



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. Peter's Church is distinctive and unusual in exhibiting a high degree of integration of the external and internal design, including elements which both contribute to the physical fabric of the place and to the totality of the design concept. (Criterion 1.1)

St. Peter's Church is built of a rich honey coloured random rubble stone in the Federation Arts and Crafts style with simple timber batten decoration. It has a steeply pitched roof and interesting mortar jointing, with lime mortar which has the appearance of being 'battered on'. The roof line is softened by the growth of lichen, creating a picturesque effect. (Criteria 1.1, 1.3)

As one of only two remaining buildings in Badgebup, *St. Peter's Church* has a landmark quality in the town. (Criterion 1.3)

11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

St. Peter's Church, which was built by community effort as a place of commemoration for those Western Australian lives lost in World War One, is historically important as a reminder of the town of Badgebup. (Criteria 2.1, 2.2)

St. Peter's Church has a close association with John Campbell Warren in whose honour it was constructed, and with the architects Eales and Cohen who designed it and supervised its construction. (Criterion 2.3)

11.3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

11.4. SOCIAL VALUE

St. Peter's Church is of significance to the surrounding community as a place of worship and commemoration. (Criterion 4.1)

St. Peter's Church is one of only two remaining buildings in Badgebup and was built as a community effort in the 1920s. It contributes to the current community's sense of the past and of place. (Criterion 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12.1. RARITY

St. Peter's Church is rare as a piece of church architecture because of the strongly integrated nature of the internal and external design elements. (Criterion 5.1)

12.2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

St. Peter's Church is representative of the Federation Arts and Crafts style of architecture as applied to religious architecture in Western Australian in the 1920s. (Criterion 6.1)

St. Peter's Church is representative of the importance placed on memorialising the life in the community within church architecture. (Criterion 6.2)

12.3 CONDITION

St. Peter's Church is in sound condition. There has been some damage caused by water ingress from the roof structure and subsidence at one corner of the building. There is also fretting and cracking of some of the masonry above the openings but this is not extensive. For a full discussion of the condition and recommendations of work to be done, 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).

12.2 INTEGRITY

St. Peter's Church continues to be used as a place of worship once a month and for spiritual reflection by the surrounding community. *St. Peter's Church* has a high degree of integrity.

12.5 AUTHENTICITY

The fabric of *St. Peter's Church* is substantially original. The original timber roof shingles have been replaced with clay tiles at some time; however, *St. Peter's Church* 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. Peter's Church was constructed, in 1922, as a place of worship and commemoration in the Badgebup community. It was built as a memorial to John Campbell Warren, the son of a local farming family who was killed in World War One.

Settlement at Badgebup took place in 1873 when H. Hayward took up land in the district.¹ In 1897, the Hon. J. C. Warren MLC of South Australia took up land in the area with his sons - his eldest son being John Campbell. After an initial drought and the construction of a house and facilities, John Campbell's wife and young son, Campbell, joined him, from South Australia, in 1898.²

The Warrens prospered and, according to Bignell: 'In the eyes of Katanning's inhabitants the Warrens were gentility.'³

With the outbreak of War, Campbell joined up, and was killed in action on 16 August 1918.⁴ Bignell writes:

The sorrowing parents felt compelled to leave some tangible evidence of their son and decided the most fitting memorial would be a district church. R. L. Richardson enabled the dream to become a reality by donating an acre of land at the centrally situated Badgebup siding. The idea inspired all who heard of it, especially those who had seen active service, or had some personal tragic involvement with the war; from the architects- Eales and Cohen (a returned man), the stonemason, George Thorpe, who had lost two sons, and the carpenter, Tom and Cyril Berry, both ex-soldiers. Neighbouring farmers rallied around and carted stone to the site from the quarry blasted by Gilbert and J. C. Warren. In February 1922 Mrs Warren laid the foundation stone and in April 1922 Barbara Goodchild, the baby daughter of a returned soldier, was baptised within the three parts erected walls. Donations for the furnishings came from all quarters, including out-of-state Warren relatives and friends, and the Sisters of Perth College where the Warren girls had concluded their education.⁵

St. Peter's Church was named after St. Peter's College in Adelaide where the Warren boys, and their father, had received their education.

The stone for the church was quarried from the Warren's property, 11 kilometres north of Badgebup and carted to the site. The community was responsible for its construction and the building shows an interesting irregularity of finish which is reflective of this community involvement. The architects, Eales & Cohen, also donated some of the stained glass windows.⁶

¹ 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, 1981) p. 33.

² *ibid.*, pp. 147-151.

³ *ibid.*, p. 153.

⁴ *ibid.*, p. 261.

⁵ *ibid.*, p. 262.

⁶ 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) p. 11.

On 16 September 1922 Archbishop of Perth C. O. Riley consecrated St. Peter's Church, Badgebup. The following year J. C. Warren's eldest daughter, Meg, was married in the church to Ernest Clegg...⁷

St. Peter's Church has been used as a church since its consecration.

Badgebup townsite which, in the 1930s had a school, saleyard, district hall and shop, declined in importance after the second world war, with the advent of motor transport and cheaper petrol. People used the facilities at Katanning and the school closed in the 1940s, and the shop closed in the 1950s. The town still has a railway siding with a large grain silo which is in use. *St. Peter's Church* is one of only two buildings remaining in the town. The other building is the district hall.

St. Peter's Church is used by the surrounding community as a place of worship. Services are held there once a month, and the place is open for private worship at other times.

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).

⁷ Bignell, p. 262.