

Area: Geraldton	Place Number: 318	Category: 1
Assessment Date: 30/10/1996	Last Revision Date: 15/02/2010	
HCWA Number: 3715	Asset ID: MCH126926	

PLACE DETAILS

Name:	The Residency
Other Names:	Geraldton & District Maternity Hospital
Type of Place:	Community Centre
Address:	321 Marine Terrace, cnr Cunningham Street
Suburb:	Geraldton

LOCATION

Map Reference:	14.15	GPS Northing:	6814264.00	GPS Easting:	265955.000
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Photo Description:

2/08/2007

Rod Milne

Large building set back from the road.

SITE DETAILS

Lot No.:	Lots 3052	Assess No.:	10062
Reserv No.:		Vol/Fol:	3037/300
Dia/Plan:			

USE OF PLACE

Original Use:	Residence, Maternity Hospital		
Current Use:	Community Centre		
Ownership:	Geraldton Cultural Trust Inc		
Public Access:	Restricted	Occupied:	Occupied

DESCRIPTION

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

The Residency is a large single storey residence, the original centre section being built of sandstone in Victorian Regency[1] style, and with Post War framed timber and fibro extensions to the north and south ends. The original shingle roof, with attached verandah roof under the main eaves, has been replaced by a large, continuous, red concrete tile roof which now dominates the complex and is broken only by several large rendered chimneys. The original verandah posts were stop chamfered timber, and several are still in place at the front although they are now mounted on paving.

The plan form of the original house was 'U' shaped, containing the formal rooms at the front whilst an array of service rooms and servants quarters were arranged behind along with a cellar which is still in place. The rear of the building was arranged around a courtyard and also contained stables, harness and storage rooms which have now been put to other uses. Major alterations and extensions occurred to the internal layout of the place during its maternity hospital days although the original room configuration is able to be interpreted. The current use by the Geraldton Cultural Trust seems to be more sympathetic. Whilst the integrity of the place is reasonable, its authenticity is now low, but could be recovered. The property is surrounded by a low stone wall addressing Marine Terrace and Cunningham Street.

Note: A full description of the place is available in Considine and Griffiths

Architects Pty Ltd Conservation Plan.

[1] Apperly R et al. A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture: (Sydney: Angus & Robertson 1989), pp 46 - 49.

HISTORY

Construction Date:	1861	Source:	Griffiths, P.
Architect:	James Manning		
Builder:	S.E. Masters		

The Residency was built on 8 lots (85, 86 Marine Terrace, 93, 94, 196 in Evans Street and 91, 92, 197 in Francis Street. (Considine & Griffiths Architects with Erickson and Taylor, "The Residency Conservation Plan", Draft, 1996, p6) The Residency was built at a cost of £1,413/15/- in 1861. ("Government Gazette", 8/1/1861) to the designs of James Manning of the Royal Engineers at Fremantle. It was built by S.E. Masters who used some convict labour as well as workmen from Fremantle. A description of the building by the du Boulays in 1862 notes that, "Convicts have left their broad arrow mark on a stone beneath the roof on the west side of the verandah." (Op Cit., Considine & Griffiths)

Elevation plans indicate a shingle roof with a separately roofed verandah, six pairs of double hung windows, french doors with fanlights, verandahs all round with a cellar under and rooms for servants. The outbuildings included two lavatories, cesspit, forage room, harness room, stables, and dung pit. (Ibid.)

At the time of the construction of the Residency, Charles Symmons was the Resident Magistrate (1860-1862), following whom Thomas Brown assumed the position (1862-1863). Alfred Durlacher was Resident Magistrate from 1864-1870, followed by George Eliot (1870-1885) and Maitland Brown (1886-1904) (Ibid., p10-12) During Maitland Brown's period the Residency was refurbished to include a new bathroom, rear yard wall and modifications to the west wing in which five rooms; sitting room, dining room, larder, scullery and kitchen; were converted into three to provide for a larger reception room and dining room and more modern kitchen. "Maitland Brown became the colony's best known Resident Magistrate spending many years at Geraldton in the Residency." (Ibid., p14)

By 1919 discussions were taking place to turn the Residency into a Maternity Hospital. Interest free money was loaned by Mrs Ben Sharp of Wooleen Station to commence and establish the hospital. In 1925 the Residency opened as the Geraldton and District Maternity Hospital. (Ibid., p19) Other Hospitals operating in Geraldton were the Victoria Districts Hospital (1887) and Rosella Hospital (1912). Refer to State Register documentation and conservation plan for further information.

In 1935 tenders were called for "various repairs, renovations, cement work

and painting at the Geraldton and District Maternity Home." ("Geraldton Guardian and Express", 3/9/1935) Numerous other changes and alterations were effected to facilitate the use of the building as a Maternity Hospital. This included the reroofing of the building with cement tiles in 1953 to replace the corrugated iron roof which in turn had replaced the original shingle roof pre 1923. At this time the roofline was altered to become brokenback under one roofline. (Op Cit., Considine & Griffiths, p19 & 21)

In 1966 the Geraldton Regional Hospital was built and the Residency

ceased to be a Maternity Hospital. In 1967 the Residency became the Geraldton Community Centre, a place for recreation for the senior citizens of the district. It was vested in the Town of Geraldton. In 1972 the Geraldton Cultural Trust Inc. Applied for the use of the Residency as an Arts and Crafts Centre and ten years later the building was handed over to the Trust and is now used by various community organisations as well as housing the Trust library.

Constance Norris describes the place: "...a one-storied place overlooking the sea, with couch grass all around, but not tended as we know lawns today. There was a croquet court in one corner of the grounds, and both men and women played. Here also the flag was raised so often, on the Queen's Birthday and other days, and garden parties given at intervals," and "The Residency was a large bungalow with a verandah all around and whitewashed floors for the kitchen and outhouses, but all this work was done by prisoners....all was surrounded by a low stone wall. Oleanders do grow in the grounds

HISTORIC THEMES

HCWA:	403 Law and order 404 Community services and utilities
AHC:	7.6.4 Dispensing justice 9.1.1 Providing maternity clinics and hospitals 8.1 Organising recreation

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Residency has very high historic and social significance for Geraldton and the State as one of its important surviving, early civic and residential buildings. It has had a variety of uses that have been important to the social fabric of the town and the region. The place is held in high esteem by the local community.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Residency should be maintained in accordance with the recommendations of the conservation plan and unsympathetic accretions removed, including roof reconstruction, so that the original form and character of the residence is revealed.

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, 09/01/1998 National Trust of WA - Classified, 01/01/1970
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SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Considine & Griffiths with Erickson & Taylor, "The Residency Conservation Plan", 1996. "Government Gazette". "Geraldton Guardian & Express". Norris, C., "Memories of Champion Bay or Old Geraldton", Soroptimist International of Geraldton, 1989. GLLSPC - Buildings (Miscellaneous). GHSPC. Feilman & Associates, "Survey of Places of Historic and Landscape Significance in Geraldton", 1977.
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OTHER PHOTOS



Photo Description:

30/10/1996

Suba, Callow & Grundy

Prior to bitumen carpark being poured.