City of Greater Geraldton
Municipal Inventory of Heritage Places
Place Record

Area: Geraldton	**Place Number:** 38	**Category:** 2	
Assessment Date: 03/12/1996	**Last Revision Date:** 29/09/2009		
HCWA Number: 13230	**Asset ID:** MCH127048		

PLACE DETAILS

Name:	Geraldton Civic Centre and Library
Other Names:	63 Cathedral Avenue
Type of Place:	Council Office & Library
Address:	63 Cathedral Avenue
Suburb:	Geraldton

LOCATION

Map Reference:	15.15	**GPS Northing:** 6814450.000000	**GPS Easting:** 266867.000000

Photo Description:
2/08/2007
Rod Milne
View from Cathedral Avenue.

SITE DETAILS

Lot No.:	Lot 550		
Reserv No.:	30845	**Assess No.:**	11674
Dia/Plan:		**Vol/Fol:**	

USE OF PLACE

Original Use:	Civic Centre & Library		
Current Use:	Civic Centre & Library		
Ownership:	City of Geraldton-Greenough		
Public Access:	Restricted	**Occupied:**	Occupied

DESCRIPTION

Walls:	Concrete Panels	**Roof:**	Steel
Condition:	Good	**Integrity:**	
Original fabric:	External walling		
Modifications:	Numerous internal renovations over time.		

CIVIC CENTRE
Prominently located on Cathedral Avenue the building consists of a single storey administrative centre. The main construction material is exposed aggregate concrete panels which are placed vertically and extend above the flat roof to form a parapet around the building. Behind the roof parapet of the main building, an additional set of shorter panels is used to screen the building's air conditioning system. The main roof extends to cover verandahs to the south and west sides which are enclosed with decorative concrete breezeblock. The main entrance is enhanced by a long white painted concrete beam which has the words "City of Geraldton Greenough" in raised blue letters. Suspended from the beam and extending to the front entrance is an arched concrete entrance.
LIBRARY
The two storey library building adjoins the east end of the Civic Centre and is constructed in a similar style using exposed concrete aggregate panels. The structure consists of two vertically placed panels which are separated by a recessed concrete band which runs around the building. The longer upper panel extends above the flat roof to form a parapet. A series of narrow vertically ribbed two storey windows are placed to the south east and east of the building. An enclosed single storey porch enhances the main entrance. The porch has a decorative panel to the south east and breezeblock infill to the south west with the words "Public Library" in raised white letters. Inside the porch, plaques record the opening and renovation of the library.

HISTORY

Construction Date: 1963   **Source:**   Foundation Stones
Architect: Lewis Eves
Builder: GBC

The Town Hall was the administrative centre for Geraldton from 1907. The new Geraldton Civic Centre was opened by Queen Elizabeth II on 24 March, 1963, as is recorded on a plaque in the building. (Bain, M.A., "A Life of its Own", City of Geraldton, 1996, p303) Extensive renovations were carried out in 1987 and officially re-opened by the Queen on the occasion of the proclamation of the City of Geraldton on 22 April, 1988. (Plaque in building) The building was designed by architect Lewis Eves.
A plaque on the library building indicates that the building was designed by Architects Howard Bonner and Associates and the building contractors were the Geraldton Building Company. The library was opened on 31 July, 1968 by His Worship the Mayor, C.S. Eadon Clarke Esq. J.P. (Plaque)
The library was renovated and extended in 1993. The work was designed by local Architects Eastman and Poletti and the builders were Geraldton Building Company. The new extensions were opened on 26 July, 1993 by His Worship the Mayor, Mr E.J. Whelan, J.P. (Plaque in Library)
The Civic Centre underwent a significant internal refurbishment in 2007 in association with the amalgamation of the City of Geraldton and the Shire of Greenough, which became effective on 1 July 2007. At present it houses several departments of the Council administration and the adjacent Geraldton Region Library, while other Council staff are accommodated at the fmr Shire of Greenough offices at Utakarra.
Further renovations are planned for both the Civic Centre and the library which will be relocated to a new site.
The Geraldton Civic Centre and Library was built on the site of the Queens Park Sports Ground which featured a band rotunda at the east end. (Source: Shirley Scotter)

HISTORIC THEMES

HCWA:	400 Social and civic activities
	401 Government and politics
	404 Community services and utilities
AHC:	7 Governing
	7.6 Administering Australia
	8 Developing Australia's cultural life

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Geraldton-Greenough Civic Centre and Library has considerable local social significance as both the centre for local Government in the city and an important community resource for the residents. Together with the adjacent Queens Park Theatre, the buildings form an important civic precinct in a prominent location on the main entrance road into Geraldton.

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY

Management Category:	2
Level of Significance:	CONSIDERABLE SIGNIFICANCE: Very important to the heritage of the locality.
Management Recommendation:	Conservation of the place is highly recommended. Any proposed change should not unduly impact on the heritage values of the place and should retain significant fabric wherever feasible.

OTHER LISTINGS

No other listings

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

"Geraldton: a photographic history", Geraldton Regional Library, 2004.
Bain, M.A., "A Life of its Own", City of Geraldton, 1996.
GLLSPC - Buildings (Miscellaneous) & Geraldton (General).

OTHER PHOTOS

Photo Description:
3/12/1996
Suba & Grundy
The Geraldton Public Library.

Photo Description:
3/12/1996
Suba & Grundy
Main entrance to the Civic Centre.

Photo Description:
2/08/2007
Rod Milne
Flagpoles in front of the Geraldton-Greenough Civic Centre and Public Library.