

Area: Greenough	Place Number: 96	Category: 2
Assessment Date: 30/09/1997	Last Revision Date: 12/04/2005	
HCWA Number: 4308	Asset ID: MCH126537	

PLACE DETAILS

Name:	St John's Convent (Fmr)
Other Names:	St John's Convent
Type of Place:	Residence
Address:	Bridgid Road
Suburb:	Bootenal

LOCATION

Map	Geraldton	GPS	6804835.00	GPS	278829.000
Reference:	N.E.	Northing:	0000	Easting:	000



Photo Description:

12/04/2005

Martin

East elevation of building

SITE DETAILS

Lot No.:	CG 1366	Assess No.:	63231
Reserv No.:	3651	Vol/Fol:	
Dia/Plan:			

USE OF PLACE

Original Use:	Convent		
Current Use:	Residence		
Ownership:	Western Australian Government		
Public Access:	No	Occupied:	Occupied

DESCRIPTION

Walls:	Limestone	Roof:	Corrugated Iron
Condition:	Good	Integrity:	
Original fabric:			
Modifications:			

The former St John's Convent is of local stone construction with a hipped corrugated iron roof. A separate verandah roof wraps around the north and east elevations and is supported on timber posts. Windows are timber framed and double hung and are enhanced by red brick quoining which also features on the corners. A carport is attached to the south elevation, the southern wall being of corrugated iron construction.

HISTORY

Construction Date:	1902	Source:	Marchant James, R.
Architect:	Not available		
Builder:	William Martin		

St John's Catholic Church [Place No. 97] was built in 1874 by Fr. Lecaille on a 12 acre glebe on the North Back Flats. Despite the absence of a resident priest, services were held at regular intervals. The building was also used as a school whenever Catholic lay teachers were available. However, on 1 April 1902 Presentation Sisters Brigid Kenny and Teresa Cunningham opened a church-school in the small church. To begin with the sisters lived in a curtained-off portion of the church, however on 7 December 1902 they moved into the new convent located adjacent to the church. Funded by the local parishioners, the new Bootenal Convent was constructed by building contractor William Martin for a cost of £450. Martin also worked on the Presentation Convent in Sanford Street,

Geraldton. During the Second World War an RAAF training school was established in a field opposite the convent which resulted in the evacuation of the Sisters who were considered to be too close, but returned at the end of the war. The Bootenal Convent closed in 1962 and was purchased privately. The building was restored by Eric and Marie Wale in the 1970s.

(Source: Marchant James, R., "Cork to Capricorn", pp.73, 194-9)

HISTORIC THEMES

HCWA:	406 Religion 402 Education and science 605 Famous and infamous people
AHC:	8.6.3 Founding Australian religious institutions 8.6 Worshipping 8.6.2 Maintaining religious traditions and ceremonies

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The former St John's Convent has considerable historic significance for its association with religious and educational activities on the Back Flats and in particular for its connection with the Presentation Sisters for nearly sixty years. Together with the adjacent St John's Church and Catholic Cemetery, the former Convent building is an important element in a small catholic precinct and was an integral part of the small Bootenal community. The place has considerable aesthetic merit given its use of local materials, design elements such as brick quoining and picturesque location.

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

Heritage Council of WA - Register, 20/02/2004
National Trust of WA - Classified, 07/03/1995

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Bibliography:

Marchant James, R., "Cork to Capricorn - A History of the Presentation Sisters in Western Australia 1891-1991", 1996.

McGuinness, R., "From the Emerald Isle to the Sunburnt Land", 1999, p.77-81.
HCWA Database No. 4308.

OTHER PHOTOS

No other photos