

Area: Greenough	Place Number: 112	Category: 2
Assessment Date: 30/09/1997	Last Revision Date: 12/04/2005	
HCWA Number: 13896	Asset ID: MCH126644	

PLACE DETAILS

Name:	St Thomas' Catholic Church (Fmr)
Other Names:	St Thomas' Catholic Church
Type of Place:	Church
Address:	Cnr Arthur & McCartney Roads
Suburb:	Georgina

LOCATION

Map	Walkaway	GPS	6801370.00	GPS	285495.000
Reference:	S.W.	Northing:	0000	Easting:	000



Photo Description:

12/04/2005

Martin

Small stone church building

SITE DETAILS

Lot No.:	VL 1349	Assess No.:	63196
Reserv No.:		Vol/Fol:	
Dia/Plan:			

USE OF PLACE

Original Use:	Church		
Current Use:	Not in use		
Ownership:			
Public Access:	No	Occupied:	Not Occupied

DESCRIPTION

Walls:	Limestone	Roof:	Shadowline
Condition:	Good	Integrity:	
Original fabric:			
Modifications:			

Located on the south-west corner of the intersection of Arthur and McCartney Roads this simple stone church has a gable shadowline roof. The building has four window openings, two on each side. There is a small concrete block addition to the front (north) facade and evidence of a stonework.

2004/05 Review: The church has a new aluminium roof.

HISTORY

Construction Date:	1878	Source:	Marchant James, R.
Architect:	Father Lecaille		
Builder:	Not available		

Designed by Father Lecaille who built a number of church-schools in the region, St Thomas' Catholic Church was opened on 30 June 1878, becoming the fifth Catholic church in the Victoria District, including St Peter's Chapel on the Front Flats [Place No. 34] and St John's Church at Bootenal [Place No. 97]. With the construction of the railway between Walkaway and Geraldton in 1887 it was widely believed that the area around St Thomas' Church would become a thriving township. With that in mind Bishop Gibney supported the planning of a convent, boarding school and novitiate. Although the foundation stone for the convent was laid on 10 November 1889, the plan never eventuated due to the

withdrawal of the Sisters of St Joseph in 1890 and lack of funds. St Thomas' Church was also used as a school for the local children who were taught firstly by the Josephites and later by the Presentation Sisters.
(Source: Marchant James, R., "Cork to Capricorn", pp.73 & 86-7 & 154)

HISTORIC THEMES

HCWA:	406 Religion 402 Education and science
AHC:	8.6.3 Founding Australian religious institutions

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The former St Thomas' Catholic Church has high historic and social significance as one of the first churches to be built in the Victoria District and for its association with Father Lecaille. The place has further significance for its association with the Sisters of St Joseph and the Presentation Sisters and for its use as a school. The church is representative of rural churches given its small scale and simple form. It is evidence of the use of local materials.

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

Bibliography:

Marchant James, R., "Cork to Capricorn: a History of the Presentation Sisters in Western Australia", 1996.
HCWA Database No. 13896.

OTHER PHOTOS

No other photos