

## Place No. 68 We Care Life Centre



We Care Life Centre (fmr), Roebourne, 2012

LOCATION	
Name of Place	We Care Life Centre (fmr), Roebourne
Other Name (1)	
Other Name (2)	
Location/Address	
Street Number	Lot 176
Street Name	Roe Street
Suburb/Town	Roebourne
Other Locational descriptor (text)	515305 mE, 7703125 mN (MGA94 Zone 50) Longitude: 117.147 Latitude: -20.7716
Local Government Authority	Shire of Roebourne

OWNERSHIP & LAND DESCRIPTION				
Owner	Address	Phone/fax	Status	Item No.
Northwest Property Project PL	Po Box 1154 KARRATHA WA 6714			
Land Description				
Reserve No.	Lot/Location No.	Plan/Diagram	Vol/Folio	Item No.
	176	223090	1188/526	

LISTING AND ASSESSMENT	
HCWA Reference Number	8690
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
<b>Management Category</b>	<b>C</b>

DESCRIPTION	
Construction Date (1)	Pre. 1885
Construction Date (2)	
Site Type (Place Type)	Individual Building or Group
Use(s) of Place	
<i>Original</i>	COMMERCIAL: Shop/Retail Store (single)

<i>Present</i>	VACANT/UNUSED: Vacant/Unused
<i>Other</i>	COMMERCIAL: Shop/ Retail Sore (single) RELIGIOUS: Other – Outreach centre INDUSTRIAL/MANUFACTURING: Other - Workshop for Northern Trading Company
<b>Construction Materials:</b>	
<i>Walls</i>	9. STONE 904 Local Stone
<i>Roof</i>	6. METAL 606 Corrugated Iron
<i>Other</i>	3. CONCRETE 399 Other Concrete
Condition	Poor
Integrity (how much of the original fabric is intact?):	Moderate
<b>Physical Description</b>	
<p>This stone building is plastered and painted and has a vaulted corrugated iron roof. The main room accesses directly from the footpath. It occupies over half the building and has two windows fronting to the main street. The rear consists of a smaller room with an iron addition at the back. The building is in deteriorating condition.</p>	
<b>History</b>	
<p>The building is located on Lot 176 in Roebourne and is associated with the early phase of settlement and construction of the town. An 1885 map of Roebourne Townsite indicates a building on lot 176 at this time. The stone building was evidently built as a shop. Classified advertisements for properties for sale in the <i>West Australian</i> in March 1887 indicate that a stone and cement butcher's shop, along with two small wooden outbuildings, were located on Lot 176.<sup>1</sup> It seems likely that the building mentioned is the same as the one currently extant on the site, as the current building appears in photographs dated to 1895.</p> <p>At the time of being built it fronted onto the main street with the rail to Cossack running past the front. It is unclear how long the building functioned as a butcher shop or other retail establishment, but in the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century it became 'The We Care Life Centre' run by members of the Pilbara Aboriginal Church, which was started by Pastor Dave Stevens in 1960. This centre provided an outreach service and counselling services for the Indigenous community as well as a second hand clothing store.<sup>2</sup> It also served as a workshop for Northern Trading Company.</p> <p>In May 2011 a number of changes were proposed to the building as part of the redevelopment of the site to accommodate a 23 room motel building. The proposed use of the building is for the motel reception, office and caretakers residence. Intended alterations include exposing the original exterior masonry and replacing window and door frames. The interior would be fitted out with plasterboard and interior dividing walls constructed. No alterations to the interior structural walls are intended.<sup>3</sup></p>	
<b>Archaeology</b>	
<p>This site has archaeological potential in relation to functioning as one of the earliest stores and butchers in Roebourne. As the original fabric is largely intact, the building can provide information about the organisation and operation of retail establishments in the early period of the town.</p>	

<b>SIGNIFICANCE</b>	
<b>Historic theme (s)</b>	1. DEMOGRAPHIC SETTLEMENT & MOBILITY 104 Land allocation and subdivision  3. OCCUPATIONS 308 Commercial services and industries  4. SOCIAL AND CIVIC ACTIVITIES 404 Community services and utilities
<b>Statement of Significance:</b>	
<p>The building has historical significance as one of the earliest stores and butchers in Roebourne. The original form of the building is intact, despite deteriorating condition. The building has aesthetic value, contributing to the historic streetscape of the Roebourne. The vaulted roof is characteristic of North west architecture's adaptation to environmental conditions such as cyclones.</p> <p>The building has social significance because of its connection with the Pilbara Aboriginal Church.</p>	

<b>ASSOCIATIONS</b>	
Architect/Designer (1)	
Architect/Designer (2)	
Other Associated Person(s)	Pastor Dave Stevens

<b>OTHER</b>	
<b>References</b>	
<p>See endnotes. Photographs Local History Collection, Shire of Roebourne Roebourne Panorama c. 1930, part 1 and part 2</p>	

<b>NOTES</b>	
MHI 1996	Site assessed and Place Name Record created
MHI Review 2012	Entry updated

<sup>1</sup> *West Australian*, 12 March 1887

<sup>2</sup> Email from Eileen Wright, Local History Officer, Shire of Roebourne, dated 19/08/2011

<sup>3</sup> SMC Building Pty Ltd, 'We Care Life Centre' 8690 Refurbishment Schedule of Works, 2011