



Ludlow Settlement Building 680
The Old Head Teachers' Quarters



Ludlow Tuart Forest Restoration Group

House No. 680 was once the Ludlow Public School Head Teacher's quarters.



Above: Upper Capel School, c. 1910

At Ludlow before the school buildings arrived from Upper Capel, the teacher lived in a cottage over the river, a house later lived in by Ben Needs. The original Ludlow Bridge School was made of mud brick with a galvanised iron roof and no verandah.⁴ The cottage mentioned may have been the Ludlow School Quarters which was tendered for in 1911.⁵

The house was originally built in 1909 about seven kilometres west of Kirup, just off the Upper Capel Road.¹

It was on property formerly known as Woodville, run by the Wright family and was known as the Upper Capel School.²

Photo left, supplied by John Wringe, whose father attended the Upper Capel School.

The main building in the photo is the school room. The building to the left in the background is the Head Teacher's quarters.

The quarters were square, consisting of one bedroom, a living room, kitchen, and a front and back verandah.³



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¹ Upper Capel School History, John Wringe, 11 November 2023.

² Bunbury Herald, Tue 6 Jul 1909, Page 3.

³ PWD Plan, Ludlow School Quarters Additions, 1932.

⁴ Busselton Historical Society, Mary Tucker (nee Forrest), Ludlow Bridge School 1923-1931.

⁵ Daily News, Friday Nov 1911, page 1

In September 1925 a tender was awarded to Ray Anderson of Perth, for the Upper Capel School and quarters to be removed and relocated to Ludlow.⁶ This work was almost finished by January 1926 when the new incoming teacher to the school, Arthur Cameron, wrote to the Education Department drawing attention to the fact there was no wash-house or bathroom provided.⁷

In a letter written by Aurelia Cameron, wife of the new teacher, to the Education Department, she stated that, *'things were in a very bad state under the present conditions'.....'we have nowhere to wash unless we stand outside in 6 inches of dust with a dish fixed up with boxes and a plank'.....'there is not a drop of water either at the quarters or the school'.....'my husband has to carry what we use in kerosene tins on his shoulders from a well at the Forestry Farm'.....'the house is too small altogether'.....'we had to cover in the verandah with bags'.....'The old school house could be pulled down to build the wash-house etc with, as it is useless and an eye-sore now the new school is built'.*

Arthur Cameron again wrote to the Education Department in April 1926 stating, *'that so far as I know, nothing has been done to date' and that, 'if the erection of a wash-house and bathroom is not to be obtained, I would suggest that the erection of a verandah at the rear of the quarters, with the ends partitioned off for a wash-house and bathroom'...*The absence of these necessary adjuncts to a house are causing me much trouble and inconvenience'.



⁶ Daily News, Wed 30 Sep 1925, page 7.

⁷ Ludlow – Buildings and Works, AU.WA.S24 – cons 1497 1926/0623_2.

⁸ Ludlow – Buildings and Works, AU.WA.S24 – cons 1497 1926/0623_5/6.

⁹ Ludlow – Buildings and Works, AU.WA.S24 – cons 1497 1926/0623_15

The Education Department did take heed of the situation at Ludlow, for the Department of Public Works and Labour advised that the erection of a bathroom and wash-house had been completed on the 24th June 1926.¹⁰ This was some 6 months after the Cameron's had moved in.



Above: Ludlow School Quarters (House 680) Wash-house, 2023

Right: internally, there is a bricked-in copper and a brick hearth on which a water chip-heater may have once stood. There is also a space where a bath and double concrete wash-trough may have been placed. The original wash-house and bathroom did not have water 'laid on'.¹¹

Left: As observed in 2023 the wash-house which still stands, appears to have contained a bathroom as well. A separate toilet to the end of the wash-house is modern. In the back wall there is a small hinged flap for removing a toilet pan, indicating that a wooden pan-type toilet once stood there.



Above: Ludlow School Quarters (House 680) internal view of wash-house, 2023



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¹⁰ Ludlow – Buildings and Works, AU.WA.S24 – cons 1497 1926/0623_19

¹¹ Ludlow – Buildings and Works, AU.WA.S24 – cons 1497 1926/0623_63.

In 1927 Andrew McWillie took over as Head Teacher at Ludlow, he was an unwell man who had been gassed during the First World War. In 1930 he complained to the District Inspector of Schools that the dinning room and bedroom were 'badly lighted'. A response from the Director of Education said, *'While the lighting of the dinning and bed rooms would no doubt be vastly improved by the provision of the additional windows, it is quite impossible to carry out the work owing to the lack of funds.'*¹²

WESTERN AUSTRALIA. U.A. 30

MEMORANDUM. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND LABOUR, PERTH 10th September, 1935. 192

To the DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION.

LUDLOW SCHOOL QUARTERS

ADDITIONS AND RENOVATIONS.

I have to inform you that a Contract for the above-mentioned work has been let; the General particulars are as follows:-

Name of Contractor FALKINGHAM & SON, Busselton

Amount of Contract £ 220.00

Date of commencement 7th October, 1935.

Date for completion 11th November, 1935.

I should be glad if you would please let me know, as soon as possible, where the keys are to be left on the completion of the contract.

Under Secretary for Public Works and Labour.

McWillie just had to put up with the situation until in January 1935 he again wrote to the Education Department, *'may I state that we are in desperate need of two additional rooms at the quarters. We are expecting an increase in family in June. This means that we must keep a 'girl' to help with the work. Hence extra accommodation is a necessity. If we do not get additional rooms, in June there will be 4 of us sleeping in one room measuring 12' x 12'!*

Without receiving any response from the Education Department McWillie contacted his local Member of Parliament, Mr. Withers MLA, and also the State School Teachers' Union,¹⁴ who both contacted the Education Department in support of McWillie.

This extra help worked, for Andrew McWillie received notification in June 1935 that approval had been obtained for the erection of a new room, porch, and additional verandah to his quarters at an estimated cost of £150.¹⁵ £220 was the agreed construction tender price that was awarded to Falkingham & Son of Busselton.

Left: Memo outlining the contract Let for the Ludlow School Quarters Additions and Renovations, 1935



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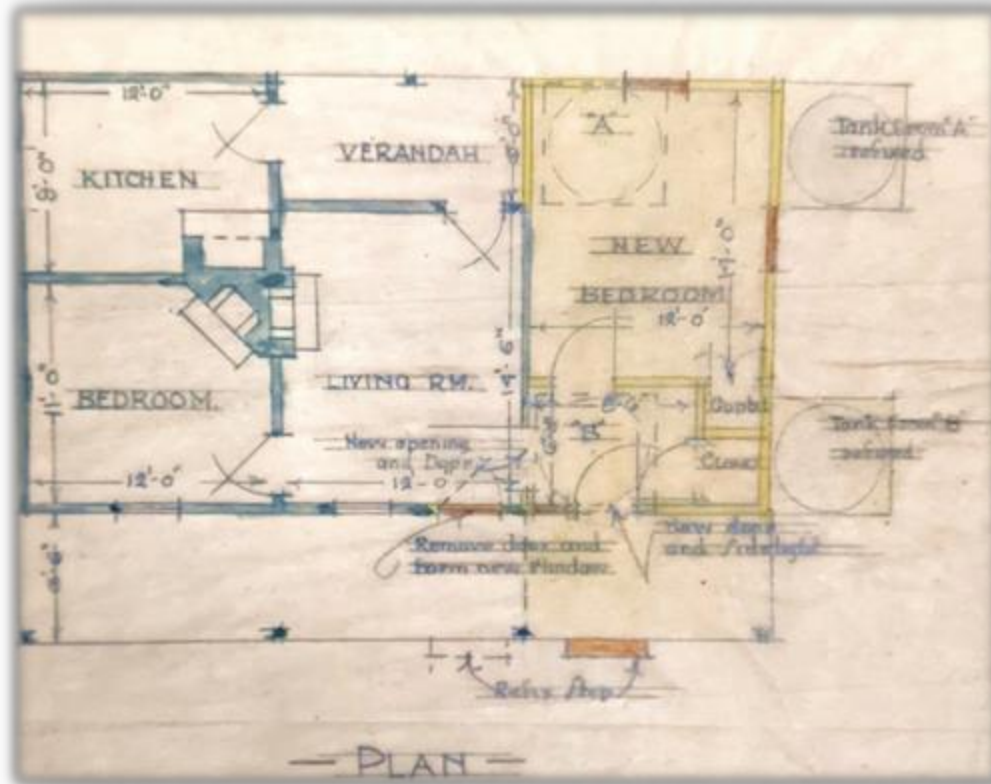
¹² Ludlow – Buildings and Works, AU.WA.S24 – cons 1497 1926/0623_40.

¹³ Ludlow – Buildings and Works, AU.WA.S24 – cons 1497 1926/0623_75.

¹⁴ Ludlow – Buildings and Works, AU.WA.S24 – cons 1497 1926/0623_69

¹⁵ Ludlow – Buildings and Works, AU.WA.S24 – cons 1497 1926/0623_86

Plan of the proposed Ludlow Head Teacher Quarter extensions, June 1935, note the outline of the original square house that was relocated from Upper Capel.



Above: Ludlow School Quarters Additions, original scale 1 inch to 8 feet

Arthur Cameron thought his housing troubles would be over when the additions were completed but,

*'may I state that since the water tanks of the teacher's quarters here have been painted inside, the water is unfit to use for washing clothes, bathing, and of course, it cannot be used for drinking'... 'could you please procure for the quarters suitable water for household purposes?'*¹⁶

1,000 gallons of water was finally authorised by the Education Department and delivered to Ludlow in mid-March 1936, some 4 months after Cameron's initial request.¹⁷



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¹⁶ Ludlow – Buildings and Works, AU.WA.S24 – cons 1497 1926/0623_97.

¹⁷ Ludlow – Buildings and Works, AU.WA.S24 – cons 1497 1926/0623_106.

Bill Kemp took over from Arthur Cameron as Head Teacher at Ludlow. Bill was another Scotsman who only had one hand, having a hook prothesis instead, having lost the hand to wounds in the First World War.

During Bill's time in the teacher's quarters no significant additions took place, although there was always ongoing maintenance required such as, *'urgent repairs to the bath for there was very little enamel left on it' and 'the steps up to the front of the verandah collapsed...as the wood was very rotten.'*¹⁸



Above: Head Teacher with pupils beside Ludlow School c. 1926.

Bill Kemp wrote to the Education Department in July 1941 stating that the following repairs were in urgent need of attention, *'three lengths of guttering are leaking badly'...**'one downpipe has rusted away'...**'the interior of the kitchen is in a disgraceful condition'...**and 'the fireplace in the sitting room is falling to pieces'.*¹⁹

The Ludlow School closed at the end of 1948 when a new school bus service was announced to start at the beginning of 1949.²⁰ Hub Dawson, through Lou Weston a senior forester, applied for the buses to Busselton as it was felt that Ludlow children were missing out on a better education.²¹



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¹⁸ Ludlow – Buildings and Works, AU.WA.S24 – cons 1497 1926/0623_130.

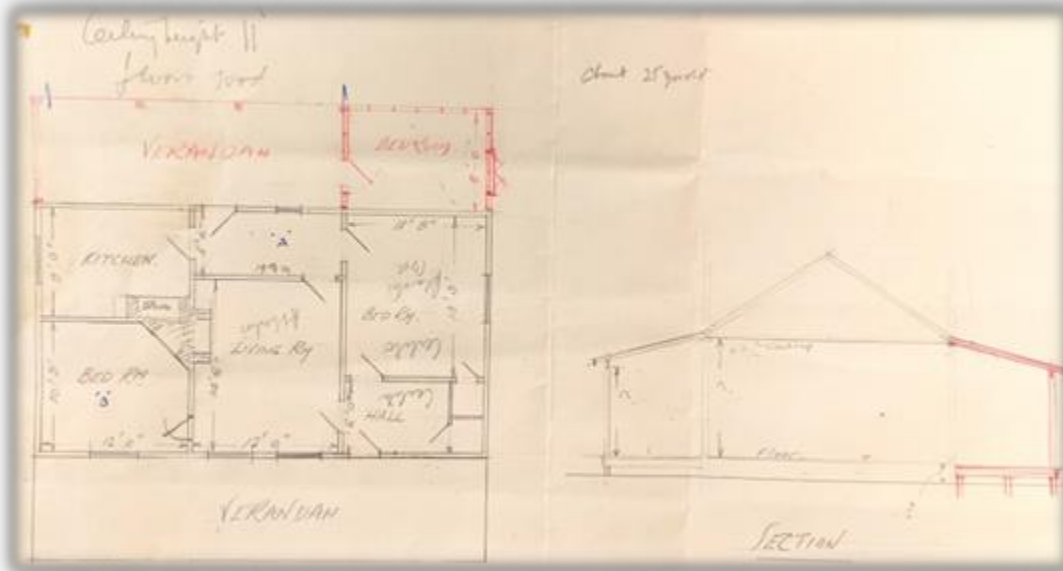
¹⁹ Ludlow – Buildings and Works, AU.WA.S24 – cons 1497 1926/0623_158.

²⁰ South Western News, Thu 9 Sep, 1948, page 5

²¹ Busselton Historical Society, Ludlow History, page 3.

The Head Teachers' Quarters was next mentioned in 1952, in a Forests Department memo, when Hub Dawson was seeking a house to accommodate a new Forestry Officer, Jack King.

Dawson wrote: *'this house would be for an officer and is a special case of moving from a large house to a smaller one at the convenience of this Department' ... 'could approval be obtained to erect a Type 10A house' 'it would appear that the old school building would not be required until July 1953.'*²²



The new house for Jack King did not eventuate. Instead King was asked to discuss, in January 1953, to consider the additions to Cottage 680, consisting of a new bedroom and a back verandah.

A Forests Department memo from September 1953 said,.... *'pine dado and moulding has been placed in three rooms of House 680, which will shortly be occupied by Mr King'*.²³

Oral history indicates that King did move into House 680, and that over the years, the Tate, Thomson and Burke families did also.



²² Accommodation and Services Dept. Buildings – Ludlow Forest HQ. AU.WA.S1984 – cons 5589 25/10 63292_15

²³ Accommodation and Services Dept. Buildings – Ludlow Forest HQ. AU.WA.S1984 – cons 5589 25/10 63292_88