



City of Greater Geraldton  
Municipal Inventory of Heritage Places  
Place Record

Area: Geraldton	Place Number: 88	Category: 1
Assessment Date: 29/10/1996	Last Revision Date: 27/10/2009	
HCWA Number: 1055	Asset ID:	MC H126508

PLACE DETAILS

Name:	Nazareth House
Other Names:	17 Crowtherton Street
Type of Place:	Nursing Home
Address:	17 Crowtherton Street
Suburb:	Bluff Point

LOCATION

Map Reference:	15.2	GPS Northing:	6819716.00	GPS Easting:	267738.000
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Photo Description:  
30/07/2007  
Rod Milne  
East facade of Nazareth House.

### SITE DETAILS

Lot No.:	Lot 9000	Assess No.:	20798
Reserv No.:		Vol/Fol:	
Dia/Plan:			

### USE OF PLACE

Original Use:	Institution		
Current Use:	Nursing Home		
Ownership:	Sisters of Nazareth		
Public Access:	Restricted	Occupied:	Occupied

capped with a tiled pyramid roof. Small narrow windows punctuate the otherwise solid walls of the towers. The main entry with large double entry doors is centrally located in the eastern colonnade. It is surmounted by a tall, three storey scale, Spanish Mission gable with rendered mouldings on the parapet which is capped with a crucifix and niche housing a Christ statue. The gable is not unlike that which Hawes designed for the elevated western end of the nave above the entry to the St Francis Xavier Cathedral in Geraldton.

Inside the entry a large timber staircase leads to the first floor. Planning of the original building is formed around a quadrangle where the colonnade theme continues around a central courtyard. Whilst facing the ocean on the western side, little advantage has been made of the ocean views or outlook up and down the coast. Recent, single storey accommodation on the north and south sides of the original complex pay some respect to the original architecture.

## HISTORY

Construction Date:	1939	Source:	"Cathedral Chronicle"
Architect:	J.C. Hawes		
Builder:	Berry Bros		

In January 1939 the Poor Sisters of Nazareth visited Geraldton at the invitation of the Catholic Bishop of Geraldton, the Most Rev. Dr. James P.

the builders, Berry Brothers. Although the Sisters took up residence on 27 June, 1941, Nazareth House was not officially opened until 28 September, 1941 by the Premier, Hon J.C. Willcock, M.L.A. and blessed by Bishop O'Collins. Construction cost nearly £35,000 and at the time was the largest institutional building outside the metropolitan area. (Ibid., & "Cathedral Chronicle", October, 1941, p1) An article in the "Cathedral Chronicle" in October, 1941 describes the building and the work carried out by the Sisters of Nazareth.

Following the Japanese bombing of Darwin in February, 1942 most of the residents of Nazareth House were evacuated to Nabawa, Chapman Valley, returning in August. ("Brief History", p2)

In 1975 extensions were carried out and Lamenier Hostel was opened by the local Member, Mr Jeff Carr on 26 October of that year. In 1994 a large extension to the north, designed by Geraldton architect Greg Eastman, was built to provide more nursing home accommodation. ("Geraldton Guardian", 2/3/94)

#### HISTORIC THEMES

HCWA:	408 Institutions
	406 Religion
	605 Famous and infamous people
AHC:	2.4 Migrating
	8.6.3 Founding Australian religious institutions

#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Nazareth House has very high aesthetic, historic and social significance for the Geraldton community and the State. The place has further historic associations with the work of architect/priest, Father John Hawes and socially as the largest institutional building of its time outside the



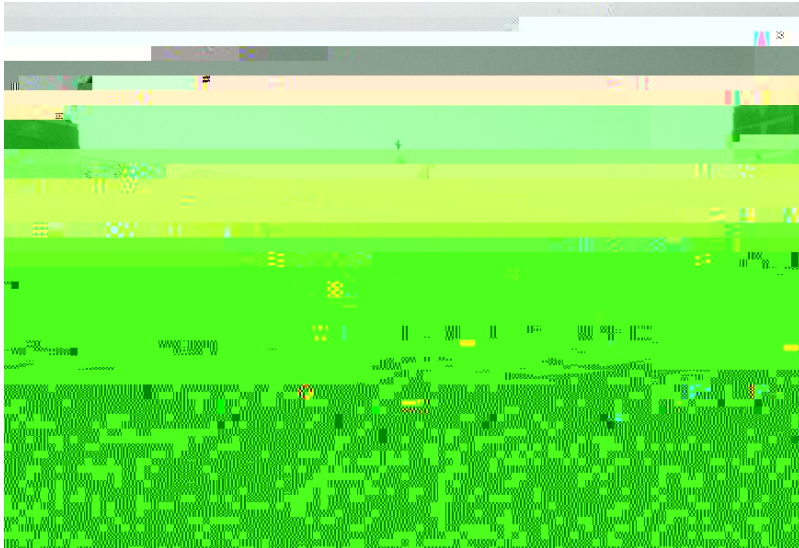


Photo Description:  
29/10/1996  
Suba, Callow & Grundy  
East facade of Nazareth House.