

Area: Geraldton	Place Number: 35	Category: 1
Assessment Date: 29/10/1996	Last Revision Date: 10/07/2009	
HCWA Number: 13227	Asset ID: MCH127008	

PLACE DETAILS

Name:	Anglican Cathedral of the Holy Cross
Other Names:	101 Cathedral Avenue
Type of Place:	Church
Address:	101 Cathedral Avenue
Suburb:	Geraldton

LOCATION

Map Reference:	15.14	GPS Northing:	6814174.00	GPS Easting:	267134.000
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Photo Description:

21/08/2007

Rod Milne

View of the Anglican Cathedral from Cathedral Avenue.1

SITE DETAILS

Lot No.:	Lot 100	Assess No.:	19858
Reserv No.:		Vol/Fol:	2110/288
Dia/Plan:	93542		

USE OF PLACE

Original Use:	Cathedral		
Current Use:	Cathedral		
Ownership:			
Public Access:	Restricted	Occupied:	Occupied

DESCRIPTION

Walls:	Concrete	Roof:	Fibro Asbestos
Condition:	Good	Integrity:	
Original fabric:			
Modifications:	New Diocesan office to south		

The Anglican Cathedral of the Holy Cross is situated on an elevated site in Cathedral Avenue where it provides a landmark and prominent symbol for the Anglican community in Geraldton. It is also the seat of the Bishop of the Diocese of North West Australia. The plan of the Cathedral is an elongated star form which focuses attention on the sanctuary immediately upon entry. The building is of tall, grey, exposed aggregate, reinforced concrete walls with narrow full height stained glass windows set into concrete tracery dividing the walls into structural modules. A narrow, cream coloured, exposed aggregate concrete fascia and ribs either side of the windows form a contrast to grey and somewhat foreboding walls. The fascia conceals a flat, fibro asbestos roof from which the ceiling is suspended on an internally grid forming a large diamond pattern on the underside of the ceiling. The interior space of the church is tall, voluminous and austere finished. Decoration is kept to a minimum, being limited to functional objects such as the pews (timber) seating over 400 people, Sanctuary screen, terrazzo coffin shaped font, carpet with Eucharist motive and the plain white glass cylindrical light fittings. Other than for a panel of natural timber (skylight) incorporated into the ceiling, the stained glass windows on the side and end walls are allowed to be the principal decorative element without competition. Elsewhere all detailing and finishes are simple and functional in keeping with the International style of 1960's Australian architecture. This is no better illustrated than in the predominant internal and external use of exposed aggregate wall finishes. These are typical of the period where "concrete brutalism" was

used to expose the raw bones of the building materials as the finished surface. A new Diocesan office has been constructed immediately to the south of the Cathedral on the corner of Carson Terrace, which includes a hall with an office, and the Deanery (Dean's Office) and is on a separate lot.

HISTORY

Construction Date: 1962 **Source:** Foundation Stone
Architect: Edwin Whittaker
Builder: GBC

Consecrated in 1873, the original Anglican Church in Geraldton, Christchurch, was demolished in November, 1962. Plans for the new Anglican Cathedral were drawn in 1961 and the Foundation stone was laid on 22 July, 1962 by His Excellency the Governor General Sir Charles Gairdner. The Cathedral of the Holy Cross was consecrated on 8 March, 1964 by Bishop Frewer, Bishop of the Diocese North West Australia. Designed by architect Edwin Whittaker of Ean McDonald & Whittaker, the Cathedral was built by the Geraldton Building Company for the contract price of £81,000. (Downes, J., "The Cathedral Church of the Holy Cross", undated brochure) The Cathedral became known as "the Coventry of Australia" due to its unusual design. (Doncaster, T., "Spinifex Saints: The Diocese of North West Australia, 1910-1985", Western Mount Publications, 1985, p30) The ashes of Bishop Frewer, the second Bishop of the Diocese North West Australia (and Bishop while the Cathedral was being constructed), are located in the Cathedral. He died in December, 1974, having been Bishop for 36 years until he retired in 1965.

HISTORIC THEMES

HCWA: 406 Religion
300 Occupations
AHC: 8.6 Worshipping

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Anglican Cathedral has very high social significance for the Anglican community of Geraldton and the people of the Diocese of North West Australia (Mingenew to Whyndham) of the State as a place of worship and spiritual symbol. It has high aesthetic significance for the integrity of its architectural style, finish and detailing for a building of this scale and

importance. Its prominent location gives it high landmark value adding to its aesthetic significance.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Anglican Cathedral needs a conservation plan to guide regular and future maintenance of the place so as to ensure that its condition, integrity and heritage significance are protected.

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY

Management Category:	1
Level of Significance:	EXCEPTIONAL SIGNIFICANCE: Essential to the heritage of the locality.
Management Recommendation:	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, 28/11/2003

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Downes, J., "The Cathedral Church of the Holy Cross".
GLLSCVF - Churches.
GLLSPC - Buildings (Churches) & Geraldton (General).
Doncaster, T., "Spinifex Saints: The Diocese of North West Australia, 1910-1985, 1985.
Cathedral Pamphlet.

OTHER PHOTOS



Photo Description:

29/10/1996

Suba, Callow & Grundy

Main entrance to the Anglican Cathedral.



Photo Description:

29/10/1996

Suba, Callow & Grundy

Interior view of Cathedral