

<b>Area:</b> Geraldton	<b>Place Number:</b> 173	<b>Category:</b> 1
<b>Assessment Date:</b> 30/10/1996	<b>Last Revision Date:</b> 19/11/2009	
<b>HCWA Number:</b> 3940	<b>Asset ID:</b> MCH126814	

### PLACE DETAILS

<b>Name:</b>	HM Customs Office and Residence
<b>Other Names:</b>	7-9 Francis Street
<b>Type of Place:</b>	Office/Residence
<b>Address:</b>	7-9 Francis Street
<b>Suburb:</b>	Geraldton

### LOCATION

<b>Map Reference:</b> 14.15	<b>GPS Northing:</b> 6814336.00	<b>GPS Easting:</b> 266108.000
	<b>GPS Northing:</b> 0000	<b>GPS Easting:</b> 000



#### Photo Description:

6/08/2007

Rod Milne

Front facade of the HM Customs Office.

## SITE DETAILS

<b>Lot No.:</b>	Lots 22 & 23		
<b>Reserv No.:</b>		<b>Assess No.:</b>	20095 & 20096
<b>Dia/Plan:</b>	95780	<b>Vol/Fol:</b>	2140/670 & 671

## USE OF PLACE

<b>Original Use:</b>	Customs Office & Residence		
<b>Current Use:</b>	Customs Office & Residence		
<b>Ownership:</b>			
<b>Public Access:</b>	Restricted	<b>Occupied:</b>	Occupied

## DESCRIPTION

<b>Walls:</b>	Brick (Rendered)	<b>Roof:</b>	Tiles/CGI
<b>Condition:</b>	Good	<b>Integrity:</b>	
<b>Original fabric:</b>			
<b>Modifications:</b>			
<p>The H.M. Customs Office is of the Inter-War Art Deco style whereas the adjacent residence reflects more the Inter-War Mediterranean style. The office has a rendered front facade and parapet which screens a long tiled roof. The building sits right on the front boundary with the footpath. Stepped rendered architraves accentuate the double entry doors which are recessed into a small porch and raised up four steps to form a plinth. Over the doors a highlight adopts a "Union Jack" motif with its intersecting mullions. A single double hung window sits either side of the entry. The windows have small mullions forming a narrow margin of glass around the edge, which intersects to form a square in each corner of the sash. The office is basically a long rectangular building behind which is a warehouse or bond-store. Although the corrugated iron roofed bond-store is rendered and painted to match the main building it has a much older style and form and possibly pre-dates the office. Inside the office are 'standard issue' Commonwealth Government office interiors and furniture. Some early photographs are displayed on the walls which illustrate its original setting etc.</p> <p>The adjacent residence is of painted, rendered brickwork, orange tiled roof and has an arched entry porch giving its predominant Mediterranean character which is in contrast to the adjacent office. This may suggest separate times for construction albeit during the Inter-War period. The</p>			

rendered walls and arches of the residence have a certain blandness possibly indicating a loss of some its former detailing during latter maintenance alterations or "modernisation" when re-rendering and re-painting may have occurred. The combination masonry pier and timber picket fence along the street boundary is a recent addition.

## HISTORY

**Construction Date:** 1935                      **Source:** Register Documentation  
**Architect:** Unknown  
**Builder:** Unknown

The HM Customs Office building was built in 1935. (Photographic evidence in office)

## HISTORIC THEMES

**HCWA:** 201 River and sea transport  
**AHC:** 3.8 Moving goods and people

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The H.M. Customs Office and Residence have high aesthetic, historic and social significance for Geraldton. The place provides a reminder of the importance of the port and therefore customs in the daily lives of people and the region. The buildings are of a style and period not heavily acknowledged.

### RECOMMENDATION:

Care should be taken not to diminish the original character of either buildings in any future alterations or additions.

## 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, 08/01/1999  
Australian Heritage Commission - Register, 01/01/1970

### **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

Conservation Plan, Palassis Architects.

### **OTHER PHOTOS**



**Photo Description:**

6/04/2009  
Tanya Henkel  
Customs House



**Photo Description:**

30/10/1996

Suba, Callow & Grundy

Warehouse evident to rear.