

Life Along the Riverbank

Interpreting the colonial period of the early 1800s

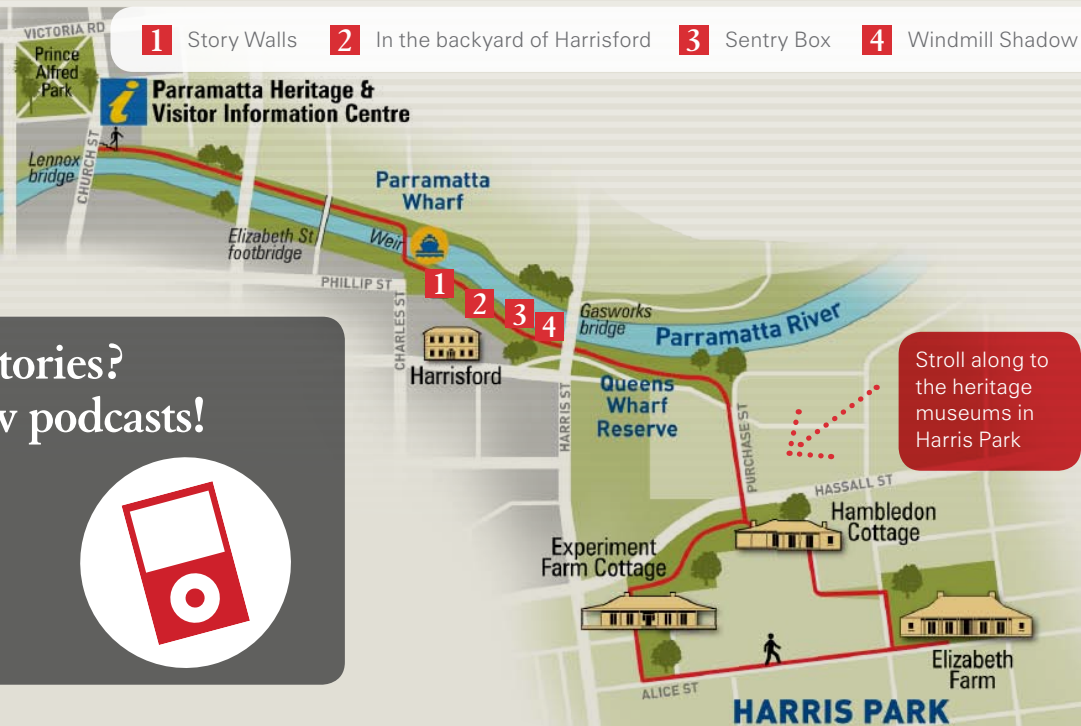
The Sentry Box is one of four exciting new artworks that have been recently installed on the river foreshore in Parramatta. The artworks reveal stories of hardship, love, loss, survival, order and punishment in the early 1800s.

Life Along the Riverbank was created by historian Michael Flynn, artists Susan Milne and Greg Stonehouse and Parramatta City Council's Parramatta Stories Project.

These contemporary interpretations are designed to attract people and spark debate, insight and reflection on the heritage and the people who lived along riverbank. They provide a dramatic and engaging experience for visitors as they begin their journey along the Harris Park Heritage Walk.



Life Along the Riverbank



Want to hear the stories? Download the new podcasts!

The characters of the 1800s will be brought to life through four new soundscapes which can be downloaded to your mobile or ipod. Visit the iTunes store. Start your walk at Parramatta Wharf.



Stroll along to the heritage museums in Harris Park



Storywalls

The story walls reveal threads of the lives of ordinary folk who lived on the riverbank in the early colonial period of Parramatta. These soundscapes reflect their emotions and attitudes towards grief, love, and survival.

*Who was caught cattle rustling?
What happened to Elenore Magee and her child?
Why did they call the early passenger boat 'the lump'?*

In the backyard at Harrisford

Harrisford was a school for children in the early colony. Stand in the backyard marked by the row of pear trees and listen to the tales of the students who used to play in this very spot. This historic school went on to become the first King's School in Australia and the building is now listed on the state heritage register.

What were the favourite pastimes of the children?



Sentry Box

Located near the Gasworks Bridge the artwork is a re-interpretation of a colonial military Sentry Box which used to stand near this spot in the 1790s. This artwork is designed to remind us of a harsh period when Parramatta was a military garrison town.

Windmill Shadow

The black lines in the pavement represent approximately where the shadow of Howell's mill would have once fallen on if it were still standing today. Howell's mill was a dominant feature in the landscape of Parramatta in the early 1800s. Wind power was harnessed by the mill to grind grain to make flour which was vital for the colony's survival. Howell's Mill has a natural symbolic link to the beginnings of the agricultural industry in Australia.