

# Griffiths House

1945 – 1965

**Other Names:**

- Methodist Children's Hostel
- Alice Springs Children's Hostel

## Details

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Griffiths House opened in 1945 as a hostel for children from remote areas of Central and Northern Australia who were attending school in Alice Springs. It was run by the Methodist Inland Mission and provided accommodation for between 30 and 40 children. Griffiths House closed in 1965 when St Philips College opened.

Griffiths House opened in 1945 and provided hostel accommodation for children from remote areas of Central and Northern Australia. Most children stayed at the Home while attending school in Alice Springs. The Home was named after Reverend Harry Griffiths and his wife who worked with the Methodist Inland Mission. In 1948 the Home provided accommodation for 38 children.

Griffiths House had in fact first opened as a hostel for young men and women working for the Government or other businesses in Alice Springs. In 1941 it was temporarily used as a soldiers' club. After the War, the Methodist Inland Mission made the decision to take-over and re-open the Home as a children's hostel.

In 1964, the Northern Territory Administration reported that 21 boys and 12 girls lived at Griffiths House, 7 of whom were Aboriginal.

Griffiths House ceased to operate as a boarding hostel in 1965 when St Philips College opened. One group of boarders protested the change when they attended the annual street parade known as the Bangtail Muster. Some of their placards compared Griffiths House and St Philip's College to a gaol.

The Griffiths House building was demolished in 1984.

## Gallery

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**Griffiths House**

**Description:** Edited from the description: Griffiths House was built to accommodate children attending school in Alice Springs. Opened in 1941 as a service club.



**Griffiths House - building new boys dormitory**

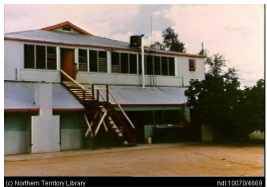
**Description:** Edited from the description: A 1940 Chevrolet truck is parked outside the new boys dormitory at Griffith House.

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### Griffiths House students protesting at Bangtail Muster

**Description:** This photograph is part of the Ben and Lily Usher Collection. The Ushers were the last managers of Griffiths House.



### Griffiths House



### Griffiths House

**Description:** The description reads: "Griffiths House which was built through the efforts of Harry Griffiths of the Methodist Inland Mission, and became a recreation facility for servicemen."



### Dining Hall

**Description:** The description reads: Dining Hall, Griffith House, opened originally as a servicemen's club in 1941.



### Building

**Description:** The description states: Boys dormitory, Griffiths House.



### Griffiths House children

**Description:** The description reads: "Griffiths House children off for picnic in old 1939 Chevrolet truck".

## More info

## Related Entries

### Run by

- [Methodist Inland Mission \(1926 - 1977\)](#)

## Resources

- [Game Helps Hostel](#), The Advertiser, 26 June 1953
- [What makes a hostel "tick": Facets of life at Griffiths House](#), Centralian Advocate, 24 August 1951
- [Eleanor Barbour's Pages for Country Women](#), The Chronicle, Adelaide, 16 May 1946

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