

Area: Geraldton	Place Number: 334	Category: 1
Assessment Date: 29/10/1996	Last Revision Date: 10/03/2010	
HCWA Number: 1051	Asset ID: MCH127002	

PLACE DETAILS

Name:	The Hermitage
Other Names:	5 Onslow Street
Type of Place:	Hermitage
Address:	5 Onslow Street
Suburb:	Geraldton

LOCATION

Map Reference: 15.14	GPS Northing: 6813441.00	GPS Easting: 267154.000
	GPS Northing: 0000	GPS Easting: 000



Photo Description:

15/11/2008

Rod Milne

Strong "Arts & Crafts" design influence.

SITE DETAILS

Lot No.:	Lot 2863	Assess No.:	18409
Reserv No.:	39642	Vol/Fol:	
Dia/Plan:			

USE OF PLACE

Original Use:	Residence		
Current Use:	Residence/Museum		
Ownership:	National Trust of Australia (WA)		
Public Access:	Restricted	Occupied:	Occupied

DESCRIPTION

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

The Hermitage has the appearance of a small red brick cottage in the "Inter War: Old English" style [1]. The place has been attributed with high landscape and architectural significance[2] when assessed by the National Trust. The building underwent major restoration in 1984 as it was badly neglected and vandalised.

Whilst presenting a single storey romantic cottage appearance from the outside, its relatively high walls and steep roof provide a two storey volume internally where a mezzanine has been built into the roof space and overlooks the ground floor. A tall brick chimney, on the east end gable wall, adds a sense of strength as do the buttresses on the side walls. Brick detailing to the chimney, buttresses and plinth around the base of the perimeter walls, is complimented by a stepped, recessed arch over the timber entry door on the north. Windows are diamond shaped leadlight and there is a small dormer window to the mezzanine in the roof above the entry. There is a small red brick garage built partly into the sloping site at the front of the lot which, together with now demolished [3]

"The building has three distinct roof forms, the main one with steeply tiled pitch over the living room, the flat pitched, CGI roof to the upstairs verandah balcony on the south and the lower single storey pitched roof over the bedroom on the west." "The toilet has been rebuilt in its original location and form" [4] (off the ground level bathroom on the south), and has a shallow curved CGI roof, and is well integrated despite the change

in roof style.

"The Hermitage is relatively small, approx. 12 metres in overall length and 6 metres wide. The plan is simple, comprising three main rooms and bathroom on the ground floor accessed off a central entry area with a mezzanine floor over the entry. The mezzanine provides access onto the open balcony which faces south. The floor levels vary throughout the building, the bedroom set at the lowest level (on the west end). The interior of the main living area is framed by a large, timber, scissor truss in the middle of the space and central stone fireplace on the end wall. Internal walls are of solid red brick, in most cases, without cavity. Joinery is timber, doors being ledged and braced, windows are casements. Ceilings are timber boarded over the roof purlins. Floors are a mixture of concrete checkerboard (black and white) to the entry, polished Jarrah timber blockwork to the living room, and concrete to the bathroom and bedroom." [5] The lot is surrounded by a tall pole and wire mesh security

fence. The grounds consist of native shrubs. A brick pathway leads from the front door to the street. An extension to the adjacent Hillcrest Nursing Hermitage.

1. Apperly R et al. A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture: (Sydney: Angus & Robertson 1989), pp202-205.
2. Palassis K, Hermitage Conservation Plan prepared in July 1992 for the National Trust of WA with reference to:
Richards O, The Hermitage, Geraldton Landscape Conservation Plan (Sept.1991) also prepared for the National Trust of WA.
3. ibid; Richards O.
4. ibid; Palassis K.
5. ibid; Palassis K.

HISTORY

Construction Date:	1935	Source:	Taylor, J.
Architect:	J.C. Hawes		
Builder:	Steve Harvey		

Designed by priest-architect Monsignor John C. Hawes as his home, "The Hermitage" was built in 1935 by Steve Harvey. Hawes, who only stayed in the house briefly, was responsible for the design of a number of other buildings in Geraldton and the MidWest, including the St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, the Chapel of St. Spirito, Nazareth House and the Church of St. Lawrence the Martyr.

HISTORIC THEMES

HCWA:	406 Religion 605 Famous and infamous people
AHC:	8.6.4 Making places for worship 3.5 Developing primary production

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Hermitage has very high significance for the State and the Geraldton community for its aesthetic value in relation to both the landscape value of the site and the cottage with its distinctive and diminutive scale, attention to detail and stylistic features. It also has historic significance for its association with priest-architect John Cyril Hawes.

RECOMMENDATION: The Hermitage must continue to be maintained and protected in accordance with the recommendations of current (or updated) Conservation Plans.

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, 24/11/2000
National Trust of WA - Classified, 08/03/1983
Australian Heritage Commission - Register, 25/03/1986

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Apperly, R. Et al. "A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture", Sydney, Angus & Robertson, 1989.

Palassis, K., "Hermitage Conservation Plan", July 1992 for the National Trust of WA.

Taylor, J., "Conservation Plan for The Hermitage", 1999.

Richards, O., "The Hermitage, Geraldton - Landscape Conservation Plan", 1991.

GLLSPC - Buildings (Miscellaneous).

OTHER PHOTOS



Photo Description:

29/10/1996

Suba, Callow & Grundy

Entrance to The Hermitage.