

<b>Area:</b> Geraldton	<b>Place Number:</b> 331	<b>Category:</b> 2
<b>Assessment Date:</b> 06/11/1996	<b>Last Revision Date:</b> 10/03/2010	
<b>HCWA Number:</b> 3410	<b>Asset ID:</b> MCH126999	

### PLACE DETAILS

<b>Name:</b>	Chapman River Road Bridge
<b>Other Names:</b>	NorthWest Coastal Hwy.
<b>Type of Place:</b>	Bridge
<b>Address:</b>	NorthWest Coastal Hwy.
<b>Suburb:</b>	Sunset Beach

### LOCATION

<b>Map Reference:</b> 16.21	<b>GPS Northing:</b> 6819637.00	<b>GPS Easting:</b> 268239.000
	<b>GPS Northing:</b> 0000	<b>GPS Easting:</b> 000



#### Photo Description:

21/03/2009

Tanya Henkel

Bridge across Chapman River

## SITE DETAILS

<b>Lot No.:</b>		
<b>Reserv No.:</b>	Road Reserve	<b>Assess No.:</b>
<b>Dia/Plan:</b>		<b>Vol/Fol:</b>

## USE OF PLACE

<b>Original Use:</b>	Bridge		
<b>Current Use:</b>	Bridge		
<b>Ownership:</b>			
<b>Public Access:</b>	Yes	<b>Occupied:</b>	Not Occupied

## DESCRIPTION

<b>Walls:</b>	(Pylons) Stone	<b>Roof:</b>	(Deck) Concrete
<b>Condition:</b>	Fair	<b>Integrity:</b>	
<b>Original fabric:</b>			
<b>Modifications:</b>	Numerous upgrades over time		

The bridge is located close to Spalding Park and access to the western part of the river from the park is provided by a path which runs under the bridge. The bridge stands on eight rendered stone piers. The timber decking has been replaced with concrete and there is a concrete balustrade to each side. A pedestrian walkway has been added to the west side.

## HISTORY

<b>Construction Date:</b>	1863	<b>Source:</b>	National Trust
<b>Architect:</b>	James Manning		
<b>Builder:</b>	Convict Labour		

Prior to the construction of this bridge in 1863 there was a causeway across the Chapman River which was impassable during flooding. Thus, this bridge provided the first permanent river crossing allowing for uninterrupted travel north and southward, even during winter months. (National Trust of WA MidWest Branch, Chapman River Regional Park Heritage Study, 1993, Section 1)

The original specifications for the bridge were proposed and drawn by James Manning, Clerk of Works, and Captain E.M. Grain, the Royal Engineer. Built in 1863 using convict labour from the Champion Bay Depot, the work was part of Governor Hampton's policy of public works which involved maximising the use of convict labour. (Ibid., Section 4.1)

Records indicate that there was some difficulty in obtaining timbers for the bridge and, given the abundance of stone in the vicinity, masons were employed to build the piers. (Ibid.)

Since its completion the bridge has been repaired several times and has had three different carriage-ways constructed on the surface. During the Second World War multiple holes were drilled into the old bridge deck in order to house explosives. This was considered a necessary precaution so that the bridge could be 'blown' in the event of an invasion. In 1952 the bridge was widened, redecked for the third time and a reinforced concrete superstructure was built. (Ibid.)

A new bridge across the Chapman River was opened to traffic in December, 1996.

### HISTORIC THEMES

<b>HCWA:</b>	203 Road transport 106 Workers (including Aboriginal, convict)
<b>AHC:</b>	3.8.7 Building and maintaining roads 2.3 Coming to Australia as a punishment

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Although completely redecked and enlarged, the pylons of the Chapman River Bridge are the original stone construction dating to 1863 which gives the structure considerable historic significance.

### MANAGEMENT CATEGORY

<b>Management Category:</b>	2
<b>Level of Significance:</b>	CONSIDERABLE SIGNIFICANCE: Very important to the heritage of the locality.
<b>Management Recommendation:</b>	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

"Geraldton: a photographic history", Geraldton Regional Library, 2004.  
National Trust of WA MidWest Branch, "Chapman River Regional Park  
Heritage Study", 1993.  
GLLSPC - Chapman Road.

## OTHER PHOTOS



### Photo Description:

6/11/1996

Suba & Grundy

View of bridge railings.