

## Place No. 60 St Paul's Catholic Church Karratha



LOCATION	
Name of Place	St Paul's Catholic Church
Other Name (1)	
Location/Address	
Street Number	
Street Name	Welcome Road
Suburb/Town	Karratha
Other Locational descriptor (text)	484040 mE, 7706945 mN (MGA94 Zone 50) Longitude: 116.8467 Latitude: -20.7371
Local Government Authority	Shire of Roebourne

OWNERSHIP & LAND DESCRIPTION				
Owner	Address	Phone/fax	Status	Item No.
Roman Catholic Bishop of Geraldton	PO Box 269 Karratha WA 6714			
Reserve No.	Lot/Location No.	Plan/Diagram	Vol/Folio	Item No.
	3815	P185630	2216/911	

LISTING AND ASSESSMENT	
HCWA Reference Number	NEW ENTRY
State Register of Heritage Places:(Y/N)	No

<b>Classified by the National Trust (Y/N)</b>	No
<b>Register of the National Estate (Y/N)</b>	No
<b>Local Town Planning Scheme (Y/N)</b>	Yes
<b>Management Category</b>	<b>B</b>

<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	
Construction Date (1)	1982
Construction Date (2)	
Site Type (Place Type)	Individual Building or Group
<b>Use(s) of Place</b>	
<i>Original</i>	RELIGIOUS: Church, Cathedral or Chapel
<i>Present</i>	RELIGIOUS: Church, Cathedral or Chapel
<i>Other</i>	
<b>Construction Materials:</b>	
<i>Walls</i>	2. BRICK 201 Common Brick
<i>Roof</i>	6. METAL 613 Zincalume
<i>Other</i>	6. METAL 605 Copper
Condition	Good
Integrity (how much of the original fabric is intact?):	Original
<b>Physical Description</b>	
<p>The building has an octagonal plan and is a landmark within Karratha because it has a 37 metre high copper coated spire with a cross on top. There are 24 coloured glass windows at the base of the spire which provide natural light to the main church area. The building has a seating capacity of 280 people. There is a meeting room, a reading room and a sacristy.</p>	
<b>History</b>	
<p>The Catholic Church has had a long association with the North west; a Catholic priest visited Cossack in 1878 for a three months tending to Catholic families and the 'natives'.<sup>1</sup> The first recorded Catholic Church was in Cossack in 1897, prior to the Diocese of Geraldton being formed in 1898. Bishop Kelly established a Catholic convent school in Roebourne with Mother Joseph and Presentation Sisters in 1902.</p> <p>In 1968 Port Hedland and Wittenoom were the only Catholic parishes in the Pilbara. In 1969 a Catholic church was constructed in Dampier, and another was constructed in Pannawonica in 1973 and then in Wickham in 1977. Karratha was one of the last major Pilbara towns to have a Catholic church constructed; the Catholic church was constructed here in 1982.<sup>2</sup></p> <p>Previous to this St Paul's Parish Church was opened in 1978. St Paul's Catholic Church was officially opened on the 8 December 1982 by Bishop Foley, Geraldton Diocesan Bishop. However, the church building was not completely finished at this time, as the massive spire had not yet been lifted into position. Hamersley Iron assisted with this task by providing a mobile crane and crew and as such the church was completed in time for Christmas, with the spire being lifted into position on the 21 December 1982.<sup>3</sup> The addition of the spire made the church the tallest building in the town at the time.<sup>4</sup></p> <p>Prior to the construction of the church building, services were held in the hall that adjoins the presbytery. When the church was finished this hall was converted back to a pre-school.<sup>5</sup></p>	
<b>Archaeology</b>	
<p>There is little potential for archaeology at this site.</p>	

<b>SIGNIFICANCE</b>	
<b>Historic theme (s)</b>	4. SOCIAL & CIVIC ACTIVITIES 406 Religion
<b>Statement of Significance:</b>	St Paul's Catholic Church has spiritual and social significance for the Shire of Roebourne community. The setting against the backdrop of the Karratha hills and high spire contribute to aesthetic values of Karratha and make it a landmark building within the townscape. It is associated with the settlement and growth of Karratha as a town providing a place for Catholic worship.
<b>ASSOCIATIONS</b>	
Architect/Designer (1)	
Architect/Designer (2)	
Other Associated Person(s)	Bishop Foley
MHI 1996	Identified on Review List
MHI Review 2012	Site assessed and Place Name Record Created

<sup>1</sup> *Our Red Patch: The Parish of Dampier, Karratha & Wickham*, Commemoration booklet of the Centenary of the Diocese of Geraldton, 1998

<sup>2</sup> Pilbara Times 24<sup>th</sup> June 1982

<sup>3</sup> Pilbara Advertiser, no date

<sup>4</sup> Pilbara Advertiser 6<sup>th</sup> January 1983

<sup>5</sup> Pilbara Times 24<sup>th</sup> June 1982