

Northern Territory Archives Service

Mission Records held at the Northern Territory Archives Service

The Northern Territory Archives Service (NTAS) holds many records relating to churches and missions including the collections of the missionary organisations themselves. The Uniting Church in Australia and the Church Missionary Society have donated a large quantity of material to the NTAS. The Archives holdings do not include any records from the Roman Catholic Church although some prominent missionaries and members of the Catholic Church have lodged their collections with the NTAS.

This leaflet details the records of the Church Missionary Society and the Uniting Church in Australia. Both these organisations ran homes and missions in various centres across the Northern Territory.

Church Missionary Society

The Church Missionary Society of Australia was formed in 1916 from several Church Missionary Associations in Australian States. See the Church Missionary Society of Australia website for more information: <http://www.cms.org.au/about/cms-history>.

The Church Missionary Society ran missions in the Northern Territory at the following locations: Angurugu, Emerald River, Umbakumba on Groote Eylandt; Oenpelli (Gunbalanya); Roper River (Ngukurr); Rose River (Numbulwar)

Holdings relating to the Church Missionary Society

From the NTAS List of Holdings, the following series have been identified as coming under the control of the Church Missionary Society. It must be noted that the following list does include a number of personal collections of Church Missionary Society missionaries.

Church Missionary Society of Australia, North Australia Committee

- NTRS 599 General correspondence files 1970-1973
- NTRS 605 Training allowance for Aborigines, correspondence and circulars 1966-1971
- NTRS 704 Journals and diaries of the Angurugu Community 1942-1987
- NTRS 864 General records of the Oenpelli Community 1926-1981
- NTRS 865 Journals and diaries of the Oenpelli Community 1944-1981
- NTRS 868 General records of the Angurugu Community 1921-1985
- NTRS 869 General records of the Umbakumba Community 1956-1981
- NTRS 870 General records of the Roper River (Ngukurr) Community 1944-1982
- NTRS 871 General records of the Numbulwar (Rose River) Community 1942-1984
- NTRS 872 Journals of the Numbulwar (Rose River) Community 1952-1984
- NTRS 873 General mission and administration records, Darwin 1937-1989
- NTRS 1098 Mission reports and station council minutes of the Angurugu Community 1939-1979
- NTRS 1099 Mission reports and station council minutes of the Oenpelli Community 1925-1977
- NTRS 1100 Mission reports and station council minutes of the Numbulwar (Rose River) Community 1963-1978
- NTRS 1101 Mission reports and station council minutes of the Umbakumba Community 1958-1970
- NTRS 1102 Mission reports and station council minutes of the Roper River (Ngukurr) Community 1936-1973
- NTRS 1104 Theological books and publications 1907-1988
- NTRS 1105 Publications featuring Arnhem Land missions 1953-1981
- NTRS 1106 Linguistic teaching records and publications 1947-1986
- NTRS 1342 Financial records and correspondence of Emmanuel Church 1969-1978
- NTRS 1343 Religious instruction and school syllabuses for grades 2-7, Oenpelli and Angurugu 1969-ca1969
- NTRS 1344 Correspondence of Church Missionary Society A-W 1974-1978

- NTRS 1345 Correspondence, committee and Diocesan papers of the Church Missionary Society, Oenpelli and Angurugu 1969-1981
NTRS 1346 Records of Christian Women's Convention International 1974-1983
NTRS 604 Radio Sked books 1960-1982

Cole, Keith (Dr)

- NTRS 694 Records, photographs and research material about mission life in Northern Australia 1915-1985

Dove, E.I.M. (May)

- NTRS 685 Personal records collected whilst a missionary in Northern Australian and in Victoria 1923-1961

Dyer, Alfred J. (Rev.)

- NTRS 693 Records relating to mission life in Northern Australia 1907-1966

Perriman, H.L. (Les)

- NTRS 337 Personal records and photographs relating to Groote Eylandt Mission and Aborigines in Northern Australia 1921-1972

Warren, Hubert Ernest (Rev.)

- NTRS 690 Photographs relating to Roper River Mission Station and Darwin 1913-1915

Hart, K.W.

- NTRS 703 Papers relating to the Church Missionary Society Including Baptism Lists, Correspondence, photographs and church newsletters 1918-1985

Moore, Callon (Mrs)

- NTRS 691 Photographs of Groote Eylandt missions 1963-1969

Obtaining access to Church Missionary Society records

The archives listed above are all under the control of the Church Missionary Society. Researchers can refine their selection using series lists available at NTAS. Once this has been achieved, it is necessary to obtain permission for access to the records from the Society. It is the responsibility of the researcher to obtain permission from the Society directly. Contact details are as follows:

Church Missionary Society (CMS)

Federal Secretary

PO Box 20095, World Square, NSW 2002

SYDNEY NSW 2000

Phone: (02) 9284 6777

Email: cmsa.archives@cms.org.au

Website: www.cms.org.au

The Church Missionary Society, Sydney Office will advise the NTAS once access has been granted. Researchers should then organise a time to visit the NTAS to examine the chosen archives

Please note that not all Church Missionary Society records are held in the Northern Territory. Some are held in Sydney. Check with the CMS Sydney office for more details.

Uniting Church in Australia

The Uniting Church in Australia was formed in 1977 and was made from a union of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, the Methodist Church of Australasia and the Congregational Union of Australia. The Northern Synod covers a region that includes Darwin extending to Broome in Western Australia, Gove in the Northern Territory, and Pitjantjara lands in South Australia. Archives under the control of the Uniting Church in Australia include records of the predecessor churches.

Holdings relating to the Uniting Church in Australia

From the NTAS List of Holdings the following series have been identified as coming under the control of the Uniting Church in Australia.

Uniting Church

NTRS 2403 Slides of Croker Island mission ca1960-1962

NTRS 2404 Black and white photographs of Croker Island mission ca1960-1962

Uniting Church In Australia, Northern Synod

NTRS 37 Records relating to Minijilang Township 1952-1982

NTRS 38 Records relating to Warruwi Township 1940-1981

NTRS 39 Records relating to Maningrida Township 1971-1981

NTRS 40 Records relating to Milingimbi Township 1945-1983

NTRS 41 Records relating to Galiwinku (Elcho Island) Township 1969-1983

NTRS 42 Records relating to Gapuwiyak (Lake Evalla) Township 1973-1983

NTRS 43 Records relating to Yirrkala Township 1963-1980

NTRS 44 Records relating to Nhulunbuy Parish 1969-1980

NTRS 45 Records relating to Arnhem Land 1962-1975

NTRS 46 Records relating to the Arafura Presbytery 1947-1983

NTRS 47 Records relating to the Centre Presbytery, including Alice Springs and Tennant Creek n.d.

NTRS 48 Records relating to the Kimberley Presbytery n.d.

NTRS 49 Records relating to Nungalinga College, Darwin 1971-1982

NTRS 50 Records relating to child care, Somerville Homes, Darwin 1964-1979

NTRS 51 Records relating to Central Australian Institutions n.d.

NTRS 52 Records relating to the Aboriginal Advisory Development Services and Civic Economic Development Committee 1945-1983

NTRS 53 Records relating to the Methodist Overseas Mission 1961-1978

NTRS 54 Records relating to the Arnhem Land Progress Association 1974-1976

NTRS 55 Records relating to the Northern Synod and Joint Planning Committee 1966-1983

NTRS 56 Records relating to Aboriginal affairs 1959-1981

NTRS 57 Records relating to land rights and land councils 1976-1980

NTRS 58 Records relating to education and health 1970-1984

NTRS 59 Records relating to mining 1970-1983

NTRS 60 Records relating to religious organisations 1970-1982

NTRS 61 Records relating to government organisations 1963-1983

NTRS 62 Accounting and administrative records 1955-n.d.

NTRS 63 List of records received by the Northern Territory Archives Service from Uniting Church, Northern Synod 1984-1984

NTRS 781 General correspondence and administration records 1956-1986

Obtaining access to Uniting Church records

Permission is required from the Uniting Church to access their archives which are less than 30 years old.

Once the records are wholly within the open period, i.e. completely over 30 years old, they are available for public access to researchers registered with the NTAS.

It is common, however, for records controlled by the Uniting Church to span the open and closed periods and therefore if there is any doubt as to the date range of an item permission must be sought prior to access.

To apply for permission the researcher needs to write to the address provided below, stating the purpose of their research, and including a listing of the series and items that they wish to access. Item listing for each series are available through the NTAS.

Uniting Church in Australia
Northern Synod Office
Peter Jones, General Secretary
PO Box 38221
Winnellie NT 0821
Phone: (08) 8982 3400
Email: admin@ns.uca.org.au
Website: <http://uca.org.au/>

Once authorisation has been granted the Uniting Church will contact the researcher and the NTAS. The researcher should then contact NTAS to arrange a time to visit the reading room and view the records.

Please note that Uniting Church records can also be found at the State Reference Library of NSW (Mitchell Library), the National Library of Australia, and the National Film and Sound Archive.

Further information

The NTAS holds many other records relating to missions and churches. Please visit the NTAS website and search the collection our List of Holdings. You may also use Archives Navigator, the online access point to NTAS archival management system: <https://artsandmuseums.nt.gov.au/northern-territory-archives-service>. Please note that not all NTAS records have been listed in Navigator.

The NTAS oral history collection is rich in recollections relating to the missions and all church denominations. These archives can be identified using online Oral History Search at <http://oralhistory.nt.gov.au>.

For other sources of information visit the churches' websites. Also for detailed information about where records are held according to the location of a particular mission or home, see "Tracking Family, a guide to Aboriginal Records Relating to the Northern Territory" published by the National Archives of Australia.

This guide is available at the following web address:
<http://www.naa.gov.au/collection/publications/guides/index.aspx>.

Contacts

Northern Territory Archives Service, Darwin	Northern Territory Archives Service, Alice Springs
Northern Territory Archives Centre Kelsey Crescent MILLNER NT 0810 PO Box 1347 NIGHCLIFF NT 0814	Minerals House 58 Hartley Street ALICE SPRINGS NT 0870 PO Box 8225 ALICE SPRINGS NT 0871
Telephone (08) 8924 7677 Fax (08) 8924 7660	Telephone (08) 8951 5669 Fax (08) 8951 5232
Website address: https://artsandmuseums.nt.gov.au/northern-territory-archives-service E-mail: ntac@nt.gov.au	