

Area: Geraldton	Place Number: 88	Category: 1
Assessment Date: 29/10/1996	Last Revision Date: 27/10/2009	
HCWA Number: 1055	Asset ID: MCH126508	

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
		000



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

DESCRIPTION

Walls:	Brick (Rendered)	Roof:	Tile
Condition:	Good	Integrity:	
Original fabric:			
Modifications:	Numerous changes and additions over time		

Nazareth House is a two storey building located on a picturesque coastal site on the northern outskirts of Geraldton near the mouth of the Chapman River. The building has had various wings of accommodation added more recently, but the original structures were designed towards the end of the "Inter-War" period, with construction being delayed by the commencement of WW II. Accordingly it is categorised as "Inter - War" with its actual style falling between "Romanesque" and "Mediterranean" (colonnades) with elements of "Spanish Mission" (front entry gable) and "Art Deco" (corner towers). Architect, Father John Hawes, may have been influenced by other contemporary architecture in the State at the time as the rhythm of the two storey colonnades is reminiscent of that on UWA's Winthrop Hall (1927-1931) whilst the corner (1936).

Nazareth House is of textured, rendered brickwork in a natural buff colour which blends it into the colour of the surrounding country. The dark tiled roof extends down over perimeter walls onto colonnaded verandahs to provide a heavily shaded retreat from the hot summer sun. The ground floor colonnade supported on large arches whilst the first floor has three smaller arches supported on delicate columns over each large arch below. The first floor, concrete block lattice balustrade adds to the delicacy of the colonnade and facilitates good ventilation. The corner towers are two storey but present a three storey scale which terminate or buttress the corners of the building. The towers are monolithic elements, stepping in slightly to suggest a taper towards the top where they are

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. O'Collins. The current site was chosen with the purpose of building a 'house' for migrant and Australian orphans, poor children from the Geraldton area as well as the elderly in need of care. ("Cathedral Chronicle", October, 1947, p1)

Plans for the building were drawn up and the Diocesan Priest-Architect Monsignor John Hawes approved of them and drew the elevation plans. The building was to be a quadrangle of Spanish design with a courtyard in the centre. Hawes also designed plans for a chapel at Nazareth House which was never built. Hawes was responsible for the design of a number of buildings in Geraldton including the Chapel of San Spirito, St Francis Xavier Cathedral, the Hermitage and St Lawrence's Church.

Work on Nazareth House commenced in October 1939 by Berry Brothers of Perth, but was severely disrupted by the Second World War. Difficulties in obtaining materials and increasing prices, shortage of tradesmen and damaged equipment from England all hindered progress on the building. The electrical contractor was Mr Branch and the plumbers were Messrs O'Connor and Oma. ("Brief History of Foundation and Ongoing Formation of Nazareth House," n.d., p1)

The foundation stone was laid on 2 June, 1940. The Chapel was the first room to be completed in thanksgiving to God; the Altar being a gift from

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 Larmerier 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 metropolitan area. The place has landmark quality despite the additions east.

RECOMMENDATION:

A Conservation Plan should be developed to guide future extensions and alterations on the site and address issues for better, or more sympathetic integration of the more recent buildings adjacent to the original complex.

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY

Management Category:	1
Level of Significance:	EXCEPTIONAL SIGNIFICANCE: Essential to the

**Management
Recommendation:**

heritage of the locality.
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, 26/08/2003

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

"Cathedral Chronicle".
Feilman & Associates, "Survey of Places of Historic and Landscape Significance in Geraldton", 1977.
"Brief History of Foundation and Ongoing Formation of Nazareth House", n.d.
"Geraldton Guardian".
GLLSPC - Buildings (Miscellaneous).

OTHER PHOTOS



Photo Description:

29/10/1996

Suba, Callow & Grundy

East facade of Nazareth House.