



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.

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE

Anglican Church of the Annunciation is a fine example of Federation Carpenter Gothic, enhanced by the beautiful simplicity of the exterior and the timber joinery, which is highlighted in white colour. (Criterion 1.1)

11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

When Broome was the centre for the North West Diocese (1910-1964), *Anglican Church of the Annunciation* became the Pro-Cathedral for the north-west and the spiritual and administrative centre for the region. (Criterion 2.2)

Anglican Church of the Annunciation has a close association with Bishops Trower & Frewer, who made a contribution to the people of the north-west by establishing the Forrest River Mission and by their community service to people in the outback. (Criterion 2.3)

Anglican Church of the Annunciation is the subject of paintings by Elizabeth Durack, a prominent citizen and artist in Western Australia. (Criterion 2.3)

11.3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

11.4. SOCIAL VALUE

Anglican Church of the Annunciation has been in continual use by the community since its construction as an integral part of Broome's spiritual and social life, contributing to the community's sense of place and identity. (Criterion 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

Anglican Church of the Annunciation, with its masonry stumps separating the building's envelope from the ground, extensive use of French doors for ventilation, and steeply pitched roof, is representative of architecture built in the early 1900s in response to the tropical climate. (Criterion 6.2)

12. 3 CONDITION

After extensive conservation work, the building is considered to be in good condition. External and internal repairs due to pest infestation were carried out in 1990. *Anglican Church of the Annunciation* is in good condition.

12. 4 INTEGRITY

Anglican Church of the Annunciation retains a high degree of integrity.

12. 5 AUTHENTICITY

Anglican Church of the Annunciation retains a high degree of authenticity.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

The documentary evidence has been compiled by Helen Ansell, Historian. The physical evidence has been compiled by Kelly Aris, Conservation Architect.

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

Prior to 1902, Broome had occasional services from the Roebourne parish until the growth of Broome as a centre made it necessary to build a church to serve the parish.

The corrugated iron church was opened on Easter Day, 12 April 1903 at a choral Evensong service led by the Reverend R. M. Dunn who had lived in Broome for seven months and had watched over the building of the new church which had cost £600. Later, on 12 June 1903, Bishop Riley of Perth consecrated the church.

Bishop Goldsmith described this church: "here we have an exceedingly nice church with French windows all round opening down to the ground for the sake of ventilation".¹

A chancel screen was added in memory of pearlers who had lost their lives in the 1908 cyclone. It bears the text "peace be still", appropriate to the circumstances under which it was given. A cedar font with mother of pearl inscription "this font was the gift of the children of Broome, 1912" was also installed.

Until 1904, the north-west area was administered from Perth and later, from 1904 - 1910, from the Diocese of Bunbury. A separate Diocese of the north-west was established in 1910 to serve this huge area more satisfactorily.

Bishop Gerard Trower was installed as the first Bishop of the north-west, and he was enthroned in St George's Church, Carnarvon, by Bishop Riley on 4 July 1910. He soon moved to Broome then the biggest town north of the 26th parallel, and took up rooms in Cable House until the Bishop's Palace was purchased in 1910.

World War One saw the price of mother of pearl shell decline dramatically. Another blow to the pearling industry was the introduction of the plastic button, making mother of pearl unviable. Broome declined in prosperity with these changed circumstances. This decline meant a similar decline in population which led to smaller congregations and generally less stable conditions for the Church.

Church records show that there was often difficulty in getting funds to pay the salary of its minister. For most of World War One, the Church had no parish minister, and in 1918 Bishop Trower embarked on a project that would get three single ministers based in Broome who would visit the surrounding region. These three ministers were Reverend E. Wilkinson who died of Dengue fever three weeks after his arrival in 1921 and whose grave may be seen in the Broome Cemetery, the Reverend E. Pizey who ministered 1921 - 1922, and Archdeacon Simpson who served in the north-west from 1920 - 1946. Bishop Trower also founded the Forrest River Mission in 1913 which was in operation until 1968 when the mission moved to Wyndham. Another memorable event of Bishop Trower's time in Broome was the ordination of James Noble as Deacon in St George's Cathedral, Perth - the first Aboriginal to

¹ *Anglican Messenger*, November, 1970, p. 5.
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be ordained in Australia.² Bishop Trower was to serve Broome and the Diocese of the North West until 1927.

Archdeacon Simpson was the only priest present when the Bishop of Kalgoorlie enthroned John Frewer as the second Bishop of North West Australia in *Anglican Church of the Annunciation* in April 1929.³ Bishop Frewer flew more than 1000 flights in the Diocese and was honoured by MMA in 1959 by the presentation of a gold pass which gave him free passage on MMA flights for the remainder of his life. Bishop Frewer was also honoured in 1957 in the Queen's Birthday List of Honours and was made a Commander of the British Empire in recognition of long and outstanding service to the people of the outback.

Because the Bishop was based in Broome, the church became the Pro-Cathedral for the period of his residence in the town, from 1910 until 1964.

For most of the years 1929 - 1965, Bishop John Frewer was both Bishop and Rector of Broome due to the difficulty in recruiting priests and to the lack of finance to pay them.

The Rt Rev Howell Witt was bishop of the diocese from 1965 to 1981.

Broome's continued decline in population and importance as a regional centre after World War Two meant that the headquarters for the diocese of North West Australia was eventually relocated to Geraldton, after the Cathedral of the Holy Cross had been built there. In 1966, *Anglican Church of the Annunciation* became attached to the Parish of Derby. Until 1984, the successive ministers in Derby travelled to Broome to take services on two Sundays each month.

In 1973 it was decided that the Church was in need of repair and a cost of £2000 was estimated.⁴ Funds were raised by a loan and fete and other church activities. High French doors on both sides of the church were removed and replaced by hopper windows, and repairs were made to the roof, walls and ceiling in 1976.⁵

A grant of \$2500 was made by the Western Australian Heritage Committee to restore the belfry in 1985.⁶

Prosperous conditions returned to Broome with the introduction of the cultured pearl industry in 1957 and the increase in tourism and its associated needs in the 1980s. In 1982, Bishop Muston became Bishop of the north-west but was not resident in Broome. The increase in population meant that it was necessary for Broome to have its own resident Anglican priest. In 1984, after the construction of a new rectory, the Reverend and Mrs Donald Harvey worked voluntarily in Broome during the dry season. Reverend Keith Cole officiated voluntarily during the dry season of 1985. In April 1986, the appointment of the Reverend Canon Bernard Buckland as Archdeacon of the Kimberley, meant that Broome once again had a resident Anglican minister to lead the ministry from *Anglican Church of the Annunciation*. The church not only ministers to the residents of Broome but also to tourists. Archdeacon Buckland became Assistant Bishop of the north west in 1988.

² ibid.

³ ibid.

⁴ Letter on file B W McGrath to N J Armitage 1 May, 1973, The National Trust of Australia (WA).

⁵ *News of the North*, 19 November, 1976. The existing four doors opening onto the porch are original.

⁶ Broome Heritage Trail brochure.

In about 1912, Mr Clarke Hall, a vestryman and Church Warden, donated a lead and stained glass window depicting the Angel Gabriel's visit to Mary, for the 'east wall' behind the altar. In 1991, Eleanor Padbury donated a stained glass window for the south side wall, to the right of the altar. This window, inspired by the Jesus' miracle of turning water into wine at Cana, is in memory of her parents Winifred and Leonard Atkinson, who were married in the church. In 1996 stained glass was placed in the eight arch-windows above the French doors on the 'north side' of the nave. These windows were donated by Mrs Betty Frost and her family, in memory of her parents, Dorothy May Bateman and Keith Walter Barker, who were also married in this church, and in memory of the firstborn son, William. These windows depict the star of Bethlehem, the Cross, the Font, and the Dove of the Holy Spirit, and all windows are linked by the branch of the vine.⁷

In 1990 repair works to ceiling linings and flooring were undertaken. A portion of the wall lining above the visitors' book desk is original.⁸

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

Anglican Church of the Annunciation is a domestic style, free standing building in a tropical landscaped setting with a lawned forecourt, framed by established palm trees. The building is intimate in scale and built in Federation Carpenter Gothic.⁹ The building is set well back from the street alignment.

The church building is rectangular in plan with a nave, 9 metres long x 8 metres wide. The building narrows at the sanctuary and altar. The building is timber framed and built on concrete stumps.

The timber structure of the building commences at the floor level and is independent of the supporting masonry stumps that are set into the ground. The construction is typical of Broome where timber supports do not extend to the ground. The framework of the building is separated from the masonry stumps by ant caps for protection against termite infestation.

The steeply-pitched gable roof is covered with corrugated galvanised iron. The roof has short eaves protected by exposed battens that show the corrugation of the roofing material. A timber cross decorates the roof at the front apex of the building.

A raised porch, which extends across the front elevation, relieves the simplicity of the facade. The porch is covered with a hipped roof and a gable that highlights the entrance. The porch roof is supported by 120mm square timber posts. The gable features timber fretwork and a large timber cross at the apex. The porch is protected by a simple timber balustrade with an infill of timber criss-cross bracing. The entrance is approached by four timber steps. The entry doors are framed with vertical timber boards.

The front elevation is symmetrical about the central doorway. The doors opening onto the porch are original. The exterior walls are clad with horizontally lined corrugated iron sheeting. At the floor level is a wide timber board concealing the floor framing above the exposed masonry stumps. The nave has eight door openings, four either side, which match the

⁷ Additional information collated by The Ven Raymond J. F. Molyneux, Rector of Broome Anglican Parish, Archdeacon of the Kimberley.

⁸ *ibid.*

⁹ Apperly, R., Irving, R., Reynolds, P., *A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture, Styles and Terms from 1788 to the Present* (Angus & Robertson, Sydney, 1994) pp. 124-127.

openings on the front elevation. Each doorway contains two opening framed half glazed French doors with a fanlight. Each door contains a fixed panel below with diagonal boarding, and a fanlight with two lancet shaped panes. A louvred vent features high on the gable wall.

The altar wall features three lancet windows, the central lancet is slightly higher than the others and contains leaded and stained glass donated to the church in 1912.¹⁰ The glass depicts a visit to Mary by Archangel Gabriel. White paint colour is used to highlight all the timber joinery.

The south elevation features two windows, each with double casement windows with a fixed panel below lined with boards in a chevron pattern.

A raised porch and room were added to the north-east corner of the church.¹¹ The porch is covered with a lean-to roof, and is approached by five timber steps with a door that matches the door of the main entry. Entering from the steps, the first portion forms a transept opening onto the chancel, while the second portion is enclosed to form the vestry with two half doors, one opening into the transept, the other into the sanctuary. Each has casement windows in a similar style to those on the south elevation but in vertical proportion to match the French doors in the nave. A narrower window with two-light casement sashes is on the rear wall of the addition.

The church interior is austere with the exception of the decorative chancel screen which is an addition. The ceiling follows the roof line, and is clad with timber boards. The interior of the building, has tongued & grooved jarrah floorboards throughout, and the porch has timber decking. The interior walls are lined with wide, horizontally grooved timber wall boards.

The sanctuary and altar are raised, and sit in front of timber wall panelling under the three lancet windows. The interior features a cedar font which was given to the church in 1912, by the children of Broome. The font has a mother-of-pearl inscription.

A highly decorative chancel screen was added across the entrance to the sanctuary. The screen is carved stained timber in a Gothic style and bears the text, "Peace be Still". The screen is crowned with a carved timber cross in its centre. The screen commemorates the pearlmen who lost their lives in the 1908 cyclone. It is believed that in 1912, the ceiling was raised.¹²

In 1991 the leaded and stained glass window donated by Eleanor Padbury was installed in the eastern most window on the south elevation.

Prior to 1976, the French doors on both sides of the church were replaced with window frames in aluminium sections. The openings were converted back to timber, possibly c.1972, when conservation works to the building were proposed.¹³ Other works proposed in 1972, included repainting, new guttering, repairs to wall and ceiling linings, installation of boundary fences and paving.

In 1985, the belfry was restored with assistance of a grant from the Western Australian Heritage Committee.¹⁴

¹⁰ Broome Historical Society file.

¹¹ Date of the addition is unknown.

¹² *Anglican Messenger*, November 1970, p. 5.

¹³ Replacement of the windows and French doors is included in a proposed Scope of Works in a letter from the Diocese of North-West Australia to The National Trust of Australia (WA), dated 10 May 1972. Photographic evidence demonstrates that the French doors existed in 1984.

¹⁴ Broome Heritage Trail brochure

In 1990, under the direction of Architect Lloyd Pickwell of Oldham Boas Ednie-Brown, further conservation works were undertaken. The works included strengthening the east wall of the sanctuary, repainting the interior, rewiring the building with a concealed system within the stud partitions, installation of light fittings to the sanctuary, installation of a colorbond louvred panel over the porch, replacement of all wall and ceiling linings and framing where termite damaged, replacement of timber flooring to the nave, replacement of internal wall linings to the sanctuary with wide, horizontally grooved timber wall boards, replacement of damaged concrete stumps and ant caps, and installation of ceiling fans in the nave. The original altar rails have been retained, as has the original chancel floor, though the latter was covered with 5-ply timber sheeting as part of the renovations.

Within the last few years, external window protection has been installed to the lancet windows on the altar wall to protect the glass from vandalism. The windows are covered with wire mesh set into a lightweight frame and fixed to the timber window frames.

13. 3 REFERENCES

National Trust Assessment Exposition, 1982.

Lawrence, A., 'Church of the Annunciation' (unpublished pamphlet, n.d.).