



## 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.

#### PRINCIPAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORIC THEME(S)

- 8.6                   Worshipping
- 8.8                   Remembering the fallen.

#### HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 404                  Community services and utilities
- 406                  Religion

#### 11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE\*

*Burt Memorial Hall* is a fine example of architecture in the Inter-War Gothic style applied to an ecclesiastic memorial hall, with the upper hall and staircase being excellent examples of this style. (Criterion 1.1)

*Burt Memorial Hall* is part of a collection of fine buildings on St. Georges Terrace located between Pier and Barrack streets that have a landmark quality. With its southern wall built on the property line and its tall two storey format, *Burt Memorial Hall* is one of the more prominent of these landmark structures. (Criterion 1.3)

*Burt Memorial Hall* is an important component of a civic precinct that includes Perth Town Hall on the corner of Barrack and Hay streets, Treasury Buildings, St. George's Cathedral, The Deanery, St. Andrew's Church, Council House, the old Court House, Stirling Gardens, Government House, the Supreme Court and gardens, The Weld Club, The Esplanade, and Barrack Square. (Criterion 1.4)

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Canberra, 1991, with additional reference to Richards, O. *Theoretical Framework for Designed Landscapes in WA*, unpublished report, 1997.

## **11. 2. HISTORIC VALUE**

*Burt Memorial Hall* was funded by Septimus and Louisa Burt as a memorial to two of their sons who died during World War I and was gifted to the Anglican Diocese as a community hall and meeting place. Septimus Burt was a prominent politician, lawyer and pastoralist who was very active in the activities of the Anglican Church. (Criteria 2.2 & 2.3)

*Burt Memorial Hall* was designed by prominent West Australian architect George Herbert Parry and is a fine example of his ecclesiastical work. In addition to residential and commercial projects, Parry designed several buildings for the Anglican Church throughout Western Australia. (Criterion 2.3)

## **11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE**

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## **11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE**

Since its construction in 1918, *Burt Memorial Hall* has been an important meeting place and community venue for Perth's Anglican community. (Criterion 4.1)

*Burt Memorial Hall*, together with the adjacent St George's Cathedral and Deanery, creates a prominent landmark on St George's Terrace as a precinct of fine buildings which contributes to the community's sense of place. (Criterion 4.2)

## **12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE**

### **12. 1. RARITY**

Slate roofs, such as that found on *Burt Memorial Hall*, are increasingly uncommon in Western Australia. (Criterion 5.1)

*Burt Memorial Hall* is a rare example in Western Australia of a war memorial, funded by private individuals, taking the form of a church hall. (Criterion 5.2)

### **12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS**

*Burt Memorial Hall* is representative of the practice of building practical war memorials in Western Australia. (Criterion 6.1)

*Burt Memorial Hall* is a fine example of architecture in the Inter-War Gothic style with some excellent interiors in the style and is representative of the work of architect George Herbert Parry. (Criterion 6.1)

*Burt Memorial Hall* is representative of a number of memorials constructed throughout Australia following World War I. It is unusual in that it was instigated and funded by the parents of two men that died during the War, rather than by a community group or government body. (Criterion 6.2)

### **12. 3 CONDITION**

The exterior of *Burt Memorial Hall* has been maintained to a reasonable standard over time, with like material being repaired with like in many instances. Ground levels have built up along the eastern elevation causing some damp ingress. There are some loose slates, eroded brick joints, gutters are filled with vegetable matter and some gutters are misaligned. In other areas finishes have deteriorated. In some upgrading regimes, new ceilings have been suspended under original ceilings, obscuring original fabric. There is some differential settlement occurring between the original 1918 section of the building and the 1938 addition. However, much of the fabric is well maintained and in fair to good condition.

There is no surface evidence of the officer's quarters that stood on the site before the hall was built and given the general topography and the floor levels of the present building, it is likely that all or almost all evidence of the preceding structures would have been disturbed to a significant degree to build the present structure. Overall the place is in fair to good condition.

#### **12.4 INTEGRITY**

*Burt Memorial Hall* continues to be used for similar functions to those for which it was designed, though part of the lower hall and committee room are not used at present. The original use is readily apparent, apart from the changes to the kitchen at the lower level (now a choir room) and the ladies cloakroom (now the kitchen). The place retains a high degree of integrity.

#### **12.5 AUTHENTICITY**

The exterior of *Burt Memorial Hall* reflects the original phases of construction and the first additions. Minor changes include the upgrading of rainwater goods, the addition of bars to some windows, the addition of some canvas awnings, air conditioning condensers, and changes to the openings in the ground floor in the south elevation. The hall and main stair retain almost all of their original fabric. The lower hall has been divided up into numerous spaces with lightweight partitions, and suspended ceilings and air conditioning have been introduced into this area. The underlying fabric would appear to have been disturbed to a limited extent. The toilets (originally toilets and kitchen) have been extensively refurbished, with new toilet cubicles, sanitary fittings, and mosaic tiled floors. The building as a whole retains a moderate to high level of authenticity.

### 13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

The documentary evidence has been compiled by Jacqui Sherriff, Historian. The physical evidence has been compiled by Philip Griffiths, Architect.

#### 13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

*Burt Memorial Hall* was a gift to the Anglican Church by Septimus and Louisa Burt in memory of their sons Theodore and Francis who lost their lives in World War I. The foundation stone was laid on 26 October 1917 by Sir John Forrest, and the hall was opened on 12 June 1918 by Lieutenant Governor Sir Edward Stone. The hall was designed by George Herbert Parry and built by C W Arnott. Since its construction, *Burt Memorial Hall* has served as a meeting and social venue for the Anglican community, and in more recent years housed the Diocesan bookshop, choir, and various offices on the ground floor.

The site on which *Burt Memorial Hall* and the associated St George's Cathedral and Deanery stand was initially a military reserve, occupied by barracks, gaol, officers' quarters (site of *Burt Memorial Hall*) and hospital. In the late 1830s, Anglican services were held in the Court House (1837-1845; Supreme Court Gardens) and it was decided that a permanent church be built. The military site bounded by Barrack Street, St George's Terrace, Pier Street and Howick (Hay) Street was selected, but work did not commence for some time. Although still unfinished, St George's Church was consecrated on 15 November 1845. The Deanery, located on the corner of St George's Terrace and Pier Street, was completed in 1859. Work on the 'new' St George's Cathedral commenced in October 1879 and the church was consecrated on 15 November 1888 by the Anglican Primate, Bishop Alfred Barry of Sydney.<sup>1</sup>

At this time, the officers' quarters facing St George's Terrace became the Church offices for a time, before being used by the Chief of Police. In the mid-1910s, the building was used as a boarding house.<sup>2</sup>

In 1917, prominent lawyer, grazier and politician Septimus Burt<sup>3</sup>, and his wife Louisa decided to erect a memorial to their son Lieutenant Theodore (Bob) Charles Arthur Burt, who was killed in action near the village of Montauban in France on 15 July 1916, aged 23 years.<sup>4</sup> The Burts wished to build a memorial that would also be of use to the Church and after speaking

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<sup>1</sup> John Tonkin, *Cathedral and Community: A History of St George's Cathedral*, Perth, UWA Press, Crawley, 2001, pp. 11-12; 18-40, 46.

<sup>2</sup> *The West Australian*, 27 October 1917, p. 8.

<sup>3</sup> David Black & Geoffrey Bolton, *Biographical Register of Members of the Parliament of Western Australia, 1870-1930*, State Law Publisher, Perth, (1990), revised edition 2001, pp. 41-42; Rica Erickson (comp), *Dictionary of Western Australians 1829-1914*, volume 3, UWA Press, Nedlands, 1979, p. 98. Septimus Burt was Chief Justice (1869-71), barrister (1873-), chairman of the Central Board of Education (1874-), Member of Legislative Council for Murray and Williams (1880-86) and North Province (1888-90), Member of Legislative Assembly for Ashburton (1890-1900), Consul for Denmark, Acting Attorney General (1886), Attorney General (1890-97), and Member of Executive Council (1898-1901).

<sup>4</sup> Tablet in southern wall of lower landing of the stair, Burt Memorial Hall.

with the Archbishop of Perth, decided to approach the Diocesan trustees for permission to build a church hall that might be used for a variety of church purposes.<sup>5</sup> By the time the building was completed, another of their sons, Lieutenant Francis Sinclair Burt, had been killed near Villers-Bretonneux in France, aged 32 years.<sup>6</sup>

Following preparation of designs by architect, George Herbert Parry<sup>7</sup>, Sir John Forrest, a personal friend of the Burts and Theodore's godfather, laid the foundation stone for Burt Memorial Hall on 26 October 1917.<sup>8</sup> Mrs Arnott, wife of the contractor, presented Sir John with a mallet made from 'wood of the tree under which the first service was held in Perth in 1829'.<sup>9</sup>

*Burt Memorial Hall* was officially opened on 12 June 1918 in front of a 'large and representative gathering of churchmen and citizens of Perth'. A report of the opening in the *West Australian Church News* (the Anglican bulletin) provides a description of the building:

The hall stands on the south side of St George's Cathedral abutting on to St George's Terrace, and has been built to the designs of Mr G H Parry, architect, of Perth, by Mr C W Arnott, contractor. The hall is Gothic in architecture and harmonises well the Cathedral; the roof being almost of the same pitch and covered with similar slates. The majority of the windows are square mullioned with slight tracery, and the middle light of each window bears the arms of an Australian diocese. The south window is much larger, being pointed and with more intricate tracery, and we understand that it is the donor's intention to place in it a stained-glass memorial window, but at the present it is filled with plain glass. The building contains an upper hall, of 70ft. x 35ft., with a gallery to the north. Its floor level is on a level with the floor of the Cathedral. A feature of the hall is its roof, of which the lower panel is plastered, while the upper panels are of jarrah, and the whole is carried on handsome principles of Western Australian karri. The lower hall is 50ft. x 35ft., as the northern end of this floor is occupied by a large kitchen, 20ft. x 35ft., with two doors and is thus most excellently adapted for social functions, at which meals will be required. There are entrances to his hall from St George's Terrace, but it is also connected with the main entrance and the upper hall by a broad staircase. The main entrance itself is from a broad flight of stairs running along the west side of the building, which also gives a much improved approach to the south transept of the Cathedral. There are also, spacious ante-rooms and cloakrooms on both floors. A very handsome memorial in Donnybrook stone and Australian marbles, unique in its kind, stands on the staircase...the hall is a fine example of

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<sup>5</sup> *West Australian Church News*, 1 July 1918, p. 13.

<sup>6</sup> Tablet in southern wall of lower landing of the stair, Burt Memorial Hall. The Burts were married in St George's Cathedral and burial services for both Septimus (1919) and Louisa (1929) were held in St George's Cathedral. Burt was also Chancellor of the Diocese, Member of the Cathedral Chapter and for many years, a member of the Synod of the Diocese and a Diocese Trustee. Other church work included the Anglican Orphanages, the Forrest River Mission and St James' Church Hall Building Fund. The Burts also donated the Cathedral Reredos in memory of Sir Archibald Burt, Septimus' father. See St George's Cathedral Chapter, Annual Report, 1919, p. 20.

<sup>7</sup> Herbert Parry, Proposed Memorial Hall (floor plans, elevations and sketch of tablet), 1917, Parry and Rosenthal Architectural Drawings, Battye Cartographic Collection, 944C, Items 8B, 8C and 8F. The consignment also includes other working and contract drawings, including roof, door and staircase detail.

<sup>8</sup> See foundation stone, western elevation near St George's Terrace.

<sup>9</sup> *West Australian Church News*, 1 December 1917, p. 17. The first Anglican church service was held in Irwin Street, on the site was that was later to become the University of Western Australia.

what can be done with local brick, freestone, Donnybrook stone, and jarrah and karri timbers, and reflects great credit upon the architect, contractor and workmen.<sup>10</sup>

It was reported that the iron door of the cell in the officers' quarters (the first building in Perth to contain a cell for prisoners) was used as a pantry door for the Hall's kitchen.<sup>11</sup>

As Septimus Burt could not trust himself to speak during the dedication service, Sir Edward Stone (another of Theodore's godfathers) read a letter from the Burts thanking the Diocesan trustees for allowing them to build the hall 'for the double purpose of aiding the work of the Church in this Diocese, and as a memorial of our two dear sons who have fallen in the war'. The Burts expressed their wish that the hall

not be let or used for public entertainments nor for dancing. It is primarily intended for meetings of Synod and all Boards and committees and generally for all meetings connected with Church work or charitable organisations; also for lectures, concerts, bazaars, and purposes of a like nature. I propose to settle with the Diocesan trustees a deed of trust upon which they will hold the building.

The conditions on use were later relaxed to allow more effective fund raising.

In the letter, the Burts went on to congratulate the architect

upon the skill he has shown in designing a building in keeping with the style of the Cathedral which it adjoins, and at the same time making the best use of a rather cramped and difficult site. My thanks are also due to the contractor, Mr C W Arnott, and to his foremen and workmen, for the able manner in which the whole of the work has been carried out. I can assure Mr Arnott that in my opinion he has succeeded in accomplishing the wish he has so often expressed to me; namely, to make this hall in point of workmanship, the best built building of its kind in the city.<sup>12</sup>

In his monthly letter published in *West Australian Church News*, the Archbishop also approved of the design of the new hall:

Now that the hall is finished we see what a beautiful building it is, how well it stands near the Cathedral, and how good from an architectural point of view it is. In fact it is has [sic] already been of great use.<sup>13</sup>

*Burt Memorial Hall* was first used the following day when a jumble sale was held to raise funds for the Australian Church Hut Fund. Other groups to use the meeting rooms included the Synod, the Cathedral Branch of the Girls' Friendly Society, the Mothers' Union and other Cathedral societies. The Lower Hall was used each day as a lunch room for girls. In April 1919, the Diocesan Board of Missions' Exhibition 'saw both Halls [upstairs and downstairs] filled for five afternoons and evenings'.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> *West Australian Church News*, 1 July 1918, p. 11.

<sup>11</sup> *The West Australian*, 27 October 1917, p. 8. The cottage and a shed was removed to make way for the Hall. See Herbert Parry, Proposed Memorial Hall, Block Plan, August 1917, Battye Cartographic Collection, 944C.

<sup>12</sup> *West Australian Church News*, 1 July 1918, pp. 13-16. See also *The West Australian*, 13 June 1918.

<sup>13</sup> *West Australian Church News*, Letter from the Archbishop, 1 July 1918, p. 2.

<sup>14</sup> St George's Cathedral Chapter, Annual Report, 1919, pp. 5, 7. See also Battye Library, MN 614, Acc 2778A, Items 98-102, St George's Hall, Receipt Books, 1919-1923 for a sample of groups that used the building during this period.

In the late 1930s, following concern that *Burt Memorial Hall* did not provide sufficient accommodation to 'house the various Parish activities'<sup>15</sup>, Parry prepared plans for additions and alterations.<sup>16</sup>

In September 1938, control of *Burt Memorial Hall* was vested in the Cathedral Chapter 'under certain conditions as regards Diocesan functions'. The Chapter were able to access funds from the McNess Bequest as an interest free loan to fund the £1,500 additions. The Chapter was happy to report that:

The Hall now has a fine stage and more comfortable seating and a new room has been added at the rear of the building where meetings of various guilds and societies can be held. The Lower Hall or Supper Room is now available for all kinds of Parochial functions and parties. The Upper Hall is reserves for Lectures, Concerts and Drama.<sup>17</sup>

The Chapter introduced fees for use of the Hall at this time in an effort to cover lighting and cleaning expenses.<sup>18</sup>

From the end of World War I to the late 1960s, the Church provided sandwiches, tea and clothing or blankets in *Burt Memorial Hall* for Perth's indigent men on Sunday afternoons. Numbers varied from about 25 in 1948 to about 120 in 1962. Known as 'Old Men's Teas', this was a much needed welfare service to Perth's vagrants, many of whom had alcohol problems and/or had been in prison for a time and found it difficult to find and keep work.<sup>19</sup>

During World War II, *Burt Memorial Hall* was used to accommodate evacuees from the Dutch East Indies (Indonesia) who fled to Western Australia to escape the Japanese advance. The Hall was also 'thrown open' to troops on leave.<sup>20</sup>

By the beginning of the 1950s, major repair works were required to *Burt Memorial Hall*, as well as the cathedral:

Renovations to Burt Hall alone were estimated to cost £1,500, and approaches were made to the Burt family to ask for a relaxation of the conditions placed on the use of the Hall in the original deed of gift, which made it hard to raise the funds needed for the building's upkeep.<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> St George's Cathedral Chapter, Annual Report and Financial Statements, year ended 30 April 1938, p. 3, Battye Archives MN 614, Acc 2778A, Item 17.

<sup>16</sup> Herbert Parry, Alterations and Additions to Burt Memorial Hall, 1938, Battye Cartographic Collection, 944C (particularly Item 2M). See also Herbert Parry, Architect, Proposed Alterations and Additions to Burt Memorial Hall, August 1938, in Health Department of Western Australia, WAS 1457, Cons 5094, Item 563, State Records Office of Western Australia.

<sup>17</sup> St George's Cathedral Chapter, Annual Report and Financial Statements, year ended 30 April 1939, p. 4, Battye Archives MN 614, Acc 2778A, Item 17.

<sup>18</sup> *ibid.*, p. 3.

<sup>19</sup> *The Magazine of St George's Cathedral, Perth*, Annual Report Issue, June 1948, pp. 4-5; *Daily News*, 21 July 1968, p. 8; John Tonkin, *Cathedral and Community: A History of St George's Cathedral, Perth*, UWA Press, Crawley, 2001, p. 119.

<sup>20</sup> St George's Cathedral Chapter, Annual Report and Financial Statements, year ended 30 April 1942, p. 3, Battye Archives, MN 614, Acc 2778A, Item 17.

<sup>21</sup> Tonkin, *op. cit.*, p. 120, citing Chapter Minutes 11 September 1952, 26 January 1953.

The Burt family agreed to an easing of conditions. The exact detail of the work is not known, but physical evidence would indicate that the kitchen on the ground floor was abandoned and the ladies cloakroom converted to a kitchen with a pass through to the hall, and the men's cloakroom converted to a men's and women's cloakrooms and toilets.

In the 1960s, traditional Independence Day and Thanksgiving Day meals were held in *Burt Memorial Hall* following annual services in the Cathedral for Perth's American community.<sup>22</sup> Also in the 1960s, amateur school plays were occasionally held in *Burt Memorial Hall*.<sup>23</sup>

In July 1964, tenders were called for the conversion of part of the Lower Hall into offices. The alterations, costing approximately £8,500 were to provide eight offices with a shop front to St George's Terrace. The offices were to accommodate church organisations, some of which were to relocate from Cathedral Avenue. The South-West Native Title Mission, Homes for the Aged and WA branch of the Council of World Churches were to occupy other offices, with religious literature to be displayed in the shop windows. Alterations were also made to the Upper Hall at this time.<sup>24</sup>

Following a fire in 1976, the floor to the upper hall was replaced, and part of the Vermont slate roof was replaced with black Welsh slates. It is likely that the second stage was removed at this time, and the new set of steps to the dean's vestry installed.

Over the years, *Burt Memorial Hall* has continued to be an important church and community venue, hosting many events including art shows, religious services and lectures and children's Sunday School classes. In August 2003, the offices at the lower level are available for lease and are advertised as 'prime offices...in the heart of the city's legal precinct and includes about 130sqm of space in six partitioned offices'.<sup>25</sup> The remainder of the Lower Hall has also been partitioned and is used for Choristers' practice, robing and archive area. On the upper floor, the original committee room accommodates the Cathedral Education Centre office and kitchen and the hall is still used for a variety of functions, including meetings of the Mothers' Union. The upper floor of the 1938 addition is the Dean's Vestry. A number of historic documents are on display throughout *Burt Memorial Hall*, including records relating to the Burt family and the construction of the hall in the Upper Hall and historic photographs of the choir, organists, church and hall on both floors.<sup>26</sup>

*Burt Memorial Hall* was classified by the National Trust of Australia (WA) in 1979 for its aesthetic values and was included in the City of Perth Municipal Heritage Inventory in 2001 with a recommendation that it be considered for entry in the Register of Heritage Places. The Anglican Church Heritage Inventory, completed in 1996, also recommends that the place be considered for the State Register. The adjacent *St George's Cathedral* was

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<sup>22</sup> *ibid.*, p. 140.

<sup>23</sup> *ibid.*, p. 141.

<sup>24</sup> *The West Australian*, 17 July 1964, p. 10.

<sup>25</sup> *The West Australian*, 6 August 2003, p. 60.

<sup>26</sup> Site visit, 28 August 2003; conversation with Jeff Atkinson on site.

entered in the State Register of Heritage Places in 1994; the *Deanery* was entered in 1995.

In 2003, the upper level remains in use as a hall, cathedral education office, kitchen and dean's vestry. The northern section of the lower floor level, once a hall and kitchen, are divided into choir facilities, which remain in use. The front third and committee room once let as commercial space is currently vacant.

### 13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

*Burt Memorial Hall* is a two storey brick, stone, and slate roofed hall, built as a gift to the Anglican Church by Septimus and Louisa Burt in memory of their sons Theodore and Francis who lost their lives in World War I in 1917 and 1918, and designed in the Inter-War Gothic style, in a landscaped setting, located close to the south wall of the cathedral. It is part of the St. George's Cathedral complex of buildings comprising the cathedral, memorial hall, and deanery.

*Burt Memorial Hall* is set within and is an important component of a civic precinct that extends from the Perth Town Hall on the corner of Barrack and Hay streets, Treasury Buildings, St. George's Cathedral, The Deanery, St. Andrew's Church, Council House, the old Court House, Stirling Gardens, Government House, the Supreme Court and gardens, The Weld Club, The Esplanade, and Barrack Square. In the progression along St. Georges Terrace, the Treasury Buildings, *Burt Memorial Hall*, The Deanery, St. Andrew's Church, and Council House have landmark qualities.

The streetblock on which the hall is set contains the cathedral and deanery in immediate proximity, with the Playhouse to the north-west, and three commercial seven storey buildings along the whole of the Hay Street frontage to the north.

*Burt Memorial Hall* is located on the St. George's Terrace frontage of the streetblock, with a large open green space to the west, comprising a sward of lawn, a limestone retaining wall at the boundary, and plantings of *Brachychiton* (*Brachychiton hybridum*) and *Cotoneaster* (*Cotoneaster spp.*), with clumps of *Gardenia* (*Gardenia jasminoides*). A set of concrete steps with 'reconstructed stone pavings' runs along the western side of the building, from street level up to the cathedral. The street frontage comprises standard City of Perth exposed aggregate pavers making up the footpath, a series of standard pattern bus shelters, and Queensland Box Trees (*Lephostemon conferta*) that make very poor street trees. To the east, the Deanery occupies the remaining land between the hall and Pier Street. The area between the two buildings is partly planted with lawn, with a garden bed containing Cape Lilac or White Cedar (*Melia azederach*), *Cotoneaster*, Hibiscus, and a lattice screen concealing four air conditioning condensers. There is an area of carparking. The cathedral is set very close to the north side of the hall in an irregular plan. In some locations the buildings are only separated by a metre or so.

In the physical evidence it is noted that the hall is built on the site of an earlier quarters. No trace of this structure is discernible and given the

topography and changes in level, it is likely that the land in the area of the hall was disturbed in a significant way to create the levels for the new memorial hall.

*Burt Memorial Hall* is a two storey Flemish bond brick, limestone, and Donnybrook stone building with a slate roof (1918) and a stretcher bond and tiled roof addition (1938).

The front elevation, the original 1918 section, can be divided into two major components, with the dominant form being the gable roof format of the hall face, then the western committee rooms. The main elevation is divided into three elements with a central bay containing the geometric stained glass windows and flanked by solid panels of brickwork, punctuated only by two entry doors. The ground floor comprises a Flemish bond brick plinth articulated with buttresses, topped by a limestone capping. The next level comprises a band of Flemish bond brickwork up to a limestone string course. Between the buttresses there are symmetrical door openings in the end bays, with a pair of aluminium framed windows, probably inserted in 1964, and tablet in the centre bay. The doors have limestone reveals and Donnybrook stone arches, with a rubbed brick label mould over the arch. The openings have original timber framed hopper lights over them, with recently constructed aluminium framed doors. The eastern door has a canvas awning over it. The centre bay contains two plain glazed windows with a Donnybrook stone tablet over it, with the words '1917 Memorial Hall' in bas relief. At first floor level, the buttresses extend though to roof level and the main features are the geometric stained glass window, covered with a protective mesh, and louvred vents at the top of the gable. The geometric window is divided into four bays with Donnybrook stone mullions. There is a brick label mould over the window. The western section is the face to the committee rooms is quite plain, with the only feature being a set of three timber framed lead light hopper windows. In this section, there are copper gutters and downpipes, and the slate roof is a prominent feature. There are two steel flagpole mount fitted to the building face.

The east elevation comprises 8 bays of the original building, and then the dean's vestry addition to the north. The original 8 bays are divided up with stepped buttresses. The brickwork of the 1918 section is laid in Flemish bond, with paired windows at ground floor level and sets of three centre pivot windows at first floor level. The ground floor windows are simply set in the walls with stone mullions, while the first floor windows are more complex, with stone sills heads and mullions. Steel grilles have been applied to the ground floor windows. The roof is covered with green Vermont slate and patching is in Welsh black slate<sup>27</sup>. The slate has been laid in a stretcher bond-type pattern, and the exposed edges have shallow bevelled corners. The 1938 addition to the north is laid in stretcher bond brickwork, and there are indications that there is some movement between the original building and the addition. The ground floor has a set of two simple

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<sup>27</sup> Information supplied by Mr Jeff Atkinson, Acting Administrator of St. George's Cathedral, during an on-site discussion, 29 August 2003. Mr Atkinson received this information when repair works were being undertaken on the roof. This information would need to be verified by a more thorough examination of the roofing materials.

openings that ventilate the undercroft beyond, while at first floor level there is a set of three centre pivot windows with leadlights and stone mullions. The top of the wall has a gable format and the top of the gable has a stone coping.

The west elevation is divided into two gable roof bays, one at each end, and a skillion roof section between them and this section is divided into three bays with buttresses. This side of the building is divided into three levels with a ground floor section, a mezzanine level and then first floor level. This elevation employs the same window, plinth and roof line devices as the east elevation. However, there are a number of significant differences. One of the principal features of this elevation is a Donnybrook stone oriel window, with stone mullions, and leadlight windows. Also there is a foundation stone located under the oriel window. The broad steps that run alongside the elevation heighten the presentation of the elevation. There is a double six panel door at the mid landing level. There are canvas awnings over one of the windows and one over the door. There is a pair of iron gates between the hall and cathedral. The gates enclose a very small courtyard that is created by the space between the two buildings. The western windows of the dean's vestry look down over the courtyard and the resulting space is medieval in its effect.

The north elevation of the 1938 addition has a tiled roof, and stretcher bond walls. Apart from the Donnybrook stone quoin awning windows, this elevation is fairly utilitarian. The area between the cathedral and hall is confined and has some fine visual qualities that arise from the combination of soft material, textures, and light.

The building has ground, mezzanine, and first floor levels.

The ground floor was originally laid out as a kitchen, hall, and committee room. These plans are generally legible, but the spaces have been divided up with partitions for a variety of functions with the works being carried out in 1964. The section that was originally the hall is now divided into nine different spaces with lightweight partitions. The main walls are plastered brick, with evidence of damp penetration in the eastern walls. The rooms generally have modern rectangular skirtings, carpeted timber floors, and suspended plasterboard ceilings, with air conditioning slung under the ceilings. The kitchen remains intact as a room, with recesses where the wood ranges once stood still in the north wall. The floors are carpeted timber with small rectangular skirtings, plastered walls, some with damp damage, a dropped plasterboard ceiling, a air conditioning ducts suspended off the ceiling. To the rear of this section, there are the remains of a pantry, complete with shelving, but the cell door referred to in the documentary evidence, has been removed. At the front of the building, the committee room remains intact, with carpeted timber floors, a lath and plaster ceiling, deep decorative cornices, and leadlight hopper windows. There is a later opening at the south end of the east wall, and the original opening near the middle of the wall, the original door has been blocked in. This level now functions as choir change and practice facilities, as well as a small area of rental accommodation, presently vacant.

The mezzanine level comprises an entrance lobby, and a set of male and female toilets created by dividing the original male toilets into two sections in the 1964 works. The stair is covered with carpet and has a masonry balustrade wall with a large rolled run render handrail. The landing floors are tessellated tile, with plaster skirtings, glass-faced cement render walls to the recessed dado level and a pressed metal ceiling. One of the most important features in the building is located in the stair area and this is the memorial tablet. The inscription on the tablet reads: -

‘In Aid of the Work of The Church of this Diocese  
This Hall was erected by the sorrowing parents  
as a Gift to the Church and dedicated  
To the Loving Memory of  
Lieut. Theodore Charles Arthur Burt (Bob) RFA  
Born 12<sup>th</sup> Jun 1893 - killed in Action 15<sup>th</sup> July 1916  
near the village of Montauban in France-aged 23 years  
And His Brother  
Lieut. Francis Sinclair Burt 13 MG Company AIF  
Born 15<sup>th</sup> Feb 1886 killed in Action 24 April 1918  
near Viller-Bretonneaux in France aged 32 years  
In The Great War 1914-1918

Eager their King and Country’s cause to serve  
All that they loved they left and nobly died  
Enrolled are they for higher duty now  
And serving in the Paradise of God.’

The entire width of the south wall of the area is taken up by a screen made of Donnybrook stone in gothic motifs, with a pink marble table surrounded by a red marble surround. The toilet fit out is comparatively recent, with glazed mosaic tiled floors, glazed tile dados, plastered walls, a replacement plaster ceiling, and modern partitions and sanitary fittings, probably all part of the 1964 works.

The upper floor comprises the hall, former committee room (now cathedral education centre), former men’s cloakroom (now kitchen), and dean’s vestry, which was the 1918 addition.

The hall has replacement timber floors (1976), deep compound skirtings, plastered walls, timber picture rails, label moulds around door heads, deep architraves, a part plastered soffit, and a diagonally boarded main ceiling soffit with vents. A key feature of the hall is the dosserts and large timber king post trusses. At the southern end of the room the stained glass windows illustrate four graces Justice, Prudence, Temperance, and Fortitude. The east wall contains stained glass timber framed centre pivot windows. There is a pass though opening from the kitchen, six panel

doors, and a short stair linking the hall to the dean's vestry. There is no trace of the original stage or of its subsequent replacement.

The dean's vestry has timber floors, plastered walls, incised dado, and skirtings, with a plaster ceiling and six panel doors. There are modern cabinets, benches and vestment cupboards.

The former committee room has 4" timber floors, moulded skirting, plastered walls, lath and plaster ceilings, moulded plaster cornices, and the oriel window as previously noted.

Finally, the kitchen is fitted out with sheet vinyl floors and skirtings, plastered walls, and plasterboard ceiling with a cove cornice. The fittings are comparatively recent.

The dean's vestry and undercroft are later additions. There has been conversion work done to both sets of toilets, while the ground floor kitchen has been removed, and much of the ground floor has been subdivided by partitions. Air conditioning has been introduced to the ground floor level, and the front doors replaced. Toilets have been refitted and awnings fitted to some windows.

The general external appearance is good, as is the stair, entrance lobby, committee rooms, and the upper hall.

### 13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

#### The architect

George Herbert Parry (b. 1882) was educated in Western Australia and the United Kingdom. After working for a time with the Public Works Department, he joined Michael and James Cavanagh to form the architectural firm of Cavanagh, Cavanagh & Parry from 1908 to 1911. On leaving the firm, Parry worked as a sole practitioner and undertook a number of ecclesiastical, commercial and residential commissions. Parry's father, Henry Hutton Parry, was Bishop of Perth from 1876 to 1893. In 1910, Parry married Isla Burt (daughter of Alfred E Burt; niece of Septimus Burt).<sup>28</sup>

In addition to designing *Burt Memorial Hall*, Parry also designed the decorative altar screen (1914), pulpit, font and memorial panelling in the north transept (1935) of *St George's Cathedral*<sup>29</sup> (Permanently Registered 20/10/95).

Other ecclesiastical buildings designed by Parry include St Stephen's Anglican Church, Serpentine (1913), St Hilda's Anglican Church, North Perth (1915), St Brigid's Convent and School, Lesmurdie (1921), St Peter's Anglican Church, Victoria Park (1935) (Permanently Registered 5/11/99), St

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<sup>28</sup> J S Battye (ed), *The Cyclopaedia of Western Australia*, volume 1, Hussey & Gillingham, Adelaide, 1912, p. 633, (facsimile edition, Hesperian Press, Carlisle, 1985); I P Kelly, 'Architectural Biography, 1890-1915', prepared as part of degree of Master of Architecture, University of Western Australia, 1991.

<sup>29</sup> See Parry and Rosenthal Architectural Drawings, CN 109, 944C, Battye Library Cartographic Collection; Kelly, op. cit.

Swithun's, Lesmurdie (c. 1948), and St Mary's, South Perth, as well as the Church of England at Coolup (1932).<sup>30</sup>

Other buildings designed by Parry included Captain Stirling Hotel, Nedlands (1935), Mukinbudin Hotel (1923) and Perenjori Hall & Shire Offices (1929).

*Burt Memorial Hall* is a fine example of Parry's early design work.

### **War Memorials**

Many memorials were erected in Australia following major wars to honour and remember the sacrifice of those who served and are important for their personal and community associations, as well as the values and sentiments they represent.<sup>31</sup> Memorials built following World War I were central to a sense of national identity and expressed Australia's allegiance to and pride in being part of the Imperial British Empire and were often derived from ancient classical memorial traditions.<sup>32</sup> Memorials took many forms and were generally monumental, in the form of a sculpture, cenotaph, honour board, obelisk, soldier statue or wall, or were practical, in the form of ornamental clocks, flagpoles, sundials, seats, buildings, plantings or other recreational or community sites. Unlike the rest of Australia, many of the memorials constructed in Western Australia following World War I were practical buildings rather than monuments or ornaments.<sup>33</sup> *Burt Memorial Hall* fits into this pattern, but is unlike the majority of Western Australian war memorials in that it was built by the parents of two men who died during the War, rather than by a community group or government body.

There are over 340 memorials listed on the Heritage Council of Western Australia database, the majority of which are war memorials. Of these, approximately 70 are listed as memorial halls.

Although many churches throughout Western Australia have halls associated with them, there are only five memorial halls associated with churches on the Heritage Council database. Of these, only the Memorial Hall (1953) at St Peter's Anglican Church, Victoria Park, is comparable in that it is a separate hall building constructed to serve the church community. The others appear to have originally been churches and are now used as community halls and new names have been applied to reflect the new use. As such, *Burt Memorial Hall* is a rare example of a hall built as a memorial for a particular church community.

### **Design**

There are nine halls on the Heritage Council of Western Australia's database constructed in the Federation Gothic style. Of these, Alexandra Hall, Mosman Park (1903) and St Columba's Hall, Peppermint Grove (1909) are timber and iron buildings in the Federation Carpenter Gothic style. The most comparable example to *Burt Memorial Hall* is St Andrew's Church

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<sup>30</sup> See Parry and Rosenthal Architectural Drawings, CN 109, 944C, Battye Library Cartographic Collection; Kelly, op. cit.

<sup>31</sup> Oline Richards, 'War Memorials in Western Australia', Perth, 1996, p. 1.

<sup>32</sup> *ibid.*, p. 4.

<sup>33</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 8-9.

Hall, Katanning, built in 1911 and designed by P W Harrison (entered in RHP 1995). Although a much more modest structure than *Burt Memorial Hall*, it shares similar materials and design characteristics.

### **Slate Roofs**

Slate roofs are increasingly uncommon in Western Australia. At the turn of the twentieth century slate roofs were incorporated into many Government buildings such as *Hackett Hall* (Place No. 2029, RHP) and the *Nurses Memorial Centre* (Place No. 2665, RHP), however many of these roofs have been replaced over time.

A search of the Heritage Council's database reveals that there are only 6 places listed as having slate roofs. Three of these places are on the Register of Heritage Places. These are – *St. Columba's Church & Hall* (Place No. 1927), *St. Andrew's Church* (Place No. 2099) and *Nurses Memorial Centre* (Place No. 2665). The additional 3 places are – *St. Kieran Roman Catholic Church Parish Group*, Tuart Hill (Place No. 2433), *St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Presbytery & Hall*, York (Place No. 2878) and *St. Gerard Majella Church*, Balga (Place No. 13041).

## **13. 4 KEY REFERENCES**

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## **13. 5 FURTHER RESEARCH**

Further research is required into the use of slate as a roofing material in Western Australia and the number of roofs that are currently extant. This is required to determine an accurate value relating to rarity or representativeness. Particular research into the use of Vermont slate in Western Australia is also required.