

Adamshurst

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Adamshurst in David street is one of Albury's finest heritage buildings. George Adams, the home's original owner, had bought the ailing *Albury Banner* newspaper in 1862.

Adams not only ran the newspaper but invested in property. In time, he owned almost all the block bound by Wilson, David, Guinea and Olive streets. In 1867 he built his home Maryland on the corner of Guinea and David streets (the site in 2023 of the Shell service station).

Mary Sunderland, Adams' first wife, died in 1891. Adams then went on a European holiday while the first section of Adamshurst was built. Aged in his mid-50s, in 1892 Adams married 18 year-old Bungowannah girl Margaret Blakely, his housekeeper. According to Ollie Japp, Adams' granddaughter, writing in 1980, "he built a mansion for himself and his new bride."

In about 1907 Adams made a substantial addition to Adamshurst, designed by Gordon McKinnon. McKinnon built/designed several other heritage listed buildings across NSW, including the Albury Town Hall of 1907-08 (now MAMA).



Photo taken about 1925, part of a collection of A G Colquhoun in an album titled "City of Tomorrow/Progressive Albury."

Loaned by son G N Colquhoun for digitising by Albury LibraryMuseum

On Albury's Local Environmental Plan, Adamshurst is described (in part) as "A large town mansion situated within extensive landscaped grounds consisting of two major buildings, now connected. The original house was a conventional hipped roof brick building with cast iron verandah ... the larger later part is an exotic Edwardian building c1907 with twin Indian saracenic first floor cupolas over square pavilions joined by intricate masonry balustrading."

George Adams died in 1918 and the house was bequeathed to his second wife. She continued to live in the house until she died in March 1944.

Later in 1944, Albury High School Parents and Citizens' Association began negotiations to purchase Adamshurst as a girls' hostel. By February 1945 the purchase was complete and tenders called for alterations and additions. In 1946 there were 54 girls in residence.

The hostel closed in 1975, principally because demand for places had decreased with the increased number of country high schools.

For some time, Adamshurst remained vacant in the care of a gardener/caretaker. The Health Commission began using Adamshurst in 1978, though it was not transferred to health from education until 1986.

The Adamshurst Rehabilitation and Day Care Centre was used by a variety of groups through to 2004, when services were transferred to the Mercy Hospital.

The beautiful garden has survived the many changes in use of Adamshurst since it was a family home in the late 1800s.

After changing ownership in 2013, Adamshurst again became a private residence.