



# 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

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### 11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

The place is significant as being associated with the founding of the Independent (Congregational) Church which served the many Welshmen who had settled in Guildford. For the first two decades of the colony the Independents rated highest in numbers after Anglicans in the town of Guildford. (Criteria 2.1 & 2.2)

The place is important for its association with the Jones family, in that Walter Jones provided the land upon which it was built and Abraham Jones was its longest serving minister. (Criterion 2.3)

### 11.3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

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### 11.4. SOCIAL VALUE

The place complements and contributes to the other nineteenth century buildings along Swan Street. (Criterion 4.2)

## **12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE**

### **12.1. RARITY**

The first Independent chapel built outside the Perth townsite, and then later converted to residential use with additions, the place is rare. (Criterion 5.2)

### **12.2 REPRESENTATIVENESS**

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### **12.3 CONDITION**

The condition of the building is fair. The vestibule is of poor standard construction, using inferior sheet material, as is the lean-to addition on the west side of the former Chapel. Cracks to the brickwork over the door heads in the south wall of the two roomed addition have been repaired.

### **12.4 INTEGRITY**

The integrity of the place is moderate. Its use as a residence is compatible with its use over the greater part of its history. The long term viability of its significant values depends on its continuance in the ownership of sympathetic proprietors.

### **12.5 AUTHENTICITY**

The place has a moderate degree of authenticity. Most of the building fabric is intact though there are additions at the west and south sides and intrusive verandah additions on the east side of the chapel.

### 13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

The documentary and physical evidence has been compiled by John Pidgeon Architect from material in the files of the National Trust of Australia (WA) The Swan Shire and from information supplied by the owner Mr Metternick-Jones. Further research and referencing of sources in the documentary evidence has been carried out by Natasha Georgiou BA.

#### 13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

Walter Jones, (b. 1777 in Wales) arrived in the new Swan River colony on the *Egyptian* on 14 February 1830, as a servant of Charles Boyd. His wife Tabitha and their nine children followed him to the colony four years later. He started working in the colony as a farmer and, in July 1831, purchased Guildford Allotment 37, previously assigned to Edwin Hugo. Jones obtained the freehold in 1841.<sup>1</sup> In 1835 he had established on the York road, just beyond the Guildford townsite, a hotel on part of the 'Woodbridge' estate. It was originally known as the 'York Hotel', but it was later referred to as 'Jones' Inn' or the 'Woodbridge Inn'. Walter Jones retired in 1838 and his business was taken over by his son Abraham (b.1807 d. 1877).<sup>2</sup>

Guildford in the late 1840s was made up of a small community of landowners, labourers, and tradespeople. By 1848, the population had reached 95, but of these only 54 were over the age of 14 years.<sup>3</sup> The Jones family was one of the many Welsh families, members of the Independent or Congregationalist Church, that had settled in Guildford. For the first two decades of the colony, the Independents rated highest in numbers after Anglicans in the town of Guildford.<sup>4</sup> In July 1849, by a memorial between Walter Jones, Abraham Jones, John Welbourne, Richard Smith, Henry Devenish, and Henry Trigg, Guildford Allotment 37 was purchased from Walter Jones for £120-0-0, for the building of an Independent Chapel.<sup>5</sup>

In August 1852, Abraham Jones called for tenders for the construction of the first chapel of the Independent denomination to be built outside of Perth.<sup>6</sup> A foundation stone was laid down in November 1852 by the Reverend James Leonard of Perth, assisted by Henry Trigg and Thomas Jones, in the presence of a 'tolerable assembly of well dressed people'.<sup>7</sup> A sandstone block beneath the front gable of the building bears the incised inscription 'Independent Chapel Erected 1852'. The chapel was opened on 1 June 1853 by the Reverend Leonard, and the first resident minister appointed in 1854 was the Reverend T.W. Charlesworth.<sup>8</sup> The resident minister was to live in two small rooms at

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<sup>1</sup> Bourke Michael, *Old Buildings at Guildford*, (Nedlands, 1971) p. 30.

<sup>2</sup> Bourke, Michael, *On the Swan*, (Nedlands, 1987) p. 115.

<sup>3</sup> *Western Australia Almanac*, 1849, p. 41.

<sup>4</sup> *Western Australian Almanac* 1830-1850.

<sup>5</sup> *Memorial*, 5/642.

<sup>6</sup> Bourke, Michael, *On the Swan*, p. 176.

<sup>7</sup> *The Inquirer*, 24.12.1852.

<sup>8</sup> *The Inquirer*, 22.6.1853 & 22.3.1854.

the back of the church. In 1856, Abraham Jones became the minister and he remained in this position for ten years.<sup>9</sup>

Abraham Jones, the second eldest son of Walter and Tabitha, had married Martha Hitchcock in 1842 and they had one child. Members of the Jones family were civic leaders of the town of Guildford and they were actively involved in the town's politics during the nineteenth century.<sup>10</sup> In 1839 Abraham was appointed postmaster of the newly established post office on Guildford, and in 1841 he opened a school for local children, including Aboriginal children.<sup>11</sup> When he became the Independent Minister, he also opened a school in the chapel. After he ceased to be Independent Minister in 1866, he bought Allotment 21, which he later transferred in 1874 to his wife and son.<sup>12</sup> He lived there until his death on August 12, 1877.<sup>13</sup>

The 'Independent Chapel' was bought and converted into a private house by James Demasson (b.1815), in 1872, who had arrived in the colony in 1841/2.<sup>14</sup> His occupation in Guildford was listed as a sawyer.<sup>15</sup> The former chapel was transferred to his descendants, Thelma Kate and Beatrice Stella Demasson, in 1978.<sup>16</sup> A small detached addition was added at the front by their father. The old living quarters at the rear, in which Abraham Jones used to live, consisting of a small kitchen and bedroom, were recently demolished owing to the widening of the railway reserve for the construction of the standard gauge railway. A new kitchen has been built on to the rear of the chapel.<sup>17</sup> In 1992 Beatrice Demasson died and the property was transferred to relatives of the Demassons, Isabella Wroth, David Wroth, and Valerie Tyson in equal shares on 11 January 1993.<sup>18</sup>

The property is now owned by a descendent of Walter Jones, M.A. Metternick-Jones, who purchased the property in May 1993.<sup>19</sup>

### 13. 2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

*Residence (Fmr Independent Chapel)* is on the south side of the street and backs onto the railway reserve, the expansion of which has encroached upon the original property causing a diagonal alignment of the rear boundary.

The building was constructed in three stages. First is the 1852 section comprising the former Independent chapel. Following conversion of the building to a residence, an addition of two rooms, divided by a central passage and having a lean-to verandah, was built on the north side of the former chapel. This addition is connected to the chapel by means of an iron

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9 *Western Australian Almanac*, 1857.

10 Bourke Michael, *On the Swan*.

11 *Government Gazette*, 20.7.1839 & *W.A. Almanac*, 1842.

12 *Memorial*, 7/1563.

13 *The Inquirer*, 15.8.1877.p. 3.

14 *W.A. Almanac*, 1873.

15 *Post Office Directories*, 1873.

16 *Certificate of Title*, Vol. 1344, Folio. 328.

17 National Trust Files.

18 *Certificate of Title*, Vol.1344, Folio. 328.

19 *ibid.*

roofed vestibule. In the late 1960s, a kitchen and laundry were added to the south of the former chapel, replacing an earlier construction.

The part of the building comprising the former chapel is a rectangular block with a steeply pitched, corrugated iron clad, gable roof with the ridge running north-south. The walls are Flemish bonded brickwork. The original chapel entrance in the north wall, now opening onto the vestibule, has an arched head. Over this opening, above the vestibule roof level, a stone plaque bearing the inscription, "Independent Chapel Erected 1852", is recessed into the brickwork. Semi-circular formed steps lead into the building from the vestibule

Internally the former chapel has been divided into two equal parts by an east-west running brick wall. Ceilings have been introduced, with pressed metal to the northern room and wide timber boarding to the southern room. To the west of the former chapel is a timber framed addition at present being used as a store. Part of the east face is covered by an open roofed area with asbestos sheet clad infilling at the gable level.

The two roomed extension to the north has a hipped, corrugated iron roof with the ridge running east-west. The verandah on the northern side has a corrugated iron roof.

The addition at the south of the former chapel containing the kitchen and laundry is constructed of brick walls under a lean-to roof.

The garden layout is predominantly the same as it was earlier this century.

### **13.3 REFERENCES**

National Trust of Australia (WA) files.