

Area: Geraldton	Place Number: 43	Category: 4
Assessment Date: 08/12/1996	Last Revision Date: 29/09/2009	
HCWA Number: 13233	Asset ID: MCH126681	

PLACE DETAILS

Name:	Murchison Tavern
Other Names:	20 Chapman Road
Type of Place:	Hotel
Address:	20 Chapman Road
Suburb:	Geraldton

LOCATION

Map Reference: 15.15	GPS Northing: 6814746.00	GPS Easting: 266781.000
	GPS Northing: 0000	GPS Easting: 000



Photo Description:

3/08/2007

Rod Milne

Building has been considerably altered over time.

SITE DETAILS

Lot No.:	Lot 31	Assess No.:	11725
Reserv No.:		Vol/Fol:	
Dia/Plan:			

USE OF PLACE

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

DESCRIPTION

Walls:	Stone/Brick	Roof:	Corrugated Iron/ Asbestos
Condition:	Good	Integrity:	
Original fabric:	Some stone walling		
Modifications:	Numerous changes		

Set on a corner location this rendered masonry building has a complex roof structure. A skillion roof is situated behind the low parapet to the street facade to the south with a gabled and hipped roof to the north. The northern (possibly original) section of the building is constructed of rendered stone with double hung windows to the rear and added brick buttresses and aluminium windows to the front. A box awning runs around the street facades. The northern wall was altered to accommodate timber bi-fold doors during restaurant renovations in c1996.

HISTORY

Construction Date:	1890	Source:	M.A. Bain
Architect:	Unknown		
Builder:	Unknown		

The Murchison Inn, 'a favourite "watering hole" for the working men of the town', opened in Eleanor Street (now Chapman Road) during the early days of the gold rush. It was badly damaged by a disastrous fire in May 1913, which swept through the building, practically demolishing most of it. The fire, which resulted in the loss of one life, also caused extensive damage to the adjacent Council Chambers and two nearby cottages. The Inn was insured for 300 pounds, but the licensee decided that she would still be a loser to the extent of 100 pounds. (Bain, M.A., "A Life of its

Own", City of Geraldton, 1996, p133)

HISTORIC THEMES

HCWA:	311 Hospitality industry and tourism 405 Sport, recreation and entertainment
AHC:	3.12.5 Retailing food and beverages

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Murchison Tavern has local historic significance as one of the numerous hotels which operated in the town during the gold rush years. Although some original sections remain, the many alterations and additions undertaken over the years detract from the overall significance of the place.

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY

Management Category:	4
Level of Significance:	SOME SIGNIFICANCE: Contributes to the heritage and/or historical development of the locality.
Management Recommendation:	Conservation of the place is desirable. Any proposed change to the place should be in sympathy with the heritage values of the place.

OTHER LISTINGS

No other listings

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

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

OTHER PHOTOS



Photo Description:

8/12/1996

Suba & Grundy

Building fronts directly onto Chapman Road.