

Antarctic Heritage Trust Information Sheet



Wordie House, Base F

Winter Island, Argentine Islands 65° 15'S, 64° 16'W

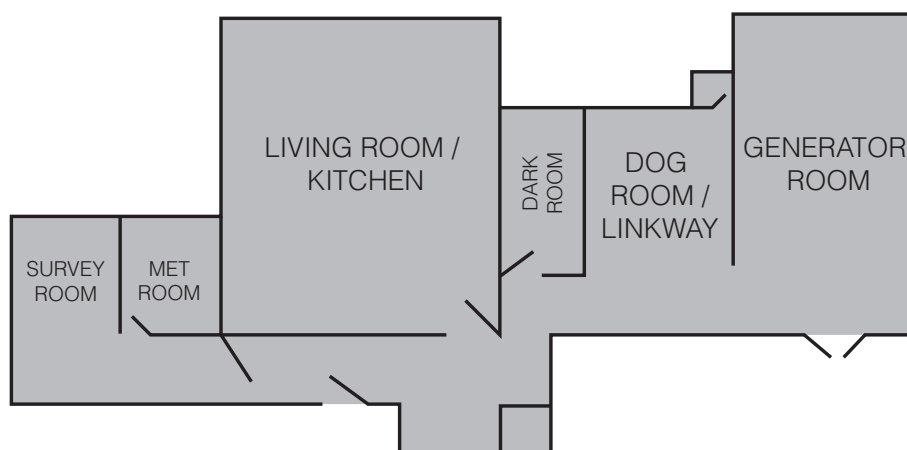
Historic site and Monument No 62

History

- Established in 1947, Wordie House was named in honour of Sir James Wordie, the chief scientist on Ernest Shackleton's epic 1914-17 expedition. Its main area of science was meteorology.
- Wordie hut stands on the foundations of an earlier hut established by the British Graham Land Expedition (BGLE). The BGLE hut is thought to have been destroyed by a tsunami in 1946.
- The hut was constructed using building materials from the hut at Port Lockroy and material salvaged from the whaling station at Deception Island.
- In 1954 the operation of the station and science programme moved to a new building on the neighbouring Galindez Island. The station was renamed Faraday and it continued the longstanding meteorological programme that began at Wordie House. Faraday was renamed Vernadsky in 1996 when the UK transferred it to the Ukraine.
- The hut was briefly reoccupied in 1960 when a party failed to get into base 'T' Adelaide Island and were forced to overwinter in the hut.
- Wordie House was designated Antarctic Historic Site and Monument (HSM) No 62 in 1995 and is maintained by the United Kingdom Antarctic Heritage Trust (UKAHT) on behalf of the UK with assistance from the neighbouring Vernadsky station.

Building guide

The hut consists of the kitchen and living room, generator shed, office, dog room and toilet. A number of original artefacts are still found on site. There are three interpretation posters inside the main building which inform visitors on the buildings HSM status, its history and the recent maintenance work that was carried out. A timber flagpole and a rare timber British Crown Land sign are also found outside.



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Please take note of the following during your visit*:

1. The key to the hut is held by the Vernadsky Base Commander.
2. Ensure all outdoor clothing and boots are clean before entering the building. Please use the boot scrubber provided.
3. The site is a historic site and monument and therefore overnight stays should not be made. Please do not handle, use or remove any artefacts or sit on chairs and other furniture.
4. Please do not smoke or use matches, candles or stoves in or around the building.
5. Leave a record of your visit in the visitor book and please report any damage to the hut or its contents or maintenance required to the UK Antarctic Heritage Trust: info@ukaht.org
6. A designated cleaning kit is kept in the porch. Please ensure that the hut is clean on your departure and that snow/water is mopped up from the floors.
7. Please ensure that the doors and windows are securely closed when you leave and the key is returned to the Vernadsky Base Commander.

* For all official guidelines and specific instructions please refer to the Wordie House Antarctic Treaty Visitor Site Guide

Thank you for visiting!