

= Fremantle Prison =

Fremantle Prison , sometimes referred to as Fremantle Gaol or Fremantle Jail , is a former Australian prison in Fremantle , Western Australia . The six @-@ hectare (15 @-@ acre) site includes the prison cellblocks , gatehouse , perimeter walls , cottages , and tunnels . Initially known as the Convict Establishment or The Establishment , it was constructed as a prison for convicts , using convict labour , between 1851 and 1859 . The prison was transferred to the colonial government in 1886 for use for locally @-@ sentenced prisoners . Royal Commissions were held in 1898 and 1911 , and instigated some reform to the prison system , but significant changes did not begin until the 1960s . The government department in charge of the prison underwent several reorganisations in the 1970s and 1980s , but the culture of Fremantle Prison was resistant to change . Growing prisoner discontent culminated in a 1988 riot with guards taken hostage , and a fire that caused \$ 1 @. @ 8 million worth of damage . The prison closed in 1991 , replaced by the new maximum @-@ security Casuarina Prison .

The prison was administered by a comptroller general , sheriff , or director , responsible for the entire convict or prison system in Western Australia , and a superintendent in charge of the prison itself . Prison officers , known as warders in the 19th century , worked under stringent conditions until they achieved representation through the Western Australian Prison Officers ' Union . Convicts were initially of good character as potential future colonists , but less desirable convicts were eventually sent . As a locally @-@ run prison , Fremantle 's population was generally short @-@ sentenced white prisoners in the 1890s , with very few Aboriginal prisoners . By the late 20th century , most prisoners were serving longer sentences , a higher proportion of them were violent , and Aboriginal people were over @-@ represented .

Prison life at Fremantle was highly regulated . Meals were an important part of the day , eaten in the cells throughout the operational life of the prison . Convict or prisoner labour was used on public infrastructure works until around 1911 ; subsequently , only work inside the prison was allowed , though there was never enough to fully occupy the inmates . Punishments varied over the years , with flogging and time in irons eventually replaced by lengthening of sentences and deprivation of visitors or entertainment . More than 40 hangings were carried out at Fremantle Prison , which was Western Australia 's only lawful place of execution , between 1888 and 1984 . Prominent escapees included Moondyne Joe , as well as John Boyle O 'Reilly and six other Fenians in the 19th century , and Brenden Abbott in 1989 . There have been various riots and other disturbances , with major riots causing damage in 1968 and 1988 .

Since 1991 , Fremantle Prison has been conserved as a recognised heritage site , and various restoration works have been undertaken . New uses have been found for some buildings within the prison , which has also become a significant tourist attraction . The process of obtaining World Heritage listing as part of the Australian Convict Sites submission focused historical interpretation and conservation efforts on the prison 's convict era (1850 ? 1886) , at the expense of its more recent history , including Aboriginal prisoners held there .

= = Architecture = =

= = = Layout = = =

Fremantle Prison was built on a land grant of about 36 acres (15 ha) from limestone quarried on @-@ site . A 15 @-@ foot (4 @. @ 6 m) tall boundary wall encloses the prison grounds , with a gatehouse in the centre of the western wall , facing The Terrace . Other roads bounding the site are Knutsford Street to the north , Hampton Road to the east , and Fothergill Street to the south . Cottages , which housed prison workers and officials , are located outside the wall either side of the gatehouse . Inside the walls , the parade ground is located east of the gatehouse . Beyond it is the Main Cell Block at the centre of the site , which contains two chapels . North of the main block is New Division , and west of that , in the north @-@ western corner , is the former Women 's Prison ,

previously the cookhouse , bakehouse and laundry . The hospital building stands in the north @-@ eastern corner , while the former workshops are located in the south @-@ eastern corner , as well as to the north of the gatehouse . A system of underground tunnels , constructed to provide fresh water from an aquifer , runs under the eastern edge of the site .

= = = Buildings = = =

= = = Houses on The Terrace = = =

North of the gatehouse , located at 2 , 4 , and 6 The Terrace , are cottages built in Victorian style , in contrast to the Georgian style of the other houses . Number 10 is a double @-@ storey house , initially built in 1853 for the chaplain , but taken over by the superintendent in 1878 and later used by the prison administration . An adjoining single @-@ storey at number 12 , finished in 1854 , was the home of the gatekeeper , located on the north side of the gatehouse . Number 16 The Terrace , south of the gatehouse , is a double @-@ storey house that accommodated first the superintendent , and later the resident magistrate . It remained in use as housing for prison officers until the 1970s . Number 18 , the southernmost house on The Terrace , and number 8 , the northernmost of the initial buildings , both featured two sitting rooms , three bedrooms , and two dressing rooms , as well as a kitchen , water closet and shed , but with mirrored layouts . Number 18 was expanded with additions built in the 1890s .

= = = Gatehouse = = =

The gatehouse and associated entry complex was constructed between 1854 and 1855 using convict labour . It was designed by Royal Engineer and Comptroller General Edmund Henderson , and constructed out of limestone . The gatehouse has two towers either side of a narrow gate , reminiscent of those found in 13th century English castles or walled cities . Iron that had been scavenged from shipwrecks was used to make the gate , while the clock at the top of the structure was imported from England . As the main entrance , the gatehouse has remained a significant feature and landmark ; since the closure of the prison , it has housed a café and office areas . Restoration was carried out in 2005 , preserving the original stone facade and removing non @-@ original rendering .

= = = Main Cell Block = = =

Little @-@ changed since its construction in the 1850s by convicts , the Main Cell Block was designed to hold up to 1000 prisoners . The central , four @-@ storey high cell block is flanked on either end by large dormitory wards , called the Association Rooms . Here , as many as 80 men slept in hammocks , either as a reward for good behaviour or because they would soon receive their ticket of leave . In contrast , the cramped cells measured just seven by four feet (2 @-@ 1 by 1 @-@ 2 m) . Although each cell initially had a basin connected to running water , the installation was before the advent of S @-@ bends ; the smells coming up the pipes led to their removal by the 1860s . Following a Royal Commission , the cells were enlarged by removing a dividing wall from between two cells . Electric lighting was installed in the 1920s , but there were never any toilets ? buckets were used for the duration of the prison 's operation . Since the prison 's closure , six cells have been restored to represent the varying living conditions at different times in the prison 's history . The main block also houses the gallows , solitary confinement cells , and two chapels ? Anglican and Catholic .

= = = New Division = = =

Fremantle Prison 's New Division building was constructed between 1904 and 1907 , as a response

to overcrowding . It also allowed prison administrators to implement the " separate system " , whereby prisoners were completely isolated for the first three months of their sentence . A panopticon in the exercise yard was initially used to facilitate this concept during the prisoners ' hour of exercise each day . The system was not successful , and considered a dated prisoner management strategy , leading to its removal within five years . New Division was the first building to have electricity , with underground wiring . During World War II , the Australian Army appropriated the division , to keep their prisoners separate from the main population . In 1994 the building was retrofitted to cater for offices , small business premises , and meeting rooms .

== = Women 's Prison = = = =

The north @-@ western complex was originally a service area with a cookhouse , bakehouse and laundry , built in the 1850s . A place for women prisoners was needed following the closure of Perth Gaol and the transfer of prisoners to Fremantle . The buildings were converted to a prison , and a wall built around them , creating Western Australia 's first separate prison for women . Population and crime growth led to them being extended in the 1890s and 1910s . The construction of Bandyup Women 's Prison saw Fremantle 's Women 's Prison close in 1970 , with the space used for education and assessment until the main prison 's closure in 1991 .

== = Hospital = = = =

Built between 1857 and 1859 , the hospital was a crucial component of Fremantle Prison . Public works during the convict era relied on convict labour , which could only be provided if the convicts were healthy . From 1886 to 1903 , medical services were relocated to the main cell block , with the former building used to keep invalids and female prisoners . The hospital was refurbished and reopened in 1904 . It subsequently remained in continuous operation until the prison 's closure in 1991 .

== = Workshops = = = =

The original workshop was a blacksmith 's shop , one of the first buildings to be constructed on the prison site . Later known as the East Workshops , other workshops included carpenter 's , plumber 's and painter 's , a printing office , and from the 1850s , a metal shop . The West Workshops were built at the start of the twentieth century , providing more work for prisoners through a paint shop , mat maker , shoe maker , book binder and tailor shop . In 1993 the four northern workshops were adapted for use as TAFE art workshops .

== = Tunnels = = =

In the 1850s , shafts were sunk into the limestone bedrock to provide the prison with fresh water from an aquifer , and a tank was installed in 1874 to offer the town of Fremantle an alternative water supply . Prisoners worked a pump to fill the tank , which was connected to the jetties through gravity @-@ fed pipes . In 1896 , a town reservoir was constructed on Swanbourne Street , fed from the prison by a triple @-@ expansion steam @-@ driven pump that could take more than 4 @.@ 5 megalitres (1 @,@ 000 @,@ 000 imperial gallons) per day from the prison tunnels . Prisoners , relieved of manual pumping , were employed to supply wood and stoke boilers . The tunnels were closed in 1910 , though the groundwater continued to be used for the prison 's gardens . In 1989 , oil leaking from nearby tanks contaminated the water ; however , the pollution was cleared by 1996 through bioremediation . The tunnels were re @-@ opened in mid @-@ 2005 , and had been refurbished within a year to improve the experience for visitors .

== History ==

== 19th century ==

While the Swan River Colony was established as a " free settlement " (unlike the penal colonies on the east coast) , by the 1840s demand for cheap labour overcame an early reluctance , and the colony agreed to accept some convicts from Britain . The arrival of the first convict ship *Scindian* on 2 June 1850 was unexpected , as a sailing ship that had been sent ahead had been blown off @-@ course . The colony 's Round House jail was full , so the 75 convicts had to be left on the ship until a temporary prison was built . Comptroller General of Convicts Edward Henderson looked for a place to build a permanent convict establishment , and ultimately settled on the current site , on a hill overlooking Fremantle .

The design for Fremantle Prison was based on the Pentonville Prison in Britain , but with diagonal cell blocks replaced with a four @-@ storey linear structure , which would be the longest , tallest prison cell block in the southern hemisphere . Construction began in 1851 , and work rapidly progressed following the arrival of the Royal Engineers later that year . They trained convicts to work with limestone , which was quarried on @-@ site . The first priority was the construction of accommodation for Henderson and the prison warders , to relieve the expense of paying for private lodging .

The prison walls were constructed between 1853 and 1855 , while the gatehouse and associated entry complex was built in 1854 and 1855 . Construction of the southern half of the Main Cell Block began in 1853 and was finished in 1855 , with prisoners transferred from the temporary prison on 1 June 1855 . Construction of the northern wing followed . The Crimean War saw the Royal Engineers recalled , leaving only one of their number , Henry Wray , to oversee the building 's construction , which was completed by the end of 1859 .

During Western Australia 's convict era , the prison was known as the Convict Establishment , and was used for prisoners transported from Britain . Longer term locally @-@ sentenced prisoners were also held there from 1858 , at a cost to the colonial government . In 1868 , penal transportation to Western Australia ceased , and the number of convicts in the colony gradually declined , down to 83 in the mid @-@ 1880s . Due to the great expense of sending these convicts back to Britain , the authorities there negotiated with the colonial government to relinquish jurisdiction over them , as well as the prison complex ? demolition was considered too expensive . Early negotiations had broken down , but were restarted in August 1883 . After one and a half years , a compromise was reached , and the transfer was finalised on 31 March 1886 .

Once the prison came under the control of the colonial government , it was renamed Fremantle Prison . All prisoners in Perth Gaol were transferred to Fremantle , and from 1887 female prisoners were also imprisoned there , in their own separate section . The Western Australian gold rushes of the 1890s resulted in strong economic growth , and a massive increase in population : doubling from almost 50 @, @ 000 in 1891 to more than 100 @, @ 000 by 1895 , and to 184 @, @ 000 by 1901 . This influx included desperate , dishonest people , from elsewhere in Australia and overseas , and Fremantle Prison was soon overcrowded .

The 1890s also saw a growing public unease with the treatment of prisoners . In September 1898 a Royal Commission was established by the Governor of Western Australia to investigate the colony 's penal system . The commission heard evidence from almost 240 witnesses , including a range of prisoners . Three reports were made between December 1898 and June 1899 , dealing with the most recognisable and prominent issues including classification , sentencing , punishments , and diet . In particular , they considered the philosophy of the prison system ? the causes of crime , as well as the types of punishments and their justifications ? and in light of this , the practicality of various reform proposals .

== Early 20th century ==

Within a year of the enquiry , almost 100 cells had been enlarged by knocking down the inner wall between two cells , and a classification system was introduced . Internal walls were constructed in

the main block , creating four separate divisions . Following the urgings of the prison Superintendent George and various official enquiries , new workshops were built to provide increased useful employment for prisoners . Five spaces were designed for tailors , bookbinders , shoemakers , mat makers and painters .

New regulations for prison officers were published in the Government Gazette in 1902 , and a new Prisons Act was passed in 1903 . While in theory the passing of the Act should have resulted in significant prison reform , this did not eventuate . The legislation left much of the changes to executive regulation , at the discretion of the governor , and was described by the media as a feeble document .

New Division , completed in 1907 and occupied in 1908 , resulted from the 1899 Commissioners ' report recommending a modified version of the separate system . The new division was similar in design to Henderson 's 1850s structure , but was constructed in an L @-@ shape , was only three stories tall , and had electric lighting . It also differed in its use from the main cell block . Unlike occupants of the earlier building , prisoners remained continuously in their cells except when exercising in separate yards , watched panopticon @-@ style by a warder in a central tower .

In 1911 another Royal Commission investigation into Fremantle Prison recommended closing the facility . Its report was ignored by the state government , which was more concerned with building infrastructure such as roads and schools than the plight of its prisoners . However , there was a rapid change in prison policy , with the appointment of a superintendent , Hugh Hann , who had recent English and colonial experience , and the election of a Labor government with members interested in penal reform . One immediate result was the dismantling of the separate system at Fremantle Prison and the demolition of the separate exercise yards in 1912 .

Fremantle Prison was partially used as a military prison during both world wars ? for the detention of military personnel , as well as an internment centre . From 1940 until 1946 , it was one of more than 50 military prisons across Australia holding a combined total of more than 12 @,@ 000 enemy aliens and prisoners of war . Fremantle accommodated up to 400 military prisoners and up to 160 civilian prisoners by October 1945 . The World War II takeover necessitated the commissioning of Barton 's Mill Prison in 1942 .

= = = 20th century reform = = =

Prison outstations were established as part of the reforms in the 20th century , and to reduce the overcrowding at Fremantle . Pardelup Prison Farm opened in 1927 , near Mount Barker , while Barton 's Mill , though planned to be a temporary measure , remained open as a prison after World War II . Significant reform to Western Australia 's prison system did not begin until the 1960s , lagging behind those which occurred elsewhere in Australia and the world after World War II . Seven new prisons were opened between 1960 and 1971 , and in 1970 , female prisoners and staff were moved from Fremantle to the new Bandyup Women 's Prison . New legislation regarding probation , parole , and convicted drunkards was also introduced , which provided alternatives to imprisonment . With these new arrangements , and more variety in prisons and prison types , a classification board was set up in 1963 to assess prisoners .

The appointment of Colin Campbell as comptroller general in 1966 fostered substantial changes within Fremantle Prison itself . One of his first changes was to clear the classification committee 's backlog of prisoners awaiting assessment . Campbell also established an officer training school , as well as an assessment centre to evaluate new prisoners . Work release and community service programs were also introduced , along with training programs , social workers and welfare officers . Within the midst of Campbell 's reforms , the Prisons Department was renamed the Department of Corrections in 1971 , restructured , and the position of comptroller general was replaced with director of the department .

In 1972 a Royal Commission was appointed to investigate mistreatment of and discrimination against Aboriginal prisoners . Its 1973 report found that there was not " any appreciable discrimination " , however , racial stereotypes are present throughout the report , and the testimony of Aboriginal prisoners was considered unreliable . The report also made recommendations

regarding various aspects of prison life , including additional , independent , trained welfare officers .

William Kidston succeeded Campbell in 1977 , and oversaw a shift in policy from " paternalistic rehabilitation " of prisoners to merely providing opportunities for rehabilitation . A new Prisons Act was passed in 1981 , which updated the 1903 Act with modern philosophies and practices . This act was , however , slanted towards prisoner management and safety , and the department was at the same time renamed the Prisons Department once more , to emphasise imprisonment as its primary responsibility . Ian Hill became Director of the Prisons Department in 1983 , and reorganised the department several times , striving for increased efficiency . Whilst the changes of the 1980s were effective throughout most of Western Australia 's prison system , the culture of Fremantle Prison was resistant to change . Growing prisoner discontent eventually culminated in the 1988 prison riot , investigated by an official enquiry later that year .

= = = Closure and subsequent use = = =

The state government made the decision to decommission Fremantle Prison in 1983 , but it remained in operation until 30 November 1991 . Prisoners were moved to a new metropolitan maximum security prison at Casuarina . There were divergent views in the community over the site 's future , whether it should be preserved or redeveloped . The ultimate decision was for conservation of the prison , but allowing for the buildings to be adapted for reuse by the community .

The Fremantle Prison Trust was established in 1992 to advise the Minister for Works on the management of the site . Various new uses were found for different parts of the prison , including wedding services in the chapels , the Coastal Business Centre in New Division , and the Fremantle Children 's Literature Centre in the hospital ; the prison also became a tourist attraction . A private company , the Fremantle Prison Guardians , organised the tourist operation for ten years under contract , until the end of 2001 ; subsequently , the state government took control . A hostel providing short @-@ stay accommodation in the Women 's Prison opened in May 2015 .

= = Staff and prisoners = =

= = = Administration = = =

Western Australia 's first comptroller general of convicts , Edmund Henderson , administered the convict establishment for thirteen years . The primary responsibilities of the comptroller general were to " direct convict labour and be responsible for convict discipline " . With the transfer of Fremantle Prison to the colonial government in 1886 , the role of the comptroller was replaced by that of the sheriff , responsible for all of the prisons in the colony . The position of comptroller general was recreated , with duties split off from the sheriff 's office , in early 1911 . In 1971 , the Prisons Department was renamed the Department of Corrections , restructured , and the position of comptroller general was replaced with director of the department . While the comptroller , sheriff , or director was responsible for the overall convict or prison system , largely centred around Fremantle Prison , the responsibility of the prison itself lay with the superintendent .

= = = Officers = = =

On convict ships , the convicts were guarded by pensioner guards , who were soldiers awarded pensions for their service in areas such as China , Crimea , and Afghanistan . Some remained in the military , but many opted to stay in the colony as settlers , having brought their wives and children with them . The pensioner guards were expected to help deal with any incidents of unrest at the prison .

Fremantle Prison 's officers were known as warders until the early 20th century . They lived in

specially built terrace houses within walking distance of the prison , and their lives were just as regimented as the prisoners . In the 1890s warders still had stringent living and working conditions , including ten- to twelve @-@ hour working days . Due to a high turnover rate , many had little knowledge of either official policies or unofficial rules and traditions . The warder 's role , previously unwritten , only became clearly defined in 1902 . As well as guarding against escapes and enforcing discipline , they oversaw prisoner work and instructed inmates in trades . The warders were also supposed to be moral role models for prisoners , while maintaining a formal , distant , relationship .

The prison officer 's role in the 20th century did not change much , with the job still entailing a boredom @-@ inducing daily routine focused on security . Officer training became a priority under Campbell 's administration , from the late 1960s . Training courses were set up for staff inductions and promotions , and seminars were started for senior officers . The most significant change in this period , however , was that prison officers achieved representation through the Western Australian Prison Officers ' Union . The strength of the union was based on the ability to almost cripple the prison system through strike action , first taken in 1975 .

= = = Prisoners = = =

Convicts were introduced into Western Australia for three main purposes : inexpensive labour , additional labour , and an injection of British government spending into the local economy . During the initial years of transportation , convicts were generally young , from a rural background , and of good character , having only committed minor offences ? potential future colonists , after their sentence had been served . By the 1860s the majority were older , more serious offenders from urban areas , including political prisoners considered to be " difficult and dangerous " . Following the transfer of Fremantle Prison to local control in 1886 , it became Western Australia 's primary prison . In the late 1880s and 1890s the number of inmates swelled dramatically . This increase predominantly comprised prisoners serving shorter sentences of under three months . The number of inmates in 1897 was 379 , and Inspector of Prisons James Roe viewed the prison as " inconveniently full " .

Despite a large expansion of the prison system , the problem of overcrowding remained throughout the 20th century , as did Western Australia 's high incarceration rate relative to the rest of Australia . The nature of prisoners changed , with three times the proportion of 16- to 19 @-@ year @-@ olds in 1984 compared to 1898 , and a growing over @-@ representation of Aboriginal prisoners to nearly half the incarcerated population . Sentences also increased in length , such that in 1984 more than 80 % of inmates were serving more than a year . In the 1970s and 1980s , there was an increasing number of people committed for violent crimes , but still a minority of the population . Both staff and prisoners , however , perceived a notable increase in violence during these years , coinciding with the rise of illegal drugs in prison , and of sentences for drug @-@ related offences .

= = Prison operation = =

= = = Routine = = =

In the Convict Establishment of 1855 , the day began with the wakeup bell at 4 : 30 am , and the officers and prisoners assembled in the parade ground at 5 : 25 am . Prisoners were sent to work before and after breakfast (in their cells) , before assembling for muster at midday . This was followed by dinner in the exercise yard or the work site , and more work throughout the afternoon , until supper at 6 : 00 pm in the cells . Night officers took over at 7 : 15 pm . The transfer of the Convict Establishment to the colonially @-@ run Fremantle Prison saw little change , and no new regulations .

A similar routine , but with fewer working hours , is described in the 1930s :

The following routine is observed by those who go to Fremantle Jail : ? 6 @.@ 15 am . , warning bell ; prisoners rise and fold beds . 6 @.@ 30 @.@ officers muster and unlock cells . 7 @.@ 0 . [

sic] breakfast , which lasts 15 minutes , after which men assemble in their respective exercise yards . 7 @. @ 55 , parade for work . 11 @. @ 45 , parade for dinner , after which men are in yard until 1 pm , parade for work ; 4 @. @ 45 parade for tea . 5 @. @ 30 @. @ muster ; all cells , etc . , locked for the night . 7 @. @ 55 @. @ warning bell ; prisoners to bed . 8 @. @ 0 , [sic] lights out except as provided for in reformatory regulations .

Not much had changed by the 1960s . The day began with a waking bell at 6 : 45 am . After a prisoner count , they moved into the yard until 7 : 30 , when they collected breakfast and headed back to their cells . The 8 : 00 bell signaled a parade , and then the start of work , which lasted until 11 : 15 . They ate a meal , locked in their cells until 12 : 20 pm , followed by some time in the yards . At 1 : 00 there was another parade , and another session of work which lasted to 4 : 15 . Another meal was collected , and prisoners were locked away in their cells overnight . The lights stayed on until 9 : 30 pm . On the weekends the routine featured no work , and included a film played for the prisoners .

= = = Diet = = =

Prisoners ate meals in their cells , from the early years of the prison through to its closure in 1991 . Bread from the prison bakehouse was included in every meal in the convict era . It was served with black tea for breakfast , and with either tea or cocoa in the evening . The main meal , called dinner , was in the middle of the day , and also featured soup , meat , and vegetables . By the 1890s food was still very limited in variety , with few vegetables . Porridge was given for breakfast , usually too fluid or overly solid , and the general standard of the prison 's food was quite low , particularly in 1897 and 1898 . However , the quality soon improved , as noted by the 1898 Royal Commission , which recommended decreasing rations to reduce costs .

In the 1960s , food preparation was overseen by a qualified chef , who also trained prisoners . The diet consisted of quality food , but " without trimmings " . Breakfast was porridge , with a third of a pint of milk , a hot drink (tea , unless the prisoner bought coffee or cocoa) , and either Vegemite , honey , or margarine , depending on the week . Lunch and dinner had more variation . Both meals consisted of a meat dish ? corned beef , sausages , or mince pie ? as well as mashed potato and cabbage , although there was occasionally a roast dinner . Meat , vegetables and bread were still a prominent part of the diet in 1991 .

= = = Labour = = =

As well as being used to build the prison itself , convict labour , with convicts in chain gangs , was used for other public works in the Fremantle and surrounding Perth area , including The Causeway , Perth Town Hall and Stirling Highway . The work undertaken by a convict depended on their behaviour and demeanour . Upon arrival to Western Australia , convicts were kept within the prison for a period of observation . If found to have a reasonable disposition , the convict would be sent to work , in a gang under the control of a warder . Typical activities included " quarrying , filling swamps , burning lime , constructing public buildings , roads and jetties " around Fremantle and Perth .

After some time , they might be sent to work on road or other projects away from these main settlements . Continued good behaviour could see the convict granted a ticket @-@ of @-@ leave , allowing private employment in a specified district of the colony , and eventually a Conditional Pardon , allowing most freedoms , except for returning to England . A Certificate of Freedom would only be granted at the end of a sentence . Misbehaviour would result in demotion through these levels of work , including returning to convict status within the prison . Re @-@ offenders and captured escapees , after corporal punishment and time in solitary confinement , would be placed on a chain gang undertaking hard labour , typically on roads near Fremantle .

Outside work , mostly on public infrastructure , continued beyond the convict era , but gradually declined due to discipline concerns , the rise of trade unions that saw such work as " a threat to free labour " , and an increasing emphasis on work as rehabilitation rather than punishment . By 1911 outside work had all but ceased , but could not adequately be replaced by employment within the

prison walls ; a lack of suitable work plagued the prison throughout its lifetime . Work in the 19th century consisted of cooking , washing clothes , cleaning the prison , tailoring , bootmaking , and printing . However , demand exceeded the availability of such work ? increasingly so in the later years of the 19th century ? so prisoners were also given activities with no practical value other than keeping them occupied . These included breaking stones , operating a water pump , and oakum picking . Even with these extra activities , by 1899 , 60 to 70 men were employed at the pump , each doing only a few minutes work per hour , and occupied the rest of the time with recreation such as draughts .

New workshops built in 1901 allowed prisoners to work in bootmaking and tailoring , and from 1904 , printing . Only a small fraction of prisoners were allocated to the workshops ? 35 out of an average of 279 prisoners in 1902 . In 1908 , there were still few men employed in the workshops , 20 in tailoring , 15 in bootmaking , and 12 in mat making , with only half of these working at a time , and little improvement by the 1911 Royal Commission . The 20th century saw little change in the work prisoners did . There were similar workshops , with the addition of metal work , and similar jobs around the prison complex , including in the laundry , in the kitchen , and cleaning the prison . In 1984 , 90 % of prisoners were reported to be employed , either full @-@ time or part @-@ time . The meaningfulness of the work was nominal , as work was viewed as " a management option rather than [for] production " , but security concerns and discipline restricted the rehabilitative value of the work , and limited much of the work to jobs non @-@ existent outside of prison .

= = = Punishments = = =

In the convict era , particularly during Hampton 's term as governor , misbehaving prisoners were punished with flogging , solitary confinement , and working in chain gangs at gunpoint . Particularly difficult prisoners were put to work hand pumping groundwater into the prison 's reservoir . Known as cranking , it was especially despised by the prisoners . Staff disliked giving the lashings ? in 1851 , out of a total of 400 lashings ordered , 150 were remitted as the superintendent could not find anyone to undertake the task . The role was so disliked that inducements were offered , including extra pay or improved lodgings .

By the 1880s , punishments also included a restricted diet of bread and water (for a short time span) , time in irons , and a lengthening of a prisoner 's sentence by a visiting magistrate . The cat o ' nine tails , which had been used since the early days of the prison , was abolished during the post @-@ 1911 Royal Commission reforms . Other reforms in this period saw the number of punishments inflicted decrease from 184 in 1913 to 57 in 1914 , and 35 in 1915 .

Flogging was discontinued in the 1940s , with the last incident occurring in 1943 . From that decade , punishments were decided by the superintendent after hearing the case against a prisoner , or by a magistrate for grievous violations . Lesser transgressions could result in solitary confinement , or restriction from visitors , education , and concerts ; serious offences were punishable by the cancellation of any remission earned and a bread @-@ and @-@ water diet , normally over a two @-@ week period .

= = = Executions = = =

As soon as Fremantle Prison came under local control in 1886 , a refractory block with gallows was planned . It was completed in 1888 , and first used in 1889 to execute a convicted murderer , Jimmy Long , a Malayan . The gallows room was the only lawful place of execution in Western Australia between 1888 and 1984 . At least 43 men and one woman were hanged in this period . Martha Rendell was the only woman to be hanged at the prison , in 1909 . The last person to be hanged was serial killer Eric Edgar Cooke , executed in 1964 .

From the day of sentencing to death , prisoners were kept in a concrete @-@ floored cell in New Division . They were vigilantly observed to prevent them escaping their sentence through suicide . With hangings taking place on Monday mornings , at 8 : 00 am , condemned prisoners were woken three hours earlier , and provided with a last meal , shower , and clean clothes . Afterwards ,

handcuffed , they were moved to a holding or " condemned cell " nearby the gallows , and allowed a couple of sips of brandy to calm their nerves . Shortly before 8 : 00 am , they were hooded , led up to the execution chamber , which could hold as many as eleven witnesses , stood over the trap door , had a noose put around their neck , and were hanged by dropping through the opening trap door . After medical examination , the deceased was removed for burial .

= = = Escapes = = =

There were a multitude of attempted escapes from Fremantle Prison . Prominent escapees included Moondyne Joe in 1867 , John Boyle O 'Reilly in 1869 and six other Fenians in 1876 , and Brenden Abbott in 1889 .

= = = Moondyne Joe = = =

Joseph Bolitho Johns , better known as Moondyne Joe , was Western Australia 's best known bushranger . In July 1865 , Johns was sentenced to ten years penal servitude for killing a steer . He and another prisoner absconded from a work party in early November , and were on the run for nearly a month , during which time Johns adopted the nickname Moondyne Joe . For absconding and for being in possession of a firearm , Moondyne Joe was sentenced to twelve months in irons , and transferred to Fremantle Prison . In July 1866 he received a further six months in irons for trying to cut the lock out of his door , but in August Moondyne Joe succeeded in escaping again . Moondyne Joe formulated a plan to escape the colony by travelling overland to South Australia , but was captured on 29 September about 300 kilometres (190 mi) north @-@ east of Perth .

As punishment for escaping and for the robberies committed while on the run , Moondyne Joe received five years hard labour on top of his remaining sentence . Extraordinary measures were taken to ensure that he did not escape again . He was transferred to Fremantle Prison where a special " escape @-@ proof " cell was made for him , built from stone , lined with jarrah sleepers and over 1000 nails . In early 1867 Moondyne Joe was set to work breaking stone , but rather than permit him to leave the prison , the acting comptroller @-@ general ordered that the stone be brought in and dumped in a corner of the prison yard , where Moondyne Joe worked under the constant supervision of a warder .

Governor John Hampton was so confident of the arrangements , he was heard to say to Moondyne Joe : " If you get out again , I 'll forgive you " . However , the rock broken by Moondyne Joe was not removed regularly , and eventually a pile grew up until it obscured the guard 's view of him below the waist . Partially hidden behind the pile of rocks , he occasionally swung his sledgehammer at the limestone wall of the prison . On 7 March 1867 , Moondyne Joe escaped through a hole he had made in the prison wall . A few days before the second anniversary of his escape , Moondyne Joe was recaptured , returned to prison , and sentenced to an additional four years in irons . Eventually , Governor Frederick Weld heard of his predecessor Hampton 's promise , and decided that further punishment would be unfair . Moondyne Joe was given a ticket of leave in May 1871 .

= = = The Fenians = = =

From 1865 to 1867 , British authorities rounded up supporters of the Irish Republican Brotherhood , or Fenians , an Irish independence movement , and transported sixty @-@ two of them to Western Australia . In 1869 , John Boyle O 'Reilly escaped on the American whaling ship Gazelle and settled in Boston . Later that year , pardons were issued to many of the imprisoned Fenians , after which only eight militant Fenians remained in Western Australia 's penal system .

The Fenians in America bought the whaling ship Catalpa , which on 29 April 1875 sailed from New Bedford , Massachusetts on a secret rescue mission . Coordinating with local Fenian agents , the escape was arranged for 17 April 1876 , when most of the Convict Establishment garrison would be watching the Royal Perth Yacht Club regatta . Catalpa dropped anchor in international waters off Rockingham and dispatched a whaleboat to the shore . At 8 @.@ 30 am , six Fenians who were

working in work parties outside the prison walls absconded , and were met by carriages that raced 50 kilometres (31 mi) south to where the boat was waiting .

The whaleboat managed to rendezvous with Catalpa the following day , which then headed out to sea . They were chased by the steamship SS Georgette , which had been commandeered by the colonial governor . Though Georgette caught up with the whaler on 19 April , Catalpa 's master claimed they were in international waters , and that an attack on Catalpa would be considered an act of war against the United States . Not wanting to cause a diplomatic incident , Georgette allowed Catalpa to flee .

= = = = Brenden Abbott = = = =

Brenden Abbott , " the Postcard Bandit " , escaped from Fremantle Prison in 1989 . He had been sentenced to twelve years in prison for " Australia 's first ' drop in ' -style bank robbery " at the Belmont branch of the Commonwealth Bank . While working in the prison 's tailor shop , he was able to stitch together overalls resembling those worn by the guards . Abbott and two accomplices took the opportunity to escape , wearing the overalls , when left unsupervised in the workshop . They cut through a bar and got onto the roof . One accomplice fell and broke his leg , but Abbott and the other managed to jump over to the wall , and thus escape .

Abbott avoided capture until 1995 , committing various robberies as he moved across Australia . He also escaped from a Queensland prison after two years and returned to Western Australia , allegedly robbing the Commonwealth Bank 's Mirrabooka branch . Abbott was recaptured in Darwin , six months after his escape , and was sent to a Queensland maximum @-@ security prison with a twenty year sentence to serve .

= = = Riots = = =

There have been various prisoner riots and other disturbances at Fremantle Prison over the years that it was operational . One of the earliest was in 1854 , while major riots which occurred in 1968 and 1988 resulted in damage to the prison .

= = = = 1968 = = = =

A riot occurred on 4 June 1968 , precipitated by the serving of allegedly contaminated food to prisoners the previous evening . Other factors that contributed were the rudimentary and deplorable state of sanitation and personal cleanliness facilities , tougher sentencing introduced with the Parole Act of 1964 , and the overcrowding . When the work bell was rung at 1 pm , prisoners rebelled ; refusing to go back to work , they assembled themselves in the exercise yards . The prison superintendent Mr Thorpe negotiated with two deputations of prisoners . As well as better food , they demanded single cells and the dismissal of specific wardens .

After approximately three hours , the negotiations broke down , and that night 's evening meal was withheld . That caused the prisoners to riot , breaking fittings ; during the commotion , three prison officers , three prisoners , and a detective sustained injuries . Additional police and wardens arrived at 5 pm , but took seven hours to subdue the prisoners , with the last of them locked in their cells just after midnight . The extent of the damage was in the order of \$ 200 to \$ 300 . To relieve the overcrowding and reduce prisoner agitation , around 60 men who had not taken part in the riot were transferred to prisons at Albany , Geraldton , Karnet , and Barton 's Mill . However , other improvements could not be undertaken without funding from the state government , which did not consider prison reform a priority .

= = = = 1988 = = = =

On 4 January 1988 , despite the 42 ° C (108 ° F) heat , officers decided prisoners should remain outside in the exercise yards in the afternoon . As division 3 prisoners were let inside at around 4 pm

, a voice exclaimed " Let 's take ' em " , and simultaneously , guards were splashed with boiling water , usually used for making tea . A horde of prisoners stormed the cellblock , attacking the guards with whatever makeshift weapons they could find . This resulted in pandemonium ; prisoners rushed along landings , overpowering officers and taking them hostage , while at the same time , other prisoners darted between cells , starting fires . The prisoners withdrew to the exercise yard , taking six hostages , as flames quickly overran the building , spread into the rafters , and caused the roof to collapse .

Police negotiators communicated with the ring leaders , and by nightfall only five hostages remained . Meanwhile , the fire brigade had trouble bringing the inferno in the main cell block under control , as the prison 's gate was too narrow for their trucks , and prisoners impeded their endeavours by throwing debris at them . The prisoners ' leaders made three demands : a meeting with Attorney General Joseph Berinson , access to the media , and a guarantee of no retribution afterwards . The next morning , after 19 hours , the hostages were released , even though only the third demand had been met . Prisoners did , however , have an opportunity to communicate with the press during the siege , as the riot was a live media event with television helicopters filming from overhead .

Although there were no deaths , the fire caused \$ 1 @. @ 8 million of damage , and officers were injured . In the aftermath of the riot , there was extensive media attention on Fremantle Prison , and investigative journalists uncovered prior warnings to the prison authorities of the risk of such an event . The government hastily initiated an enquiry into the incident , and a report was completed within six weeks . A trial involving thirty @- @ three prisoners charged over the riot was also held , the largest in the state 's history , which resulted in lengthened sentences for the prisoners .

= = Conservation = =

= = = Heritage listing = = =

Fremantle Prison was listed in the Western Australian Register of Historic Places as an interim entry on 10 January 1992 and included as a permanent entry on 30 June 1995 . Described as the best preserved convict @- @ built prison in the country , it became the first building in Western Australia to be listed on the Australian National Heritage List , in 2005 . The Australian Federal Heritage Minister , Senator Ian Campbell , stated that it would be included in a nomination of eleven convict areas to become World Heritage Sites . Five years later , these locations were inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2010 as the Australian Convict Sites .

The process of obtaining World Heritage listing focused historical interpretation and conservation efforts on the prison 's convict era . This came at the expense of its more recent history , included use as an internment centre during World War II , and the imprisonment of Aboriginal prisoners . The prioritisation , evident from the first conservation plans from before the prison closed , is reflected in the branding of the tourist experience as " Fremantle Prison ? the Convict Establishment " , and through restorations that , while necessary to prevent damage and deterioration , strip away the site 's recent history .

= = = Restoration = = =

Various parts of Fremantle Prison have had restoration works undertaken since the 1990s ; a total of \$ 800 @, @ 000 was spent between 1996 / 97 and 1998 / 99 on works which included restoring the facade of the Anglican chapel . In 2005 , work was undertaken on the restoration of the prison gatehouse area . Non @- @ original rendering was removed and the original stonework was revealed . Work was also completed on the tunnels during 2005 / 06 , and the main cell block was restored with an eighteen month , \$ 1 @. @ 9 million project in 2006 and 2007 . The gallows room was restored in 2013 to conditions at the time of the last execution , in 1964 .

= = Tourism = =

Fremantle Prison receives international and domestic tourists , as well as ex @-@ prisoners , former prison officers , and their descendants . Tourist numbers increased each year from 2001 / 02 to 2009 / 10 , up from almost 105 @,@ 000 to nearly 180 @,@ 000 over that period . As of 2014 , the prison has won , been a finalist in , or received other commendation at tourism or heritage awards each year since 2006 . While the tourist experience is based on authenticity and heritage values , some details are concealed or de @-@ emphasised , such as prison tattooing , riots , and graffiti portraying revenge , sexuality , or brutality .

Attractions include guided tours , a visitors ' centre with searchable convict database , art gallery , café , gift shop , and tourist accommodation . Educational activities are regularly held for school children , as are exhibitions and re @-@ enactments of historical events . Functions such as theme parties and dinners are held in the prison , with re @-@ enactments serving as entertainment . Tours of the prison show aspects of prison life and recount successful and attempted escapes . Sections of the tunnels are accessible , and night tours focus on the prison 's reputation for being haunted .

The Fremantle Prison Collection contains around 15 @,@ 000 items associated with the prison 's site , history , or the experiences of its workers and prisoners . It is also involved in preserving oral histories , with interview transcripts stored at Fremantle Prison and recordings archived in the Battye Library Oral History Collection . Recollections have been recorded since 1989 , and include the experiences of authorities , staff , volunteer visitors , and prisoners . The Fremantle Prison records and collections , including archaeological , provide a substantial resource for researchers .

The Prison Gallery showcases and offers for sale the artworks of current and ex @-@ prisoners of Western Australia . It also hosts other exhibits related to the history of the prison , including historical artefacts . Many cells and areas of the prison depict prisoners ' artwork , including that of the 19th @-@ century forger James Walsh , whose artwork was hidden beneath layers of white @-@ wash for decades . Painting or drawing on walls was originally forbidden , though graffiti , which could be viewed as art or vandalism , occurred throughout the prison 's operational years . This rule was relaxed in special cases ? including , from 1976 , long @-@ term prisoners within their own cells ? but only for work considered art and not graffiti . Art , or art therapy , was not officially permitted until the 1980s ; graffiti was never formally permitted , but in the prison 's last six months , with closure imminent , the rule was not enforced .

A more contemporary prison artist was Dennis (NOZ) Nozworthy , who stated that he found art on death row , in 1982 . Some of his work currently is held in the collections of Curtin University , Perth Central TAFE , and the WA Government , Department of Justice . Other cells contain Aboriginal artwork , many by unknown artists . The Walmajarri artist Jimmy Pike started painting in Fremantle prison , having received tuition from Steve Culley and David Wroth .

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