

Place No. 56 Shire of Roebourne Office, Karratha



Shire of Roebourne Offices, Karratha 2012

LOCATION	
Name of Place	Shire of Roebourne Office, Karratha
Other Name (1)	Shire Offices, Karratha
Other Name (2)	
Location/Address	
Street Number	7-17
Street Name	Welcome Road
Suburb/Town	Karratha
Other Locational descriptor (text)	mE 484160 mN 7706950 Longitude: 116.8479 Latitude: -20.737

OWNERSHIP & LAND DESCRIPTION				
Owner	Address	Phone/fax	Status	Item No.
Shire of Roebourne				
Reserve No.	Lot/Location No.	Plan/Diagram	Vol/Folio	Item No.
	1083	211473	2152/596	

LISTING AND ASSESSMENT	
HCWA Reference Number	NEW ENTRY
State Register of Heritage Places:(Y/N)	No
Classified by the National Trust (Y/N)	No
Register of the National Estate (Y/N)	No
Local Town Planning Scheme (Y/N)	Yes
Management Category	C

DESCRIPTION	
Construction Date (1)	1974-5
Construction Date (2)	
Site Type (Place Type)	Individual Building or Group

Use(s) of Place	
<i>Original</i>	GOVERNMENTAL: Office or Administration Building
<i>Present</i>	GOVERNMENTAL: Office or Administration Building
<i>Other</i>	
Construction Materials:	
<i>Walls</i>	2. BRICK 299 Other Brick 5. GLASS 501 Glass 6. METAL 610 Steel
<i>Roof</i>	6. METAL 613 Zinalume
<i>Other</i>	10. TILE 1001. Aluminium Tile
Condition	Excellent
Integrity (how much of the original fabric is intact?):	Complete
Description	
Physical Description	
<p>The Shire of Roebourne Office is a low building set on a bank of earth that rises out of a carpark. The zinalume roof and verandah adds to its squat appearance. The walls of the building are largely dark tinted glass, chocolate brown brick and aluminium tile. A colourful mosaic representing the major themes of the Shire (industry, shipping and boating, fishing and ancient Aboriginal culture) is set within the grassed embankment leading to the front entrance of the building. Landscaping includes plantings of palm trees, hedge bushes surrounding the stairwell and bougainvillea creeper. A feature wall of local stone, random laid in cement mortar marks the front of the building, and references the historical buildings of the area. The building is sympathetic to the landscape as the low and long form of the building echoes the Karratha Hills behind. The design is cyclone resistant.</p>	
History	
<p>Planning for the town of Karratha began in 1968, with the first permanent buildings constructed in 1970. The development of the town was a combined effort between the State government and Hamersley Iron to accommodate the workforce of the Hamersley Iron mining company. The land was excised from Karratha Station.¹</p> <p>Karratha became the administrative centre for the Shire of Roebourne in 1975, when Shire offices were relocated from Roebourne to Karratha. On the 19 May 1975, the council moved into the new Shire offices on Welcome Road and for the first time all the council staff were located in one building.²</p> <p>The new centrally located Shire of Roebourne Office also contained other governmental services, such as the State Library Board, which functioned as the administration centre for all the libraries in the Pilbara.</p>	
Archaeology	
There is little potential for archaeology at this site.	

SIGNIFICANCE	
Historic theme (s)	4. SOCIAL and CIVIC ACTIVITIES 401 Government and politics 404 Community services and utilities
Statement of Significance:	
The Shire of Roebourne Offices are historically significant because of their association with Karratha's development as the major administrative centre of the Shire. The building design makes an aesthetic contribution to the town as it is unobtrusive and sympathetically designed in reference to local materials and the backdrop of the Karratha Hills.	

ASSOCIATIONS	
Architect/Designer (1)	
Architect/Designer (2)	
Other Associated Person(s)	

OTHER	
References	
See endnotes.	

MHI 1996	Identified on Review List
MHI Review 2012	Site assessed and Place Name Record created



Mosaic in front of Shire of Roebourne Offices, Karratha 2012

¹ Shire of Roebourne webpage, Shire history, accessed 21/12/2012 <http://www.roebourne.wa.gov.au/shirehistory.aspx>

² *Hammersley News*, 18 July 1976