



**HERITAGE  
COUNCIL**  
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

## **REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES PERMANENT ENTRY**

1. **DATA BASE No.** P01049
2. **NAME** *Birdwood House, Geraldton (1935)*  
**OTHER NAMES** Geraldton City RSL Hall
3. **LOCATION** 44 & 46 Chapman Rd, Geraldton
4. **DESCRIPTION OF PLACE INCLUDED IN THIS ENTRY**
  1. Lot 1118 on Deposited Plan 156787 being the whole of the land in Certificate of Title Volume 1035 Folio 737
  2. Reserve 21706 being Lot 998 on Deposited Plan 156787 and being the whole of the land in Crown Land Title Volume 3037 Folio 471
5. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA** City of Greater Geraldton
6. **OWNER AT PERMANENT REGISTRATION**
  1. Trustees of the Geraldton Sailors & Soldiers' Memorial Institute
  2. State of Western Australia (Responsible Agency: Department of Lands; Management Order: The Returned and Services League of Australia Ltd.)
7. **HERITAGE LISTINGS**

|                                    |            |            |
|------------------------------------|------------|------------|
| • Register of Heritage Places:     | Permanent  | 18/11/2016 |
|                                    | Interim    | 16/08/2016 |
| • National Trust Classification:   | Classified | 11/12/2000 |
| • Town Planning Scheme:            |            | -----      |
| • Municipal Inventory:             | Adopted    | 23/06/1998 |
| • Register of the National Estate: |            | -----      |
8. **ORDERS UNDER SECTION 38 OR 59 OF THE ACT**  
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9. **HERITAGE AGREEMENT**  
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10. **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

*Birdwood House, Geraldton*, comprising a single-storey brick hall with a corrugated metal roof and decorative fixtures and fittings, and an associated granite war memorial, both evidencing the Inter-War Free Classical style with Inter-War Georgian Revival details, in a landscaped setting, has cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:

the place is rare as an early Returned Services League (RSL) hall, being one of the earliest known extant purpose-built RSL halls in Western Australia and one of four from the inter-war period still in use by the RSL;

the place was named in honour of William Riddel Birdwood, later Baron Birdwood, the much-respected British General who commanded Australian and New Zealand forces from 1914 to 1918 and the choice of name is indicative of the very high esteem with which he was held in Australia following World War I;

the place is a landmark public building on an elevated corner site, with a distinctive corner war memorial, raised entry porch, demonstrating elements of several Inter-War architectural styles, including Free Classical and Georgian in its external presentation and Art Deco in its interior detailing;

the place was constructed in 1935 as the first permanent home in Geraldton for the RSL and its preceding associations, at a time when the organisation provided significant social support and services for veterans, with a strong membership of returned service personnel from World War One;

the place is representative of the development of RSL halls and meeting rooms across Western Australia in the inter-war years and is a relatively substantial and prominently sited example from this period; and,

the place is valued by community members who attend Anzac Day services, having been the centre of Anzac Day commemorations in Geraldton since it was constructed in 1935.

The rear outbuildings, barbeque area, rotunda in the memorial garden and carpark area are of little significance.