

MARIANNE BROWNE HOUSE

This House was named after Miss Marianne Browne who was Lady Warden of St Anne's from 1890 – 1903 when school was still located in Loop Street, Pietermaritzburg. Miss Marianne Browne was a good friend of the previous Lady Warden, Miss Usherwood, and was the sister of the Bishop of Bristol. Miss Browne suffered from poor health and was frequently confined to her room with severe headaches, yet she was greatly respected. She was also very gentle and loving towards the girls despite commanding palpable authority.

When St Anne's decided to move from Loop Street to Hilton Road, Miss Browne helped choose the site and saw to the drawing up of the new plans for the College. She also felt that because of the strong religious foundation of the school, that it would be desirable to have a school chapel. Miss Browne therefore started a fund for the chapel before she left St Anne's.



The Chapel pictured in 1913 a couple of years after it was built.

In 1926 the school dormitories in the main building of the school were divided into three houses, Usherwood, Macrorie and Frances Baines. In 1938 a new dormitory block was built adjoining the main building, made possible by a donation of £3 000 from Mr Charles James and Miss Effie Mackenzie. This provided a new home for a brand new house, Marianne Browne, which was officially opened by Mrs James at prize giving in May 1939. This house was made up of girls drafted from the three original houses. The basement of the Marianne Browne first provided change rooms for the whole school. In 1947 it was converted to become the Domestic Science classroom. Three stoves were given to the school and sewing machines were bought with a generous donation by Mrs James. In 1960 the new Francie Baines house was opened which meant that Domestic Science could move out of Marianne Browne and the basement became a common room for the house.



The first House Mistresses were Miss Woods and Miss McLean and the first Head of House was Jean Bradley.

In 1965 Marianne Browne suffered the breakdown of their boiler and had to contend with 'billows of smoke'. An oil heater has was promptly installed although use had to be made of the other houses' baths for a week. The girls were very thankful to not have to go dirty!

During 1964 and 1965 the girls of St Anne's took part in various fundraising activities to bring an American Field Scholar to the school. Marianne Browne, with Mrs. Butler's help, raffled a beautiful cake presented by Mrs. Lawson. It was won by Wendy Drummond, an Andrews' girl, much to her form's delight.

2004 marked a major upgrading of all the dormitories. All Sixth Formers are now housed in single rooms with study facilities, Fifth Formers in double rooms with study facilities and Fourth Formers have a study area within the house.