



**HERITAGE
COUNCIL**
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES

Permanent Entry

1. **DATA BASE No.** 02383
2. **NAME** *St Columba's Church Group & St Joseph's Convent, South Perth (1908, 1919, 1927, 1937, 1938, 1939)*
3. **LOCATION** Forrest and York Streets, South Perth
4. **DESCRIPTION OF PLACE INCLUDED IN THIS ENTRY**
 Lot 1 on Diagram 69889 being the whole of the land contained in Certificate of Title Volume: 2065 Folio: 2

 Lot 3 on Diagram 41944 being the whole of the land contained in Certificate of title Volume 525 Folio 124A.
5. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA** City of South Perth
6. **OWNER** The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Perth (as to Lot 1)
 Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Sacred Heart Inc (as to Lot 3)
7. **HERITAGE LISTINGS**

• Register of Heritage Places:	Interim Entry	28/06/2005
	Permanent Entry	21/04/2006
• National Trust Classification:		-----
• Town Planning Scheme:	Adopted	25/09/1986
• Municipal Inventory:	Adopted	28/02/1996
• Register of the National Estate:		-----
8. **CONSERVATION ORDER**

9. **HERITAGE AGREEMENT**

10. **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**
St Columba's Church Group & St Joseph's Convent, South Perth, comprising St Columba's Church (1937), Presbytery (1938), Church Centre (1986), St Columba's Catholic Primary School (1908-2002), Dennehy House (1908), Mary MacKillop Centre (1927), Chapel (1939) and Chapel Unit (1939, 1974), the Cloisters, Convent (1957, 1974), Irene Villa (1959/60, 1982), MacKillop Court (1971), and Irene McCormack memorial rose garden (1992) has cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:

the place is an intact collection of buildings forming an historic Catholic group and, distinguished by the prominence of the site, is a regional landmark;

the place demonstrates the expansion of the Catholic Church in Western Australia during the time of Bishop Mathew Gibney (1887-1910), Archbishop Patrick Clune (1911-1935) and Archbishop Redmond Prendiville (1935-1968) and the role played by Irish Religious Orders in the establishment of Roman Catholicism in Australia in the nineteenth and twentieth century;

St Columba's Church is a fine example of the Inter-War Romanesque style with Spanish Mission influences, exhibiting smooth rendered facades, elegant proportions, and fine interior detailing. Its design represents early attempts to build ecclesiastical structures that were appropriate to the climatic and cultural conditions of southern Western Australia;

St Columba's Church features excellently crafted stained glass windows, with intense and deep colours designed specifically to exploit Western Australian sunlight, which contribute to the splendour of the interior space;

the St Joseph's Convent buildings are an aesthetically pleasing complex dominated by Dennehy House, a well-resolved and fine example of the Federation Queen Anne style, Mary MacKillop Centre, an attractive two-storey building featuring a distinctive two-storey timber verandah with paired timber columns, and the Chapel, which features an impressive interior and marble sanctuary;

the place is significant for its association with prominent Catholic Religious in Western Australia, including the Rev. Dr John Thomas McMahon, Archbishop Patrick Clune, Archbishop Redmond Prendiville, the Sisters of Mercy and the Sisters of St Joseph;

the place is associated with Richard John Dennehy, well-known Western Australian architect and prominent Catholic layman, who designed the first church-school on the site in 1908, and its extension in 1919, as well as his own 1908 York Street home, that was purchased by the Sisters of St Joseph for a convent in 1914; and,

the place is highly valued by the Catholic community as an important focus of their religious life. It also contributes to the sense of place of the wider community, due to its prominent location and distinctive aesthetic characteristics.

Irene Villa (1959/60, 1982), MacKillop Court (1971), the Convent (1957, 1974), swimming pool, Link/Garden Room, and garage are of little significance.