



REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES - ASSESSMENT DOCUMENTATION

11. ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The criteria adopted by the Heritage Council in September, 1991 have been used to determine the cultural heritage significance of the place.

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE

Dongara Uniting Church has some importance to the community for its aesthetic characteristics, though later repairs and maintenance have simplified or removed original detail diminishing its overall impact. (Criterion 1.1)

The building is well composed and shows good, competent control of the stylistic elements and a very restrained use of the decorative motifs of a Victorian Rustic Gothic masonry church. (Criterion 1.2)

Dongara Uniting Church contributes to the aesthetic values of the setting, demonstrated by its landmark quality, on the important intersection of Waldeck Street and Moreton Terrace and contributes to the aesthetic quality of the cultural environs within which it is located. (Criterion 1.3)

Along with St. John the Baptist's Anglican Church (1884) and the former school building (1900), *Dongara Uniting Church* defines a major intersection in Dongara. (Criterion 1.4)

11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

Dongara Uniting Church is an illustration of the past importance and strength of the Methodist community and their significant role in pioneering both the Victoria District and the town of Dongara. (Criterion 2.1)

The rural character of this church, now located within a typical country town, illustrates a part of the story of the pioneering of this district and the growth of the town. (Criterion 2.1)

From the documentary evidence available, this building does not appear to have historic importance in relation to a specific event, but it does have a close relation to a phase of activity of historic importance to the State of Western Australia. It is a physical indication of the rise and strong influence of Methodism in Western Australia in the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries, when considered in the context of the development and populating of the young colony. (Criterion 2.2)

While this church is not associated with individuals whose lives and works have been closely associated with the history of the State, it is with individuals who have been important in the history and the development of the region and, to a greater extent, Dongara. (Criterion 2.3)

11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

Since its construction in 1884, *Dongara Uniting Church* has been used continuously as a place of worship and is valued by the local church congregation and the wider community. (Criterion 4.1)

The *Dongara Uniting Church* has local landmark value for orientation and helps, in combination with its historic neighbours, to define one of the corners of a major intersection in the town. (Criterion 4.2)

Classified by the National Trust (W.A.) and entered into the Register of the National Estate, *Dongara Uniting Church* is also included in the Shire of Irwin Town Planning Scheme. (Criterion 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

Dongara Uniting Church demonstrates the principal characteristics of a Victorian Rustic Gothic church and is typical of simple auditory plan churches of this era. While the building is representative of its class, its importance has been diminished by the loss and modification of some original detail and finishes. (Criteria 6.1)

This building, through its continual use as a place of worship since 1884, demonstrates the principal characteristics and uses of a non-conformist church. (Criterion 6.2)

12. 3 CONDITION

While the interior and fittings are in good to fair condition, the exterior fabric of *Dongara Uniting Church* is in poor condition because of damp and the deterioration of stonework.

For a full discussion of the condition of the place refer to the report by Considine and Griffiths Architects Pty. Ltd.: 'Dongara Uniting Church Conservation Plan' (for the Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust, November 1995).

12. 4 INTEGRITY

Dongara Uniting Church has a high degree of integrity as it has been continuously used for worship since its construction for that purpose in 1884.

12. 5 AUTHENTICITY

Dongara Uniting Church retains a moderate degree of authenticity but has undergone several changes since construction, due predominantly to periodic repairs and maintenance.

For a full discussion of the authenticity of the place refer to the report by Considine and Griffiths Architects Pty. Ltd.: 'Dongara Uniting Church Conservation Plan' (for the Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust, November 1995).

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

Attached are key sections of the supporting evidence prepared by Considine and Griffiths Architects Pty. Ltd.: 'Dongara Uniting Church Conservation Plan' (for the Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust, November 1995).

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

For a detailed discussion of the documentary evidence of the place refer to the report by Considine and Griffiths Architects Pty. Ltd.: 'Dongara Uniting Church Conservation Plan' (for the Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust, November 1995).

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

For a detailed discussion of the physical evidence of the place refer to the report by Considine and Griffiths Architects Pty. Ltd.: 'Dongara Uniting Church Conservation Plan' (for the Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust, November 1995).

13.3 REFERENCES

Considine and Griffiths Architects Pty. Ltd.: 'Dongara Uniting Church Conservation Plan' (for the Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust, November 1995).