

Area: Geraldton	Place Number: 74	Category: 1
Assessment Date: 29/10/1996	Last Revision Date: 20/10/2009	
HCWA Number: 1075	Asset ID: MCH126851	

PLACE DETAILS

Name:	St George's Anglican Church & Colonnade
Other Names:	367 Chapman Road
Type of Place:	Church
Address:	367 Chapman Road
Suburb:	Bluff Point

LOCATION

Map Reference: 15.15	GPS Northing: 6818257.00	GPS Easting: 267778.000
	GPS Northing: 0000	GPS Easting: 000



Photo Description:

13/04/2008

Tanya Henkel

Eastern elevation of the church with arched entry at right.

SITE DETAILS

Lot No.:	Lot 1199 & 1253	Assess No.:	11867
Reserv No.:	22964		& 71
Dia/Plan:		Vol/Fol:	

USE OF PLACE

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

DESCRIPTION

Walls:	Stone	Roof:	Tile
Condition:	Good	Integrity:	
Original fabric:			
Modifications:			
<p>St George's Anglican Church is a simple and romantic 'village' church modeled along lines of an old English church it could be described as Inter War Romanesque or Arts & Crafts but doesn't fit either exactly. It is also reminiscent of some of Father Hawes' work and may have been an effort to raise the image of Anglican churches in the district so that they could stand equally alongside local Roman Catholic ecclesiastical works.</p> <p>The church has walls of local stone (from Narra Tarra in the Chapman Valley) with rendered surrounds to semi-circular arched windows, quoining and parapets. The bell tower rises to a three storey high scale above the stone gable end to the nave and combines with an enclosed entry porch to create an asymmetrical front elevation. The roofs of the church are tiled, including the bell tower pyramid supported on corbelled brickwork around its eaves. The top of the tower has arched louvered openings to match the leadlight windows down the sides of the church. The side entry to the sanctuary and vestry towards the rear, has a triple arched window giving a balance to the taller windows of the nave and the wider arch of the entry doors, all on the same north elevation.</p> <p>The eastern approach to St George's is through a small lychgate, built more recently, but sympathetic to the character of the original church and constructed of a darker, redder stone. The gate is of wrought iron featuring a St George and the dragon theme. A low stone wall runs along the property frontage. To the west, the site faces the ocean and an open</p>			

pergola colonnade and sundial, also built at a later date, frames the outlook. To the north of the church is St George's Hall, a wide stone building with a gable roof which was built in 1960.

HISTORY

Construction Date: 1935 **Source:** GLLSCVF G120
Architect: Herbert Eales
Builder: T.P. Crothers

From 1928, prior to the construction of St. George's Anglican Church, services were held in the local hall at Bluff Point Hall. The services were first conducted by the Rev. Henry Vine, Rector of Christ Church, Geraldton. The construction of a new church was chiefly owing to the efforts of Miss Cecily Biddle who was able to raise generous donations locally and from friends in Brede, England. By 28 March, 1935 half of the cost of the building had been covered by donations. ("Geraldton Guardian", 14/12/1935, H.H. Wilson, "Geraldton Sketchbook", p46 & National Trust Place File, Biddle, C.M., "Parish of St. George, Bluff Point, A Record 1937-1950")

Mr Herbert Eales, of Messrs Eales, Cohen and Bennett of Perth, was the architect of the new church and the builder was Mr T.P. Crothers. ("Geraldton Guardian", 14/12/1935) Stone for the church was donated by Mr Frank Green from a quarry on his property at Narra Tarra in Chapman Valley. The stone was carted to the site by Mr William Webber and volunteers. ("Geraldton Guardian", 28/3/1935 & National Trust Place File) The foundation stone was laid in May, 1935. ("Geraldton Guardian", 19/10/1961)

A newspaper article describes the building close to completion: "A special feature is the triple arch over the Sanctuary step. The Sanctuary is an apse and the High Alter will have a marble top and be constructed of compressed cement. The Alter in the Lady Chapel is the gift of the contractor, Mr T.P. Crothers. The windows are a rich shade of amber and will cost £2,000." ("Geraldton Guardian", 14/12/1935) The church and furnishings cost £2,300. Pews for the church were donated by local families. (National Trust Place File & Op Cit., Biddle, C.M.)

The church was consecrated on 15 December, 1935 by the Bishop of the North West, the Right Reverend John Frewer. ("Geraldton Guardian", 14/12/1935) The first Rector was the Reverend K.B. Halley. (National Trust Place File) The name of St. George was chosen because both Miss Biddle and the Bishop had spent their early years in Brede, England, where their parish church was dedicated to St. George. A piece of stone quarried in France approximately 1,000 years ago, formerly part of the cornice on St. George's Church in Brede, England, was fixed to the porch wall of the Bluff Point Church and unveiled by Rt. Rev. J. Frewer in October 1961.

(Ibid., & Op Cit., Wilson)

The tower contains a bell which was made in England at the foundry of Mears and Stainbank. Hung in 1938, the bell weighs over six hundredweight. (Ibid., Wilson) The church alter is a memorial to Rev. C.C. Frewer, a former Rector of Brede, England. The Pulpit was installed in 1947 as a memorial to those who died during the Second World War. Built in 1950, the stone colonnade, situated immediately behind the church, was designed by Messrs Forbes and Fitzhardinge. It was erected in memory of Miss Biddle's companion, Elizabeth Estwick. Miss Biddle's Sunday School staged nativity plays here. The sundial is a memorial to one of the alter boys of the church. The Lych gate, positioned in front of the church was built in 1957 in memory of Elizabeth Howes. The iron gate features the figures of St. George and the dragon. The adjacent Parish Hall, also designed by Forbes & Fitzhardinge, was opened on 4 December, 1960. (Ibid, "The Church of St. George", brochure, & National Trust Place File)

HISTORIC THEMES

HCWA:	406 Religion
AHC:	8.6.4 Making places for worship

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The St George's Anglican Church is of very high aesthetic, historic and social significance to the Geraldton community and must be given the highest level of protection under the municipal inventory. The surrounding site must also be protected so as to ensure a sympathetic environment for the church and its associated structures and buildings.

RECOMMENDATION:

A conservation plan is recommended to ensure that the integrity of the place is protected and to guide future maintenance of the place. Otherwise, assessment of a suitable building management programme to conserve the place is required. For example; some stonework at ground level is fretting due to rising moisture and salt damage and will require appropriate conservation techniques to address the problem before it becomes more destructive.

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY

Management Category:	1
Level of Significance:	EXCEPTIONAL SIGNIFICANCE: Essential to the

**Management
Recommendation:**

heritage of the locality.
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

No other listings

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

"Geraldton Guardian".
H.H. Wilson, "Geraldton Sketchbook".
National Trust Place File.
Biddle, C.M., "Parish of St. George, Bluff Point, A Record 1937-1950".
GLLSPC - Buildings (Churches).
GLLSCVF - G120.
Feilman & Associates, "Survey of Places of Historic and Landscape Significance in Geraldton", 1977.

OTHER PHOTOS



Photo Description:

29/10/1996

Suba, Callow & Grundy

St George's Anglican Church.



Photo Description:

13/04/2008

Tanya Henkel

View of the stone lychgate from Chapman Road.



Photo Description:

13/04/2008

Tanya Henkel

The stone Colonnade is located to the west of the church.



Photo Description:

13/04/2008

Henkel

View of the Colonnade looking north.



Photo Description:

29/10/1996

Suba, Callow & Grundy

Colonnade to rear of church.