

<b>Area:</b> Geraldton	<b>Place Number:</b> 22	<b>Category:</b> 1
<b>Assessment Date:</b> 29/10/1996	<b>Last Revision Date:</b> 08/07/2009	
<b>HCWA Number:</b> 3458	<b>Asset ID:</b> MCH126968	

### PLACE DETAILS

<b>Name:</b>	Rosella House
<b>Other Names:</b>	Rosella Hospital
<b>Type of Place:</b>	Rehabilitation Centre
<b>Address:</b>	11 Bayly Street
<b>Suburb:</b>	Geraldton

### LOCATION

<b>Map Reference:</b> 15.16	<b>GPS Northing:</b> 6815346.00	<b>GPS Easting:</b> 267330.000
	<b>GPS Northing:</b> 0000	<b>GPS Easting:</b> 000



#### Photo Description:

20/11/2007

Rod Milne

View of Rosella House from the adjacent carpark.

## SITE DETAILS

<b>Lot No.:</b>	Lots 4-6	<b>Assess No.:</b>	14634
<b>Reserv No.:</b>	50048	<b>Vol/Fol:</b>	3142/779, 780 & 781
<b>Dia/Plan:</b>			

## USE OF PLACE

<b>Original Use:</b>	Hospital		
<b>Current Use:</b>	Alcohol & Drug Rehab Centre		
<b>Ownership:</b>	Western Australian Government		
<b>Public Access:</b>	Restricted	<b>Occupied:</b>	Occupied

## DESCRIPTION

<b>Walls:</b>	Fibro	<b>Roof:</b>	Corrugated Iron
<b>Condition:</b>	Fair	<b>Integrity:</b>	
<b>Original fabric:</b>	Chimney detailing		
<b>Modifications:</b>	Some verandah enclosures		

Rosella House is timber framed, set up on stumps over the sloping site. It is of the "Victorian Georgian" style [1] from the turn of the century. The walls are of a roughcast stucco on lathing under a wide, continuous verandah which skirts the four sides of its simple rectangular and symmetrical floor plan. Original floor boards to the verandah have been replaced with reeded decking. The balustrade to the verandah has been replaced or infilled with flat sheet which gives a solidity where formerly a more delicate element would have complimented the gracious building. Some sections of moulded handrail remain on the balustrade which runs along under a shallow curved verandah beam. This, together with timber mouldings forming capitals at the top of verandah posts comprises the extent of decorative detailing other than for the arched side and high lights with stained glass around the front entry door. Tall windows and french doors open out from rooms onto the verandah. The roof is a simple hipped, corrugated iron form with vented, louvered gambrels at the ends of the extended ridge. Only the gambrels, plus several chimneys, with roughcast stucco and rendered mouldings, break the expansive roof-scape which extends out continuously over the verandah.

Internally the layout follows the rectangular and symmetrical planning with rooms opening off either side of a wide central hallway. Internal decoration is simple, with deep, moulded, timber skirtings and architraves whilst the ceilings are plain.

See also descriptions of the fabric under "Physical Evidence" in Considine & Griffiths Pty Ltd "Rosella House Conservation Plan", 1994.

[1] Apperly R et al., A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture: (Sydney: Angus & Robertson 1989) .pp 42-45.

## HISTORY

<b>Construction Date:</b>	1911	<b>Source:</b>	P. Griffiths
<b>Architect:</b>	J. Herbert Eales		
<b>Builder:</b>	W. Martin		

In 1894 Geraldton Suburban Lot 11, a rectangular block of land located on Bayley Street, was purchased by William Burges of Knockbrack (the Bowes) in Northampton, Samuel Lockier Burges, of Woodbrook, Roebourne and Edward Horne Wittenoom, of White Peak, Chapman Valley. (Certificate of Title, Vol. 62, Folio 30) In 1895 Geraldton Suburban Lot 11 was subdivided into Lots 4-14; Lots 4,5 and 6 being the future Rosella Hospital site. (Considine & Griffiths, "Rosella House Conservation Plan", for the BMA, 1994, p3)

Lots 4,5 and 6 remained vacant until 1908 when a house was built there, but was subsequently demolished. On 5 August, 1911 tenders were called for the erection of a private hospital for Mr. H. Burges. Mr. J. Herbert Eales, of Perth, was the architect for the hospital. The tender of W. Martin was accepted on 16 December. (Ibid., p4) An advertisement in the Geraldton Express indicated that the hospital was due to open at the end of February, 1912. ("Geraldton Express", 7 February, 1912)

There is a persistent but undocumented belief that Rose Ella was named after William Burges' wife Rose Jessie Florence (nee Brown) and their daughter, said to be named Ella or Rosella, who was born in India and died there as an infant. (Op Cit., Griffiths, p7 & Bain, M.A., "A Life of its Own", City of Geraldton, 1996, p228)

The hospital operated under a lease arrangement until 1924 when Mary Elizabeth Davies purchased it and continued on as Matron until 1926. In 1926 Alice Irene Lawson purchased Rosella Hospital and was Matron of the hospital until 1944 when it was purchased by Kathleen Monica McAleer. Mrs McAleer's husband, Dr James McAleer ran a practice in Geraldton and was surgeon at the hospital. In 1946 he was elected Mayor of Geraldton and held the position until 1957. (Op Cit., Griffiths, p7-9)

From 1951 to 1967 Rosella Hospital became part of the Geraldton District Hospital, operating as an Intermediate Ward. (Ibid., p9-11) The hospital was leased by the government until 1954 when the property was purchased by the Department of Lands and Surveys. Considerable work

was then carried out, including reroofing, painting and renovating the wards. (Ibid., p13) Rosella Hospital was closed between December, 1955 and May, 1957 due to a shortage of nursing staff and the extent of renovations being undertaken. (Ibid., p14)

With the completion of the new 1,750,000 pound Geraldton Regional Hospital in 1966 Rosella Hospital closed. (Ibid., p16) Between 1967 and 1979 Rosella was used as a Boarding House for St Patrick's College and was renamed Rosella House. From 1967 to 1971 Rosella House was used as a Training Centre - a Juniorate - for boys seeking to gain entrance into the Christian Brothers Order. (Ibid.)

In July, 1977 the building was leased to the Alcohol and Drug Authority and now provides an alcohol and drug rehabilitation hostel service. (Ibid., p17)

In 1982 the Nurses' Quarters, known as Rosella Quarters, which were located on the adjacent Lots 7-8, were demolished to allow for the Northgate Shopping Centre carpark. (Ibid., p15)

## HISTORIC THEMES

<b>HCWA:</b>	404 Community services and utilities 408 Institutions
<b>AHC:</b>	3.26.2 Providing hospital services 3.26 Providing health services

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Rosella House has very high aesthetic, historic and social significance for Geraldton and the State for its associations with the development of the region and for its long term use as a hospital for the Geraldton community. The building makes an important contribution to the built environment of Geraldton. The place may also have scientific significance that will contribute to an understanding of early medical and hospitalisation techniques in the State.

### RECOMMENDATION:

The significance of the place must be protected in accordance with the recommendations of current and future conservation plans.

## MANAGEMENT CATEGORY

<b>Management Category:</b>	1
<b>Level of Significance:</b>	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, 13/12/1996

### **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

Considine & Griffiths, "Rosella House Conservation Plan", 1994.  
Bain, M.A., "A Life of its Own", City of Geraldton, 1996.  
"Geraldton Express".

### **OTHER PHOTOS**



**Photo Description:**

29/10/1996

Suba, Callow & Grundy

View of Rosella House from Bayly Street.