

Area: Mullewa	Place Number: 1	Category: 2
Assessment Date: 10/02/1995	Last Revision Date: 01/11/2011	
HCWA Number: 1664	Asset ID: MCH126855	

PLACE DETAILS

Name:	Mullewa Town Hall & Community Resource Centre
Other Names:	Mullewa Road Board Office Fmr, Mullewa Shire Office Fmr
Type of Place:	Hall & Local Government Offices
Address:	No. 8 Jose Street, cnr Maitland Road
Suburb:	Mullewa

LOCATION

Map Reference: Mullewa Townsite	GPS Northing: 6842163.530000	GPS Easting: 354468.830000
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Photo Description:

5/10/2011

T. Henkel

Landmark building prominently situated at the heart of town.

SITE DETAILS

Lot No.:	Lot 72	Assess No.:	480
Reserv No.:	21275	Vol/Fol:	
Dia/Plan:			

USE OF PLACE

Original Use:	Hall & Local Government Offices		
Current Use:	Hall & Resource Centre		
Ownership:	City of Greater Geraldton		
Public Access:	Yes	Occupied:	Occupied

DESCRIPTION

Walls:	Brick (Rendered)	Roof:	CGI (main hall), tiles (front)
Condition:	Fair	Integrity:	
Original fabric:	1935 Hall		
Modifications:	Additions to Jose St frontage		

The Mullewa Town Hall is located on a prominent corner in the centre of the town, with the main entrance addressing Maitland Road. Despite more recent additions to the Jose Street frontage, the original 1935 rendered brick hall, with its Art Deco style influences to the front (south) facade, remains highly intact. The main hall has a corrugated iron gable roof, painted red, with lean to roofs to the sides and parapet wall to the south. The small roofs either side of the main entrance feature clay tiles in the Marseille pattern. The recessed main entrance is enhanced by an arched doorway with the words "Mullewa Town Hall" in Art Deco style lettering above. The use of arches continues on the western end of the building's frontage and down the Jose Street elevation - this being a later addition. While some windows have been replaced or enlarged, others are still in their original casement form. More recent modernising of the street frontages has also resulted in the removal of decorative window mouldings. A Foundation Stone is located on the front wall to the immediate east of the main entrance. The external colour scheme of the building is predominantly cream, with two shades of brown emphasising the banding around the top of the walls. In front of the hall are garden beds, while the war memorial is located immediately to the east.

HISTORY

Construction Date:	1935	Source:	Foundation Stone & Heritage Trail
Architect:	Eales, Cohen & Bennett		
Builder:	J.T.Goodlet		

Built in 1935, the Mullewa Town Hall replaced the original Mullewa Agricultural Hall which was located on the same site, but facing west onto Jose Street. The original timber framed and corrugated iron clad structure was formally opened on 11 September 1912. The following year it was renamed as the Mullewa Town Hall and it served the town well as an important and well used community facility. However, by the late 1920's and early 1930s the condition of the structure was deteriorating and the building was considered too small for the town's requirements. In 1934, the Mullewa Road Board members could no longer justify spending money on the old hall and moved to construct a new hall at a cost of 4,250 pounds. Designed by the highly reputed architectural firm of Eales, Cohen & Bennett the building contract was let to J.T. Goodlet. On 4 September 1935, the new Art Deco style Town Hall was officially opened by the Lt. Governor, Sir James Mitchell with a specially cast golden key before a large crowd of VIPs and local people. A few days later, on Saturday 7 September 1935, a Grand Opening Ball was held under the auspices of the Mullewa Road Board. The new building also accommodated the Mullewa Roads Board, and later the Mullewa Shire Office. This dual usage continued until 1995 when the new Shire Office was built on the corner of Padbury and Thomas Streets. The former Shire Offices now accommodate the Mullewa Community Resource Centre. (Sources: Mullewa Heritage Trail (Place 6); Keefe, B. pp.153-6 & Barden, W.D.)

HISTORIC THEMES

HCWA:	401 Government and politics 400 Social and civic activities 404 Community services and utilities
AHC:	7.6.1 Developing local government authorities 8.10.4 Designing and building fine buildings 8.1 Organising recreation

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Mullewa Town Hall has considerable historic significance for its role in the social and civic life of the local community. The place was the centre

of local government between 1935 and 1995, a total of 60 years and continues to fulfil an important community function today. The large building is a substantial and imposing structure which dominates the built fabric of the Mullewa Townsite. Although somewhat modified and modernised, the place is still characteristic of Art Deco (Inter-War Functionalist) style Town Halls in regional centres and is representative of the work of prominent architectural firm Eales, Cohen and Bennett, who designed many rural civic buildings in Western Australia.

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

National Trust of WA - Classified, 11/09/2011

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Mullewa Townsite Heritage Trail; Barden, W.D., "Mullewa Through the Years 1861-1961", Mullewa Road Board, 1961; Keeffe, B., "Eastward Ho: To Mullewa and The Murchison", Mullewa Shire Council, 1995.

OTHER PHOTOS



Photo Description:

6/10/2011

T. Henkel

Foundation Stone located on the front (south) elevation.



Photo Description:

6/10/2011

T. Henkel

East elevation of Hall with War Memorial in foreground.



Photo Description:

6/10/2011

T. Henkel

Main entrance to Mullewa Town Hall facing Maitland Road.