

Area: Geraldton	Place Number: 311	Category: 2
Assessment Date: 05/12/1996	Last Revision Date: 15/02/2010	
HCWA Number: 1070	Asset ID: MCH126875	

PLACE DETAILS

Name:	Harbour Master's House
Other Names:	Oddfellows Building & RAOB Lodge
Type of Place:	Office
Address:	283 Marine Terrace
Suburb:	Geraldton

LOCATION

Map Reference: 14.15	GPS Northing: 6814391.00	GPS Easting: 266155.000
	GPS Northing: 0000	GPS Easting: 000



Photo Description:

13/04/2008
Tanya Henkel
Original roof replaced

SITE DETAILS

Lot No.:	Lot 2747	Assess No.:	10071
Reserv No.:	36863	Vol/Fol:	
Dia/Plan:			

USE OF PLACE

Original Use:	Residence	Occupied:	Occupied
Current Use:	Office		
Ownership:	Agriculture WA		
Public Access:	No		

DESCRIPTION

Walls:	Stone	Roof:	Tile
Condition:	Good	Integrity:	
Original fabric:			
Modifications:			

This simple random rubble limestone building which fronts directly on to the footpath has a steeply pitched tiled gable roof with a separate verandah roof to the front which is supported on timber posts. Windows to the front facade are timber framed casement style with small fixed windows to the sides. To the rear there is a corbelled brick chimney.

HISTORY

Construction Date:	1873	Source:	Ron Bertelsen
Architect:	Unknown		
Builder:	Robert Creswick		

Located adjacent to a large complex of government buildings on Lots 55 and 56 Marine Terrace, including a courthouse, bond store, offices, horse stables and accommodation, construction of a building on Lot 57 commenced in 1873. Originally intended to accommodate the lighthouse keeper for the nearby Flagstaff Hill Lighthouse, it is believed to have been built by the same builder, Robert Creswick. However when the lighthouse was never completed, no resident lighthouse keeper was required. The Railway Department appears to have taken up residence in the newly completed house, having applied to utilise it during construction of the Geraldton to Northampton railway. Subsequently the Custom's Department made use of the premises. Geraldton's first Harbourmaster, Captain Winzar, was appointed in

December 1895 and arrived in Geraldton in January 1896. The Government quickly set in place plans for the construction of a new residence specifically for the harbour master. The house was located on land where the Port Authority office building stands today. It is possible that Captain Winzar lived at 283 Marine Terrace temporarily while his new residence was being built - thus explaining how the building got its name. When most of the complex of buildings were vacated in 1899, Geraldton Council took responsibility for some of them. During 1902 Council minutes note that the old Harbour master's quarters and bonded store had been secured and were to be altered and furnished to use as accommodation for children on holidays from inland centres including the Goldfields under the "Fresh Air League". In 1915, Council granted permission for the Boy Scouts to use the cottage. Between 1922 and the early 1930s the local Harbour Works Department used the cottage as an office while engaged in harbour improvements.

In 1943-44, local fisherman Rolf Ottersen resided in the cottage with his wife and children. Rolf was engaged in transport duties for the defence forces in the early 1940s. Following that William Sinclair and his wife resided in the cottage between 1945 and 1958. William worked as a launch driver for the government. It was noted that in 1945 the building had a shingle roof. Les Wells, who also worked as a launch driver, lived in the house with his wife and family from 1959 to c1962.

In the years that followed the building was used by the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes (RAOB), otherwise known as the Buffaloes Lodge, the Agriculture Department as their Library, Active Community Environmentalists (ACE) as their headquarters and currently by the Agricultural Department.

(Source: Ron Bertelsen)

HISTORIC THEMES

HCWA:	201 River and sea transport 404 Community services and utilities
AHC:	3.8.3 Developing harbour facilities 8.5 Forming associations

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This small stone building has historic significance for its many uses over time, including as the former harbour master's quarters. Although the roofing material has been replaced, the building has considerable aesthetic appeal given that it has retained its high pitched roof and simple verandah style. The simple style, small scale and use of local materials makes it representative of stone houses of its era. The place

makes an important contribution to the streetscape of the area.

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

No other listings

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Considine & Griffiths Architects, "Geraldton Foreshore Conservation Plan", 2002 - Building 42.
Feilman & Associates, "Survey of Places of Historic & Landscape Significance in Geraldton", 1977.
Bertelsen, R., "A Bygone Era: Lot 57 (283) Marine Terrace", in "MidWest Ancestry", Oct 2007, p.5.

OTHER PHOTOS



Photo Description:

5/12/1996

Suba & Grundy

Original roof replaced.