

Experiment Farm Cottage 9 Ruse Street, Harris Park, Parramatta NSW 2150

www.watermetermuseum.org

Experiment Farm Cottage is one of Australia's most important colonial heritage sites. It stands on the site of the **first land grant in Australia** and marks the beginning of successful European agriculture in the colony of New South Wales.

In **1789**, Governor Arthur Phillip selected convict farmer James Ruse to undertake an agricultural experiment to determine whether a settler could become self-sufficient in the new colony. Ruse was granted a small parcel of land, livestock, and supplies. His success in growing crops and supporting himself proved that farming could sustain the struggling settlement.

By **1791**, Ruse had successfully cultivated a 30-acre farm and produced the colony's first substantial wheat harvest, demonstrating that agriculture could flourish in Australia. This achievement was so important that the site became known as "Experiment Farm."

In **1793**, Ruse sold the property to colonial surgeon John Harris, one of the colony's most influential figures. Harris later constructed the cottage that survives today, generally dated to around **1834-35**, although some historians believe portions may date from the 1790s.

Today, the cottage operates as a house museum managed by the National Trust of Australia (NSW). It contains period furnishings and exhibitions telling the stories of early farming, convict life, Indigenous dispossession and resistance, and the growth of Parramatta from a penal outpost into one of Australia's oldest settlements.

In December 2025 the HWMM visited the site and located the water meter which was discretely located at the front corner of the site.



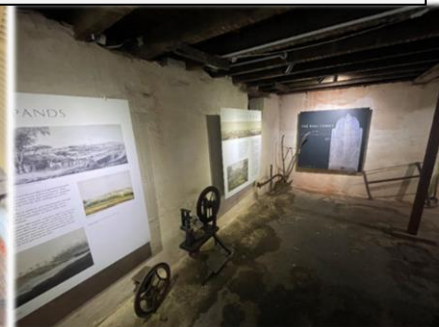


Servicing the property is an **Itron**
20mm TD8 (CT5) rotary piston PD
Water Meter.



Like most early properties, Experiment Farm relied on its own water supply, with a well fed by rainwater collected from rooftop catchments.

Descending the stairs, visitors are greeted by a comprehensive story of the property's history, tracing its development through the years.



Colour pics by A.Manu, B&W c/- Pinterest.

