

<b>Area:</b> Geraldton	<b>Place Number:</b> 124	<b>Category:</b> 1
<b>Assessment Date:</b> 29/10/1996	<b>Last Revision Date:</b> 30/10/2009	
<b>HCWA Number:</b> 1073	<b>Asset ID:</b> MCH126628	

### PLACE DETAILS

<b>Name:</b>	Cemetery Chapel of St Spirito
<b>Other Names:</b>	Eastward Road
<b>Type of Place:</b>	Chapel
<b>Address:</b>	Eastward Road
<b>Suburb:</b>	Utakarra

### LOCATION

<b>Map Reference:</b>	17.15	<b>GPS Northing:</b>	6814318.00	<b>GPS Easting:</b>	269920.000
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#### Photo Description:

14/12/2008

Tanya Henkel

Chapel showing main and side entrances.

## SITE DETAILS

<b>Lot No.:</b>	Lot 9609	<b>Assess No.:</b>	16348
<b>Reserv No.:</b>	21779	<b>Vol/Fol:</b>	
<b>Dia/Plan:</b>			

## USE OF PLACE

<b>Original Use:</b>	Chapel		
<b>Current Use:</b>	Chapel		
<b>Ownership:</b>			
<b>Public Access:</b>	Restricted	<b>Occupied:</b>	Not Occupied

## DESCRIPTION

<b>Walls:</b>	Concrete	<b>Roof:</b>	Concrete
<b>Condition:</b>	Good	<b>Integrity:</b>	
<b>Original fabric:</b>			
<b>Modifications:</b>			

The exterior of the Chapel of San Spirito is simple and unadorned. [1]  
"Hawes 'Franciscanism' and the influence of the American south-west are clearly evident in this gem." [2]

"The shape of the building is rectilinear and is crowned with a bellcote. The exterior mass relies on a block form simply expressed with plain white walls to create a sculptural quality. The white painted and rendered external walls of the building provide sharp contrast between the crisp light and deep shadows created by strong sunlight in the region. The stepped and angular planes of the bellcote, crowned by a cross, have the same sculptural effect. The building has an entry at the west end and the altar at the east end. The plan consists of a narthex, a nave, a sanctuary, and a small sacristy on the north side. The bell is operated by a pull wire through the roof into the sanctuary. The interior, Romanesque in style, with a combination of various materials (concrete, brick, stone, timber, and metal screens) is solid and comforting, while retaining a solemn and majestic atmosphere." [3]

The exterior of the building has a very 'cubic' form, punctuated by stepped sides capped with orange tiles (possibly added later to reduce water penetration ) [4], louvered shutters to arched openings into the nave and porthole windows to the east and west ends. There are also small, side entry, arched openings behind the heavy, studded timber doors of the main entry on the west end. Inside, the entry is separated from the nave by wrought iron screens. The monochromatic striped

painting of the ribbed arches, supporting the barrel vault ceiling with painted mural, creates a tall uplifting space. Limestone bases buttress brick arches forming niches down the side (external) walls of the nave. Round stone columns (with chevron decoration) support stone arches in the end wall of the nave separating the sanctuary. The centre of the nave is dominated by the sarcophagus of Lecaille. It is made of terrazzo as is the surrounding floor in which there is also a brass plate meant to mark the grave of Monsignor. Hawes. The plate is engraved with a likeness of Hawes in his vestments, together with an inscription, however, he died and was buried in the Bahamas.

[1] Apperly R et al., A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture..... (Sydney: Angus & Robertson 1989) pp.176-179.

[2] Molyneux I, Looking Around Perth (RAIA, Perth) pp 131.

[3] Heritage Council of WA: Register of Heritage Places Chapel of San Spirito Data Base No.1073 and John Taylor Architect Utakarra Cemetery

Chapel (Heritage Assessment for the Heritage Council of WA 1994).

[4] ibid HCWA.

## HISTORY

<b>Construction Date:</b>	1936	<b>Source:</b>	Taylor, J.
<b>Architect:</b>	J.C. Hawes		
<b>Builder:</b>	Berry Bros		

The Chapel of San Spirito at the Utakarra Cemetery was designed by the architect and priest (later Monsignor) John Cyril Hawes in 1935. (Register Documentation, Heritage Council of WA) Hawes, who joined the Anglican Church in 1904, was received into the Catholic Church in March 1911, following a period of reflection and questioning of his religious faith in the Bahamas. Father John Hawes arrived in Western Australia in November 1915 and was attached to the Geraldton Diocese between the years 1915-39. His skills as an architect were in high demand and he was responsible for the design, and sometimes construction of, numerous churches in the MidWest Region, including the St Francis Xavier Cathedral, Nazareth House, the Church of St. Lawrence the Martyr and the Hermitage, all in Geraldton. (Ibid.)

The Chapel of San Spirito was designed as a cemetery chapel and as a tomb for the remains of Archdeacon Adolfe Lecaille, whose sarcophagus is in the middle of the nave. Lecaille was a Belgian missionary and was a founding priest in the Geraldton area. When Lecaille died in Perth in 1908 he was buried there, but in 1936 his body was exhumed and laid to rest in the Chapel of San Spirito. The Chapel also contains an empty grave which Hawes prepared for himself, although he was eventually buried in the Bahamas. (Ibid.) The Chapel took three months to build - April, May

and June of 1936 - at a cost of 824 pounds. The building contractor was Berry Bros., Mount Hawthorne, who also built Nazareth House. The design of the Chapel reflects Hawes' interest in the 1930s Modern movement. (Ibid.)

An article in the "Cathedral Chronicle" indicates that the cost of building the chapel was covered by a donation, "given to the Bishop for this express object. It was given by one who desired to remain strictly anonymous". The bequest also included an endowment for providing a Mass to be said in the chapel every month for Holy Souls. ("Cathedral Chronicle", May, 1936, p1) The article describes the chapel as "almost tomb-like in its monumental solidity. It displays the modern trend in art to straight and square outlines, emphasising strength and simplicity.

### HISTORIC THEMES

<b>HCWA:</b>	406 Religion 605 Famous and infamous people
<b>AHC:</b>	8.6.4 Making places for worship 9.7.1 Dealing with human remains

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Chapel of San Spirito has cultural heritage significance for the people of Geraldton and the surrounding region as place of religious observance, as burial place for members of the Roman Catholic clergy of the Geraldton Diocese and for its close association with prominent ecclesiastical architect Monsignor John Hawes. It has very high aesthetic value for its design, detailing and internal decoration. Its close association with the expansion of the activities of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Geraldton provides historic value together associations with Archdeacon Lecaille and Monsignor Hawes. It also has high social value because of the involvement of the Roman Catholic Church and cemetery with the Geraldton community. The place has significance for its rarity, representativeness, condition, integrity and authenticity. (This statement of significance is based on statement contained in the HCWA entry into the Register of Heritage Places.)

**RECOMMENDATION:** A management and maintenance plan needs to be established for the chapel to protect its condition and prevent deterioration from ingress of water— particularly to eliminate damage already occurring to the vaulted ceiling.

## MANAGEMENT CATEGORY

<b>Management Category:</b>	1
<b>Level of Significance:</b>	EXCEPTIONAL SIGNIFICANCE: Essential to the heritage of the locality.
<b>Management Recommendation:</b>	Conservation of the place is considered essential. Any proposed change should not unduly impact on the significance of the place and be in accordance with either a Conservation Plan or Heritage Impact Statement.

## OTHER LISTINGS

Heritage Council of WA - Register, 25/11/1994  
Australian Heritage Commission - Register, 21/03/1978  
National Trust of WA - Classified, 27/05/1974

## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Apperly, R., et al., "A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture", Sydney, Angus & Robertson, 1989.  
Molyneux, I., "Looking Around Perth", RAlA, Perth.  
John Taylor Architect, "Utakarra Cemetery Chapel Heritage Assessment" for the Heritage Council of WA, 1994.  
John Taylor Architect, "Utakarra Cemetery Chapel Conservation Plan", 1998.  
Feilman & Associates, "Survey of Places of Historic and Landscape Significance in Geraldton", 1977.  
"Cathedral Chronicle".

## OTHER PHOTOS



**Photo Description:**

29/10/1996

Suba, Callow & Grundy  
Cemetery Chapel of St Spirito.