



**HERITAGE  
COUNCIL**  
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

## **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
- 8.6 Worshipping
- 8.6.2 Making places for worship
- 8.12 Living in and around Australian homes

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

- 306 Domestic activities
- 402 Education & science
- 406 Religion

#### **11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE\***

*Saint Joseph's Catholic Church Group, Albany* is a good example of a complex of ecclesiastical buildings from the later 19th and early 20th centuries, with examples of Victorian Academic Gothic, Victorian Carpenter Gothic, Federation Filigree, Victorian Regency, and Federation Queen Anne styles. (Criterion 1.1)

*Saint Joseph's Catholic Church Group, Albany*, with its large site and collection of substantial historic buildings is a landmark on Aberdeen Street and the area around the important intersection of York Street and Albany Highway. (Criterion 1.3)

*Saint Joseph's Catholic Church Group, Albany* is a precinct of ecclesiastical buildings whose complimentary aesthetic characteristics combine to form a significant cultural environment. (Criterion 1.4)

#### **11.2 HISTORIC VALUE**

*Saint Joseph's Catholic Church Group, Albany* is a substantial religious group constructed during the later 19th and early 20th centuries that reflects the growth and development of the Albany Catholic parish and the town and the evolution of the Catholic Church in Western Australia. (Criteria 2.1 & 2.2)

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Canberra, 1991, with additional reference to Richards, O. *Theoretical Framework for Designed Landscapes in WA*, unpublished report, 1997.

St Joseph's Convent was established as a result of the State Government's support of education in the latter decades of the 19th century, and is closely associated with the religious teaching order of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Apparition. (Criteria 2.1 & 2.3)

*Saint Joseph's Catholic Church Group, Albany* is closely associated with Father Facondo Mateu, parish priest 1877-1903, who was responsible for the construction of the Church and New Camfield and who encouraged the Sisters of St Joseph and the Christian Brothers in their educational work. (Criterion 2.3)

New Camfield was St Joseph's presbytery for the first half of the 20th century and is associated particularly with the Christian Brothers teaching order, who resided in the place from 1955 to the early 2000s. The place is associated by name with Camfield House in Serpentine Street, the earlier home of the Christian Brothers (1898-1903) and of the Albany Native Institution run by Anne Camfield, whose husband Henry was Resident Magistrate. (Criterion 2.3)

### **11.3 SCIENTIFIC VALUE**

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### **11.4 SOCIAL VALUE**

*Saint Joseph's Catholic Church Group, Albany* is highly valued by the general community for its religious, educational, cultural and historic associations, and by the Albany Catholic community as the focus of its religious life and major events celebrated by baptisms, weddings and funerals. (Criterion 4.1)

*Saint Joseph's Catholic Church Group, Albany* contributes to the community's sense of place as a substantial group of historic church buildings. (Criterion 4.2)

## **12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE**

### **12.1 RARITY**

*Saint Joseph's Catholic Church Group, Albany* is a rare and significant religious cultural environment that demonstrates historic associations with the Church and development of the site over time, and includes the construction of St Joseph's Church (1877), St Joseph's Convent (fmr) (1881), the Belltower (1883-95), and New Camfield (the former Presbytery, c.1894). (Criterion 5.1)

St Joseph's Church is one of only a small number of churches remaining from the 1870s-1880s period in the State. (Criterion 5.1)

As a large and complex example of a late 19th century Roman Catholic convent, *Saint Joseph's Catholic Church Group, Albany* illustrates the distinctive way of life of a Christian religious order devoted to the education of children, which is becoming less common. (Criteria 5.1 & 5.2)

### **12.2 REPRESENTATIVENESS**

St Joseph's Convent (fmr) is representative of the large buildings constructed by religious orders for educational purposes at the end of the 19th century. (Criterion 6.1)

St Joseph's Church is a restrained and well-executed example of a Victorian Gothic style church. (Criterion 6.1)

*Saint Joseph's Catholic Church Group, Albany* demonstrates the revival during the Victorian period of a purist approach to construction and the continued

perception that a gothic style was most suitable for religious buildings. (Criterion 6.2)

### 12.3 CONDITION

Generally *Saint Joseph's Catholic Church Group, Albany* is in good condition and has benefited from regular maintenance and continuing occupation.

The physical elements of the buildings that make up this group are still able to demonstrate the cultural heritage values established above.

The landscape elements and plantings on the site of *Saint Joseph's Catholic Church Group, Albany* are in good condition but the conversion of the landscaped gardens into car parking and the cumulative effects of management since then has led to a simplification of the landscape and a loss of original plant material.

There are a number of archaeological sites behind the former St Joseph's Convent but these have been disturbed by the construction of the bitumen car park.

### 12.4 INTEGRITY

Generally the integrity of *Saint Joseph's Catholic Church Group, Albany* is moderate but the integrity of the individual elements varies considerably.

St Joseph's Catholic Church has a high level of integrity as it has continued to serve the original purpose for which it was constructed. It is intended that the building will continue to operate as a church for the foreseeable future.

The Belltower has a moderate level of authenticity because while it still houses the original bell, it is no longer rung. Should the bell mechanism and tower be returned to operational condition in the future it would enhance the integrity of the Belltower.

St Joseph's Convent (fmr) has low integrity having ceased operation as a convent in 1967 when a new school and convent was opened. The integrity of the place has been further reduced because the connection to the church community was severed when the parish centre moved out and the building became commercial offices. When the parish centre moved out, the remaining religious fixtures and fittings were removed but little original or early fabric was modified for its new use.

Due to the decline in the religious orders, it is unlikely that the former convent building will be used again as a convent however, the chapel could be restored to its original use and the building could be used to accommodate a purpose associated with the adjacent church.

New Camfield, which now accommodates the parish centre for St Joseph's Church, has a moderate level of significance. While the building no longer functions as a private residence or is associated with the Christian Brothers, the place is still strongly connected to the Catholic Church and the Parish of Albany and a number of the rooms, such as the Office, Kitchen, Bathrooms and Lounge, are used for their original purpose. In the future New Camfield could, with little or no modification, be reused for its original purpose as a residence.

The landscape on the site varies in its level of integrity. Generally the landscape of *Saint Joseph's Catholic Church Group, Albany* has only low to moderate integrity because the private gardens and landscaped areas that served individual buildings have been removed and the site opened up to create a large car park. Fences that defined and contained the site as a whole and separated it

into its individual components have largely been removed as have the trees and plants, which would have lined these fences and enclosed the private garden spaces. Compared to early photographs, the site is now very open and empty.

The exception to this is the garden at New Camfield. While much of the original plant material has been removed or replaced at New Camfield, the garden still has a moderate level of integrity because it still functions as a domestic garden that serves and enhances the house. The front garden has retained its formal public role and the side garden and part of the rear garden still functions as a private outdoor space. The integrity of the New Camfield garden has been somewhat lowered by the construction of a car park in the northwest corner of the site but this could be reduced in size to return the back garden to its original use.

The Priest's House (c.1956) was built close to the south wall of the Church, reducing the integrity of the landscape in this area by increasing the built density and interrupting views of this building from the street.

## **12.5 AUTHENTICITY**

Generally *Saint Joseph's Catholic Church Group, Albany* has a high level of authenticity but most of the landscape has a low to medium level of authenticity.

St Joseph's Church has high to moderate level of authenticity. The building was constructed in 1877 and gradually extended in the same style over the next sixty years. Modifications have been largely additive, leaving earlier sections mostly intact. Since 1938, there has been little significant change to the building except for the retiling of the roofs and covering of the steps to the entrances with small porches.

The Belltower has a high level of authenticity. This is a timber structure appearing largely unaltered, except for replacement of roof cladding and addition of metal plates and bolts, work probably undertaken in the late 20th century. The flowerbed under the tower has low authenticity.

The random rubble granite retaining walls and garden bed edges on the western boundary of the site would appear to date from the late 20th century era and have low authenticity as does the large area of bitumen car park that extends between St Josephs Church and the former St Josephs Convent. Trees and plants established on the island in the centre of the car park would appear to have been planted in the last twenty years and have a low level of authenticity. The expanse of lawn in front of the church and car park has a moderate level of authenticity but as with the car park, the plants are recent and have low authenticity.

The former St Joseph's Convent has a high level of authenticity. The authenticity of this building has not changed significantly since its assessment for inclusion on the Register of Heritage Places in 1998. At this time the place was assessed to have a high level authenticity because although there had been some internal alteration of room volumes and finishes, generally the interior and exterior of the building had remained largely intact since the end of the 19th century. The front garden to the former convent has a moderate level of authenticity because the form of the garden, with lawn and symmetrically placed trees on either side of a central path, is probably a simplified version of the original but the early plants have been replaced. The landscape to the rear garden has been completely replaced with bitumen car park and has low authenticity.

New Camfield has a high level of authenticity. While New Camfield has been extended and the verandah modified in 1918 and extended again in the 1980s and 2005, the extensions have tended to be additive and have involved only minor modification of earlier fabric leaving the late 19th and early 20th century sections largely intact.

The garden to New Camfield has only moderate authenticity because while the garden beds and lawns are probably authentic, most of the plants have been recently planted. The oldest plants on site, the three Monterey Cypress, the edible Fig Tree and the Almond Tree would appear to date from the late 20th century.

### 13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

The documentation for this place is based on the original heritage assessment of St Joseph's Convent (fmr) by Irene Sauman, Historian and Katrina Chisholm, Graduate Architect; with additional information by Irene Sauman, Historian and Kelsall-Binet Architects, provided in May 2006; and with amendments and/or additions by HCWA staff and the Register Committee.

#### 13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

*Saint Joseph's Catholic Church Group, Albany* comprises St Joseph's Church (1877, 1890s, 1939) in Victorian Academic Gothic style, the two-storey St Joseph's Convent (fmr) with a central section (1881) and flanked by wings (1898) in Federation Filigree styles, the free-standing timber Belltower (1895) in Victorian Carpenter Gothic style, and New Camfield (1890s, 1919, 1971, 2004), the single-storey former presbytery built in Victorian Regency style with a later Federation Queen Anne style verandah.

The Catholic Church did not have an official presence in Western Australia until 1843, when Dr John Brady arrived from New South Wales. The Archdiocese of Perth was established in 1846, with Dr Brady as Bishop.<sup>1</sup> Among the missionaries he brought out from Europe that year were nuns of the Sisters of Mercy. The Sisters established the first Catholic primary school in Western Australia, offering free education for the daughters of European settlers. The school was an immediate success and was soon followed by a secondary school for girls.<sup>2</sup> Other Catholic primary schools were opened, and run by lay teachers. Public funds were provided for both Catholic and government primary schools and only the secondary schools charged fees. The Catholic schools were well patronised by Protestant families.

In 1855, Coadjutor Bishop Serra visited Europe and returned with four sisters of the French order of St Joseph of the Apparition who took over the primary school in Fremantle and established another secondary school for girls in the port town. The following year, however, Governor Kennedy, a Protestant Irishman, put in place an education system where the government would only provide funds for its own primary schools. This was a direct attempt to break the Catholic school system, but people were prepared to pay tuition fees for their children to attend a Catholic school, and to support fund-raising activities, especially for building projects. Money was also provided from European sources 'to support the missionary activities of the Church in the Swan River Settlement,' and the number of Catholics in the colony was growing, most of them Irish, either convicts, or free immigrants fleeing hard times in Ireland.<sup>3</sup>

In 1863, the Sisters of St Joseph of the Apparition moved into a new convent in Adelaide Terrace, Fremantle, and by 1868, had added school buildings to house an infant school, primary school, and day-and-boarding school for young ladies.

In 1871, Governor Weld introduced the Elementary Education Act, which made attendance at school compulsory and gave denominational schools a share of public funds, 50% of the amount granted, per capita, to public schools. These funds were repealed with the introduction of the Assisted Schools Abolition Act 1895, but in the intervening years the religious orders had financial certainty and

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<sup>1</sup> *Centenary of the Catholic Church in Western Australia, 1846-1946*, a celebratory history prepared by the Church, p. 22.

<sup>2</sup> Neal, W. D. (ed) *Education in Western Australia*, UWA Press, Perth, 1979, p. 126.

<sup>3</sup> Neal, W. D. (ed), op cit, pp. 128, 131.

were able to greatly expand the Catholic school system in WA. Other factors that contributed to this expansion were the general growth in population and wealth of the state, widespread community recognition of the quality of Catholic schools, and the arrival of other religious orders to take on teaching work.<sup>4</sup>

In Albany, Town Lot 331 had been granted to the Catholic Church in May 1855.<sup>5</sup> The Church also acquired Lots 24, 63 and 64, giving them a land holding centred on Aberdeen Street.<sup>6</sup> The foundation stone for the first Catholic Church was laid by Bishop Serra on the western side of Aberdeen Street in 1853 but little was done on the building until a resident priest, Father Emilian Coll, was appointed to the town in 1860. The church was completed in early 1861.<sup>7</sup> It was constructed of stone and rubble and named the Stella Maris Church, dedicated to Mary Star of the Sea.<sup>8</sup>

Father Coll left Albany in 1864 and the next permanent priest was Father Hugh Delany (1868-76). He established the first Catholic school in Albany in 1869, with 43 students. Classes were held in the church. Father Facondo Mateu was appointed to Albany in 1876. He immediately set about fundraising for a new church that would be more in keeping with the importance of Albany as the major port in the State.<sup>9</sup>

The site chosen was Lot 24, on the southeast corner of Aberdeen Street and Serpentine Road. The foundation stone for *Saint Joseph's Catholic Church Group, Albany* was laid by Bishop M. Griver on 29 April 1877.

On Sunday, the 29th April, the beautiful and very interesting ceremony of blessing and laying the foundation stone of a new church, to be dedicated to the worship of God under the invocation of the Patriarch St. Joseph, was solemnly performed at Albany, in the presence of a very large number of people of all denominations, by the Right Rev. Martin Griver, D.D. Bishop of Perth, assisted by the Rev. Father Mateu.<sup>10</sup>

Bishop Griver consecrated St Joseph's Church on 28 April 1878. The report on the event published in the *Catholic Record* states that Mr. Denny of Melbourne was the designer and Mr. Samuel Wood of Albany the contractor. Father Mateu managed the construction.<sup>11</sup> A description of the building followed:

The style chosen by the architect is that which is known as the decorative Gothic, and although the size of the building or the means at the disposal of the Building Committee, for the carrying out of the work, could not permit the architect to be over extravagant in his ideas; he has nevertheless designed a handsome and becoming Church.

The main building or nave, measures 67 feet long by 24 feet wide, and 20 feet high from floor to roof. At the northeast end there is a Sacristy, and at the opposite side of the Church, a small Laydie (sic) Chapel. The walls are pierced with double-light windows, and strengthened with handsome well-proportioned buttresses. Over the

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4 Neal, W. D. (ed), op cit, pp. 132-147.

5 Deed of Memorial Book 17, No. 577, Crown Grant 1401, 12 May 1855.

6 Lands & Survey Description Book, 608A, 11 October 1854.

7 Bourke, D. F., *The History of the Catholic Church in Western Australia*, Archdiocese of Perth, 1979, pp. 70-71.

8 Speech by Bishop Goody, Bishop of Bunbury, at Albany's Catholic centenary, Nov. 1961; 'Diamond Jubilee of St Joseph's Convent, Albany,' *The Record*, Saturday 16 April 1938, p. 1.

9 *The Catholic Church in Albany: Historical record 1861-1961*, Centenary Celebrations 29 Nov-3 Dec 1961, p. 6.

10 *The West Australian Catholic Record*, 6 June 1877, pp. 4-5.

11 Letter from Father Mateu to Samuel Wood, 27 February 1877, Catholic Church Albany archives, 1852-1920, Battye Library, MN 648 ACC 2747A, Item 4.

entrance porch there is a large three lighted window, with a handsome tracery head, and at the apex of each gable stands a decorated free stone cross. The chancel is ceiled and panelled in a very chaste and artistic style, the intersections of the graining being ornamented with carved bosses. The roof of the main building is "open", the backs of the rafters being sheeted with narrow boards, and the whole of the woodwork is wrought and neatly stained.<sup>12</sup>

*The Inquirer* described the Church as 'a building, which from an architectural point of view can compete with any of its kind in the colony'.<sup>13</sup>

Three weeks before the Church was consecrated, Mother Teresa McKenzie and two Sisters of St Joseph of the Apparition, with a lay teacher, arrived in Albany.<sup>14</sup> They assumed responsibility for the primary school, and established a secondary school in rented premises. Their first building project was a timber primary school, situated on the west side of Aberdeen Street, beside the Stella Maris Church.

The construction of St Joseph's Convent (fmr) followed. The place was sited over the boundary of Lot 24 and Lot 331, to the north of St Joseph's Church. The Sisters moved into St Joseph's Convent (fmr) on 21 June 1881.<sup>15</sup> St Joseph's Convent (fmr) was the first secondary school established in a country area in Western Australia. It was known as St Joseph's School for Young Ladies, and offered a curriculum for boarding and day students which emphasised 'higher learning' and such subjects as foreign languages, music, art, art of speech and needlework.<sup>16</sup> St Joseph's Convent (fmr) opened with 90 pupils. Two of the four sisters who had arrived from France in 1855 were among the five strong Community in Albany. They were Reverend Mother Julie Cabagnol, Superioress until her death in 1895, and Sister Zoe de Chamouin.<sup>17</sup>

The Sisters were also known for their charity and help for those in need, and it was because of one such act of kindness that St Joseph's parish acquired the Bell known as *Marie De Bourbon*. In 1881, sailors on a French ship in the port were ill with typhoid and the Sisters nursed them in a room in the Convent. On their return to France the sailors had a Bell cast at Lyon Ridge, which they presented to Sister Marcelline Loubert, the Secretary General of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Apparition in France, as a mark of their appreciation. Sister Marcelline presented the Bell to St Joseph's Convent. The Bell is embossed with images of Our Lady, St Joseph, St Louis (IX) of France and the Sacred Heart. It bears an inscription from a passage from the prophet Ezekiel: 'Manus Dominae Educatis Mae in Viam Australem' which translates as 'The hand of the Lord made me go in the way to the South'.<sup>18</sup> Bells were blessed in a ceremony akin to baptism and were provided with godparents. The godparents of the Bell *Marie de Bourbon* were Duke Robert of Parma, the Duchess Cadaval, the Abbe Gulas, Missionary Apostolic and Knight of the Holy Sepulchre, and the Baroness of Brienne. The Belltower was constructed in 1895.<sup>19</sup>

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12 *The West Australian Catholic Record*, 6 July 1878, p. 3.

13 *The Inquirer*, 16 January 1878.

14 'Diamond Jubilee of St Joseph's Convent, Albany,' op cit.

15 'Diamond Jubilee of St Joseph's Convent, Albany,' op cit.

16 'Diamond Jubilee of St Joseph's Convent, Albany,' op cit.; Neal, W. D. op cit, p. 138.

17 'Diamond Jubilee of St Joseph's Convent, Albany,' op cit; Neal, W. D. op cit, p. 128.

18 *Centenary Celebrations: Sisters of St. Joseph of the Apparition Albany - Western Australia; 7th & 8th October 1978*, T. J. Flanagan, Albany, 1979, pp. 43 & 49.

19 *Centenary Celebrations: Sisters of St. Joseph*, op cit.



In 1890, St Joseph's Church was extended with the addition of the area containing the Choir Loft and the Confessionals.<sup>20</sup> Sometime in the mid 1890s, Father Mateu had the presbytery (later known as New Camfield) constructed to the north of St Joseph's Convent. The building had four main rooms, each with a fireplace, and bay windows to the front rooms.<sup>21</sup>

Albany was a centre for the work of the Sisters of St Joseph and they spread their activities to Northam and Mt Barker. They expanded the primary school at Albany, and in 1896 established a primary and secondary school for boys at Father Mateu's request. In 1898, the Sisters extended St Joseph's Convent (fmr), adding a wing at each end of the building and wrapping the verandah around three sides. The additions included a dormitory and a chapel, both 30ft by 18ft (9.15m x 5.5m), and a refectory 14ft by 18ft (4.25 x 5.5m).<sup>22</sup>

The Sister's conducted the boys' school for three years until the Christian Brothers arrived to take it over in 1899. The Christian Brothers had established themselves in Australia in 1868, and in 1894, a group of them arrived in Western Australia to take over management of the boys' college in St George's Terrace, which was being run by the Sisters of Mercy.<sup>23</sup> At Albany, the Brothers occupied a large residence known as 'Camfield House', which had previously been the Albany Native Institution run by Henry and Anne Camfield. The enrolments were low at the Brothers' school and it closed in December 1903. The Brothers relocated to Kalgoorlie and opened a school there.<sup>24</sup>

Father Mateu retired to New Norcia in 1903 after 26 years as parish priest, during which time he had overseen considerable development within the parish facilities. He died in 1910.<sup>25</sup>

Around 1910-12, a small sacristy and a 'little room' for the Priest were added to St Joseph's Church. This area was enlarged when the large sacristy and the Lady Chapel were added in 1917.<sup>26</sup> In January 1919, the tender of H. Davey was accepted for the addition of two rooms to the rear of the presbytery (New Camfield), and later that year, a Mr Wiley added the verandahs to the front and sides of the residence. Electric light was also installed in that year. Parish priest, Father Gilroy, was planning to have both the water and telephone connected, and add a built in bathroom but it is unclear when this was done.<sup>27</sup> Later records

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20 Information provided by St Joseph's Parish archivist, Noel Inglis, April 2006.

21 Information provided by St Joseph's Parish archivist, op cit; Memories of an early resident noted in the Annals, Albany, 1982, Christian Brothers' archives, Provincial office, Salters Point.

22 Neal, W. D. op cit, p. 147; Telephone conversation in October 1998 by Irene Sauman with Regina Barnett at St Joseph's parish office, Memo, HCWA File 00001; Photograph, c.1890, op cit, & photographs after 1900; Catholic Church Albany archives, ACC 2747A, op cit; *Centenary Celebrations: Sisters of St. Joseph*, op cit, p. 51.

23 Coldrey, Barry M. *The Scheme: The Christian Brothers and Childcare in Western Australia*, Argyle Pacific Pub, Perth, 1993, Introduction.

24 Brown, Joan, *A History of the Christian Brothers in Albany*, by the Librarian, CBC, Albany, 1977; HCWA assessment documentation, P0017 Camfield House.

25 *The Catholic Church in Albany: Historical record 1861-1961*, op cit, p. 7.

26 St Joseph's Parish archivist, Noel Inglis believed the Lady Chapel was added c.1915. A 13 May 1917 Parish Committee minute mentions the construction of the 'brick structure' which would seem to refer to this work, and there is a later mention that year of the roof leaking between the Church and Chapel.

27 Catholic Church Albany archives, ACC 2747A, op cit, Item 2, Parish Committee minutes, 1911-1920, entries for 2 January & 9 November 1919.

indicate that the bathroom, laundry and toilets occupied outbuildings at the rear at this time.<sup>28</sup>

In 1919, St Joseph's Convent (fmr) was enlarged, with a two-classroom freestanding section at the rear to accommodate growing class sizes.<sup>29</sup> The lower secondary classes were taught in the freestanding section while two ground floor rooms continued to be used for Year 11 and 12 classes and the Sisters occupied the rest of the building. Extra facilities, such as a large hall and a tuckshop, were provided at the primary school on the west side of Aberdeen Street.<sup>30</sup>

In 1939, the central section of the front porch was added to St Joseph's Church. Archbishop Prendiville blessed it on 25 June that year.<sup>31</sup>

After World War II, large areas of the Albany hinterland were taken up for agriculture following technological developments, which made the land productive. Albany's population and businesses expanded as a result. In 1953, discussions took place between Bishop Prendiville and Provincial leader, Brother T. Bernard Garvey, as to the possibility of establishing Christian Brothers' schools at Albany and Collie. Tenders for construction of a new Christian Brother's school at Albany were advertised on 11 October 1954. The school was to be built on the land immediately north of the presbytery (New Camfield), which necessitated the removal of a row of cottages belonging to the Parish. In the meantime classes were to be held in two classrooms in the Convent and in the parish hall.<sup>32</sup>

Three Brothers, including Brother F. P. O'Driscoll as Superior, arrived in Albany in February 1955. Father Byrne and his curate Father McGrath, vacated the presbytery (New Camfield) for the Brothers' occupation and moved into rented premises on the west side of the street while plans were put in place to build a new presbytery (the Priests' House) on the south side of the Church. The Christian Brothers' Provincial Council purchased the existing presbytery (New Camfield) from the Parish for £6,500, fully furnished.<sup>33</sup> In 1956, Town Lot 331 and Town Lot 24 were re-subdivided, creating Lots 26, 27, 28 and 29. St Joseph's Church was sited on Lot 29, and St Joseph's Convent (fmr) on Lot 28.<sup>34</sup> Lot 27 was the site of New Camfield and Lot 26 the site of the Christian Brothers' boy's school.<sup>35</sup>

At New Camfield, bathroom accommodation was added for a housekeeper by partitioning off part of the verandah space, and sewerage was connected to the house. Provision was made in one of the front rooms for a chapel, where the altar was placed in front of the fireplace when builders recommended that it not be removed. The Brothers' Albany school, St Pius X College, was officially opened in its new building on 5 Feb 1956. The school had five classrooms, office, reception

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28 Annals, Albany, 1970s, Christian Brothers' archives, op cit.

29 Neal, W. D. op cit, p. 147; Roman Catholic Church Diocese of Bunbury Submission file, op cit; Photograph, c. 1890, op cit, & photographs after 1900; floor plans of the Convent; *The Catholic Church in Albany: Historical record*, op cit, p. 8. This section is not extant.

30 Telephone conversation with Regina Barnett, op cit. The primary school buildings are not extant.

31 Information provided by St Joseph's Parish archivist, Noel Inglis, op cit; *The Catholic Church in Albany: Historical record*, op cit, p. 8.

32 Christian Brothers' archives, op cit, Annals 1955-1960 & Albany Property file HSP0000140/10; Brown, Joan, op cit, pp. 14-17; *The Catholic Church in Albany: Historical record*, op cit, p. 8.

33 Brown, Joan, op cit, pp. 14-17; *The Catholic Church in Albany: Historical record*, op cit, p. 8; Annals, Albany, 1955-60, Christian Brothers' archives, op cit.

34 DOLA Certificate of Title Vol. 1288 Fol. 59 & Diagram 21042, 22 February 1956, HCWA File 00001.

35 Certificates of Title, Vol. 1288 Fols. 56-59 & Survey Diagram 21042; Telephone conversation with Regina Barnett, op cit.

room, storerooms and spacious verandahs. It took boys from Grade 4 through the secondary classes.<sup>36</sup>

A row of twelve large pine trees between New Camfield and the school building was removed as they darkened some of the classrooms. The Brothers were disappointed in their progress when the enrolment still numbered just below 100 in 1957, but it had increased to 186 in 1964. Lay teachers were employed and a fourth Brother was added to the staff.<sup>37</sup>

In 1967, St Joseph's Convent closed and classes were moved to a new school complex in Martin Road, known as St Joseph's College. Student numbers at the Brothers' St Pius X College declined in the later 1960s, peaked in 1973 and declined again. In 1978, St Pius X College closed and the boys and Brothers also moved to St Joseph's College. The St Pius X school building was converted into units for the elderly, known as The Lodge.<sup>38</sup>

St Joseph's Convent (fmr) was badly damaged by cyclone Alby in 1978, and architects Hobbs, Smith and Holmes were involved in the restoration of the place.<sup>39</sup> In 1981, the building opened as a general-purpose centre for the parish. The place provided a community room for parishioners, a parish office and an office for the Sisters. Other rooms were hired out at nominal rates to low income/non-profit groups as a meeting place. Occasionally, one of the larger rooms was made available for a wake.<sup>40</sup>

There were still three Brothers living at New Camfield; two teaching and one retired. In 1980, renovation work costing approximately \$39,000 was undertaken on the residence, involving architect Iris Rossen and builders L. J. & D. E. Bail. The work involved the addition of a new sitting room at the rear (northeast) corner, completely renovated kitchen including new floor and ceiling, new internal bathroom, enlarging of one existing bedroom plus hand basins in each bedroom, and renewed roofing and gutters. The grounds were landscaped with kerbing, paving and gardens and old sheds were demolished. The name 'New Camfield' was chosen for the building at this time.<sup>41</sup>

In 1985, parishioners voted to demolish St Joseph's Church and build a new Church and presbytery on the site. Albany Town Council and many Albany residents were concerned at losing a building they considered historically significant.<sup>42</sup> The decision to demolish was later reversed and a new church was built instead in Martin Road near St Joseph's College. St Joseph's Church was renovated in the 1990s, including exterior painting and the addition of the side entry porches at the front.<sup>43</sup>

In 1987, construction began on additional aged units to the east and north of New Camfield. In 1992, there was only one Brother in residence but this had been increased to three again by 1994. The first CBC old boys' reunion at Albany was

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36 Annals, Albany, 1955-60, Christian Brothers' archives, op cit; Brown, Joan, op cit, pp. 17-31.

37 Annals, Albany, 1955-60, Christian Brothers' archives, op cit; Brown, Joan, op cit, pp. 17-31.

38 Telephone conversation with Regina Barnett, op cit.

39 Roman Catholic Church Diocese of Bunbury Submission file, op cit; Hobbs, Smith & Holmes, 'Restoration of Old Convent Building' plans, February 1980, HCWA File 00001.

40 Telephone conversation with Regina Barnett, op cit; Annals, Albany, 1980s, Christian Brothers' archives, op cit.

41 Annals, Albany, 1980, Christian Brothers' archives, op cit.

42 *Great South News*, 23 October 1985, p. 1.

43 Information provided by St Joseph's Parish archivist, op cit.

held in June that year, and in July 1996 the Brothers left the town and handed New Camfield back to the Parish.<sup>44</sup>

In January 1998, the upper floor and half of the ground floor of St Joseph's Convent (fmr) was leased to Integrated Tree Cropping (ITC), a local tree farming company. The Parish Office occupied the remaining half of the ground floor. The lease with ITC provided the necessary funds for maintenance of the place.<sup>45</sup>

St Joseph's Convent was classified by the National Trust in 1977 and the Church, Bell and Tower were recorded. St Joseph's Convent was given permanent entry on the Register of the National Estate in 1980, and was assessed and given interim entry in the State Register in August 1998, and permanent entry in November 1998. *Saint Joseph's Catholic Church Group, Albany* was entered on the Albany Municipal Heritage Inventory in 2001 with a recommendation for assessment.<sup>46</sup>

In 2004, New Camfield was renovated and further extended at the rear for use as the Parish Centre.

In 2006, *Saint Joseph's Catholic Church Group, Albany* continues to function as the centre of the Catholic Parish in Albany. St Joseph's Church continues in its original purpose; the Belltower remains on its original site; St Joseph's Convent (fmr) is entirely occupied by Integrated Tree Cropping as their offices; and, New Camfield is in use as the Parish Centre.

### 13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

*Saint Joseph's Catholic Church Group, Albany* comprises St Joseph's Church (1877), the two storey St Joseph's Convent (fmr) (1881, 1898), the small free-standing timber framed Belltower (1895) and the single storey house New Camfield (c. 1894, 1919).

*Saint Joseph's Catholic Church Group, Albany* is sited on Aberdeen Street in the historic centre of Albany, which is located in the valley between Mt Melville and Mt Clarence on the north shore of Princess Royal Harbour. Aberdeen Street runs parallel to York Street, the main street in Albany, which runs from Albany Highway down towards the harbour.

The section of Aberdeen Street in which *Saint Joseph's Catholic Church Group, Albany* stands is parallel with the first street block of York Street at the top of the hill where it intersects with Albany Highway and Lockyer Street. This section of York Street is characterised by single storey commercial development set against the front boundary of the site and with awnings cantilevering over the footpath. The development is very mixed but mostly dates from the late 20th century. It is of smaller scale and of lesser quality than the commercial and civic buildings located at the south end of York Street near the harbour.

The location of St Joseph's Church on a side street away from the civic centre of the town is typical of pre- 20th century town planning in Western Australia. The Anglican, Methodist and Presbyterian (Uniting) churches are all located more centrally at the south end of York Street or in nearby Duke Street.

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44 Brother Linus Bowler, 'Historical connections: Albany', 1 page typescript, 2004 & Annals, Albany, 1987, Christian Brothers' archives, op cit.

45 Telephone conversation with Regina Barnett, op cit; 'ITC expands its operations' *Albany Advertiser*, 10 February 1998, p. 22.

46 HCWA database; Heritage Today, *City of Albany Municipal Inventory*, 2001.

The built development around the *Saint Joseph's Catholic Church Group, Albany* in Aberdeen Street is very mixed and the streetscape is not a good example of a traditional commercial or residential street. On the east side of the street, opposite the *Saint Joseph's Catholic Church Group, Albany* development is characterised by a combination of recent single storey office and shop developments set against the footpath and large expanses of bitumen car park servicing these premises and the buildings in York Street. On the west side of the street development is suburban residential development with houses of various eras set back on their blocks within gardens. Some houses have been adapted to serve commercial uses or professional offices.

The topography of the site of *Saint Joseph's Catholic Church Group, Albany* is roughly level with a gentle slope upwards from Aberdeen Street to the rear of the site. There are no views of the harbour from ground level. Development on the site is suburban in character with the buildings set back from the street and separated by open spaces.

New Camfield, which now houses the parish centre, stands at the northern end of the group on Lot 27. It is a single storey rendered brickwork and corrugated galvanised steel house with verandahs on three sides. A 1800mm high, corrugated, fibre cement fence divides Lot 27 from the adjacent Lot 28, which is the site of the former St Joseph's Convent. The landscape surrounding New Camfield is domestic in character. There is a modest timber framed outbuilding located behind the house. This garden is described in more detail below.

St Joseph's Convent (fmr) extends for almost the entire width of Lot 28. The building is a substantial two storey rendered brick building with a hipped and gabled corrugated galvanised steel roof and articulated verandahs on three sides. There are no other structures on Lot 28. There is no fence defining the south side boundary of Lot 28 so that it reads as part of the church site.

The landscape surrounding the former convent building is very simple in character. There are no plants or landscape features that would appear to date from the time when this building functioned as a convent. There is, however, a very large granite boulder, part of the original topography of the site, which is located near the north-west corner of the building. Several smaller granite outcrops are located near the front boundary of the site.

As with New Camfield, the front boundary of the convent site is retained by a low random rubble granite wall. There is an opening in this wall that is aligned with the front door and central axis of the convent building. The gate is flanked by small square piers of matching construction to the wall, one of which contains a terracotta letterbox slot like that at New Camfield. A set of three concrete steps leads up from the bitumen footpath to a wide path paved with red bricks and edged with a concrete kerb. This front path intersects with a concrete path that runs along the front face of the convent building and connects with a path that leads past New Camfield. Concrete paths also run along the north and south faces of the convent building.

Apart from a small area on the north side, the front garden consists only of a wide expanse of lawn and a pair of immature Norfolk Island Pines (*Araucaria heterophylla*), which are symmetrically arranged around the central path. The trees appear to be aligned with the centre of the gables to the convent.

A bitumen driveway curves between the granite outcrops on the north-west corner of the site and connects to a large bitumen car park located on the rear of

the site. The driveway is lined on both sides with beds of Agapanthus (*Agapanthus praecox*). To the south of the driveway is a dense clump of trees and shrubs, which effectively screens the front garden of the convent from the adjacent New Camfield. The plants in this clump consist of a mature *Eucalyptus* sp., a Hibiscus (*Hibiscus rosa sinensis*), several *Eucalyptus* sp. saplings plus some Agapanthus and Gazanias (*Gazania hybrid*) planted around the edges.

On the north side of the convent the site has been almost completely covered with bitumen except for a long narrow garden bed beside the corrugated fibre cement boundary fence. This garden bed contains several Peppermint Trees (*Agonis flexuosa*), a Showy Honey Myrtle (*Melaleuca nesophilla*), a Coprosma (*Coprosma repens*) plus large clumps of French Lavender (*Lavandulua dentata*) and Agapanthus.

Approximately halfway along the side boundary fence is an open picket gate that leads into the side garden of New Camfield. At the north-east corner of the fence there is a second gate across a concrete path which runs along the rear of the site, across the rear of New Camfield and connects to nearby aged care housing. The rear of the former convent side is completely covered with a bitumen car park that is continuous with the Church car park.

Lot 29, which is located at the southern end of the site on the corner of Aberdeen and Serpentine Streets, contains St Joseph's Church, the Belltower, a Garage and the Priest's House (c. 1956). The Priest's House (c. 1956) does not form part of this assessment.

The northern half of Lot 29 is almost entirely covered by a large bitumen car park. There is a long narrow island within this car park, which runs perpendicular to the street. The island has a low random rubble granite kerb. The bed contains a small Norfolk Island Pine and several Peppermint Trees. There is some sparse mixed understorey planting of Hibiscus, Butterfly Bush (*Gaura lindheimeri*), various rose cultivars (*Rosa* sp.), Sweet Alyssum (*Lobularia maritima*) and other small perennials.

In front of the car park is a large area of open lawn. The front edge of the lawn is retained by the low random rubble retaining wall that defines the western boundary of the site; the back edge of the lawn aligns with the path in front of the convent building. A number of Plane Trees (*Platanus acerifolia*) have been planted in an evenly spaced row along the back edge of the lawn. Set in the centre of the lawn are two young Norfolk Island Pines, which appear to align with the pair of trees planted in front of the former convent. Beside the southeast corner of this lawn is the Belltower. The Belltower stands on a small island with a random rubble granite kerb.

St Joseph's Church is located at the southern side of the car park. The Church is a long, roughly rectangular, building whose long axis is perpendicular to the street. There are two vehicle entrances and a wide turning circle located roughly in front of the Church. The middle of the turning circle is marked by a semi-circular garden bed, which is contained by a low random rubble granite wall. Most of the garden bed is planted with a lawn but along the curved back edge is a row of Pencil Pines (*Cyprusus sempervirens*) and several small conifers. There is a crucifix at the centre of the row of pines.

The church is surrounded by bitumen paving on its west, north and east sides. At the rear of the Church there is a yard contained by a 1800mm high open timber picket fence. In this yard are; a rotary washing line, a rendered brickwork and

corrugated iron toilet block, an immature Norfolk Island Pine and several Peppermint Trees. Behind the yard is a bitumen driveway that connects the church car park to Serpentine Road. A laterite wall retains the driveway.

To the south of the Church is the Priest's House (c. 1956). This single storey brick and powder coated corrugated galvanised steel building has a roughly rectangular plan whose long axis runs at a right angle to Aberdeen Street and parallel to the adjacent Church.

The space between the Church and the Priest's House (c. 1956) has mostly been enclosed with powder coated swimming pool fencing to form a private area for the Priest. In the centre of this area is a moderate sized Liquidambar tree (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), which is probably less than twenty years old. Beyond this is a garden area containing a New Zealand Christmas Tree (*Metrosideros excelsus*) and an understorey of perennial plants such as Agapanthus.

The front garden to the Priest's House (c. 1956) consists mostly of lawn. The granite retaining wall continues along the Aberdeen Street boundary, around the truncated corner and part of the way up Serpentine Road. Set in from this retaining wall is a 1800mm high open picket timber fence. The picket fence ends at the Serpentine Road boundary of the site where it adjoins a hedge of Coastal Teatree (*Leptospermum laevigatum*). The hedge continues part of the way up Serpentine Road and stops near the front door to the Priest's House (c. 1956). The remainder of the site is open to the street. The landscape in the open area consists of lawn with some foundation plantings. Plantings include *Hibiscus sp.*, *Camellia (Camellia sinensis)* and a large clump of *Grevillea sp.* and Bottlebrush (*callistemon sp.*)

At the rear of the house a bitumen driveway leads to a three-car garage with storage area. This garage has a flat roof, roller doors and is clad with metal decking. On the rear of this site a driveway leads from Serpentine Road behind the Priest's House (c. 1956) and St Joseph's Church to the central Church car park. Due to the topography of the site the west edge of the driveway is retained.

There are no depressions or mounds on the site that would suggest the presence of archaeological sites nor are there any obvious remnants of buildings such as foundations or floor slabs. The documentary evidence indicates that there were a number of buildings removed from the rear of the convent building but this area has now been levelled and laid with bitumen.

### **New Camfield (parish centre)**

New Camfield, a rendered brick and corrugated galvanised steel house, sits roughly in the centre of a large landscaped block. Attached to the northeast corner of the house is a 1980 extension and at the rear of the house is a recently completed extension and patio area. Located near the rear of the recent extension to the house is a free standing timber framed outbuilding which contains a shed, a carport and a toilet.

The landscaped grounds around New Camfield have been simply treated. The front garden has been laid out in a formal manner that reflects the symmetrical nature of the plan and elevation of New Camfield. A path centred on the central axis of the house leads straight from the Aberdeen Street footpath to the steps of the front verandah opposite the front door. A semi-circular area of paving surrounding the verandah steps connects the front path to the side path which

runs across the front of the building and continues north to the driveway and south to the adjacent St Joseph's Convent (fmr).

The entrance to the front path is flanked by random rubble granite piers, which form part of a low random rubble granite retaining wall that defines the front boundary of the site. One of these piers contains a letterbox. At the start of the path there is a set of five concrete steps flanked by a low red brick retaining wall. The front path is laid with concrete slabs, the semi-circular area and the south side of the side path is bitumen, and the northern side path is concrete.

The front garden is dominated by two large Monterey Cypress Trees (*Cupressus macrocarpa*), arranged symmetrically around the front path. A third matching tree is located near the south boundary of the site. This linear planting of large equally spaced trees almost completely obscures the façade of New Camfield from the street.

Apart from the Buffalo Grass lawn, the only other planting in the front garden is a bed of Agapanthus (*Agapanthus praecox*) which lines the edge of the semi-circular paved area at the base of the steps and continues part of the way down the front path.

A bitumen driveway with concrete kerb runs down the north side of the site to a car park at the rear. A small garden area is contained between this driveway and the north side of New Camfield. As with the front garden, this area consists of a Buffalo Grass lawn with isolated specimen trees and narrow garden beds planted with a single species. Three saplings stand in the lawn and a recently established bed of French Lavender (*Lavandula dentata*) lines the edge of the verandah. A bed on the west side of the 1980s extension is planted with a clump of Butterfly Bush (*Gaura lindheimeri*) and on the north side is another bed of French Lavender.

On the northeast corner of the building there is a large garden bed which extends from the rear of the 1980s extension to the north side of the outbuilding. The car park side of the garden bed has a serpentine edge contained by a concrete kerb. A brick path that follows the edge of the buildings defines the inner edge of the bed. The planting in the bed is well established and probably dates from the 1980s. Planting includes several cultivars of Bottlebrush (*Callistemon sp*) and Grevilleas (*Grevillea sp*) with an understorey planting of Looking Glass Plants (*Caprosma repens*).

A garden bed has recently been established at the rear of the site. This bed is about 2500mm wide and extends for the full width of the site. A linear planting of Olive Tree saplings (*Olea europaea*) is the dominant planting in this bed with some understorey plantings of Alyssum (*Lobularia maritima*) and other low drought tolerant groundcovers. Several brick paths lead through this garden bed to a concrete path that runs along the eastern boundary of the site. This path connects to the rear of the St Joseph's Convent (fmr) Site and also to the aged care units to the east of New Camfield. The linear planting of Olive Trees may be intended to screen this aged care development, which overlooks the rear of New Camfield.

There is another garden on the south side of New Camfield. This garden is screened from the front garden by a timber lattice fence covered by Poets Jasmine (*Jasminium officinale*). The screen is aligned with the front façade of the building and runs from the edge of the brick path that lines the south side of the verandah of New Camfield to an enormous granite outcrop on the adjacent



convent site. A row of Purple Rock Roses (*Cistus x purpureus*) has been planted in a narrow bed between the screen and the side path that runs south to the former convent building.

The south garden consists of a Buffalo Grass lawn with specimen planting of trees and large shrubs. This garden is divided by a brick path that runs from the new patio area to a timber picket gate in the side fence. In the western section of this garden next to the granite outcrop there is a large New Zealand Christmas Tree (*Metrosideros excelsus*) and a Looking Glass Plant (*Caprosma repens*). In the lawn there is a kidney shaped bed containing a Hibiscus (*Hibiscus rosa-inensis*) and a small round bed containing a deciduous sapling and some Nasturtiums (*Tropaeolum majus*).

In the eastern section of this garden there are a number of mature plants against the boundary fence including a Hibiscus, an Almond Tree (*Prunus dulcis*) and an edible Fig Tree (*Ficus carica*).

New Camfield is a single storey Victorian Regency style residential house with a later Federation Queen Anne style verandah on three sides and additions from the 1980s and 2005 to the rear.

The main body of the house exhibits simplified elements of the earlier Victorian Regency Style including restrained simplicity, symmetrical planning, gently projecting façade elements (eg. faceted bay windows) and an articulated verandah. Evidence of the articulated front verandah can be seen on the front façade below the later verandah roof as well as the scar where this roof returned against the building.

The verandah was added in 1919 and exhibits simplified elements of the earlier Federation Queen Anne Style, which was still in use in the Interwar period. The elements include the dominant roof form created by making the building and verandah roof continuous and by adding a large central barge boarded gable, and also by the use of fretwork timber to the verandah balustrade and brackets. The detail of the verandah fretwork and gable treatment has been simplified and the timber sizes have been reduced, which is typical of building practice in the Interwar period.

New Camfield has a hipped and gabled roof clad in custom orb profile corrugated galvanised steel roof sheeting. It has several rendered brickwork chimneys with a simple corbelled brickwork cap and painted terracotta chimney pots.

The verandah extends around three sides of the building and is continuous with the main roof but is set at a lower pitch. There is a barge boarded gable to the centre of the front verandah. The gable face is lined with fibrous cement sheeting and is enlivened with a decorative pattern of timber battens. The bargeboards project beyond the face of the gable and are surmounted by a simple finial. There is a powder coated corrugated galvanised steel colonial profile gutter at the verandah edge but no fascia board. The soffit of the verandah roof is unlined.

The verandah has stop-chamfered posts and decorative fretwork brackets. The front verandah is lined with a balustrade that returns around the sides for one bay. The balustrade has a moulded top rail, a plain bottom rail and square section vertical balusters interspersed with 'T' shaped elements. The floor is clad with tongue and groove timber boards. Due to the natural topography of the site which falls gently towards the road, the front verandah is raised approximately 750mm above natural ground level. The front edge of the front verandah is supported on a rendered masonry wall and there is a timber fascia board set

below the leading edge of the floorboards. On the side elevations there is a fascia board but no verandah wall.

Leading up to the centre of the front verandah, opposite the front door, is a set of three concrete steps, which flare outwards at the base. The steps have a low rendered masonry balustrade with a capping, which finishes in a pier with a corbelled cap. Midway along both side verandahs is a single concrete step without a balustrade.

The walls of New Camfield are of rendered masonry with cast iron wall vents set at high level. The front façade is symmetrically arranged with a central front door flanked by a pair of faceted bay windows. There is a timber wall plate on the wall below the verandah roof, which suggests that originally the verandah was articulated rather than continuous with the main roof. There are also scars on the corners of this façade, which indicate that originally the verandah returned against the front façade rather than extending around the sides of the building.

The front door to New Camfield has a fanlight and narrow half glazed sidelight with timber panelling below. The frame to the sash has capitals set at door head height and a base at sill level. These panes are glazed with textured obscured glass. The door is a later replacement and is fully glazed and has a pattern of vertical and horizontal glazing bars that frame the central pane. There is a timber nameplate next to the door with 'New Camfield' written in gold lettering.

The faceted bay windows have a double hung sash on each face. Each window has a projecting rendered sill.

Most of the openings on the side elevations are doors with a fanlight above, except for the high-level bathroom window on the south elevation. The door types used are variable. Most are French doors with one pane and one panel, except for one, four-panel door and one glazed timber door. The fanlights also vary in size and one has a two-pane sash.

The south verandah adjacent to the Kitchen has been enclosed with studwork clad with fibrous cement 'weatherboards'. The timber windows have one hopper sash and one fixed pane and match that installed in the bathroom in the 1980s.

The 1980s extension has a hipped roof with colonial profile gutters but no eaves. The walls are of painted face brickwork and have terracotta vent bricks. The windows are double hung timber sashes, with a projecting brick sill and a flat arch head detail. A similar window has been installed in the earlier Kitchen.

The recently completed rear extension and attached patio area has a double hipped roof with a valley gutter. The section of roof covering the building is clad with galvanised corrugated steel sheeting and the section over the patio is covered in translucent corrugated sheeting. The roof does not have projecting eaves. The brick walls are rendered. There are two sets of timber door/window units, which are glazed and have a central mid-rail. A set of aluminium bi-fold doors open on to the patio area.

The plan of New Camfield has evolved in a number of stages. The front section of the building has a central corridor with three rooms on either side. There is a double brick wall separating the front four rooms from the back two indicating the two stages of construction. The room on the southeast corner of this block has been sub-divided to form two toilets and a bathroom as well as a corridor that runs perpendicular to the central corridor to connect it to the side verandah. The far end of the central corridor enters into the former dining room, which opens

into the adjacent kitchen. Part of the side verandah beside the kitchen has been enclosed to form an extension to the kitchen. The north and east walls of the former dining room have been removed to open this room up to the 1980s Lounge and the 2005 Hall. The Hall opens onto an adjacent covered patio area.

The internal finishes in the first six rooms of New Camfield are reasonably consistent. The Central Hall (West), which stretches from the front door to the back of the second row of rooms, has a timber floor laid with carpet, plastered brickwork walls with a clear finished Oregon pine skirting board with a lambs tongue moulded top and a lath and plaster ceiling with a simple run plaster cornice. The walls have cast plaster wall vents and there is an archway with decorative plaster capitals and run arch moulding between the first and second row of rooms.

The clear finished, four-panel internal doors have replacement hardware. The front door, a nine pane glazed timber door, is flanked by one pane, one panel sidelights and a fanlight with sidelights.

The Meeting Room on the south-west corner of the building has similar finishes to the Central Hall except that the ceiling has a deeper and more complex run cornice and a floral pattern round ceiling rose. This room also has a run plaster picture rail and a fireplace with a painted timber surround with carved scroll and an open brick firebox. The bay window in this room is set behind a flat arch opening and the soffit is timber panelled. The room has a four panel timber door with obscured glass fanlight leading to the side verandah.

The Parish Office, located on the other side of the Central Hall had identical finishes to the Meeting Room except for the external door which is a pair of one pane, one panel French doors with a fanlight over.

The Store Room has similar finishes to the front two rooms except that it has a plasterboard ceiling with a cove cornice and no ceiling rose. The external door is the same as the door in the Parish Office. The fireplace surround is clear finished but of the same design as the other rooms. On the south side of the chimneybreast is a built-in, clear finished, timber cabinet with a mirror over which appears to be of the same era as the fireplace surround.

The Library is similar to the other three front rooms except that it has a lath and plaster ceiling without a cornice or rose. It does, however, have a picture rail. There is no carpet in this room so the 125mm jarrah floorboards are exposed.

The Eastern section of the Central Corridor has carpet laid on a timber floor, plastered brickwork walls with 90mm timber bullnose skirting board and a plasterboard ceiling with a cove cornice. A set of full height built in cupboards has been constructed against the north wall of the corridor.

To the north of this Corridor is the large Meeting Room. This room has the same ceiling as the adjacent section of Corridor but the skirting board matches those in the front four rooms.

The small corridor that runs between the Central Hall and the side verandah has a concrete floor laid with carpet. The finishes in this corridor are the same as the Central Hall except for the dry lining that has been constructed on the east wall. The dry lining is a 1200mm high stud wall fixed to the face of the existing wall and ventilated with two metal vents.

Adjacent to this corridor are two Toilets and a Bathroom that date from the 1980s. Generally these rooms have suspended plasterboard ceilings with cove cornices

2400mm above floor level and plastered brick walls with some 150 x 150 ceramic tiling. The concrete floors are laid with mosaic tiles. Internal doors are flush panel doors. The Bathroom also has a 2000mm high tiled dado, two showers, two sinks and a trough and external timber windows. There is a one pane hopper timber window and a short glazed, fixed aluminium window in the bathroom but there are no windows in the Toilets.

The Kitchen has a plasterboard ceiling with a cove cornice, which is set at a lower height than the front section of the house. The concrete floor is laid with 300 x 300 ceramic tiles and the walls are plastered. The room is fitted with laminated and timber built-in cupboards and they have a splashback of 150 x 150 ceramic tiles above. A four-panel clear finished timber door leads into the adjacent former dining room and a large opening in the south wall connects to the enclosed verandah room. The Kitchen has a two-pane external door and a double hung sash window which both date from 1980.

The enclosed verandah room functions as an extension to the Kitchen. It has a (flat) plasterboard ceiling with a cove cornice, plasterboard walls with a 90mm bullnose skirting and tiled concrete floor. The built in cupboards in this room are of recent construction. This room also has timber windows, one hopper sash and one fixed pane, and a flush panel external door opening onto the south verandah.

The former Dining Room, former Lounge and recently constructed Hall are finished in the same manner as the kitchen. There is a fireplace in the former Dining Room with a brick firebox, a wood storage area and a hearth.

New Camfield is in good condition and has recently been extended and part of the 1980 extension refurbished.

### **St Joseph's Convent (fmr)**

St Joseph's Convent (fmr) is a two-storey building constructed in the Federation Filigree style. The convent is adjacent to the Roman Catholic Church with an unenclosed grassed area separating the two buildings. The convent is set back from Aberdeen Street and is dominant in the streetscape by virtue of its mass and relative isolation from other buildings.

The two-storey rendered brick building has a rectangular form extending in a north/south orientation and is constructed on a random rubble stone base. The front facade is symmetrical and composed of a central section dating from the earliest period of construction in 1881, with a wing at either end, added in 1898. These wings project marginally from the line of the original building and are further defined by a differentiation in roof form. The central pitched section of the corrugated iron roof is terminated at the northern and southern ends by the prominent gable parapets with a crucifix at each apex. A verandah and a covered upper balcony, distinct from the main roof, encircle three sides of the building. The verandahs are timber decked at both ground and first floor levels. A single storey extension is located on the north side of the building, at the end of the rear verandah running along the east facade. A lean-to roof shelters the rear verandah facing the bituminised parking area at the east of the site. The east-facing gable of the southern wing has a half-timbered effect. The first floor balcony is supported by timber posts with ornamental brackets of different designs at each level. The ground floor brackets incorporate a trefoil design most obvious at the more closely spaced central pair of posts. The spacing of the supporting posts is uneven although symmetrical. Similarly, the timber balusters of the balcony balustrade respond to this irregular rhythm.

The linette feature windows in the upper floor of the chapel, and west facing gable ends have stucco mouldings. The remaining window and door openings have low arch openings. Window construction, with the exception of the feature windows in the chapel and gables, comprises single pane sashes. Doors are generally constructed with four panels and include some glazing in the upper panels. Two course shaped brick lintels over the openings are obvious in the northern elevation, where the external wall has been painted instead of rendered. The location of vents at the mid-level of the wall also differentiates this portion of the building. The remaining elevations at ground floor level have vents located above the window and door openings. These distinctive features are indicative of a different era of construction or renovation not confirmed through documentary evidence.

The southernmost portion of the building at ground floor is occupied by the church for office, library and meeting room functions. Since early 1998, the rest of the building has provided leased office accommodation; hence there are two entries to the building. The formal approach, from Aberdeen Street, is via a gently ramped path and set of stairs to the central door in the west elevation. A more modest entry to the church office is located in the southern elevation.

The internal layout is similar for both levels and features large rectangular rooms at the north and south ends of the building. The four smaller spaces in the original part of the construction are divided by a central hall running across the short width of the building. There have been some alterations to the openings in these rooms changing the overall volumes. Kitchen and sanitary utilities are located along the north elevation at ground floor, with the area immediately above at first floor, not currently utilised.

Internal finishes comprise timber floors, some of which have been carpeted, and have deep moulded skirtings. Walls have been plastered and painted and have dado and picture rail mouldings. A variety of ceiling finishes are apparent. Ceilings are mostly boarded with timber, although a pressed metal ceiling is obvious in the northern ground floor meeting room and a ripple iron ceiling, raking towards the long sides of the room, is located in the room immediately above. There are some plasterboard and timber ceilings in the rooms of the upper back verandah. Some fireplaces with timber and brick surrounds and inbuilt furniture are still in evidence.

The chapel features exposed timber roof trusses, a timber board ceiling and semi-circular stained glass windows accentuated with arched mouldings. The timber floor is carpeted. The window shapes and timber trusses are reflected in the northern meeting room of the first floor, but the plaster mouldings and stained glass have been excluded in this area.

The original form and volume of the four-room convent building have been substantially changed and increased. Documentary evidence records considerable damage to the place during Cyclone Alby in 1978. The subsequent programme of restoration involved the replacement of the damaged balcony structure. Instructions on architect's drawings from this period indicate that the new material was to match the existing although the current balustrade differs from the lattice apparent on early photographs of the original building. Structures shown annexed to the building to the east were not scheduled for demolition in the first stage of the restoration programme but are no longer extant. Since then, there have been a number of changes to the internal layout of the place. This has principally involved the relocation of the main staircase and changes to room

openings. Fireplaces in the southern most rooms of the original structure have been removed at ground level although the flues are still evident above the picture rail and at the upper floor.

The building is in good condition and internal finishes have recently been upgraded by the new tenants who were also responsible for revealing the feature windows in the gable ends which had been obscured by panelling.

It appears little physical change has occurred in the eight years since the 1998 assessment was completed. St Joseph's Convent (fmr) is still in good condition.

### **Belltower**

The Belltower stands on a small landscaped island in the south-west corner of the car park. The island is planted with grass and has a random rubble granite kerb. A bed of flowering perennials has been planted under the tower suggesting that it has not been in use for some time.

The Belltower is a small, four-sided timber bellcote with a tiled roof. The structure is approximately 5500mm high. Substantial dressed timber posts with diagonal cross bracing support the partially enclosed upper section of the tower, which contains the bell. The bases of the posts have been set into a concrete plinth. The upper section of the tower has been enclosed with timber boards and each face has a large trefoil arched opening flanked by small trefoil cutouts. Decorative corner stops with a fretwork edge have been fixed to the corners. The tower tapers inwards towards the roof. The steeply pitched pyramidal roof is clad with concrete tiles and is surmounted by a bronze cross. A bronze bell hangs from a cradle of substantial timbers concealed within the enclosed upper section. There is no bell pull rope attached to the bell. All timberwork is now painted white rather than the multi-toned colour scheme indicated in early black and white photographs.

The Bell Tower is in good to fair condition although it is not known if the bell itself can still be rung. Repairs, such as fixing steel plates with bolts to some of the posts, have been carried out in the past.

### **St Joseph's Church**

Constructed at a time when styles derived from mediaeval gothic architecture were considered to be the appropriate style for ecclesiastical buildings and also as a patriotic reminder of Britain, St Joseph's Church is a simple example of the Victorian Academic Gothic Style. This style and the finishes and architectural elements employed in the original building composition were replicated when the building was extended over the next sixty years.

While not as decorative or complex as larger examples of this style, the church exhibits key characteristics of the Victorian Academic Gothic Style such as picturesque asymmetrical form with an underlying symmetry, the use of building elements such as the steeply pitched roof and wall buttresses with set offs marking structural bays to emphasise the verticality of the building and the fairly direct expression of materials and structure. The church also exhibits key stylistic elements such as parapeted gables, pointed arches with tracery and label mouldings and shafted window mullions.

St Joseph's Church shows the influence of A. W. Pugin's simple gothic church with its picturesque building massing suggesting 'changefulness'. 'Changefulness' celebrated the aesthetic of ancient buildings that had evolved

over time by designing a building with elements that looked as if they had been 'added on'.

St Joseph's Church consists of a number of clearly articulated volumes arranged around the central Nave. Generally these volumes accommodate different uses. The Nave, the dominant form in the building composition, is a large rectangular volume faceted at the Sanctuary end. The long axis of the building runs from east to west, perpendicular to Aberdeen Street. The Nave has a steeply pitched roof clad in concrete tiles with a parapeted gable facing Aberdeen Street and a faceted hip over the Sanctuary. The roof does not have eaves. The gutters are colonial profile with a timber fascia board below. Below the gutters are recently replaced moulded rainwater heads and round downpipes.

The walls of the Nave are rendered and they have a projecting plinth below floor height. There are metal wall vents at the top of the walls and below floor level but a number of the lower vents are now covered due to rising ground levels. Buttresses with set offs, which articulate the building's structural bays, break up the side elevations of the Nave. Each bay has a centrally located pointed arch window with a label moulding above. The windows have timber geometric bar tracery with two pointed arches surmounted by a quatrefoil. There is no visible evidence on the exterior to differentiate the later fourth (western) bay from the original section of the Nave.

The parapeted gable to the west end of the Nave has a projecting capping with corbelled ends surmounted by a decorative Roman cross. There is a large pointed arch window in the gable end and a small Greek cross shaped vent above. The window has flamboyant curvilinear bar tracery with three pointed arches.

Projecting from the west end of the Nave below this window is the Narthex. The Narthex is made up of three volumes, a central rectangular wing with a faceted west end and two smaller, lower rectangular volumes which project from the sides. The roofs of these three volumes are concealed behind parapets. The rainwater heads and downpipes are similar to those used on the Nave but the gutters are concealed. The rendered walls are set on a projecting plinth but there are no wall vents. There are three pointed arch windows with geometric bar tracery in the faceted end of the Narthex.

Small porches with steeply pitched gable roofs project from the sides of the Narthex. These porches shelter the concrete steps that lead up to a pair of high, four panelled timber doors. Each porch has a pointed arch window to either side. The north porch appears to serve as the main entrance to the church.

The Confessional is attached to the western structural bay on the Nave's southern façade. The treatment of the Confessional is the same as the lower part of the Narthex: the parapet is set at the same height and has the same coping detail. A small pointed-arch window with plate tracery is in the Confessional's south wall.

Attached to the eastern structural bay of the southern façade of the Nave is the South Chapel. The South Chapel has a steeply pitched roof with parapeted gables. The roof ridge to the South Chapel runs parallel to the Nave creating a box gutter between the two sections. The parapet to the South Chapel has a projecting coping with corbelled ends which is similar to that to the west end of the Nave. It also has a similar flat apex detail topped by a Roman Cross. Each gable end has a single pointed arch window with geometric bar tracery. Above

the windows are Greek cross shaped vents as used elsewhere. Documentary evidence suggests that the South Chapel was built before the Narthex, the Porches, the Confessional and the Lady Chapel/Sacristy.

The Lady Chapel /Sacristy projects from the northeast corner of the Nave. The length of this addition is larger than one structural bay; it extends from the east jamb of the window in the fourth bay to beyond the rear wall of the Sanctuary. Like the South Chapel, the roof ridge of the Lady Chapel /Sacristy runs parallel to the Nave but the treatment of the roof form is quite different. This wing has an irregular form with the east end stepping inward to a faceted section. This irregularity is expressed by the complex hipped roof at the east end and the parapeted gable at the west end. The entire roof is parapeted, even the hipped sections and this results in a stepped gable on the west face. The parapet cap to the Lady Chapel /Sacristy is similar to that of the Narthex and the Confessional but the Greek cross vent in the gable is similar to the original sections. There are two pointed arch windows with geometric bar tracery and label mouldings over to the west face of the Lady Chapel and two pointed arch doors with label moulds above to the north face. The doors are framed and ledged with tongue and groove boards and have a pointed arch head. The thresholds of these doors are at ground level and there is no plinth to this building. In the west wall of the Lady Chapel/Sacristy there is a rectangular window opening with tracery forming two pointed arch windows and various geometric forms.

The congregation of St Joseph's Church enters the building through the small porch on the north side of the building. This porch opens into the Narthex, a lobby to the Nave. The south porch also opens into this space and may have been intended for use by the Priest hearing Confession. A small flight of stairs in the southeast corner of the Narthex leads up to the Choir Loft, a mezzanine floor over the first structural bay of the Nave. Double doors lead into the Nave. The Nave is a rectangular space, which is faceted at the east end. The faceted end contains the Sanctuary. To the south side of the Sanctuary a large archway opens into the South Chapel. A matching opening on the north side leads into the Lady Chapel. A doorway in the Lady Chapel leads into the Sacristy. Both the Lady Chapel and the Sacristy have an external door. Doors for the Confessionals are located at the west end of the south wall of the Nave below the Choir Loft.

The Narthex is a rectangular room with a faceted bay projecting from the centre of the west wall. A statue of the Virgin Mary stands on a plinth in the faceted bay. The central section of the room, including the bay, has a higher ceiling than elsewhere. The flat fibrous plaster ceilings have a simple cove cornice. The plastered walls have a 200mm high timber skirting with a moulded top edge. The skirting is concealed on the external walls by a 1200mm high dado of dry lining. The dry lining has a plasterboard face with a number of metal vents and a painted timber top rail. The concrete floor of the Narthex is covered with ceramic tiles. This room has three stained glass windows in tracery set within the facets of the bay window. The external doors to the entry porches are a pair of four panel timber doors. There is a small niche with pointed arch head beside each door for a holy water font. A pointed arch opening, located centrally within the east wall of the Narthex, leads into the Nave. To the east of this archway is a second arched opening which has been filled in with a fixed window with an acid etched motif and a plasterboard spandrel panel under.

The Staircase leading to the Choir Loft is 'L' shaped with a corner winder. There is a timber balustrade and baluster fixed to the wall and a solid balustrade with a



timber top rail to the external face. The timber treads and risers have been carpeted. A four-panel timber door part way up the Stairs controls access to the Choir Loft.

Within the Narthex there are a number of marble memorial tablets fixed to the walls for members of the congregation killed in World War I.

The Nave is a large rectangular room with a faceted apse at the east end, which contains the Sanctuary. The ceiling of the room follows the rake of the roof giving the space a vertical emphasis. The ceiling is lined with stained Oregon boards laid above the rafters. Clearly visible in the ceiling lining are the triangular openings to the roof gablets, which were probably boarded up when the roof was reclad. Substantial stained Oregon scissor roof trusses support the rafters. The most western of the trusses was built later; it is darker in colour and has heavy iron plates reinforcing the junctions of the truss. The ceiling has a moulded timber cornice. The walls to the Nave are plastered and painted and have a 1200mm high dry lined dado like that in the Narthex. The side walls have large rectangular cast plaster wall vents set at window sill height and below the ceiling cornice. The timber floor of the Nave has been carpeted. The stained glass windows to the Nave have a splayed reveal. The Stations of the Cross are fixed to the side walls of the Nave and there are also a number of memorial plaques and tablets. Clear finished timber pews with decorative pointed arch ends and kneelers are arranged in rows facing the sanctuary.

At the west end of the Nave is the Choir Loft mezzanine. The underside of this mezzanine has a fibrous plaster ceiling with a cove cornice as in the Narthex. On the north wall the mezzanine runs in front of a window. On the south wall there is no window but there are the doors to the Confessionals at ground floor level. The three clear finished timber Confessional doors are set in a frame within a recess. There is a central door for the Priest and the other two for the penitents. Each door has a lower panel with fixed timber louvres and an upper panel with delicate flamboyant curvilinear bar tracery with leaded obscured glass lights. Above the doors is a decorative panel with timber tracery and a shield containing a cross.

The Choir Loft mezzanine has a timber floor. There is a set of four tiered benches to the rear and two rows of timber pews in front. The front face of the timber balustrade to the Choir Loft is divided into fourteen panels by pilasters. Each panel has a quatrefoil arch motif. There is a timber frieze below the panels.

The floor at the east end of the Nave steps up to the Sanctuary. This area contains the altar, a lectern and several chairs. On the end wall, on the centre line of the church, is a niche containing a crucifix. Stained glass windows set in tracery flank the niche.

The South Chapel is a small rectangular room on the south side of the Nave. A large arched opening, which extends for the full width of the chapel, connects the two rooms. Diffuse light from the windows in the Chapel floods into the Nave through this opening. The floor of the South Chapel is raised one step above the Nave and the timber structure has been carpeted. As elsewhere in the Nave, the lower section of the wall has been dry lined. The ceiling follows the underside of the roof structure. The South Chapel contains a small altar, a crucifix and several sets of brass candlesticks.

Opposite the South Chapel on the north side of the Nave is the matching arched opening of the Lady Chapel. The Lady Chapel is irregularly shaped because part of the side bay has been enclosed to form the Sacristy. The floor of the Lady

Chapel is set at the same level as the Nave and the 125mm wide jarrah floorboards have been clear finished and left uncarpeted. The walls of the room have a dado of dry lining with plastered masonry above as elsewhere. The fibrous plaster and timber batten ceiling has been lined on the rake and is truncated to follow the underside of the roof structure. A pair of windows with geometric tracery is set in the west wall and diffuse light from the Chapel spills into the Nave. A clear finished two panel timber door leads into the Sacristy and a painted three panel timber door with a pointed arch head leads to the exterior. The Lady Chapel contains a timber and marble altar with an icon of the Virgin and Child above as well as an organ and several timber pews.

The Sacristy is a small room with truncated corners. The internal finishes are the same as in the adjacent Lady Chapel except that the fibrous plaster ceiling is flat and it has a cast plaster cornice. The room has a small rectangular window with tracery and stained glass and an external door identical to that in the Lady Chapel.

St Joseph's Church is generally in good condition except for some internal paintwork to the ceilings of the Sacristy and the underside of the Choir Loft. It would appear that the exterior of the church has been repainted recently and that work has been carried out on the roof plumbing.

There has obviously been a problem in the past with low level rising damp on the inner face of the external walls of the church as indicated by the installation of dry lining to most of the walls of the building. Due to the dry lining it was not possible to determine how much the lower section of the walls has deteriorated but there is no evidence of rising damp either to the plastered walls above the lining or to the exterior of the building.

### 13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

*Saint Joseph's Catholic Church Group, Albany, Albany* was established during the same period as P02878 *St Patrick's Church Group, York*, comprising Old Church, Church and Presbytery. Both the York and Albany churches were built in the 1870s in Gothic style and are of similar scale. Both are rare examples of Victorian era church buildings in their respective diocese. St Patrick's original 1854 Church is extant, however, and in use as the church hall. St Patrick's Presbytery is earlier than New Camfield, dating from the 1870s, but is of a similar scale.<sup>47</sup>

A similar group of Catholic buildings, from the Federation era, is P2030 *St Brigid's Group* in Aberdeen Street comprising the Convent (1896), Parish Hall (1889, first school), Convent School (1921), St Brigid's Church (1904), and Presbytery (c.1902). The place is on the State Register. The Convent is in use for its intended purpose with social agencies occupying the rear additions. The Parish Hall is refurbished and is used as such. Part of the old primary School is rented to a dancing school, with remainder of the school buildings unoccupied. The Church and Presbytery are used as intended.<sup>48</sup>

P02183 *Sacred Heart Group, Highgate* comprises Convent (1898), Church (1905), Presbytery (1901, purchased), Church Hall (1905, purchased), and School (1914), is associated with the former Christian Brothers Intermediate

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<sup>47</sup> HCWA assessment documentation, St Patrick's Church, Presbytery & Hall, P02878.

<sup>48</sup> HCWA assessment documentation, P2030 St Brigid's Group, Perth. This document also provides detailed comparative information on the layout of convents, monasteries and Catholic schools.

School and residence (1936, now St Mark's International School). Sacred Heart Convent and School, P02181, it is on the State Register.

Aranmore Catholic College Group (1923-42), including St Mary's Church (P02196, Registered), presbytery, college and former convent and St Francis Xavier Church Precinct, Quairading (1936), belong to the Interwar period and St Mary's Catholic Church Group, Bruce Rock (1954), belongs to the post-war period.

*Saint Joseph's Catholic Church Group, Albany* is a relatively rare group of ecclesiastical buildings constructed in the second half of the 19th century in rural WA. It is fitting that two of the oldest country towns, York and Albany, also have the two oldest groups of church buildings.

#### **13.4 KEY REFERENCES**

No key references.

#### **13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH**

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