

# Withnell House

1952 – 1969?

## Details

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Withnell House was located in the Perth suburb of Mount Lawley. It was a hostel run by the Salvation Army from 1952 for boys who were Wards (migrant or Australian-born) who worked in the city. Withnell House ceased to be a hostel for boys in 1969. From that time, the building became known “Withnell House Girls’ Home”; it accommodated residents and staff from transferred to Mount Lawley from the former Salvation Army Girls’ Home, Cottesloe.

Withnell House, Mt Lawley, was donated to the Salvation Army by Mrs Ellen Withnell in 1948. Some time after this, it was used by the Salvation Army Boys’ Home, Nedlands, as an annexe. In September 1952, Withnell House became the Salvation Army’s first Youth Hostel.

Withnell House closed in 1969. It is possible that any boys in residence at the hostel at time were transferred to the Hollywood Children’s Village in Nedlands. In 1969, the building became a Salvation Army home for girls (residents and staff were transferred to Mount Lawley from the Salvation Army Girls’ Home, Cottesloe). Because of this, the Mount Lawley home was sometimes called ‘Cottesloe House’. Its official name was ‘Withnell House Girls’ Home’.

## Gallery

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### The Salvation Army Youth Hostel, Withnell House

**Description:** 'The Salvation Army Youth Hostel, Withnell House' is a digital copy of a photograph that is held in the *Withnell House child home closed* lever-arch file at the Salvation Army Heritage Museum WA. The photograph is undated, but the height of the palm near the sign suggests it may have been taken after the youth hostel opened in 1952 but before later pictures dated to the 1970s.

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## More info

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### Related Entries

#### Run by

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

#### Related Organisations

- [Withnell House \(1984? - 1987?\)](#)  
Withnell House took the name from the boys' home that had been located in the same building.
- [Withnell House Girls' Home \(1969 - 1973?\)](#)  
Withnell House Girls Home (1969 - 1972?) was located in the building formerly used to house the boys' hostel,

Withnell House (1953? - 1969).

Date: 1969 - 1972?

- [Hollywood Children's Village, Salvation Army \(1965 - 1994\)](#)

Some boys who had been resident at Withnell House may have moved to the Hollywood Children's Village, Salvation Army.

Date: 1969 -

## Resources

- [Ken Pound interviewed by Gwenda Davey in the Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants oral history project](#), 29 November 2010 - 13 December 2010
- [Major returns to manage old home](#), 10 January 1968

## Other Resources

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**Title:** Withnell House

**Type:** Image

**Date:** 2005

[Details](#)

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**Title:** Withnell House History Book, cover

**Type:** Image

**Date:** 1948? - 1993?

[Details](#)

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## Records

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

### Records

- [Historical records and memorabilia of Salvation Army institutions, Southern Territory](#)
  - [Children's Homes Files, Western Australian Salvation Army Homes \(1897 - 2012\)](#)
  - [Salvation Army Australia, Records of Homes in the former Southern Territory \(c. 1889 - c. 1988\)](#)
  - [Department of Aboriginal Affairs \[predecessors\], Records \(1886 - 2004\)](#)
  - [Files - Child Welfare, State Records Office of Western Australia \(1 January 1917 - 16 June 1972\)](#)
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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/withnell-house-2/>