

The Open Door

1903 – 1922

- Other Names:**
- Open Door
 - Hopetoun
 - Maternity Home, North Fremantle
 - Dr Saw's Home
 - Salvation Army Maternity Home, North Fremantle
 - Rescue and Preventive Home

Details

The Open Door was a maternity home run by the Salvation Army in North Fremantle from 1903 to 1922. From 1911, it was also known as Hopetoun. Originally established for 'unmarried mothers', The Open Door also provided general maternity services, with single and married women in separate sections. In 1922, Salvation Army's maternity services moved to a donated property and became known from then as Hillcrest Maternity Home.

The Open Door maternity home was established by the Salvation Army at premises leased from William A. Saw on a sand hill in Swan Street, North Fremantle. It was also known as Dr Saw's Home at that time. Newspaper articles at the time show that the name was chosen because the Salvation Army wanted to open the door to 'unmarried mothers' who might be shunned by society. A memoir written by Captain J. Fuller recalls that the site was later resumed by the government 'for railway tracks to the North Wharf'.

In 1910 the hospital moved to Harvest Road, on a site previously occupied by the Salvation Army's 'Prison Gate' service. From at least 1911, the name 'Hopetoun' was also used for the maternity home, which by at least 1910 included married women among its maternity admissions. However, the name 'The Open Door' continued to be used until at least 1918.

By 1919, 105 babies had been born at the hospital.

A property next door, 'Hill Crest', was donated to the Maternity Home by Mrs Francis Pearse in late 1920 or early 1921. When the maternity services moved into Hillcrest Maternity Home, the previous property was used, for a time, as the children's Home part of the Hillcrest Midwifery and Toddlers' Home.

In 1924, the building became an aged-care facility called Hopetoun Aged Women's Retreat.

Gallery



Hopetoun North Fremantle

Description: 'Hopetoun North Fremantle' is a digital copy of an undated, mounted photocopy held in the *Hillcrest photos* file at the Salvation Army Heritage Museum WA. The caption reads, 'Hopetoun - opened 1910 on corner of Stirling Hwy and Harvest Rd'. There is some confusion about when the maternity home came to be called 'Hopetoun'. Until at least 1918, it was also called 'The Open Door'. The earliest published account of the name 'Hopetoun' is 1916, so there was some overlap. By 1922, the maternity services had moved into another property in Harvest Road, 'Hillcrest'. The Hopetoun building was used as an aged care facility. From around June 1906, the building had been used as a prison-gate home. It is unknown what purpose the building served when this photograph was taken.



Hillcrest, North Fremantle, 1921

Description: 'Hillcrest, North Fremantle, 1921' is a digital copy of a photocopied page from the book, *Property Souvenir, Australia; a record of progress, 1909-1921* (p.42). The excerpt is held in the *Hillcrest photos* file at the Salvation Army Heritage Museum WA. The caption reads in part, 'Mrs. F.C. Pearse transferred "Hillcrest" in fulfilment of the desires of her late husband' and dates the image as 1921. Another version of the image is held in the same file and comes from *The War Cry* dated (by hand) 14 May 1921, with the caption: 'Hillcrest as viewed from Helen Street. The Coachman's House and Motor Garage are seen on the right'.



Salvation Army Maternity Hospital

Description: 'Salvation Army Maternity Hospital' is a digital copy of a photocopy held in the *Hopetoun closed social work* file at the Salvation Army Heritage Museum WA and published, according to a handwritten caption, in the *War Cry* on 4 October 1919. At that time, the Salvation Army Maternity Home was known as 'Hopetoun'. A photocopy of 'North Fremantle Maternity Hospital', the article that refers to the image, is also held in the file.

More info

Chronology

- Cornelie Home (1898 - 1903)
 - **The Open Door (1903 – 1922)**
 - Hillcrest Maternity Home (1922 - 1974)

Related Entries

Run by

- [The Salvation Army, Australian Territory \(1880 - 1921\)](#)
- [The Salvation Army Australia Southern Territory \(1921 - 2018\)](#)

Related Concepts

- [Adoption in Western Australia \(c. 1896 - current\)](#)

Resources

- The Salvation Army Australia Southern Territorial Headquarters (Vic), [Submission No. 46 to the Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care: Appendix A: Children's Homes - A list of openings, closings and function](#), July 2003
- *North Fremantle Maternity Hospital*, The War Cry, 1919

Other Resources



Title: New Maternity Home

Type: Image

Date: 18 April 1903

[Details](#)

Records

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

Records held by other organisations

- [Historical records and memorabilia of Salvation Army institutions, Southern Territory](#)
- [Hillcrest Records \(1912 - 1974\)](#)
- [Department of Aboriginal Affairs \[predecessors\], Records \(1886 - 2004\)](#)
- [Salvation Army Australia, Records of Homes in the former Southern Territory \(c. 1889 - c. 1988\)](#)

The 'Hillcrest' records in the Salvation Army Book Records and Miscellaneous Files collection may contain records relating to the Open Door.

- [Files - General \(1899 - 1987\)](#)
- [Files - Chief Protector of Aborigines \(1898 - 1908\)](#)

You can view this page online by visiting <https://findconnect.efront.digital/entity/the-open-door/>