

Area: Geraldton	Place Number: 309	Category: 1
Assessment Date: 30/10/1996	Last Revision Date: 15/02/2010	
HCWA Number: 1071	Asset ID: MCH127062	

PLACE DETAILS

Name:	Mission to Seamen Building
Other Names:	272 Marine Terrace
Type of Place:	Hall
Address:	272 Marine Terrace
Suburb:	Geraldton

LOCATION

Map Reference: 14.15	GPS Northing: 6814439.00	GPS Easting: 266117.000
	GPS Northing: 0000	GPS Easting: 000



Photo Description:

7/03/2007

Rod Milne

Nil setback from Marine Terrace.

SITE DETAILS

Lot No.:	Lot 2558	Assess No.:	10003
Reserv No.:		Vol/Fol:	1323/691
Dia/Plan:	174595		

USE OF PLACE

Original Use:	Church/School		
Current Use:	Mission to Seamen		
Ownership:	Trustees of the Diocese of North West Australia		
Public Access:	No	Occupied:	Occupied

DESCRIPTION

Walls:	Stone	Roof:	Corrugated Iron
Condition:	Good	Integrity:	
Original fabric:			
Modifications:	Fibre cement additions to rear		

The Mission to Seamen building has a simple, ecclesiastical, barn-like hall form, of Victorian Georgian character. It is built of stone which has been rendered smooth up to the level of the window sills and painted white. There are fibro additions on the west side and an unsympathetic, contemporary entry canopy, over the tall entry doors on the south end of the building. The windows are tall and narrow, adding to the building's church character. The roof is of corrugated iron with a simple gable end form. The interior houses a spiral stair originally taken from the Freemasons building in Augustus Street. Refer to State Register documentation and conservation plan for further information.

HISTORY

Construction Date:	1861	Source:	Burns, A.C.
Architect:	Unknown		
Builder:	William Trigg		

During 1860 a number of Geraldton parents petitioned for a building to be erected for week day and Sunday School. In addition it was proposed that church services be held in the building when a minister of any denomination was available. Mr. William Trigg's tender of £225 was accepted for a limestone hall with a shingle roof. (Bain, M.A., "A Life of its Own", City of Geraldton, 1996, p72-3)

Built in 1861, the building was Mr Trigg's first contract in the district and measured 40 feet by 20 feet, being sufficient to hold 50 adults. A Gothic window at one end endeavoured to emphasise that the building was a church. The original idea was that when individual churches and a school were erected, the building would revert to the Customs as a store. However in the meantime the building was used as a church by both the Anglican and Methodist denominations and as a school, the first Government School in Geraldton. A timber partition separated the boys from the girls in the school which provided for the first regular classes until 1878 when the Geraldton Primary School was built. The building was later converted into a lock-up by building several cells in heavy timber within the substantial stone walls. The cells were removed when the Municipal Council took control of the building. (Burns, A.C. , "The History of the Geraldton Missions to Seamen")

In 1926 the "Old Lock Up", as it was then locally known, was altered to house the harbour works locomotive as well as a workshop. At this time the steam locomotive was being used to remove sand from the nearby Flagstaff Hill to reclaim land for the new harbour. When the harbour works were completed the building was no longer required for this purpose. (Ibid.)

Owing to the poor condition of the building there were some suggestions that it be demolished. However, members of the Mission to Seamen considered the building suitable for use as the headquarters. Largely due to the efforts of the Rev. James Gordon Crook, the Mission's first Chaplain, the building was acquired in 1937. The Municipal Council granted a 25 year lease of the building at a peppercorn rental. The Mission to Seamen subsequently spent over \$1,200 renovating the building. It was formally opened on 20 April, 1938 by the Mayor of Geraldton, Mr. Richard Carson, as the 165th mission to be provided in the world-wide Missions to Seamen organisation. ("Geraldton Guardian", 27/11/1986, p12) Refer to State Register documentation and conservation plan for further information.

HISTORIC THEMES

HCWA:	201 River and sea transport 402 Education and science 408 Institutions
AHC:	3.8.1 Shipping to and from Australian ports 6.2 Establishing schools 8.6.6 Running city missions

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Missions to Seamen building has high historic and social significance to the Geraldton community as a place associated with various uses important to the development of the town. As a port town, that has relied heavily on shipping for its communication and prosperity, the building has high significance for its link to seamen and the maritime industry for over 50 years.

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, 15/08/2003

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Considine & Griffiths Architects, "Geraldton Foreshore Conservation Plan", 2002 - Building 84.

"Geraldton: a photographic history", Geraldton Regional Library, 2004.

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

Burns, A.C., "The History of the Geraldton Missions to Seamen", nd.

"Geraldton Guardian".

Feilman & Associates, "Survey of Places of Historic and Landscape Significance in Geraldton," 1977.

Sherwood, B., "Conservation Plan of the Missions to Seamen Building, Geraldton."

OTHER PHOTOS



Photo Description:

30/10/1996

Suba, Callow & Grundy

Simple stone building.