



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

St. Andrew's Church and Hall, as individual buildings expressing a relationship to each other, are aesthetically pleasing. The church is in a modest gothic design, utilising the rich red brick of the district with restrained stucco detailing. The hall is more exuberant and exhibits art nouveau and arts and crafts influences with its asymmetrical front facade, steep gable, unusually shaped gable window and castellation, which creates an interesting dynamism which complements the adjacent church. (Criterion 1.1)

Collectively, *St. Andrew's Church and Hall* creates a minor precinct of red brick buildings with stucco detailing that is reflective of the development of Katanning in the years 1898 to 1911. (Criteria 1.3, 1.4)

11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

St. Andrew's Church and Hall was the second church built in Katanning and is the oldest remaining church in the town. (Criterion 2.2)

St. Andrew's Church and Hall has a close association with Frederick Henry Piesse who had extensive business interests in Katanning and who contributed to the construction of both the church and the hall. The Piesse family established many of the first businesses in Katanning and were influential in Katanning's ongoing development. (Criterion 2.3)

11.3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

11.4. SOCIAL VALUE

St. Andrew's Church and Hall is valued by the Katanning community for its religious and historic associations. The church has been in continuous use since it was built and is of importance to its congregation as a weekly place of worship. It is also important to the wider population of the Katanning district as a place of occasional worship, for rites of passage and Christian celebrations. The hall has a high social value as the venue for dances, meetings and social gatherings. (Criterion 4.1)

St. Andrew's Church and Hall also contributes to Katanning's sense of place as a reminder of the European settlement of the area and the initial establishment of Katanning. (Criterion 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

The style of the hall is uncommon in Anglican architecture of the period and is more commonly found in non-Conformist religious architecture. (Criterion 5.2)

12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

St. Andrew's Church and Hall is representative of church architecture at the end of the nineteenth century in its use of a gothic style, and in the building of a separate church hall, in a differing style, a short period after the church was constructed. (Criterion 6.2)

12. 3 CONDITION

Although there is some fretting of the brickwork in both the church and the hall, *St. Andrew's Church and Hall* is in sound condition. Detailed considerations of condition may be found in the 'Assessment of Buildings and Recommendations of Work to be Done' by Ayton and Farrow (for the Heritage Council of W. A., Conservation Incentives Programme, July 1993).

12. 4 INTEGRITY

St. Andrew's Church and Hall continues to be used as a place of worship and for Church activities by the Katanning community. *St. Andrew's Church and Hall* has a high degree of integrity.

12. 5 AUTHENTICITY

The floor of the hall has been replaced and the front entry doors have been replaced and the arch bricked up, but it would be possible to reinstate the door openings. Generally, *St. Andrew's Church and Hall* has a high degree of authenticity. For more detail refer to the 'Assessment of Buildings and Recommendations of Work to be Done' by Ayton and Farrow (for the Heritage Council of W. A., Conservation Incentives Programme, July 1993).

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

St. Andrew's Church was built in 1898, nine years after the founding of the town of Katanning.

In 1889, Katanning was declared a townsite by the W. A. Land Company, which chose the area as the site upon which to build the central station for the Company's new railway line.

Katanning was officially proclaimed a townsite by the Governor on 16 May 1898,¹ and the town grew quickly after 1891. The Great Southern Districts Pastoral and Agricultural Society was founded, the first church (St. Patrick's Roman Catholic) was built, a small schoolroom was established and several new settlers arrived to take up large holdings of land in the district.² A second public house opened to compete with the Katanning Hotel and there was a branch of both the National Bank and of the Union Bank.³

It was in this climate of growth and development that *St. Andrew's Church and Hall* was built. The land for the church had been reserved in 1891; however, it was not until 1898 that sufficient funds were raised for construction to begin.

The architect was P. W. Harrison and the contractor A. J. Stewart. *St. Andrew's Church* was built with financial and material assistance from Frederick Henry Piesse, a merchant who held substantial business interests in the area, and from Millar Brothers who supplied timber.

The firm F. & C. Piesse was established, in 1879, by the brothers F. H. and C. Piesse, as a general merchants in Williams to sell foodstuffs and supplies to the settlers, and to buy wool, sandalwood and kangaroo skins for export.⁴ F. & C. Piesse started business in Katanning with a general store immediately after the line was constructed. The business prospered and, by 1886, had opened branches in other towns and had also diversified into the manufacture of aerated waters.⁵

On 25 June 1898, Mrs F. H. Piesse laid the foundation stone for *St. Andrew's Church*, and the finished building was consecrated by Bishop Riley of Perth on 9 October of the same year. A set of chancel furniture, a silver chalice, silk tapestry drapings and an alms dish was donated from the congregation of St. Andrew's Church in Hartburn, England, after which *St. Andrew's Church* was named.

¹ Best, B. *Katanning 1840-1906* (Claremont Teachers College, extract from Student Thesis, n.d, no pagination), extract.

² "Katanning's Jubilee: A complete history of the progress of the town and district from 1889-1939" *Great Southern Herald* (special issue. n.d. circa 1939) pp. 8, 16. For a full discussion of the history of Katanning see Bignell, M. *A Place to Meet. A History of the Shire of Katanning, Western Australia* (University of Western Australia Press for the Shire of Katanning, Nedlands 1981) .

³ *ibid.*, p. 95.

⁴ *ibid.*, p. 65.

⁵ *ibid.*, pp. 55, 66.

In 1911, the adjoining hall was constructed. F. H. Piesse also contributed funds for its construction and he laid the foundation stone on 27 March 1911. Mr E. Summerhayes was the architect.

Built on a site adjacent to the church, *St. Andrew's Church Hall* was used by the congregation for parish meetings, dances, fund raisers and various other activities associated with the Church. It was (and continues to be) the only hall of its size in town and is used by the general community for similar activities.

Circa 1930, extensions to the hall were built, which incorporated an eating and kitchen area at the rear of the main hall.

In the mid-1950s, part of the hall was used as an office for a professional fundraiser, Mr A. C. Stark, who was responsible for raising £19,000 for the employment of a Curate, meeting running costs for *St. Andrew's Church and Hall* and to enable a church to be built at Nyabing.

In the 1980s, toilet amenities were built on the south-east side of the kitchen extension. This structure was constructed in a style dissimilar to the main structure of the building.

St. Andrew's Church and Hall is still used as a Church and has a regular congregation. It is also used by the general population of the district for the celebration of marriage, for funerals, for christenings and for the Christmas and Easter services. The hall is used as a youth centre and as a kindergarten, amongst other social uses, as well as housing the office for Anglicare.

13. 2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the physical evidence, refer to the 'Assessment of Buildings and Recommendations of Work to be Done' by Ayton and Farrow (for the Heritage Council of W. A., Conservation Incentives Programme, July 1993).

13. 3 REFERENCES

Ayton and Farrow 'Assessment of Buildings and Recommendations of Work to be Done' (for the Heritage Council of W. A., Conservation Incentives Programme, July 1993).