

From the stables, if you look up the hill to the far end of the paddock, you can see a brick building with accompanying brick outhouse. This is the lock-up constructed in 1907 to replace the 1865 gaol.

Entrance to the male section is facing you; entry to the female section is at the far end facing the fence. This was originally in the back yard of the Police House, which faces Duke Street, (now private property). The old Town Police Station (weather board building; no access) is next to it. For safety reasons this building can only be viewed from the outside.

Back at the Gaol an uneven path around the rear of the building will bring you to a large shed filled with agricultural items from the past. Care should be taken traversing this path.

Next to the Gaol, you will find a place to rest and toilet facilities. We hope you enjoy your visit. If so please tell others.

THE LOCK-UPS AND GAOLS OF OLD TOODYAY AND NEWCASTLE

In the early days of settlement (1832) the Military and the Resident Magistrate were stationed at York. 'Crimes' at this time were mostly stealing of livestock. 'Retaliation' was often described as 'tit for tat'.

In June 1840, Governor Hutt created a special police force, known as the Native Police, to deal with native offenders, as distinct from the civil police, which dealt with 'white' settlers.

John Drummond became friendly with the Aboriginal people and with his Aboriginal troopers made regular patrols around the district.

THE OLD TOODYAY BARRACKS

Samuel Pole Phillips was appointed as the local Justice of the Peace, to support the work of the Resident Magistrate.

In 1842 Governor Hutt ordered a substantial Police Barracks and Stables to be built at the original Toodyay Township, today known as West Toodyay. This was the first Government building for the town, built by William Criddle.

THE OLD TOODYAY LOCK-UP

In June 1851, the convict ship Pyrenees arrived, which forced Governor Fitzgerald to establish hiring depots in country areas.

For the Toodyay Valley, Michael Clarkson became the Superintendent of the Toodyay Convict Hiring Depot. The first group of convicts to arrive in old Toodyay, spent a night in the Toodyay Barracks before crossing the ford to the opposite bank to the first temporary Hiring Depot site (a cottage on 10 acres), half a mile away. The following year, the Depot was moved about two miles upstream to a 45 1/4 acre site where a larger permanent Convict Hiring Depot was established, and where the existing town of Toodyay now stands.

In 1852 the first lock-up was constructed at old Toodyay, to be used for all prisoners awaiting trial in Perth, whether Aboriginals, convicts or free settlers. The building consisted of 13 small windowless cells and a large assembly room.

The main offences among white settlers related to drunkenness.

By 1854, Toodyay had a Mounted Police Force under Constable Gee and a Native Police Force under Constable James Betts, as well as the Pensioner Guards whose main role was to guard the convicts and protect the settlers.

Pensioner Guards were ex-military who had been offered land as an incentive to come to the Colony. They also acted as a special Police Force for emergencies. The Pensioner Guards initially resided in the old Toodyay Township but after a few months moved to the Depot site where they were allocated small land grants.

In 1860 the area around the Depot site was surveyed and named Newcastle. It retained this name until 1910 when it reverted to Toodyay due to confusion with the New South Wales town.

THE NEWCASTLE GAOL

Old Toodyay began to decline due to regular flooding, and many preferred to relocate to the settlement growing around Newcastle Town.

The Mounted Police moved into the Commissariat stables there around 1861. The Sergeant of Police, two Constables and the Lock-up Keeper were given cottages. One of the rooms was used for a Courtroom.

Resident Magistrate Durlacher suggested a site for the new Gaol between the Toodyay Townsite and the Depot. He made this suggestion on the grounds that drunks could be more easily transported from the local hotels, such as the Queen's Head Inn, to the cells.

Durlacher insisted that the new Gaol should have a Courtroom. In 1862 a small lock-up at the Depot was strengthened with fittings removed from the Toodyay Townsite Gaol.

Meanwhile, plans were being drawn up for a new Gaol by Richard Roach Jewell. Another notable building of his still standing is the Perth Town Hall.

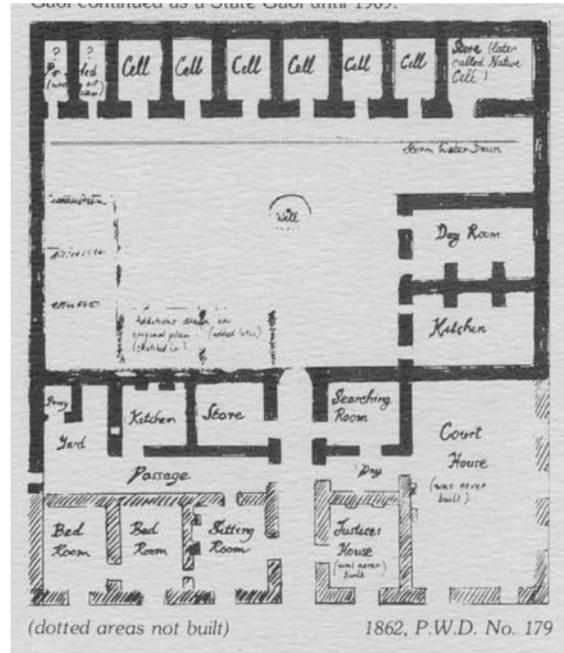
The plan for the Newcastle Gaol was Public Works Plan, P.W.D. No. 179. Timber from an old Lock-up from Bailup was utilized. Convict labour was used, although the work was supervised by a stonemason (ex-convict) who was living in the area. He complained of having unskilled workers (convicts) working with him and reported that the job was taking longer to do because of this.

Jewell's plan showed a timber lined security cell, which also has an iron bar for leg irons. This cell was probably used for prisoners who were high risk, but it may have also been used for Aboriginal prisoners who were still shackled and chained until the 1900s.

The existing Gaol is much smaller than was originally planned. Durlacher did not get his Courtroom. The proportions were planned on a square, with more living accommodation than exists at present. The Gaol was eventually finished in 1864 and operational by 1865.

On the plan the cells are numbered 1-7 as the first two areas were originally intended for storage. A large N was painted on each door, as N was the symbol for Newcastle. The Gaol continued as a State Gaol until 1907.

Revised August 2013



THE NEWCASTLE GAOL TOODYAY

WELCOME to the Newcastle Gaol. It was built in 1865 to replace two previous lock-ups at old Toodyay (now West Toodyay) and Newcastle.

The building was designed by architect Richard Roach Jewell – he was also responsible for the Pensioners' Barracks in St. George's Terrace Perth, of which only the entrance arch now stands.

A copy of the Gaol's original plan plus further interesting information is overleaf. "Kitchen" and "Day Room" are now merged into one room, now used for temporary exhibitions.

Convict labour was used in these and other projects from 1850. The convicts were guarded by "Pensioner Guards", British army veterans. The building was last used as a Gaol in the early 1900s.

The building came to be used as a private residence and from 1929 through to about 1945 the Dorizzi family lived here. The sons slept in the cells and the lavatory was one of the three cubicles dotted on the plan. The boys joined the Australian army and in 1945, three of the brothers died at the hands of their enemy captors. One cell is now dedicated to them and to all local servicemen and women who did not return home.

After World War Two, for nearly 20 years the building slowly deteriorated until a restoration program was undertaken in 1962, and the Museum begun.

Across the road are the restored Police Stables built in 1891. These replaced earlier stables on the same site. Adjacent is a relocated 100-year-old shearing shed, not currently open to the public.