

Area: Geraldton	Place Number: 301	Category: 1
Assessment Date: 30/10/1996	Last Revision Date: 18/12/2009	
HCWA Number: 1060	Asset ID: MCH126791	

PLACE DETAILS

Name:	Radio Theatre Fmr
Other Names:	205-09 Marine Terrace
Type of Place:	Fmr Theatre
Address:	205-09 Marine Terrace
Suburb:	Geraldton

LOCATION

Map Reference:	14.15	GPS Northing:	6814542.00	GPS Easting:	266382.000
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Photo Description:

13/04/2008

Tanya Henkel

View of the corner building, street facades.

SITE DETAILS

Lot No.:	Lot 20	Assess No.:	11554
Reserv No.:		Vol/Fol:	1745/88
Dia/Plan:	16094		

USE OF PLACE

Original Use:	Theatre/Retail/Office		
Current Use:	Vacant/Restaurant		
Ownership:		Occupied:	Occupied
Public Access:	Restricted		

DESCRIPTION

Walls:	Brick (Rendered)	Roof:	Asbestos
Condition:	Good	Integrity:	
Original fabric:			
Modifications:			

The former Radio Theatre picture theatre, is one of few Inter War Art Deco buildings of its type and size to have been built, and remaining, in Geraldton. It is significant as an example of an Art Deco theatre and building of its size outside the metropolitan area of Perth. The two storey building is located on the corner of Marine Terrace and Fitzgerald Street and has been designed to address the corner and wrap around the two street frontages. In plan form, the street corner is an obtuse angle (greater than 90 degrees). This has allowed the original picture theatre to run straight back from Marine Terrace whilst leaving additional, adjacent space, and increasing depth on the Fitzgerald Street frontage, for shops and offices over which are separate from the theatre building itself.

The ground floor has shopfronts on the street line, at the footpath, with an overhanging awning. Most of the original detailing of the shopfronts has been modified. The former entrance to the theatre, and now the church, faces the Marine Terrace frontage and its significance has been diminished by unsympathetic infill treatment using 'clinker' bricks and heavy timber doors to replace the former 'art deco' detailing of the entry. The first floor facade exemplifies its 'art deco' character, albeit fairly simply. The facade is very much intact with cream painted, rendered walls and detailing highlighted in blue-grey. Immediately above the corner, the window module changes to three, narrow vertical windows, with the centre one slightly higher, to add emphasis. Parapet walls with simple, decorative mouldings obscure the asbestos roof behind.

Above the former theatre entrance, full height, vertical moulded and rendered elements, borrow expression from the skyscraper and radio design motives of the day to provide emphasis for the entry in the decorative treatment of the facade.

An internal inspection was not possible for the consultants and the extent of original, internal 'art deco' decoration has not been assessed.

HISTORY

Construction Date:	1937	Source:	Register Documentation
Architect:	Samuel Rosenthal		
Builder:	Frank Cardalini		

The Radio Theatre was built in 1937 to a design by prominent architect Samuel Rosenthal. According to Shirley Scotter the building housed the Theatre Sweet Shop, which was used during the war as the Comfort Fund Shop where knitting etc was collected for the soldiers. On the corner the Radio Motors Garage was located with drive-in from both Fitzgerald Street and Marine Terrace. The bowlers were located on an island in the centre. The building was owned by Mr Alfred G. Wheat. Refer to Register Documentation for full history. Contact Mr Alwyn Wheat for further information.

HISTORIC THEMES

HCWA:	405 Sport, recreation and entertainment 308 Commercial services and industries
AHC:	3.21 Entertaining for profit 3.19 Marketing and retailing

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The former Radio Theatre has very high social and aesthetic significance for the Geraldton community. The building makes a major contribution to the streetscape and townscape and provides something of an entry statement or landmark at the southern end of Marine Terrace. It was formerly a significant social gathering place for several generations during the middle and later part of the Century.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that a more sympathetic treatment of the entry is reconstructed at an appropriate time in the future and that more

sympathetic detailing of shop fronts is encouraged. The interiors require further examination and original details protected and restored wherever possible.

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY

Management Category:	1
Level of Significance:	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, 27/06/2003
National Trust of WA - Classified, 01/10/1989

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Considine & Griffiths Architects, "Geraldton Foreshore Conservation Plan", 2002 - Building 34.
GLLSPC - Buildings (Businesses) & Buildings (Miscellaneous)

OTHER PHOTOS



Photo Description:

30/10/1996

Suba, Callow & Grundy

Former theatre building addresses the corner.