



**HERITAGE
COUNCIL**
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES – ASSESSMENT DOCUMENTATION

11. ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The criteria adopted by the Heritage Council in November 1996 have been used to identify the cultural heritage significance of the place.

PRINCIPAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORIC THEME(S)

- 8.6.4 Making places for worship
- 8.10.4 Designing and building fine buildings
- 8.14 Living in the country and rural settlements

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 104 Land allocation and subdivision
- 301 Grazing, pastoralism and dairying
- 406 Religion

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE*

St Joseph's Church, Perenjori has a high degree of artistic and technical sophistication, both internally and externally, and exhibits a well-resolved combination of architecture, symbolic and artistic motifs. (Criterion 1.1)

St Joseph's Church, Perenjori is an excellent example of Monsignor John Hawes' ecclesiastical architectural design. (Criterion 1.2)

St Joseph's Church, Perenjori has a landmark quality in Perenjori due to its ecclesiastical architecture and substantial impact on the streetscape, and prominent location near the railway line crossing. (Criterion 1.3)

11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

St Joseph's Church, Perenjori has a close association with the expansion of the activities of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Geraldton and the development of the Perenjori area in the first half of the 20th century. (Criterion 2.1)

* For consistency, all references to architectural style are taken from Apperly, R., Irving, R., Reynolds, P. *A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture. Styles and Terms from 1788 to the Present*, Angus and Robertson, North Ryde, 1989.

For consistency, all references to garden and landscape types and styles are taken from Ramsay, J. *Parks, Gardens and Special Trees: A Classification and Assessment Method for the Register of the National Estate*, Australian Government Publishing Service, Canberra, 1991, with additional reference to Richards, O. *Theoretical Framework for Designed Landscapes in WA*, unpublished report, 1997.

St Joseph's Church, Perenjori was the first church in the town of Perenjori and demonstrates the development of the town of Perenjori from a railway siding to an established community. (Criterion 2.2)

St Joseph's Church, Perenjori has a close association with Monsignor John Hawes. Hawes' life and works are prominent within the history of the mid-west region of Western Australia. (Criteria 2.2 & 2.3)

St Joseph's Church, Perenjori is associated with Bishop James Patrick O'Collins, Bishop of Geraldton from 1929 to 1941. Bishop O'Collins achieved considerable expansion of the parish during his period of office. (Criterion 2.3)

11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

St Joseph's Church, Perenjori is a notable example of the use of building materials and techniques to suit local conditions. It demonstrates technical sophistication in the construction of the nave and aisle roofs, supported by a continuous 'hammer-beam' like truss system. (Criterion 3.3)

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

St Joseph's Church, Perenjori is highly valued by the community of Perenjori and the surrounding districts as a place to celebrate religious observance and as an example of Monsignor Hawes' works in the mid west. (Criterion 4.1)

St Joseph's Church, Perenjori is valued by the community of Perenjori for its role as a tourist destination and due to its continuity of use it contributes to the community's sense of place. (Criterion 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

St Joseph's Church, Perenjori is a fine and unusual example of the modernist development of Hawes' design principles in the late 1930's in Western Australia. The orientation of *St Joseph's Church, Perenjori* is unusual, with the sanctuary at the west end and the entry at the east end. (Criterion 5.1)

12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

St Joseph's Church, Perenjori is representative of the distinctive ecclesiastical style of architect Monsignor John Hawes. (Criterion 6.1)

12. 3 CONDITION

St Joseph's Church, Perenjori is generally in a sound condition and it appears that general maintenance continues to be undertaken on a regular basis. Recent (2005) conservation works have included major re-roofing and damproofing works. During this process internal and external render was removed from the lower part of the walls. It is anticipated that re-rendering of the walls will occur when the walls have dried out.

12. 4 INTEGRITY

St Joseph's Church, Perenjori has a high degree of integrity. The place continues to be used for the original purpose for which it was designed.

12. 5 AUTHENTICITY

St Joseph's Church, Perenjori is intact and retains a high degree of authenticity. Comparison of the initial documentation prepared for its construction and the existing building demonstrates that the fabric is basically in its original state. The

changes to the interior that have occurred due to liturgical changes show evolution of use.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

Supporting evidence has been taken from 'Conservation Plan for St Joseph's Church Perenjori Western Australia' prepared by John Taylor Architect for the Bishop of Geraldton in May 1998, with an update on the Physical Evidence provided by Annette Green in December 2005, and a further update by Tanya Henkel in August 2007.

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the documentary evidence, refer to 'Conservation Plan for St Joseph's Church Perenjori Western Australia'.

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the physical evidence refer to 'Conservation Plan for St Joseph's Church Perenjori Western Australia'.

In December 2005, the then acting Mid West Regional Heritage Advisor, Annette Green, provided the following update to the Conservation Plan:

Exterior - Walls

The cement render has been removed from the lower section of all external walls. In most places this is to approximately 1.2 metres above ground level, although it is higher on some sections. Some remnants of the render remain on the face of the bricks and it appears that the intention is to re-render the exterior once the damp treatment has been completed and the walls dry out. The removal of the render has revealed evidence of the original damp-proof course. Generally the exposed brickwork appears to be in a sound condition.

As part of the conservation works new terracotta vents have been inserted in the walls of the sacristy and aisles. The remaining render has some evidence of surface crazing. A conduit and a PVC drainage pipe cut through the western wall of the sacristy were not noted in the Conservation Plan.

Cracking is evident above the first pair of windows on the left hand side of the north wall, not noted in the Conservation Plan. The brickwork and mortar to the lower section of the 'shafted jamb brick portal' to the main entrance is fretting, which was also not noted in the Conservation Plan.

Exterior – Timber Detailing

Deterioration of the painted timber bargeboards, doors and timber shutters due to weathering has not been addressed since the completion of the Conservation Plan. While the deterioration of the timber is not yet severe in most areas, repainting is required as a priority.

Exterior - Roof

The roof sheeting to the aisles, sacristy and confessional has been replaced with custom orb sheeting. The roof over the nave and sanctuary has not been re-roofed. New guttering and downpipes have been installed to all roof areas. Ovolo profile gutters have been used for the nave, sacristy and confessional, and flat profile, long-line guttering for the aisle roofs.

The Conservation Plan recorded Ogee guttering for the nave and sanctuary and long-line guttering for the aisle roofs, noting that the latter appeared to have replaced earlier guttering of an Ogee profile. The new works have therefore missed the opportunity to reinstate a known earlier detailing.

Round galvanised downpipes have been installed to all roof areas, including those noted in the Conservation Plan as previously lacking downpipes and spreaders.

All of the roof water discharges onto the concrete pathway around the perimeter of the building.

Interior – Walls

The cement render has been removed from the lower sections of the walls in the sacristy, nave and confessional (up to approximately 1 m). Drilled holes to each of the bricks in the third course above the floor level indicates that a chemical damp treatment has been applied in these areas.

The cement render to the sanctuary appears sound. There is evidence of deterioration due to rising damp to the lower sections of the walls of the entry porch. There is also evidence of damage likely to have been caused by falling damp to the internal face of the walls abutting the junction between the northern aisle and the sacristy. This is consistent with the evidence in the Conservation Plan and the source is likely to have been dealt with by the installation of the new gutters.

Another small area of deterioration to the remaining render is evident to the interior of the south wall, between the first and second windows on the left hand side.

Interior – Other

The six candlestick holders referred to in the Conservation Plan under Interior – Gallery are no longer evident. A small area of termite damage is evident to the bottom of the doorframe to the confessional.

In August 2007, the Mid West Regional Heritage Advisor, Tanya Henkel, provided the following information regarding the Presbytery and Parish Hall, which were excluded from the Conservation Plan:

Site Description:

The Presbytery - Parish Hall building is located approximately 25 metres to the south of the church. The two buildings are linked by a concrete pathway. There are two Eucalyptus trees located between the buildings, the area of which is largely covered with gravel and sand. There are native bush species to the rear (south) of the Presbytery/Parish Hall building as well as several aloe plants immediately adjacent to the rainwater tank on the north east corner of the building. Several bushes/trees appear to have been severely lopped to the rear (west) of the church.

Construction Materials and Physical Description:

The Presbytery – Parish Hall building has red brick walls with a dark tiled roof. The undersides of the roof tiles are marked with 'Brisbane & Wunderlich Ltd, Bristile'. The roof is hipped with spreading verandahs to the north and east elevations which are supported on round metal poles painted brown. The verandah floors are concrete. The building has recently installed gutters with the ogee profile in heritage red (the old gutters are stacked on the ground adjacent to the building) and new cream downpipes.

The front (north) elevation of the building has a plain double entry door and a single entry door, painted white, protected under the verandah roof. The timber

fascia is in a deteriorated condition. The side (west) elevation of the building has two windows with louvres. The rear (south) elevation has a small eaves overhang with two square timber framed pivot style windows and a louvre window. A hot water system is mounted to the wall. There is a small area of concrete slabs to the rear (south) of the building. The side (east) elevation has an outdoor toilet in the south corner of the verandah with a small sink mounted on the wall of the main building. Timber lattice closes off access from the verandah to the rear of the Parish Hall.

Plain double entry doors, painted white, provide further access to the hall. Some lattice infill mounted between the verandah posts, with access via a gate, creates a separate enclosed area on the verandah.

13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

For a discussion of the comparative information refer to 'Conservation Plan for St Joseph's Church Perenjori Western Australia'.

The Heritage Council database lists 27 places in the Inter War Romanesque style used for religious purposes, and of these, twelve are entered in the Register of Heritage Places. Directly comparable are those places designed by Monsignor Hawes, including: *Church of St Mary Star of the Sea Group* (00461), *Nazareth House* (01055), *St Francis Xavier Cathedral* (01064), *Church of the Holy Cross and Priest's Cell* (01612), *St Mary's in Ara Coeli Church* (01904), *Dominican Convent Chapel of St Hyacinth (fmr)* (02776), and *Catholic Agricultural College, Bindoon* (03101).

There are nine places in the Inter War Romanesque style on the current assessment programme of which two by Hawes are included: *Church of St Lawrence the Martyr* and *St Joseph's Catholic Church, Perenjori*.

Monsignor Hawes designed many buildings within Western Australia particularly in the mid west. His designs have not always been ascribed to the Interwar Romanesque but have also displayed influences of the Federation Gothic to the Interwar Spanish Mission style. The Heritage Council database records 21 places associated with Monsignor Hawes. Of these, fourteen are on the Register of Heritage Places and all are located in the Mid West. In addition to those mentioned above, these are: *The Hermitage* (01051), *Chapel of San Spirito* (01073), *Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and Holy Apostles St Peter and St Paul, Priest House and Presentation Convent (fmr)* (01656), *Pallottine Monastery* (01673), *Convent of the Sacred Heart (fmr)* (01903) and *Melangata* (02785).

13.4 KEY REFERENCES

'Conservation Plan for St Joseph's Church Perenjori Western Australia' prepared by John Taylor Architect for the Bishop of Geraldton in May 1998.

13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH
