

City of Greater Geraldton
Municipal Inventory of Heritage Places
Place Record

Area: Geraldton	Place Number: 55	Category: 1
Assessment Date: 29/10/1996	Last Revision Date: 06/10/2009	
HCWA Number: 13240	Asset ID: MCH126767	

PLACE DETAILS

Name:	Old Geraldton Gaol & Warder's Cottages
Other Names:	90 Chapman Road, cnr Lewis Street
Type of Place:	Gaol/House
Address:	90 Chapman Road, cnr Lewis Street
Suburb:	Geraldton

LOCATION

Map Reference: 15. OO C ma 71d1 10HÔ

integrity and streetscape of the 'Old' Gaol.

The above extract has been taken from the HCWA "Documentation of Places for Entry onto the Register of Heritage Places" and a full description of the surviving fabric, authenticity and condition of each building can be found in the Conservation Plan for the "Bill Sewell Complex", prepared by Considine and Griffiths Pty Ltd.

See also Bill Sewell Complex.

HISTORY

Construction Date:	1859	Source:	Register Documentation
Architect:	Unknown		
Builder:	J. Wilson & W. Stokes		

houses were built within the gaol complex as accommodation for the gaol warders. By 1903 the gaol had almost completed the development of its cell range and included three separate female cells as well as the introduction of daylight and exercise yards. The female cells were relocated in 1910 to the old gaoler's officer, which were subsequently demolished in 1988, and a charge room and sergeant's room replaced them on the south west corner of the site. The last major works effecting the overall development of the old gaol was the construction of the large association cell to the north end in 1913. (Ibid., p7)

From 1967 to 1984 the entire complex was controlled by the Prisons Department as a minimum security prison. A new maximum security block was constructed in 1979 immediately to the north of the old gaol. The Greenough Regional Prison was completed in 1984 and the Prison Department subsequently vacated the site. (Ibid., p7-8) Between 1984 and 1989 the Old Gaol stood empty and due to its poor state was at one stage under threat of demolition. However in 1989 local craftspeople opened a craft centre in the building having fundraised to restore the place.

(Sources: Considine & Griffiths Architects, "The Bill Sewell Complex Conservation Plan", for the Building Management Authority, 1993.)

HISTORIC THEMES

HCWA:	403 Law and order 408 Institutions
AHC:	2.3 Coming to Australia as a punishment 7.6.5 Incarcerating people 8 Developing Australia's cultural life

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Old Geraldton Gaol and Warder's Cottages have high cultural heritage significance as part of the complex "Bill Sewell Complex", the site and buildings of which were prominent in Western Australia's history. In particular, in relation to the regional development of the Victoria District (early convict hiring depot) and as evidenced by the relatively intact building and for a relatively moderate to high degree of authenticity.

There are sufficiently cohesive elements in the gaol to evoke its former use. The gaol is an important historic and social landmark and possesses strong aesthetic value that contributes to the townscape.

Scientifically the site may reveal information about convict existence in a regional depot in a regional centre. The place may have social and

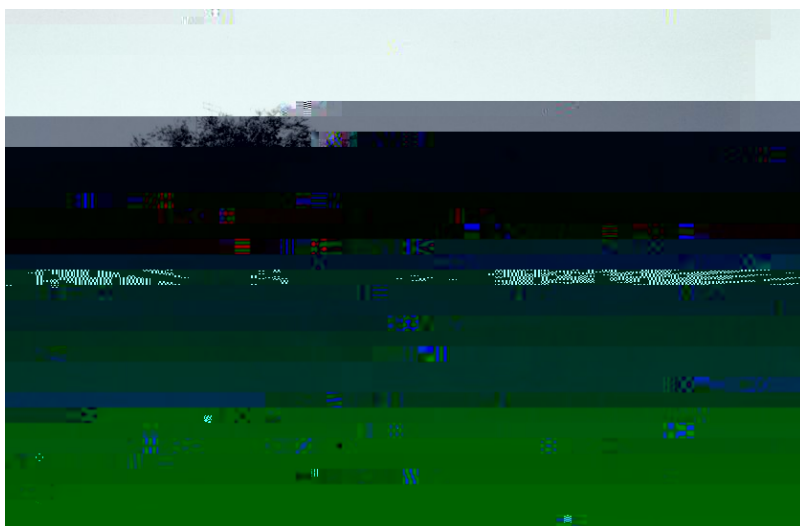


Photo Description:

16/10/2001

Suba, Callow & Grundy

Stone Warder's Quarters addressing Lewis Street.

Photo Description:

6/08/2008

T Henkel

Modifications include tiled roof and metal verandah poles.