

Place No:
Wongoondy Hall, WONGOONDY

Management Category
3



PLACE INFORMATION		
Place Name:	Wongoondy Hall	
Previous Place Number:	MW45	
Other Names:	Mendels School - Site Wongoondy-Mendels Hall	
Place Type:	Individual Building or Group	
SITE LOCATION		
Street Address:	4859 Mingenew-Mullewa Road	
Locality:	WONGOONDY	
Location Detail:	Cnr Hebiton Road	
Assessment No:	1416	
Survey:	Lot 20, P156216	
Reserve:	20649	
GPS Coordinates	6810420mN; 355208mE	
HERITAGE LISTING		
State Heritage Office ID:	1670	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 09/03/2012	

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 Woongoondy Hall has aesthetic value as a simple expression of the post war international style in brick. • The place has historic value for its association with the development of the region in the period following World War Two when the region was experiencing economic and population growth. • The place has social value for its role in the community in the mid 20th century as the venue of many social and formal events. • The site has historic value as the location of the Mendels School in the 1930s which was attended by children in the region. • The place has historic value for its connection to the local Progress Association which was very active in securing services for the community, including the Mendels school and the hall. • The place has landmark value as it is one of the longstanding buildings in the vicinity which is clearly visible in the agricultural landscape.

PLACE USE	
Original Use	Social/Recreational: Other Community Hall/ Centre
Current Use	Vacant/Unused
Other Use	Educational: School

CONSTRUCTION DETAILS	
Construction Date	1948;
Walls	Brick: Face Brick Brick: Rendered
Roof	Metal: Corrugated Iron
Architectural Style	
Physical Description	Located on the west side of the Mullewa-Mingenew Road, the Woongoondy Hall addresses the road. The simple rectangular building is of concrete brick construction with a shallow pitched gable corrugated iron roof. The front of the building appears to have originally had central double entry doors with windows either side, but has been extended on the northern side to accommodate a kitchen and additional space. The view of the roof from the front is hidden behind a simple stepped parapet wall, with steps continuing to a lower level on the north side. The roof has 'PEARL' painted on it in apricot coloured lettering. There is a rainwater tank to the rear corner. The building was open and accessible with doors off their hinges. On the south side of the building, immediately adjacent to the road and among some trees, is a stone with a plaque marking the location of the Mendels School Site.
Condition	Fair
Integrity	High
Authenticity	Largely intact

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

This district was the location of the Wongoondy and Mendels Estates which were large pastoral areas taken up in the early 20th century. The Mendels Estate was established through an English company, and the Wongoondy Estate was a company founded by local men; Messrs Lee Steere, Monger and O'Halloran. In the 1920s both Estates were re-purchased and settled.

Those initial settlers formed a Progress Association which was instrumental in the establishment of the Mendels School which opened on 3 August 1931 and operated until December 1934. During this time the school building was the venue for community gatherings and became the social centre for the district.

With the closure of the school because of the instigation of a school bus service taking children to more populous centres, the Progress Association reformed with one of its aims the building of a hall for the district.

In 1948, the Association secured a RAAF hut which was relocated to this site and erected by skilled and volunteer labour. Funds for the hall were largely secured by donations from local farmers.

In August 1948, MLA David Brand declared the hall open at a well attended event comprising a supper and dancing to a five piece band.

The newspaper accounts for this event do not designate the origin of the RAAF building. The repurposing of the building to a hall is likely to have led to alterations to the original building.

The hall was used for various social and sporting events by the local community. The hall has fallen into decline following its lack of use. It is not known when the building ceased to be used.

Historic Themes:	Cultural Life: Recreation - Arts, Culture and Entertainment Economy: Rural Occupations Peopling WA: Demographic Development.
Associations	
Sources:	City of Greater Geraldton Municipal Inventory of Heritage Places 2019. Greenough Sun, 19 August 1948, p. 1. Landgate Aerial photographs, 2000-2022.

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS





PREVIOUS HERITAGE SURVEY



Municipal Heritage Inventory 2011