



## 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)

- 3.8.1 Shipping to and from Australian ports
- 6.2 Establishing schools
- 8.5 Forming associations
- 8.6 Making places for worship
- 8.6.6 Running city missions

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

- 201 River & sea transport
- 402 Education and science
- 406 Religion
- 408 Institutions

#### 11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE\*

The masonry portion of *Mission to Seamen Building* displays some aesthetic qualities characteristic of the Victorian Georgian style evident in the simplicity of form, proportion and arrangement of window openings. (Criterion 1.1)

#### 11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

The provision by the Government of a temporary building for school and church use for Geraldton residents in 1864 was an indication of a general belief that the port settlement would grow and acquire new buildings for that purpose in the future. (Criterion 2.1)

*Mission to Seamen Building* was constructed in 1864 as one of the early public buildings provided for Geraldton, serving as the first school and church and then as customs warehouse, police lockup, harbour workshop and finally seamen's mission as the City evolved. (Criteria 2.1 & 2.2)

*Mission to Seamen Building* is one of the earliest remaining buildings that formed part of the original Geraldton town centre on Marine Terrace and Gregory Street between the 1850s and 1880s. (Criterion 2.2)

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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.

*Mission to Seamen Building* was associated with the Anglican Church in Geraldton from 1864 to 1870, and again from 1937 to 2003, during which period the place has been the venue of the Geraldton branch of the worldwide Mission to Seamen organisation. (Criterion 2.3)

### **11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE**

Archaeological investigation of the site may reveal evidence due to its early construction date and varied occupation. (Criterion 3.2)

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

*Mission to Seamen Building* has important social associations for the Geraldton community as the first school and church building, and for its later associations with law and order, harbour development and as a centre for seamen. It has particular value for the thousands of sailors who have used its facilities since 1938. (Criterion 4.1)

*Mission to Seamen Building* contributes to the Geraldton community's sense of place as it has served, since 1864, a number of functions important to the development of the town. (Criterion 4.2)

## **12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE**

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

*Mission to Seamen Building* is rare as one of the earliest school buildings still extant in the Mid-West region of Western Australia. (Criterion 5.2)

*Mission to Seamen Building* is a rare structure from the early period of settlement of the original Geraldton townsite, around Francis & Gregory streets. (Criterion 5.2)

### **12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS**

*Mission to Seamen Building* provides evidence of a mid nineteenth century structure combining educational and religious functions in the State. (Criterion 6.2)

### **12. 3 CONDITION**

Overall, *Mission to Seamen Building* is in good condition. There is little apparent deterioration to the more significant masonry fabric and an upgrade of the facilities took place as recently 1995. The place is in current use and maintenance carried out as required.

### **12. 4 INTEGRITY**

*Mission to Seamen Building* has moderate integrity. The place was modified for its current use in 1938 and has retained this function since that time. This use appears sustainable and is more compatible with the original church and school functions than other former uses as a lock-up and workshop. Some evidence of these functions is discernible, but not highly evident in the fabric and could be identified through an interpretive program for the place.

### **12. 5 AUTHENTICITY**

*Mission to Seamen Building* has moderate authenticity. The masonry portion is still highly representative of the original form externally although there have

been some unsympathetic additions to the place. The fibre-cement additions are of low significance, bordering on intrusive. Although the fibre-cement additions are 'low-key', hidden from the principal street view and assist with current use, in the long term their removal may assist the understanding and increase the significance of the place. Whilst the entrance porch and fibre-cement additions are out of character with the Georgian simplicity of the earliest fabric, the porch is the singularly intrusive element. There have been modifications to door and window openings to suit changes in use which detract from the authenticity of the place.

### 13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

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

#### 13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

*Mission to Seamen Building* is a simple structure comprising a single-storey masonry building constructed 1864, with fibre-cement additions constructed during the later part of the twentieth century. The place was first used as a temporary church and school, then as a police lockup and a locomotive shed. In 1937, the place was acquired by the Anglican Church to house the Geraldton Mission to Seamen.

Following the opening of the Geraldine lead mine at Northampton in 1849, a settlement was authorised on Champion Bay. The first Geraldton town lots were offered for sale in June 1851, but only one was purchased. In 1852, a port was established at Port Gregory with the help of convict labour. A ticket of leave hiring depot set up at nearby Lynton provided labour for the mines and for the pastoralists who were moving into the region. In 1857, the convict depot closed and the pensioner guards were moved to Geraldton. The town began to develop from this time, hastened by the closure of Port Gregory in 1861 after it proved unsafe for shipping.<sup>1</sup>

Public Works Department (PWD) plans from the 1850s and early 1860s show a jetty at the northern end of Gregory Street, with a public landing place on the western side, on Marine Terrace. On the south side of Marine Terrace, directly opposite the landing place, were several lots designated reserves for public buildings, including a police station, courthouse and customs house.<sup>2</sup>

By 1860, the population of Geraldton had increased to the point where it required utilities such as a school. A number of Geraldton residents petitioned for a building to be erected for use as a school and Sunday school. It was also proposed that church services be held in the building when a minister of any denomination was available. As there was no building in the settlement that could be hired for these functions, the Government agreed to provide one.<sup>3</sup> Tenders for 'a building to be used as both church and school' were advertised in the *West Australian Government Gazette* on 2 August 1864. The tender of William Trigg, with a price of £225, was accepted.<sup>4</sup> The School and Church building was built to PWD Plan 847. The plan depicts a one-room building similar to that provided for one-teacher rural schools. It measured 45 feet by 20 feet, with three windows on each side and an entrance at one end. Instead of the fireplace that was usually provided in school buildings, there was a Gothic arched window at the other end of the room, in acknowledgment of the church function.<sup>5</sup> A note on the plan reads:

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<sup>1</sup> Bain, Mary Albertus, *A Life of Its Own: A social and economic history of the City of Geraldton and the Shire of Greenough 1846-1988*, City of Geraldton, 1996, pp. 1-10; *The First Hundred Years: Geraldton Centenary 1850-1950*, Municipality of Geraldton, [1950], pp. 5-7.

<sup>2</sup> Public Works Department (PWD) plans 382, 1850s-1861.

<sup>3</sup> Bain, Mary Albertus, op cit, p. 64.

<sup>4</sup> *West Australian Government Gazette*, 2 August 1864, p. 124 & 13 September 1864, p. 174.

<sup>5</sup> Bain, Mary Albertus, op cit, p. 64; PWD Plan 847, undated.

Plan elevation and section of a Room at Champion Bay to be used temporarily as Church & School and afterwards as Customs Warehouse.<sup>6</sup>

The building was constructed of limestone with a shingled roof and was situated at the western end of the public landing place on Marine Terrace, designated Lot 78.<sup>7</sup>

The Geraldton School held its first classes in 1863 in rented premises costing six pounds, although what premises these were is not known. Initial enrolment was 15 boys and 10 girls. The school is recorded as moving into permanent quarters in September 1864.<sup>8</sup> Considering that William Trigg's tender was only accepted in September 1864, this leads to either the possibility that the date given for the school's occupation is inaccurate or the publication of the tender actually occurred late in the construction period.

In 1868, when the attendance at the Geraldton School had increased to 57 students, the school was separated into Geraldton Boys' school and Geraldton Girls' school. Both groups continued to occupy the School and Church Building, but there was now a calico partition separating the two schools.<sup>9</sup> Each school had its own teacher. Mr. R. C. Howe taught the boys' classes and Theresa Strappini taught the girls. One monitress was also employed for the girls' school, as the attendance there was 33 in 1868, compared to 24 at the boys' school.<sup>10</sup>

Methodist and Anglican Church services were held in the School and Church Building for a number of years. A Methodist minister was appointed to Geraldton in 1865 and a Methodist church was opened on 18 April 1869. Anglican services continued to be held in the School and Church Building until July 1870, when Christ Church was consecrated.<sup>11</sup>

In 1874, school attendance had reached 105 for the two schools, resulting in exceedingly cramped conditions. In 1876, the examination results for the Boys' school were such that the school inspector noted that 'in such a confined space the most skilful teacher must to a certain extent fail'.<sup>12</sup> This comment brought immediate action for the construction of a new school building. In the meantime, the classes were moved to larger temporary quarters in one of the church buildings until the Geraldton Primary School was opened in 1878, on the corner of Fitzgerald and Augustus Streets.<sup>13</sup>

A bell was associated with the School and Church Building. It was rung to summon people to worship on Sundays and was used as a curfew bell for ticket-of-leave men. No doubt, it was also used as a school bell.<sup>14</sup>

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6 PWD Plan 847, undated.

7 DOLA, Reserves Index Enquiry, Reserve 5525 comprising Geraldton Town Lots 75-78; Geraldton townsite map, 1901.

8 Ridders, John, *Western Australian Schools 1830-1980. Part One: Schools and teachers 1830-1871*, Perth, Education Dept. of WA, 1984, p. 40.

9 *Geraldton Guardian*, 10 February 1941, quoting Mayor R. Carson, who had been a pupil at the school.

10 Ridders, John, op cit, p. 40.

11 Bain, Mary Albertus, op cit, pp. 65-67.

12 Ridders, John, *Western Australian Schools 1830-1980. Part Two: Schools and teachers 1872-1895*, alphabetical entry for 'Geraldton Boys'.

13 Burns, A. C., *Geraldton Primary School, 1878-1978: Centenary Souvenir*, Geraldton Primary School, 1978.

14 'A part of our local history', *Geraldton Guardian*, 23 April 1974.

The growing importance of Geraldton as a port for the hinterland, and the discovery of gold in the Murchison, was the impetus for a new deepwater jetty at Durlacher Street, built in 1892-93. Construction of the new jetty resulted in a move away from Marine Terrace and Gregory Street as the centre of town, toward Durlacher and Eleanor streets. It was possibly around this time that the School and Church Building was converted for use as a Police Lockup.<sup>15</sup> The police station and courthouse were situated on the opposite side of Marine Terrace and with the increasing population and activity these buildings too were no doubt proving insufficient for the town's needs.

In 1898, the Geraldton Municipal Council applied for Geraldton Town Lots 75-78 for the purpose of foreshore re-development. The Lots were included in Reserve 5525, gazetted on 26 August 1898 for the purpose of Municipal Esplanade. The old jetty became known as the Esplanade Jetty, but the Municipality was unable to take over all the buildings on the Reserve as some were still in use by Government departments. In November 1906, it was stated in correspondence that, on Lot 78, 'the old Bonded Stores... are being used by the Police Department'. Correspondence the following month mentions a police station and Lockup on Lot 78.<sup>16</sup>

In 1909, the Municipal Council wanted to lease out some of the land held in Reserve 5525, so the purpose of the Reserve had to be altered from Municipal Esplanade to Municipal Endowment. In the process, the lots were renumbered from Lot 75-78 to Lot 814-817.<sup>17</sup>

By 1914, the operation of the Durlacher Street jetty was troubled by silting and inadequate facilities. Construction of a land-backed wharf, by reclamation of a section of foreshore, was favoured to provide future harbour facilities. Work on the new wharf began in 1924. Much of the soil for the reclamation was obtained from Flagstaff Hill, a large sand dune behind the south-west corner of Marine Terrace and Gregory Street. Sand from the hill was loaded into rail trucks by a steam shovel and hauled across Marine Terrace.<sup>18</sup> The Lockup cells were removed from the School and Church Building and the place was used as a workshop in connection with the harbour works.<sup>19</sup>

The Reverend J. G. Crook had arrived from England in early 1937 to take up the position of Rector of Bluff Point, and he was appointed chaplain to the Mission to Seamen. Visits to ships in the port at Geraldton commenced, and it was found that a centre was needed which seamen could attend. When the harbour works were completed, and Flagstaff Hill had been reduced to a mound, the School and Church Building was vacated. The place was in poor condition and there were suggestions it should be demolished, but members

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15 Bain, Mary Albertus, op cit, P. 64.

16 DOLA, Reserves Index Enquiry, Reserve 5525; DOLA Correspondence file, Reserve 5525, SROWA, CONS 4080, Item 756/98 Vol. 1, correspondence 26 November & 20 December 1906.

17 DOLA, Reserves Index Enquiry, Reserve 5525; DOLA Correspondence file, Reserve 5525, op cit, correspondence 1909-1910.

18 Bain, Mary Albertus, op cit, p.188.

19 'Mission to Seamen. Geraldton Branch opened. Need for public sympathy', *Geraldton Guardian and Express*, 28 April 1938, p. 4. 'Mission to Seamen' in *Geraldton Sketchbook*, Rigby Ltd, notes that in 1926 the building was altered to house the harbour works locomotive. No other documentary or physical evidence to support this statement has been located to date.

of the Mission to Seamen considered the building suitable for use as their Geraldton headquarters.<sup>20</sup>

An old building near the wharf, one of the oldest structures in the town, has been converted into headquarters for the work of Missions to Seamen. The building has had an interesting history. At various time it has been used as a school, and a gaol, and at other periods for the purposes of a workshop. Owing to the condition into which the building had passed there were suggestions at one time that it should be demolished, but those responsible for the organisation of a Mission to Seamen in the town were of the opinion that it could be renovated for that purpose, as the walls were sound.<sup>21</sup>

The Mission to Seamen organisation catered for the physical and spiritual well being of sailors, both in the Merchant and Fighting navies. The type of facilities provided at various Missions around the world included: chapel, bed and breakfast, shop, book exchange, Sunday night dance, post office, billiards, table tennis, barber, money exchange, international phone calls and colour television.<sup>22</sup> The Geraldton Mission was the 165th Mission to Seamen that had been established worldwide since the first was opened over a century before on the Bristol Channel.<sup>23</sup> The first Mission in Western Australia was established at Bunbury in 1898.<sup>24</sup>

The School and Church Building was leased to the Anglican Church North-West Diocese for twenty years at a peppercorn rental and extensive renovations were carried out. Some £600 was spent on the work, partly funded by a loan arranged by Bishop Frewer for £300. The balance of the cost was provided by donations from England and Australia.<sup>25</sup> During the renovations, the building was 'quite transformed in appearance and enclosed with a cyclone fence'.<sup>26</sup>

There is a large room, which can be utilised for services and concerts, and as a meeting place to which seamen can resort for various purposes such as reading, writing letters and games, and practically as a home whilst in port. At the end of the large room is a smaller room, which serves the purpose of a kitchen, and above this, access being obtained by a spiral staircase, is a small room, which will be found of the greatest use in many directions.

A committee, on which there will be representatives of citizens, shipping interests, harbour authorities, and others, will assist the chaplain in managing the Institute, and a band of young ladies known as Lightkeepers will render assistance, particularly on the social side and in organising entertainments.<sup>27</sup>

*Mission to Seamen Building* was formally opened on 20 April 1938. The occasion was presided over by the Reverend J. W. Clift, Chaplain of the Fremantle Mission to Seamen, and the place was declared open by the Mayor of Geraldton, R. Carson.<sup>28</sup> Reverend Clift believed the Australian coast was

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20 'Mission to Seamen. Geraldton Branch opened...', op cit.

21 'Mission to Seamen. Geraldton Branch opened...', op cit.

22 'Your Tribute - Mariners' House Appeal, 1945', Fremantle Mission to Seamen, Battye Library PR 4939.

23 *Geraldton Guardian and Express*, 21 April 1938.

24 'Your Tribute - Mariners' House Appeal, 1945', op cit.

25 *Geraldton Guardian and Express*, 21 April & 28 April 1938.

26 'Mission to Seamen. Geraldton Branch opened...', op cit.

27 'Mission to Seamen. Geraldton Branch opened...', op cit.

28 *Geraldton Guardian and Express*, 21 April 1938.

better equipped with Missions than any other in the world, with Missions at every port from Townsville to Geraldton. Although the Missions were under the organisation of the Anglican Church, they were open to all seamen. The flag of the Missions was 'The Flying Angel'.<sup>29</sup>

The spiral staircase that accessed the room constructed on the upper level of *Mission to Seamen Building* is understood to have come from the Geraldton Masonic Lodge on Augustus Street. The Geraldton Freemasons renovated their Lodge in 1934, and added a new Lodge Room on the upper floor. The spiral staircase, part of the c.1892 construction, was replaced with a more substantial staircase.<sup>30</sup> Other alterations to the original structure of the *Mission to Seamen Building* included a double entry inserted in the end wall in place of the Gothic arched window and another entry replacing the centre window in one side wall. The room accessed by the spiral staircase is shown as the chapel.<sup>31</sup>

*Mission to Seamen Building* was classified by the National Trust in 1970.<sup>32</sup> In 1971, the site of *Mission to Seamen Building* was excised from Reserve 5525 on Survey Diagram 174595. The site was gazetted Lot 2558 with an area of 571 square metres and designated Reserve 31068 for the purpose of Mission to Seamen Site. Reserve 31068 was duly cancelled and a Crown Grant issued to the Trustees of the Diocese of North West Australia.<sup>33</sup> Ownership allowed the Diocese to plan for ongoing use and to make improvements and additions to the place.

By 1974, a billiard room, lounge room and chaplain's quarters had been added to *Mission to Seamen Building*. The room at the end of the place, renovated for use as a kitchen in 1937, was in use as a gift shop at this time.<sup>34</sup> In 1995, *Mission to Seamen Building* was upgraded with the assistance of a grant from the International Transport Workers Federation. A plaque inside the building reads:

Our committee acknowledge with thanks the generous grant from the I.T.F. Seafarers Trust to allow complete upgrade of our premises 1995.

In 1998, *Mission to Seamen Building* was entered on the City of Geraldton Municipal Heritage Inventory and given a Management Category 1 rating.<sup>35</sup>

In 2003, *Mission to Seamen Building* continues to house the headquarters of the Mission in Geraldton.

## 13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

*Mission to Seamen Building* is a simple structure comprising a single-storey masonry building constructed 1864, with fibre-cement additions constructed during the later part of the twentieth century. The place is located at the south-west end of Marine Terrace within the original settlement of the

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29 'Mission to Seamen. Geraldton Branch opened...', op cit.

30 HCWA assessment documentation *Masonic Lodge*, Place 01046.

31 Plan titled 'Proposed alterations to Seamen Mission Institute, Marine Terrace Geraldton', & Electrical Plan, Item 539, 28 June 1938, Health Department Register, SROWA, CONS 5094.

32 Heritage Council online database.

33 DOLA, Reserves Index Enquiry, Reserves 5225 & 31068; Certificate of Title Vol. 1323 Fol. 691, 19 May 1972 & Register 2558/DP174595.

34 'A part of our local history', *Geraldton Guardian*, 23 April 1974.

35 Suba, T., Callow, B., & Grundy, G., *City of Geraldton Municipal Heritage Inventory*, 1996-97, Place No. 309.

Geraldton townsite concentrated around Gregory and Fitzgerald streets. The site of *Mission to Seamen Building* is adjacent to the railway reserve running along the coast of Champion Bay.

The masonry portion of the building has a rectangular plan form extending parallel to Marine Terrace, close to the street boundary, and has a gabled roof with corrugated iron sheeting. The fibre-cement additions, which have low pitched roofs, are linked to this earlier portion forming a U-shape at the rear. The northern wing provides rentable accommodation providing some income for the organisation. A driveway along the south-west boundary leads to a carport and lock up shed immediately alongside the building in the west corner of the site. Brick sanitary facilities accessed externally abut the masonry building at the north corner.

The barn-like masonry structure displays some attributes of the Victorian Georgian style of architecture in the orderliness and simplicity of proportions and detailing.<sup>36</sup> In addition, the medium pitched roof and long narrow windows allude to an ecclesiastical function reinforced by the placement of timber crosses around an entrance porch in the south-west elevation. The porch, constructed c.1974 with painted brick walls and a flat concrete roof, is an unsympathetic and intrusive addition to the place.

The masonry walls of *Mission to Seamen Building* have a low rendered plinth around the base of the building and smooth render to just above window sill height. Above the render, the texture of the rubble stonework is evident beneath layers of paint. The three windows of long and narrow proportions spaced evenly along the Marine Terrace elevation have projecting rendered sills. The timber framed glazing is fixed and has been divided into twelve small panes. Notches at regular spacings in the jambs are evidence of former fittings and may be associated with the earlier lock-up function of the place. These may have matched the grille fixed across the northern window opening in the opposing elevation. A square illuminated sign has been suspended, perpendicular to the wall close to the southern corner of the principal elevation.

The north-east elevation is obscured by a boundary fence and dense planting close to the building so that only the upper portion of the wall is evident from the street. A rectangular opening with a two leaf casement window and a blind recess above are located centrally in the gable end. A former door opening at ground level has been bricked over and disguised by render and paint layers. An early drawing shows a pointed Gothic arch window in this location, although an undated drawing of proposed alterations to the place show a double leaf door with glazed highlight.<sup>37</sup>

The fibre cement additions at the rear of the masonry portion of the building are characteristic of construction fabric and technology of the post-war period but do not exhibit any noteworthy style characteristics or features.

Double-leaf timber doors and a sliding fly-wire screen open directly from the entrance porch into the main space of the building which occupies the full width of the masonry portion and provides recreational facilities for visitors. A large fixed pane of glazing across the full width of the door opening above

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<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. 42-45.

<sup>37</sup> Plan titled 'Proposed alterations to Seamen Mission Institute, Marine Terrace Geraldton', & Electrical Plan, Item 539, 28 June 1938, Health Department Register, SROWA, CONS 5094.

the canopy is crudely detailed and out of scale with other fenestration around the building. As a portion of the porch it is also an intrusive element. At the north-eastern end of this main space are two enclosed cubicles offering telephone facilities for visiting seamen. Folding lattice screen doors in the central opening of the masonry wall beyond separate the main space from a work area behind with a kitchen counter along the north-west wall. A flush panel door in the end, north-east wall reveals a former opening, now bricked over, while a spiral staircase in the east corner rises to a mezzanine level chapel above. The cast-iron staircase is comprised of pre-fabricated sections fixed together and is believed to have been relocated from the Masonic Lodge in Augustus Street, Geraldton.<sup>38</sup>

The timber floor of the main space has been carpeted and a plasterboard lining fixed to the lower portion of the walls beneath window sill level. A false ceiling of battened 'straw-board' has been installed together with suspended fluorescent light fittings and ceiling fans. A long timber threshold with a gentle gradient accommodates a slight change in floor level to the lower work area which has a vinyl floor covering. The Chapel above is orientated with the altar at the north-west end of the room. Timber panelling lines the wall behind and the timber truss roof framing is partially exposed beneath a plasterboard ceiling with raking sides. The highlight of the former ground floor door opening is located just above floor level with the face brick panel concealed by a curtain across the opening. The floor level also intersects the long narrow window in the north-east elevation while a two-leaf casement window above the former highlight allows plentiful light into the space.

The central former window opening in the north-west wall at ground level has been modified to allow access though to the additional floor space in the fibre-cement portion of the building. A TV room and office are divided by a passage which opens onto the courtyard between the main function of the place and the residential unit beyond. The sanitary facilities of brick construction abutting the north corner of the main building, are smaller in scale than the stone walled original section.

There are subtle changes in the fabric such as modified openings which give clues to alternative uses at the place but these are not obvious or easily interpreted. The stone masonry fabric appears to be in very good condition with little apparent deterioration. The fibre-cement and timber fabric is less robust but overall the place is being well maintained with the premises upgraded in 1995 as recorded on a plaque within the main space. More recently work has been carried out on the electrical wiring and telephone system and in the days prior to the physical inspection, connection to deep sewerage was made.

### 13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

The only entries for seamen or seafarers in the Heritage Council database is for the Seamen's Rest in Fremantle (Place 948), a hall, and the Stella Maris Seafarer's Club (Place 13061), which is the Fremantle Mission to Seamen, neither of which are on the State Heritage Register.

There are a total of six Mission to Seamen or Seafarers in Western Australia, the other five being situated at Albany, Esperance, Bunbury, Port Hedland and Dampier. Bunbury Mission was established in 1900-1901, and occupies a building constructed in 1967, for its occupation, in Victoria Street. Esperance

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<sup>38</sup> No manufacturer's trademarks were evident on the cast-iron sections.

Mission has operated since 1967, occupying first an old house, then a bus, with a new Mission building being constructed in 2001. Port Hedland Mission occupies a better block building constructed when the Mission opened in 1970. Dampier Mission opened in 1979, in a new brick and concrete block building. Albany Mission was established in 1965 and occupies a c.1950s former chandler's store or shipping agent's office.

There are 34 entries for schools constructed between 1860 and 1870 in the Heritage Council database.<sup>39</sup> *Mission to Seamen Building* was built to the standard PWD plan for one-room schools of the period, except for the omission of a fireplace and the addition of a Gothic arched window.

Places of a similar age and design as *Mission to Seamen Building*'s in the Mid-West region of Western Australia included Yardarino School (1878), Dongara school (1871) and Central Greenough School (1865). *Mission to Seamen Building*'s gabled roof is similar to the roof of the school built at Yardarino, on the Middle Irwin River, in 1878. Yardarino School is a ruin. It is classified by the National Trust and listed as an indicative place on the Register of the National Estate. The first Dongara school (not extant) was built in 1871 was of similar design.<sup>40</sup> The Central Greenough School (1865), entered as *Miss Duncan's School Room (fmr)* on the Heritage Council database (Place No. 1156) was also built by William Trigg. It is a stone construction of similar design but has a hipped roof. The Central Greenough School has been restored by the National Trust, and is on the State Heritage Register and Register of the National Estate. Schools built in the late nineteenth century often combined both educational and religious functions.<sup>41</sup>

William Trigg was also the builder of the Freemasons Hotel, on the corner of Marine Terrace and Durlacher streets Geraldton.<sup>42</sup> This place is not on the State Heritage Register.

*Mission to Seamen Building* is one of the earliest school buildings still extant in the Mid-West region of Western Australia and is a rare structure from the early period of settlement of the original Geraldton townsite which was concentrated and developed around Francis & Gregory streets.

#### 13.4 KEY REFERENCES

No key references.

#### 13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH

Extent of refurbishment in 1995.

Possibility of rails or similar evidence under the timber floor confirming use as harbour works locomotive store.

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<sup>39</sup> HCWA Database 5/5/2003

<sup>40</sup> Lawrance, Naomi, *Yardarino School Conservation Plan*, 2002; PWD Plan 720 was drawn in 1870 for Dongara School.

<sup>41</sup> Gregory, Jenny and Smith, Lisa, *A Thematic History of Public Education in Western Australia*, Perth, Building Management Authority, 1995.

<sup>42</sup> HCWA database, Place 4321.