

House of the Good Shepherd

1848 – 1901

Other Names:

- Pitt Street House of the Good Shepherd
- House of the Good Shepherd, Pitt Street

Details

The House of the Good Shepherd on Pitt Street provided accommodation for females over the age of fourteen years. It opened in 1848, in the building of Carters' Barracks, and was initially staffed by the Irish Sisters of Charity. In 1857 a new order was established to run the institution called the Sisters of the Good Shepherd. Their name was changed in 1866 to the Sisters of the Good Samaritan and they ran the Home until its closure. In 1901 the site was reclaimed by the Government for Central Railway Station and residents were transferred to St Magdalen's Retreat at Tempe.

The House of the Good Shepherd received women and girls from the courts, and via voluntary placement. All of the residents agreed to stay for a minimum period of two years.

From 1887, after the establishment of St Magdalen's Retreat in Tempe (described as a 'branch refuge' by Judith Godden), many residents from House of the Good Shepherd in Pitt Street were housed at St Magdalen's.

In 1901, when the House of the Good Shepherd was closed, its residents were transferred to St Magdalen's Retreat.

Gallery



House of the Good Shepherd

Description: This is a digital copy of a photoprint in the State Library of NSW's collection, part of the album 'Photographs of Public and Other Buildings, &c .../photographed by Charles Pickering'. This photograph has the title: '155. House of the Good Shepherd SH 734'.

More info

Related Entries

Run by

- [Good Shepherd Sisters \(1857 - 1866\)](#)
Date: 1857 - 1866
- [Sisters of the Good Samaritan \(1866 - current\)](#)

Related Organisations

- [Carters' Barracks, Boys Dormitory \(1820 - c. 1848\)](#)

House of the Good Shepherd was located in the former building of Carters' Barracks, Boys Dormitory.

- [Sydney Female Refuge \(c. 1870 - 1926\)](#)

The Sydney Female Refuge was situated next door to the House of the Good Shepherd from c.1870, in Pitt Street, Sydney.

- [St Magdalen's Retreat \(1887 - 1947\)](#)

From 1887, many inmates of the House of Good Shepherd were housed at St Magdalen's Retreat and when the House of Good Shepherd closed in 1901, its residents were transferred to Tempe.

Resources

- Godden, Judith, *Sectarianism and purity within the woman's sphere: Sydney refuges during the late nineteenth century*, Journal of Religious History, 1987
- Franklin, James, *Convent slave laundries? Magdalen asylums in Australia*, Journal of the Australian Catholic Historical Society, 2013
- Australian Catholic Social Welfare Commission and the Australian Conference of Leaders of Religious Institutes, [A piece of the story : national directory of records of Catholic organisations caring for children separated from families](#), November 1999

Records

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

Records held by other organisations

- [Records held by the Good Samaritan Archives relating to Children's Homes \(1879 - current\)](#)
-

You can view this page online by visiting <https://findconnect.efront.digital/entity/house-of-the-good-shepherd-2/>