

Place No:
Coal Shafts, ERADU

Management Category
4



PLACE INFORMATION		
Place Name:	Coal Shafts	
Previous Place Number:	GR170	
Other Names:		
Place Type:	Mine Shafts	
SITE LOCATION		
Street Address:	199 Eradu North Road	
Locality:	ERADU	
Location Detail:	North of Eradu North Road near the junction with the Private Road	
Assessment No:	61042	
Survey:	Lot 2205, P257229	
Reserve:		
GPS Coordinates	6824246mN; 308694mE	
HERITAGE LISTING		
State Heritage Office ID:	13936	Parent HCWA ID (if applied):
State Heritage Register:	No	
Other Listing:		
Local Heritage Survey:	Municipal Heritage Inventory Initial Assessment 09/12/1997 Municipal Heritage Inventory Last Assessment 24/02/2015	

SIGNIFICANCE	
Level of Significance	SOME SIGNIFICANCE: Contributes to the heritage and/or historical development of the locality.
Management Category	CATEGORY 4 Conservation of the place is desirable. Any proposed change to the place should be in sympathy with the heritage values of the place.
Statement of Significance	- The remnants of the two coal mine shafts have historic value for their association with the short lived mining venture which occurred at Eradu in 1946. - The place has historic and social value as the former shafts are well known in the local community and contribute to the community sense of place.

PLACE USE	
Original Use	Mine Shafts
Current Use	Not in use
Other Use	

CONSTRUCTION DETAILS	
Construction Date	c1946;
Walls	N/A
Roof	N/A
Architectural Style	N/A
Physical Description	Situated approximately 50 metres north-east of Cream's House (Stationmaster's House) are the remnants of two coal mine shafts. Immediately to the east are the concrete footings which mark the location of the second shaft.
Condition	Good
Integrity	Low
Authenticity	Low

HISTORICAL INFORMATION	
Hopes were riding high in 1946 when exploration work began on what was believed to be a major coal field at Eradu, 45kms east of Geraldton. With supplies of firewood for household or industrial use dwindling as the region's population increased, coal was seen as the only economical alternative. The Eradu coalfield had been discovered in 1906 and a small amount of exploratory work done over the years seemed to confirm its economic possibilities. When it was realised that a major effort would be needed to exploit the resource, a new company was established – Eradu Coal Limited – and exploration got under way in earnest. Under the direction of the Mines Department, the area was drilled in order to determine just how much coal was there and whether it could be economically developed. Eradu's chances of becoming another Collie did not last long though, because a report in 'The Guardian' of January 17, 1948, spelled out the bad news. It had been revealed that the overburden, or soil over the coal deposit, outweighed the coal "in the proportion of seven to one, which was rather considerable", and it could only be mined economically on a grand scale. That would mean open-cut mining for coal that was considered of borderline quality. With suitable fireboxes, Eradu coal could be used for railway locomotive purposes". Since that was a long cry from what was needed, The Guardian reported that all the plant used in the exploration was being dismantled. The remnant machinery is not viable and it is not known if there is any shafts remaining.	

In the 2004/5 Local Heritage Survey Review it was noted that the timber poppet head which had formerly been present had been removed.

Historic Themes:

Economy: Mining and Mineral Resources
Economy: Rural Occupations
Economy: Commerce.

Associations

Eradu Coal Ltd

Owner

Sources:

City of Greater Geraldton Municipal Inventory of Heritage Places 2019.

PREVIOUS HERITAGE SURVEYS



Municipal Heritage Inventory, 1997.



Municipal Heritage Inventory 2005



Municipal Heritage Inventory, 1997.

Place No:
Eradu Railway Bridge, ERADU

Management Category
2



PLACE INFORMATION		
Place Name:	Eradu Railway Bridge	
Previous Place Number:	GR172	
Other Names:	Bridge 805	
Place Type:	Other Built Type	
SITE LOCATION		
Street Address:	Eradu North Road	
Locality:	ERADU	
Location Detail:	No road frontage, off Eradu North Road	
Assessment No:	63084	
Survey:		
Reserve:	Railway Reserve	
GPS Coordinates	6823990mN; 308312mE	
HERITAGE LISTING		
State Heritage Office ID:	13938	Parent HCWA ID (if applied):
State Heritage Register:	No	
Other Listing:		
Local Heritage Survey:	Municipal Heritage Inventory Initial Assessment 09/12/1997 Municipal Heritage Inventory Last Assessment 05/04/2005	

SIGNIFICANCE	
Level of Significance	CONSIDERABLE SIGNIFICANCE: Very important to the heritage of the locality.
Management Category	CATEGORY 2 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.
Statement of Significance	- The railway bridge at Eradu has aesthetic value as a good intact example of railway bridge construction from the 1930s which has a simple unadorned style. - The railway bridge at Eradu has aesthetic value as a landmark in the landscape which can be seen from some distance because of its scale and form. - The place has historic value for its association with the provision of rail transport in the region in the Inter War period and therefore the investment by the State Government in local industries. - The place has historic value as a demonstration of the strategies employed by Commonwealth and State Governments during WWII that illustrate the fear of potential invasion by the Japanese army.

PLACE USE	
Original Use	Transport/Communications: Rail/Other
Current Use	Transport/Communications: Rail/Other
Other Use	

CONSTRUCTION DETAILS	
Construction Date	1934;
Walls	N/A
Roof	N/A
Architectural Style	N/A
Physical Description	This railway bridge, which spans the usually dry bed of the Greenough River, consists of seven concrete supports to a steel formwork. The concrete supports are tapered from the base and demonstrate layering construction of the concrete. In several of the supports drill holes are evident in a diagonal pattern which were the sites for dynamite should it be determined to destroy the bridge. The steel girders are painted and the railway track is supported on concrete sleepers. The Greenough River bed includes many mature trees and vegetation and a rough track through the riverbed.
Condition	Good
Integrity	High
Authenticity	High

HISTORICAL INFORMATION	
The Eradu Railway Bridge, just off Eradu North Road, in the Railway Reserve, was constructed in 1934, to replace a timber bridge constructed in 1891 which was situated further north. It is part of the Geraldton to Mullewa railway line, along with the Meru railway siding and the railway house at Uta Karra. The steel elements of the structure were constructed at the Midland Railway Workshops and took the workshop three months to build all the eight spans. The 50ft (15m) girders had a depth of 5ft (1.5m) and the total length of the structure is 387ft (118m). In 1934, this was the biggest bridge of its kind ever constructed in Western Australia and was a clear demonstration of the move away from the previous policy of timber bridge construction.	

The works were completed in January 1935 and opened for traffic on 14 January 1935. An article in the Geraldton Guardian and Express celebrated the scale of the new construction overseen by resident engineer F. A. Carter and was proposed as the first stage in future deviation works in the region. At the opening of the new bridge the 1891 timber bridge was demolished.

Also known as Bridge No. 805, it has a connection with World War II because, in 1942 in preparation for possible invasion by the Japanese forces, holes were drilled in two of the concrete supports to accommodate sticks of Dynamite, should the need arise to demolish the bridge and hamper invasion efforts.

The bridge continues to be used for rail transport to Geraldton.

Historic Themes:	Infrastructure: Transport and Communications International Links Peopling WA: Demographic Development.	
Associations	Midland Railway Workshops F.A Carter	Manufacturer Construction Engineer
Sources:	City of Greater Geraldton Municipal Inventory of Heritage Places 2019. City of Greater Geraldton Regional Library, Snapshot in Time - Eradu Bridge, 24 March 2025, https://library.cgg.wa.gov.au/news/snapshot-in-time-eradu-bridge/15013 . The West Australian, 8 November 1934, p. 12. Rogers, Philippa 'Troops, trains and trades : the wartime role of the railways of Western Australia, 1939-1945', self published, c1999, p. 120. Geraldton Guardian and Express, 17 January 1935, p. 2.	

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS



PREVIOUS HERITAGE SURVEYS



Municipal Heritage Inventory 2005

DRAFT

Place No:
Station Master's House (fmr) - site, ERADU

Management Category
5



PLACE INFORMATION		
Place Name:	Station Master's House (fmr) - site	
Previous Place Number:	GR167	
Other Names:	Cream's House	
Place Type:	Historic Site	
SITE LOCATION		
Street Address:	200 Eradu North Road	
Locality:	ERADU	
Location Detail:	North of junction with railway line within the Rail Reserve	
Assessment No:	61042	
Survey:	Lot 15, P182529	
Reserve:		
GPS Coordinates	6824184mN; 308658mE	
HERITAGE LISTING		
State Heritage Office ID:	13934	Parent HCWA ID (if applied):
State Heritage Register:	No	
Other Listing:		
Local Heritage Survey:	Municipal Heritage Inventory Initial Assessment 09/12/1997 Municipal Heritage Inventory Last Assessment 24/02/2015	

SIGNIFICANCE	
Level of Significance	HISTORIC SITE: The site has historic significance for its previous use and its role in the historical development of the locality.
Management Category	CATEGORY 5 Proposed development may need to have regard to possible archaeological evidence remaining on the site. Recognise and interpret the site if feasible. This may be achieved through a variety of methods including, but not limited to, signage, public art, paving treatment and plantings as well as design treatment of any new development which reflects the former use of the site.
Statement of Significance	This site has historic value for its association with the former station Master's house that was located on the site which was constructed as part of the Geraldton Mullewa Railway line constructed in 1894.

PLACE USE	
Original Use	Transport/Communications: Housing or Quarters
Current Use	Vacant/Unused
Other Use	

CONSTRUCTION DETAILS	
Construction Date	1894; demolished 2020s;
Walls	N/A
Roof	N/A
Architectural Style	N/A
Physical Description	There is no evidence of the former house on the site.
Condition	N/A
Integrity	N/A
Authenticity	N/A

HISTORICAL INFORMATION	
This site was the location of the former Station Master's House which was built in 1894, when the railway line between Geraldton and Mullewa was constructed. The house was occupied until at least 2012 and lost its roof by 2022. Since then the place has been demolished.	
Historic Themes:	Infrastructure: Transport and Communications Peopling WA: Demographic Development Cultural Life: Domestic Life.
Associations	
Sources:	City of Greater Geraldton Municipal Inventory of Heritage Places 2019. Landgate Aerial photographs.

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS



PREVIOUS HERITAGE SURVEYS



Municipal Heritage Inventory 2005.