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Name: Cascades Female Factory
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State

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<u>Location Addresses</u>	<u>Title References</u>	<u>Property Id</u>
32 SYME ST, SOUTH HOBART 7004 TAS	143905/3	2731069
31 APSLEY ST, SOUTH HOBART 7004 TAS	145699/1	2708125
17 DEGRAVES ST, SOUTH HOBART 7004 TAS	50260/1	5573473
19 DEGRAVES ST, SOUTH HOBART 7004 TAS	201049/1	5573481
19 DEGRAVES ST, SOUTH HOBART 7004 TAS	239974/1	5573481
21 DEGRAVES ST, SOUTH HOBART 7004 TAS	245077/1	5573502
40 DEGRAVES ST, SOUTH HOBART 7004 TAS	60932/9	5573596
38 DEGRAVES ST, SOUTH HOBART 7004 TAS	60932/10	5573609
36 DEGRAVES ST, SOUTH HOBART 7004 TAS	119792/1	5573617
34 DEGRAVES ST, SOUTH HOBART 7004 TAS	211469/12	5573625
18 DEGRAVES ST, SOUTH HOBART 7004 TAS	202398/1	5573633
16 DEGRAVES ST, SOUTH HOBART 7004 TAS	229358/1	5573641
8 DEGRAVES ST, SOUTH HOBART 7004 TAS	229260/1	5573668
11 MCROBIES RD, SOUTH HOBART 7004 TAS	108055/2	5583989
2 SYME ST, SOUTH HOBART 7004 TAS	236363/1	5595461
2A SYME ST, SOUTH HOBART 7004 TAS	78750/1	5595488
5 SYME ST, SOUTH HOBART 7004 TAS	60932/4	5595672
7 SYME ST, SOUTH HOBART 7004 TAS	60932/5	5595680
9 SYME ST, SOUTH HOBART 7004 TAS	247899/6	5595699
13B MCROBIES RD, SOUTH HOBART 7004 TAS	58505/1	5677723
2B SYME ST, SOUTH HOBART 7004 TAS	85388/1	5595496
15 MCROBIES RD, SOUTH HOBART 7004 TAS	7826/2	1483155
2 NEVIN ST, SOUTH HOBART 7004 TAS	78750/5	5587664
1 TARA ST, SOUTH HOBART 7004 TAS	102810/2	1561280
23 Syme ST, South Hobart 7004 TAS	230803/1	5595704
23 Syme ST, South Hobart 7004 TAS	142201/1	5595701



Yard 1, Cascades Female Factory, showing interpret
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Yard 1, Cascades Female Factory
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Setting: The Cascades Female Factory is situated in the suburb of South Hobart, adjacent to the Hobart Rivulet. While much of the Female Factory's fabric has been lost, its original setting is still apparent. Despite urban development, the historical pattern of development of the area and its relationship to the

natural environment is largely retained. The Hobart Rivulet is still a free-flowing stream, the treed skylines and encircling landmarks such as Mount Wellington, Knocklofty and the Huon Road ridge dominate the landscape and many of the fields in the middle and upper reaches of the Rivulet still exist.

Description:

The Cascades Female Factory registration comprises approximately 3.6 hectares and is defined by the attached Central Planning Register Map (CPR). It includes the following:

Yards 1-5, including the Matron's Cottage;

The location of a cemetery;

Possible staff cottages at 17, 19 and 23 Degraeves Street, and 31 Apsley Street; Historic spaces and archaeological remains covered by roads and verges; Superintendent's House (later Home of Mercy);

Associated infrastructure elements, including a bridge abutment and stormwater drains, a brick drain and toilet facilities.

The Cascades Female Factory contains visible features from its early convict phase and subsurface structural features and occupational deposits from both convict and later phases.

Historically the Cascades Female Factory comprised five conjoined rectangular sandstone compounds or 'yards' to house and reform convict women. The yards were constructed between 1828 and 1852 and contained a variety of infrastructure allowing the complex to remain almost totally self-sufficient in its day-to-day operation. The Cascades Female Factory also comprised related facilities erected outside the walls of the main five yards. These include a cemetery and morgue, possible staff cottages, a blanket factory, superintendent's house (later Home of Mercy), bridge and drainage networks etc. A store / office, fulling mill and a small constable's barracks were also built outside the main complex.

Today the place features three definable 'Yards (1, 3 and 4)', primarily represented by the remains of their sandstone perimeter walls. Extensive subsurface deposits survive throughout the yards and the Matrons Cottage remains standing in 'Yard 4 South'. The Female Factory's 'Yard 2' is now occupied by a church, while the land of 'Yard 5' and the cemetery have been used for residential housing. Several associated houses (17-21 Degraeves Street and 31 and 3 Apsley Street) may have originally been employees cottages, although further research is required to understand their association with the Female Factory period of use. Remains of a morgue, drainage networks, and possible structures such as a store / office, fulling mill and a small constables barracks are thought to be under the road and road verges. The site of the blanket factory and superintendents house (later the Home of Mercy) now features a light industrial factory. Bridge abutments from the female factory period survive within the current bridge infrastructure.

Although most of the above-ground fabric of the Cascades Female Factory has been lost, the same cannot be said for the subsurface archaeological resource. Excavation work has now been undertaken in 'Yards 1, 3 and 4 South'.

Excavations at several localities within 'Yard 1' have revealed substantial sandstone footings consistent with the 1827 ground plan of John Lee Archer. Kostoglou (2001, 2002) suggests that the entire Archer ground plan within this yard survives intact at the footings level beneath almost a metre of demolition rubble.

Several excavations undertaken by the same archaeologist in the adjacent 'Yard 3' (Kostoglou 2001, 2002) have produced similar results, indicating that solitary cell blocks survive in a well preserved state at the footings level throughout the bulk of the yard-space. In two ranges of cell blocks in 'Yard 3' were unusual in that each contained room for 56 'apartments' divided into two to form cells for solitary confinement. These apartments may have been the only such cells constructed for the solitary confinement of females in Australia, if not the world. It is also possible that the factory building erected in the centre of 'Yard 3' may have been built on a sufficiently shallow cement slab as to allow the survival of fabric beneath.

An open area excavation undertaken in 'Yard 4 South' (Kostoglou 2006) has produced similar encouraging results with the exposure of the Sub-Matron's cottage, covered walkway, kitchen/laundry and Nursery apartments at the footings level in near perfect condition. Kostoglou (2006) suggests that this integrity extends northwards throughout the remainder of former 'Yard 4' unaffected by its separate ownership and residential buildings being erected throughout the 20th century.

NOTE ON THE HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE AND MANAGEMENT OF MOVEABLE HERITAGE COLLECTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE CASCADES FEMALE FACTORY:

There are currently more than 2,000 moveable artefacts comprising the Cascades Female Factory Archaeological Collection. These are derived from all stages of European occupation of the site, with the bulk of the items dating from the mid-to-late convict period. Items include glass pieces (broken plus intact small and large bottles), a small leather shoe, animal bones, pottery, clay pipes, marbles, a watch, lots of nails etc). Although provenanced and tagged as part of archaeological excavation works, the collection is yet to be catalogued. Many of the items have likewise been stored according to a fabric-based system where similar fabric types are stored together in order to avoid chemical reaction. Artefacts have been placed in labelled bags and boxes and are stored on site.

The Matrons Cottage collection which is on loan to the Cascades Female Factory Historic Site Ltd comprises approximately 450 items including convict relics, furniture, decorative arts, documents and photographs. These items are housed in the Matrons Cottage and the Cascades Female Factory Historic Site Ltd office in Yard 3 (Kostoglou and Knaggs 2006b:5) However, none of these items are provenanced to the Female Factory, although they are indicative of the period of operation.

Whilst these collections are of heritage value in their own right, as moveable cultural heritage neither forms a part of this registration and is therefore not subject to the provisions of the Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995..

History:

The Cascades Female Factory, which operated from 1828 to 1856, was Van Diemen's Land's largest institution for the punishment and reform of convict women. At the height of its operation in 1851 it contained five major yards and at one stage, in grossly overcrowded conditions, held more than 1,200 women and children (Rayner 2004:171-172).

The history of the Cascades Female Factory portrays the lives and sufferings of these convict women as well as the evolving

philosophies of punishment and reform in the nineteenth century. One of the longest running penal institutions in Van Diemen's Land, the complex was extended and adapted to the changing uses and philosophies.

By the end of transportation to the colony in 1853, nearly 12,500 convict women had been sent to Van Diemen's Land, mostly for various forms of theft. Up until the early 1820s most convict women were employed in domestic services, washing and on government farms and were expected to find their own food and lodging (Snowden in Alexander 2005:131).

Female Factories were established primarily as places of punishment for women charged with further offences after their initial sentences of transportation (Frost in Alexander 2005: 131). Female Factories served also as a place where the women were sent if they became pregnant during sentence, were ill and unable to work, or where they could obtain accommodation between assignments (Rayner 2004:133-134).

Five female factories operated in the colony, the other four being at the Hobart Town Gaol (prior to the opening of the Cascades Female Factory) and at George Town, Launceston and Ross.

Reform, it was claimed, came partly through keeping the women productive, notably through laundries, needlework, and picking wool hair and oakum.

The first two factories were makeshift affairs a house in George Town (c1822-34) and a few rooms attached to the Macquarie Street gaol in Hobart Town (mid 1820s-1828). When convict transports started arriving with whole shiploads of women the government recognised the need for a larger institution and in 1827 purchased Lowes Distillery, adjacent to the Hobart Rivulet on the outskirts of town (Frost in Alexander 2005:132).

After initial estimates for conversion of the distillery by Colonial Architect David Lambe were discarded, the newly-arrived Colonial Architect John Lee Archer drew up the plans for alterations and for a range of buildings at the site.

English penal reformer, Elizabeth Fry, is credited with influencing the design for the conversion of the distillery. Fry was founder of the Quaker group, the British Ladies Society for the Reformation of Female Prisoners. She fought to improve the lot of female inmates of Newgate Prison in London and visited women on the transport ships. From England she suggested new arrangements for female convicts in Van Diemen's Land intended to improve the women's morals. Fry specified that

the institution should be headed by a respectable matron, and that part of the building should be reserved for education. She

also recommended the classification and separation of different classes of convicts based on their behaviour and character (Rayner 1984:3-4).

Archer's plans relate to what became known as 'Yard 1'. The plans included two-storied buildings along the length of each side wall and, in the centre, a two-storied accommodation block with a chapel at one end, and a series of high walls dividing into seven yards.

The thick, high surrounding stone walls, the sun-less location and the relative distance (about three kilometres from the centre of Hobart and just outside the old town boundary) added to the isolation of the factory (Scripps and Hudspeth 1992:1).

The first prisoners moved to Cascades Female Factory from the Hobart Town factory in December 1828. The first to arrive directly from their transport ship were the convict women marched from the ship 'Harmony' in January 1829 (Cowley 2007:6).

During the 1830s, women entering the female factories were divided into three classes. The third or crime class consisted of women serving secondary punishment for offences such as insolence, drunkenness and being absent without leave. In the second, or probation class, women worked at lighter tasks and enjoyed a less meagre diet. In the first, or assignable class, were women waiting to be sent into private service where settlers gave them room, board and clothes (Frost in Alexander 2005:132).

Inmates suffered a high death rate, particularly the children. This has been put down to the damp conditions, polluted water, sewage, unhygienic conditions and overcrowding, and to premature weaning and separation of children from their mothers.

The early 1840s heralded a major change in the system of sentence of convicts - from assignment to the probation system. Under the system, female convicts served their probation on the old ship the 'Anson', moored in the Derwent river. At the end of the six months probation prisoners with good conduct were hired by settlers (Kostoglou and Knaggs 2006:4). During service, the conduct of the females continued to be monitored, and misconduct could result in re-incarceration at the Female Factory.

The biggest change came when the probation system was more fully extended to female convicts as a result of the Inquiry into Female Convict Discipline established in 1841. As Cowley (2007:7) states, the inquiry looked into incidents of rioting, 'unnatural behaviour' (lesbianism), trafficking and other forms of ill-discipline amongst the female prisoners at both the Cascades and Launceston Female Factories. It also investigated the nurseries, particularly the high death rate of small children. A strict regimen of silence and task work was introduced. With the opening of 'Yard 3' at Cascades Female Factory in 1845, punishment by separate treatment and solitary confinement could be enforced.

With the cessation of transportation to New South Wales in 1840, the Tasmanian convict system became

overloaded. During the next 11.6 years the arrival rate only once dropped below 600 annually - to 300 in 1846. The annual average of arrivals was around 750 (Rayner 1981:26). By the middle of 1851 the Factory had been expanded to hold 700 inmates; although in fact the site held up to 1020 women and 176 children. Numbers of staff also increased, including an Assistant Matron, clerk, storekeeper, seven overseers, gatekeeper, two catechists and a needlework teacher (Rayner 1981:38; Rayner 2004:171).

Despite attempts to improve conditions with the building of new yards and nurseries, the death rate amongst the children was tragically high. From its earliest operation, the factory earned a reputation because of the high proportion of children's deaths. In 'Yard 4' between 1850 and 1852, 106 children died, with the causes attributed mostly to dysentery, diarrhoea, enteritis, influenza, bronchitis and pneumonia. The nursery was moved away to other sites several times and returned with the advent of new facilities, but the high death rate continued (Rayner 2004:157-8, Frost 2004:35).

The cessation of transportation to Van Diemen's Land in 1853 had an almost immediate effect on reducing the numbers of women incarcerated in the female factories and led to the closure of most of the smaller establishments.

With no new arrivals, the factories quickly shed staff and inmates (Frost in Alexander 2005:132). By 1856 the reduction in the number of women at Cascades resulted in part of the complex being closed and the institution was transferred from Imperial Government Control to that of the local sheriff. The site continued to operate as a gaol for women until 1877 when the female prisoners (and children) transferred to Campbell Street gaol.

A number of historic figures, and some forceful personalities, were associated with the Cascades Female Factory's convict days, among them:

Joshua Eynon Drabble, the first Superintendent at Macquarie Street before the Female Factory moved to Cascades, Drabble died in 1828;

Esh and Anne Lovell, Superintendent and Matron respectively from 1828 to 1831; Esh Lovell resigned under charges of mismanagement;

Rev John Hutchison and his wife, Mary, as Superintendent and Matron. They were in charge for 20 years. Like many other staff, they were Wesleyan. Mary Hutchison, who had grown up in a similar environment in New South Wales, gave birth to eight of her 12 children at Cascades. From Cascades she went on to manage the smaller Launceston Female Factory. She achieved distinction as one of the first female administrators in Van Diemen's Land (Rayner 2004:170). Her work was honoured in 2006 by the naming of the new women's prison at Risdon in Hobart in her memory.

Another important association is with the Aboriginal woman Truganini. Truganini died in 1876 at 64 years of age and the Government arranged her burial at Cascades Female Factory. Two years after her death, the Government gave permission to the Royal Society of Tasmania to open her grave and exhume her skeleton for 'scientific study'. It was on display at the Tasmanian Museum until 1951 (Alexander 2005:370). In 1976, following an application by the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community, her remains were finally cremated and scattered in the D'Entrecasteaux Channel.

Female factories were places of contradiction - places of inhumane treatment and enormous suffering for most convict women and their children but, for some women, the factories provided refuge and the opportunity to improve prospects through education and the acquisition of new skills.

At the Census of 1847 in Van Diemen's Land, just over 50% of the total population of 70,000 people were, or had been, convicts. Less than 20% were free immigrants (Australian Bureau of Statistics 2002).

As Rayner notes (2004:1), although 1853 brought the last of the female convicts to the colony and was celebrated as the end of Transportation, the women did not disappear: Their presence, 'their offspring, and their influence continued well into the 20th Century and even now has not entirely faded away. These were the often unacknowledged and sometimes unknown founding mothers of Australia'.

Following the closure of the Cascades Female Factory in 1856, the complex served a number of institutional functions (some simultaneously) for the next half-century. It housed female prisoners, lunatics, invalids, paupers and prostitutes who were substantially human legacies of the Colonial convict system. The most recent layer in this history is the broad recognition of the significance of Cascades Female Factory as a women's site of national importance (see under Conservation and Management below).

Significant Historical Use/Events at the Female Factory Site Following Closure in 1856:

Gaol and House of Correction for Females (1856 to 1877)

At Cascades by June 1856, the reduction in the number of women resulted in part of the complex being converted to a gaol under the control of the Sheriff. It became the Gaol and House of Correction for Females. The effect of this change was the gradual reduction of the proportion of convicts amongst the inmates.

By the end of 1864, the control of both male and female convict systems and establishments had been transferred to the Colonial Government (Rayner 2004:175-177). Numbers of staff decreased, and emphasis was given to reducing the number of inmates.

Invalids Depot 1869 to c1879

From 1869 Cascades Female Factory became an official pauper establishment for both males and females, although it had housed a small number of female invalids and paupers since they had been transferred from the Brickfields depot in 1860. Ex-convicts had their upkeep paid for by the Imperial Government while the large number of others was listed as a colonial responsibility (Scripps and Hudspeth 1992:25).

The Female Invalid Depot occupied 'Yard 5'. The inmates repaired clothing and made bedding for themselves.

Male invalids were housed in 'Yard 4' and the eastern-most block of the separate apartments in 'Yard 3'. Physically able male paupers spent their time in carpentry, shoe-making, gardening, coopering, picking oakum, stone-breaking and other manual labour. A few male paupers instructed the children of female paupers and prisoners. The male invalids were transferred to the New Town Charitable Institution in 1879 (Scripps and Hudspeth 1992:26).

The Insane Asylum (c1877-1890)

With the closure of the Gaol in 1877, space was made available at Cascades for the relocation of male convict Imperial

lunatics who were transferred from Port Arthur. The refractory lunatics were housed in the cells at the rear of 'Yard 2', and the rest of the yard was used by the male invalids. 'Yard 4' became the site of the Hospital for the Insane (Rayner 1981:40; Scripps and Hudspeth 1992:7).

The main wards were occupied by 57 men, and the refractory section held 22. A large piece of land was enclosed for recreational purposes, although it appears that continual institutionalisation made it difficult to encourage recreation amongst the inmates. Inspections of the Hospital were critical of the treatment of patients. In August 1890, the Hospital closed down. Quieter inmates were transferred to the institutions at New Norfolk and New Town, while the remaining 30 men were sent to the new hospital at the Campbell Street Gaol (Scripps and Hudspeth 1992:33-34).

Contagious Diseases Hospital (1879-1900)

A Contagious Diseases Hospital was established in 1879 to treat reputed prostitutes with venereal disease (Rayner 1981:44). This followed enactment of the Contagious Diseases Act 1879 an Act introduced in response to the concern that British Naval visits to Hobart would be curtailed if sailors continued to be infected with syphilis. The legislation gave the police broad powers to seek out and report suspected cases of venereal disease. Women could be ordered to undergo medical examination and imprisonment. No similar arrangements were made for similarly diseased men.

The Hospital was expected to have a large number of patients, and was originally allocated almost the entire areas of 'Yards 1 and 2'. However, during the first few years of operations there were only on average 100 annual admissions, with a daily occupancy of around 10 (Rayner 1981:44; Scripps and Hudspeth 1992:34-35). In 1884 the Hospital admitted 66 women, 33 with primary, and one with tertiary syphilis, eight with gonorrhoea and one with leucorrhoea. Patients were aged between 16 and 45, with the average length of stay between two and 12 weeks (Scripps and Hudspeth 1992:34-36).

In 1890 a board of management for the Contagious Diseases Hospital was formed consisting of the committee of the Home of Mercy and representatives of other denominations. In 1891, the Hospital moved into 'Yard 4' (Scripps and Hudspeth 1992:39). The Hospital closed in 1900.

Boys Reformatory (est. 1869) and Training School (1884-1896)

The Boys Reformatory, established in 1869, was a response to public concern about homeless and delinquent children. It marked a change in the treatment of juvenile offenders who previously would have been sent to gaol. In its first year of operation, 43 boys spent time at the Reformatory, with 25 being discharged.

Numbers increased in the early 1870s, and in response, a mess and school room were erected, and later a schoolmaster and

scripture reader appointed. Time was spent between daily drill, and two hours of schooling each week day. Training was offered in farm-labouring, carpentry, blacksmithing, shoemaking, and glazing. Boys were directly apprenticed from the institution (Scripps and Hudspeth 1992:41). However, it appears that most boys did not learn a trade at the reformatory, but were instead engaged at farm work.

In response to new legislation, a Boys' Training School was set up in 'Yard 5' in 1885. It seems the training school 'provided not only an opportunity to remove boys from bad influences, but also a chance to rid neighbourhoods of troublesome youths'

(Scripps and Hudspeth 1992:46). Modifications included a new two storey building of offices and quarters, 15 feet wide along the length of the front wall and a construction of play shed at the rear of the yard.

The Boys' Training School moved to a new building at New Town in 1896, coming under the control of the Neglected Childrens Department.

Lying-In Hospital (1888-1895) and Home of Mercy (1888-1895)

The Lying in Hospital for single mothers was established along the front wall in 'Yard 3' as an offshoot of the Benevolent Society for poor unmarried mothers. A certified midwife, Mrs Galvin, was appointed to take charge and women were expected to assist with washing, sewing or cooking. Historical records hold details of some of the individual women who were confined there. The New Town institution took over the functions of the Lying-in Hospital in 1895.

In 1891, the Anglican Home of Mercy moved from Fitzroy Crescent to a cottage outside the Cascades Female Factory complex, thought to be the former Superintendent's House connected to the site's convict period of use. Between 1890 and 1894, the Home received 39 women. Of these, 11 were judged as having 'turned out badly' (Scripps and Hudspeth 1992:49-50). The nature of this original cottage was such that the Home of Mercy was unable to 'classify' the inmates. As a result, the Home had to refuse admission to 25 women. The average age of the women was 17.6 years. Their downfall was credited to a variety of reasons, including 'bad parents, deficient moral example at home, influence of bad girls, drink, and deficient education' (Scripps & Hudspeth 1992:49-50). The average stay was about 12 months.

New premises were made available to the Home of Mercy in 1896, when the inmates moved into 'Yard 4' with the Contagious Diseases Hospital. This relocation allowed for the inmates to be classified. The 'first

cases' were given responsibility and lived in a cottage by themselves called 'Hope Cottage' at 31 Apsley Street. Religious instruction played a major part in the reform of these women. All denominations were received at the institution (Scripps and Hudspeth 1992:50-51).

Numbers at the Home of Mercy had declined by 1900, interpreted by the managing committee as evidence of the good results achieved in preventing repeat admissions. Early in 1903, the financial position of the Home was made difficult when the Government withdrew its annual grant of 75 pounds. Problems were also experienced with the inability to appoint a new matron. In 1904 the Home of Mercy was given notice to vacate its premises at Cascades, and by 1905 had relocated its services to New Town (Scripps and Hudspeth 1992:53-54; Rayner 1981:48).

Prison Gate Brigade (1896-unknown date)

The Salvation Army established its 'Prison Gate Brigade' in 'Yard 5' in 1896 as a refuge for discharged male prisoners. Men were admitted straight from prison or after trying to fend for themselves. The institution aimed at reform through work including household chores, gardening, making mats and undertaking carpentry (Scripps and Hudspeth 1992:12, 58-59). The brigade operated for at least two years.

Subdivision and Disposal of the Female Factory Properties

In 1904-5 the site of the former Female Factory was subdivided and sold off as lots by the government. All the yards except for the 1850 Nursery Wing were divided into two lots, but most purchasers bought each yard complete (Rayner 1981:49).

At the time of sale in 1905, the buildings in 'Yard 1' were essentially intact. However, they were demolished in 1924. Shortly afterwards (c.1926) two tennis courts and clubrooms were established on the site. In the 1960s and 1970s Sorrento Winery purchased 'Yard 1', and a number of buildings were constructed (Scripps and Hudspeth 1992:8).

'Yard 2' was divided longitudinally into two lots. Both were bought separately. 'Yard 2' was described at this time as having cells at the rear. The cells had been demolished by the 1930s and a paint factory was constructed on the site in the mid 1940s (Scripps and Hudspeth 1992:9). In 1944 the government acquired the former 'Yard 2' under the Land Resumptions Act 1910 for industrial purposes. In 1951 the Yard was bought by a private company, and was transferred to the Apostolic Church in 1987.

Similarly, 'Yard 3' was divided into two lots. Two stone buildings were rented out as housing. These buildings were the former offices on either side of the front entrance. However, sometime prior to 1958, these were demolished. Two blocks of separate cells had already been demolished in 1885 (Kostoglou and Knaggs 2006:17). In 1986 and 1990, a factory was constructed on the site, in two stages.

During the twentieth century, the former 'Yard 4' passed through a series of owners and was used principally for commercial purposes.

'Yard 4' was auctioned as one lot, with all its buildings, including Matron's Cottage intact (Scripps and Hudspeth 1992:11). At some time in the early 1900s, the wall around the outside of 'Yard 4' was demolished, and a two-room extension was added to the Degrales Lane end of the Matron's Cottage building. Verandahs were added to both the extension and the opposite end of the building, and the former messengers room was connected internally to the rest of the house. In the 1930s this yard was subdivided into four allotments. The Matron's Cottage is the only intact pre-1850s building remaining within the former Female Factory's walls as it was able to be adapted into a private dwelling.

When 'Yard 5' was offered for sale in 1905, the only listed improvements were the brick wall and the former Superintendent's house, although there is no indication that the other buildings may have already been demolished (Scripps and Hudspeth 1992:12). 'Yard 5' was gradually subdivided over the first two decades of the twentieth century into domestic housing allotments which have remained to the present day.

William Pinkerton Young purchased 'Yard 5' and part of the western half of 'Yard 2' and two lots further to the west, outside the walls of the former factory in 1905 (PG 100/8085). Young sold his property in 1912 to TB Wilkinson, who also purchased the eastern half of 'Yard 2' in that year (CT 202/22). In 1922, Wilkinson sold his land to Edward Bennett, a chemical manufacturer who appears to have built a plant in the former 'Yard 2'. In 1923 He subdivided the western parcel into housing lots, including part of Yard 5 which has remained in private hands ever since.

Conservation and Management

During the 1970s women concerned about the lack of visibility of women in Australian history and the traditional and often unrealistic portrayal of female issues – sought to raise greater awareness of the role of convict women in the founding of the nation. A number of articles appeared in feminist journals and in more general publications urging that the value of the Cascades Female Factory to Australian history be recognised and the site be preserved (Rayner 1981:49). This lobbying, heightened by the celebration of International Women's Year in 1975, resulted in the State Government (using funds provided by the Federal Government) acquiring the site of the original 'Yard 1'/Lowes Distillery and gazetting it as a State Reserve as the Women's Prison Historic Site.

Since 1976 the Parks and Wildlife Service managed 'Yard 1'.

In October 1999, the Female Factory Historic Site Limited was formed as a non-profit private organisation and purchased 'Yard 3' with funding from the Commonwealth Government Centenary of Federation Grant. In 2003 the Female Factory Historic Site Ltd, with state and private funding purchased 'Yard 4 South', including Matron's Cottage. Since then, the Cottage has been used by groups engaged in researching female convict history and public access. The Female Factory Historic Site Ltd promotes research, public awareness and

conservation of the site. In August 2007 the State Government acquired the remainder of the former nursery yard, in 'Yard 4'.

The organisation and its sub-committees have held various events and exhibitions highlighting the lives of the convict women and their children which have successfully engaged and raised awareness in the community. These have included events such as the Bicentennial Rajah Quilt Exhibition in 2004 which attracted some 25,000 patrons and in the same year a Muster which attracted many hundreds of people to the site. The re-enactment of the arrival of the convict ship Harmony attracted 1,000 people and Christina Henri's art installation have created considerable community awareness and involvement during several projects. The Female Factory Research Group is developing a database of Australian women convicts as a repository of the stories of women convicts. The group also links descendants with researchers.

Contemporary interest in the Cascades Female Factory is indicative of the growing awareness of the contribution of convict women to the development of the nation through their roles as wives, mothers, domestic servants, business women and land owners.

Census figures of 1847 show that just over 50% of the total population of Tasmania were, or had been, convicts. Historians description of the convict inmates as the founding mothers of Australia has powerful resonance.

The efforts of women since the 1970s to preserve and protect this place further demonstrate its importance in the hearts and minds of the community. The number of publications and research documents relating to the history of the Factory also testify to the attachment the community has with the Cascades Female Factory and its history.

**Statement of
Significance:**
(non-statutory
summary)

The Cascades Female Factory provides an evocative insight into the lives and experiences of the convict women who served time in penal institutions in Australia.

The factory, which operated from 1828 to 1856, was the largest and one of the longest serving penal institutions in Van Diemens Land. In the early 1850s it contained five major yards and at one stage, in grossly overcrowded conditions, held more than 1,000 women and 176 children.

In a gully in the shadow of Mount Wellington, it was notorious for its damp and unhealthy conditions and for its high rate of infant deaths. Death rates for infants have been estimated as high as 40% of the young inmates.

The Cascades Female Factory has strong association and special meaning for the community as a place of womens history. The structural configuration and evolution of the Cascades Female Factory demonstrates many important facets of the Colonial penal system over time, including changing social attitudes.

After the end of transportation, the Cascades Female Factory became a welfare institution for lunatics, invalids, paupers, homeless boys and 'fallen women' who were substantially human legacies of the Colonial convict system. This history tells the story of penal oppression in convict times through to late philanthropy and social control.

The ruins, archaeological remains and associated cultural deposits, as well as its collections, reveal subsequent layers of history from the time of the Female Factory to the complex' subsequent use as a gaol, a paupers' and invalids' home, an asylum for the insane, a boys' reformatory and later training school, contagious diseases hospital, and a home for 'fallen women'.

The surviving physical evidence of the site (including below ground features and artefacts) has exceptional implications for scientific and historical research.

It also holds strong associations with a number of individuals prominent Tasmanias history. These include the institutions architect John Lee Archer; Quaker penal reformer Elizabeth Fry (whose influence was felt from England); Matron Mary Hutchison and the Aboriginal woman Truganini who was for some time buried in Yard 1.

Significance:

The Heritage Council may enter a place in the Heritage Register if it meets one or more of the following criteria from the Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995:

a) The place is important to the course or pattern of Tasmania's history.

The Cascades Female Factory represents aspects of the nineteenth century penal history of Tasmania, important to the

past human occupation and evolution of the State and the nation.

Built c1828 the Cascades Female Factory is the oldest prison in Australia designed and administered solely for women which retains substantial built and archaeological fabric.

The evolution of its various yards demonstrates the changing nature of the penal system and the changing attitudes and beliefs associated with each different system of punishment and reform.

In particular, the place relates to aspects of women's history, including the incarceration of women and children. It illustrates the central relationships that made up the female convict experience including those between women and the prison authorities, between women and men, between women and their children, with each other, and between women servants and their masters.

It was also a place of burial of Tasmanian Aboriginal, Truganini.

The place demonstrates not only a prison but also a factory, hospital, hiring depot and a nursery for the children of convict women.

The introduction of isolation cells at the Cascades Female Factory - Yard 3 - illustrates the nineteenth century disciplinary measures, and the intolerance of same sex relationships.

The institutional uses to which the main Yards and nearby areas were put after the closure of the Cascades Female Factory in 1877 represent the efforts of a series of governments to deal with various perceived social problems of the day, including poverty, insanity, juvenile crime, homelessness, children born out of wedlock, old age and venereal disease.

The site is one of the few historic places in Tasmania where the story from penal oppression to social control and philanthropy can be so clearly traced.

b) The place possesses uncommon or rare aspects of Tasmania's history.

Of the female factories established in Tasmania, Cascades Female Factory has the most remaining above ground fabric and has a high level of integrity.

The separate apartments constructed in Yard 3 in 1845 are of significance as a rare example of this type of construction and design, possibly being the only example of double cells for female convicts in the world.

The Cascades Female Factory includes a rare example of the use of separate apartments for females, unique in Australia.

c) The place has the potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Tasmania's history.

The Cascades Female Factory has high archaeological integrity with visible features of the early female convict phase as well as subsurface occupation deposits of this and later phases.

This makes it of exceptional interest for scientific and historical research.

The extensive artefact collection, comprising more than 2,000 items relating to the Cascades Female Factory, is included in this registration.

d) The place is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of place in Tasmania's history.

As the female factory with the most extant remains, the Cascades site is the best representative of a nineteenth century

colonial female convict prison in Tasmania. Characteristics include the construction method, design, fabrication and operation of the place. The philosophy, design and architecture of both colonial architect John Lee Archer and Quaker prison reformer Elizabeth Fry (whose advice was relayed from England) are evident in the remaining fabric and archaeological features of the place.

The cottages at 17, 19 and 21 Degraeves Street, and 31 Apsley Street, South Hobart, are also of historic cultural heritage significance for their architectural values, with their ability to demonstrate the principle characteristics of midnineteenth century Georgian single storey cottages, of brick and sandstone.

e) The place is important in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement.

n/a

f) The place has a strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social or spiritual reasons.

The Cascades Female Factory has special meaning for the community because of its cultural, social and educational associations. In particular, the place is valued for its significant associations with female history in Tasmania.

Historians' description of the convict inmates as the founding mothers of Australia' has powerful resonance.

This is evidenced by the number of groups and associations who have a declared special interest in the place, the Governments acquisitions of land, the number of publications and research documents related to the Female Factory's history and the number of visitors to the site.

g) The place has a special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in Tasmania's history.

The Cascades Female Factory has special association with female convicts, who contributed much to the pioneering and

colonial establishment of the colony and country.

It has strong associations with a number of notable people over its many years of operation.

Mary Hutchison who was important for her role as a female in the colonial public service, female factories and with Methodist missionaries to the Pacific, served as matron 1832-1851.

Yard 1 of the Cascades Female Factory is of significance for its associations with notable colonial architect John Lee Archer, who drew up the plans for the conversion of the former distillery and designed a range of buildings for the site.

Yard 1 is of significance for its special associations with Truganini, a Tasmanian Aboriginal, who was buried there in 1876, and whose body lay in the yard for a number of years before being exhumed.

h) The place is important in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics.

PLEASE NOTE This data sheet is intended to provide sufficient information and justification for listing the place on the Heritage Register. Under the legislation, only one of the criteria needs to be met. The data sheet is not intended to be a comprehensive inventory of the heritage values of the place, there may be other heritage values of interest to the Heritage Council not currently acknowledged.