



City of Greater Geraldton  
Municipal Inventory of Heritage Places  
Place Record

Area: Geraldton	Place Number: 124	Category: 1
Assessment Date: 29/10/1996	Last Revision Date: 30/10/2009	
HCWA Number: 1073	Asset ID: MCH126628	

PLACE DETAILS

Name:	Cemetery Chapel of St Spirito
Other Names:	Eastward Road
Type of Place:	Chapel
Address:	Eastward Road
Suburb:	Utakama

LOCATION

Map Reference:	17.15	GPS Northing:	6814318.00	GPS Easting:	269920.000
			0000		000

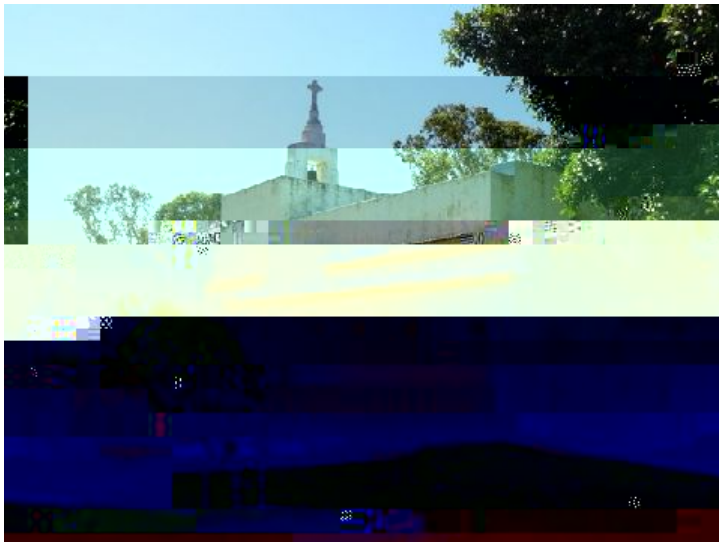


Photo Description:  
14/12/2008  
Tanya Henkel  
Chapel showing main and side entrances.

### SITE DETAILS

Lot No.:	Lot 9609	Assess No.:	16348
Reserv No.:	21779	Vol/Fol:	
Dia/Plan:			

### USE OF PLACE

Original Use:	Chapel	Occupied:	Not Occupied
Current Use:	Chapel		
Ownership:			
Public Access:	Restricted		

### DESCRIPTION

Walls:	Concrete	Roof:	Concrete
Condition:	Good	Integrity:	
Original fabric:			
Modifications:			

The exterior of the Chapel of San Spirito is simple and unadorned. [1]  
"Hawes 'Franciscanism' and the influence of the American south-west are clearly evident in this gem." [2]

"The shape of the building is rectilinear and is crowned with a bellcote. The exterior mass relies on a block form simply expressed with plain white walls to create a sculptural quality. The white painted and rendered external walls of the building provide sharp contrast between the crisp light and deep shadows created by strong sunlight in the region. The stepped and angular planes of the bellcote, crowned by a cross, have the same sculptural effect. The building has an entry at the west end and the altar at the east end. The plan consists of a narthex, a nave, a sanctuary, and a small sacristy on the north side. The bell is operated by a pull wire through the roof into the sanctuary. The interior, Romanesque in style, with a combination of various materials (concrete, brick, stone, timber, and metal screens) is solid and comforting, while retaining a solemn and majestic atmosphere." [3]

The exterior of the building has a very 'cubic' form, punctuated by stepped sides capped with orange tiles (possibly added later to reduce water penetration) [4], louvered shutters to arched openings into the nave and porthole windows to the east and west ends. There are also small, side entry, arched openings behind the heavy, studded timber doors of the main entry on the west end. Inside, the entry is separated from the nave by wrought iron screens. The monochromatic striped

painting of the ribbed arches, supporting the barrel vault ceiling with painted mural, creates a tall uplifting space. Limestone bases buttress brick arches forming niches down the side (external) walls of the nave. Round stone columns (with chevron decoration) support stone arches in the end wall of the nave separating the sanctuary. The centre of the nave is dominated by the sarcophagus of Lecaille. It is made of terrazzo as is the surrounding floor in which there is also a brass plate meant to mark the grave of Monsignor Hawes. The plate is engraved with a

and June of 1936 - at a cost of 824 pounds. The building contractor was Beny Bros., Mount Hawthorne, who also built Nazareth House. The design of the Chapel reflects Hawes' interest in the 1930s Modern movement. (Ibid.)

An article in the "Cathedral Chronicle" indicates that the cost of building the chapel was covered by a donation, "given to the Bishop for this express object. It was given by one who desired to remain strictly anonymous". The bequest also included an endowment for providing a Mass to be said in the chapel every month for Holy Souls. ("Cathedral Chronicle", May, 1936, p1) The article describes the chapel as "almost tomb-like in its monumental solidity. It displays the modern trend in art to straight and square outlines, emphasising strength and simplicity.

### HISTORIC THEMES

HCWA: 406 Religion  
605 Famous and infamous people  
AHC: 8.6.4 Making places for worship  
9.7.1 Dealing with human remains

## MANAGEMENT CATEGORY

Management Category:	1
Level of Significance:	EXCEPTIONAL SIGNIFICANCE: Essential to the heritage of the locality.
Management Recommendation:	Conservation of the place is considered essential. Any proposed change should not unduly impact on the significance of the place and be in accordance with either a Conservation Plan or Heritage Impact Statement.

## OTHER LISTINGS

Heritage Council of WA - Register, 25/11/1994
Australian Heritage Commission - Register, 21/03/1978
National Trust of WA - Classified, 27/05/1974

## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Apperly, R., et al, "A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture", Sydney, Angus & Robertson, 1989.
Molyneux, I, "Looking Around Perth", RAlA, Perth.
John Taylor Architect, "Utakama Cemetery Chapel Heritage Assessment" for the Heritage Council of WA, 1994.
John Taylor Architect, "Utakama Cemetery Chapel Conservation Plan", 1998.
Feilman & Associates, "Survey of Places of Historic and Landscape Significance in Geraldton", 1977.
"Cathedral Chronicle".

## OTHER PHOTOS

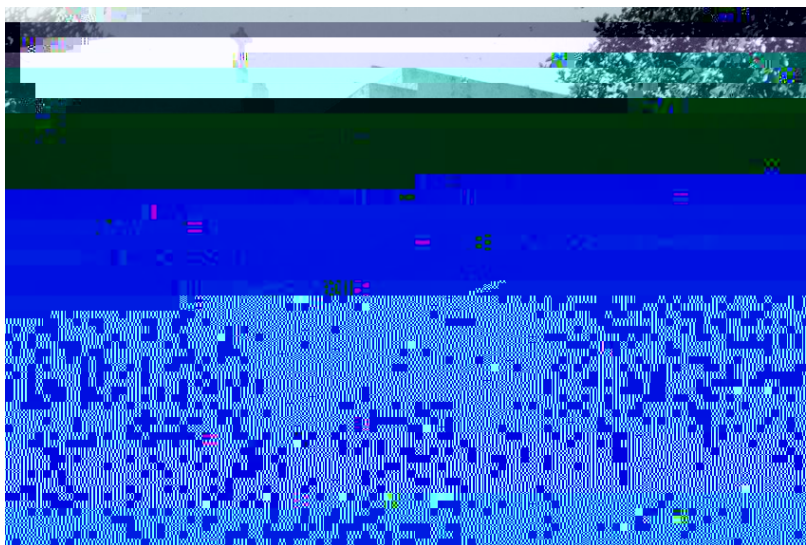


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29/10/1996  
Suba, Callow & Grundy  
Cemetery Chapel of St Spirito.