

Christine Gwyn

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7<sup>th</sup> July.

I object to the Powerhouse Parramatta project which is planned to be built in Phillip Street Parramatta for the following reasons.

The Statement of Heritage impact states the Archaeological Management Unit situated at Phillip Street has HIGH archaeological research potential and considered of State Significance.

This area was part of the early township (1788-1789) and associated with early convict occupation.

My 7<sup>th</sup> generation grandfather, George Colless came to Parramatta as a convict in 1798 on the "Bardwell". He was sent to Parramatta to work on the early farms to grow food for Colony. His wife, my 7<sup>th</sup> generation grandmother arrived as a female convict in 1804 on the "Experiment" and was sent to Parramatta to the Female Factory to work. Then presumably became a "wife" for George Colless, to help grow food for the emerging colony.

Even though the historical record of English settlements in Australia is quite short, it does not mean that it should be destroyed, built over or removed from our historical environment.

My convict ancestors earned tickets of leave and subsequently pardoned and awarded a land grant at Castlereagh. They became well respected and valued within their community.

The destruction of "Willow Grove" and the "St George's Terraces" are rare examples of Victorian architecture. There are no other examples within Parramatta like these, so once destroyed, they are gone forever!

Parramatta's heritage belong to all Australians and therefore must be protected and preserved as the rare the examples of Victorian architecture, that they are. They are a part of everyone's history, now and for the future. Too many heritage buildings have been destroyed in the name of progress?? OUR sense of place in history is as important as it is to those who lived here before us.

Many of our early settlers were convicts and their blood, sweat and tears built Parramatta and contributed to the prosperity of an emerging nation.

Once "Willow Grove" and "St. George's Terrace" have gone, they disappear from our collective memories for ever.

Christine Gwyn.