LONG BAY COMPLEX 1896 - 1994
A HISTORY - Final Report

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LONG BAY Complex

1896 - 1994

A HISTORY

FINAL Report

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For NSW Public Works

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Abbreviations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<td>A. O.</td>
<td>Archives Office</td>
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<td>M. L.</td>
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<td>PWD</td>
<td>Public Works Department of NSW</td>
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<td>NSWPP</td>
<td>NSW Parliamentary Papers</td>
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<td>SMH</td>
<td>Sydney Morning Herald</td>
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<td>V. &amp; P. L. A. N. S. W.</td>
<td>Votes &amp; Proceedings, Legislative Assembly, NSW</td>
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INTRODUCTION

This History of the Long Bay Correctional Centre was commissioned on 19 December 1994 by the Public Works Department of NSW, acting for the Department of Corrective Services, as the initial stage for the preparation of a Conservation Plan.

Many photographs taken of the Long Bay complex have not survived. Extensive searches through the Government Printer's Photograph collection and the Department of Corrective Services have not located any original photographs. Fortunately, some of the early reports by the Department of Prisons have excellent photographs of the complex, whilst other photographs were supplied to the press or were taken by press photographers when the male and female prisons were opened. The originals of these have not been located in all of the searches made above, hence copies are being obtained of these published photographs.
1.0 PLANNING THE LONG BAY COMPLEX 1896-99

Before the 1890s, prisoners in NSW had been distributed in gaols across the state. Prisoners were separated into different grades and treated according to the need to reform as well as punish them. Separate treatment and the need to isolate them so that they would feel the acuteness of their guilt and might then reform themselves underlay penal philosophy. However, despite attempts to apply the philosophy of separate treatment, it was hampered by overcrowding in gaols. Women prisoners were relegated to the island of Biloela for petty offenders and to Darlington and Bathurst for prisoners serving a longer term. Despite this, they were treated as residual elements in a system geared towards men. Their distinct problems and needs were largely ignored. They were housed in poor quality cell over accommodation not wanted for men.

In 1896, Frederick William Neitenstein was appointed Comptroller-General of Prisons. An emigrant from Britain, he had trained as a ship's officer. He had been appointed to a position on the boy's reformatory shop Vernon, in 1873. He became its superintendent in 1878 and commenced his own scheme to reform the system of punishment of juvenile offenders. He was so successful that his appointment as Comptroller-General of Prisons followed. He set out to reform NSW prisons on the basis of grading of prisoners, 'restricted association' and physical arrangements aimed at separating different classes of prisoner, such as hardened criminals from juveniles and first offenders. Hard work and physical drill were an integral part of his scheme, as well as a "mark" system rewarding orderly and hard working conduct from prisoners. In contrast to the earlier classification system, Neitenstein's was a thoroughly prepared system geared to enable the release of offenders back into the community after they had been educated and felt the impact of reformatory practices within prison.

Neitenstein outlined his ideals in the 1896, Prisons Department Report, the first written by him. An integral part of his scheme of reform was a new prison for females, where their special needs could be catered for and where they would be more amenable to reformatory work from rescue and philanthropic bodies from outside the official prison system. He also believed that the construction of a new general prison near Sydney to receive first offenders, inebriates and other less dangerous prisoners was a vital necessity. He set out to promote the building of such a prison through his reports, and by emphasis upon the financial savings which would be made by a new up-to-date prison.

In his 1897 Annual Report, Neitenstein formulated his scheme for the female prison and male penitentiary more overtly when he listed the most pressing needs of the prison system. At the top of the list of further essentials for reform he listed:

1. Separate prison for females to be constructed on modern lines, so as to admit of the segregation, within its walls, of the different classes who need to be kept apart; and of their special treatment by a carefully selected staff on humane and up to

1 P. Blake, 'A Short History of NSW Prisons', in B. Cullen, et. al(ed), Corrective Services in New South Wales, Sydney, 1988, pp. 8-9
3 P. Blake, 'A Short History of NSW Prisons', in B. Cullen, et. al(ed), Corrective Services in New South Wales, Sydney, 1988, pp. 10-1
4 Prisons, Annual Rep, 1896, pp. 44-65
5 Prisons, Annual Rep, 1896, pp. 56, 61
date ideas. When this is done, a further saving will be effected by the withdrawal of the majority of the [female] prisoners with their attendant staffs of warders, who are now scattered all over the country. This removal will afford more room for the classification of the male prisoners.

2. Penitentiary for misdemeanants, for the reception of the casual drunk, vagrant, and petty offender who now have to be housed imperfectly and dealt with more or less unsuitably at Biloela and Darlinghurst. The proposed plan for building the place shows that it would not be costly to construct; and its design would be altogether different to that of the present prison buildings. By its establishment we should be able to do away with Biloela, which is only a makeshift, and to relieve Darlinghurst from its overcrowded state, and its large expenditure; and, at the same time, remove from Darlinghurst a large army of habitual misdemeanants who now seriously embarrass the discipline and administration in very many ways.

An associated element was the construction of comfortable and sanitary warders' cottages near the gaol so their living conditions improved and so that there was a reserve labour force at hand in times of crisis.

His pressure and the prestige of his prior success in boys' reformatories began to bear results. In 12 May 1897, a Minute from the Minister of Justice to the Minister of Public Works asked for £10,000 to be placed on the Parliamentary Estimates for building a special Female Prison. The placing of this sum upon the Estimates was later admitted to have been a bait to induce Parliament to accept the concept in principle. It was not intended that the full cost of construction be met from £10,000. In addition, in 1897, the Government Architect, W. L. Vernon, visited the Prison for Females at Aylesbury, England. His visit revealed an example of satisfactory management, but the actual buildings and layout of the gaol, converted from another use highlighted some design elements that should be avoided when planning a female prison. The State Reformatory for Women at Little Bay (later renamed Long Bay) was thus designed in NSW on the basis of experience in the colony and to fit local requirements.

Whilst Neitenstein continued to promote the need for a separate specially built prison for females as the basis for their classification and suitable management, the Government Architect was busy preparing plans for the new prison comprising a penitentiary for casual and short term metropolitan prisoners later named the State Penitentiary and the State Reformatory for Women to serve the whole of NSW. A site of 50 acres near Randwick had been selected by the Government Architect, Vernon, Comptroller-General of Prisons, and the Surveyor-General.

The plans were placed before the Parliamentary Select Committee on Public Works which reported on all major public works projects. The Committee reported that the proposed gaol was devised to reform as well as to punish offenders, and to separate the different classes of prisoner, and to act as a short sentence penitentiary. Existing gaol facilities for males at Darlinghurst and for females at Biloela were unsuitable for the proposed system even if costly alterations were carried out.

1 Prisons, Annual Rep, 1897, p. 57
2 'Proposed Penitentiary & Prison for Females Randwick - Report from Parliamentary Select Committee on Public Works', V & P L A N S W, 1899 (3rd session), II, p 1051, 1069 (Hereafter cited as 'Proposed Penitentiary')
3 PWD, Annual Rep, 1909, p. 37
4 Prisons, Annual Rep, 1898, p. 8; PWD, Annual Rep, 1899, p. 56
5 PWD, Annual Rep, 1899, p. 56
6 'Proposed Penitentiary' p 1044
Neitenstein intended that male prisoners receive some sunlight during the day, and that they work, preferably at agricultural work. A female prison would also be managed in a similar fashion. The area between them would be cultivated as a garden. The State Penitentiary would be built with seven wings corresponding to the different classes of inmate. In the centre would be the administrative offices, kitchens, storerooms, bathrooms and power plant. The scheme for classifying prisoners was an innovation partially based upon the Pentridge scheme in Victoria and partially upon precedents from India. Cells in the State Penitentiary would open onto the yard, with the upper levels accessible by balconies. As well as being suitable for short sentence inmates, this would allow economic construction as well as the entry of light and air into the cells.¹ Notwithstanding the low security nature of the State Penitentiary, Neitenstein preferred to have some dark cells built as a another level of punishment when and if required.²

The State Reformatory for Women would have four cell ranges radiating from a centre which would be occupied by a chapel and workroom. When construction actually commenced, the chapel and workroom in the centre had been replaced by a meeting hall. Cell ranges would have a corridor down the middle of the ground floor and access from balconies on upper storeys. The cost of construction per cell was estimated at £155 compared to £330 per cell for Bathurst and Goulburn due to the planned absence of corridors and cheaper brick masonry rather than stone.³

Cells in the male State Penitentiary were originally planned with a closet in each cell or with latrines at the end of the cell ranges, which would be connected with the main city sewer nearby. At the centre of the male cell ranges bathrooms were planned.⁴ Neitenstein preferred that toilets be placed in each cell whilst Vernon wanted them in groups at the ends of the wings.⁵ When construction commenced there were no toilets in the cells. Since prisoners bound for the State Penitentiary were mainly "Domain loafers", a receiving area would be built where they would be washed and their clothes fumigated before they were admitted.⁶

The chosen site was deemed suitable due to its easy access from the city, with a good water supply and without the possibility of being "overlooked", i.e. without spoiling the views from nearby residential properties. Since there were few residences in the area proposed for the prison, with the more expensive residences of Randwick sited further to the north, it was thought to be a suitable location. Construction on the particular site was also planned so that it could be carried out economically. Neither Darlinghurst nor Biloela could be converted to the new system for less than the cost of building a new gaol, whilst land at Biloela was urgently needed to expand the dock facilities sited nearby.⁷

However, the Standing Committee on Public Works suggested that the State Reformatory for Women be moved from the north-east corner to the south-west corner, a view which Vernon disagreed with since it would increase costs of the external wall.⁸ Parliament, however, decided to remove the whole prison

¹ "Proposed Penitentiary" p 1045
² "Proposed Penitentiary" p 1074
³ "Proposed Penitentiary" p 1045
⁴ "Proposed Penitentiary", pp 1055-6
⁵ "Proposed Penitentiary" p 1073
⁶ "Proposed Penitentiary" p 1056
⁷ "Proposed Penitentiary" p 1046-7
⁸ "Proposed Penitentiary" p 1046
complex closer to Little Bay. The new site at Long Bay was near the gazetted village of Long Bay or Brand, originally laid out in 1866. The prison was sited on a small hill. At the southern part of the gaol site, the land was swampy and unsuitable. (See Illus 1.06, 1.07)

Vernon and Neitenstein differed on the scheduling of construction. Vernon argued for piecemeal erection, as the cells were needed to spread the expense, whilst Neitenstein wanted it built all at once so the restricted association scheme could be immediately instituted, a view which was supported by the Public Works Committee.

Initially, the site would be enclosed by an eight feet high galvanised iron fence until a stone wall could be built. Floors and ceilings of the cell ranges were to be built of the Monier [i.e. reinforced concrete] system for lightness and strength.

The male and female gaols were planned to hold a similar number of inmates, but the State Reformatory for Women was laid out as a radial plan. It was not adopted for the male State Penitentiary since the need for exercise yards would waste ground space and the radiation would be too large. The use of separate exercise yards for female prisoners, was also a new initiative. Vernon based his plans upon his own experience of planning prisons in NSW, as well as from seeing prison designs elsewhere. The only other female prison in the world which was similar was at Aylesbury, which is not so well designed, according to Vernon. This design gives NSW, "the first female prison of any pretensions whatever", he claimed.

When Neitenstein was asked about the different layout between the male and female prison, he replied,

"We are trying both designs. They are both rather novel, so far as our ideas of prison construction go. The terrace plan adopted in the penitentiary is my own idea, and I fancy that it will be a success so far as male prisoners are concerned. It will be inexpensive and healthy, because there will be no general roof over the building."

Whilst the radial design was the currently favoured model for prison design at that time, the parallel system proposed for the male State Penitentiary was claimed to be laid out for better disease control, and to aid classification of prisoners. Female prisoners were more difficult to manage since they are prone to fits of hysteria and would break out, claimed Neitenstein. "The radiating plan is the old plan [of arrangement]" he stated. Neitenstein also preferred the horseshoe design for the State Penitentiary for its ease and economy of supervision. He was keen to reduce the expense of prisons as much as possible. Vernon had designed the gaol in brick rather than stone since the

1 P. Blake, 'A Short History of NSW Prisons', in B. Cullen, et. al(ed), Corrective Services in New South Wales, Sydney, 1988, p. 10
2 A. O. Map 3587
3 C. 2209.2030, C.2860.2030, Lands Dept Plans Room; Parish Map, Parish Botany, 1905, 1916
4 'Proposed Penitentiary', p 1048
5 'Proposed Penitentiary', p 1057
6 'Proposed Penitentiary', p 1064
7 'Proposed Penitentiary', p 1057
8 'Proposed Penitentiary', p 1066
9 'Proposed Penitentiary', p 1076
10 'Proposed Penitentiary', p 1075
quality of stone on the site for building was uncertain and because brick was cheaper.¹

For the State Reformatory for Women, Neitenstein argued that women would require less strict supervision if cell ranges with corridors and a radial layout were used. Women serving short sentences of 7 to 14 days would still be imprisoned near their home area.² Long sentence female prisoners would be sent to the State Reformatory for Women and will hence need stouter cells.³

Plans of the original layout of the scheme were to have been published as part of the Report of the Committee, but were omitted at the last minute as an economy measure by the Printing Committee of Parliament. Copies of them, however, have been located in the Mitchell Library and State Archives collections. (See Illus 1.02, 1.03, 1.04, 1.05.)

Samuel McCauley, the Deputy Comptroller of Prisons, who had been in the Prisons Department's service before Neitenstein's appointment strongly supported the system of separate association and the whole range of reforms instituted by Neitenstein after he had seen the improvements in the prisoners in other gaols when Neitenstein instituted his new scheme.⁴

Prisoners would mainly be put to gardening work since most would be short sentence men whose term was too short for any useful training in a trade, to get them out of their cells into the fresh air for health reasons, and because it was a popular activity which many prisoners actually requested.

The Parliamentary Select Committee approved the construction of the State Reformatory for Women and the State Penitentiary for Males. Neitenstein remained anxious for the work to commence, but when it did, it proceeded slowly.⁵ The State Reformatory for Women did not open until he was on the verge of retirement in 1909.⁶

¹ 'Proposed Penitentiary', p 1139
² 'Proposed Penitentiary', p 1074
³ 'Proposed Penitentiary', p 1076
⁴ 'Proposed Penitentiary', p 1084
⁵ Prisons, Annual Rep, 1899, p. 2
⁶ Details of Neitenstein's career in Australian Dictionary of Biography, Vol 10, pp. 674-5
Illus 1.01

Town of Long Bay 1866

Laid out in 1866, the planned town did not materialise for many years.

Source: A. O. Map 3587
Illus 1.02

Female prison, 1898 - Ground elevation

This plan was the original one which was used by the Public Works Committee to assess the proposed work.

Source: NSW - Justice Dept, Female Prison - Little Bay 1898, M. L.
Illus 1.03
Female prison, 1898 - First floor
This plan shows details of the first floor.
Source: NSW - Justice Dept, Female Prison - Little Bay 1898, M. L.
Illus 1.04
Male Penitentiary, 1898 - Ground elevation
This plan was the original one which was used by the Public Works Committee to assess the proposed work on the male prison.
Source: NSW - Justice Dept, Penitentiary for Males - Little Bay 1898, M. L.
Male Penitentiary, 1898 - First floor

This plan shows detail of the first floor.

Source: NSW - Justice Dept, Penitentiary for Males - Little Bay 1898, M. L.
Illus 1.06
Penitentiary Site, 1901

The official plan showing the site as acquired was initially surveyed in December 1901. The complex was built on the northern area on elevated land avoiding the swampy ground to the south.

Source: C. 2209. 2030 Lands Dept
Adjacent land was acquired in 1912 for inebriates although nothing was built there for some years.

Source: C. 2860. 2030 Lands Dept
2.0 BUILDING THE LONG BAY COMPLEX 1900-1918

In 1901, construction of the State Reformatory for Women and State Penitentiary commenced. The bulk of the work was initially directed at the State Reformatory for Women. In 1901-2, the Public Works Department recorded an expenditure on the prison complex at Randwick of £1,066/13/3. The work was estimated to cost £120,000 in all and was to be spread over a number of years as finance became available. Initially, work was completed as a day labour job under the control of the Public Works Department on the order of the Minister. The issue of day labour works versus contract work was a very lively issue in the building trade at the time. Construction continued the following year, as a day labour project. Expenditure on the complex totalled £21,237/5/3 in 1902-3. Budgetary restraints slowed down construction in following years.

Nevertheless, by July 1904, one wing of the State Reformatory for Women was almost complete whilst the outer walls were finished. Neitenstein remained anxious to occupy the complex so that his classification scheme could be put into operation. Two other wings were also being built.

In 1904-5, an administrative building and No. 2 Wing of the State Reformatory for Women had almost been completed by day labour. Works finally completed by day labour included the boundary walls of both prisons, two cell ranges of the State Reformatory for Women and its entrance block. A change to the building process occurred at this time, since the work was put out to contract. In mid 1905, tenders were to be called for Wings 3 and 4. By June 1906, they seem to have been complete. Buildings in the State Reformatory for Women were sufficiently advanced to enable them to be temporarily occupied by prisoners undergoing a modified scheme of outdoor labour. W. J. Henley was the contractor who completed two additional cell ranges. Baldwin Brothers completed the kitchen block, two work rooms and laundry and punishment cell range.

In late October 1906, Vernon had to publicly deny that prison labour had been used to construct Long Bay prison complex. Plans were then being prepared for some wings and for the administration block of the State Penitentiary. Tenders would soon be called for the governor's residence and the power house as well, he claimed. In March 1907, it was hoped to let tenders for the

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1 Prisons, Annual Rep, 1901, p. 7
2 PWD, Annual Rep, 1902, p. 35
3 SMH, 31 Jan 1902, p. 7
4 PWD, Annual Rep, 1903, p. 34
5 PWD, Annual Rep, 1903, p. 43
6 PWD, Annual Rep, 1904, p. 52
7 Department of Corrective Services, Press cuttings books, A. O. 2/2130 1903-06, p. 31
8 Daily Telegraph, 27 August 1904
9 Evening News, 18 Jan 1908, p. 3
10 PWD, Annual Rep, 1905, p. 10
11 PWD, Annual Rep, 1906, p. 77
12 Evening News, 18 Jan 1908, p. 3
13 Australian Star, 30 Oct 1906 in Department of Corrective Services, Press cuttings books, A. O. 2/2131, p. 2
administrative block, one range of cells and workshop. A contract for building the governor's residence was also let.¹

The slow pace of construction galled Neitenstein. During years 1906-7, the Prisons Department sought to erect the buildings by using prison labour with PWD supervision. Work commenced on erecting buildings to house prisoners to be used to build the prison. The Government Architect feared that gradual erection will cause a substantial rise in costs.² Contracts to complete the laundry block, two sewing rooms, the kitchen block, punishment cells and a special hospital ward of the State Reformatory for Women had been let some time before.³

By 1908, the Prisons Department's scheme to complete the prison complex by prison labour had been abandoned. Contracts were let for Number 3 Workshop Block and the Matron's Quarters.⁴ In January 1908, it was expected that contracts would soon be let for the hospital, female warders' quarters, workroom and matron's cottage as well as for levelling of the grounds and preparation of garden beds.⁵ (See Illus 2.01, 2.12)

Cell ranges in the State Reformatory for Women had semi-circular bathrooms at the end. It was claimed that there were no dark cells in the gaol. A punishment block, however, had been built, divided into two sections with eight cells in each. Quarters for female warders had not been built but were planned to go in the south-east angle of the wall, as a two storeyed building for 18, with dining rooms, bathrooms, toilets and a sitting room. Exercise yards between blocks were to be divided by a 10 to 12 feet high concrete wall with an open drill room staffed by warders at the end where they can survey the whole yard.⁶

To aid the re-entry of women into the community, Neitenstein instituted a three phased system in all gaols handling women in 1907. The first stage was imprisonment. Good conduct allowed them to be transferred to the Shaftesbury Institution at South Head where discipline was less overt and they received training in domestic science. Conditional release into the community for the unexpired term of their sentence constituted the third and final stage.⁷

In January 1908, Baldwin Brothers were also completing part of the State Penitentiary including the entrance block, one cell range, the workshop, and governor's residence.⁸ There were plans to enclose a large area of land for cultivation by prisoners. Over 1,000 pine trees had been planted at 10 to 15 feet intervals on this ground.⁹

When the Government Architect prepared his report for 1908-9, he could finally look forward to the completion of the State Reformatory for Women. The buildings were described as built of brick with stone dressings and roofed with iron. The State Reformatory for Women occupied almost four acres, with four ranges of cells each holding 72 inmates in single cells as well as a cell range for "diseased prisoners" [i.e. those with venereal disease], two sewing rooms,

¹ SMH, 30 March 1907
² PWD, Annual Rep, 1907, p. 79
³ SMH, 30 March 1907
⁴ PWD, Annual Rep, 1908, p. 53
⁵ Evening News, 18 Jan 1908, p. 3
⁶ Evening News, 18 Jan 1908, p. 3
⁷ A. Symonds, 'The Treatment of Women' in B. Cullen, et. al(ed), Corrective Services in New South Wales, Sydney, 1988, p. 172
⁸ Evening News, 18 Jan 1908, p. 3
⁹ Evening News, 18 Jan 1908, p. 3
kitchens, wash house, workshop, hospital block, warder’s quarters and entrance. All cell ranges radiated from the central area. Exercise yards were sited between cell blocks, with a shelter shed in the centre of the complex surrounded by garden beds.\(^1\) (See Illus 2.02)

Plantings in the centre of the radiating wings and the shelter shed sited there became a notable element in the design. (See Illus 2.03) In 1917, it was described thus,

> In the centre of the circle from which the ranges radiate stands a roomy pagoda for the use of lady visitors and others. This has been decorated with palms, staghorns and flowering plants and ferns as to translate it into a bower of loveliness. To add to its charm, a large cage of canaries is installed. Beds of flowers fill the space between it and the ranges.\(^2\)

Cell ranges had two floors and a corridor 14 feet 6 in wide along the length of the building, with a gallery, 4 feet in width all round the first floor. Cells were ranged along the corridors, each cell measuring 13 feet by 7 feet and 10 feet 6 in high. Galleries and staircases were built of steel. Bathrooms were located at the end of the corridors, with hot and cold water. As planned, the cell ranges were floored with concrete, with asphalt and timber floors elsewhere. Each cell had a window to the outside, electric light and a bell. The grounds were occupied by beds for flower and vegetable production. A wall 18 feet high surrounded the complex. An entrance block of "handsome design" guarded the entry and held the guard room, visitors' rooms, admission rooms and bath rooms, a clothes store, fumigating room and rooms for warders. All the buildings were lit by electricity whilst hot water and steam heating were supplied. City water was laid on and sewerage was disposed of in septic tanks.\(^3\) (See Illus 2.04, 2.05, 2.06)

Beyond the walls were the Governor's and Matron's Quarters, and four warders' cottages. Prisoners were brought to the gaol by a newly established tram line running along a new roadway.\(^4\)

When the Female Prison opened on 25 August 1909, the press were laudatory. Neitenstein’s system and innovations had placed NSW in the vanguard of penal reform securing a world wide reputation. One press reporter claimed that, "The opening of the Long Bay reformatory for women marks a distinct epoch in the advance of the progressive science of penology". It incorporated many features noted by Neitenstein on visits overseas. Neitenstein had been supported enthusiastically by his deputy Samuel McCauley, in "his rather daring innovations".\(^5\) The cost of the work to August 1908 was about £110,000 with £40,000 spent on day labour. The main contractors were W. J. Henley, Baldwin Brothers and Howie Brothers.\(^6\)

When opened the different classes of prisoners were separated so that "the young and innocent girls will be protected from the contaminating influence of old and more experienced prisoners". There were 12 different classifications in all in the Female Prison.\(^7\) The opening of the State Reformatory for Women provided the Prisons Department with four large halls of 60 to 72 rooms with

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1. PWD, Annual Rep, 1909, p. 37
2. Grit, 6 Sept 1917, p. 14
3. PWD, Annual Rep, 1909, p. 37
4. PWD, Annual Rep, 1909, p. 37
5. SMH, 26 Aug 1909, p. 7
7. Daily Telegraph, 19 Aug 1909, p. 8
"ample bathing accommodation" for its inmates. Its opening also allowed the commencement of an extensive classification system, linked to various discipline and work regimes managed by women prison officers with a matron in charge and with several male warders outside. Exercise yards in the State Reformatory for Women were arranged, in the words of the Prisons Department on the basis of "scientific grading".¹

In 1910, the classification in the female prison was altered into the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hall</th>
<th>Top Landing</th>
<th>Bottom Landing</th>
<th>Lock Hospital</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>1st class prisoners - 2 years and over - No 1 yard</td>
<td>Previously convicted, 3 months to 2 years: Young and hopeful cases - No 5 yard</td>
<td>First offenders exercised apart from those with previous conviction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1st class prisoners - 2 years and over, previously convicted - No 2 yard</td>
<td>Previously convicted, 3 months to 2 years: old offenders - No 7 yard</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Juvenile offenders, 1st conviction, No 3 yard</td>
<td>Previously convicted, 3 months to 2 years: bad character &amp; corrupt habits - No 8 yard</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Adult offenders, 1st conviction, No 4 yard</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Previously convicted 1 to 3 months, young offenders - No 10 yard</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Old offenders 14 days to 1 month - No 9 yard</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>Young prisoners, 7th class and special cases - No 11 yard</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>Old prisoners - No 12 yard</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>14 days and less, receptions, separates. Confined to cells except for exercise</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Inebriates</td>
<td>Special</td>
<td></td>
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¹ Prisons, Annual Rep, 1909, p. 6
Intermediate and higher grade

When the State Reformatory for Women opened the Deputy Comptroller, Samuel McCauley, issued a special appeal to all staff to treat inmates with care and compassion in an effort to reform them. New exercise routines were inaugurated replacing the former exercise routine of simply walking the women around the yard silently in single file.

Neitenstein had possessed many of the prejudices of his day against women, notably a profound belief in the innately "hysterical" tendency of all women, particularly if they were without male protection or their 'natural' sexual or maternal instincts were diverted or frustrated. Nevertheless, his development of the separate female prison at Long Bay and the system he instituted there were a giant step in the reform of penal handling of women. As one commentator later remarked,

...he must be credited with recognising the grave deficiencies in the facilities and services for female offenders and with introducing a number of reforms, however limited in scope. Unlike many who ignored the plight of women in prison he worked as much to improve their conditions as he did for male prisoners.

Additionally, the detailed classification system he instituted in male and female gaols became the basis for prison organization for the rest of the century. Although modified to reflect changes in society and penal practice, detailed classification remains a fundamental aspect of prison management.

The Prison Department described the State Reformatory for Women as consisting of Hall A with 60 cells, and B, C, and D each with 72. Hall A had a bath and toilets on each landing whilst the others had "elaborate bathing accommodation" at the ends of the wings. The different ablution provision reflected the length of time over which the ranges were built - Hall A was the earliest range to be commenced. Two large well-ventilated workrooms stood within the complex. The entrance block held the reception area where inmates were washed and supplied with clean clothes before admission. Cooking and dining rooms were supplied for warders in the entrance block as well as visiting rooms. Outside the walls of the State Reformatory for Women were a church, laundry, and general hospital. Each inmate occupied their own separate room supplied with electric light. Problems were experienced with the electric light soon after completion. The Public Service Board reported on those problems. The difficulties were mainly assigned to the manner in which wiring was fitted to lights, but the Board noted that the problems were no greater than could be expected in a project of this magnitude.

Work continued on the State Penitentiary. In 1909-10, work upon it cost £56,325. A cottage for the Prison electrician was also built at a cost of £498. The main contractors were Howie Brothers whose work comprised 5 cell ranges, a power house for electricity, laundry, hospital, kitchen block, bathrooms, staff offices and stores. The workshop block, yards, entrance block

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1 Prisons, Annual Rep, 1910, p. 14-5  
2 Prisons, Annual Rep, 1909, p. 13-4  
3 A. Symonds, 'The Treatment of Women' in B. Cullen, et. al(ed), Corrective Services in New South Wales, Sydney, 1988, pp. 173-4  
4 Prisons, Annual Rep, 1909, p. 13  
5 Public Service Board, Special Bundles, Investigation into Alleged Unsatisfactory Condition of the Electric Installation at the Female Prison, Long Bay, 1910-1, A. O. 8/422
and perimeter walls, and parts of workshop with one cell range had already been completed before Howie Brothers took the contract.¹

At the State Reformatory for Women a garden had been formed from the sandy soil, using manure donated by the Sydney City Council. "The whole of the spare portion has been tastefully laid out in grass and vegetable plots," reported the Prisons Department.² The gardens were an important element of the work and exercise routine of all inmates of the State Reformatory for Women and would be for the male State Penitentiary when it opened. Initially, the prison complex was not connected to the city sewer and the septic tank system was an integral part of the watering and fertilising system of the gardens. A plan of the Septic tank system to be built in the State Penitentiary was included in the PWD Annual Report of 1911.³

Within three years, the State Reformatory for Women was having an impact upon the prison population. There was a reduction in the number of female prisoners in NSW, partially ascribed to the effect of the Reformatory, whilst Prisons Department staff noted that about 100 "familiar faces" from Biloela had stopped re-offending and being reimprisoned after periods at the Reformatory. Whilst it was depressing to see new faces replacing them, these new offenders appeared in fewer numbers.⁴ Visitors from overseas with knowledge of and interest in prisons were highly impressed with the institution and its management and continued to be for some years.⁵

Nevertheless, Neitenstein's carefully prepared classification system was starting to be eroded. In 1911, there was a significant alteration in sentencing of females with separate treatment for first offenders eliminated completely and separate treatment times reduced for those with previous convictions.⁶ In later years, the intermixing of females at the prison was to be claimed as the most effective way for old offenders to recruit new talent. The classification scheme was also revised.⁷ Neitenstein had retired as Comptroller-General of Prisons almost at the same time as the State Reformatory for Women opened.

Minor works continued at the State Reformatory for Women. External walls were painted to reduce dampness in wet weather. A laundry was added for female warders and the roadway from the entrance to the kitchen was metalled and tar-paved to allow vehicles to drive into the prison.⁸

A sum of £971 was expended in 1911-2 on a shelter shed and laundry in the State Reformatory for Women.⁹ Iron grilles were put on the hospital windows, whilst on the other hand, glass windows were placed in front of the matron's and gate-keeper's quarters.¹⁰

The agricultural labour scheme had been very successful. W. S. Campbell, the former Director of Agriculture of NSW, published an article in a prominent British journal which highly commended the use of agricultural labour in NSW prisons, as a means of reform, to teach useful skills and to save the state

¹ PWD, Annual Rep, 1910, p. 28, 32
² Prisons, Annual Rep, 1910, p. 13
³ PWD, Annual Rep, 1911, p. 28
⁴ Prisons, Annual Rep, 1911, p. 7
⁵ Prisons, Annual Rep, 1912, pp. 23-5
⁶ Prisons, Annual Rep, 1911, p. 30
⁷ Prisons, Annual Rep, 1911, p. 32
⁸ Prisons, Annual Rep, 1911, p. 30-1
⁹ PWD, Annual Rep, 1912, p. 37
¹⁰ Prisons, Annual Rep, 1912, pp. 23-5
money. Prison authorities also judged the cultivation of vegetables at the State Reformatory for Women as very successful. It was also appreciated greatly by inmates. W. S. Campbell even claimed that the agricultural work enabled some prisoners to gain employment in farming work on their release, whilst the food needs of the institution were successfully met by the inmates' production. A parallel development instituted in NSW prisons at this time was the establishment of re-afforestation camps where low security offenders were taken to relatively isolated locations, housed in modest huts and put to work replanting forests under the guidance of the NSW Forestry Service.

Work on the State Penitentiary continued. Day labour working under contract completed the observation cell range at the Penitentiary at a cost of £5,700 in 1913. To complete the work, some alterations were necessary to the original plan. It was built in the north-eastern corner originally set aside for the boiler house and laundry. The laundry was relocated to the corner and the boiler house was re-sited elsewhere. Work on the Photo Studio and Debtor's Prison within the State Penitentiary cost £2,100 the same year. (See Illus 2.09, 2.10)

Despite being a relatively low security prison, the State Penitentiary lacked the tasteful attributes of the State Reformatory for Women. Whereas the State Reformatory for Women was lavishly provided with gardens and made as bright as possible, the State Penitentiary was a cold and hard environment little relieved by beauty. In September 1913, a press article about the State Penitentiary, remarked,

The new building will be a prison purely. Solidness and security are written on every inch of its wall and doors, and unlike its neighbour, the women's penitentiary, there is nothing of the aesthetic aimed at in the shape of ornamental flower beds and trees.

As the time for the opening of the State Penitentiary approached, Darlinghurst Gaol became ever more overcrowded. In late May 1914, the first batch of about 30 to 40 male prisoners were moved from Darlinghurst to Long Bay. To avoid public alarm and for reasons of security, they were taken by tram under escort in batches of ones and twos. Their role was to prepare the prison for the rest of the inmates who would be transferred shortly afterwards. The State Penitentiary for Males was officially proclaimed on 1 June 1914. On 18 June 1914, 34 male inebriates were moved to the Inebriate's Institution at the State Penitentiary from Darlinghurst, where they were put to work at scrub clearing and other gardening work. A continual movement of prisoners flowed from Darlinghurst to Long Bay over the next few weeks. By mid July 1914, all prisoners, stores, staff, records and machinery had been moved from

2 Prisons, Annual Rep, 1912, pp. 23-5
3 W. S. Campbell, 'Agricultural Training in Prisons' pp. 96-7
4 PWD, Annual Rep, 1912, p. 36; 1913, p. 30, 32
5 A. O. Plans. 1849, 1857; See aerial photo in Department of Corrective Services, Press cuttings books, A. O. 2/2136 1924-33 p. 137
6 PWD, Annual Rep, 1913, p. 30, 32
7 Evening News, 13 Sept 1913, p. 3
8 Evening News, 17 April 1914
9 Evening News, 1 June 1914
10 Prisons, Annual Rep, 1914, p. 2
11 Prisons, Annual Rep, 1914, p. 2
12 Prisons, Annual Rep, 1914, p. 80
Darlinghurst to Long Bay.¹ On 14 July 1914, the transfer of prisoners to the State Penitentiary at Long Bay was complete.² The transfer of prisoners had been carefully planned and conducted with few problems. During the process, a large workroom built for the inmates had been divided temporarily into officers' sleeping accommodation and special arrangements had been made for the preparation and eating of warders' meals.³ (See Illus 2.11, 2.13, 2.16)

The role of the State Penitentiary at Long Bay was described by Samuel McCauley, the newly appointed Comptroller-General of Prisons, and the aide who so eagerly assisted Neitenstein in all of his reforms, as "mainly a distributing gaol, and a place of detention for the reception of incapables from the city".⁴ The State Penitentiary was described as having six cell ranges with 386 cells, a venereal disease hospital, general hospital, debtor's prison, workshop, observation ward, kitchen, laundry, bathrooms. There were separate yards for each cell range plus 10 special yards. A vegetable garden was located inside the walls of the complex. Beyond the walls, the land attached to the prison had been cleared of scrub and trees had been planted, ponds formed and an outer brick wall was under construction by late 1914.⁵ (See Illus 2.15)

The classification scheme in the Male Penitentiary was as follows:

- Yard 1 Special cases No 3 Range
- Yard 2 Special cases No 3 Range
- Yard 3 Appellants, 7th class, first time in gaol No 3 Range
- Yard 4 Appellants, 7th class, previously convicted No 3 Range
- Yard 5 Appellants, adult prisoners, first time in gaol No 3 Range
- Yard 6 Appellants, adult prisoners, previously convicted No 3 Range
- Yard 7 Trial prisoners, 7th class, first time in gaol No 3 Range
- Yard 8 Trial prisoners, 7th class, previously convicted No 3 Range
- Yard 9 Trial prisoners, adults, first time in gaol No 3 Range
- Yard 10 Trial prisoners, adults previously convicted No 3 Range
- Yard 11 Upper floor, left side, special prisoners on works, over 12 months No 1 Range
  - Examination prisoners, 7th class, previously convicted. One hour's exercise morning and evening. No. 3 Range
- Yard 12 Ground floor, right side, 12 months & under, on works, previously convicted No 1 Range

¹ Prisons, Annual Rep, 1914, p. 2
² SMH, 15 July 1914
³ Prisons, Annual Rep, 1914, p. 20
⁴ Prisons, Annual Rep, 1914, p. 1
⁵ Prisons, Annual Rep, 1914, p. 2-3
Examination prisoners, 7th class, first time in prison. One hour's exercise morning and evening. No. 3 Range

Yard 13 Upper floor, right side, 12 months & under, on works, first offenders No 1 Range

Adult examination prisoners, first time in prison. One hour's exercise morning and evening. No. 3 Range

Upper & lower floors, left side, 12 months & under, on works, first time in prison No. 2 Range

Yard 14 Upper floor, right side, 12 months & under, on works, previously convicted No 2 Range

Lower floor, Maintenance confinees, and prisoners in a verminous condition. No. 3 Range

Yard 15 Upper floor, 7th class prisoners first time in prison (to work in cubicles) No 4 Range

Yard 16 Lower floor, 7th class prisoners, previously convicted to work No 4 Range

Yard 17 Lower floor, left side, incapable (old men) No 6 Range

Yard 18 Lower floor, left side, venereal cases No 5 Range

Yard 19 Lower floor, right side, and both upper floors, 2nd class, separates No 5 Range

Yard 20 Upper floor, right side, inebriates, non-criminal history No 6 Range

Yard 21 Upper floor and lower floors, inebriates with criminal history No 6 Range

Electric lighting had been provided by the PWD as a temporary arrangement and there was an intention that a more satisfactory arrangement be made in the future. It appears that there were thoughts of using gas lighting at one stage, but the suggestion of the Lord Mayor of Sydney, to try electric lighting instead apparently had an influence on the final decision. The Finger Print Identification Bureau had also been moved from Darlinghurst to the State Penitentiary and was immediately operational. Identification slips were stored in special cabinets of colonial maple made by prison labour. An Inebriates' Institution was also an integral part of both the complex.

The opening of the Long Bay Complex allowed financial savings to be made by the Prison Department, by the closure of smaller, under-utilised prisons in the country. In 1915 for instance, gaols at Wollongong and Hay were closed whilst Armidale was reduced in size.

1 Prisons, Annual Rep, 1914, p. 19
2 Prisons, Annual Rep, 1914, p. 21
3 SMH, 21 Nov 1916
4 Prisons, Annual Rep, 1914, p. 23-4
5 Prisons, Annual Rep, 1915, p. 1
Prisoners were kept busy with a variety of tasks. The baking of bread at the State Penitentiary began on 4 March 1915 under the control of an experienced warder baker. Most prisoners were engaged initially in scrub clearing of an area of 130 acres. With so much labour available, it was possible for the Prisons Department to undertake a much greater role in the construction works required in the complex, a cost-saving practice which continued for many years. A 7 feet high brick wall enclosing the whole area, was begun on 15 September 1914 and its construction kept many inmates occupied. The excavation of ponds to store water for the gardening work commenced. These ponds were formed with stone buttressed banks to store storm water.

Meanwhile, at Parramatta Gaol, 36 iron grilles were made by prisoners for the windows of the kitchen, store, reception room, yard and the external windows of warders quarters in the gate of the State Penitentiary. They were installed by Penitentiary inmates.

By 30 June 1915, a wall around 80 acres had been completed. It utilised "white sandstone [sic] bricks" in its construction. A road twenty feet wide, was also completed in association with this work, whilst another road twenty feet wide and 800 feet long was also mentioned in official reports. These roads had been formed with sandstone blocks at the edges built up about 18 to 24 inches and then filled in with stone ballast. Three "lagoons" i.e. ponds, had also been made. In August 1915, a strong gale toppled the chimney of the kitchen wrecking part of the roof. It was rebuilt in a more substantial manner.

Construction of a cottage at the entrance of Long Bay complex as the Gate Lodge started on 23 June 1915 using prison labour. It was completed on 1 November 1915. It was built of sand lime bricks from the Botany State Brickworks, with a tile roof, three rooms, kitchen, bathroom and out houses, and two verandahs. A fence of white brick piers, 14 inches tall with cement caps and dwarf brick wall supporting 20 scrollwork iron panels and two wicket gates enclosed the gate house grounds. The cost of construction using prison labour amounted to £350 instead of the PWD estimate of £1,000. Ironwork for the fence was produced at Parramatta Gaol. Four large wooden gates and two iron gates were also produced at Parramatta Gaol for the back area of the prison grounds.

Early in 1915 a baker's oven was built in the kitchen of the State Penitentiary. A shed to house livestock well away from the prison, utilising stone rubble was also commenced. Four ponds were completed in 1915 and a fifth was started. Two ponds were oval in shape, one measuring 115 by 72 feet and the other 112 by 68 feet and the other two were a circular shape, with one measuring 76 feet and the other 60 feet. Each pond had a small island for birds in the centre. Thirty acres of land attached to the prison were enclosed with rabbit proof netting and sown with grass seed to prepare the land for grazing. Additionally, "A broad roadway is being constructed round the reserve on inner side of wall

1. Prisons, Annual Rep, 1914, p. 11; 1915, p. 14
2. Prisons, Annual Rep, 1914, p. 21
3. Prisons, Annual Rep, 1914, p. 56
4. Prisons, Annual Rep, 1914, p. 56
5. Possibly sandstock bricks.
6. Prisons, Annual Rep, 1915, p. 6-7
9. SMH, 5 Feb 1916, p. 21
ballasted with stones obtained from quarrying operations for building stone.\textsuperscript{1}
Within the gaols, the exercise yard of the State Penitentiary and the Observation Ward were enclosed in wire netting in 1915.\textsuperscript{2}

By 1916, the Complex was functioning efficiently, although not all buildings had been completed. The bakery at Long Bay produced £2,628 worth of bread.\textsuperscript{3} A road inside the boundary of the State Penitentiary was finished. The road completed only to the gates of the State Reformatory for Women by the PWD was extended by another 120 yards. Various other road works were undertaken including some along the tramway. Palms were planted along the roadway from the Lodge gates to the front of the State Penitentiary.\textsuperscript{4} Electric light was installed in nine warders' cottages in Austral Street. A waiting shed formerly at Darlinghurst gaol was re-erected at the gates of the State Reformatory for Women. A 10 ton Avery weighbridge was installed at the male State Penitentiary gates.

Since reform was an integral part of the process in incarceration in state prisons, the role of religion in the Prisons Department's philosophy was significant. Hence, the complex could not be complete until adequate provision had been made for religious observance. A plan of the proposed chapel to be located between the State Reformatory for Women and the State Penitentiary was published in the Prisons Annual Report of 1916.\textsuperscript{5} (See Illus 2.20) Stone for the church was quarried nearby and the first stone was laid on 16 November 1915. The church was planned to measure 82 feet by 34 feet, with a gallery, two vestries and seating for 600. It was built so that it could be entered from both gaols. Males were to be seated on the ground level whilst females would be seated in the gallery. Both sections were designed so that each group was out of sight of the other. Like so many projects around the prison, the church was being completed with prison labour. Work on the church stopped at the end of 1915 due to a shortage of finance. It started again in April 1916, stopped again and then started again in October. By June 1917, the timber framing for the roof and the window and door joinery were being made in the prison workshops by inmates.\textsuperscript{6}

During 1916, a large chimney stack was repaired by strapping it with iron bands. Extensive painting was also completed. In the State Penitentiary painting of walls with a dado 5 feet high was found to be a useful arrangement which aided cleanliness.\textsuperscript{7}

A road from the State Penitentiary to the quarry was completed in 1917. The grounds at the Lodge entrance had been sown with grass which was thriving in 1917. Open drains of stone rubble had been built for drainage in the south-eastern area, probably of the land farmed by the inmates.\textsuperscript{8}

The church was completed in 1917. (See Illus 2.21) All the joinery had been made at the carpenter's shop in the male State Penitentiary. Decoration of the interior had been carried out by an artistically trained prisoner, a forger who put his talents to another purpose. Male prisoners entered the Church from the State Penitentiary by a covered way with glass sashes at its side. The church

\textsuperscript{1} Prisons, \textit{Annual Rep}, 1915, p. 53
\textsuperscript{2} Prisons, \textit{Annual Rep}, 1915, p. 14
\textsuperscript{3} Prisons, \textit{Annual Rep}, 1916, p. 8
\textsuperscript{4} Prisons, \textit{Annual Rep}, 1916, p. 18
\textsuperscript{5} Prisons, \textit{Annual Rep}, 1916, opp p. 4
\textsuperscript{6} Prisons, \textit{Annual Rep}, 1917, p. 16
\textsuperscript{7} Prisons, \textit{Annual Rep}, 1916, p. 19-20
\textsuperscript{8} Prisons, \textit{Annual Rep}, 1917, p. 16
was officially opened on 14 August 1918 with a major service which many prominent citizens attended, especially those associated with prisoner's aid associations. In all the chapel cost the PWD £2,770 for material. In 1919, further decorations and a marble altar were added.

Concurrently, the role of the prison expanded as more opportunities for training emerged. The closure of Parramatta Gaol, temporary as it turned out, meant that the mat-making industry successfully carried on at Parramatta was transferred to the State Penitentiary with all its machinery.

The septic tank which sewered the Long Bay Complex was closed after the prisons were connected to mains sewerage. A protective wall, 16 feet high and 180 feet long with a large entrance gate was built on the eastern boundary between the State Penitentiary and the State Reformatory for Women. A road was put down the centre and garden beds were added. A shelter shed was erected there for wet weather. It was planned to provide light work for the women. After the wall was completed, alterations were needed to the back tower of the State Penitentiary which were carried out in 1919. Additional resources arrived in the shape of a shelter shed from Parramatta Gaol which was re-erected as a store near the stables.

By October 1919, warders were accommodated at Long Bay in 11 warders' cottages for married men let at £26 per annum, associated with the State Penitentiary. As well, there was accommodation for 17 warders in the gaol itself let at £6 per annum and accommodation for 18 female warders let at £12 p. a. in the State Reformatory for Women.

Opening the chapel essentially completed the major outline of the dual prisons complex. For the next thirty years, few major changes were made to the complex. Most of the work that did occur was undertaken within the complex of prisons, with lesser works in the grounds cultivated by the inmates. Only after the Second World War did the complex break out of the boundaries of 1918 when new elements were added to the overall layout.

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1 Prisons, Annual Rep, 1918, pp. 16; Sydney Mail, 21 August 1918, p. 7
2 PWD, Annual Rep, 1919, p. 61
3 Prisons, Annual Rep, 1919, p. 14
4 Prisons, Annual Rep, 1918, p. 15
5 Prisons, Annual Rep, 1918, pp. 15-6
6 Prisons, Annual Rep, 1919, p. 14
7 Prisons, Annual Rep, 1918, p. 16
8 Department of Corrective Services, Press cuttings from Parliamentary Papers and Debates, 1881-1939, A. O. 2/2139, p. 155
Illus 2.01
Female Reformatory, January 1908
This view showed the entrance block and other structures under construction.
Source: *Evening News*, 18 Jan 1908, p. 3
Illus 2.03
Female Reformatory, 1909
This panoramic photograph shows the centre of the prison from which the cell ranges radiated.
Source: *Daily Telegraph*, 19 Aug 1909, p. 9
Illus 2.04

Garden beds, Female Reformatory, 1909
This view shows the original garden beds.
Source: Daily Telegraph, 19 Aug 1909, p. 9
Illus 2.05

Female Reformatory, 1909
The hospital and female officer's quarters are shown here.

Source: *Daily Telegraph*, 26 Aug 1909
Illus 2.06
Female Reformatory, 1909
The needle room and the laundry are seen here.
Source: *Daily Telegraph*, 26 Aug 1909
Illus 2.09
Male Penitentiary, Sept 1913
A view of the cell blocks,
Source: *Evening News*, 13 Sept 1913, p. 3
Illus 2.10
Male Penitentiary, Sept 1913
Gaol kitchens and offices.
Source: Evening News, 13 Sept 1913, p. 3
Male Penitentiary layout, 1914

Male Penitentiary layout as completed in 1914. Compare with 2.07 showing the proposed layout in 1909.

Source: Prisons, Annual Report, 1914
Illus 2.12
Female Reformatory, 1914
Entrance block
Source: Prisons, *Annual Report, 1914*
Illus 2.13
State Penitentiary 1914
Foundations and trenches for outer walls
Illus 2.14
State Penitentiary 1914
Construction of outer walls
Source: Prisons, Annual Report, 1914
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Illus 2.15</th>
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<tr>
<td>State Penitentiary</td>
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<tr>
<td>1914</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ponds</td>
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<td>Source: Prisons, Annual Report, 1914</td>
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</table>
Illus 2.16
Male Penitentiary 1914
Entrance block
Source: Prisons, Annual Report, 1914
Illus 2.17
Female Reformatory 1914
Gardens in centre of cell ranges
Source: Prisons, Annual Report, 1914
Illus 2.18
Female Reformatory 1914
Gardens in centre of cell ranges
Source: Prisons, Annual Report, 1914
Illus 2.19
Female Reformatory 1914
Fernery in shelter in centre of cell ranges
Illus 2.21
Chapel 1918
The chapel as completed
Source: Prisons, *Annual Report, 1918*
3.0 CONFINED WITHIN THE LONG BAY COMPLEX 1919-49

With the major outlines of the complex in place by 1918-9, changes for some years were minor and incremental, with few major alterations. In September 1919, prisoners began to make ash concrete blocks for the Daceyville housing scheme. By 21 February 1920, they had manufactured 48,833 blocks.

In the early 1920s, only minor works were undertaken on the prisons. By 1922, the effect of the closure of Parramatta Gaol was becoming ever more apparent. The State Penitentiary received 70% of gaol entries for NSW but had only enough space for 21%. It was also the holding prison for trial and remand for metropolitan courts. Space became congested. Hence, Parramatta Gaol re-opened on 14 July 1922.

Employment for inmates continued to expand. The bakery in the State Penitentiary was expanded to three ovens. A large garage was built to house lorries and a boiler-house to provide steam for both prisons was commenced in 1922. The boiler house, erected with prison labour was completed in 1926 replacing separate boilers for each gaol. Financial stringency slowed building. A shelter to house motor lorries, horse and cattle which had been started at the front of the gaol still had no roof in 1924 due to lack of funds. The opening of the motor mechanic shop had been found to be very successful since it saved money on vehicle maintenance.

Leisure was not confined to attendance at church and books from the prison library. Concerts were regularly given by visiting troupes. Lectures, educational and amusing, were delivered to the prisoners, whilst cinematic films were also screened. The film, "The Ten Commandments" produced by Paramount Pictures, was shown to inmates on 13 December 1923. It was claimed to be the eleventh place in the whole world where this film was screened as well as its first screening in Sydney. A grimmer side to life in prison was also evident occasionally when the gallows located at the rear of one of the corridor cell ranges in the State Penitentiary was used to execute condemned men. (See Illus 3.01)

Building work undertaken at this time included the construction of a chimney stack for £958 in 1926. A warder's cottage was built for £1,055, and a water service was installed for £811/14/- in 1927. In terms of capital works, there was little undertaken apart from routine maintenance for a number of years. Most public works were curtailed during the depression years. An aerial photograph of September 1929 showed that the complex was still largely in the same shape as completed in 1918. (See Illus 3.02) In May 1934, there was

1 Prisons, Annual Rep, 1919, p. 14
2 Letter 20/2099 in Department of Corrective Services, Long Bay, Correspondence Received, 1920-2, A. O.3/3209.1,
3 Prisons, Annual Rep, 1922, p. 2
4 Prisons, Annual Rep, 1922, p. 4
5 Prisons, Annual Rep, 1926, p. 12
6 Prisons, Annual Rep, 1924, p. 7
7 Prisons, Annual Rep, 1924, p. 7
8 Prisons, Annual Rep, 1924, p. 8; World's News, 29 May 1926, p. 10
9 PWD, Annual Rep, 1926, p. 42-3
10 PWD, Annual Rep, 1927, p. 50-1
11 Department of Corrective Services, Press cuttings books, A. O. 2/2136 1924-33 p. 137
some alarm in the press when it quoted the Prisons Department's Annual Reports to the effect that there would soon be overcrowding at Long Bay. No major initiatives were undertaken to alleviate that pressure.

However, the Prisoners' Aid Association involved with women inmates had been pressuring prison authorities to build separate buildings for female prisoners who were showing signs of reform. The loosening of the associational controls over female prisoners soon after the female gaol had opened had led to the realisation that claims from hardened professional female criminals that the State Reformatory for Women was the best place to recruit new talent for a variety of criminal activities was true.

A new women's section was planned for Long Bay for first offenders. It was based on the realisation that many of its inmates had come from deprived family backgrounds and the new section aimed to give them an opportunity to learn "tidiness and order" i.e. those domestic skills lacking in some deprived households which provided the bulk of female inmates. The project cost £2,000 to complete with most of the work undertaken by male prisoners. The roofs of the cottages were of corrugated fibro cement to guard against the corrosive effects of salt air. Officially opened on 3 December 1936, the range of cottages was described as,

...blocks forming three sides of a square, rooms, have been constructed of brick for the accommodation of two officers and eighteen prisoners, while, on the fourth side of the square has been built a recreation room for the benefit of the prisoners. Each room for the prisoners is furnished with a bed, a combined cabinet and table, and a chair, while the floor is covered with matting, the whole arrangement providing a degree of comfort and freedom far in excess of that to be obtained in the ordinary prison cell. The rooms are fitted with a large window and a wooden door, and present an appearance more in keeping with a bedroom in a cottage than a prison cubicle.

On 20 October 1936, the Valuer-General's valuation of the State Penitentiary and State Reformatory described them as 11 cell blocks, 1 cottage block, 12 residences, 2 quarters, 2 hospital blocks, 1 workshop block, 1 kitchen block, all of brick. The area encompassed was 110 acres 2 roods. The Improved Capital Value was £200,000. The capital cost taken from estimates from the PWD was £263,168. Additionally 9 cottages for warders were valued with a total ICV of £5225.

The Second World War brought a new series of pressures upon gaols. Accommodation at the two prisons was taxed. There was a need to provide more appropriate accommodation for male prisoners awaiting trial at Long Bay. Construction of a new prison there for this purpose was the solution, although it was to be some time before it could be put into action. The war also caused a considerable increase in the number of women in the State Reformatory for Women due to the increased demand for sex during the war years and the

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1 Department of Corrective Services, Press cuttings books, A. O. 2/2137 1934-39, p. 12
2 Prisons, Annual Rep, 1933-5, p. 3
3 PWD, Annual Rep, 1936, p. 37; Sun, 9 Sept 1935, in Department of Corrective Services, Press cuttings books, A. O. 2/2137 1934-39, p. 81
4 Prisons, Annual Rep, 1936-7, p. 3
5 Department of Corrective Services, Assets Register, 1939-51, A. O. 19/9840, p. 79
resulting higher number of arrests of women for sex-related offences.¹ Greater police surveillance of morality in response to public alarm and the presence of large numbers of foreign troops, especially the free-spending Americans, contributed to higher arrest rates in Australian capitals, including Sydney.² After the war, however, the number of female inmates declined so markedly that their buildings were under-utilised.

Some building work was undertaken. Additions to the bakery costing £3,800 started in 1944.³ Once the war was over, work commenced on building accommodation for trial and remand prisoners whilst work continued on the new bakery. Both projects cost £20,000 in the year 1945-6.⁴ By 1949, work on the new bakery had cost £30,000.⁵ The pressure of prisoner numbers on the State Penitentiary was also becoming more apparent. There were also opinions that although Long Bay Gaol had only been built in 1914, it was out of date.⁶

¹ Sun, 25 October 1943
² See, for example, K. Darian-Smith, On the Home Front - Melbourne in Wartime 1939-1945, Melbourne, 1990, Chap. 6
³ PWD, Annual Rep, 1944, p. 22
⁴ PWD, Annual Rep, 1946, p. 27
⁵ PWD, Annual Rep, 1949, p. 38
⁶ Pix, 20 Sept 1947, p. 19
Gallows and condemned cells were built at the rear of one of the cell ranges served by corridors.

Source: A. O. Plan 1905
**Illus 3.02**

**Long Bay Complex, 1929**

This aerial photo shows the layout of the complex in 1929, little changed from its completion, ten years before.

*Source: A. O. 2/2136, p. 137*
4.0 BREAKING OUT OF LONG BAY - EXPANSION 1950-94

In 1950, the role of prisons in NSW was succinctly stated by the Department's Annual Report -

It is the duty of the Department of Prisons to ensure that the sentences imposed by the Courts are carried into effect,... The deterrent effect of punishment does not lie in its severity; it lies in its certainty.1

In the overall scheme of penal establishments in NSW, the State Penitentiary at Long Bay was a maximum security prison used as the reception prison for metropolitan courts.2 By then, the realisation that reform of prisoners could not be imposed from outside had emerged. Gaols focussed upon training inmates for release back into the community and by aiding them to mend themselves, with the use of parole and probation.3 By 1955, the prison philosophy was stated as being...

...founded on discipline; it requires classification, work, education and leisure activities in its routine and the efforts of the prison must be capitalised by effective aftercare.4

A range of special units were concentrated at Long Bay. A full time dentist was finally appointed to the Prisons Department and construction of a dwelling for the resident medical officers posted there was started at Long Bay in 1950.5 The new bakery which had been under construction for some years was completed in 1950.6 By 1952, works on the new bakery had cost £36,780.7

Since 1947 all new cells were provided with sewerage connections. A programme of adding these facilities to older cells began with one block in the State Reformatory for Women, apparently A Block.8 Work to upgrade all cells continued over a number of years.

In line with the latest thinking on assigning prisoners to appropriate institutions, on the basis of personal and environmental factors, a newly formed Classification Committee met for the first time on 10 May 1950.9 The concept was to take out those inmates whose prospect of reformation was greatest and to devise co-ordinated reformation schemes centred upon the individual.10 When the prisoner first arrived at Long Bay, he was placed in the Allocation Centre where he was assessed before coming before the Classification Committee. After the release of inmates, they were monitored by parole officers.11 Administrative buildings for the Classification Committee were started in 1952 and completed in early 1953. They included offices, a testing room, and

2 Prisons, Annual Rep, 1949-50, p. 3
4 Prisons, Annual Rep, 1954, 1955, p. 4
5 Prisons, Annual Rep, 1949-50, p. 12
6 Prisons, Annual Rep, 1949-50, p. 13
7 PWD, Annual Rep, 1952, p. 35
8 Prisons, Annual Rep, 1952-3, p. 7, 14
9 Prisons, Annual Rep, 1949-50, p. 3
10 Prisons, Annual Rep, 1952, p. 3
11 Prisons, Annual Rep, 1952-3, p. 4
lecture room. Total costs were estimated at £10,000 for building the "allocation centre".  

Construction of a new workroom and accommodation for mental criminals began in 1952-3 using prison labour. An amenities block was also built for warders at the State Penitentiary in 1954-5.  

Overcrowding in the state's prisons continued and grew worse. However, it was deliberately confined to Long Bay by prison authorities so that remedial and work programmes in operation in other prisons were not hampered. A series of press reports noted that Long Bay was overcrowded with two to three inmates in cells designed for single occupant.  

Temporary huts in the "Extension" and C and D Halls in the State Reformatory for Women were used to house the overflow from the male State Penitentiary so that a total of 545 single cells were available. Despite these extra cells, at one time, the complex housed 814 male inmates. There was a perceived urgency in building a new female prison and incorporating the existing women's prison into the male prison complex. Since the State Reformatory for Women was seen as "probably the best maximum security prison in Australia" and since there were relatively few women there, a notable change from the peak numbers of the war years, it was under-utilised, and a new women's prison would allow male prisoners to occupy it. A minimum security prison to house prisoners convicted of failing to comply with maintenance orders was also planned. Although Long Bay continued to be overcrowded a programme of upgrading older gaols such as Cooma and Berrima was commenced to take the pressure off other gaols.  

In May 1957, construction of a new cell block at the State Penitentiary began. The work was estimated to cost £800,000. The new prison at the State Penitentiary was planned to have five cell blocks, a sick bay, officers' quarters and block for work. Working drawings were also prepared by the Public Works Department for additional female accommodation costing £200,000. Two further stages were planned. The first was a cell block for unconvicted inmates whilst a second stage was the erection of a new medium security block.  

By December 1959, two cell blocks in the State Penitentiary had been completed and were occupied on 11 January 1960 whilst another block which was almost complete was occupied on 14 April 1960. Two other cell blocks, a general block and sick bay and staff quarters were under construction.  

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1 Prisons, Annual Rep, 1952, p. 8  
2 PWD, Annual Rep, 1952, p. 35  
3 Prisons, Annual Rep, 1952-3, p. 14  
5 Prisons, Annual Rep, 1952, p. 3  
6 Department of Corrective Services, Press cuttings books, A. O. 2/2137 1934-39  
7 Prisons, Annual Rep, 1952, p. 8  
8 Prisons, Annual Rep, 1954, 1955, p. 16  
9 Prisons, Annual Rep, 1954, 1955, p. 16  
10 Prisons, Annual Rep, 1954, 1955, p. 15  
12 Prisons, Annual Rep, 1958, p. 4  
13 PWD, Annual Rep, 1958, p. 6-7  
14 Prisons, Annual Rep, 1958, p. 6  
15 Prisons, Annual Rep, 1959, p. 5
In 1959-60, the PWD prepared sketches for a dormitory block at the State Penitentiary to cost £425,000. Earlier works which commenced in May 1957 were still in progress. By 31 December 1960, erection of the women's prison to house 220 inmates was under way. The work was to incorporate a kitchen, laundry, sick bay. It was built by male prisoners. Work was so advanced that the 160 male prisoners who were building it were using it as their own accommodation during construction. Erection of a prison for unconvicted inmates did not start until late 1960. It was still under way in December 1962.

The new State Reformatory for Women opened in November 1962 with cells to accommodate 220 women. Women inmates were moved out of the State Reformatory for Women into the new women's prison. The former State Reformatory for Women was renamed the Metropolitan Reception Prison. It was mainly used as a medical prison with a fully equipped hospital. No 8 Wing was used for inmates recovering from medical treatment.

During 1963-4, 24 additional staff cottages were built at Long Bay. Running water and sewerage were connected to four cell blocks at the State Penitentiary. Plans were prepared for a new boiler house, motor garage, hospital block and a new Entrance and Reception Block. The following year, work commenced on the new garage and workshop, whilst sewerage connections and the installation of hand basins in most cells continued. Reconstruction work on the medical clinic and the construction of new towers on the outer perimeter was also undertaken.

On 20 October 1967, the Metropolitan Remand Centre was opened by the NSW Premier, R. W. Askin. It accommodated 224 prisoners, and was the first centre making separate provision for unconvicted persons constructed in Australia. It had mainly been completed by prison labour with PWD guidance.

Work began on a new boiler house in 1968. Cost of work completed that year totalled $87,300. A hot water system was being installed and it was hoped that it would be finished in March 1969. At that time, Long Bay was still the main hospital centre for NSW prisons, with a Medical Superintendent, three Medical Officers, specialists and staff such as dentist, anaesthetist and psychiatrists on hand. A new medical clinic was established in 1968 incorporating a lock hospital, X-ray centre, operating theatre, dental clinic, kitchen, physiotherapy rooms, interview room and dispensary. Throughout the prison complex an internal telephone system was installed. Shortly afterwards, the bookbinding section of the Central Industrial Prison (former

1 PWD, Annual Rep, 1960, p. 9, 52
2 Prisons, Annual Rep, 1960, p. 6
3 Prisons, Annual Rep, 1960, p. 6
4 Prisons, Annual Rep, 1962, p. 10
5 Prisons, Annual Rep, 1962, p. 9
6 Duplicated notes including "Brief History" handed out on site visit, 3 February 1995.
7 Prisons, Annual Rep, 1963-4, p. 4
8 Prisons, Annual Rep, 1965-6, p. 10-1
9 Prisons, Annual Rep, 1967-8, p. 7
10 PWD, Annual Rep, 1968, p. 57
11 Prisons, Annual Rep, 1969-70, p. 18
12 Prisons, Annual Rep, 1967-8, p. 6
State Reformatory for Women) moved into a larger workshop with new machinery built in the former medical clinic recently vacated by medical staff.  

About the same time, in 1968, the original concept of Katingal, a maximum security prison was developed, mainly by the new Comptroller-General W. R. McGeechan. Planning of Katingal was undertaken by the PWD, to the specifications of the Department of Corrective Services, which saw it purely as a prison, and sought no medical or psychiatric input into its design. As plans developed, it was designed as a system of single cells for 40 prisoners. There were two exercise yards open to the sky, with automatic doors and advanced security systems. Behind the building of Katingal lay a belief that by concentrating a number of dangerous prisoners in a high security prison, the problems of their management were reduced. Yet, this concept of concentration ran directly counter to the English idea of dispersal into numerous gaols. Categories of prisoner to be incarcerated included those in need of protection. Justice Nagle later suggested that security from external attack especially terrorist attack appears to have been an underlying intention.

In 1969, women prisoners were moved out of their prison built in the late 1950s to another complex at Mulawa, Silverwater. On 5 May 1970, a new officers' amenities and dining area was opened, to provide staff with cafeteria style eating facilities. Other works included the relocation of the weighbridge, the erection of steel supports for wings 1, 2, 5 and 6, new security yards, a new network of electrical mains, the construction of a mini-golf course, and a traffic gate through the main security wall.

In 1971, a new access road and inquiry office was built at the main entrance to the Long Bay complex. The administration block was modified for a training school. Three rooms in the former hospital in the Reception Prison (formerly the State Penitentiary) were converted into a prisoners' library. Construction of three additional towers commenced to allow better coverage of the farm area and the Central Industrial Prison (former State Reformatory for Women). Additional bathrooms were built in the workshop areas. Steel meshing was installed between the upper and lower floors in all cell blocks. The printers' shop was extended. The first stage of the new Officers' Training School was completed.

New kitchens were completed at a cost of $770,000 in 1972 plus a new control centre and access road built by prison labour at a cost of $29,000. The standard of meals improved after new kitchens came into service at the Metropolitan Remand Centre and the Malabar Training Centre. Prisoners were engaged in building the new visiting block in the Central Industrial Prison (former State Reformatory for Women) to cost $130,000, workshops and stores

1 Prisons, Annual Rep, 1969-70, p. 22, 34
3 J. F. Nagle, Royal Commission into New South Wales Prisons, p. 125
4 PWD, Annual Rep, 1969, p. 48
5 J. F. Nagle, Royal Commission into New South Wales Prisons, p. 122-4; Prisons, Annual Rep, 1970-1, p. 31
8 Prisons, Annual Rep, 1969-70, p. 34
10 Prisons, Annual Rep, 1970-1, p. 31-2; PWD, Annual Rep, 1971, p. 34
11 Prisons, Annual Rep, 1971-2, p. 30
to cost $85,000 and an electricity sub-station to cost $52,000, and an officers' training school for $20,000. Single officers' quarters for 19 officers were almost completed. On 23 August 1972, the construction of Katingal had commenced. Work continued in secrecy. It was being built by contract for $1,010,000.

Construction began of a new bakery in 1973 to cost $170,000, whilst new sanitary facilities were estimated to cost $80,000. The second stage of the Officers Training School was under way at a cost of $44,000. Projects completed at that time included laundry extensions, a dispensary in the Reception Prison (former State Penitentiary) and a new maintenance store.

Meanwhile, concern about the new maximum security wing, later named Katingal grew. On 19 April 1974, the Corrective Services Advisory Council wrote to the Department of Corrective Services expressing concern about Katingal ("S" Block), especially the absence of visual access to the outside world and the absence of a non-departmental representative on the Management Committee for the Block. The letter also suggested that medical advice be sought about the possible effects of the block on inmates, and the need to undertake detailed research into inmates chosen for the Block. Some small though inadequate windows were later incorporated into the design. Extensive inquiries from the public and interested persons about Katingal were fobbed off with distorted material about the complex. Work continued despite public concern. The construction costs of Katingal built to hold forty prisoners were high, although it was often not full. The daily cost of looking after the inmates per prisoner was $86.35 compared to an average daily cost of $28.12 in other gaols.

Working drawings were prepared for additional storage in the State Penitentiary. Tenders were called for single officers' quarters and additions to staff dining room at State Penitentiary estimated to cost $308,000, and for new staff housing as a Housing Commission job estimated to cost $335,000 in 1975. The single officers' quarters and the laundry boiler house were completed soon afterwards.

Public disquiet about the administration of NSW prisons was heightened by incidents at Grafton and particularly at Bathurst Prison. Tensions rose amongst prisoners at Bathurst. They culminated in a riot on 3-4 February 1974 which caused millions of dollars worth of damage and left the prison in ruins. Although the Liberal government promised a Royal Commission, none was appointed. Public pressure built up. Finally, the Liberal government appointed a Commission headed by Justice Nagle on 31 March 1976. However, the Commission never sat, since the incoming Labor government brought to power in the May 1976 elections revoked the Commission and appointed a new Commission with Justice Nagle as sole Commissioner on 28 June 1976.

The Royal Commission into NSW Prisons headed by Justice Nagle, commenced finally reported on 4 April 1978. The Commission strongly

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1 PWD, Annual Rep, 1972, p. 38; Prisons, Annual Rep, 1971-2, p. 30
2 J. F. Nagle, Royal Commission into New South Wales Prisons, p. 125
3 PWD, Annual Rep, 1972, p. 38; Prisons, Annual Rep, 1971-2, p. 30
5 Prisons, Annual Rep, 1973-4, p. 40
6 J. F. Nagle, Royal Commission into New South Wales Prisons, p. 125-6
7 J. F. Nagle, Royal Commission into New South Wales Prisons, p. 127
8 J. F. Nagle, Royal Commission into New South Wales Prisons, p. 131
9 PWD, Annual Rep, 1975, p. 117-8
10 Prisons, Annual Rep, 1977-8, p. 18
recommended the closure of Katingal. It was also highly critical of the Observation Unit at Long Bay, originally designed to house prisoners for psychiatric observation. By the late 1970s, it was being used to house all prisoners charged with capital crimes. The physical conditions were described by the Consultant Psychiatrist, Dr W. L. Lucas, as "Dickensian". In the wake of the Commission, a series of changes and reforms were undertaken, one of the most notable being the closure of Katingal. Administrative changes were also instituted. In July 1982, demolition of the old Observation section of Long Bay Gaol commenced. A new Observation section to house 25 inmates was started, to hold a clinic, workshops, outdoor areas, dining room, and quiet room.

A period of flux in NSW prisons was heightened by unrest amongst prisoners and industrial action by prison staff. On 25 December 1976, a riot by prisoners at the Central Industrial Prison (former State Reformatory for Women) caused a fire in the workshops which burned down.

Works to upgrade the prison complex and to enable its modification for new roles continued. Wing 11 in the Metropolitan Reception Prison (formerly the State Reformatory for Women) was converted at cost of $406,532 into a centre caring for emotionally disturbed prisoners in 1979-80. It became the Special Care Unit complete with its own governor.

The PABX telephone system at Long Bay was replaced at a cost of $230,000 in 1980-1. Security towers were provided with air conditioning. Officers' facilities and inmates' recreational facilities were improved. General security improvements were undertaken at all prisons in NSW. At Long Bay, high voltage electricity mains were relocated and flammable liquids storage was also improved.

Work began on a new sports field for the maximum security area in 1981-2. To make construction possible, a new security fence was built. The sports field with two security towers, walls, amenities, playing fields and tennis courts were completed at a cost of $1,340,000 in 1986.

In 1985, the Malabar Assessment Unit (AIDS) opened in the former State Reformatory for Women to house HIV positive and AIDS affected prisoners.

A programme to replace and rebuild all security towers commenced in 1985. It was completed in 1987. A new water tower costing $293,000 was

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4 Tony Vinson, *Wilful Obstruction - The frustration of prison reform*, North Ryde, 1982, pp. 142-6, Photo opp p. 112
6 Duplicated notes including "Brief History" handed out on site visit, 3 February 1995.
11 Duplicated notes including "Brief History" handed out on site visit, 3 February 1995.
completed in 1985, as was a two storey extension to the machine shop costing $250,000.¹

In 1986-7, works completed included a new administration building, new entrance, and MRC Guardhouse.² The new administration building was occupied in September 1987.³

Construction of a new Special Purpose Prison commenced in December 1987.⁴ It was completed at cost of $16,500,000 and occupied in March 1989.⁵ In 1987, when the Hospital was completed at cost of $13,412,000 and opened the hospital located within the former State Reformatory for Women closed down, as did the Malabar Assessment Unit (AIDS).⁶

Re-construction of cat walks commenced in 1989-90. A new industries building was planned to cost $4,382,000.⁷ It was completed at a cost of approximately $4,500,000 in March 1991.⁸

The former Women's Prison changed its name from Metropolitan Reception Prison to Assessment Prison in 1990, although its functions were not altered.⁹ The Metropolitan Emergency Unit was also constructed at this time.¹⁰ In 1991, the Industrial Complex opened, housing five industries run privately. Its name was altered to Industrial Centre.¹¹ Construction of an additional 90 rooms in the Periodic Detention Centre was under way in 1991-2.¹²

In 1991-2, construction of the Metropolitan Remand and Reception Centre was approved. It aimed to provide 900 cells at an estimated cost of $75,000,000. Unlike many of the remand facilities opened so far, it was to be built at Silverwater.¹³ Construction of the Silverwater MRRC will transfer remand and reception functions from Long Bay to the new complex for most prisoners.

Thereafter, a series of changes at Long Bay began to reflect its changing role. In 1992, the Special Care Unit was renamed the Special Care Correctional Centre and was physically expanded to occupy two new areas named the Crisis Support Unit and the Life Skills Unit.¹⁴ On 18 June 1993, the Reception Centre and Industrial Centre (former State Penitentiary and State Reformatory for Women respectively) were combined and renamed Reception and Industrial Centre. It provided reception and classification, vocational training and work.¹⁵

¹ Prisons, Annual Rep, 1985, p. 12
² Prisons, Annual Rep, 1986-7, p. 32
³ Prisons, Annual Rep, 1987-8, p. 84
⁴ Prisons, Annual Rep, 1987-8, p. 84
⁵ Prisons, Annual Rep, 1988-9, p. 88
⁶ Prisons, Annual Rep, 1986-7, p. 32; Duplicated notes including "Brief History" handed out on site visit, 3 February 1995.
⁷ Prisons, Annual Rep, 1989-90, p. 95
⁸ Prisons, Annual Rep, 1990-1, p. 54
⁹ Duplicated notes including "Brief History" handed out on site visit, 3 February 1995.
¹¹ Duplicated notes including "Brief History" handed out on site visit, 3 February 1995.
¹² Prisons, Annual Rep, 1990-1, p. 55
¹³ Prisons, Annual Rep, 1991-2, p. 22 (Statistical and Information Supplement)
¹⁴ Duplicated notes including "Brief History" handed out on site visit, 3 February 1995.
¹⁵ Duplicated notes including "Brief History" handed out on site visit, 3 February 1995.
On 12 August 1994, a wholesale re-arrangement was undertaken at Long Bay with prisoners moved into different areas and areas re-named.¹

¹ Duplicated notes including "Brief History" handed out on site visit, 3 February 1995.
5.0 ASPECTS OF HISTORY

The history of the Long Bay Correctional Centre reflects a number of aspects of the development of penal practice in NSW.

1. The State Reformatory for Women opened in August 1909 was the first women's prison deliberately built as a women's prison rather than being simply converted from an existing penal institution. It was also one of the earliest such purpose-built female prisons in the world. It was the physical manifestation of the sensitivity and care of Frederick Neitenstein to female prisoners and marked a major landmark in the care of women in prison.

2. Frederick Neitenstein, Comptroller-General of Prisons from 1896 to 1909, instituted major changes in penal practice in NSW during his term of office. An acknowledged reformer with links to other reformers across the world, his place in the network of reformism lay not just within the context of NSW, but within a world context. His prison reforms linking reform and punishment of the prisoner by separate treatment, classification, merits and demerits for conduct, a key role for libraries, education, prisoners' aid associations and religion and the emphasis on useful employment, all brought about a major cultural change within the Prison Department and the management of its charges. Separate treatment and classification was the key to his scheme and the first place where he was able to create a complete system for both men and women was at Long Bay. Subsequently, the joint institutions at Long Bay drew considerable praise from many visitors from across the world knowledgeable in prison practice. Long Bay was the most complete expression of his goals and philosophy of reform, a system which remained embedded in the practice of the Prisons Department for many decades.

3. When the hiatus of building prisons in Australia between 1914 and the late 1950s, identified by Jim Kerr, was succeeded by a new surge in prison construction, Long Bay absorbed a great deal of the building work in prisons in NSW.1 Changed concepts of reform were also current, such as the psychological assessment and grading of prisoners and the formal parole system where the state monitored prisoners after their release which replaced prisoners aid associations. The gaol fabric constructed from the late 1950s to the present day reflects changing penological practice in NSW.

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6.0 CHRONOLOGICAL OUTLINE

1866

Town of Long Bay (later name Brand) laid out near Long Bay.¹

1896

Frederick William Neitenstein appointed Comptroller-General of Prisons. He set out to reform the NSW prisons on the basis of grading of prisoners, 'restricted association' and arrangements separating different classes of prisoners, such as hardened criminals from juveniles and first offenders. Hard work and physical drill were an integral part of his scheme, as well as a "mark" system rewarding orderly and hard working prisoners. He outlined his ideals in the 1895-6, Prisons Department Report.² An integral part of his scheme was a new prison for females, where their special needs could be catered for and where they would be more amenable to reformatory work from outside rescue and philanthropic bodies, as well as a general prison near Sydney to received first offenders, etc.³

1897

Neitenstein formulated his scheme for the female prison and penitentiary.⁴

1897

Visit by Government Architect to Prison for Females at Aylesbury England revealed an example which showed many matters to avoid. Hence, Female Prison at Long Bay designed in NSW on basis of requirements.⁵

12 May 1897

Minute from Minister of Justice to Minister of Public Works asking for £10,000 to be placed on Parliamentary estimates to build a special female Prison.⁶

1898-9

Government Architect very busy with work for new prison comprising penitentiary for casual and short term metropolitan prisoners and a prison devoted to females for whole of NSW. Site of 50 acres near Randwick selected by Government Architect, Vernon, Comptroller-General of Prisons, and Surveyor-General. Plans prepared incorporating latest prison design put before Parliamentary Select Committee.⁷

¹ A. O. Map 3587
² Prisons, Annual Rep, 1896, pp. 44-65
³ Prisons, Annual Rep, 1896, pp. 56, 61
⁴ Prisons, Annual Rep, 1897, p. 57
⁵ PWD, Annual Rep, 1909, p. 37
⁷ PWD, Annual Rep, 1899, p. 56
1899

Parliamentary Select Committee on Public Works reported on proposed gaol, that system was devised to reform as well as punish offenders, to separate the different classes of prisoner, and to act as a short sentence penitentiary. Existing facilities at Darlinghurst and Biloela unsuitable to be altered for the proposed system. Neitenstein intended that prisoners receive some sunlight during the day, and that they work, particularly at agricultural work.¹

A female prison would also be built for similar reasons. The area between them would be cultivated as a garden. The Penitentiary would be built with seven wings corresponding to the different classes of inmate. In the centre would be the administrative offices, kitchens storerooms, bathrooms and power plant. The scheme for classification of the prisoners was a new innovation partially based upon the Pentridge Victoria scheme and upon precedents from India. Cells would open onto the yard, with the upper levels reached by a balcony. As well as being suitable for short sentence inmates, this would allow economic construction as well as light and air into the cells.²

The Female Prison would have four cell ranges radiating from a centre which would be occupied by chapel and workroom. Cell ranges would have a corridor down the middle of the ground floor and access from balconies on upper storeys.³

Site suitable due to easy access from the city, with good water supply and without the possibility of being "overlooked", i.e. spoiling the views from residential properties. Few residences in the area, with the more expensive residences of Randwick further to the north. Construction on the particular site chosen because it could be carried out most economically. Neither Darlinghurst nor Biloela could be converted to the new system for less than the cost of building a new gaol, whilst land at Biloela was needed to expand the dock facilities.⁴

Site would initially be enclosed by 8 feet high galvanised iron fence until stone wall could be built. Floors and ceilings were to be built of the Monier [i.e. reinforced concrete] system for lightness and strength.⁵

Vernon designed gaol to be built in brick due to uncertainty of quality of stone on the site for building and because brick was cheaper for building.⁶

1899

Parliamentary Select Committee approved the construction of the female prison and the penitentiary for males. Neitenstein anxious for the work to commence.⁷

1900-1

Work on construction of female prison and male penitentiary commenced.⁸

¹ "Proposed Penitentiary", p 1044
² "Proposed Penitentiary", p 1045
³ "Proposed Penitentiary", p 1045
⁴ "Proposed Penitentiary", p 1046-7
⁵ "Proposed Penitentiary", p 1057
⁶ "Proposed Penitentiary", p 1139
⁷ Prisons, Annual Rep, 1899, p. 2
⁸ Prisons, Annual Rep, 1901, p. 7
1901-2

Expenditure on Penitentiary for Petty Offenders and Prison for Females at Randwick, £1,066/13/3.1

31 January 1902

Building has commenced at Long Bay for Female Penitentiary. Work will cost £120,000 and will be spread over number of years as finance becomes available. Work to be completed on order of the Minister as a day labour job.2

1902-3

Expenditure on Penitentiary for Petty Offenders and Prison for Females at Randwick, £21,237/5/3.3

24 October 1903

Site officially gazetted for penitentiary.4

1903-4

Budgetary restraints slow down construction at Long Bay.5

Expenditure to date on Penitentiary for Petty Offenders and Prison for Females at Randwick, £35,555/16/6.6

July 1904

Press cutting states that prison being built by day labour under PWD supervision. One wing almost complete whilst walls finished. Neitenstein anxious to occupy so that his classification scheme could be put into operation.7

27 August 1904

Women's prison - one wing of 60 cells almost complete. Two other wings being built.8

1904-5

Day labour work complete on administrative building, and No. 2 Wing. Tenders soon to be called for Wings 3 and 4. Other parts of females prison in "a forward state".9

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1 PWD, Annual Rep, 1902, p. 35
2 SMH, 31 Jan 1902, p. 7
3 PWD, Annual Rep, 1903, p. 43
4 C. 2209.2030, Lands Dept Plans Room
5 PWD, Annual Rep, 1904, p. 52
6 PWD, Annual Rep, 1904, p. 97
7 Department of Corrective Services, Press cuttings books, A. O. 2/2130 1903-06, p. 31
8 Daily Telegraph, 27 August 1904
9 PWD, Annual Rep, 1905, p. 10
1905-6

Another two wings have been built under contract. Buildings for females sufficiently advanced to allow temporary occupation with a modified scheme of outdoor labour.\(^1\)

30 October 1906

Vernon denied that prison labour used to construct Long Bay Prison. Plans currently being prepared for some wings and administrative block of penitentiary. Tenders will soon be called for governor's residence and power house.\(^2\)

1906-7

During year, Prisons Department hoped to erect needed buildings using prison labour with PWD supervision. Work commenced on buildings to house those prisoners to be used to build prison. Government Architect feared that gradual erection will cause substantial rise in costs.\(^3\)

30 March 1907

Contract to complete laundry block, two sewing rooms, kitchen block, punishment cells and special hospital ward of women's prison let some time ago. Tenders will be let soon for administrative block, one range of cells and workshop. Contract for governor's residence also been let.\(^4\)

1907-8

Scheme by Prisons Department to have Female Prison and Penitentiary completed by prison labour abandoned. Hence contracts been let for No. 3 Workshop Block and Matron's Quarters. Plans currently being prepared.\(^5\)

18 January 1908

Female prison nearly complete. First part of work, completed by day labour was boundary walls of both prisons, two cell ranges of female prison and its entrance block. Contracts let to W. J. Henley for further two cell ranges in female prison. Baldwin Brothers then completed kitchen block, two work rooms and laundry and punishment cell range. Contracts will soon be let for hospital, female warders quarters, workroom, matrons cottage and levelling of ground and preparation of garden beds.\(^6\)

Female cell ranges have semi-circular bathrooms at the end. No dark cells in the gaol. Punishment block divided into two section with eight cells in each. Quarters for female warders not been built but planned to go in south-east angle of the wall, as a two storeyed building for 18, with dining rooms, bathrooms, toilets and sitting room. Exercise yards between blocks will be

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\(^1\) PWD, Annual Rep, 1906, p. 77  
\(^2\) Australian Star, 30 Oct 1906 in Department of Corrective Services, Press cuttings books, A. O. 2/2131, p. 2  
\(^3\) PWD, Annual Rep, 1907, p. 79  
\(^4\) SMH, 30 March 1907  
\(^5\) PWD, Annual Rep, 1908, p. 53  
\(^6\) Evening News, 18 Jan 1908, p. 3
divided by a 10 to 12 feet high concrete wall with open drill room staffed by warders at end where they can survey whole yard.¹

January 1908

Baldwin Brothers were completing part of the male penitentiary including the entrance block, one cell range, the workshop, and governor's residence.²

Plans to enclose large area of land for cultivation by prisoners. Over 1000 pine trees have already been planted at 10 to 15 feet intervals on this ground.³

1908-9

State Reformatory for Females almost complete and ready for occupation. Buildings described as brick with stone dressings and roofed with iron. Reformatory occupies almost four acres, with four ranges of cells each holding 72 inmates in single cells as well as a cell range for "diseased prisoners", two sewing rooms, kitchens, wash house, workshop, hospital block, warder's quarters and entrance. All radiate from central area. Exercise yards between the cell blocks, with shelter shed in the centre of complex surrounded by garden beds. Cell ranges have two floors and corridor 14 feet 6 in wide along the length of the building, with a gallery, 4 feet in width all round first floor. Cells are ranged along corridor, measuring 13 feet by 7 feet and 10 feet 6 in high. Galleries and staircases of steel. Bathrooms at end of corridors, with hot and cold water. Cell ranges floored with concrete, with asphalt and timber elsewhere. Each cell has window to outside, electric light and bell. Grounds have beds for flower and vegetable production. Wall 18 feet high surrounds complex. Entrance block is built of "handsome design" and holds guard room, visitors' rooms, admission rooms and bath rooms, clothes store, fumigating room and rooms for warders. All buildings are lit by electricity and hot water and steam heating are supplied. City water is used and sewerage is disposed of in septic tanks.

Beyond the walls are Governor's and Matron's Quarters, and four warders' cottages. Prisoners brought by newly established tram running along new roadway.⁴

25 August 1909

Official opening. Each inmate will have own cell with electric light. Cost to date was about £110,000 with £40,000 spent on day labour. The main contractors were W. J. Henley, Baldwin Brothers and Howie Brothers.⁵

1909

State Reformatory for Women described as four large halls of 60 to 72 rooms with "ample bathing accommodation". Complex includes workrooms, lock hospital [for those with venereal disease], normal hospital. Exercise yards arranged on basis of "scientific grading".⁶

¹ Evening News, 18 Jan 1908 p. 3
² Evening News, 18 Jan 1908, p. 3
³ Evening News, 18 Jan 1908, p. 3
⁴ PWD, Annual Rep, 1909, p. 37
⁵ Daily Telegraph, 25 Aug 1909, p. 11
⁶ Prisons, Annual Rep, 1909, p. 6
Hall A has 60 cells, and B, C, and D Halls each have 72. A hall has bath and toilets on each landing whilst others have "elaborate bathing accommodation". Two large well-ventilated workrooms. Entrance block has reception area where inmates washed and supplied with clean clothes before admission. Also cooking and dining rooms for warders there, visiting rooms. Outside walls are church, laundry, and general hospital. Each inmate occupies separate room. 1

1909-10

Completion of Long Bay Penitentiary at cost of £56,325. Also of cottage for electrician at cost of £498. Contractors, Howie Brothers completed Penitentiary for Males. Their work comprised 5 cell ranges, a power house for electricity, laundry, hospital, kitchen block, bathrooms, staff offices and stores. The workshop block, yards, entrance block and perimeter walls, and parts of workshop with one cell range were completed before Howie Brothers took the contract. Complex will house 350 prisoners. 2

1910

Garden formed at State Reformatory for Women from sandy soil, using manure donated by City Council. "The whole of the spare portion has been tastefully laid out in grass and vegetable plots." 3

6 May 1910

Public Service Board reports on problems with electric fittings at female prison. A very technical report. Difficulties are mainly assigned to the manner in which wiring was fitted to lights, but it notes that the problems were no less than could be expected in a project of this magnitude. 4

1911

Plan of Septic tank system in State Penitentiary included in PWD Annual Report. 5

1911

External walls painted to reduce dampness in wet weather. A laundry added for female warders. Roadway from entrance to kitchen metalled and tar-paved to allow vehicles to drive into prison. 6

1911-2

Day labour contract to build observation cell range at Penitentiary costing £5,700 and painting costing £780. 7 Also £971 for shelter shed and laundry in Female Prison. 8

1 Prisons, Annual Rep, 1909, p. 13
2 PWD, Annual Rep, 1910, p. 28, 32
3 Prisons, Annual Rep, 1910, p. 13
4 Public Service Board, Special Bundles, Investigation into Alleged Unsatisfactory Condition of the Electric Installation at the Female Prison, Long Bay, 1910-1, A. O. 8/422
5 PWD, Annual Rep, 1911, p. 28
6 Prisons, Annual Rep, 1911, p. 30-1
7 PWD, Annual Rep, 1912, p. 36
8 PWD, Annual Rep, 1912, p. 37
In women's prison iron grilles were put on hospital windows. Glass windows placed in front of the matron's and gate-keeper's quarters. Visitors from overseas with prison experience highly impressed with the institution and its management.¹

1912-3

Observation cell range at Male Penitentiary complete at cost of £5,700. Also work on Photo studio and Debtor's Prison in male Penitentiary for £2,100.²

31 May 1914

Movement of first batch of male prisoners from Darlinghurst to Long Bay.³

1 June 1914

State Penitentiary proclaimed and first batch of 32 prisoners sent to prepare the prison for rest of inmates.⁴

18 June 1914

A total of 34 male inebriates were moved to Inebriate's Institution at State Penitentiary from Darlinghurst, where they worked at scrub clearing and other gardening work.⁵

13 July 1914

All prisoners, stores, etc been moved from Darlinghurst to Long Bay⁶

14 July 1914

Darlinghurst Gaol closed after last batch of inmates moved to Long Bay.⁷

15 September 1914

A brick enclosure wall 7 feet high begun.⁸

1914

State Penitentiary has 6 cell ranges with 386 cells, a venereal disease hospital, general hospital, debtor's prison, workshop, observation ward, kitchen, laundry, bathrooms. Yards for each cell range plus 10 special yards. Vegetable garden in side walls, and grounds beyond walls been cleared of scrub and tees planted, lagoons formed and a brick wall is being built.⁹

¹ Prisons, Annual Rep, 1912, pp. 23-5
² PWD, Annual Rep, 1913, p. 30, 32
³ Evening News, 1 June 1914
⁴ Prisons, Annual Rep, 1914, p. 2
⁵ Prisons, Annual Rep, 1914, p. 80
⁶ Prisons, Annual Rep, 1914, p. 2
⁷ SMH, 15 July 1914
⁸ Prisons, Annual Rep, 1914, p. 21
⁹ Prisons, Annual Rep, 1914, p. 2-3
Main employment of prisoners after arrival was scrub clearing of an area of 130 acres. Artificial ponds formed with stone buttressed banks to hold storm water.

Finger Print Identification Bureau fully operational at Long Bay. Slips stores in special cabinets of colonial maple made by prison labour.

At Parramatta Gaol, 36 iron grilles were made for the windows of the kitchen, store, reception room, yard and external windows of quarters in gate of State Penitentiary and installed there by Penitentiary inmates.

4 March 1915
Bread baking commenced at State Penitentiary.

30 June 1915
Wall utilising "white sandstone bricks" around 80 acres completed.

August 1915
Gale toppled chimney at kitchen wrecking part of the roof.

23 June 1915
Cottage at entrance of prison started using prison labour and completed 1 November 1915. Built of sand lime bricks from Botany State Brickworks, with tile roof, 3 rooms, kitchen, bathroom and out houses, with 2 verandahs. Fence enclosing the gate house is a white brick piers, 14 inches tall with cement caps and dwarf brick wall supporting 20 scrollwork iron panels and two wicket gates. Ironwork produced at Parramatta gaol.

1 November 1915
Cottage at entrance of prison completed

1915
Baker's oven built in kitchen of Penitentiary early 1915. A shed to house livestock being built well away from prison, utilising stone rubble. Four ponds now complete and fifth has been started. Two are oval measuring 115 by 72 feet and the other 112 by 68 feet and the other two circular measuring 76 feet and the other 60 feet. Each have a small island for birds in the centre. Thirty acres have been enclosed with rabbit proof netting and sown with grass seeds for grazing.

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1 Prisons, Annual Rep, 1914, p. 21
2 Prisons, Annual Rep, 1914, p. 56
3 Prisons, Annual Rep, 1914, p. 23-4
4 Prisons, Annual Rep, 1914, p. 56
5 Prisons, Annual Rep, 1915, p. 14
6 Prisons, Annual Rep, 1915, p. 6-7
7 Prisons, Annual Rep, 1915, p. 14
8 Prisons, Annual Rep, 1915, p. 14
9 Prisons, Annual Rep, 1915, p. 14
Wire netting has been used to enclose exercise yard of State Penitentiary and the Observation ward.¹

"A broad roadway is being constructed round the reserve on inner side of wall ballasted with stones obtained from quarrying operations for building stone."²

1915-6

Bakery at Long Bay operating and produced £2,628 worth of bread.³

Road inside boundary of State Penitentiary finished. Road completed by PWD only to gates of Female Reformatory extended by another 120 yards. Various other road works including along the tramway. Planting of palms along the roadway from Lodge gates to front of Penitentiary.⁴

Electric light installed in nine warders' cottages in Austral Street. A waiting shed formerly at Darlinghurst gaol re-erected at Reformatory gates. A 10 ton Avery weighbridge installed at Penitentiary gates.

16 November 1915

First stone laid on Church

Church to be located between both gaols. To measure 82 feet by 34 feet, with gallery, two vestries and seating for 600. To be entered from both gaols. Males to be seated on ground floor whilst females would be seated in the gallery, both out of view of the other. Work being completed with prison labour.

Late 1915

Work on church stopped due to lack of finance.

1916-7

Road from Penitentiary to quarry completed. Grounds at Lodge entrance been sown with grass which is coming on well. South-eastern area has been drained by open drains of stone rubble.⁵

April 1916

Work on church started again

October 1916

Work on church stopped

June 1917

Timber framing for roof of church and window and door joinery were being made.

1917-8

¹ Prisons, Annual Rep, 1915, p. 14
² Prisons, Annual Rep, 1915, p. 53
³ Prisons, Annual Rep, 1916, p. 8
⁴ Prisons, Annual Rep, 1916, p. 18
⁵ Prisons, Annual Rep, 1917, p. 16
Mat-making industry transferred to State Penitentiary with all machinery after closure of Parramatta Gaol.\(^1\)

Closure of septic tank after prison connected to main sewerage.

Protective wall on eastern boundary between male and female prison being built 16 feet high and 180 feet long with large entrance gate. Road put down centre of administrative section between gaols and garden beds added. Shelter shed erected for wet weather. Area to be used for light work for the women.\(^2\)

Shelter shed from Parramatta gaol re-erected as store near stables.\(^3\)

14 August 1918.

Church complete and officially opened. All joinery made at carpenter's shop in prison. Male prisoners from State Penitentiary enter it by covered way with glass sashes at its side. Decorations carried out by an artistically trained prisoner.

1918-9

PWD spent £2,770 on material for chapel at Penitentiary.\(^4\)

After enclosure wall built last year, alterations were needed to back tower of Penitentiary. Further decorations and a marble altar added to chapel.\(^5\)

September 1919

Prisoners begin making ash concrete blocks for Daceyville housing scheme.\(^6\)

1919-20

Sum of £54112/- spent on contract work on "sanitary arrangements" and warders quarters.\(^7\)

Increased number of prisoners and work, so wall dividing mat makers from carpenters shops removed. Dye vat for mat making moved into mat-making shop. Photo and finger print bureau altered so that records which had originally been stored in piles now better stored.\(^8\)

8 October 1919

Question in Parliament about warders' accommodation at Long Bay reveals that there are 11 warders' cottages for married men let at £26 per annum, associated with the State Penitentiary, as well as accommodation for 17

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\(^1\) Prisons, *Annual Rep*, 1918, p. 15

\(^2\) Prisons, *Annual Rep*, 1918, pp. 15-6

\(^3\) Prisons, *Annual Rep*, 1918, p. 16

\(^4\) PWD, *Annual Rep*, 1919, p. 61


\(^7\) PWD, *Annual Rep*, 1920, p. 70

\(^8\) Prisons, *Annual Rep*, 1920, p. 11
warders in the gaol at £6 per annum and accommodation for 18 female warders let at £12 p. a. in the State Reformatory for Women.¹

May 1920

Alterations to Photo and Records Bureau including removal of wall, erection of shelving and new roofing for better storage of records and negatives. To cost about £42. Approved.²

July 1920

Chief Clerk's Room is also the same room used by first offenders to see legal representatives. A new room is to be built adjacent for visits by solicitors to offenders and Clerk will occupy former room. New room will be 12 feet by 8 ft 9 in and will be built by prison labour with materials costing £58/10/8. Minuted that work to be put in hand.³

1920-1

Sum of £777 spent on new guttering.⁴

1921-2

Expansion of bread baking in prisons. State Penitentiary expanded to three ovens. Large garage built for lorries and boiler-house to provide steam for both prisons also commenced.⁵

1921-2

Sum of £822 spent on new guttering.⁶

1923-4

Building to house motor lorries, horse and cattle started at front of gaol but roof could not be completed due to lack of funds.

Last April (1924?) two new bread ovens commenced operations.

Motor mechanic shop been most successful and saves on maintenance of vehicles.⁷

1926

New boiler house built by inmates completed and boilers installed. Replaces separate boilers.⁸

¹ Department of Corrective Services, Press cuttings from Parliamentary Papers and Debates, 1881-1939, A. O. 2/2139, p. 155
² Letter 20/3682 in Department of Corrective Services, Long Bay, Correspondence Received, 1920-2, A. O.3/3209.1,
³ Letter 20/8036 in Department of Corrective Services, Long Bay, Correspondence Received, 1920-2, A. O.3/3209.1,
⁴ PWD, Annual Rep, 1921, p. 48
⁵ Prisons, Annual Rep, 1922, p. 4
⁶ PWD, Annual Rep, 1922, p. 45
⁷ Prisons, Annual Rep, 1924, p. 7
⁸ Prisons, Annual Rep, 1926, p. 12
1925-6
Sum of £1018/11/8 spent on renewal of eaves guttering in female prison and £958 on construction of a chimney stack.¹

1926-7
Erection of warder's cottage for £1,055, and water service installation for £811/14/-²

Sept 1929
Aerial photo shows detail of many buildings in the complex.³

1932-3
Sum of £1,415/7/3 spent on maintenance and general repairs at Long Bay.⁴

1933-5
Efforts of Prisoners' Aid Association with women inmates has seen moves to build separate buildings for female prisoners showing signs of reform.⁵

May 1934
Press reports quote Prisons Dept Annual Reports that there will soon be overcrowding at Long Bay.⁶

9 September 1936
Next month, new women's section will open at Long Bay for first offenders. It will enable them to learn "tidiness and order". Work cost £2,000 with most of the work completed by male prisoners. Roofs of cottages will be of corrugated fibro cement, to guard against corrosive effects of salt air.⁷

20 October 1936
Valuer-General's valuation of State Penitentiary and State Reformatory describes it as 11 cell blocks, 1 cottage block, 12 residences, 2 quarters, 2 hospital blocks, 1 workshop block, 1 kitchen block, all of brick. Area 110 acres 2 roods, Improved capital value £200,000. Capital cost (from PWD) £263,168. Also 9 cottages, ICV, £5225.⁸

¹ PWD, Annual Rep, 1926, p. 42-3
² PWD, Annual Rep, 1927, p. 50-1
³ Department of Corrective Services, Press cuttings books, A. O. 2/2136 1924-33 p. 137
⁴ PWD, Annual Rep, 1933, n. p.
⁵ Prisons, Annual Rep, 1933-5, p. 3
⁶ Department of Corrective Services, Press cuttings books, A. O. 2/2136 1924-33 p. 137
⁷ Sun, 9 Sept 1935, in Department of Corrective Services, Press cuttings books, A. O. 2/2137 1934-39, p. 81
⁸ Department of Corrective Services, Assets Register, 1939-51, A. O. 19/9840, p. 79
3 December 1936

Official opening of range of separate buildings to house women showing signs of reform.¹

1943-4

Work costing £3,800 expended on additions to bakery.²

Need to provide more appropriate accommodation for prisoners awaiting trial at Long Bay. Need to build new prison.³

25 October 1943

Considerable increase in number of women in Long Bay due to the increased demand for sex during war.⁴

1945-6

Work costing £20,000 on accommodations for trial and remand prisoners and on new bakery.⁵

1948-9

Works on new bakery cost £30,000 to date.⁶

1949-50

Full time dentist appointed to Department and construction of a dwelling for the resident medical officers started at Long Bay.⁷

New modern bakery completed at Long Bay.⁸

10 May 1950

Newly formed Classification Committee met for the first time.⁹

1950-1

Works on new bakery cost £30,445 to date.¹⁰

¹ Prisons, Annual Rep, 1936-7, p. 3
² PWD, Annual Rep, 1944, p. 22
⁴ Sun, 25 October 1943
⁵ PWD, Annual Rep, 1946, p. 27
⁶ PWD, Annual Rep, 1949, p. 38
⁷ Prisons, Annual Rep, 1949-50, p. 12
⁸ Prisons, Annual Rep, 1949-50, p. 13
⁹ Prisons, Annual Rep, 1949-50, p. 3
¹⁰ PWD, Annual Rep, 1951, p. 42
1951-2

Works on new bakery cost £36,780 to date. Additionally, another £5,000 of an estimated £10,000 was spent on building an "allocation centre" and £4,000 of an estimated £17,855 on new sanitation.¹

1952

Temporary huts in the "Extension" and C and D Halls in the Women's Reformatory were used to house overflow from Male Penitentiary which allows 545 single cells.²

Administrative buildings for the Classification Committee were started in 1952 and completed in early 1953, including offices, testing room, and lecture room.³

1952-3

Since 1947 all new cells had sewerage, and a programme of adding these facilities to older cells began with one block in the Woman's Prison, apparently A Block.⁴

Construction of a new workroom and accommodation for mental criminals began using prison labour.⁵

1954-5

Amenities block built for warders at State Penitentiary.⁶

A scheme to build a new women's prison on the site planned.⁷

A minimum security prison to house prisoners convicted of failing to comply with maintenance orders also planned.⁸

May 1957

Work begins upon new cell block at State Penitentiary.⁹

1957-8

Work estimated to cost £800,000 commenced on new buildings at Long Bay. Working drawings were also prepared for additional female accommodation costing £200,00.¹⁰

¹ PWD, Annual Rep. 1952, p. 35
² Prisons, Annual Rep, 1952, p. 8
³ Prisons, Annual Rep, 1952, p. 8
⁴ Prisons, Annual Rep, 1952-3, p. 7, 14
⁵ Prisons, Annual Rep, 1952-3, p. 14
⁷ Prisons, Annual Rep, 1954, 1955, p. 16
⁸ Prisons, Annual Rep, 1954, 1955, p. 16
¹⁰ PWD, Annual Rep, 1958, p. 6-7
1958

New prison at State Penitentiary planned to have five cell blocks, sick bay, officers quarters and block for work.¹

Two further stages were planned. First was block for unconvicted inmates whilst second was the erection of a new medium security block.²

1958-9

Works at Long Bay still in progress.³

December 1959

Works at State Penitentiary include two cell blocks completed with two other cell blocks, a general block and sick bay and staff quarters under construction.⁴

1959-60

Sketches prepared for a dormitory block at State Penitentiary to cost £425,000 whilst earlier works costing £800,000 still in progress.⁵

31 December 1960

Women's Prison to house 220 inmates under way with kitchen, laundry, sick bay etc being built by male prisoners.⁶

Work on prison for unconvicted inmates only just started late 1960.⁷

November 1962

New buildings for the State Reformatory for Women opened to house 220.⁸

December 1962

Prison for unconvicted males still under way.⁹

1963-4

Total of 24 additional staff cottages built at Long Bay. Running water and sewerage connected to four cell blocks at State Penitentiary. Plans also prepared for new boiler house, motor garage, hospital block and new Entrance and Reception Block.¹⁰

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¹ Prisons, Annual Rep, 1958, p. 4
² Prisons, Annual Rep, 1958, p. 6
³ PWD, Annual Rep, 1959, p. 53
⁴ Prisons, Annual Rep, 1959, p. 5
⁵ PWD, Annual Rep, 1960, p. 9, 52
⁶ Prisons, Annual Rep, 1960, p. 6
⁷ Prisons, Annual Rep, 1960, p. 6
⁸ Prisons, Annual Rep, 1962, p. 9
⁹ Prisons, Annual Rep, 1962, p. 10
¹⁰ Prisons, Annual Rep, 1963-4, p. 4
1965-6

Work continued on new prison for unconvicted prisoners. Work commenced on new garage and workshop, installation of sewerage works and hand basins in most cells continued, reconstruction work of medical clinic, construction of new towers on outer perimeter.¹

20 October 1967

Metropolitan Remand Centre opened by premier, R. W. Askin. Accommodates 224 prisoners, and is the first centre making separate provision for unconvicted persons in Australia. Mainly completed by prison labour under PWD guidance.²

1967-8

Work costing $87,300 on new boiler house.³

Hot water installation nearing completion and hoped to be finished March 1969. New medical clinic established with lock hospital, X-ray centre, operating theatre, dental clinic, kitchen, physiotherapy rooms, interview room and dispensary. Internal telephone system installed.⁴

1968-9

Plans of new maximum security block [Katingal] with single cells for 40 prisoners well advanced. To have two exercise yards open to sky, with automatic doors and advanced security.⁵

5 May 1970

New officer's amenities and dining area opened. Provides staff with cafeteria style facilities.⁶

1969-70

Bookbinding section of the Central Industrial Prison moved into larger workshop with new machinery built in former medical clinic.⁷

Other works include relocation of weighbridge, steel supports for wings 1, 2, 5 and 6, new security yards, new electrical mains, construction of a mini-golf course, a traffic gate through the main security wall.⁸

1970-1

New access road and inquiry office at main entrance to Long Bay. The administration block was modified for a training school.⁹

¹ Prisons, Annual Rep, 1965-6, p. 10-1
² Prisons, Annual Rep, 1967-8, p. 7
³ PWD, Annual Rep, 1968, p. 57
⁴ Prisons, Annual Rep, 1967-8, p. 6
⁵ PWD, Annual Rep, 1969, p. 48
⁶ Prisons, Annual Rep, 1969-70, p. 11
⁷ Prisons, Annual Rep, 1969-70, p. 22, 34
⁸ Prisons, Annual Rep, 1969-70, p. 34
Three rooms in former hospital in Reception Prison converted into library. Construction of three additional towers began to cover farm area and Central Industrial Prison. Additional bathrooms built at workshop areas. Steel meshing installed between the upper and lower floors in the cell blocks. Printers’ shop extended. The first stage of the Officers’ Training School completed.¹

1971-2

New kitchen complete at cost of $770,000 plus a new control centre and access road built by prison labour at cost of $29,000. Prisoners building the new visiting block in the Central Industrial Prison to cost $130,000, workshops and stores to cost $85,000 and electricity sub-station to cost $52,000, and officers training school for $20,000, whilst the maximum security block was being built by contract for $1,010,000.²

Construction of new visiting facilities, a workshop and store for maintenance workers begun. An electrical sub-station built by prison labour almost complete. The new security barrier, entrance and inquiry office were judged to be providing better security. Single officers quarters for 19 officers were almost complete.³

23 August 1972

Construction of Katingal commenced.⁴

1972-3

Foundations commenced for a new bakery. Visiting facilities had been completed to second floor level and the second stage of the Staff Training College was well advanced.⁵

1973-4

New sanitary facilities were estimated to cost $80,000. The second stage of the Officers Training School was being built at a cost of $44,000. The maximum security wing was still under construction.⁶

Projects completed included laundry extensions, dispensary in the Reception Prisons and a new maintenance store.⁷

19 April 1974

Corrective Services Advisory Council wrote to department expressing concern about “S” Block [Katingal], especially lack of visual access to outside, the lack of any non-departmental representative on the Management Committee for the Block, that medical advice be sought about the possible effects of the block on inmates, and the need to research inmates chosen for the Block in detail.⁸

1974-5

¹ Prisons, Annual Rep, 1970-1, p. 31-2
² PWD, Annual Rep, 1972, p. 38
³ Prisons, Annual Rep, 1971-2, p. 30
⁴ J. F. Nagle, Royal Commission into New South Wales Prisons, p. 125
⁵ Prisons, Annual Rep, 1972-3, p. 40
⁶ PWD, Annual Rep, 1974, p. 108
⁷ Prisons, Annual Rep, 1973-4, p. 40
⁸ J. F. Nagle, Royal Commission into New South Wales Prisons, p. 125-6
Working drawings prepared for additional storage in State Penitentiary. Tenders called for single officers' quarters and additions to staff dining room at State Penitentiary estimated to cost $308,000, and for new staff housing as a Housing Commission job estimated to cost $335,000.¹

1977-8

Completion of single offices' quarters and laundry boiler house.²

25 December 1978

Riot by prisoners at Central Industrial Prison in which workshops burned down.³

1978

Nagle Commission strongly recommended closure of Katingal.⁴

Nagle Commission also highly critical of Observation Unit at Long Bay, originally designed to house prisoners for psychiatric observation.⁵

1979-80

Wing 11 in Metropolitan Reception Prison converted at cost of $406,532 into a centre to care for emotionally disturbed prisoners.⁶

1980-1

PABX telephone system at Long Bay replaced at cost of $230,000. Security towers provided with air conditioning. Officers facilities and inmates recreational facilities improved. General security improvements undertaken at all prisons. At Long Bay, high voltage electricity mains were relocated and flammable liquids storage also improved.⁷

1981

No 11 Wing in former State Reformatory for Women became the Special Care Unit complete with own governor.⁸

1981-2

Work began on a new sports field for maximum security area.⁹

¹ PWD, Annual Rep, 1975, p. 117-8
² Prisons, Annual Rep, 1977-8, p. 18
³ Tony Vinson, Wilful Obstruction - The frustration of prison reform, North Ryde, 1982, pp. 142-6, Photo opp p. 112
⁴ J. F. Nagle, Royal Commission into New South Wales Prisons, p. 134
⁵ J. F. Nagle, Royal Commission into New South Wales Prisons, p. 273-5
⁶ Prisons, Annual Rep, 1979-80, p. 19
⁷ Prisons, Annual Rep, 1980-1, p. 43
⁸ Duplicated notes including "Brief History" handed out on site visit, 3 February 1995.
⁹ Prisons, Annual Rep, 1981-2, p. 40
July 1982

Demolition of old Observation section of gaol. Building of a new Observation section to house 25 inmates commenced including clinic, workshops, outdoor areas, dining room, quiet room.¹

Continuation of new security fence to allow completion of a new football field and tennis courts.²

1984

Basic work commenced for new hospital for completion in 1986-7 at cost of $15,000,000. Perimeter wall to secure new sports area almost complete.³

1985

Malabar Assessment Unit (AIDS) opened in former State Reformatory for Women to house HIV positive and AIDS affected prisoners.⁴

Replacement and rebuilding of all security towers commenced. New water tower completed at cost of $293,000. A two storey extension made to machine shop costing $250,000.⁵

1985-6

Secure sports field completed with two security towers, walls, amenities building playing field and tennis courts at cost of $1,340,000. Programme of rebuilding towers expected to be completed in June 1987.⁶

1986-7

Completion of tower rebuilding. Completion of a new administration building, new entrance, MRC Guardhouse.⁷

September 1987

New administration building occupied.⁸

December 1987

Construction of a new Special Purpose Prison commenced to be completed December 1988.⁹

1987

Hospital completed at cost of $13,412,000.¹⁰

¹ Prisons, Annual Rep, 1983, p. 16-7
² Prisons, Annual Rep, 1983, p. 16
³ Prisons, Annual Rep, 1984, p. 12
⁴ Duplicated notes including "Brief History" handed out on site visit, 3 February 1995.
⁵ Prisons, Annual Rep, 1985, p. 12
⁶ Prisons, Annual Rep, 1985-6, p. 30
⁷ Prisons, Annual Rep, 1986-7, p. 32
⁸ Prisons, Annual Rep, 1987-8, p. 84
⁹ Prisons, Annual Rep, 1987-8, p. 84
¹⁰ Prisons, Annual Rep, 1986-7, p. 32
1987

Hospital in former State Reformatory for Women closed down, as did the Malabar Assessment Unit (AIDS).¹

March 1989

Special Purpose Prison completed and occupied at cost of $16,500,000.²

1989-90

Re-construction of cat walks commenced.

A new industries building planned at cost of $4,382,000.³

1990

The former Women's Prison changed its name from Metropolitan Reception Prison to Assessment Prison, although its functions were not altered.⁴

1991

Industrial Complex opened, housing five industries run privately and its name was altered to Industrial Centre.⁵

March 1991

New Industries building completed at cost of approximately $4,500,000.⁶

1991-2

Work on building additional 90 rooms in Periodic Detention Centre under way.⁷

1991-2

Construction of the Metropolitan Remand and Reception Centre approved to provide 900 cells at an estimated cost of $75,000,000 to be built at Silverwater.⁸

1992

Special Care Unit renamed the Special Care Correctional Centre and was expanded to occupy two new areas named Crisis Support Unit and the Life Skills Unit.⁹

¹ Duplicated notes including "Brief History" handed out on site visit, 3 February 1995.
² Prisons, Annual Rep, 1988-9, p. 88
³ Prisons, Annual Rep, 1989-90, p. 95
⁴ Duplicated notes including "Brief History" handed out on site visit, 3 February 1995.
⁵ Duplicated notes including "Brief History" handed out on site visit, 3 February 1995.
⁶ Prisons, Annual Rep, 1990-1, p. 54
⁷ Prisons, Annual Rep, 1990-1, p. 55
⁸ Prisons, Annual Rep, 1991-2, p. 22 (Statistical and Information Supplement)
⁹ Duplicated notes including "Brief History" handed out on site visit, 3 February 1995.
18 June 1993

The Reception Centre and Industrial Centre were combined and renamed Reception and Industrial Centre and provided reception and classification, vocational training and work.\(^1\)

12 August 1994

A wholesale re-arrangement was undertaken with prisoners moved into different areas and areas re-named.\(^2\)

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\(^1\) Duplicated notes including "Brief History" handed out on site visit, 3 February 1995.

\(^2\) Duplicated notes including "Brief History" handed out on site visit, 3 February 1995.
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Female Reformatory, 1909
This plan showed the prison layout when it opened.
Source: PWD, Annual Report, 1909
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A plan of the proposed chapel
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This plan shows the proposed layout for the State Penitentiary. By the time it was built, alterations to this layout included abolition of garden beds and the replacement of the boiler house by the Observation Wing.

Source: A. O. Plan 1857
This plan shows the proposed layout for the State Penitentiary. By the time it was built, alterations to this layout included abolition of garden beds and the replacement of the boiler house by the Observation Wing.

Source: A. O. Plan 1857
This plan shows the proposed sites for various buildings. A number of changes had occurred by 1919 when the complex was largely complete.

Source: A. O. Plan 1903