

LOCAL GOVERNMENT INVENTORY

PLACE REFERENCE NO.: AR13

NAME Ardross Hostel

OTHER NAME Mogumber Hostel
Hallin Court

PIN NO. (Landgate) 1485519

LAND DESCRIPTION: Lot 219 on Plan 7982 on
Certificate of Title Volume
1279 Folio 50

LOCATION: 7 Hallin Court, Ardross

CONSTRUCTION DATE: late 1960s

PLACE TYPE: Individual Building or Group

USE: Original Use Institutional Housing
Current Use Institutional Housing



HERITAGE LISTINGS: inHerit database 18575

ARCHITECT: unknown

BUILDER: unknown

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: Late Twentieth Century Perth Regional

CONDITION: Good

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

Ardross Hostel is located at the top of Hallin Court with the site dropping from the street boundary towards the rear of the block. From the street, the property presents as a single storey brick and tile dwelling with a lower ground floor area, which is partially obscured from the street. From the rear, the place presents as a two-storey property.

From the front, the house presents in a typical asymmetric plan form with projecting wing and a recessed main section of the façade with verandah wrapping around the front and side elevation. The house is of very simple design constructed from pale brick, large aluminium framed windows, angled tiled sills and terracotta tiled hipped roofs. The verandah has a concrete deck with solid balustrade, narrow steel columns and a bullnose style verandah canopy. Half the front setback is grass with plantings with the other half being a sloping driveway providing access to the rear areas.

The rear elevation presents in two sections with a dark brick lower level and pale brick upper level. Despite the contrast in brick colours, the openings and details are constant throughout with aluminium openings to most windows. As with the front elevation, the rear is also of asymmetric plan form with a projecting wing towards the south eastern corner at both levels. An open staircase leads from the garden to a small verandah and entrance to the Kitchen, with additional entrances to the laundry at ground level and a storeroom. The rear garden is predominantly grass with a raised flower bed along the southern boundary.

Internally, the place continues with the simple design presentation of the exterior. The front door opens into a hallway providing access to a number of bedrooms and bathroom along the southern side of the property with large kitchen and lounge to the northern half. A central staircase leads down to a large play room area, additional bedrooms, bathroom and laundry. All ceilings are plasterboard, the upper rooms with a simple cornice. Floors are concrete and carpeted. The central staircase is of a dog-leg design with simple steel and timber balustrade.

HISTORICAL NOTES:

This property was built as a private residence in the mid to late 1960s. The date has been estimated from the evidence of the 1965 aerial photograph which shows the vacant site, information from the 'Signposts' website that the place was acquired by the Department of Community Welfare in 1970. The place was converted to a hostel operated by the Mogumber Council of Methodist Conference on the States' behalf. This operation fulfilled Mogumber's new policy of locating "scatter houses" in the metropolitan area after the closure of the Mogumber Mission (previously Moore River Settlement) in 1968.

The main purpose of the "scatter house" was to accommodate children sent from the closed Mogumber Methodist Mission to the metropolitan area for further study. In 1971, the place accommodated six residents, one who attended Applecross High School and the remainder attended Business College in Perth.

In 1975, Ardross Hostel provided short term care for 7 or 8 girls aged 12-17 years in a hostel-like setting. There were 6 bedrooms – all of which could sleep three or more girls; 2 lounge rooms; dining room; 1 bathroom and 2 toilets. The average length of stay was around 9 months. Ardross Hostel was the second property selected by Mogumber as a "scatter house". The first being "Applecross

Cottage", formerly located at 62 Matheson Road, which has since been demolished.

Ardross Hostel has been subject to a series of different administrations, including the Uniting Church from 1982 to 1985, followed by Sister Kates's up to 1987. The Department of Community Services resumed control of the hostel in 1987, when Sister Kates's withdrew from the Education Hostels program. By mid-1994, Ardross Hostel included the accommodation of boys. In 2008, the place operated under the Department of Child Protection's "Aboriginal Student Accommodation Service" program.

In 2019, the place continues to provide accommodation for clients of the Department of Communities. Aerial photographs indicate there has been little change in the form or extent of the place since its original construction.

HISTORIC THEME/S:

- Australian Historic Themes: 6.6 Educating Indigenous people in two cultures
7.6.6 Providing Services and Welfare
7.6.8 Administering Indigenous Affairs
- HCWA Themes: 408 Institutions
601 Aboriginal People

CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS:

Face Brick Walls and terracotta tile roof

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The place is representative of government policy to purchase established residential properties for conversion into hostels within a suburban context in the 1960s.

The place has historical value for its association with Mogumber and the subsequent Aboriginal wards of state formerly resident at the Mogumber Methodist Mission after its closure in 1968. Ardross House provides further evidential value to show how residences were chosen in line with the Mogumber's change in care policy.

Ardross House traces the evolution and decentralization of government policy and practices towards Aboriginal children from 1970 to the present, including the working relationship between the state and religious organisations in administering social welfare.

SIGNIFICANT ITEMS:

N/A

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Some/moderate

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY: Category 3

DEVELOPMENT CONTROL CODE: Local

MAIN SOURCES:

- Signposts A Guide for Children and Young People in Care in WA from 1920, Department for Community Development, <http://signposts.cpfs.wa.gov.au/facilities/view.aspx?id=98>
- Nomination of New Place for Assessment, HCWA, 2011, Place P18575.

ASSESSMENT DATE: August 2019

ASSESSOR: Hocking Heritage + Architecture

