

## Gorman House, Canberra

Construction commenced on the hostel known to early Canberra as Gorman House in 1924. Originally known as 'Hostel No. 3', or the 'Hotel Ainslie', the hostel was renamed 'Gorman House' in 1927, after Clarence Gorman, an early Federal Capital Commissioner, who had died suddenly earlier that year. Gorman House was designed primarily to accommodate lower paid public servants.

A well-known landmark of inner Canberra, Gorman House operated as a hostel until the 1970s. It has subsequently become a popular centre for theatre and the creative arts.

### Records relating to Gorman House

The National Archives office in Canberra holds a considerable range of records including files, photographs, architectural plans and drawings which relate to the design, construction and subsequent maintenance of Gorman House. Samples of these are listed below.

#### Correspondence files

Title or description of record	Date range	Series, item number
<u>Hostel for lower paid officials – Gorman House, Ainslie Avenue</u>	1923–24	A414, 12 part 3
<u>Gorman House</u>	1925–29	CT86/1, 51
<u>Gorman House – tenders for additions to superstructure</u>	1927	A6269, E1/27/2508
<u>Proposed tennis courts at Gorman House</u>	1930–31	A430, G116
<u>Gorman House – dogs – housing of</u>	1933	A1, 1933/5186

#### Photographs

Title or description of record	Date range	Series, item number
Mildenhall photographs of early Canberra	1913–45*	A3560
Gorman House – almost complete	1926	A3560, 207
Part of Gorman House under construction	1926	A3560, 208
Part of Gorman House under construction	1926	A3560, 209
Part of Gorman House under construction	1926	A3560, 210

Gorman House – front gardens	1926	A3560, 211
Gorman House – dining room	1926	A3560, 223
Gorman House kitchen	1926	A3560, 224
Dining room	1926	A3560, 1618
View from City Hill up Ainslie Avenue showing Gorman House and Braddon area	1926	A3560, 2108
View from City Hill up Ainslie Avenue showing Gorman House and Braddon area	1926	A3560, 2115
Civic Centre and Gorman House from Mt Ainslie	1926	A3560, 2634
Reid, Gorman House and Hotel Ainslie from Civic Centre	1928	A3560, 3257
Gorman House from the north	1929	A3560, 5110

### Architectural plans & drawings

Title or description of record	Date range	Series, item number
Aperture cards for ACT architectural plans and drawings	1921–59*	A9663
Gorman House – ground floor plan	undated	A9663, AF124
Gorman House – Centre Administration block – pavilion for single and married couples	undated	A9663, A608A
Gorman House – elevations and sections	undated	A9663, A669
Gorman House – additions to ground floor – west and north elevations	undated	A9663, 9991
Gorman House – plan of alterations and additions to kitchen	undated	A9663, 21904
Gorman House – alterations and renovations to the kitchen	undated	A9663, 22789

### Other plans of Gorman House

Title or description of record	Date range	Series number
Amended designs for pavilion 4, Hostel No.3 (AC592)	1925–31	A2503, folder 3
Amended design for kitchen block, Hostel No. 3 (AC596)	1925–31	A2503, folder 3
Gorman House – ground floor plan	1925–30	A2505, AF124
1 ½ inch scale detail of fireplace – sitting room, Pavilion No 1. Hostel No 3	1926–30	A2504, AD34

\* Most items in this series are not individually dated. The series date range provides some indication of when individual items were created.