



HERITAGE  
COUNCIL  
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

# REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES

## Permanent Entry

1. **DATA BASE No.** 1332
2. **NAME** *Reidy House* (1929-30; 1985)  
**FORMER NAMES** St Rita's Convent & School  
Kartanup
3. **LOCATION** 23-27 Amherst Street, Katanning
4. **DESCRIPTION OF PLACE INCLUDED IN THIS ENTRY**  
Katanning Lot 989, being Crown Reserve 33996 and being the whole of the land comprised in Crown Land Record Volume 3020 Folio 771
5. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA** Shire of Katanning
6. **OWNER** Minister for Community Development
7. **HERITAGE LISTINGS**
  - Register of Heritage Places: Interim Entry 15/12/2000  
Permanent Entry 16/03/2001
  - National Trust Classification: -----
  - Town Planning Scheme: -----
  - Municipal Inventory: Adopted 25/01/1996
  - Register of the National Estate: -----
8. **CONSERVATION ORDER**  
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9. **HERITAGE AGREEMENT**  
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10. **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

*Reidy House*, a two storey classically planned face brickwork and stucco wall and painted corrugated iron roof building in the Inter-War Romanesque style, together with its mature trees and setting, has cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:

the place is a fine eclectic example of Inter-War Romanesque style, rendered in brick, stucco and corrugated iron;

the place is significant in the occupation of Katanning and the surrounding district, as a further phase in the establishment of religious facilities by the Catholic Church, and in particular, the establishment of educational facilities by the Institution of the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions;

the place is a prominent landmark in Katanning;

the place was designed by well known Architect Michael Cavanagh, and built by well known local builders, Thomson and Keenan. The place was built for Our Lady of the Missions, as a boarding school in 1929-30, and converted to their Convent in 1958-59;

the place is important for its links with the members of the Congregation who worked and lived at the place, including Mother Mary of Jesus, Superior at the time of construction, and with Father Michael Reidy, Parish Priest at Katanning (1908-1935), after whom the place is currently named;

the place has social, educational and spiritual value as the former boarding school of St Rita's, for the period of use as the Convent of the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions (1959-1973), its subsequent community uses, and for these reasons and its landmark quality it contributes to the community's sense of place;

the place has the capacity to demonstrate, with the assistance of interpretation, the accommodation and use of a typical regional Catholic secondary education boarding school; and,

the place and the mature plantings in its setting, make up an important part of Katanning's collection of fine architectural pieces. It is not part of a precinct of distinction; however, it contributes to its local context in a positive manner in a visual sense.

The framed partitions, kitchen and bathroom fitouts, suspended ceilings, bull nosed skirtings, chapel fitout, hatches and flush doors of *Reidy House*, together with the brick garages and sheds, tank, slab paving and pierced brick screen walls and covered ways are considered to have little cultural heritage significance.

The super-six fences, metal fences and external surface mounted plumbing and other services are considered to be intrusive.