

Place No:
Wicherina Dam, WICHERINA

Management Category
4



Aerial photograph 2022, Landgate.

PLACE INFORMATION	
Place Name:	Wicherina Dam
Previous Place Number:	GR171
Other Names:	
Place Type:	Other Built Type

SITE LOCATION	
Street Address:	Geraldton-Mt Magnet Road (south side)
Locality:	WICHERINA
Location Detail:	South side of Geraldton-Mt Magnet Rd
Assessment No:	61376
Survey:	Lot 9726, P232302
Reserve:	17711
GPS Coordinates	6820332mN; 304987mE

HERITAGE LISTING		
State Heritage Office ID:	13937	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	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	• Wicherina Dam has historic value for its association with the establishment and development of the region for the pastoral industry and for its connection to the Tibradden station. • The place has historic value for the association with the development of the region in the mid 20th century and the investment in the region by the State Government. • The dam has historic value as a demonstration of the range of construction methods applied since the early 20th century in the construction of dams in the harsh environment. The use of an asbestos roof was a significant investment at the time of construction.

PLACE USE	
Original Use	Governmental: Reservoir or Dam
Current Use	Governmental: Reservoir or Dam
Other Use	

CONSTRUCTION DETAILS	
Construction Date	c1921; 1968;
Walls	N/A
Roof	N/A
Architectural Style	N/A
Physical Description	Site was not accessed in 2026 and the following description is from the 2004/05 review. The large dam is built on the Wicherina Brook and the pumping station is located to the east of the dam wall. There was no evidence of the structure and sheeting which formerly covered the dam although concrete foundations and fittings of former buildings were present to the east of the dam.
Condition	Good
Integrity	Moderate
Authenticity	High

HISTORICAL INFORMATION	
A small earthen dam across Wicherina Brook was originally built by Davis and Percy of Tibradden Station. The date of construction is not known although it is suggested that it was after 1895 when the property was listed for sale and a dam was not included in the improvements on the Tibradden Station. In 1921, another earthen wall dam was built on the creek to form two reservoirs capable of holding 106 million gallons of water. To compensate for water evaporation, bores were drilled nearby to replenish the dams. In 1934, a corrugated asbestos roof was constructed over the lower dam to further prevent evaporation which was approximately 10 feet per year. The roof covered an area of 17 acres. A photograph of the dam in 1968 shows the roof covering had collapsed into the dam at that time and is likely to have been removed soon after. To reach Geraldton, water flowed through three miles of steel piping to a 300,000 gallon reinforced concrete reservoir on a high hill and then gravitated through concrete pipes to Geraldton.	

Wicherina Dam supplied householders in Geraldton with water until 1965. With the opening of the Allanooka Water Supply in 1966 the Wicherina Dam ceased as a water supply for Geraldton.

Since the 1970s, water has been pumped from the dam site to Mullewa. The volume of water is dependant on the seasons and aerial photographs demonstrate that at some times of the year there is minimal water in the dam.

Historic Themes:

Peopling WA: Demographic Development
Infrastructure: Development of Settlements and Services
Economy: Rural Occupation.

Associations

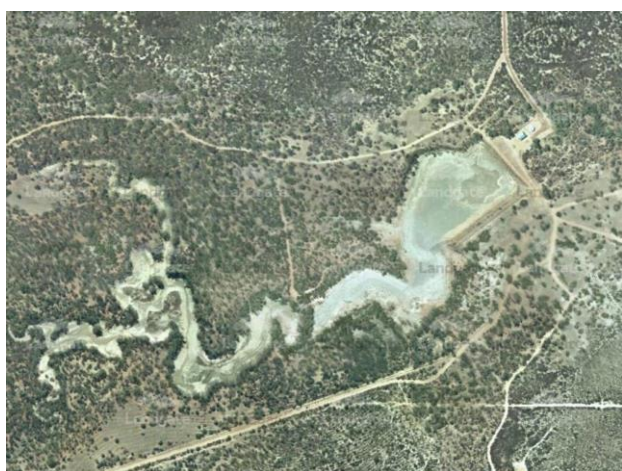
Davis and Percy

Builders

Sources:

City of Greater Geraldton Municipal Inventory of Heritage Places 2019.
Landgate Aerial photographs, 2000 to 2022.
The Australasian, 14 Sept 1895, p. 36.

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS



Aerial photograph, 2002. Courtesy Landgate.



View of collapsed roof, 1968. Courtesy SLWA image b4569262_1



Wicherina Dam c1956. Courtesy SLWA image b5673524_2

PREVIOUS HERITAGE SURVEYS



Municipal Heritage Inventory, 2005



Municipal Heritage Inventory 2005.

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