



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 John's Uniting Church (fmr) has importance to the community for its aesthetic characteristics, though the later additions to the north end of the church hall are somewhat intrusive and diminish its overall impact. (Criterion 1.1)

St John's Uniting Church (fmr) is a well composed building showing good, competent control of the stylistic elements and decorative features of a Victorian Freestyle Gothic masonry church. (Criterion 1.2)

St John's Uniting Church (fmr) is a landmark in Lester Avenue and contributes to the aesthetic quality of the cultural environs within which it is located. (Criterion 1.3)

Combined with neighbouring buildings from the same era, *St John's Uniting Church (fmr)* and Manse, collectively, form part of a significant historic precinct, though its immediate legibility is somewhat compromised by the removal of a large number of structures, especially in Lester Avenue around the immediate site locale. This group also forms part of a larger historic precinct related to the earliest period of Geraldton's development. (Criterion 1.4)

11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

The Presbyterians represented a small part of the population in the early days of settlement at Geraldton and the construction of this church is an indication of the growing strength of this group in the last decade of the 19th century. (Criterion 2.1)

11.3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

11.4. SOCIAL VALUE

The construction of *St John's Uniting Church (fmr)* was obviously a matter of great pride to the Presbyterian community in Geraldton. Its role as a local church terminated with the formation of the Uniting Church in Australia in

1977. Its on-going importance resides in its social value as a place where the church extends its service to the young, the elderly and the disadvantaged. (Criterion 4.1)

The church has local landmark value for orientation in the vicinity and has a considerable presence in Lester Avenue. (Criterion 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

Relative to Geraldton, *St John's Uniting Church (fmr)* has scarcity value as the oldest church surviving in that city. (Criterion 5.1)

12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

St John's Uniting Church (fmr) demonstrates the principal characteristics of a typical Victorian Freestyle Gothic church. (Criterion 6.1)

12. 3 CONDITION

St John's Uniting Church (fmr) is in sound to good condition.

For a full discussion of the condition of the place refer to the report by Considine and Griffiths Architects Pty Ltd: 'St John's Church, Geraldton, Conservation Plan' (for the Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust, August 1995).

12. 4 INTEGRITY

St John's Uniting Church (fmr) has moderate integrity. Although the building is now used as a youth centre, its original use as a place of worship remains evident.

12. 5 AUTHENTICITY

The authenticity of *St John's Uniting Church (fmr)* is moderate. Despite its generally authentic appearance, close inspection reveals simplification of detail and many intrusive small alterations. These are due to continual changes to the fabric, particularly in association with periodic repairs and renovations.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

Attached are key sections of the supporting evidence prepared by Considine and Griffiths Architects Pty Ltd: 'St John's Church, Geraldton, Conservation Plan' (for the Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust, August 1995).

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

For a detailed discussion of the documentary evidence of the place refer to the report by Considine and Griffiths Architects Pty Ltd: 'St John's Church, Geraldton, Conservation Plan' (for the Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust, August 1995).

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

For a detailed discussion of the physical evidence of the place refer to the report by Considine and Griffiths Architects Pty Ltd: 'St John's Church, Geraldton, Conservation Plan' (for the Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust, August 1995).

13.3 REFERENCES

Considine and Griffiths Architects Pty Ltd: 'St John's Church, Geraldton, Conservation Plan' (for the Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust, August 1995).