different tours. The tour/network of tunnels could be part of the model also. This could encourage sales of the Tunnels Tour to customers not fully aware of the underground route. The model should cover stages of construction to show what was pre-convict, when buildings were added or removed and what adaptations were made. As it would include past layers of building, it would be different to the tactile site map which is planned for the perimeter area. The 3D model could go online as it will incite imagination and curiosity. This could be considered a repeat of the model proposed for other areas, however it is unlikely a visitor would interact with the model online when on site.

A layered site plan of Fremantle Prison could also be installed as a dramatic backlit graphic with areas illuminated depending on the era of construction and the theme being explored, or a series of images through time could also be used.

A sensory interface of the Prison model with different materials could be fabricated, allowing visitors to experience the materiality of the site through time and enticing curiosity about the site.

## INTERIOR

A major element of the interior is the on site experience and the proximity to built fabric. By showing the different world lived in by convicts, prisoners and their guards/officers, visitors may have their perspectives on punishment and reform challenged. Views on colonisation and its impact will be examined. Appreciation of the World Heritage Listed site and its conservation will be prompted, and visitors inspired to share their experience with others and also visit again.

The interior will offer the most informative interpretation as it is the centre of the Prison experience and directly confers the experience of being in the Prison when it was operational. Therefore, interpretation aims to engage body, mind, and heart.

The body will be engaged by senses being stimulated and the physical elements of the site being drawn out. Interpretation will encourage visitors to consider past embodied memories of the site, how it was made (designed and built), who was involved in making the site, how the site was used, and who interacted with the site (who patrolled, who was incarcerated, who taught classes and so on). The physical nature of being on site will be focused on. For example, people will be encouraged to note the scale of interior spaces, climate, appearances of buildings and other sensory interactions.

Questions that were posed in the entrance area and perimeter will be addressed. There will be an intellectual element to interpretation to raise awareness about why convictism happened and that different people were imprisoned. Interpretation will provide a way in to buildings on site, give context and show concepts of convictism and punishment through the built environment.

While being entertained, visitors will also be encouraged to tap into the emotional experiences of people who were on site – convicts, officers and prisoners. This connection will offer a way in to feel the lived experience.

### Tours

Currently at Fremantle Prison, there are five guided tours offered to visitors that cover a broad range of the site's history within the Prison. These tours were not prepared to directly support the five interpretive themes of the site (which this management plan has generated) and require updating for alignment. There are currently no self-guided tours or supporting media available to visitors.

In the long term, the IMS – Interior will create new routes/products.

### Fabric

Built fabric is the foundation for many tours. The buildings themselves are the primary source of interpretation. Within them, there may be examples of built interpretation e.g. markings in the floorboards outlining the position of hammock frames in former Association Wards. The built fabric can reveal much as part of tours of the site.

In the short term, interpretation interventions for fabric will be approached as required by different conservation projects. In the long term, IMSs will provide direction.

### Rest station

Resting places with shade that could contain sanitation units (pending COVID-19 requirements) will facilitate the interior to be welcoming and more inclusive to visitors of different abilities. The resting place would be more than a seat; instead it would be an interpretive installation.

The interpretive installation could even be a means to navigate the human players in the site and relate to the IMS – Interior plans for new routes. As these will be in the interior, they will reflect the different world and lived experiences of the site and bring to mind the memories that are embodied in the place. The interpretive element will be based on the physical environment to ensure the interior experience is focused on the sensory opportunities available only by being on site. The elements could be different embodied memories conceptualised through characters that are evident in the structures and could be a prisoner (male and female), guard/adjunct staff or a representation of the British Empire.

## Multisensory

There are many opportunities for multisensory encounters on tours. Some examples include the current soundscape in the Kitchen, and projector in the Crown Theatre. A soundscape of Fremantle Prison could include rocks breaking, noises of daily life and so on. The smells of toilet buckets, convict era working party, whale oil lamps, cigarette smoke, fire smoke (in areas with fireplaces) etc. will be introduced to provide an additional immersive experience for visitors.

There are possibilities around digital based techniques for interpretation. Technology is recommended to facilitate rather than be the sole experience (Kidd 2019) and will be used strategically. Cells labelled as stores could contain boxes, that when opened, whisper what customs, language or ways of life were stored when a person was imprisoned (this could include convicts from non-English speaking communities as well as Aboriginal prisoners). Cupboards in cells could be opened and play oral history segments that relate to the function of that particular cell (guard in tea room or at yard turnstile or prisoner in medical cell). Audio visual could be used in places that are currently empty or have other uses to 'unsee' the interventions of previous decades to a chosen era/episode/experience. For example, projection techniques to allow two uses to be interpreted simultaneously – an empty cell versus a projection of what it looked like when in use (sources from archival material including operational Prison footage from 1991).

## Public programs

The operation of historic and contemporary trades at Fremantle Prison is extensive, with many areas within the site being dedicated to a particular trade workshop. For example, the operation of historic blacksmithing tools and machinery in Blacksmith's workshop would enable visitors to obtain a better understanding of the skills, tools, teamwork and techniques involved in this traditional trade, as well as the working conditions of the time. Training workshop opportunities could be negotiated between Fremantle Prison and TAFE, the Architects Institute of Australia or Architects Board of WA or universities (Curtin, Murdoch, Notre Dame, University of Western Australia and Edith Cowan), Heritage Engineers Australia, as well as local practitioners.

Heritage events such as the State Heritage Conference or the National Trust Heritage Festival allow Fremantle Prison to present recent works and finds that have occurred on site. Public archaeology programs also have huge potential, such as open area excavations involving the public and relationships with academic institutions to generate new knowledge. Appropriately themed film festivals, dramatic performances, art exhibitions/installations, conferences and other site related events have the potential to provide further opportunities for interpretation and draw a broader audience.

## DIGITAL – ONLINE

Interpretation strategies provided digitally will seek to expand potential audiences and will continue to consider aligned marketing benefits and revenue raising potential, both on and off site.

### **Website**

Updating the website with new findings and knowledge about the collection is an ongoing activity. Material from different archives and collections could be contrasted with Fremantle Prison Collection content to drive narratives that span the globe. Each interpretive theme could be explored with online content (for example short films, Instagram stories or podcasts). Strategies will have the aim to engage audience to visit.

### **Social Media**

Social media platforms (Instagram and Facebook) will be considered for interpretive strategies.

### **Other technology**

Virtual reality, apps and gamification experiences will be explored as resources permit.

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S/O'S STORE

### Scale of Time for English Convicts.

No. 1.—SCALE shewing the periods to be passed by English Convicts sentenced to Transportation prior to July, 1857:—

Sentence.	Separate Confinement		Public Works		Ticket-of-Leave.		License, or Con. Pardon	
	Years	Mnths	Years	Mnths	Years	Mnths	Years	Mnths
7 Years	"	9	1	3	1	—	3	—
10 "	"	9	2	—	1	3	4	—
12 "	"	9	2	6	1	9	5	—
14 "	"	9	3	—	2	3	6	—
15 "	"	9	3	3	2	6	6	6
18 "	"	9	4	—	2	9	7	6
20 "	"	9	4	3	3	0	8	—
21 "	"	9	4	6	3	3	8	6
Life	"	9	5	3	4	—	10	—

No. 2.—SCALE of Remission for English Convicts sentenced to Penal Servitude subsequent to 1st July, 1857.

Sentence of Penal Servitude subsequent to 1st July 1857	Probation.				Ticket-of-Leave.		Date of Con. Pardon	
	Separate Confinement		Public Works		Years	Mnths	Years	Mnths
	Years	Mnths	Years	Mnths				
3 Years	"	9	1	—	—	9	2	6
4 "	"	9	1	6	1	—	3	3
5 "	"	9	2	—	1	3	4	—
6 "	"	9	2	3	1	6	4	6
7 "	"	9	2	6	2	—	5	3
8 "	"	9	2	9	2	6	6	—
10 "	"	9	3	6	3	3	7	6
12 "	"	9	4	6	3	9	9	—
15 & upwards	"	9	5	—	4	3	10	—

Life To be separately reported upon.

### SCALE of RATIONS

	Bread	Meat	Potatoes	Salt	Pepper	Tea	Sugar	Tobacco	Soap	Soda	Milk	Rice or Oatmeal for Soup.	
	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.	dr	oz.	oz.	oz.	dr	oz.	oz.	Daily	On Monday and Friday.
Ordinary Diet	24	14	16	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Light Labor	18	10	12	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Full	16	16	16	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	6	14	—
Hospital	16	8	8	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	6	14	—
Low	8	4	8	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	6	14	—
Spoon	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	14	—
Bread and Water	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Extras	2	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Beverage, Tea	—	—	—	—	—	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Preserving Meat	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

By His Excellency's command,  
E. Y. W. HENDERSON,  
Comptroller-General.

Fremont, W. A.  
November 1st, 1851.



## 8. PROJECT SUMMARY

Key recommendations described in this IMP will be delivered by the following projects.

Project	Summary	Timeframe	Comments
<b>Establish a themed based approach to interpretation</b>	Develop future interpretation strategies and devices based on identified themes.	Immediate	Themes identified. To be included in future IMSs.
<b>Conduct audience research</b>	Establish awareness of current and potential audiences based on current and proposed interpretive experiences.	2 years	Consultant to be engaged for this.
<b>Generate knowledge</b>	Research program	Ongoing	Partnerships and stakeholder engagement are critical to this.
	Oral history program	1-3 years	
	Data management system/s	5 years	
<b>Manage feedback and reviews</b>	Continually review audience feedback on experiences offered to maintain audience satisfaction.	Ongoing	Focus on continual improvement.
	Conduct formal review of IMP and IMSs and subsequent commercial product options within five years of release.	Every 5 years	
	Inspect and maintain interpretive devices.	Ongoing	
<b>Complete IMSs</b>	Perimeter and beyond	1 year	To be implemented as funds/projects allow.
	Gatehouse entry area	2 years	
	Interior area	1 years	
	Online – digital	2 years	

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# 10

Various artefacts were unearthed during archaeological excavations at the tunnels site. Many of the items were discovered in a service shaft outside the East Workshops that had been abandoned for over 50 years.

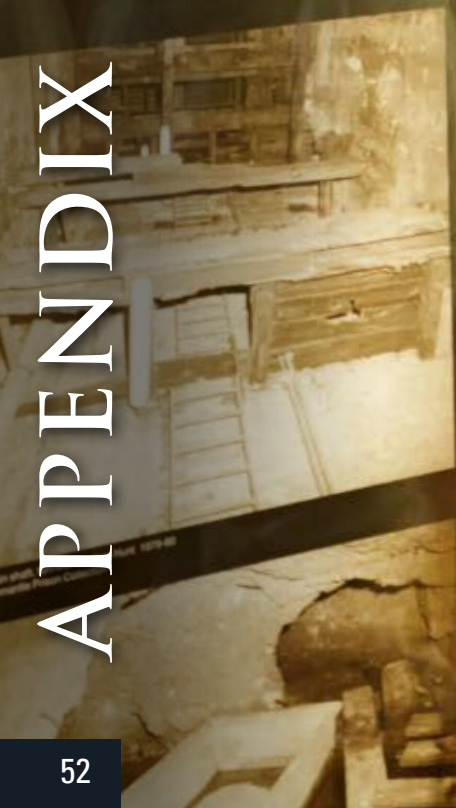
The discovery of clay pipe dates from before 1880. It was the only pipe found in the tunnels which could indicate that prisoners were not allowed to smoke whilst working in the tunnels. Pipes have been found elsewhere on the prison site.

A enamelled mug was a common household item imported to Australia from the UK and the USA during the 1880s and early 1900s. Another early ceramic artefact found was the curved toothbrush, which is made of bone.

A few intact tools have been discovered in the tunnels. Prison staff reported that no dangerous implements were left out in case prisoners took them. The lead plumb bob helped to correctly align digging of the drives. It was suspended in position by a length of cord to determine true vertical to the tunnels level.

Several glass bottles were uncovered in the service shaft. They were for use as containers of or pharmaceutical use. The dark olive glass bottles are the oldest, dating from before 1880. They contained Bitters as suggested by the label inscription SAXLEHNER & HUNYADI/JANOS BITTERQUELLE found on each base.

One of the rectangular, colourless glass bottles is the wording: CALIFORNIA FIG SYRUP CO./SAN FRANCISCO, CAL./CALIFIG/FIG/10. It is one of the few complete glass objects found in the tunnels area and was made prior to 1906.



## APPENDIX

Above: Tunnels Tour.



## THEME 1: CONVICTISM

The cultural and physical landscape of Western Australia was irrevocably changed by the effects of colonisation, particularly through convictism and the transportation of convicts by the British Empire.

### Impact on pre-convict world

- Recognise what occurred before colonisation, a cultural narrative of how Traditional Owners lived and interacted with the land
- Impact on Aboriginal people regarding land, change in land use in general and specifically the construction of the Prison, Roundhouse and the prison on Rottnest Island/Wadjemup and other regional places
- Impact on Aboriginal people regarding culture, from loss of previous way of life and historical treatment to current day impacts experienced with over representation in prisons
- Change in physical landscape, buildings, roads and bridges in place of Aboriginal pathways

### Transportation of convicts

- Impetus behind transportation, Britain expanding its geopolitical influence, overcrowding in prisons and power dynamics with other colonising countries (e.g. the Dutch and the French)
- Transportation of convicts from one country to another
- Colonisation of lands by European 'great nation states' in the eighteenth to twentieth centuries
- Categories of convicts, nationalities and crimes (all men as opposed to other Australian states)
- Socio-political drivers for crimes related to convict sentencing, how did this reflect the climate of British Empire?
- Convictism as a form of slavery
- Last phase of transportation to Australia

### Building a colony

- British Empire and Empire building
- Use of forced labour to establish a colonial economy
- Building on a budget, economy of materials and labour shortages (Convict Establishment and other structures)
- Central convict administration point and convict distribution depot
- Development of Swan River Colony into WA as part of Australian identity compared to a British Empire colony
- Acknowledging the process of colonial expansion and policy of segregation that led to the development of a separate prison for Aboriginal people on Rottnest Island/Wadjemup
- Tension between 'free settlers' and convicts, convicts had better food and facilities at Fremantle Prison than many free settlers, did settlers all agree on convicts being transported?
- Change in cultural landscape, eventual social integration of convicts compared to 'free settlers' including celebration of 'convict stain' in family tree
- How did prison condition and colonisation impacts compare with other colonies in Australia?

## THEME 2: PUNISHMENT AND REFORM

The concepts of punishment and/or rehabilitation in prisons were enforced through the physical environment and changed over time as the site transitioned to a modern penitentiary.

### Penal philosophy

- Penal philosophy and reform from the Victorian era until the Prison closed in 1991, including criminology, approaches to justice, and various theories of education
- Punishment as a deterrent so people do not commit crimes

### Punishment enforced

- Punishment expressed through convict labour in public, the performative nature of uniformed/branded convicts doing works
- Corporal punishment: flogging, birch etc.
- Executions
- Discipline: daily routine as prescribed, set work hours etc. (to separate this from experience approach discipline as a mechanism of punishment/control) and administration of discipline
- How convicts and prisoners were classified (type of crime, age, gender, occupation outside etc.)
- How classification could impact on treatment (this could also include military use)
- How authority was expressed
- Architects, designers, governors, officers, teachers, social workers, psychologists and other people related to punishment philosophy being exerted onto convicts and prisoners
- How did punishment and reform compare with other prisons in Australia?

### Reform offered

- Concept of rehabilitation through labour and discipline
- Rehabilitation/forms of 'work' industry rather than sitting in cell
- Rehabilitation: use of library, art classes and opportunities to study up to tertiary level education
- Religion as a means of reform and dominance of religion (Protestant vs Catholic chapels)

### Implementation through fabric

- Punishment expressed through environment: radial cell, Refractory Block
- Prison architecture was designed to represent the two pathways prisoners could take (punishment – Refractory Block or reform – Anglican Chapel)
- How building fabric reflects convict labour and discipline (cells/Association Wards)
- Site demonstrates the facilities, conditions and attitudes of a colonial and then major WA Prison.

## THEME 3: PEOPLE'S EXPERIENCE

The lived experience of being in the Prison when it was operational comes from multiple perspectives including staff, visitors and prisoners. Each prisoner's experience was different and would have varied whether they were men, women, Aboriginal, non-Aboriginal, juveniles or World War Two internees, or according to their crime, health, sentence length, sexuality or profession.

Note that the experience of Aboriginal people has not been previously represented in interpretation to the depth which the sub-themes outline, and these absences will be addressed with the Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan. Aboriginal people are referred to separately, as targeted legislation influenced how Aboriginal people experienced the justice system and Fremantle Prison.

### Male prisoners

- Convict histories of the men and juveniles who were forcibly migrated to the Swan River Colony from the period 1850 to 1868, and their subsequent lives in the colony and state
- Convict experiences, how did religion and type of crime impact on day to day life experience of cells/Association Wards, what was the lived experience of punishment (flogging/Refractory Block) and/or rehabilitation, especially through labour/work parties, what were power dynamics between convicts?
- Histories of Aboriginal male prisoners incarcerated at Fremantle Prison, and the long term impact of colonisation observed in over representation of Aboriginal people in prisons
- Experiences of Aboriginal male prisoners incarcerated at Fremantle Prison
- Experiences of Aboriginal male prisoners including those that were transferred to/from Fremantle Prison to other incarceration sites including Rottnest Island/Wadjemup

- Experiences of the male prisoners (Aboriginal) held at Rottnest Island/Wadjemup, and the works they undertook, including the period of its operation by Fremantle Prison
- Experiences of the male prisoners (non-Aboriginal) held at Rottnest Island/Wadjemup, and the works they undertook, including the period of its operation by Fremantle Prison
- Histories of non-Aboriginal male prisoners incarcerated at Fremantle Prison from 1886 until the Prison closed in 1991
- Experiences of non-Aboriginal male prisoners (1886 to 1991) how did religion, type of crime, previous occupation, race etc. impact on day to day life (include time in cells, size of cells), what was the lived experience of punishment (execution/flogging/Refractory Block), and/or rehabilitation (library, art classes etc.), power dynamics between prisoners
- Experiences of families, friends and other visitors to male prisoners and the effect visits had on prisoners

### Female prisoners

- Histories of Aboriginal female prisoners held at Fremantle Prison from 1886 until 1970, including women who may have been transferred to Bandyup
- Experiences of Aboriginal female prisoners, how did religion, type of crime and previous occupation impact on day to day life, what was the lived experience of punishment and/or rehabilitation and the power dynamics between prisoners
- Histories of non-Aboriginal female prisoners held at Fremantle Prison from 1886 until 1970, including women who may have been transferred to Bandyup

- Experiences of non-Aboriginal female prisoners, how did religion, type of crime and previous occupation impact on day to day life, what was the lived experience of punishment and/or rehabilitation and the power dynamics between prisoners
- Experiences of families, friends and other visitors to female prisoners and the effect visits had on prisoners

### **War time use**

- Use of Fremantle Prison by the military, including the experience of those incarcerated as ‘enemy aliens’ and military officers

### **Protest**

- Male and female, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal prisoner attitudes and behaviour, including rioting and disobedience, challenging of authority, escapes and attempted escapes, activities and activism, and attitudes towards the Prison

### **Comparisons to other prisons**

- How did experiences of prisoners differ between Fremantle Prison and other prisons when they were transferred (1970 Bandyup for women and post 1991 for men)?
- How does past experience of prison compare to currently operational prisons in WA?

### **Staff**

- Histories of guards, officers and administration staff from 1850 until the Prison’s closure in 1991, encompassing the initial period of constructing the Convict Establishment, administering the institution and the introduction of prison officers
- Experiences of guards, officers and administration staff from 1850 until the Prison’s closure in 1991, encompassing the initial period of constructing the Convict Establishment, administering the institution and the introduction of Prison officers
- Histories of adjunct staff such as teachers and social workers, including violence against them by prisoners/other staff
- Experiences of adjunct staff such as teachers and social workers, including violence against them by prisoners/other staff
- Additional staff employed especially relating to punishment (execution, flogging)
- Histories of the designers and architects of the Prison
- Experiences of the designers and architects of the Prison, what was the daily process of requesting material from overseas/dealing with material shortage in colony as well as communication with Britain?
- Histories of the families of prison guards, officers and other staff, including the families that lived on site
- Experiences of the families of prison guards, officers and other staff, including the families that lived on site.



## THEME 4: BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Fremantle Prison is a highly intact and authentic architectural ensemble and cultural landscape related to the convict experience in Australia and the transformation of the Imperial convict system into the modern Australian prison system. The prison buildings, structures and spaces, to a high degree, relate to the changing philosophies of punishment and reform through the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, as well as to the economic and environmental conditions of Western Australia.

### Historic and philosophical influences

- Gatehouse: references medieval castle entries with castellated towers and central entry
- Location: visible symbol to the town
- Main Cell Block: Victorian Georgian, stripped back, austere, grim
- Parade ground: harsh, alien
- Perimeter walls
- Residences: Victorian Georgian style – symmetrical, austere, domestic
- Residences: hierarchy of control of officers/prison administration

### Punishment

- Gallows
- Refractory
- Segregation: wards, divisions, yards
- Separate system: cells, chapel seating, radial yard (New Division), seclusion through architecture

### Surveillance

- Watch Towers
- Peep holes
- View lines, sterile zones

### Reform

- Chapel as centre of Main Cell Block
- Gardens
- Workshops/Industries

### Administrative/Service/Support

- Administration in Main Cell Block
- Hospital
- Terrace residences
- Warders' Cottages

### Technical achievements

- Main Cell Block: at the time an extraordinary feat, e.g. ventilation system
- Tunnels and reservoir: water catchment and distribution for the town

### Rarity

- Longest cell range in Australia
- Most intact convict era cell range
- Most intact convict era complex

### Adaptation and change

- Cells to officer use, particularly Main Cell Block
- Convict Establishment to main WA Prison: female prisoners, Gallows
- Internal division walls, and external division yard walls
- Single cells to double cells
- Tradition of 'make do' and 'bush architecture', reflects time and location
- Cook house, bakehouse and wash house buildings converted to Female Division
- Marks on the fabric from time, prison lifeways and riots
- Murals, art, graffiti
- Post-prison: tourist destination, commercial tenants.

## THEME 5: LIVING HISTORY

People have strong feelings about Fremantle Prison. The way in which the site is understood, researched and conserved is evolving through people's perspective and personal connection to the place. This collective living memory of Fremantle Prison contributes to social value, community engagement, and a strong sense of local community value. This theme also relates to the new ways that are emerging on how to consider the site, either with expanding historical narratives or using technology to realise research potentials.

### People who interacted with the place as a functional prison

- Former prisoners and their families that are Aboriginal (noting the relatively high proportion of prisoners were Aboriginal)
- Families of Aboriginal people who have died in custody
- Families of non-Aboriginal people who have died in custody
- Former prisoners
- People who had family in the Prison, whether distant past with convict ancestors or when operational as a WA prison
- Wartime internees and their relatives
- Military officers stationed at the Prison and their families
- People who worked in the Prison, including designers, architects, builders, and their families
- Connections to current use of Wadjemup: development of Rottnest Island/Wadjemup as a place of recreation was dependent on prisoner labour in the early 1900s with predominantly Aboriginal prisoners used to build infrastructure

### People who interact with the place as a heritage site

- Local residents, particularly those living close to the Prison
- Sense of place including cultural landscape of Fremantle
- When operational as heritage site: architects, builders, conservation practitioners etc. (Sagrada Família have interpretation about current workers) as well as visitors and users of Fremantle Prison as function space

### Conservation

- Archaeology on site
- Best practise trades with conservation
- Building material sourcing
- Collection management of movable heritage
- Conservation and management of buildings
- Conservation of murals
- Landscape, green spaces and surrounding environs

### Future research potentials

- Artist in residence (could be performance/mixed media/audio etc.)/ intervention of site/collections
- Centre for Heritage Excellence (as per Master Plan)
- Collaborations with universities including students/academics/practitioners of tourism, cultural heritage, archaeology, landscape architects, architects, material analysts, conservators, digital heritage and more
- Future research of records, new questions to ask of archives and as more material becomes accessible
- Oral histories
- Technology including that used to see through layers of paint (murals, underground), ground penetrating radar and more.

Below: 1 Division, Main Cell Block.





FREMANTLE PRISON  
The Convict Establishment