

Place No:
House, 224 Sixth St, WONTHELLA

Management Category
4



PLACE INFORMATION	
Place Name:	House, 224 Sixth St
Previous Place Number:	GN381
Other Names:	
Place Type:	Individual Building or Group

SITE LOCATION	
Street Address:	224 Sixth Street
Locality:	WONTHELLA
Location Detail:	Numbered 222 Sixth Street
Assessment No:	15221
Survey:	Lot 1, D036706
Reserve:	
GPS Coordinates	6815574mN; 268351mE

HERITAGE LISTING	
State Heritage Office ID:	13775
State Heritage Register:	No
Other Listing:	
Local Heritage Survey:	Municipal Heritage Inventory Initial Assessment 06/11/1996 Municipal Heritage Inventory Last Assessment 15/03/2010

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	- This small cottage has aesthetic value as an example of housing from the Inter War period which demonstrates minimal detail. It is believed to be one of the few remaining cottages of this age in Wonthella. - The place has historic and social value as a demonstration of the type of cottage used by working families in the Inter War period. - The place has historic value for its connection to the settlement of the Wonthella area and the tomato growing industry.

PLACE USE	
Original Use	Residential: Single Storey Residence
Current Use	Residential: Single Storey Residence
Other Use	

CONSTRUCTION DETAILS	
Construction Date	1930s;
Walls	Corrugated Iron
Roof	Corrugated Iron
Architectural Style	Inter War Stripped Classical
Physical Description	This place was not visible from the street and the 2010 description has been reproduced here. Set back from the street, this timber framed corrugated iron clad house has a gable roof which extends to cover verandahs to the (front) north and west elevations. The verandah roof is hipped and supported on timber posts. There is a timber cross cross balustrade between the verandah posts. Windows are casement style. There is a timber picket fence to the street frontage with dense planting.
Condition	Fair
Integrity	Moderate
Authenticity	High

HISTORICAL INFORMATION	
The Wonthella area was surveyed in the 1850s and in the early years the du Boulay family owned much of the area, known as "Woorree Farm". In 1887 the railway between Geraldton and Walkaway was opened. In 1896, Wonthella, originally referred to as 'East Geraldton', was subdivided into 1/4 acre blocks for railway workers for the proposed marshalling yards in anticipation of a boom from the Murchison Gold Rush. At this stage the locality was called "Ootacarra". The yards were subsequently constructed in town and the blocks were not taken up until the 1920s. However, the area quickly developed as market gardens, not residential. During the depression years "share farming" in the area became an established practice. Within a few years, many of the share farmers were able to buy their own land in the area. Given the considerable produce, predominantly tomatoes, was being grown in the locality it was soon determined that a siding be established on the Geraldton to Walkaway railway to facilitate the loading and transportation of produce to the markets in the eastern states and overseas. Meanwhile the name for the new siding was under construction. 'Woorree' was the first name suggested, however this was deemed to be too confusing owing to similar sounding names in the eastern states.	

Instead the name 'Wonthella' was suggested, being a contraction of 'Wonthellarra', believed to mean 'to give' in an Onslow aboriginal dialect.

In 1932, the Wonthella Progress Association was formed by a group of local residents to lobby the local Road Board and State Government for improved services and facilities such as a school and a recreation ground.

Although the large subdivision in Wonthella, comprising First to Eighth Streets between Flores Road and North West Coastal Highway was formally approved in 1897, it was not until the Inter War period that there was steady settlement in the area.

The random size of the lot on which this cottage is located suggest it was built prior to the formal subdivision of the area. It is believed to be one of the first houses built in Wonthella and have connections the tomato growing/market garden industry.

Historic Themes:	Peopling WA: Demographic Development Economy: Rural Occupations Cultural Life: Domestic Life.
Associations	
Sources:	City of Greater Geraldton Municipal Inventory of Heritage Places 2019. Geonoma Database of topographic features, Landgate. Geraldton Guardian and Express, 11 January 1934, p. 1.

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS



PREVIOUS HERITAGE SURVEYS



Municipal Heritage Inventory, 1996



Municipal Heritage Inventory 2007

Place No:
House, 225 Second St, WONTHELLA

Management Category
4



PLACE INFORMATION		
Place Name:	House, 225 Second St	
Previous Place Number:	GN361	
Other Names:		
Place Type:	Individual Building or Group	
SITE LOCATION		
Street Address:	225 Second Street	
Locality:	WONTHELLA	
Location Detail:		
Assessment No:	14888	
Survey:	Lot 116, P001487	
Reserve:		
GPS Coordinates	6816138mN; 268353mE	
HERITAGE LISTING		
State Heritage Office ID:	13754	Parent HCWA ID (if applied):
State Heritage Register:	No	
Other Listing:		
Local Heritage Survey:	Municipal Heritage Inventory Initial Assessment 24/10/1996 Municipal Heritage Inventory Last Assessment 11/03/2010	

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	- This small cottage has aesthetic value as an example of housing from the Inter War period which demonstrates minimal detail. It is believed to be one of the few remaining cottages of this age in Wonthella. - The place has historic and social value as a demonstration of the type of cottage used by working families in the Inter War period. - The place has historic value for its connection to the settlement of the Wonthella area and the tomato growing industry. - The place contributes to the streetscape of the area through its original form, scale and setback.

PLACE USE	
Original Use	Residential: Single Storey Residence
Current Use	Residential: Single Storey Residence
Other Use	

CONSTRUCTION DETAILS	
Construction Date	1930s
Walls	Weatherboard, CGI, Fibrous cement sheeting
Roof	Corrugated Iron
Architectural Style	Inter War Stripped Classical
Physical Description	This small timber framed cottage has a gable roof with broken back extensions to the rear and front. A separate lean-to roof to the front covers a verandah which is supported on metal posts. The gable ends have fibro cladding with weatherboard below, while a lean-to beyond is clad with fibro. The front section, (possibly a verandah originally) has fibro enclosures with aluminium windows. There is a large double garage adjoining the east façade. (Included as an example of the original houses in Wonthella.)
Condition	Good
Integrity	Moderate
Authenticity	High

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

The Wonthella area was surveyed in the 1850s and in the early years the du Boulay family owned much of the area, known as "Woorree Farm". In 1887 the railway between Geraldton and Walkaway was opened.

In 1896, Wonthella, originally referred to as 'East Geraldton', was subdivided into 1/4 acre blocks for railway workers for the proposed marshalling yards in anticipation of a boom from the Murchison Gold Rush. At this stage the locality was called "Ootacarra". The yards were subsequently constructed in town and the blocks were not taken up until the 1920s. However, the area quickly developed as market gardens, not residential.

During the depression years "share farming" in the area became an established practice. Within a few years, many of the share farmers were able to buy their own land in the area. Given the considerable produce, predominantly tomatoes, was being grown in the locality it was soon determined that a siding be established on the Geraldton to Walkaway railway to facilitate the loading and transportation of produce to the markets in the eastern states and overseas.

Meanwhile the name for the new siding was under construction. 'Woorree' was the first name suggested, however this was deemed to be too confusing owing to similar sounding names in the eastern states. Instead the name 'Wonthella' was suggested, being a contraction of 'Wonthellarra', believed to mean 'to give' in an Onslow aboriginal dialect.

In 1932, the Wonthella Progress Association was formed by a group of local residents to lobby the local Road Board and State Government for improved services and facilities such as a school and a recreation ground.

Although the large subdivision in Wonthella, comprising First to Eighth Streets between Flores Road and North West Coastal Highway was formally approved in 1897, it was not until the Inter War period that there was steady settlement in the area.

This small cottage is believed to be one of the first houses built in Wonthella and have connections the tomato growing/market garden industry.

Historic Themes:	Peopling WA: Demographic Development Economy: Rural Occupations Cultural Life: Domestic Life.
Associations	
Sources:	City of Greater Geraldton Municipal Inventory of Heritage Places 2019. Geonoma Database of topographic features, Landgate. Geraldton Guardian and Express, 11 January 1934, p. 1.

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS



PREVIOUS HERITAGE SURVEYS



Municipal Heritage Inventory, 1996



Municipal Heritage Inventory 2007

Place No:
House, 236 Sixth Street, WONTHELLA

Management Category
4



PLACE INFORMATION		
Place Name:	House, 236 Sixth Street	
Previous Place Number:	GN382	
Other Names:		
Place Type:	Individual Building or Group	
SITE LOCATION		
Street Address:	236 Sixth Street	
Locality:	WONTHELLA	
Location Detail:		
Assessment No:	15226	
Survey:	Lot 467, P1487	
Reserve:		
GPS Coordinates	6815583mN; 268492mE	
HERITAGE LISTING		
State Heritage Office ID:	13776	Parent HCWA ID (if applied):
State Heritage Register:	No	
Other Listing:		
Local Heritage Survey:	Municipal Heritage Inventory Initial Assessment 06/11/1996 Municipal Heritage Inventory Last Assessment 15/03/2010	

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	- This small cottage has aesthetic value as an example of housing from the Inter War period which demonstrates minimal detail. It is believed to be one of the few remaining cottages of this age in Wonthella. - The place has historic and social value as a demonstration of the type of cottage used by working families in the Inter War period. - The place has historic value for its connection to the settlement of the Wonthella area and the tomato growing industry. - The place contributes to the streetscape of the area through its original form, scale and setback.

PLACE USE	
Original Use	Residential: Single Storey Residence
Current Use	Residential: Single Storey Residence
Other Use	

CONSTRUCTION DETAILS	
Construction Date	1930s;
Walls	Corrugated Iron
Roof	Corrugated Iron
Architectural Style	Inter War Stripped Classical
Physical Description	This timber framed corrugated iron clad cottage has a steeply pitched corrugated iron gable roof. The rear of the house has a skillion roof and the front gable roof has a broken back extension which covers the front verandah. The verandah is enclosed with corrugated iron.
Condition	Good
Integrity	Moderate
Authenticity	High

HISTORICAL INFORMATION	
The Wonthella area was surveyed in the 1850s and in the early years the du Boulay family owned much of the area, known as "Woorree Farm". In 1887 the railway between Geraldton and Walkaway was opened. In 1896, Wonthella, originally referred to as 'East Geraldton', was subdivided into 1/4 acre blocks for railway workers for the proposed marshalling yards in anticipation of a boom from the Murchison Gold Rush. At this stage the locality was called "Ootacarra". The yards were subsequently constructed in town and the blocks were not taken up until the 1920s. However, the area quickly developed as market gardens, not residential. During the depression years "share farming" in the area became an established practice. Within a few years, many of the share farmers were able to buy their own land in the area. Given the considerable produce, predominantly tomatoes, was being grown in the locality it was soon determined that a siding be established on the Geraldton to Walkaway railway to facilitate the loading and transportation of produce to the markets in the eastern states and overseas. Meanwhile the name for the new siding was under construction. 'Woorree' was the first name suggested, however this was deemed to be too confusing owing to similar sounding names in the eastern states. Instead the name 'Wonthella' was suggested, being a contraction of 'Wonthellarra', believed to mean 'to give' in an Onslow aboriginal dialect.	

In 1932, the Wonthella Progress Association was formed by a group of local residents to lobby the local Road Board and State Government for improved services and facilities such as a school and a recreation ground.

Although the large subdivision in Wonthella, comprising First to Eighth Streets between Flores Road and North West Coastal Highway was formally approved in 1897, it was not until the Inter War period that there was steady settlement in the area.

This small cottage is believed to be one of the first houses built in Wonthella and have connections the tomato growing/market garden industry.

Historic Themes:	Peopling WA: Demographic Development Economy: Rural Occupations Cultural Life: Domestic Life.
Associations	
Sources:	City of Greater Geraldton Municipal Inventory of Heritage Places 2019. Geonoma Database of topographic features, Landgate. Geraldton Guardian and Express, 11 January 1934, p. 1.

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS



PREVIOUS HERITAGE SURVEYS



Municipal Heritage Inventory, 1996



Municipal Heritage Inventory 2007

Place No:
House, 268 Fifth St, WONTHELLA

Management Category
4



PLACE INFORMATION		
Place Name:	House, 268 Fifth St	
Previous Place Number:	GN130	
Other Names:		
Place Type:	Individual Building or Group	
SITE LOCATION		
Street Address:	268 Fifth Street	
Locality:	WONTHELLA	
Location Detail:		
Assessment No:	15154	
Survey:	Lot 394, P1487 SP64038	
Reserve:		
GPS Coordinates	6815707mN; 268835mE	
HERITAGE LISTING		
State Heritage Office ID:	13380	Parent HCWA ID (if applied):
State Heritage Register:	No	
Other Listing:		
Local Heritage Survey:	Municipal Heritage Inventory Initial Assessment 06/11/1996 Municipal Heritage Inventory Last Assessment 02/11/2009	

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	- This small cottage has aesthetic value as an example of housing from the Inter War period which demonstrates minimal detail. It is believed to be one of the few remaining cottages of this age in Wonthella. - The place has historic and social value as a demonstration of the type of cottage used by working families in the Inter War period. - The place has historic value for its connection to the settlement of the Wonthella area and the tomato growing industry. - The place contributes to the streetscape of the area through its original form, scale and setback.

PLACE USE	
Original Use	Residential: Single Storey Residence
Current Use	Residential: Single Storey Residence
Other Use	

CONSTRUCTION DETAILS	
Construction Date	1920s;
Walls	Fibre cement Corrugated Galvanised Iron
Roof	Corrugated Iron
Architectural Style	
Physical Description	This building has elements of the Inter War California Bungalow style with its large roof plane and weatherboard cladding. It is a timber framed corrugated iron clad cottage is the street fronting property of a battle axe block, and has a newly constructed house to its rear. It has a steeply pitched painted corrugated iron gable roof which has a broken backcovering the front (north) verandah with a skillion roof to the rear. The front verandah is enclosed with fibro and timber framed louvre windows to the north east with scalloped boards below the east end of the verandah. The west end of the verandah is partly enclosed with a fibro balustrade. There is a horizontal timber batten fence to the street boundary and a recent carport addition with a hipped roof and gablet to the east side of the site.
Condition	Good
Integrity	High
Authenticity	High

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

The Wonthella area was surveyed in the 1850s and in the early years the du Boulay family owned much of the area, known as "Woorree Farm". In 1887 the railway between Geraldton and Walkaway was opened.

In 1896, Wonthella, originally referred to as 'East Geraldton', was subdivided into 1/4 acre blocks for railway workers for the proposed marshalling yards in anticipation of a boom from the Murchison Gold Rush. At this stage the locality was called "Ootacarra". The yards were subsequently constructed in town and the blocks were not taken up until the 1920s. However, the area quickly developed as market gardens, not residential.

During the depression years "share farming" in the area became an established practice. Within a few years, many of the share farmers were able to buy their own land in the area. Given the considerable produce, predominantly tomatoes, was being grown in the locality it was soon determined that a siding be established on the Geraldton to Walkaway railway to facilitate the loading and transportation of produce to the markets in the eastern states and overseas.

Meanwhile the name for the new siding was under construction. 'Woorree' was the first name suggested, however this was deemed to be too confusing owing to similar sounding names in the eastern states. Instead the name 'Wonthella' was suggested, being a contraction of 'Wonthellarra', believed to mean 'to give' in an Onslow aboriginal dialect.

In 1932, the Wonthella Progress Association was formed by a group of local residents to lobby the local Road Board and State Government for improved services and facilities such as a school and a recreation ground.

Although the large subdivision in Wonthella, comprising First to Eighth Streets between Flores Road and North West Coastal Highway was formally approved in 1897, it was not until the Inter War period that there was steady settlement in the area.

This small cottage is believed to be one of the first houses built in Wonthella with connections the tomato growing/market garden industry.

Aerial photographs from the mid 20th century demonstrate that the form and extent of the original cottage can still be determined.

There have been additions to the rear and a new carport on the eastern side of the lot. In 2013, a strata survey plan was approved to create a new lot at the rear of the site. A new premises was built in the rear 'battleaxe' block soon after.

Historic Themes:

Peopling WA: Demographic Development
Economy: Workers and Working
Economy: Rural Occupations.

Associations

Sources:

City of Greater Geraldton Municipal Heritage Inventory, 2019.
Aerial photographs, 1952-2024, Landgate.

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS



PREVIOUS HERITAGE SURVEYS



Municipal Heritage Inventory, 1996



Municipal Heritage Inventory 2007

Place No:
House, 286 Fifth St, WONTHELLA

Management Category
4



PLACE INFORMATION		
Place Name:	House, 286 Fifth St	
Previous Place Number:	GN132	
Other Names:		
Place Type:	Individual Building or Group	
SITE LOCATION		
Street Address:	286 Fifth Street	
Locality:	WONTHELLA	
Location Detail:	South west corner of Fifth Street and Flores Road	
Assessment No:	15162	
Survey:	Lot 4, D052696	
Reserve:		
GPS Coordinates	6815717mN; 269016mE	
HERITAGE LISTING		
State Heritage Office ID:	13382	Parent HCWA ID (if applied):
State Heritage Register:	No	
Other Listing:		
Local Heritage Survey:	Municipal Heritage Inventory Initial Assessment 06/11/1996 Municipal Heritage Inventory Last Assessment 02/11/2009	

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	- This small cottage has aesthetic value as an example of housing from the Inter War period which demonstrates minimal detail. It is believed to be one of the few remaining cottages of this age in Wonthella. - The place has historic and social value as a demonstration of the type of cottage used by working families in the Inter War period. - The place has historic value for its connection to the settlement of the Wonthella area and the tomato growing industry. - The place has historic value for its association with the Marsden family who owned and occupied this place. - The place contributes to the streetscape of the area through its original form, scale and setback.

PLACE USE	
Original Use	Residential: Single Storey Residence
Current Use	Residential: Single Storey Residence
Other Use	

CONSTRUCTION DETAILS	
Construction Date	1920s;
Walls	Rendered Masonry
Roof	Coloured metal sheeting
Architectural Style	Inter War California Bungalow
Physical Description	This building has elements of the Inter War California Bungalow style with its symmetrical facade and simple form, separate verandah roof, and smooth-textured external wall finish. The house is located on a corner lot and is setback from the street on both sides. It has a hipped corrugated iron roof with a separate hipped verandah roof to the front and a lean-to roof to the rear. The front verandah is supported on metal posts set at an angle to form a visually unique V-shape with a cross member between. The rear section is enclosed with fibro. Windows are timber framed and double hung and there is a rendered brick chimney to the north west. There is a combination fibro and metal corrugated fence marking the lot boundary.
Condition	Good
Integrity	Moderate
Authenticity	High

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

The Wonthella area was surveyed in the 1850s and in the early years the du Boulay family owned much of the area, known as "Woorree Farm". In 1887 the railway between Geraldton and Walkaway was opened.

In 1896, Wonthella, originally referred to as 'East Geraldton', was subdivided into 1/4 acre blocks for railway workers for the proposed marshalling yards in anticipation of a boom from the Murchison Gold Rush. At this stage the locality was called "Ootacarra". The yards were subsequently constructed in town and the blocks were not taken up until the 1920s. However, the area quickly developed as market gardens, not residential.

During the depression years "share farming" in the area became an established practice. Within a few years, many of the share farmers were able to buy their own land in the area. Given the considerable produce, predominantly tomatoes, was being grown in the locality it was soon determined that a siding be established on the Geraldton to Walkaway railway to facilitate the loading and transportation of produce to the markets in the eastern states and overseas.

Meanwhile the name for the new siding was under construction. 'Woorree' was the first name suggested, however this was deemed to be too confusing owing to similar sounding names in the eastern states. Instead the name 'Wonthella' was suggested, being a contraction of 'Wonthellarra', believed to mean 'to give' in an Onslow aboriginal dialect.

In 1932, the Wonthella Progress Association was formed by a group of local residents to lobby the local Road Board and State Government for improved services and facilities such as a school and a recreation ground.

Although the large subdivision in Wonthella, comprising First to Eighth Streets between Flores Road and North West Coastal Highway was formally approved in 1897, it was not until the Inter War period that there was steady settlement in the area.

One of the first families to settle in Wonthella, or East Geraldton as it was first known, were the Marsden family. Previous research has determined that this house was built by John (Jack) Thomas Marsden. The style of the house suggests it was built in the 1910s to 1920s

Jack Marsden acquired land in Wonthella where he had lived with his parents in one the first five houses in what was then known as East Geraldton.

During the Depression, Jack Marsden built 8, 3 bedroom houses in Wonthella which he allowed the tenants to pay off 10 shillings per week in lieu of rent.

Eventually he built the sixth house and was married and reared a family of 1 girl and 5 boys.

It was one of the first houses in the Wonthella area and home of Colin Marsden for many years, and later Yvonne and Keven Marsden in the 1960s.

Aerial photographs from the mid 20th century indicate that the form and extent of the house has not changed since then.

Historic Themes:	Peopling WA: Demographic Development Economy: Rural Occupations Cultural Live: Domestic Life.	
Associations	Marsden family	Builders, owners and occupiers
Sources:	City of Greater Geraldton Municipal Heritage Inventory, 2019. Aerial photographs, 1952-2024, Landgate.	

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS



PREVIOUS HERITAGE SURVEYS



Municipal Heritage Inventory, 1996



Municipal Heritage Inventory 2007

Place No:
Kurrajong Trees (18), WONTHELLA

Management Category
2



PLACE INFORMATION	
Place Name:	Kurrajong Trees (18)
Previous Place Number:	GN409
Other Names:	Wonthella Siding (fmr)
Place Type:	Tree

SITE LOCATION	
Street Address:	Flores Road
Locality:	WONTHELLA
Location Detail:	between Fourth & Fifth Street - East side
Assessment No:	
Survey:	Fmr Rail Reserve,
Reserve:	
GPS Coordinates	6815759mN; 269070mE

HERITAGE LISTING		
State Heritage Office ID:	25867	Parent HCWA ID (if applied):
State Heritage Register:	No	
Other Listing:		
Local Heritage Survey:	Municipal Heritage Inventory Initial Assessment 24/03/2015 Municipal Heritage Inventory Last Assessment 24/03/2015	

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 Kurrajong trees (18) have historic value for their association with the establishment and development of the suburb of Wonthella and with the railway line which ran between Geraldton and Walkaway to Midland. - The Kurrajong trees have aesthetic value as a significant stand of established vegetation which has been a visual element of the suburb since 1932. - The Kurrajong trees have social value for their contribution to the community's sense of place.

PLACE USE	
Original Use	Railway Siding
Current Use	Vacant / unused
Other Use	

CONSTRUCTION DETAILS	
Construction Date	1932;
Walls	N/A
Roof	N/A
Architectural Style	N/A
Physical Description	The row of 18 Kurrajong trees (<i>Branchychiton populneus</i>) is located on the former rail reserve on the eastern side of Flores Road in the suburb of Wonthella. Planted parallel to the road and situated between Fourth and Fifth Streets, the trees have been planted along a north-south axis adjacent to the old rail alignment.
Condition	Good
Integrity	High
Authenticity	High

HISTORICAL INFORMATION	
The Wonthella area was surveyed in the 1850s and in the early years the du Boulay family owned much of the area, known as "Woorree Farm". In 1887 the railway between Geraldton and Walkaway was opened. In 1896, Wonthella, originally referred to as 'East Geraldton', was subdivided into 1/4 acre blocks for railway workers for the proposed marshalling yards in anticipation of a boom from the Murchison Gold Rush. At this stage the locality was called "Ootacarra". The yards were subsequently constructed in town and the blocks were not taken up until the 1920s. However, the area quickly developed as market gardens, not residential as originally planned. During the depression years "share farming" in the area became an established practice. Within a few years, many of the share farmers were able to buy their own land in the area. Given the considerable produce, predominantly tomatoes, was being grown in the locality it was soon determined that it would be beneficial for a siding to be established on the Geraldton to Walkaway railway to facilitate the loading and transportation of produce to the markets in the eastern states and overseas. The Wonthella Progress Association, established in 1932, lobbied for the establishment of a siding to be located at the eastern end of fifth Street. In anticipation of the siding being located there, members of the Association, including George Allen a well-respected local resident and leader in the tomato growing industry, planted a stand of 18 Kurrajong trees.	

Meanwhile the name for the new siding was under construction. 'Woorree' was the first name suggested, however this was deemed to be too confusing owing to similar sounding names in the eastern states. Instead the name 'Wonthella' was suggested, the being a contraction of 'Wonthellarra', believed to mean 'to give' in an Onslow aboriginal dialect.

With the support of the local progress association, this name was formally approved by the Railways Department on 25 July 1932, for the new public siding. A small timber framed corrugated iron roofed railway shed was relocated from the Hutt Railway Siding on the Northampton line to Wonthella. However, instead of being off-loaded adjacent to the Kurrajong trees, the little building was positioned approximately 200 metres to the north on the eastern side of the railway immediately to the north of Allen Street. At its peak, three trains per week were sent south loaded with tomatoes, bound for Sydney and Melbourne, also South East Asia and Singapore.

A large army base was established east of the railway siding during the Second World War. The Wonthella Railway siding was closed in 1956, the small building was removed, however the stand of Kurrajong trees remains.

Historic Themes:	Peopling WA: Demographic Development Infrastructure: Transport and Communications Environment.	
Associations	George Allen	Local Resident
Sources:	City of Greater Geraldton Municipal Heritage Inventory, 2019. Aerial photographs, 1952-2024, Landgate.	

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS



Place No:
St. Patrick's Church (fmr), WONTHELLA

Management Category
2



PLACE INFORMATION	
Place Name:	St. Patrick's Church (fmr)
Previous Place Number:	GN171
Other Names:	Irish Club 242-252 Third Street
Place Type:	Individual Building or Group

SITE LOCATION	
Street Address:	253 Fourth Street
Locality:	WONTHELLA
Location Detail:	north west corner of Fourth and Howard Streets
Assessment No:	14992
Survey:	Lot 250, P001487
Reserve:	
GPS Coordinates	6815894mN; 268653mE

HERITAGE LISTING		
State Heritage Office ID:	13270	Parent HCWA ID (if applied):
State Heritage Register:	No	
Other Listing:		
Local Heritage Survey:	Municipal Heritage Inventory Initial Assessment 06/11/1996 Municipal Heritage Inventory Last Assessment 18/11/2009	

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	- This small corrugated iron building has historic value for its previous use as a catholic church and school and its role in the Catholic community in Wonthella during the mid 20th century. - The place has historic value for its association with Priest-Architect John Cyril Hawes who made a substantial contribution to the built environment of the Mid west during the first half of the 20th century. - The building is a rare example of Hawes' work given its simple form, basic design and use of construction materials. - The place has social value as the headquarters of the Irish community in Geraldton.

PLACE USE	
Original Use	Religious: Church, Cathedral or Chapel
Current Use	Social/Recreational: Other Community Hall/Centre
Other Use	

CONSTRUCTION DETAILS	
Construction Date	1939; 2003;
Walls	Corrugated Iron
Roof	Colorbond
Architectural Style	Vernacular
Physical Description	This building has elements of the general Georgian style with its simple form and gable roof. This small timber framed corrugated iron former church has a gable colorbond roof (re-roofed in 2003) with a lean-to roof to the south which covers a corrugated iron clad extension. To the apex of the west end of the main gable there is a timber Celtic cross with the horizontal bar of the cross missing. The main double timber entry doors are to the centre of the east façade with a small timber framed vent to the centre of the gable end. A bullnose verandah has been added to protect this door in recent times. Windows are timber framed with a metal security grille to the exterior. An ablution building was constructed to the north set behind brick walls in c1999.
Condition	Good
Integrity	High
Authenticity	Moderate

HISTORICAL INFORMATION	
This simple church hall was designed by architect and priest Monsignor John Hawes in 1938, and built by the Berry Brothers with considerable contributions of labour and materials from the community. The Hall was opened in the Geraldton suburb of Wonthella on 24 September 1939 for use as a Catholic Church. At the time of opening it was noted that the 'hall was not much to look at but it would be a centre for the Catholics of Wonthella'. The Cathedral Chronicle provides background information.	

The continued growth of population in the Wnothella district was further exemplified on Sunday September 24th when a new church hall, dedicated to St Patrick, and provided to meet the needs of the Catholic community was opened by the Bishop of Geraldton (Most Rev. J.P. O'Collins). The hall, which will accommodate about sixty or seventy people, is a compact little structure, and will serve the needs of the district until such times as a more pretentious building becomes necessary.

In February the following year, Sister Therese O'Brien, a member of the Presentation community at Geraldton, commenced primary school classes for local children in the new hall.

By 1943, there were 20 pupils enrolled at the school and the enrolment increased following the end of the war.

In 1964, the little hall was superseded by a larger structure located on the north of the lot.

The little hall has subsequently been used by the Irish Club and undergone a series of additions to accommodate the needs of the club.

The larger hall on the north of the site, still named St Patrick's is used jointly by St Patrick's Catholic Church, and the Hope Lutheran Community Church.

Historic Themes:	Cultural Life: Religion Cultural Life: Recreation - Arts, Culture and Entertainment Peopling WA: Demographic Development.		
Associations	J.C. Hawes Berry Brothers	Architect Builder	
Sources:	City of Greater Geraldton Municipal Inventory of Heritage Places 2019. Marchant James, R., "Cork to Capricorn", Presentation Sisters, 1996. "Cathedral Chronicle", October 1939. Geraldton Guardian and Express, 28 September 1939, p. 3. Monsignor John Hawes Heritage Trail https://www.monsignorhawes.com/saint-patricks-geraldton/ John J. Taylor, Between Devotion and Design the Architecture of John Cyril Hawes 1876-1956, Diocese of Geraldton, 2020, pp. 232-233.		

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS



PREVIOUS HERITAGE SURVEYS



Municipal Heritage Inventory, 1996



Municipal Heritage Inventory 2007

ARCHIVAL IMAGE



Our picture shows the new building and some of the people who were present at the ceremony.

St Patrick's 1939 Catholic Chronicle, 1 Oct 1939 p 2

Place No:
Theatre 8, WONTHELLA

Management Category
4



PLACE INFORMATION	
Place Name:	Theatre 8
Previous Place Number:	GN126
Other Names:	Geraldton Concert Artists Geraldton Repertory Club
Place Type:	Individual Building or Group

SITE LOCATION	
Street Address:	226 Eighth Street
Locality:	WONTHELLA
Location Detail:	West side of playground on the south east corner of Pass Street and Eighth Street
Assessment No:	15425
Survey:	Lot 2499, P172996
Reserve:	29338
GPS Coordinates	6815304mN; 268365mE

HERITAGE LISTING		
State Heritage Office ID:	13376	Parent HCWA ID (if applied):
State Heritage Register:	No	
Other Listing:		
Local Heritage Survey:	Municipal Heritage Inventory Initial Assessment 06/11/1996	

Municipal Heritage Inventory Last Assessment 30/10/2009

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 Theatre Eight building has historic value for its association with the provision of amateur theatre to the Geraldton community through its connection to the Geraldton Repertory and Fine Arts Club founded in 1932. - The place has social value for its association with many amateur theatre productions by many members of the community since 1974, either as performers, stage hands, audiences or through the friends and families of those involved. - The place has social value for its contribution to the community sense of place. - The place has social value as one element of a range of offerings to the community at this location in Wonthella.

PLACE USE	
Original Use	
Current Use	Social/Recreational: Theatre or Cinema
Other Use	

CONSTRUCTION DETAILS	
Construction Date	1950s;
Walls	Brick Fibre cement
Roof	Corrugated Asbestos Corrugated Sheet Metal
Architectural Style	Post War International
Physical Description	Theatre 8 is located on the south side of Eighth Street alongside other community facilities, including the skate park, netball courts, function centre and badminton courts. This building has architectural elements demonstrating the Post War International style with a simple form, symmetrical façade, and verandah spanning the street frontage. However, it does not reflect characteristics strongly connected to any particular style, although it has a utilitarian and warehouse character. It has three distinct sections with a complex roof structure. The front section (the theatre foyer) is constructed of rendered brick with a rust-coloured finish and has twin tiled skillion roofs with a verandah supported on a colonnade that wraps around the north and west sides. The north façade columns have been painted with the appearance of exposed black brickwork. Behind the front brick section there are two steel framed sections clad with fibro. A gable asbestos roof covers the main theatre, beyond this is the third section, clad with fibro with a skillion roof sloping to the rear. This covers the stage area which is accessed by a large sliding door set above a delivery ramp with timber steps.
Condition	Good

Integrity	Moderate
Authenticity	Moderate

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

The Wonthella area was surveyed in the 1850s and in the early years the du Boulay family owned much of the area, known as "Woorree Farm". In 1887 the railway between Geraldton and Walkaway was opened.

In 1896, Wonthella, originally referred to as 'East Geraldton', was subdivided into 1/4 acre blocks for railway workers for the proposed marshalling yards in anticipation of a boom from the Murchison Gold Rush. At this stage the locality was called "Ootacarra". The yards were subsequently constructed in town and the blocks were not taken up until the 1920s. However, the area quickly developed as market gardens.

During the depression years "share farming" in the area became an established practice. Within a few years, many of the share farmers were able to buy their own land in the area. Given the considerable produce, predominantly tomatoes, was being grown in the locality it was soon determined that a siding be established on the Geraldton to Walkaway railway to facilitate the loading and transportation of produce to the markets in the eastern states and overseas.

Meanwhile the name for the new siding was under construction. 'Woorree' was the first name suggested, however this was deemed to be too confusing owing to similar sounding names in the eastern states. Instead the name 'Wonthella' was suggested, being a contraction of 'Wonthellarra', believed to mean 'to give' in an Onslow aboriginal dialect.

In 1932, the Wonthella Progress Association was formed by a group of local residents to lobby the local Road Board and State Government for improved services and facilities such as a school and a recreation ground.

In the same year, the Geraldton Repertory and Fine Arts Club held its first meeting at a Parish Hall in Geraldton and organise events and performances at the Geraldton Town Hall in following years.

The Geraldton Concert Artists formed in 1961 and this group also held performances at the Geraldton Town Hall.

In 1974, "Theatre 8" was formed by the amalgamation of the Geraldton Repertory Club and the Geraldton Concert Artists.

Aerial photographs indicate that the current premises have evolved over many years with the first construction in the late 1950s / 1960s comprising a simple rectangular building at the rear of the lot. Previous research has stated that this was a hall for the Repertory Club which may have been a practice and storage space, rather than a theatre. Later additions occurred in the mid 1970s presumably followed the creation of "Theatre 8". Since then brick additions to front of the existing buildings occurred in c2004. The additions comprise a workshop, wardrobe room, green room and kitchen to cater for 100 patrons.

The theatre auditorium is named for Jim Wilson, life member and stage manager for many years.

Theatre 8, named for its location on Eighth Street, continues to function as a community theatre group for children and adults. It is a non profit group which strives to make performance arts accessible to all the community.

Historic Themes:	Cultural Life: Recreation - Sport Peopling WA: Demographic Development Social Services: Education.	
Associations	Jim Wilson	Volunteer
Sources:	City of Greater Geraldton Municipal Heritage Inventory, 2019. Aerial photographs, 1952-2024, Landgate. Geraldton Guardian and Express, 8 October 1932, p. 2.	

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS



PREVIOUS HERITAGE SURVEYS



Municipal Heritage Inventory, 1996



Municipal Heritage Inventory 2007

Place No:
Wonthella CWA Meeting Rooms (fmr),
WONTHELLA

Management Category
3



PLACE INFORMATION	
Place Name:	Wonthella CWA Meeting Rooms (fmr)
Previous Place Number:	GN128
Other Names:	House, 236 Fifth St
Place Type:	Individual Building or Group

SITE LOCATION	
Street Address:	236 Fifth Street
Locality:	WONTHELLA
Location Detail:	
Assessment No:	15139
Survey:	Lot 378, P001487
Reserve:	
GPS Coordinates	6815664mN; 268712mE

HERITAGE LISTING		
State Heritage Office ID:	13378	Parent HCWA ID (if applied):
State Heritage Register:	No	
Other Listing:		
Local Heritage Survey:	Municipal Heritage Inventory Initial Assessment 06/11/1996 Municipal Heritage Inventory Last Assessment 30/10/2009	

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	• This place has aesthetic value as a late example of the Inter War Stripped Classical style. • The place had aesthetic value for its contribution to the Fifth Street streetscape. • The place has historic value for its association with the development of Wonthella in the Inter War period. • The place has historic and social value for its association with the Country Women's Association which provided, and continue to provide a valuable service to the community. • The place has social value for its contribution to the community sense of place.

PLACE USE	
Original Use	Residential: Single Storey Residence
Current Use	Residential: Single Storey Residence
Other Use	Social/Recreational: CWA Hall

CONSTRUCTION DETAILS	
Construction Date	c1940;
Walls	Fibre Cement
Roof	Corrugated Iron
Architectural Style	Inter War California Bungalow
Physical Description	This building has architectural elements loosely indicative of the Inter-War California Bungalow style, with a simple form and verandah spanning the street frontage with a separate roof. However, it does not reflect characteristics strongly connected to any particular style despite having a cottage-like character. This small timber framed fibro clad building has a corrugated iron gable roof with a skillion roof to the rear. A domed acrylic skylight has been installed to the main roof (north) below the apex of the gable. A separate verandah roof to the front (north) is supported on painted brick pillars with a painted brick balustrade. Windows are timber framed casement style. A timber picket fence with feature entry gate forms the front property boundary.
Condition	Good
Integrity	Moderate
Authenticity	High

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

The Wonthella area was surveyed in the 1850s and in the early years the du Boulay family owned much of the area, known as "Woorree Farm". In 1887 the railway between Geraldton and Walkaway was opened.

In 1896, Wonthella, originally referred to as 'East Geraldton', was subdivided into 1/4 acre blocks for railway workers for the proposed marshalling yards in anticipation of a boom from the Murchison Gold Rush. At this stage the locality was called "Ootacarra". The yards were subsequently constructed in town and the blocks were not taken up until the 1920s. However, the area quickly developed as market gardens, not residential.

During the depression years "share farming" in the area became an established practice. Within a few years, many of the share farmers were able to buy their own land in the area. Given the considerable produce, predominantly tomatoes, was being grown in the locality it was soon determined that a siding be established on the Geraldton to Walkaway railway to facilitate the loading and transportation of produce to the markets in the eastern states and overseas.

Meanwhile the name for the new siding was under construction. 'Woorree' was the first name suggested, however this was deemed to be too confusing owing to similar sounding names in the eastern states. Instead the name 'Wonthella' was suggested, being a contraction of 'Wonthellarra', believed to mean 'to give' in an Onslow aboriginal dialect.

In 1932, the Wonthella Progress Association was formed by a group of local residents to lobby the local Road Board and State Government for improved services and facilities such as a school and a recreation ground.

Although the large subdivision in Wonthella, comprising First to Eighth Streets between Flores Road and North West Coastal Highway was formally approved in 1897, it was not until the Inter War period that there was steady settlement in the area.

Previous research has found that this small cottage was one of the houses built c.1940 by Jack Marsden who was responsible for the construction of many similar houses built for sale to settlers in the Wonthella area. It is thought that the materials were recycled from buildings at the Utakarra Showground.

In 1997, the building was owned by the Country Women's Association of WA and the Wonthella Branch had the tenancy.

Since then the property has reverted to private ownership and the place is now [2025] used as a private residence.

Aerial photographs from the mid 20th century indicates that there has been a small addition across the rear elevation from at least 1952. Additional information from local sources states that the place was originally clad with corrugated iron.

Historic Themes:	Cultural Life: Recreation - Arts, Culture and Entertainment Economy: Rural Occupations Peopling WA: Demographic Development.	
Associations	Jack Marsden Country Women's Association	Builder Owner and occupant
Sources:	City of Greater Geraldton Municipal Heritage Inventory, 2019. Aerial photographs, 1952-2024, Landgate.	

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS



PREVIOUS HERITAGE SURVEYS



Municipal Heritage Inventory, 1996



Municipal Heritage Inventory 2007

Place No:
Wonthella Memorial Hall (fmr), WONTHELLA

Management Category
2



PLACE INFORMATION	
Place Name:	Wonthella Memorial Hall (fmr)
Previous Place Number:	GN131
Other Names:	Hippy Haven GTW 11 Studio GWN
Place Type:	Individual Building or Group

SITE LOCATION	
Street Address:	253 Fifth Street
Locality:	WONTHELLA
Location Detail:	North west corner of Fifth and Howard Streets
Assessment No:	15161
Survey:	Lot 333, 334, P001487
Reserve:	
GPS Coordinates	6815706mN; 268977mE

HERITAGE LISTING		
State Heritage Office ID:	13381	Parent HCWA ID (if applied):
State Heritage Register:	No	
Other Listing:		
Local Heritage Survey:	Municipal Heritage Inventory Initial Assessment 06/11/1996	

Municipal Heritage Inventory Last Assessment 02/11/2009

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 Wonthella Memorial Hall (fmr) has aesthetic value as a late example of the Inter War Stripped Classical style in brick. - The place had aesthetic value for its contribution to the Fifth Street streetscape. - The place has historic value for its association with the development of Wonthella in the period following World War II. - The place has social value as it was a popular venue for social functions since 1960 until 1975. - The place has historic and social value for its association with the television networks GTW 11 and GWN which operated from the premises during the late 20th century. - The place has social value for its contribution to the community sense of place.

PLACE USE	
Original Use	Social/Recreational: Other Community Hall/Centre
Current Use	Commercial: Shop/Retail Store
Other Use	Transport/Communications: Communications: Radio or Telephone Building

CONSTRUCTION DETAILS	
Construction Date	1960; 2001; 2004/05;
Walls	Brick Corrugated sheet metal
Roof	Corrugated Asbestos
Architectural Style	Inter War Stripped Classical
Physical Description	This building has elements of the Inter War Stripped Classical style with its symmetry and classical motifs reminiscent of Victorian styles such as the stepped parapet wall and low pitched gable roof of the protruding entry porch on the façade. It is a large brick hall has a corrugated asbestos gable roof with eaves overhang. The front (south) of the building is enhanced with a stepped parapet which has corbelled brickwork to each side. Located below the central step of the parapet, a large masonry plaque reads "WONTHELLA MEMORIAL HALL 1960". The name of the current occupants is painted on the west side of the façade. A new tinted glass enclosed entry porch with a shallow pitched gable roof has been added to the front façade. Windows to the west side of the building are small timber framed casement style. A large brick extension has been constructed on the eastern side, replacing the original lean-to. This addition addresses Howard Street and the whole building has been painted dark grey. A low brick wall forms the front property boundary.
Condition	Good
Integrity	Moderate
Authenticity	High

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

This building was built in 1960 by the Wonthella Progress Association with funds raised by the local community and the Geraldton Branch of the Airforce Association. It is known as a memorial hall in memory of the RAAF members who lost their lives during World War II.

The location of the hall was under discussion for some years as it was not the preferred location for the Shire of Geraldton, nevertheless after many years fundraising through the 1950s plans were submitted to the Public Health Department for approval in 1957. It is probable the delays in construction were due to the difficulties in securing building materials for non essential projects following World War II.

A gala opening was held in August 1960 and the Hall became the social centre for the Wonthella community who used it for social occasions, meetings and sports such as badminton and squash.

The Hall was sold to GTW 11 in 1975 and later to the GWN television network in 1987. In 2001 the building was converted in to a furniture store, the place continues to be used as a retail premises.

Aerial photographs from the mid 20th century show that the large addition on the east side of the hall was built in 2004/05, replacing a smaller addition which had been present on this side from its original construction.

Historic Themes:	Cultural Life: Recreation - Sport Governing: Law, Order and Defence Infrastructure: Transport and Communications.
Associations	
Sources:	City of Greater Geraldton Municipal Heritage Inventory, 2019. Aerial photographs, 1952-2024, Landgate. Wonthella - Memorial Hall for Progress Association - plans. Cons 5094 item 1748, SROWA (not sighted)

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS



PREVIOUS HERITAGE SURVEYS



Municipal Heritage Inventory, 1996



Municipal Heritage Inventory 2007