

Area: Geraldton	Place Number: 273	Category: 5
Assessment Date: 10/02/1995	Last Revision Date: 30/11/2009	
HCWA Number: 13439	Asset ID: MCH127108	

PLACE DETAILS

Name:	Site of the Railway Hotel
Other Names:	21 Marine Terrace
Type of Place:	Site
Address:	21 Marine Terrace
Suburb:	Geraldton

LOCATION

Map Reference: 14.15	GPS Northing: 6814997.00	GPS Easting: 266818.000
	GPS Northing: 0000	GPS Easting: 000



Photo Description:

"Geraldton: A Photographic History".
View of Railway Hotel looking down Marine Terrace.

SITE DETAILS

Lot No.:	Lot 3064	Assess No.:	20152
Reserv No.:		Vol/Fol:	
Dia/Plan:			

USE OF PLACE

Original Use:	Hotel		
Current Use:	Police Station		
Ownership:	Western Australian Government		
Public Access:	No	Occupied:	Occupied

DESCRIPTION

Walls:	Not applicable	Roof:	Not applicable
Condition:	Good	Integrity:	
Original fabric:			
Modifications:			

The Railway Hotel, and subsequently the Sunseeker Hotel, were located on this site. The site now accommodates the Geraldton Police Station. The gardens in the forecourt include some interpretive material about the history of the site.

HISTORY

Construction Date:	1895	Source:	Bain, M.A.
Architect:	Unknown		
Builder:	J. & C. Bennett		

The Railway Hotel was built on Geraldton town lot 248 by successful builders James and Charles Bennett in 1895. (Bain, M.A., "A Life of its Own", City of Geraldton, 1996, p129)

The Railway Hotel is described in "Twentieth Century Impressions of Western Australia": "It is a very handsome building, comparing favourably with any in town. It is conveniently situated adjoining the Government offices. A feature of the establishment is the magnificent balcony on the second storey. From here may be obtained a fine view of the surrounding country, and a beautiful view of the jetty and the harbour is also to be seen from this point." The Hotel, which could accommodate over forty guests, was in 1901 owned and managed by Mr J. McAlwey. (Thiel, P.W.H., "Twentieth Century Impressions of Western Australia", Perth, 1901, p598-99)

The location of the hotel was originally very strategic, being sited

diagonally opposite Geraldton's second railway station which operated from 1894 to 1915. Thus it was called the Railway Hotel, it being the closest hotel to the railway station at that time. When the railway station was shifted to Chapman Road in 1915, it was a block away. In 1971, the old hotel was demolished to be replaced by a new hotel called the Sunseeker Hotel. This building was demolished in 1998 and the new Geraldton Police Station was constructed on the site, opening in July 2000.

HISTORIC THEMES

HCWA:	311 Hospitality industry and tourism 403 Law and order
AHC:	3.12.5 Retailing food and beverages 7.6.3 Policing Australia

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Railway Hotel was one of the key iconic buildings in Marine Terrace, especially during the period 1894-1915 when the main railway station was located diagonally opposite. Furthermore, the building was a distinctive structure architecturally with fine arched verandah detailing on the Marine Terrace frontage. The site of the Railway Hotel has historic significance for its connection to the development of Geraldton and for its association with the railway.

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY

Management Category:	5
Level of Significance:	HISTORIC SITE: The site has historic significance for its previous use and its role in the historical development of the locality.
Management Recommendation:	Proposed development may need to have regard to possible archaeological evidence remaining on the site. Recognise and interpret the site if feasible. This may be achieved through a variety of methods including, but not limited to, signage, public art, paving treatment and landscaping as well as design treatment of any new development which reflects the former use of the site.

OTHER LISTINGS

No other listings

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Considine & Griffiths Architects, "Geraldton Foreshore Conservation Plan", 2002 - Building 2.

Bain, M.A., "A Life of its Own", City of Geraldton, 1996.

GLLSPC - Buildings (Hotels) & Marine Terrace.

Thiel, P.W.H., "Twentieth Century Impressions of Western Australia", Perth, 1901.

"Geraldton: A Photographic History".

OTHER PHOTOS



Photo Description:

"Geraldton: A Photographic History".