



## 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)

- 6.2 Establishing schools
- 6.5 Educating people in remote places
- 8.5.3.1 Maintaining religious traditions and ceremonies
- 8.5.3.3 Making places for worship
- 8.6 Worshipping

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

- 107 Settlements
- 112 Technology and technological change
- 402 Education and science
- 406 Religion

#### 11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE\*

*Dingup Anglican Church* is a hybrid of a vernacular singled roomed stone structure later modified by the addition of an apse using similar vernacular construction. This alteration to the building conforms to the convention of using elements of gothic architecture idiomatically in church buildings. (Criterion 1.1)

The acquisition of memorial and ecclesiastic furniture and fittings from 1897 to 1938 have reinforced both its character and aesthetic value. (Criterion 1.1)

*Dingup Anglican Church* is valued aesthetically as an achievement as the only known example of the use of local soapstone in a Western Australian building. This is evidenced by its execution in a competent manner, particularly the picked or adzed tooling, ashlar construction, voussoirs to rectangular and Gothic-formed openings on both early masonry sections. (Criterion 1.2)

*Dingup Anglican Church* has aesthetic value due to its landmark quality along Balbarrup Road and on the edge of native forest. (Criterion 1.3)

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\* For consistency, all references to architectural style are taken from Apperly, Richard; Irving, Robert and Reynolds, Peter *A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture: Styles and Terms from 1788 to the Present*, Angus & Robertson, North Ryde, 1989.

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

*Dingup Anglican Church* illustrates the role of the community in establishing and maintaining a church and the changes in education services in the twentieth century. (Criterion 2.1)

The contents of *Dingup Anglican Church* demonstrate strongly the use and development of a community church since 1895 to the present. (Criterion 2.1)

*Dingup Anglican Church* is the oldest surviving public building in Balbarrup, and one of a small number of surviving nineteenth century public buildings in the Shire of Manjimup. As such it contributes to the understanding of the development of the Manjimup area and the southwest of Western Australia in general. (Criterion 2.2)

*Dingup Anglican Church* is closely associated with Thomas Giblett, on whose initiative *Dingup Anglican Church* was constructed, and his family who were pioneers of the district and whose descendents remain a prominent local family. In particular the contents of the church, of which many are memorial pieces, demonstrate powerfully these associations. (Criterion 2.3)

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

*Dingup Anglican Church* is the only known example of a soapstone building in the State and has potential to yield information contributing to a wider understanding of the use of local material. (Criterion 3.2)

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

*Dingup Anglican Church* has operated as a church for over a century and is valued by communities for both social and religious associations. (Criterion 4.1)

The use of local materials, comprising timber and stone, and its development and use on the site since 1895 contribute to the community's sense of place. (Criterion 4.2)

## **12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE**

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

*Dingup Anglican Church* is rare, as it is the only known building constructed of soapstone in the State. (Criterion 5.1)

### **12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS**

*Dingup Anglican Church* is representative of small rural churches of the late nineteenth century and vernacular construction, using local materials. (Criterion 6.1)

*Dingup Anglican Church* demonstrates a way of life, which involves the ritual and philosophy of Anglican worship and includes strong familial associations with small community congregations. (Criterion 6.2)

### **12. 3 CONDITION**

*Dingup Anglican Church* is in sound condition. Occasional repairs have assisted in maintaining the heritage values of the place. The stone construction, which in itself is significant, shows limited damage due to

environmental effects and only very minor damage caused by vandalism. There are no current programs of management of the heritage value of the place.

#### **12. 4 INTEGRITY**

*Dingup Anglican Church* has operated as a church since 1895, and still does. Consequently, it has a high level of integrity.

#### **12. 5 AUTHENTICITY**

The contents have been protected without alteration and are highly authentic. The original early fabric had minimal alterations including replacement of the roof cladding from shingles to iron and the progressive alterations to the windows. The setting retains much of its early character although some individual plantings have been lost. Overall, the place is highly authentic.

### **13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE**

Attached are key sections of the Supporting Evidence prepared by Palassis Architects, 'St Thomas' Church at Dingup, Conservation Plan', for Manjimup Historical Society on behalf of the Anglican Diocese of Bunbury, June 1999.

#### **13. 1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE**

For a discussion of the Documentary Evidence refer to Palassis Architects, 'St Thomas' Church at Dingup, Conservation Plan', prepared for Manjimup Historical Society on behalf of the Anglican Diocese of Bunbury, June 1999.

#### **13. 2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE**

For a discussion of the Physical Evidence refer to Palassis Architects, 'St Thomas' Church at Dingup, Conservation Plan', prepared for Manjimup Historical Society on behalf of the Anglican Diocese of Bunbury, June 1999.

#### **13. 3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION**

For a discussion of the Comparative Information refer to Palassis Architects, 'St Thomas' Church at Dingup, Conservation Plan', prepared for Manjimup Historical Society on behalf of the Anglican Diocese of Bunbury, June 1999.

#### **13. 4 KEY REFERENCES**

Palassis Architects, 'St Thomas' Church at Dingup, Conservation Plan', prepared for Manjimup Historical Society on behalf of the Anglican Diocese of Bunbury, June 1999.

#### **13. 5 FURTHER RESEARCH**

The Conservation Plan does not acknowledge any pre-European occupation of the Warren district by indigenous people. Further research is necessary.

Greater access to private archives and to the memories of locals would be beneficial for a greater understanding of the use of the place throughout its history. Memories of individuals and groups who have been associated with the place are likely to enrich understanding of the place and provide new opportunities for the interpretation of *Dingup Anglican Church*.

Further supporting information in relation to this place may be gleaned from Berry, Christopher 'The History, Landscape and Heritage of the Warren District', 1987.