

Place No:
Old Well, TENINDEWA

Management Category
3



PLACE INFORMATION	
Place Name:	Old Well, Tenindewa
Previous Place Number:	MW39
Other Names:	Wollya Reserve; Wollya Reserve Tenindewa Pioneer Well
Place Type:	Other Built Type

SITE LOCATION	
Street Address:	Yuna-Tenindewa Road
Locality:	TENINDEWA
Location Detail:	
Assessment No:	8365
Survey:	Lot 11936, 92072
Reserve:	945
GPS Coordinates	6834062.72mN; 339993.97mE

HERITAGE LISTING		
State Heritage Office ID:	25463	Parent HCWA ID (if applied): 6114
State Heritage Register:	No	
Other Listing:		
Local Heritage Survey:	Municipal Heritage Inventory Initial Assessment 10/02/1995 Municipal Heritage Inventory Last Assessment 08/03/2012	

SIGNIFICANCE	
Level of Significance	MODERATE SIGNIFICANCE: Important to the heritage of the locality.
Management Category	CATEGORY 3 Conservation of the place is recommended. Any proposed change to the place should not unduly impact on the heritage values of the place and should retain significant fabric wherever feasible.
Statement of Significance	- The Old Well, Tenindewa, has historic value for its association with the establishment and settlement of the region for farming in the early 20th century. - The well has scientific value as an example of stone lined well construction that can provide information about past practices. - The place has aesthetic value for the good condition of the stone work that demonstrates quality construction.

PLACE USE	
Original Use	Well
Current Use	Well
Other Use	

CONSTRUCTION DETAILS	
Construction Date	c1907;
Walls	Stone
Roof	Metal grille
Architectural Style	N/A
Physical Description	Located at the end of a dirt track east of the Yuna-Tenindewa Road is a large clearing in the low scrub and bushes. The track loops around a stone lined well which is covered by a square metal grille. The circular well lined with stone, is approximately 2.5 metres in diameter and appears to be in good condition. A dam is located to the north of the well.
Condition	Good
Integrity	High
Authenticity	High

HISTORICAL INFORMATION	
In 1892, Reserve 945 was gazetted for public utility in anticipation of the new siding to be constructed in 1894 as part of the Geraldton to Mullewa railway line. This reserve was approximated one mile north of the proposed siding. The pastoral country around Tenindewa, previously known as the Wollya Estate, was surveyed into farms around 1904. Reserve 945 contained an aboriginal soakage used by early teamsters. Complaints re water shortage led to it being deepened into a well and equipped with a windlass. A dam was also excavated nearby and fitted with hand pump, standpipe, and trough. The date of these works is not clear but it is estimated to be in c1907. But the soak made only a limited supply of water, and the dam depended on the vagaries of the weather. Meanwhile another well was sunk on the reserve which the government engineer reported contained 'good water and plentiful.' The well was officially termed Wollya well AA272. It was fitted with a windlass and bucket and became the main supply. The two wells were referred to as old and new well. These wells and the dam were the source of water for stock and the population of Tenindewa for many years and lengthy negotiations were entered into between the government, Mullewa Road Board and the community about the best methods to obtain, transport and store the valuable commodity.	

From the available information the well which is identified in this assessment was the old Stock Well. It is not known when the well was lined with stone

In 1917, the government created two reserves within the larger Reserve 945, for the purpose of water use.

By the 1920s, many of the farmers had sunk bores and no longer needed to draw on the government wells and dam.

In 1952, a government field officer reported that the dam was used for swimming by the district, with only the local landowner Stokes using the dam for his stock. Another report from 1954 stated that the two wells were in poor condition; one dry and in a state of collapse and the other not much better'.

The reserve remains in government ownership and the two wells are believed to still be viable.

Historic Themes:	Peopling WA: Demographic Development Economy: Rural Occupations Infrastructure: Development of Settlements and Services.
Associations	
Sources:	City of Greater Geraldton Municipal Inventory of Heritage Places 2019. 'Tenindewa Pioneer Well (Woolya Wate Reserve)' Tenindewa Town website, Tenindewa Progress Association, accessed August 2026.

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS



PREVIOUS HERITAGE SURVEYS



Municipal Heritage Inventory, 2011.



Municipal Heritage Inventory, 2011.

Place No:
Tenindewa School - site, TENINDEWA

Management Category
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PLACE INFORMATION	
Place Name:	Tenindewa School - site
Previous Place Number:	MW38
Other Names:	Tenindewa School
Place Type:	Historic Site

SITE LOCATION	
Street Address:	Patrick Street
Locality:	TENINDEWA
Location Detail:	East side of Yuna-Tenindewa Rd and north of the Geraldton-Mount Magnet Road
Assessment No:	8505
Survey:	Lot 31, Tenindewa Townsite Plan
Reserve:	15675
GPS Coordinates	6833299.62mN; 340023.42mE

HERITAGE LISTING		
State Heritage Office ID:	6114	Parent HCWA ID (if applied):
State Heritage Register:	No	
Other Listing:	Northern Loop Drive Trail	
Local Heritage Survey:	Municipal Heritage Inventory Initial Assessment 10/02/1995 Municipal Heritage Inventory Last Assessment 08/03/2012	

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	- The site of the Tenindewa School has historic value for its association with the Tenindewa townsite which was present at this site from the early 1900s to 1985. - The site has historic value for its association with the school which was a much valued institution in the community and operated from 1913 to 1939. - The site has social value to the community as evidenced by the erection of plaques in 1988 and the investment in a replica of the school building in 2015 and its inclusion on the Mullewa Northern Loop drive trail. - The site has aesthetic value as a landmark in the open landscape.

PLACE USE	
Original Use	Education: Combined School
Current Use	Educational: Other
Other Use	

CONSTRUCTION DETAILS	
Construction Date	1913; removed c1954;
Walls	N/A
Roof	N/A
Architectural Style	N/A
Physical Description	The Tenindewa School site is located approximately 800 metres north of the Geraldton-Mullewa Road and about 200 metres east of the Yuna-Tenindewa Road along a dirt track. The site is marked by a large rock which has two plaques affixed to it. A Bicentennial plaque notes that the school was in operation between 1913 and 1939, and lists the names of the teachers who taught at the school while the other plaque has a photograph of a group of school students standing in front of the school building with their teacher. A replica of the former one roomed school building, constructed of a steel frame and a corrugated sheet metal cladding is located adjacent to the large rock and it contains displays relevant to the history of the school and former townsite.
Condition	N/A
Integrity	N/A
Authenticity	N/A

HISTORICAL INFORMATION	
A railway from Geraldton to Mullewa was constructed in 1894 and passed through the area. By 1908 a station was opened in the location of the town and had the name 55 mile siding. Later in 1908 the name of the station was changed to the Aboriginal name of a nearby gully, Kockatea. The name was changed again almost a year later to Tenindewa which is also Aboriginal in origin. The meaning is unknown. The town site was gazetted in 1913.	

By 1910 there were railway buildings, sports facilities and a race course, a post office and a hall. Initially the first school classes were conducted in a railway employee's cottage on land donated by Norman Fry one of the original settlers of the region, known as the Woolya Estate.

A reserve of 5 acres for the school was gazetted in October 1914, followed by a contract for the construction of a new school. The builder was C.N. Turner and the price was £170 10s 8p. The school was completed to schedule and opened for students on 15th March 1915. The first teacher Miss Eva Stafford had been teaching students at the old building and transferred to the new premises with her students.

The population of the school responded to the transient workforce in the community and if there was less than 8 students the school closed. The longest periods of closure was between 1924 and 1927, and 1928 to 1931.

The school closed on 4th August 1939 and students were bussed to Mullewa schools the following week.

During periods of World War II the building was used as a canteen by the 25th Motorised Machine Gun Regiment.

Local residents offered to purchase the building but it was not until 1945 that the government sought tenders for its removal. Farmer Harry Stokes purchased the building but did not remove it and it was still on the site when he died in 1953. The building was subsequently removed and the reserve changed from School Site to Public Utility in 1957.

In 1988, a memorial plaque was erected at the site to recognise the role of the school in the community, and in 2015 a replica structure was built to commemorate the school. This structure has displays relevant to the history of the town and region and is a designated stop on the Mullewa Northern Loop Drive Trail.

Historic Themes:	Social Services: Education Peopling WA: Demographic Development Infrastructure: Development of Settlements and Services.	
Associations	Norman Fry Eva Stafford C N Turner Harry Stokes	Donor of land Teacher Builder Owner
Sources:	City of Greater Geraldton Municipal Inventory of Heritage Places 2019. Tenindewa Town website, Tenindewa Progress Association, accessed August 2026.	

ARCHIVAL IMAGES



Tenindewa School, n.d. Courtesy Tenindewa Town website



Tenindewa students and Mr Williams, 1930s. Courtesy Tenindewa Town website



Tenindewa School, n.d. Courtesy Tenindewa Town website

PREVIOUS HERITAGE SURVEYS



Municipal Heritage Inventory, 2011.

Place No:
Tenindewa Store (fmr), TENINDEWA

Management Category
3



PLACE INFORMATION		
Place Name:	Tenindewa Store (fmr)	
Previous Place Number:	MW37	
Other Names:	Tenindewa Store	
Place Type:	Individual Building or Group	
SITE LOCATION		
Street Address:	37 Griffiths Road	
Locality:	TENINDEWA	
Location Detail:	Lot 32 Cnr Tenindewa Road North	
Assessment No:	680	
Survey:	Lot 32, P143767	
Reserve:		
GPS Coordinates	6832869.74mN; 340330.83mE	
HERITAGE LISTING		
State Heritage Office ID:	6115	Parent HCWA ID (if applied):
State Heritage Register:	No	
Other Listing:		
Local Heritage Survey:	Municipal Heritage Inventory Initial Assessment 10/02/1995 Municipal Heritage Inventory Last Assessment 07/03/2012	

SIGNIFICANCE	
Level of Significance	MODERATE SIGNIFICANCE: Important to the heritage of the locality.
Management Category	CATEGORY 3 Conservation of the place is recommended. Any proposed change to the place should not unduly impact on the heritage values of the place and should retain significant fabric wherever feasible.
Statement of Significance	- The Tenindewa Store (fmr) has aesthetic value as a simple example of a commercial building constructed from concrete block in the Inter War period that demonstrates the wide verandahs common in this harsh environment. - The place has aesthetic value as a landmark in this open landscape and is visible from a distance on the Geraldton Mount Magnet Road. - The place has historic value as the last remaining structure associated with the small community that emerged adjacent to the siding from the 1910s. - The place has historic value as the last manual telephone exchange in Western Australia which operated from the premises until 1985.

PLACE USE	
Original Use	Commercial: Retail
Current Use	Vacant/unused
Other Use	Communications: Post Office

CONSTRUCTION DETAILS	
Construction Date	1935;
Walls	Concrete Block
Roof	Zincalume
Architectural Style	
Physical Description	The Tenindewa Store (fmr) is located on open ground immediately north of, and facing towards, the railway line. The simple square building is of concrete block construction with a zincalume clad gable roof. The roof extends to cover surrounding verandahs which are supported on new timber posts. The front of the building, the southern elevation, has a central doorway with a window on each side. A sign saying "Tenindewa" is affixed to the gable end above the verandah. There is concrete paving to the front verandah and two corrugated iron clad dunnies located to the rear (north).
Condition	N/A
Integrity	High
Authenticity	Moderate

HISTORICAL INFORMATION	
A railway from Geraldton to Mullewa was constructed in 1894 and passed through the area. By 1908 a station was opened in the location of the town and had the name 55 mile siding. Later in 1908 the name of the station was changed to the Aboriginal name of a nearby gully, Kockatea. The name was changed again almost a year later to Tenindewa which is also Aboriginal in origin. The meaning is unknown. The town site was gazetted in 1913. The first Tenindewa Store, a Wesfarmers Co-operative and Post Office, was built by Alex Rumble in 1921. The Post Office was a key institution in any small community and operating this service was a sought after role. As recalled by Alex Rumble in a memoir:	

The first Post Office at Tenindewa was carried on by Mrs. Eves (mother of Mr. George Eves) in 1910, and then when they moved to "Illino" [A farm in the Wongoondy area] it went to Mr. Norman Fry's residence (the Big House) across the road, and it was conducted by Miss Fry. In 1918 Miss Fry left the district and went to live in Victoria.

In 1919 it was conducted in the "Old Hall" by Miss Kathleen Palmer [Rumble] and Miss Eileen Palmer for a short period, and then to Mrs. Napier who was a Railway Employee's wife. When they eventually left it came back to the "Old Hall" and was again conducted by the Miss Palmers. Their payment was Three Pounds, Seven Shillings and Sixpence per week. [\$6.75] We held a meeting to see if we could increase this amount to make it worthwhile to continue as the Postal Department had threatened to close it up and our mail would go to Mullewa. It was agreed to all pay seven shillings and sixpence (75 cents) per month, but no one paid, so closure was imminent. Then I decided to build the Store and Post Office in 1921. The Miss Palmers ran it until 1922 when I married Miss Kathleen Palmer. It was then run by Miss Eileen Palmer for two years and she lived with us. She then departed for to Perth and (in 1924) I leased it to Mr. W Griffiths.

Bill Griffiths built a new (existing) Store and Post Office in 1935.

TJ and EM Foster took over the Store in and Post Office in 1946 and were assisted for many years by Miss Kitty O'Brien [Rowe] (daughter of Mr. Tom O'Brien) daughter Judy [later McDonald] and then by Nell and son Des and later wife Annette. Mr. Tom Foster passed away in 1969. Since Mrs. Foster [Nell] moved to Geraldton in 1977 the business has been conducted by Des and his wife Annette.

The store and post office closed in 1985 and the Tenindewa Exchange was the last manual exchange in Western Australia.

Historic Themes:	Economy: Commerce Peopling WA: Demographic Development Infrastructure: Development of Settlements and Services.	
Associations	Alex Rumble Bill Griffiths	Owner, occupier and builder Owner, occupier and builder
Sources:	City of Greater Geraldton Municipal Inventory of Heritage Places 2019. Tenindewa Town website, Tenindewa Progress Association, accessed August 2026. Tenindewa Town History and stories of this small WA farming community	

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS



PREVIOUS HERITAGE SURVEYS



Municipal Heritage Inventory, 2011

ARCHIVAL IMAGES



The store built in 1921 previously used for the Post Office and Store. Courtesy Tenindewa Town Website.



The Old Hall previously used for the Post Office and Store, 1945 after relocation to Mullewa. Courtesy Tenindewa Town Website.