

# Female Factory, Cascades

1827 – 1853

URL: <http://www.femalefactory.org.au>

## Details

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The Female Factory at Cascades opened in 1827. It was run by the Convict Department. As a place of secondary punishment for convict women, it housed the babies that they gave birth to there. The Factory closed in 1853.

The Female Factory opened in Lowes Distillery, which had been converted for that purpose.

Many of the convict women were at the Factory for being single and pregnant, in part because they could not work but also to punish their sexual behaviour. Once their babies were weaned, the women were sent to the crime class for six months. Early weaning, overcrowding, and poor hygiene led to a high infant mortality rate.

The Factory closed in 1853 following the end of transportation to Tasmania. After that the government re-used the buildings in a number of ways. These included a Boys' Reformatory, the Contagious Diseases Hospital, a Lying-in Hospital, the Home of Mercy, and a children's refuge.

In 2010, the Female Factory became a World Heritage site.

## Gallery

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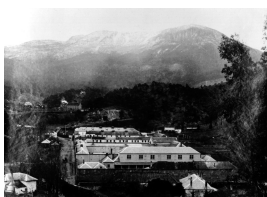
**Female Factory Cascades from the east**

**Description:** The photograph of the Female Factory Cascades, South Hobart, from the east is part of ER Pretymann's collection of photographs and glass plate negatives, 1880 - 1920



**Female Factory, Cascades from north west**

**Description:** The photograph of the Female factory, Cascades, South Hobart, from north west is part of ER Pretymann's collection of Photographs and Glass Plate Negatives, 1880 - 1920



**Female Factory, Cascades**

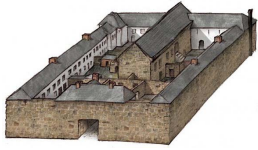
**Description:** The photograph of the Female Factory, Cascades is part of ER Pretymann's collection of Photographs and Glass Plate Negatives, 1880 - 1920

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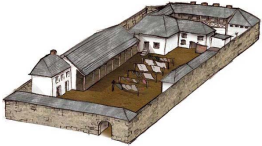
**Yard Four at the Female Factory, Cascades**

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**Yard One at the Female Factory, Cascades**

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**Yard Two at the Female Factory, Cascades**

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## More info

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### Related Entries

#### Run by

- [Convict Department \(1818 - 1877\)](#)

#### Related Organisations

- [Boys' Training School \(1884 - 1926\)](#)  
The Boys' Training School was located at the Female Factory between between 1884 and 1896.
- [Contagious Diseases Hospital \(1879 - 1900\)](#)  
The Contagious Diseases Hospital was located at the former Female Factory, Cascades.
- [Cascades House of Correction \(1856 - c. 1877\)](#)  
The Cascades House of Correction was located on the site of the former Female Factory, Cascades.
- [Home of Mercy \(1890 - c. 1953\)](#)  
The Home of Mercy was located at the Female Factory, Cascades between 1890 and 1905.
- [Lying-in Home, Cascades \(1888 - 1900\)](#)  
The Lying-in Home, Cascades was on the site of the former Female Factory, Cascades.

### Resources

- Female Convicts Research Centre, *Convict lives : women at Cascades Female Factory*, 2012
  - Frost, Lucy, *Footsteps and voices : a historical look into the Cascades Female Factory*, 2004
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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/female-factory-cascades-2/>