



**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 determine the cultural heritage significance of the place.

The wording of this document has been adapted from “Conservation Plan for St Mary’s Star of the Sea Church, Carnarvon, Western Australia” prepared by John Taylor, Architect for St Mary’s Star of the Sea Parish in October 1997 with amendments and/or additions by HCWA staff, Register Committee, Irene Sauman, Historian and Laura Gray, Heritage and Conservation Consultant.

PRINCIPAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORIC THEME(S)

- 6.2 Establishing schools
- 8.6 Worshipping
- 8.10.4 Designing and building fine buildings

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 306 Domestic activities
- 402 Education & science
- 406 Religion

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE*

The Church displays a high degree of artistic and technical sophistication, both internally and externally, and exhibits a well resolved combination of architectural, symbolic and artistic motifs. (Criterion 1.1)

The place includes simple vernacular examples of a Presbytery and a Hall, which make architectural reference to Victorian Georgian and Interwar Free Classical style respectively, and that support the landmark quality of the church. (Criterion 1.1)

* 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Canberra, 1991, with additional reference to Richards, O. *Theoretical Framework for Designed Landscapes in WA*, unpublished report, 1997.

The Church is an excellent example of the ecclesiastical architecture of John Cyril Hawes, and is relatively rare as a building, designed by Hawes, constructed of concrete blocks. (Criterion 1.2)

The Church is a landmark, demonstrated by the visual impact of the prominent church tower and design form and detail of Church of St Mary Star of the Sea that is visible within the town of Carnarvon. (Criterion 1.3)

Church of St Mary Star of the Sea Group, Carnarvon forms a significant religious cultural environment that demonstrates the historic associations with the church and development of the site as an educational institution in association with the Church function. (Criterion 1.3)

Church of St Mary Star of the Sea Group, Carnarvon makes a significant contribution to the historic streetscape, townscape and character of Carnarvon, in complementing and enhancing the historic fabric of the town. (Criterion 1.4)

11.2 HISTORIC VALUE

Church of St Mary Star of the Sea Group, Carnarvon represents the growth and development of the local parish of Carnarvon and the evolution of the Catholic Church in the North West of Western Australia from 1900. (Criteria 2.1 & 2.2)

The Church demonstrates the use of locally manufactured concrete blocks for construction during the 1930s, a time of material shortages and economic depression. (Criterion 2.2)

Church of St Mary Star of the Sea Group, Carnarvon has been associated with the Presentation Sisters teaching Order from 1906 to the present, and had a long association with Archdeacon John McKay, who was parish priest from 1930 to 1969 and instigated the construction of the Church. *Church of St Mary, Star of the Sea* was designed by acclaimed architect and priest, Monsignor John Cyril Hawes, whose life and works are prominent within the history of the Mid-west Region of Western Australia. (Criterion 2.3)

Father John G. Mackay, later Archdeacon Mackay, was involved in overseeing and implementing plans for *Church of St Mary, Star of the Sea* in his role as the Carnarvon parish priest at the time that the church was constructed, and served as a priest in Carnarvon for over thirty years, from 1930 to the mid-1960s. Church of St Mary Star of the Sea is associated with the important priest architect Monsignor Hawes, who designed a number of significant ecclesiastical buildings for the Geraldton diocese between 1917 and 1939. (Criterion 2.3)

11.3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

The Church is a notable example of the innovative use of building materials and techniques to suit local conditions. (Criterion 3.3)

11.4 SOCIAL VALUE

Church of St Mary Star of the Sea Group, Carnarvon has significant religious and educational associations for both the Carnarvon district in particular and the State in general, being the venue for major events in the lives of parishioners and the place where a number of generations have received. *Church of St Mary, Star of the Sea* is valued by the Catholic community of Carnarvon and surrounding districts as a focus of religious activity and the location of many social and cultural events associated with the life of this community.their education. (Criterion 4.1)

Church of St Mary Star of the Sea Group, Carnarvon contributes to a sense of place for residents and the wider community generally for the aesthetic and landmark quality of the Church and the historical associations of the place. (Criterion 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12.1. RARITY

The Church is an unusual example of a church constructed of concrete block masonry walls and corrugated colourbond (originally fibre cement) roof sheeting. (Criterion 5.1)

12.2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

The Church is representative of Hawes' distinctive and somewhat eclectic style of church architectural design. (Criterion 6.1)

Church of St Mary Star of the Sea Group, Carnarvon demonstrates the development of the Catholic Church site into a broader community facility with the establishment of the school in 1906. (Criterion 6.2)

12.3 CONDITION

Church of St Mary Star of the Sea Group, Carnarvon is generally in fair to good condition. The Presbytery (fmr) shows evidence of damage from rising damp, and some vertical cracking on the external walls.

12.4 INTEGRITY

Church of St Mary Star of the Sea Group, Carnarvon has retained a high degree of integrity. Minimal changes have taken place over the years to facilitate the continued use of the place as the focus of the Catholic community in Carnarvon, although the Presbytery (fmr) is utilized as offices and meeting rooms and is no longer the dwelling of the resident priest.

12.5 AUTHENTICITY

The original fabric of the places in the group is mostly intact. Church of St Mary Star of the Sea and St Mary's School Hall both have replacement colourbond roofs, the exterior walls of the Presbytery (fmr) have been rendered, a dado verandah constructed, and extension added at the rear. St Mary's School Hall similarly has extensions, and the exterior face block work has been painted. No structural alterations are evident to any of the buildings and although small changes have taken place, there is more than sufficient evidence to determine authentic detail and fabric of the buildings at all stages of their development. Overall *Church of St Mary Star of the Sea Group, Carnarvon* demonstrates a moderate degree of authenticity.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

Supporting evidence has been taken from "Conservation Plan for St Mary's Star of the Sea Church, Carnarvon, Western Australia" prepared by John Taylor, Architect for St Mary's Star of the Sea Parish in October 1997.

Key Sections used include section 2.0 Documentary Evidence (pp. 3-13), section 2.2 Physical Evidence (pp. 28-30) and 2.3 Discussion of Significance and Comparison (pp. 55-57).

Additional Documentary Evidence and Physical Evidence has been provided by Irene Sauman, Historian and Laura Gray, Heritage and Conservation Consultant.

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the documentary evidence for the Church, refer to: "Conservation Plan for St Mary's Star of the Sea Church, Carnarvon, Western Australia" prepared by John Taylor, Architect for St Mary's Star of the Sea Parish in October 1997.

Church of St Mary Star of the Sea Group, Carnarvon comprises the brick and iron roofed former Presbytery (c.1910), cement block and iron roofed former School Hall (1928) and St Mary's Star of the Sea Church designed by Monsignor Hawes (1935).¹ The Presentation Sister's Convent (1966) and St Mary's School (1966+) are also on the site but are of lesser significance.

The Gascoyne district was taken up in pastoral leases from about the middle of the 1870s. The Gascoyne-Minilya Road Board was formed in 1882, and the town of Carnarvon was gazetted the following year. The town was named for Lieutenant Carnarvon who was the Secretary of State for the Colonies from 1873-1877 and developed as the port and service centre for the Gascoyne region. Carnarvon was connected to Geraldton and Perth by telegraph in 1884. The region was declared a municipality in 1891, with a population of 266 in the town and 305 in the district.²

Early religious services in the district were held on the rare occasion of a visiting clergyman, usually travelling by sea. Anglican ministers were present in the district from 1885 and the Anglican Church was granted land on the corner of Robinson and Francis streets in 1892.³ Two years later, on 6 June 1894, the Catholic Church was granted Carnarvon Town Lot 337 as Reserve 2539 for a church. The land, comprising 2.18 acres (0.88ha), was a blunt triangle in shape, bounded by Francis, Johnson, Rushton and Stuart Streets.⁴

Due to the rapid population growth created by the gold boom, the diocese of Geraldton was established in March 1898 to cover the area of Western Australia north of the twenty-ninth parallel. The first Bishop of Geraldton was West Australian born William Bernard Kelly. In 1899, the church Reserve at Carnarvon was cancelled and a Crown Grant in Trust for the land was issued to the Bishop of Geraldton.⁵

There was possibly a small church built on the site prior to 1900, as in that year visiting priest, Father Quirke, described the place as being able only to

¹ The form of the name as Church of St Mary Star of the Sea has been taken from the 1935 foundation stone of the building.

² Findlay, Merrill, *Carnarvon: Reflections of a Country Town*, Shire of Carnarvon, 1983, pp. 7-80.

³ HCWA assessment documentation, 0460 St George's Church, Carnarvon.

⁴ DOLA Reserves Index, Reserve 2539; Crown Grant Vol. 15 Fol. 59, 12 October 1899.

⁵ DOLA Reserves Index, Reserve 2539; Crown Grant Vol. 15 Fol. 59, 12 October 1899.

accommodate a 'baker's dozen of the pious' at a pinch on a cool day.⁶ Funds were raised for construction of a new church building and a contract was let to Spence Brothers for a timber church costing £168-10-4 with a further £10 to £15 required for extras to finish. The new church was a timber framed, corrugated iron clad building measuring 40 feet by 20 feet.⁷ Two rooms at the rear were used as a presbytery. Initially, the priest based at Roebourne visited Carnarvon to hold mass and conduct baptisms and weddings.

Bishop Kelly was eager to establish schools in the growing towns of the north west. In February 1906, four sisters of the Presentation Order arrived from Northampton to open a school in the Church. The Presentation Sisters had arrived in Western Australia in July 1891, to take over the Josephite convent school at Geraldton when that order was recalled to Sydney.⁸ From there, they had established convents at Greenough in 1894, Northampton in 1899 and Roebourne in 1901. The Roebourne convent had closed a few years later when the mining industry in the area declined.⁹

With the arrival of the Sisters, two extra rooms were added to the rear of the Church for classrooms. Skye Cottage, the Carnarvon town residence of the McLeod family of Minilya Station, was provided as accommodation for the Sisters, while Jimba Jimba Cottage was offered by the Ryans of Jimba Jimba Station for the accommodation of school boarders.¹⁰ The school was opened on 19 March 1906, and among the first twelve boarders were McLeod and Ryan children. Later in the year, an interest free loan of £1,500 provided by D. McLeod, allowed the Sisters to construct a convent central on the site behind the Church. The building was designed by architect J. H. Eales and the builders were Vincent & Coghill of Perth.¹¹

The convent was completed in October 1906 and was of timber and iron construction. It included two large classrooms at the rear. Separate dormitories were provided for girls of various ages and for boys under twelve, each dormitory accommodating eight students. The function of mother house and novitiate was transferred from Northampton to Carnarvon when the new convent was opened.¹²

In 1907, it was reported that the High School classes were carried out in the convent and the Primary classes were taught in the church. There were about 50 students in total, more than half non-Catholic, and there were eleven boarders. In 1908, Father James Irwin became resident priest at Carnarvon, occupying at least one of the rooms at the rear of the Church as his presbytery. In c.1910, he occupied the new two-room brick and iron Presbytery, which was built further

6 *The Geraldton Advertiser*, 20 November 1900, quoted in John Taylor Architect, *Conservation plan for St Mary's Star of the Sea Church Carnarvon*, October 1997, p. 4.

7 *The Record*, 8 December 1900, quoted in John Taylor Architect, *Conservation plan*, op cit, p. 4; Smith, Enga, *No Sermon too Hot: A history of the Parish of Saint Mary, Star of the Sea, Carnarvon*, St Mary's Parish, Carnarvon, 2000.

8 James, Ruth Marchant, *Cork to Capricorn: A History of the Presentation Sisters in Western Australia 1891-1991*, Perth, Presentation Sisters, 1996, pp. 76-90; *The Call and the Vision: the Presentation Sisters: 100 years in Western Australia, 1891-1991*, Presentation Sisters, Geraldton, 1991, p. 1.

9 *The Call and the Vision*, op cit, pp. 4-6.

10 James, Ruth Marchant, op cit, pp. 207-208; Smith, Enga, op cit, pp. 8-10.

11 James, Ruth Marchant, op cit, p. 208, quoting an article in the *Catholic Record* of 7 July 1906; Carnarvon Catholic School & Convent, Plans, Summerhayes & Associates, 10 November 1965, Health Dept Register of Public Plans, SROWA, CONS 5093, no. 2456, site plans shows location of 1906 convent.

12 James, Ruth Marchant, op cit, p. 211; Smith, Enga, op cit, pp. 8-10.

back on the lot, fronting Rushton Street. This left the four rooms at the rear of the church free for classroom use.¹³

Father Irwin (later Monsignor Irwin) remained at Carnarvon until 1915. He was succeeded by Father James O'Neill (1914), Michael Sheehan (1915-18), John Flahaven & Dean John Drayne (1920), William Howes (1921-24), Francis Lopez (1924-1926), John Setaro (1926-28), Albert Schersinger (1928-1930) and John G. McKay, who was to remain at Carnarvon for thirty-nine years.¹⁴

Into at least the 1930s, the Sisters kept several cows in a 'cowyard' off Johnston Street to provide milk for themselves and the boarders. The boys boarding at the school had the responsibility of milking the cows early each morning and then taking them to the commonage outside the town boundary and bringing them back each evening.¹⁵

There were generally five Sisters resident at the convent, all taking on teaching and domestic duties. Two local girls were employed to assist with the domestic tasks. During the Christmas break the Sisters returned to Geraldton. In 1928, the School Hall was constructed behind the convent.¹⁶ The main purpose of the new building was as a classroom, but it was also used for gatherings, such as the 'amusement' arranged for 10 March 1929 for the festivity of St Patrick. Funds raised on the night, amounting to six pounds, were used for repairs to the church and presbytery.¹⁷

By 1931, St Mary's School had about 120 pupils, of whom 100 were non-Catholic.¹⁸ There was a large Southern European migrant population in the district, attracted by employment in the tropical fruit plantations. In 1933, Father John McKay, parish priest for Carnarvon, approached Dean (later Monsignor) John Hawes of Mullewa to design a new church for Carnarvon.

John Hawes was ordained in Rome in 1915 and joined the Geraldton diocese at the request of Bishop Kelly, serving first at Geraldton and Cue before being put in charge of the parish at Mullewa. He undertook some architectural work in the 1920s, but Bishop Ryan, who succeeded to the Geraldton bishopric after the death of Bishop Kelly, criticised his church designs. In 1930, Bishop O'Collins was appointed to the Geraldton diocese and, in 1932, he appointed Hawes Diocesan architect and encouraged his work. In 1937, Hawes was created a Domestic Prelate with the title of Monsignor. He designed a large number of churches and other buildings for the Geraldton diocese in the 1930s, including the Cathedral of St Francis Xavier, Geraldton (1938). He left Western Australia in 1939 for the Bahamas, where he died a hermit in 1956. Throughout his life, he had trouble reconciling his priestly duties with his architectural work.¹⁹

The contract for construction of St Mary's Star of the Sea Church was let to E. Bello of Maylands, for the sum of £2087. The original embossed timber altar from the old church was re-used as a side altar in the new building. The new Church of St Mary's Star of the Sea was officially opened by the Bishop of

13 McKay, Rev Father John G., 'Brief notes regarding the early history of The Parish of St Mary Star of the Sea, Carnarvon, WA', 10 June 1952, Battye Research Note 581.

14 McKay, Rev Father John G., op cit; Smith, Enga, op cit, p. 98.

15 Smith, Enga, p. 36.

16 McKay, Rev Father John G., op cit. No reference to the construction was located in *The Record* for 1928 nor were any original plans found.

17 Smith, Enga, p. 16.

18 James, Ruth Marchant, op cit, p. 215, quoting Father James Irwin.

19 Taylor, John, *Between Devotion and Design: the architecture of John Cyril Hawes, 1876-1956*, UWA Press, Perth, 2000.

Geraldton, Dr O'Collins on 10 November 1935.²⁰ Because of the lack of available local stone at Carnarvon, concrete blocks were used in the construction. The roof was clad with short-length corrugated fibre cement sheets.²¹

In 1938 there were 27 girls boarding at St Mary's. During early 1942, when there was felt to be a real threat from the Japanese after several bombing raids further north, boarders at the school were sent home and the boarding school permanently closed. Enrolments at the school continued to increase, and in the 1950s, there were six Sisters teaching at Carnarvon.²² In 1953, Father John McKay celebrated his silver jubilee as a priest and was made Archdeacon of Carnarvon.²³

Employment opportunities improved in Carnarvon after the War, with the opening of the Babbage Island whaling station. When that closed in the 1960s it was converted to a prawn-processing factory and salt mine was commenced north of Carnarvon. Improved roads and road haulage assisted the sale of tropical fruit grown in the district.

At the beginning of 1965, enrolments had reached 190, and the need for a new convent and two extra classrooms was apparent, the timber convent building being then almost sixty years old. At the end of 1965, student enrolments had increased to 204.²⁴ In March 1966, tenders were accepted for construction of a new convent and three classrooms. The architect for the work was Summerhayes & Associates.²⁵ The new two-storey convent was built to the west of the existing, which remained in use during the construction process. When the Sisters occupied their new residence the old convent was demolished and the three-classroom block was erected fronting Johnston Street. The School Hall was retained. The new premises were opened on 11 December 1966.²⁶ At the beginning of the school year in 1967, St Mary's secondary students occupied the new classrooms and the primary school students attended classes in the School Hall.²⁷

Archdeacon John McKay was still parish priest of St Mary Star of the Sea parish, but in the late 1960s he was often assisted in his duties by another priest. He died in 1969.²⁸

The school underwent a number of additions over the next twenty years. Henderson & Thompson architects added classrooms in several stages in the 1970s, including an upper floor section. A new library and resource centre was constructed in 1980. The resource centre was subsequently gutted and new room dividers added.²⁹ The addition of more classrooms freed the School hall for other uses. Renovations to the Hall in the 1980s included removing the stage and converting the space into a home economics area. The timber floors were to be removed and replaced with concrete. It is not certain if this was done. In the

20 James, Ruth Marchant, op cit, p. 215; *Cathedral Chronicle*, November-December 1935, p. 3 & *The Record*, 23 November 1935, p. 1, referenced in John Taylor Architect, *Conservation plan*, op cit, p. 7.

21 Taylor, John, *Between Devotion and Design*, op cit, p. 142.

22 James, Ruth Marchant, op cit, pp. 213-215.

23 Smith, Enga, op cit, p. 72.

24 Smith, Enga, op cit, p. 93.

25 Carnarvon Catholic School & Convent, Plans, Summerhayes & Associates, 10 November 1965, Health Dept Register of Public Plans, SROWA, CONS 5093, no. 2456.

26 James, Ruth Marchant, op cit, p. 217, quoting *The Record*, 11 December 1966;.

27 James, Ruth Marchant, op cit, p. 217.

28 Smith, Enga, op cit, p. 98.

29 Information from John Twomey, Principal St Mary Star of the Sea Carnarvon, in letter dated 10 October 2005 to HCWA, in HCWA file P0461.

1990s, the two verandahs were added to the hall and later the east verandah was enclosed to form a classroom. Within the hall, the ceiling was replaced and ducted air conditioning installed.³⁰ At various times, the building has had partition walls, both of framed and brick construction, installed and removed, and the exterior cement brick walls have been painted.³¹ In 1991, a music department was established in an upper storey built above a section of the Hall.³²

The Presbytery (fmr) was enlarged in 1981 with skillion roofed additions at the rear.³³ At some time, the front wall of the brick Presbytery (fmr) has been rendered in an attempt to match it to the concrete block walls of the Church. A new presbytery and parish office was built in the 1990s on the east side of Stuart Street and the Presbytery (fmr) was occupied as the parish centre.

In 1992, St Mary's school had an enrolment of 371. It was staffed largely by lay teachers, with only three Presentation Sisters still on the staff.³⁴

Church of St Mary Star of the Sea was entered on the Shire of Carnarvon Municipal Heritage Inventory in 1999 with a recommended highest level of protection.³⁵ A conservation plan was prepared for the Church in 2002 and the place was entered on the State Register of Heritage Places in 2004.

In 2004, Church of St Mary Star of the Sea continues in its original function as the place of worship for the St Mary Star of the Sea parish, Carnarvon. The Presbytery (fmr) is occupied as the parish centre and the School Hall continues to be used for an educational function as part of St Mary's School.

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the physical evidence for the Church, refer to: "Conservation Plan for St Mary's Star of the Sea Church, Carnarvon, Western Australia" prepared by John Taylor, Architect for St Mary's Star of the Sea Parish in October 1997; and,

"Final Report – 2002 Conservation Works, St Mary's Star of the Sea Church, Carnarvon" prepared by John Taylor, Architect October 2002.

Church of St Mary Star of the Sea Group, Carnarvon comprises Church of St Mary Star of the Sea, Presbytery (fmr) and School Hall (fmr): Church of St Mary Star of the Sea, double volume, with three and four storey tower, in Hawes' eclectic architectural style, showing influences of Interwar Romanesque style; single storey Presbytery (fmr) in the vernacular, with influences of Victorian Georgian style; and, single and double storey St Mary's School Hall (fmr) in the vernacular with influences of Interwar Free Classical style. The three buildings are located on a site that also includes St Mary's School and St Mary Star of the Sea Convent, the entirety of which is delineated on the Johnston and Rushton street frontages by a low rendered masonry wall with pillared openings to each of the buildings.

30 Information from John Twomey, Principal St Mary Star of the Sea Carnarvon, in letter dated 10 October 2005 to HCWA, in HCWA file P0461.

31 Plan showing proposed alterations, c.1980, Health Dept Register of Public Plans, SROWA, CONS 5093, no. 2456. Early plans for the school hall have not been located.

32 James, Ruth Marchant, op cit, p. 218 and letter from John Twomey to HCWA dated 10/10/05 in HCWA file P0461.

33 'Proposed new extensions to House on Lot 337 Francis Street', Roger H. Veen, architectural draftsman, 3 December 1980, courtesy St Mary Star of the Sea parish.

34 James, Ruth Marchant, op cit, p. 218.

35 Hocking Planning & Architecture, *Shire of Carnarvon Municipal Heritage Inventory*, Entry C26.

St Mary's Convent has little cultural heritage significance, and St Mary's School has lesser significance.

Church of St Mary Star of the Sea Group, Carnarvon is located on a triangular parcel of land bounded by Johnston Street on the south, Rushton Street on the northwest, and Stuart Street (closed) on the east. Church of St Mary Star of the Sea is dominant on the site, facing west toward the point of the triangular lot, parallel to Johnston Street, facing Francis Street. The Presbytery (fmr) is located behind the Church, offset at an angle to the Church, but aligned parallel to Rushton Street, with a minimal setback. There is an extensive addition at the rear of the Presbytery (fmr) and a detached garage on the north east side. The Presbytery (fmr) is mostly surrounded by concrete hardstand. A low masonry wall delineates the site of the Church and Presbytery (fmr) from the remainder of the site on the northeast and east side. A 10.0 metre long cement block wall to a height of approximately 3.0 metres is located on the immediate northeast side of the low masonry wall from Rushton Street south at an angle along the side of the Presbytery (fmr), forming a backdrop for the school playground on the north east side. Further north east along the Rushton street frontage, facing due north at the Rushton and Stuart streets intersection, offset to both street frontages, is the School Hall. The front setback is grassed, but the remaining three sides are asphalt playground area, with the school and convent behind, on the south, fronting Johnston Street. There are minimal plantings on the site, none of any significance.

A section of the *Conservation Plan for St Mary's Star of the Sea Church, Carnarvon, Western Australia* detailing the physical description of the place has been attached.³⁶ No further changes have taken place.

Presbytery (fmr) shows some elements of Victorian Georgian influences (despite being constructed in the late Federation period : 1910) such as the rectangular form, separate verandah roof, corrugated iron roof, symmetrical façade, face brickwork, and four panelled doors, but for the most-part the building is a vernacular response to the residential function and economics available to the Church at the time. The Presbytery (fmr) is a single storey brick and corrugated iron dwelling. The front wall is face brick in a stretcher bond, however the side walls, together with the exterior walls of the rear addition have been finished in a rendered ashlar detail. The rear wall of the original dwelling has been plastered to form an interior wall. The medium pitched roof (over the two original rooms) is hipped with small vented gablets. The front verandah has a separate hipped roof. The addition has a low pitched skillion roof clad with corrugated iron.

The Presbytery (fmr) is a simple two room rectangular building with a centre corridor and front verandah. The extensive addition at the rear likely replaced a rear verandah. The front entry, central on the north west Rushton Street frontage, leads into a corridor with a room on each side and direct access to the back door. The back door opens into the addition that comprises a residential function: living room, dining room, kitchen, 2 bedrooms, an en-suite and bathroom/laundry. The front verandah area is enclosed with lattice above a concrete dado wall that is off form corrugated iron. The two original windows on the front façade, flanking the door, are full height double hung sash bachelor windows. The interior of the Presbytery (fmr) has timber board floors with floor coverings over, hard plaster walls and replacement battened asbestos ceilings. The original four panel doors remain insitu and the front door has coloured glass fanlights and sidelights. The extension has a concrete floor, plaster walls, gyprock ceilings, flush panel doors and aluminium framed windows.

³⁶ John Taylor Architect, *Conservation Plan*, op cit, pp. 28-30.

St Mary's School Hall shows some influences of Interwar Free Classical style such as the symmetry and simplicity of classical form, but for the most-part the building is a vernacular response to the school function and economics available to the Church at the time. St Mary's School Hall (fmr) is a concrete block building, originally 'T' shape in form with the double storey section forming the top of the 'T' at the rear. Photographic evidence shows that the top storey is an extension and the original roof over the original single storey was hipped as for the main hall. Subsequent verandahs on the east and west sides have formed a rectangular shape, except for the entry porch at the front. The roofs over the entry porch and the double storey section are gabled, the single storey section is gabled with a small gablet at the front and a cross affixed to the apex, and the verandah extensions have skillion roofs over exposed timber truss frames. The roofs are clad with colourbond roof sheeting in a custom orb profile. The concrete blocks have a smooth finish except for the quoined openings that have a rough texture patterning on the blocks. The entire exterior walls have been painted. The west verandah extension is open along the west side, supported by large masonry pillars. The east verandah has been fully enclosed with concrete blocks. The verandahs have concrete floors. Steel escape stairs are in place on the east and west sides of the double storey section.

The frontage of St Mary's School Hall is symmetrical with a central entry porch protruding from the main building with a timber framed double hung sash window flanking each side of the entry. Further recessed each side are the verandah extensions each with a full wall on the front façade (north), and with symmetrical openings, although the east side has a window in the opening. The windows on the remainder of the single storey section are also timber framed double hung sashes, but with fanlights above. Similarly the original doors are timber lined with fanlights above. The interior of the main ground floor room is a single space with a raised timber stage at the south end. The walls are hard plaster, ceilings are plasterboard with moulded cornices and there is a timber chair rail. The mouldings on the ceiling reflect changes that have been made to the partition walls. Plans indicate that the timber floorboards have been replaced with concrete but this cannot be ascertained with certainty as the floors are covered. The east extension is unceiled, with painted exposed timber truss, and the walls are painted face block.

St Mary Star of the Sea Convent shows some influences of Late Twentieth-Century International style such as the cubiform shapes and plain wall, but for the most-part the building is a response to the specific function. The building is a single and double storey structure that incorporates an open courtyard. The double storey section intersects an elongated single storey section that is aligned east-west along the site, parallel with Johnston Street. A square block tower further defines the double storey element. The masonry structure is detailed in elongated grey cement bricks, and window elements comprise panel infills with overlapped asbestos panels below the timber framed hopper windows. St Mary Star of the Sea Convent comprises the home of the Presentation Sisters, a chapel, and informal teaching areas on the north verandah enclosures.

St Mary's School similarly shows no influences of any particular style. It is clearly an evolution of a school facility. Predominantly of masonry construction with some of the original elongated grey cement bricks as for the convent, but predominantly in standard bricks that have all subsequently been painted. The school building comprises several wings on an east-west alignment parallel with Johnston Street with single and double storey sections.

13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

For a discussion of the comparative information for the Church, refer to: "Conservation Plan for St Mary's Star of the Sea Church, Carnarvon, Western Australia" prepared by John Taylor, Architect for St Mary's Star of the Sea Parish in October 1997.

St Mary's School Hall is similar in type to the school building, also known as the Old Chapel, that was constructed in 1893 as a classroom for St Joseph's College (now Catherine McAuley Centre) in Subiaco. Both had a large single teaching area and small rooms on either side of the entry where a number of students could be taught, separate from the main class in the hall. The Old Chapel is still in largely original condition. The 1899 St Brigid's School, North Perth, designed by J. J. Talbot Hobbs, is another of the type. It has had store rooms and verandahs added and is in use as the parish hall. Both the Old Chapel and St Brigid's school building are fundamentally Gothic in style.

The two-room former Carnarvon Presbytery bears comparison to simple worker's cottages such as the railway platelayer's houses, of which there are a number on the State Register in various parts of the State and the Pensioner Guard Cottage, 1 Surrey St Bassendean (00131) built c.1857 and entered on the State Register. St Joseph's Church & Cottage, Yarloop (01205) built in 1906 is a simple timber church and associated cottage in fair condition, which is entered on the State Register. It is unclear whether the cottage was actually used as the presbytery.

The Church of St Mary Star of the Sea is one of eleven of Monsignor Hawes ecclesiastical buildings or groups of buildings entered on the State Register.

Church of St Mary Star of the Sea Group, Carnarvon is an uncommon combination of structures and building periods in a religious group.

13.4 KEY REFERENCES

"Conservation Plan for St Mary's Star of the Sea Church, Carnarvon, Western Australia" prepared by John Taylor, Architect for St Mary's Star of the Sea Parish in October 1997.

13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH
