



## REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES - ASSESSMENT DOCUMENTATION

### 11. ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The criteria adopted by the Heritage Council in November 1996 have been used to determine the cultural heritage significance of the place.

#### PRINCIPAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORIC THEME(S)

- 4.3 Developing institutions
- 8.5 Forming associations

#### HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 408 Institutions

#### 11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE\*

*Masonic Lodge, Geraldton* is a fine example of a Federation Free Classical architectural style building specifically designed for use as a Masonic Hall exhibiting pleasing proportions, symmetry and well ordered formality. (Criterion 1.1)

*Masonic Lodge, Geraldton* has an imposing presence as a landmark in the local streetscape. The two-storey building contrasts with but complements the surrounding single-storey residential buildings. (Criterion 1.3)

#### 11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

*Masonic Lodge, Geraldton* has been the meeting place since 1892 of the Geraldton Lodge of Freemasons, the third Masonic Lodge established in Western Australia, and more recently also the meeting place of other Lodges in the Geraldton district. (Criterion 2.1)

*Masonic Lodge, Geraldton* reflects the growth of Geraldton in the first half of the twentieth century as an example of the supporting cultural and social institutions that were a product of such growth. (Criterion 2.2)

#### 11.3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

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\* For consistency, all references to architectural style are taken from Apperly, Richard; Irving, Robert and Reynolds, Peter. *A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture: Styles and Terms from 1788 to the Present*, Angus & Robertson, North Ryde, 1989.

#### **11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE**

*Masonic Lodge, Geraldton* has been an integral part of the social and cultural life of members of the Geraldton and district Lodges who have made important contributions to the Geraldton community and to Western Australia through their charity work. (Criterion 4.1)

*Masonic Lodge, Geraldton* contributes to a sense of place as an imposing two-storey landmark building in the local streetscape, which has had continuity of use, as a Masonic Lodge, from 1892 to 2004. (Criterion 4.2)

#### **12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE**

##### **12. 1. RARITY**

*Masonic Lodge, Geraldton* is relatively rare as a Freemason lodge in the Federation Free Classical style. (Criterion 5.1)

##### **12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS**

*Masonic Lodge, Geraldton* is a fine example of a civic Federation Free Classical building. (Criterion 6.1)

*Masonic Lodge, Geraldton* is representative of the development of freemasonry in Geraldton and Western Australia, as the meeting place of the third Masonic Lodge established in Western Australia. (Criterion 6.2)

##### **12. 3 CONDITION**

*Masonic Lodge, Geraldton* is in good condition. The style of place presents a very formal character and has been maintained accordingly.

##### **12. 4 INTEGRITY**

*Masonic Lodge, Geraldton* has high integrity, having retained its original use since construction. The continued use of the place in this function appears sustainable.

##### **12. 5 AUTHENTICITY**

*Masonic Lodge, Geraldton* has moderate authenticity. Although the place features fabric from three distinct eras of construction which have added considerably to the original form and floor space, these extensions demonstrate the growth of the local Masonic lodge membership. Some later modifications to the fabric such as the suspended ceilings are not in keeping with the original design intent and detract from the overall authenticity.

### 13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

The documentary evidence has been compiled by Irene Sauman, Historian. The physical evidence has been compiled by Katrina Chisholm, Architect for John Taylor Architect.

#### 13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

*Masonic Lodge, Geraldton* is a two storey stone, brick and fibre-cement building, in Federation Free Classical style, constructed for the occupation of the Geraldton Lodge of Freemasons. The original construction in 1892 comprised a festive room and entry, with spiral staircase, on the ground floor and a Lodge room on the upper floor. *Masonic Lodge, Geraldton* was extended in 1921, with the addition at the rear of a single-storey Lodge room and two smaller rooms. In 1934, another (third) Lodge room was added in brick above the 1921 addition, and a more substantial staircase and an entry porch were provided. The Lodge room (1921) was converted for use as the festive room while the original festive rooms (1892) became entrance rooms. The 1934 additions were designed by architectural firm Parry and Clifton.

Freemasonry evolved from the early trade guilds of workers engaged in construction, particularly on places of worship such as temples, churches, cathedrals and monasteries. Freemasonry was established in the Swan River Colony by Governor John Hutt, who succeeded James Stirling. The first meeting was held in Perth in 1841, resulting in the formation, in 1843, of the Lodge of St John with Governor Hutt as First Worshipful Master. St John's Lodge was registered as Lodge No. 485 on the register of the Grand Lodge of England. A second Lodge was formed in Fremantle in 1865, as Lodge No. 1035.<sup>1</sup>

On 17 November 1876, a meeting was convened in Geraldton by George Baston, for the purpose of forming a Masonic Lodge in the town. A warrant was applied for from the Grand Lodge of England and, while awaiting its arrival, meetings were held on an unofficial basis. A room on the upper floor of Gray's Buildings on Marine Terrace was used as a meeting place. The consecration of the Geraldton Lodge, registered as Lodge No. 1683, took place on 18 October 1877. The consecration ceremony was conducted by the Worshipful Masters of St John's Lodge (Richard Pether) and Fremantle Lodge (Brother Congdon), assisted by Past Master of St John's Lodge, Brother Lochee. W. H. Timperley was the first Master of the Geraldton Lodge, and the first officers were Henry Gray, George Baston, H. Woodman, I. Champion, H. Levy, G. F. Long and W. Pead. At the first meeting of the

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<sup>1</sup> 'Radix', 'A Masonic Memory', 4 pages, pre-1919, Battye Library, PR 13396/71; *The West Australian Craftsman*, 'Geraldton, No. 3 Sixtieth Jubilee 1877-1937: a brief history', January, 1938. The term 'lodge' refers to a branch or chapter of the organisation in question, and not to a building.

Lodge held a week later on 25 October, there were thirteen candidates and affiliates proposed.<sup>2</sup>

The Lodge continued to meet in Gray's Buildings but was soon faced with the problem of finding another home. A Masonic Hall, also known as Central Hall, was constructed for the Lodge on a site in Marine Terrace. The foundation stone of the Masonic Hall was laid on 9 November 1878, by Brother W. H. Timperley and Brother B. Rapiport. The date chosen was the birthday of the Most Worshipful Grand Master, the Prince of Wales. The Masonic Hall was dedicated on 1 April 1880, by Reverend Brother B. M. King. The building has been described as being 'next to the West Australian Bank, standing a long way back so that carriages could draw up in front. It has an imposing entrance with pillared porch and steps'.<sup>3</sup> There is conflicting information regarding ownership of the site, one source stating that it was held on a 99 year lease at a rental of £50 a year, while another source states that the land was purchased for £150 from Charles Crowther, the money being guaranteed by several members.<sup>4</sup> Whatever the situation, the Lodge was unable to afford the premises in the long term and, at some point, moved into a room made available at the Club Hotel.<sup>5</sup>

By 1892, the Lodge was on a better financial footing. It leased a new site for a Lodge building from Brother William Jose for a period of twenty-five years at ten shillings a year. The lease, registered on 17 March 1892, came into force from 1 January that year. The site was the western half of Geraldton Town Lot 215, on Augustus Street, which Jose had acquired in 1883.<sup>6</sup> The site was adjacent to Jose's Trefusis Aerated Water Factory and his residence at 130 and 132 Augustus Street.<sup>7</sup>

*Masonic Lodge, Geraldton* was constructed by Brother David Hepburn, who is recorded as doing much work which was not in the contract, the 'gratifying reward of a good conscience' apparently being sufficient recompense. Despite the extra work, the festive room (1892) was left with an earthen floor. Access to the upper floor Lodge room (1892) was by a circular staircase on

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<sup>2</sup> Burns, A. C., 'Historical Review: Geraldton Lodge No. 3', 1977, as referenced in Suba, T., Callow, B., & Grundy, G., *City of Geraldton Municipal Inventory of Heritage Places*, 1996-7, Place no. 6; *The West Australian Craftsman*, January, 1938, op cit.

<sup>3</sup> Norris, Constance, *Memories of Champion Bay or Old Geraldton*, Soroptomists International of Geraldton, 1989, p. 9.

<sup>4</sup> Burns, A. C., op cit & *The West Australian Craftsman*, December 1965, p. 5. According to the *The First Hundred Years: Geraldton Centenary 1850-1950*, Municipality of Geraldton, [1950], the Masonic Hall was on the site of the Central Arcade, while in 1965, workmen clearing rubble from the demolition of the Elder Building, uncovered the foundation stone of the Hall (*The West Australian Craftsman*, December 1965, p. 5). It is currently on display in *Masonic Lodge*.

<sup>5</sup> Burns, A. C., op cit.

<sup>6</sup> Certificate of Title, Vol. 11 Fol. 253, 2 July 1883.

<sup>7</sup> Research undertaken for the Conservation plan for Geraldton Skillshare (formerly Trefusis Factory), July 2002.

the south side of the building.<sup>8</sup> The date of completion and occupation of *Masonic Lodge, Geraldton* has not been ascertained.

On 25 August 1894, Geraldton Lodge proposed the establishment of a sovereign Grand Lodge in Western Australia, but the proposal was not regarded with favour at the time as there were considered to be too few lodges in the State.<sup>9</sup> By 1899, with the influx of population due to the gold boom, the number of lodges had increased to thirty-five. Thirty-three of them agreed to affiliate and operate under a single constitution (Southern Cross and Plantagenet lodges declined, but joined later).<sup>10</sup> On 27 February 1900, the Grand Lodge of Western Australia was 'regularly formed, assembled and properly dedicated to the work of the Ancient, Free and Accepted Masonry'.<sup>11</sup> The first Grand Master was the Governor of Western Australia, Sir Gerard Smith. Geraldton Lodge became Lodge No. 3 on the register of the Grand Lodge of Western Australia.<sup>12</sup>

Gradual improvements were made to *Masonic Lodge, Geraldton*, including the installation of a floor in the festive room. In 1910, the Geraldton Lodge purchased the site of *Masonic Lodge, Geraldton* for £600. A right of way over a 3-metre wide by 24-metre long portion of the adjoining Lot 214, on the south side of *Masonic Lodge, Geraldton*, allowed access to the rear of the site.<sup>13</sup>

The number of Masonic Lodges in the State grew from 37 in 1900, to 88 in 1910 and 101 in 1920. The years 1900 to 1910 were a period of rapid growth in the number of lodges, while the 1920s were described as a 'building era'.<sup>14</sup> Early in the 1920s, *Masonic Lodge, Geraldton* underwent the first of two major extensions.

The need for a larger room in which the ceremonies could be conducted with due regard for their beauty, became more and more urgent. In addition doubts began to be expressed about the safety of the upper room, particularly on special occasions when the attendances were large, whilst there were some more weighty members who felt somewhat nervous when negotiating the famous "winding staircase", which gave access to the upper storey. These and other reasons caused the lodge to embark on the scheme of building a new lodge room, which is the present festive room.<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> *The West Australian Craftsman*, 'Geraldton, No. 3 Sixtieth Jubilee 1877-1937: a brief history', January, 1938; Plan, 'Proposed additions Masonic Hall Geraldton', Health Department Register of Public Plans, No. 440, 12 November 1934.

<sup>9</sup> *The West Australian Freemason*, 15 March 1921, p.1.

<sup>10</sup> Matthews, H. R., 'The Spread of Freemasonry', text of a talk delivered in the Lodge of Research, Perth, WA on June 29, 1957.

<sup>11</sup> The Grand Lodge of Western Australia of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons, *Golden Jubilee History 1900-1950*, Paterson Brokensha, Perth, 1950, p. 5, quoted in assessment documentation for HCWA Place 0175, *Masonic Temple*, Boulder.

<sup>12</sup> Matthews, H. R., op cit.

<sup>13</sup> Burns, A. C., op cit; Certificate of Title Vol. 11 Fol. 253 & Vol. 476 Fol. 75, 25 November 1910.

<sup>14</sup> Matthews, H. R., op cit.

<sup>15</sup> *The West Australian Craftsman*, January 1938, op cit. This description of events was written in 1938 and is describing the additions of 1921. By 1938, the third Lodge Room (1934) had been added and the second Lodge room (1921) was being used as the festive room.

The new Lodge room was opened on 10 February 1921.

[It] is built of stone with jarrah floors, fillings and roof-lining. As the seating accommodation is also of jarrah, the effect is very good. Many articles of furniture have been donated by various brethren; new chairs for the Master and Wardens, as well as for the junior officers, new pedestals and pillars, even a new contribution box, have been given. The chair for the W.M. was the gift of Wor. Bro. Robinson, and bears on its arm a number of silver plates, each engraved with the name of a Master of the Lodge. This is a complete record since its consecration forty-two years ago, and each succeeding Master in turn will be asked to provide his plate. A visiting brother made and presented the Lodge with a fine kneeling stool.

The inside measurement of the new room is 50 feet and 30 feet and there are also included in the new enlargements a steward's pantry, and a large room for the Tyler.<sup>16</sup>

The extension described comprises the large ground-floor room at the rear of *Masonic Lodge, Geraldton* and the two rooms immediately adjoining it. The convenience of the new Lodge room (1921) was appreciated by members, while the original festive room (1892), continued in that function. The original Lodge room (1892) on the upper floor appears not to have been used as a public room at this time. With the acquisition of a much larger Lodge room, (1921) the smallness of the festive room (1892) became more apparent.

[O]n nights of installation the banquet had to be held elsewhere, a procedure that had many drawbacks. Therefore when the financial position justified the venture it was decided to erect a new lodge room over the old one.<sup>17</sup>

The architectural firm of Parry and Marshall Clifton was engaged to design additions and renovations to *Masonic Lodge, Geraldton*. in 1934<sup>18</sup> George Herbert Parry (1882-1947) was the son of Anglican Bishop Parry. He was educated in Perth and later in Canterbury, England. He spent a year with the Public Works Department (PWD) in Perth and then joined the partnership of Cavanagh and Cavanagh. In 1911, Parry established his own practice. His particular interest was in ecclesiastical work and he subsequently designed numerous churches in WA. Parry was joined in practice by Marshall Clifton in 1929 and again from 1933 to 1937. Marshall Waller Gervase Clifton (1903-1975), architect and artist, was born in Wokalup, WA. In 1922 he began a four-year cadetship in architecture with the PWD under W. B. Hardwick. He left to join the practice of George Parry in 1929, before travelling overseas between 1930 and 1932. Upon his return he entered into a partnership with Parry. In June 1937, Clifton established his own practice, concentrating on domestic architecture. After World War Two, he formed a partnership with Eric Leach, before re-establishing his own practice in 1953. Marshall Clifton is well known for his 'Spanish influenced'

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<sup>16</sup> *The West Australian Freemason*, 15 March 1921, pp. 13 & 15.

<sup>17</sup> *The West Australian Craftsman*, January 1938, op cit.

<sup>18</sup> Plan, 'Proposed additions Masonic Hall Geraldton', Health Department Register of Public Plans, No. 440, registered 12 November 1934.

private houses, his skill as a water colour artist, and his UWA Crawley Campus buildings.<sup>19</sup>

The Lodge went into recess for some months during the construction process.<sup>20</sup> The new Lodge room (1934) was built in brick above the 1921 extension. New stairs were installed on the north side of the place to access the upper floor and the spiral staircase was removed.<sup>21</sup> The Lodge Room (1921) was converted for use as the new festive room and one of the other 1921 room additions became a kitchen:

...the latest provision for the comfort of the brn. has been the decoration of the festive room which formerly looked too much like a warehouse to be a fitting setting for a Masonic festive gathering.<sup>22</sup>

The festive room (1892) and Lodge room (1892) became entry rooms. A new front porch was added to the front (east side) to provide a grander entrance from the street. The double doors opening into *Masonic Lodge, Geraldton* at this point were most likely part of the original construction, but there was another doorway on the south side, which opened into an entry area where the spiral staircase had been situated. This entry was closed off at some time after the 1934 additions and the entry area was converted for use as a cloakroom. Cost of additions and renovations to *Masonic Lodge, Geraldton* was about £3,600. The new Lodge room (1934) was opened on 24 June 1934.<sup>23</sup>

With the remodelling of the old building the Lodge is now the owner of a Temple which will serve its needs for many years to come.<sup>24</sup>

The renovations were put to good use on the 16 October 1937, when Geraldton Lodge celebrated its diamond jubilee.

The M.W.G.M. (M.W. Bro. Dr. James Sykes Battye) honoured the lodge by being present, and to render the gathering more important the gathering included representatives of the Sponsor Lodge, St John, No. 1, and of the daughter and grand-daughter lodges of Geraldton, No. 3, represented by Hampton, Mingenew, Mullewa, Champion Bay, Carnamah and Morawa. In addition there were representatives from lodges on the Murchison and other parts of the State, and with the gathering of about 140 the spacious lodge room presented an inspiring spectacle...<sup>25</sup>

The occasion was marked by the conferring of the rank of Past Senior Grand Warden on Very Worshipful Brother Lionel John Chapman, who had been initiated into the Geraldton Lodge in 1910 and had served as Master,

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<sup>19</sup> *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Vol. 13, 1940-1980, MUP, 1993, pp. 442-443; Chapman, B. and D. Richards, *Marshall Clifton Architect and Artist*, Fremantle Arts Centre Press, 1989.

<sup>20</sup> *The Western Australian Freemason*, 12 July 1934, p. 8.

<sup>21</sup> The spiral staircase is understood to have been installed in the Mission to Seamen building on Marine Terrace.

<sup>22</sup> *The West Australian Craftsman*, January 1938, op cit.

<sup>23</sup> *The West Australian Craftsman*, January 1938, op cit; Plan, 'Proposed additions Masonic Hall Geraldton', op cit; physical evidence. No report of the opening has been found in the 1934 or 1935 issues of *The West Australian Freemason* or *The West Australian Craftsman*.

<sup>24</sup> *The West Australian Craftsman*, January 1938, op cit.

<sup>25</sup> *The West Australian Craftsman*, 8 December 1937, pp. 23-26.

Director of Ceremonies and District Inspector of Workings.<sup>26</sup> Lionel Chapman had been in partnership with William Jose in the Trefusis Aerated Water Factory. Members of the Geraldton Lodge included men from varied professions, including businessman, optician, accountant, farmer, railway employee, tailor, and builder.<sup>27</sup>

Geraldton Lodge celebrated its centenary in October 1977. In 1984, the right of way over Lot 214 was extended the full depth of the Lot, providing a 3-metre wide by 56-metre long easement on the south side of *Masonic Lodge, Geraldton* for the benefit of the Lodge.<sup>28</sup> In 1998, *Masonic Lodge, Geraldton* was entered on the City of Geraldton Municipal Heritage Inventory with a Category 1 management recommendation.<sup>29</sup>

In October 2000, the Geraldton Lodge celebrated 100 years of 'active charitable and moral practice' under the Grand Lodge of Western Australia. The Lodge was, in effect, 123 years old that month. A report on the occasion stated that the Lodge had donated more than \$100,000 dollars to West Australian charities in the previous year and, in total over a period of time, almost one million dollars to Murdoch University for aged care research.<sup>30</sup>

Geraldton Lodge contributes to various local community projects, such as school citizenship awards, items for hospitals, wheelchairs for the disabled, assistance with the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, and post-secondary and post-graduate scholarships. Together with other Lodges in the State, it also contributes toward assistance to the Boy Scout Association, Nulsen Haven, Association for the Blind, Noah's Ark Toy Library and a Christmas hamper appeal held each year for the needy. Since 1964, fourteen Masonic retirement villages have been constructed, eight of them in country areas.<sup>31</sup>

In 2000 the Geraldton Lodge was one of some 200 lodges, with approximately 9,000 members in Western Australia, although the membership is generally aging as fewer young men join the Freemasons.<sup>32</sup>

In 2004, *Masonic Lodge, Geraldton* is the venue of the meetings and functions of four Lodges in the Geraldton area: Geraldton Lodge No. 3, Mullewa Day Lodge No. 105, Champion Bay Lodge No. 130, and Illyarrie Lodge No. 219.<sup>33</sup>

## 13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

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<sup>26</sup> *The West Australian Craftsman*, 8 December 1937, pp. 23-26.

<sup>27</sup> Certificates of Titles, occupation of trustees.

<sup>28</sup> Grant of Easement, Document D083666, 19 July 1984; Certificate of Title, Vol. 1704 Fol. 99,

<sup>29</sup> Suba, T., Callow, B., & Grundy, G., *City of Geraldton Municipal Inventory of Heritage Places*, op cit.

<sup>30</sup> *Geraldton Guardian*, 20 October 2000, p. 13.

<sup>31</sup> 'The Freemasons and Lodges in this District: Mid-west Murchison', pamphlet provided by Geraldton Lodge.

<sup>32</sup> 'The Freemasons and Lodges in this District: Mid-west Murchison', op cit; *Geraldton Guardian*, 20 October 2000, p. 13.

<sup>33</sup> The Freemasons and Lodges in this District: Mid-west Murchison', op cit.



*Masonic Lodge, Geraldton* is a two storey masonry building in the Federation Free Classical style, with a fibre-cement roof located on the north side of Augustus Street, between Fitzgerald and Gregory streets, in a residential section of the city of Geraldton. The place has developed through three distinct periods of construction but has been amalgamated successfully into a unified building. A single storey brick sanitary facility is sited immediately behind, but separate from the main building.

The building is sited close to the street boundary on a long, rectangular block, orientated north-south with the front portion of the building extending across the full width of the site contributing to the place's imposing presence in the streetscape. Neighbouring properties are predominantly single-storey residences of simple construction. The two-storey east wall of the *Masonic Lodge, Geraldton*, is constructed to the boundary line and towers over the garden behind the adjacent residence. Right of carriage over a three metre wide strip of the neighbouring property to the west of the place is defined on the title enabling access to the rear of the site which is undeveloped and has a steeply sloping bank along the northern boundary.

Constructed in 1892, the earliest portion of *Masonic Lodge, Geraldton* is representative of the Federation Free Classical style of architecture.<sup>34</sup> This original two-storey rectangular form has stone walls and a hipped, corrugated asbestos fibre-cement roof. The subsequent section, built in 1921, was constructed as a single-storey extension to the rear of the original. The extension utilises a matching stone, but subtle variations in the detailing assist in distinguishing the stages of construction. The final portion was constructed over the second stage in 1934 and is clearly differentiated by the use of brick masonry. A classically inspired portico was also added to the front elevation at this time.

The front elevation is a symmetrical composition with neatly ordered window openings in coursed random rubble stone walls. A low rendered plinth lines the base of the wall and a projecting string course defines the upper floor level. The window openings are of equal proportions and are each set at the same level with three openings at the upper level and four below. The identical detailing to each of the windows, which are of timber framed sash construction divided into four panes, contributes to the sense of orderliness of the Free Classical style. The rectangular openings are strongly emphasised by rendered bands around the head and jambs. A narrower band underscores the base of the window although the deep reveal has a rendered sloping sill which adds to the apparent width. The classically inspired portico, added to the centre of the elevation in 1934 has fluted columns with Doric capitals supporting the pediment. Any symbolism attached to the vertical mouldings in the frieze is unclear, but the set square and dividers formed in stucco in bas-relief within the pediment is a highly recognisable symbol of Freemasonry. The floor level at the front of the portico is raised slightly above the paved surface to the verge which

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<sup>34</sup> Apperly, Richard; Irving, Robert and Reynolds, Peter. *A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture: Styles and Terms from 1788 to the Present*, Angus & Robertson, North Ryde, 1989, pp. 42-45.

provides some off-street parking. A further riser is located at the entrance doors which stand forward of the main building line with this part of the portico being enclosed along the east and west sides with brick walls. The floor and risers of the portico and straight path leading from the street to the entrance have a distinctive chequered pattern.

The west elevation of the earliest portion of the building is simply a double height random rubble stone wall divided by the projecting string course continuous from the front elevation. Large stone quoins roughly define the corner while the former entrance opening has been infilled unsympathetically with salmon coloured stretcher bond brickwork. The cement rendered cambered lintel above this opening also contrasts with render detailing elsewhere on the building which has been painted white. The boxed eaves project slightly from the wall line and a downpipe at the south-west corner descends from the contemporary styled gutter profile.

The earlier section is defined from the single-storey 1921 extension by quoining at the former external corner and variations in the masonry construction, specifically the texture, colour and pointing of the units. In addition, the window and door openings feature painted brick surrounds and three course soldier brick lintels. A single-storey volume along the west elevation has a lean-to roof with a wide fibre cement gutter. The north wall of this volume and the west elevation of the 1921 section, including the masonry buttresses, have been cement rendered. An unenclosed steel escape stair from the upper floor located along this wall is of recent construction<sup>35</sup>.

The opposing elevation is divided into bays by brick buttresses and has a high level, rectangular window with brick surrounds and a cement rendered sill in each bay. A concrete ring beam is evident at the base of the 1934 extension separating the lower and upper floors and the earlier stone section from the dark red, stretcher bond brickwork above. Wall vents are located at regular spacings both immediately below and above this beam but are more prominent in the lower stone portion of the east elevation where the two terracotta vents in each bay have been accentuated with a brick surround. The corresponding vents in the west elevation appear to have been removed as their location is noted on the drawing for proposed additions at the place, but they are no longer evident in the rendered masonry. The lower floor west windows have also been modified with a louvred grille inserted into the opening, flush with the wall.

The 1934 upper floor extension displays a complementary Free Classical character to the earlier sections in the orderliness, simplicity and regularity of proportions, but is more characteristic of the Inter-War Revival period befitting its era of construction.<sup>36</sup> The rectangular form has a half-hipped roof of corrugated asbestos-fibre cement, ventilated gables and a wide

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<sup>35</sup> A drawing of the stair, prepared by King Designs was stamped with Building Licence No. 24023 on 29/7/96.

<sup>36</sup> Apperly, Richard; Irving, Robert and Reynolds, Peter. *A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture: Styles and Terms from 1788 to the Present*, Angus & Robertson, North Ryde, 1989, pp. 150-153.

fibre-cement gutter profile over boxed eaves. The timber window framing is noticeably finer than the earlier portions with a shallow reveal, large pane sashes and only a soldier course lintel for emphasis.

The internal plan comprises a foyer immediately inside the portico which together with a robing room along the west side of the building now occupy the former ground floor area of the original structure. A further lobby is located between the foyer and the large volume of the banquet hall extending to the north. Ladies toilets are situated on the east side of the lobby behind floor to ceiling cupboards. Kitchen facilities accessed from the banquet hall are accommodated in the single storey volume along the west elevation. A timber staircase on the east side of the front foyer gives access to the ceremonial spaces above. The location of the original spiral staircase, believed to have been relocated to the Mission to Seamen Building in Geraldton, is noted on the drawings prepared for the 1934 additions to the place, in the south-west corner of the current robing room. This space would have been the original entrance foyer.

Upstairs, the original temple is now an assembly room in front of the new temple which is at a higher floor level and reached by a short, straight flight of stairs. Robing and preparations rooms are located along the west side of the upper floor.

The internal fabric and surface finishes typically consist of timber floors, and plastered and painted walls. The smaller rooms feature plastered ceilings but the new ceilings apparent in the grander spaces, particularly the suspended strip ceilings installed in the banquet hall and temple are unsympathetic to the original design intention. Symbols of Freemasonry are highly evident in the interior décor and furnishings of the place with temple styled porticos of lightweight construction at either end of the temple hall. The different order of the column capitals, (Doric and Ionic), distinguish the hierarchy of the officers. Seating around the perimeter of the temple is placed on two tiered platforms and in the centre of the floor is a mosaic pavement. Much of the furniture displays evidence of dedication to or association with a member of the society.

Most of the fabric at *Masonic Lodge, Geraldton* is in good condition. There is some evidence of deterioration of the lower level stonework which is fretting due to damp and salt degradation but the style of place presents a very formal character and has been maintained accordingly. Some maintenance work has been carried out with the assistance and good will of members but not always with awareness of the potential significance of the place.

### **13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION**

There are 84 Masonic Lodges, Halls and former Lodges on the Register of Heritage Places. Most of them have classical features, befitting their formal function. *Masonic Lodge, Geraldton* is a two-storey building in Federation Free Classical style which had more of the appearance of a gentleman's residence of the 1850s when built in 1892. The later additions to the place, including the front entry porch with its Greek temple theme, added a further classical touch.

*Masonic Lodge (fmr)*, Cue (1899), is a two-storey timber-framed corrugated iron clad building of Victorian Second Empire design (HCWA Place 0637, State Register and Register of the National Estate). *Masonic Lodge*, Kalgoorlie (1899-1900), a single-storey structure in pink sandstone, and *Masonic Temple*, Boulder (1901-02), a brick and iron building, are examples of Federation Academic Classical style. All three are entered on the State Register of Heritage Places and the Register of the National Estate.<sup>37</sup> *Masonic Hall, Pinjarra* (1904) is a single-storey brick and iron building in Federation Gothic Style (HCWA Place 1758, State Register).

Other Masonic halls built during the Federation Period (1890-1915) in regional areas, and which still exist, include Bunbury (c.1892), Jarrahdale (1901, relocated to Mundijong in 1947), Wagin (1907) and Gnowangerup (1910).

Architects Parry and Clifton designed *St Peter's Anglican Church and Memorial Hall* (1935) in Victoria Park and *Chapel of the Guardian Angel* (1937) at Sister Kate's Children's Home. Both places are on the State Register of Heritage Places.<sup>38</sup>

#### 13. 4 KEY REFERENCES

No key references.

#### 13. 5 FURTHER RESEARCH

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<sup>37</sup> HCWA Register Documentation, Kalgoorlie, Place 1275 and Boulder, Place 0175.

<sup>38</sup> HCWA Assessment documentation Place 2225 & 4607.