

Area: Geraldton	Place Number: 37	Category: 2
Assessment Date: 03/12/1996	Last Revision Date: 29/09/2009	
HCWA Number: 13229	Asset ID: MCH127027	

PLACE DETAILS

Name:	Queens Park Theatre
Other Names:	63 Cathedral Avenue
Type of Place:	Theatre
Address:	63 Cathedral Avenue
Suburb:	Geraldton

LOCATION

Map Reference: 15.15	GPS Northing: 6814391.00	GPS Easting: 266930.000
	GPS Northing: 0000	GPS Easting: 000



Photo Description:

21/01/2008

Rod Milne

View of the front facade of the theatre showing forecourt and water feature.

SITE DETAILS

Lot No.:	Lot 550	Assess No.:	11674
Reserv No.:	30845	Vol/Fol:	
Dia/Plan:			

USE OF PLACE

Original Use:	Theatre		
Current Use:	Theatre		
Ownership:	City of Geraldton-Greenough		
Public Access:	Restricted	Occupied:	Occupied

DESCRIPTION

Walls:	Concrete Block	Roof:	Steel
Condition:	Good	Integrity:	
Original fabric:			
Modifications:			

Located adjacent to the Geraldton Civic Centre and Library, this large rectangular building has three stories to the front and four storeys to the rear which contains the stage. A double storey concrete verandah is located to the front elevation with walled walkways extending from the first floor balcony. Located between the walkways is a stone outdoor amphitheatre. The semicircular exterior of the amphitheatre has a water feature with waterfalls. A brick paved plaza with sculptures and outdoor seating extends from the water feature towards Cathedral Avenue. Extensive gardens compliment the setting of the building.

HISTORY

Construction Date:	1980	Source:	Foundation Stone
Architect:	Ian Harris		
Builder:	Geraldton Building Co.		

A special ratepayers meeting was held in March 1979 at which the need for a new theatre was discussed. It was argued that the Town Hall was seventy years old and required structural maintenance. A number of proposals were considered by the Council which favoured a 650 seat building at a cost of \$3.2 million. (Bain, M.A., "A Life of its Own", City of Geraldton, 1996, p302)

The Foundation stone for the Queens Park Theatre, located at the centre of the first floor facade, was laid on 5 September, 1980 by the Premier of

Western Australia, Sir Charles Court. The theatre was officially opened on 27 March, 1982. (Gallaher, K., "List of Openings, inaugurations, foundations", Local Studies Collection, Geraldton Library)
The Theatre was built on the site of the Queens Park Sports Ground which featured a band rotunda at the east end. (Source: Shirley Scotter)

HISTORIC THEMES

HCWA:	400 Social and civic activities 405 Sport, recreation and entertainment 605 Famous and infamous people
AHC:	8.1 Organising recreation 8.10.1 Making music 3.5.1 Grazing stock

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Queens Park Theatre has considerable local social significance as the main centre for theatrical productions in Geraldton. Furthermore the use of the building as a cinema and art gallery contribute to it being held in high esteem by the local community. The theatre is prominently situated in a civic precinct on the main street into town, adjacent to the Civic Centre and Library. Its large scale, prominent position and designed setting make it one of the more impressive modern buildings in Geraldton.

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY

Management Category:	2
Level of Significance:	CONSIDERABLE SIGNIFICANCE: Very important to the heritage of the locality.
Management Recommendation:	Conservation of the place is highly recommended. Any proposed change should not unduly impact on the heritage values of the place and should retain significant fabric wherever feasible.

OTHER LISTINGS

Heritage Council of WA - Assessment Program, 01/01/1970

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Bain, M.A., "A Life of its Own", City of Geraldton, 1996.
Gallaher, K., "List of openings, inaugurations, foundations".
GLLSPC - Buildings (Queens Park Theatre) & Geraldton (General).
Smith, K.R., "The Birth of a Legend", GBC, 1994, pp.118-19.

OTHER PHOTOS



Photo Description:

3/12/1996

Suba & Grundy

View of the front facade of the theatre.