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Previous find of the month

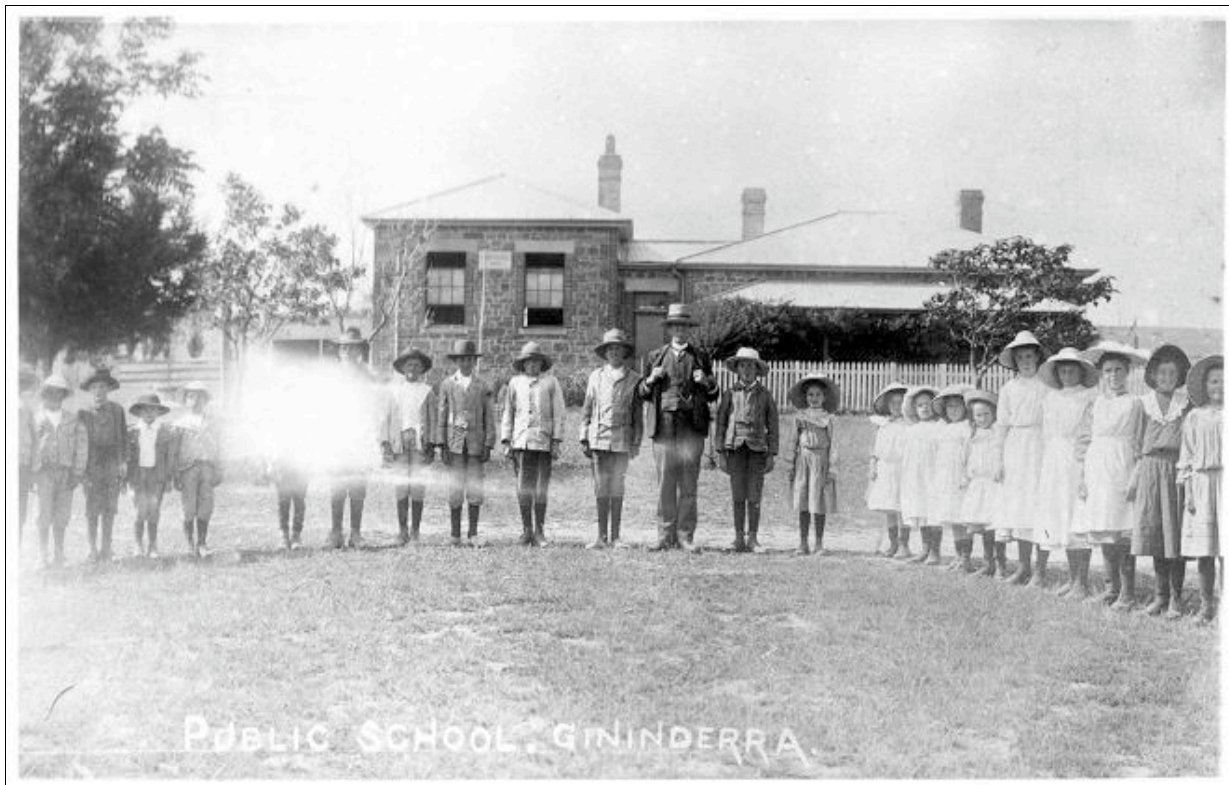
February

Charles William Thompson

Charles William Thompson (1868-1948) was one of the first school teachers in the Canberra district teaching in several schools for 50 years in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. He was also the first teacher appointed to the fledgling A.C.T. The file 'Schools – Ginninderra' and the collection of photographs 'AA1971' provides us with a glimpse into Thompson's professional life during the foundation period of Canberra.

“During the Christmas vacation the decision was made to close Ginninderra School and transfer Mr Charles Thompson to Hall. The residence at Ginninderra was retained for the Hall teacher’s use. Mr Thompson, who began his teaching career about 1883 at Naas, later teaching at Yarra in 1886, came to Ginninderra in 1895.”

[\(1\)\(http://www.archives.act.gov.au/home/educational_resource/find_of_the_month#\(1\)\)](http://www.archives.act.gov.au/home/educational_resource/find_of_the_month#(1))

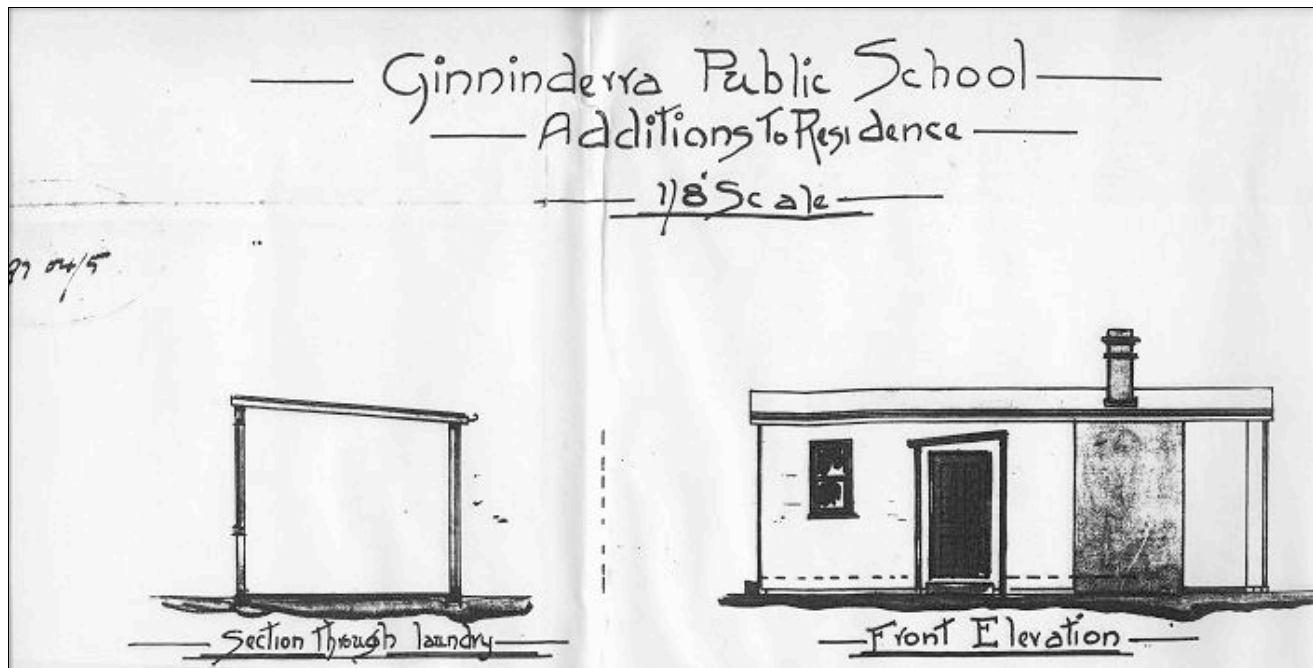


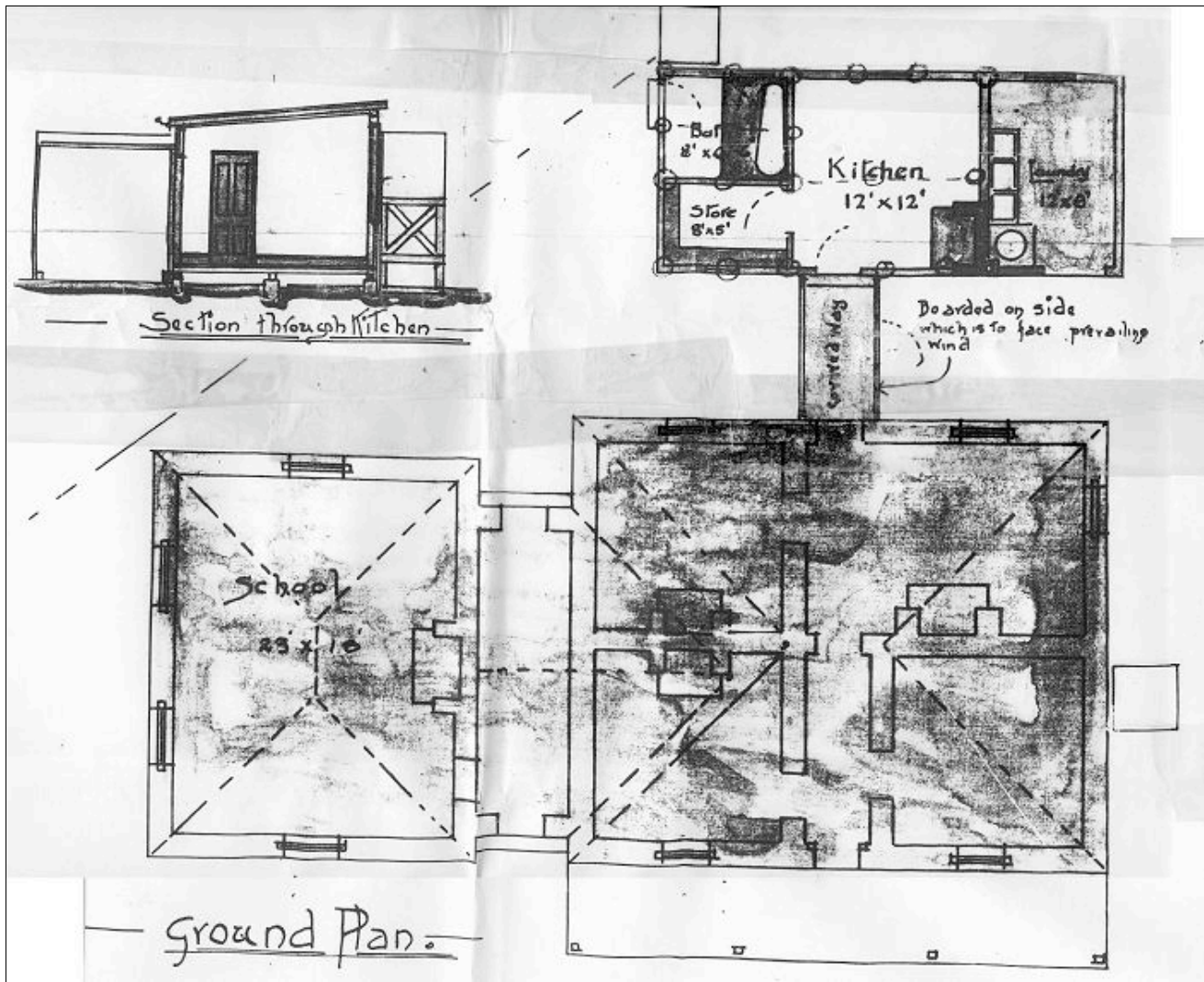
Ginninderra Public School



Ginninderra Public School 1905

“In 1913 the Ginninderra Post Office transferred into the old school building. Mr C W Thompson operated the Post Office in the school and lived in the adjoining teacher’s residence until 1934.”
(2)([\(http://www.archives.act.gov.au/home/educational_resource/find_of_the_month#\(2\)\)](http://www.archives.act.gov.au/home/educational_resource/find_of_the_month#(2)))





In the file 'Schools – Ginninderra' we found the following documents where Charles Thompson wrote to the District Surveyor, P.J. Sheaffe, requesting new blinds and carpeting as well as repairs to his residence. His request was rejected.

Thompson wrote to the District Surveyor regarding his accommodation because the Department of Works and Railways had, amongst others, the following relevant functions:

- Design and Execution of Engineering Works
- Designs, Construction, Addition, Alteration and Maintenance of Public Buildings
- Lands and Surveys
- Properties (transferred and acquired)
- Public Works
- Rental of Buildings for Commonwealth purposes

After Sheaffe, [P.A.](#)

[Gourgard](http://www.archives.act.gov.au/home/educational_resource/archives_act_quandary) (http://www.archives.act.gov.au/home/educational_resource/archives_act_quandary) became the Permanent Head from 11 June 1929 until 12 April 1932 when the Department was abolished.

Hall Public School
Residence Ginninderra

Feb. 26th, 1921

P.J. Sheaffe Esq.,
District Surveyor,
Canberra.
Sir,



I beg to make application for floor
Covering for three rooms 12'x12', one 10'x10' & pantry 10'x6'
also 7 venetian blinds for windows 3'10" wide.

The rooms at my residence have not previously been covered
by the Federal Authorities; all covering & blinds being my own
property.

In such case a renewal is now required and I most
respectfully request that the same be supplied.

I would also request that while the present work is
being carried out at the Ginninderra School residence,
the pump attached to the shower in the bath room be put in
working order. The galvanized tube is broken off, being
in use for fifteen years & the pump is out of working order.

I remain

respectfully yours

Chas. Wm. Thompson

Teacher (Hall)

Transcript:

Hall Public School

Residence Ginninderra

Feb, 26th, 1921

P.J. Sheaffe Esqu

District Surveyor,

Canberra

Sir,

I beg to make application for floor covering for three rooms 12' x 12', one 10' x 10' & pantry 10' x 6' also 7 venetian blinds for windows 3' 10" wide.

The rooms at my residence have not previously been covered by the Federal Authorities; all covering & blinds being my own property.

In such case a renewal is now required and I most respectfully request that the same be supplied.

I would also request that while the present work is being carried out at the Ginninderra School residence, the pump attached to the shower in the bathroom be put in working order. The gutta percha tube is broken off; being in use for fifteen years & the pump is out of working order.

I remain

respectively yours

Chas Wm Thompson

Teacher (Hall)

L21/200

28th February, 1921.

MEMORANDUM to:-

The Secretary,
Education Department.

Application has been made by the
School Teacher at Ginninderra for floor covering and window
blinds for his residence.

I shall be glad if you will be good
enough to inform me as to whether it is the general practice in
the State to supply linoleum and window blinds for Teachers
residences.

Commonwealth Surveyor General.

L51/208

28th February, 1921.

Dear Sir,

With reference to your application to be supplied with linoleum and window blinds for your residence - I desire to inform you that a decision in regard to this matter is being with-held pending enquiry as to the general practice of the State regarding supply of linoleum and window blinds for Teachers' residences.

Yours faithfully,

Commonwealth Surveyor General.

Mr. G. W. Thompson,
School Teacher,
Ginninderra.

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DISTRICT SURVEYOR
FEDERAL TERRITORY
LEASES
19 21/3/16

28. 3. 21
922/1103

IN YOUR REPLY

No. 19

QUOTE THIS NUMBER

Department of Education,

Sydney, 22nd March 19 21

13558. B.1921/ 9496

The Commonwealth Surveyor General,
Home and Territories Dept.,
Lands and Survey Branch,
CANBERRA.

SUBJECT: GINNINDERRA: FLOOR COVERING AND WINDOW
BLINDS FOR RESIDENCE.

REFERENCE: Your letter dated 28th February last.

I have to inform you that it is not the
practice of this Department to supply floor coverings
and window blinds to teachers' residences.

Done

P. BOARD,
Under Secretary,
per



Mr Thornhill
Inform Teachers
as above advised
WOK
29.3.21

Jch

L 21/316

4th April 21.

Dear Sir,

re Blinds & Floor Coverings - Ginninderra
Schoolteacher's Residence.

Referring to your communication of the 26th February last in connection with fello coverings and windowblinds for the residence occupied by you at Ginninderra, I desire to advise you that the Under Secretary for Education, Sydney, has advised that it is not the practice of that Department to supply the abovementioned articles for Teacher's residences.

Yours faithfully,

Commonwealth Surveyor General.

Mr.C. W. Thompson,
Ginninderra.

file
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5.4

"The last school of the Ginninderra district was that opened at Hall in 1911 with Charles William Thompson as teacher. The erection of this school resulted from strong representations by a group of Hall residents led by James K. Kilby. It was pointed out that most of the pupils of Ginninderra School lived at Hall. So at the end of the 1910 school year Ginninderra School closed. Charles Thompson continued to teach at Hall until he attained 65 years of age in 1933 and was forced to retire." (3)([http://www.archives.act.gov.au/home/educational_resource/find_of_the_month#\(3\)](http://www.archives.act.gov.au/home/educational_resource/find_of_the_month#(3)))



Hall School viewed from its boundary.

“On 8 February, 1933, Mr Thompson retired after 38 years at Hall and Ginninderra and 50 years teaching in the area. A public farewell in Kinlyside’s Hall was attended by a large gathering of citizens and pupils to pay tribute to this devoted teacher who had given so many years loyal service to the community. An illuminated address and a wallet of notes was presented and many eulogised his qualities. A plaque was later unveiled in the school in honour of his faithful service. Following his retirement, Mr and Mrs Thompson moved to Manly. Mr Thompson died in 1948 aged 80, while Mrs Thompson survived him by 15 years passing away in 1963 aged 89.”

[\(4\)\(http://www.archives.act.gov.au/home/educational_resource/find_of_the_month#\(4\)\)](http://www.archives.act.gov.au/home/educational_resource/find_of_the_month#(4))

Links to Canberra Times articles:

- [Thursday 25 November 1926\(http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article1208844\)](http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article1208844)
- [Saturday 28 January 1933\(http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article2333653\)](http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article2333653)
- [Thursday 9 February 1933\(http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article2336247\)](http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article2336247)
- [Saturday 18 December 1948\(http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article2781515\)](http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article2781515)

Bibliography (All books available for viewing at the [ACT Heritage Library\(http://www.library.act.gov.au/find/history\)](http://www.library.act.gov.au/find/history)):

- (1)() Copping, Laurie, “Hall School : A History.” ACT Schools Authority, Canberra, 1986 ISBN: 0642099243
- (2)() Michel, Carissa, “Heritage Study : Ginninderra former Catholic Church and school ; Ginninderra Schoolhouse”, Michel Carissa, Canberra, 1993
- (3)() Gillespie, Lyall, "Ginninderra : A Centre of Early Education." Canberra Historical Journal. NS, No.12, September 1983.
- (4)() Copping, Laurie, “Hall School : A History.” ACT Schools Authority, Canberra, 1986 ISBN: 0642099243

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