

Spring House – Young Women’s Hostel

1921 – 1984

Details

Spring House was established by the Salvation Army in 1921. It was located on the corner of Spring and Lonsdale Streets, Melbourne. According to O’Hanlon, Spring House was one of a series of hostels built by the Salvation Army in state capital cities during the interwar period. Spring House closed in 1984.

O’Hanlon writes that at the official opening of Spring House in 1921, Lady Foster (wife of the Governor) spoke about the hostel:

There are far too many opportunities for evil and far too few opportunities for good, and I think it is in meeting that difficulty that ... Hostels are the greatest boon we can confer upon the young people of our cities and towns’.

Commissioner Hay of the Salvation Army also spoke, saying that Spring House was intended as a place of shelter for ‘the many unprotected girls in our midst’.

Spring House was larger than the Salvation Army’s other hostel for young women, Allenby Lodge in Hawthorn. It could accommodate up to 170 women in single, double and dormitory rooms. O’Hanlon describes the accommodation:

Each floor, bar the basement, had a bathroom and toilet. The ground floor contained a dining room and the first floor a residents’ lounge. The two upper floors also had a sewing room ... There was also a roof-top garden, where residents could sit out or play games with fellow residents (O’Hanlon, 1999, p.122).

Gallery



Spring Street West between Little Bourke Street and Lonsdale Street, Melbourne

Description: Looking across street towards double storey building, signs at roof read: The Salvation Army Young Women's Hostel / Salvation Army Social Service Centre.

More info

Related Entries

Run by

- [The Salvation Army Australia Southern Territory \(1921 - 2018\)](#)

Related Organisations

- [Allenby Lodge Young Women's Hostel \(1919 - 1984\)](#)

Resources

- Symes, Margaret, [Submission no 370 to the Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care](#), 2004
- Kirkham, John C, *Southern Soup-Soap-Salvation, a compendium of Salvation Army Social Services in the Australian Southern Territory*, 2003

Records

For more information and to access your records, follow the links below:

Records

- [Salvation Army Australia, Records of Homes in the former Southern Territory \(c. 1889 - c. 1988\)](#)

You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/spring-house-young-womens-hostel/>