

Area: Geraldton	Place Number: 264	Category: 1
Assessment Date: 08/12/1996	Last Revision Date: 27/11/2009	
HCWA Number: 1065	Asset ID: MCH127073	

PLACE DETAILS

Name:	Army Reserves Hall
Other Names:	Cnr Lester & Cathedral Avenue (199 Lester Ave)
Type of Place:	Drill Hall
Address:	Cnr Lester & Cathedral Avenue (199 Lester Ave)
Suburb:	Geraldton

LOCATION

Map Reference:	15.15	GPS Northing:	6814526.00	GPS Easting:	266677.000
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Photo Description:

26/06/2009

Tanya Henkel

Located on a prominent corner in Geraldton.

SITE DETAILS

Lot No.:	Lot 27	Assess No.:	11612
Reserv No.:		Vol/Fol:	1036/17
Dia/Plan:			

USE OF PLACE

Original Use:	Army Reserves' Hall		
Current Use:	Army Reserves' Hall		
Ownership:	Commonwealth of Australia		
Public Access:	No	Occupied:	Occupied

DESCRIPTION

Walls:	CGI/Stone	Roof:	Corrugated Iron
Condition:	Good	Integrity:	
Original fabric:			
Modifications:			

Sited on a prominent corner in Geraldton this large corrugated iron clad hall has a corrugated iron gable roof. To the rear remnants of the original stone structure have been incorporated into the existing hall. Windows to the hall are mostly timber framed and double hung with a small awning window to the side of the stone section. Entrances to the front and south sides have double timber doors with a curved corrugated iron entry porch which is supported on metal posts. Entry to the rear stone section is via steel frame entry steps to a single door. Adjoining the north elevation, there is a toilet block and a lesser hall.

HISTORY

Construction Date:	1890	Source:	Register Documentation
Architect:	Unknown		
Builder:	Unknown		

It is believed that the original limestone building was built c1890s. At this time the building was much larger, with stables adjoining the west elevation. Stone foundations of this structure are still evident beneath the present corrugated iron hall. The corrugated iron extensions were built c1890s - this is an estimate based on photographic evidence. These extensions have been altered throughout the years and are at present significantly larger than the initial structure. Old photographs also reveal

that the old stone section was pointed and had red brick quoining around the windows and doors. The hall was the centre of much social interaction, with local dances held there as well as games nights. The hall was commonly referred to as 'the cow shed'. During the 1920s the hall and adjacent yard were used for the military training of young school boys.

(Source: Discussions with Major Bradfield & Bill Cunningham)

HISTORIC THEMES

HCWA:	501 World wars and other wars 408 Institutions
AHC:	7.7.1 Providing for the common defence 7.7.3 Going to war 8.5 Forming associations

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Army Reserves Hall has considerable historic significance for its association with the defence forces in Geraldton from the 1890s. Indeed it is the oldest operating drill hall in Western Australia. Given its prominent location and large scale the place has some aesthetic value. Further the place has some social significance being used as venue for dances and other gatherings and its current use by the Army Reserves. It is highly valued by those who have served and continue to serve in the defence forces in the state and particularly in Geraldton.

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, 09/09/2003

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

"Geraldton: a photographic history", Geraldton Regional Library, 2004.

OTHER PHOTOS



Photo Description:

8/12/1996

Suba & Grundy

Original stone section at rear of hall. (at right)