



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.

The wording of this document has been adapted from "Conservation Plan: St John's Anglican Church, Capel" prepared by Laura Gray, Heritage & Conservation Consultant, for the Anglican Parish of Capel in June 2000, with amendments and/or additions by HCWA staff and the Register Committee.

PRINCIPAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORIC THEME(S)

- 8.6.1 Worshipping together
- 8.6.4 Making places for worship

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 406 Religion
- 408 Institutions
- 602 Early settlers

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE*

St John's Anglican Church, Capel is a fine example of the Federation Carpenter Gothic architectural style, featuring a fleche and bell tower, and retaining original detailing including light fittings and uniquely designed door hardware. (Criterion 1.1)

St John's Anglican Church, Capel is a landmark in the town of Capel, being located on the main juncture of the original Bussell Highway (now Capel Drive) and Forrest Road, the main street of Capel. It makes a significant contribution to the streetscape and townscape and has an impact on the vista of the entry into Capel across the Capel River. (Criterion 1.3)

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Canberra, 1991, with additional reference to Richards, O. *Theoretical Framework for Designed Landscapes in WA*, unpublished report, 1997.

The place is a significant element in the Capel townsite at the major junction of the town, with the Capel Inn and the Capel Roadhouse on the other two corners. (Criterion 1.4)

11. 2. HISTORIC VALUE

St John's Anglican Church, Capel is important in representing the continuation of the Anglican presence in Capel, beginning in 1880 and continuing at the present site from 1903. (Criterion 2.2)

The place was established through the considerable efforts of prominent local residents Frederick and Amy Maitland. (Criterion 2.3)

The place is a fine example in a rural location of the work of prominent Western Australian architect Eustace Cohen of Eales and Cohen Architects. (Criterion 2.3)

11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

The site of *St John's Anglican Church, Capel* has the potential to yield information about the demolished 1903 church. (Criterion 3.2)

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

St John's Anglican Church, Capel is valued by the local Anglican community as a place of Christian worship, the site of cultural and spiritual events in Capel since 1903, when the first church was built, and especially since the current, replacement, church was constructed in 1924. . (Criteria 4.1 & 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

St John's Anglican Church, Capel is a fine representative example of a small rural church and bell tower in the Federation Carpenter Gothic style of architecture. (Criterion 6.1)

The place is a fine representative example of the early rural work of Eustace Cohen of Eales and Cohen Architects. (Criterion 6.1)

The place demonstrates the characteristics of religious and cultural activities associated with the Anglican Church in a small rural community. (Criterion 6.2)

12. 3 CONDITION

Maintenance has taken place over a period of many years. However, the cumulative effects of weathering are evident on the external timber elements. The interior has been maintained at a high level. The bell tower is in poor condition. Overall the place is in a fair to good condition.

12. 4 INTEGRITY

The original design and functional intention of the place is clear. The place has retained a high degree of integrity. Significant amounts of interior detailing remain, including light fittings, and uniquely crafted original door hardware is also still intact.

12. 5 AUTHENTICITY

The original fabric has been retained except for the roof and gutters. The original oiled weatherboard dado on the exterior has been painted. The place has a moderate to high degree of authenticity.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

Supporting evidence has been taken from "Conservation Plan: St John's Anglican Church, Capel" prepared by Laura Gray, Heritage & Conservation Consultant, for the Anglican Parish of Capel in June 2000.

Key sections used: Documentary Evidence pp.6-15; Physical Evidence pp.17-19 & 28; Comparative p.29.

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the Documentary Evidence, refer to "Conservation Plan: St John's Anglican Church, Capel" prepared by Laura Gray, Heritage & Conservation Consultant, for the Anglican Parish of Capel in June 2000.

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the Physical Evidence, refer to "Conservation Plan: St John's Anglican Church, Capel" prepared by Laura Gray, Heritage & Conservation Consultant, for the Anglican Parish of Capel in June 2000.

13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

For a discussion of the Comparative Information, refer to "Conservation Plan: St John's Anglican Church, Capel" prepared by Laura Gray, Heritage & Conservation Consultant, for the Anglican Parish of Capel in June 2000.

Additional Comparative Information has been prepared by Heritage Council officers:

The Heritage Council's database lists 24 other Federation Carpenter Gothic style churches, of which eight are Registered:

P00297 *Anglican Church of the Annunciation*, Broome, (1903 small timber-framed corrugate-iron clad church. An associated free-standing belfry on a metal tower is on an adjacent lot and not included in the registered area.)

P00348 *St Patrick's Anglican Church (fmr) & War Memorial, Rathmines*, (constructed 1908 to a very similar design, including transepts and fleche. This place was also designed by Eustace Cohen)

P00442 *St Louis Catholic Church, Boyanup*, (c.1913 weatherboard church with steeply pitched corrugated iron roof)

P01794 *Narambeen Museum*, (former St Paul's Anglican Church, 1928-29 weatherboard building with corrugated iron roof; steeple is in storage and base of steeple remains)

P01927 *St Columba's Church and Hall, Peppermint Grove*, (1908 Limestone and Slate church; 1896 timber and iron church hall in the Federation Carpenter Gothic style)

P02356 *Black Range Church, Sandstone*, (1908 timber-framed corrugated-iron clad church)

P02548 *St Peters Anglican Church, Pindellup* (constructed 1910, a much smaller single-room unadorned structure)

P04041 *St Lukes Anglican Church Group, Mosman Park* (including Alexandra Hall, constructed 1903; church is not in the Federation Carpenter Gothic style)

Anglican Church of the Annunciation is the only one of these churches that appears to have a bell tower.

In addition to *St Patrick's Anglican Church (fmr) & War Memorial, Rathmines*, which is noted above, the database lists eight churches designed by either Eustace Cohen or the firm Eales & Cohen. Four are Registered: P00460 *St George's Anglican Church, Carnarvon*, (constructed 1907), P00552 *All Saints Anglican Church, Collie* (constructed 1915), P01362 *St Peters Anglican Church, Badgebup* (constructed 1922) and P02430 *Chapel of St Michael and All Angels, Mt Lawley* (constructed 1927). None of these are similar in style to *St Johns Anglican Church, Capel*, although *St George's Anglican Church, Carnarvon* is a similar scale (brick and corrugated iron, in the Federation Arts and Crafts style).

It is not possible to establish from the database how many other churches have free-standing bell towers.

13. 4 KEY REFERENCES

"Conservation Plan: St John's Anglican Church, Capel" prepared by Laura Gray, Heritage & Conservation Consultant, for the Anglican Parish of Capel in June 2000.

13. 5 FURTHER RESEARCH
