



REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES - ASSESSMENT DOCUMENTATION

11. ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The criteria adopted by the Heritage Council in November 1996 have been used to determine the cultural heritage significance of the place.

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE*

Convent of the Sacred Heart (fmr) has a high degree of artistic and technical sophistication, both internally and externally, and exhibits a well resolved combination of architectural, symbolic and artistic motifs. (Criterion 1.1)

The place is an excellent example of John Hawes' Western Australian work and his eclectic architectural style. (Criterion 1.2)

Due to its large size and prominent location, *Convent of the Sacred Heart (fmr)* has landmark quality on Hampton Road, the main road in Northampton. (Criterion 1.3)

In association with the *Presbytery* (1914), *St Mary's Church* (1936), and *St Mary's School* (1964), *Convent of the Sacred Heart (fmr)* forms a precinct of Catholic buildings in Northampton. (Criterion 1.4)

11.2 HISTORIC VALUE

Convent of the Sacred Heart (fmr) has a close association with the expansion of the activities of the Catholic Diocese of Geraldton in the early twentieth century. (Criterion 2.1)

The place has a close association with significant ecclesiastical architect Monsignor John Hawes. Hawes' life and works are prominent within the history of the Mid-West Region of Western Australia and the Geraldton Diocese. (Criterion 2.3)

The place was the home of the Order of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (the Presentation Sisters) from 1919 to 1983. The Presentation Sisters played an important role in the education of both Catholic and non-Catholic children in the district from 1899. (Criterion 2.3)

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

The place is associated with Bishop William Bernard Kelly, who was instrumental in the growth of the Geraldton Diocese and who laid the foundation stone and opened the Convent in 1919. (Criterion 2.3)

11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

11.4 SOCIAL VALUE

Research undertaken gives some indication that *Convent of the Sacred Heart (fmr)* is valued by the community of Northampton and surrounding districts for its educational associations with the highly regarded Presentation Sisters. (Criterion 4.1)

The place is highly valued by the local Catholic community for its associations with the Presentation Sisters and for its religious, social and cultural associations within a precinct of Catholic buildings. (Criterion 4.1)

Convent of the Sacred Heart (fmr) is highly valued for its historic and religious associations, with the Presentation Sisters and with Monsignor John Hawes, and contributes to the Northampton community's sense of place. (Criterion 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

Convent of the Sacred Heart (fmr) is a rare example of Monsignor Hawes' design of, and specialised planning for, a Convent building. (Criterion 5.1)

12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

Convent of the Sacred Heart (fmr) is a good example of a purpose built Convent building. The simple cells and the Superior's room at the upper level and the chapel/oratory, a formal parlour and community rooms on the ground floor, demonstrate the function of a convent building. (Criteria 6.1 & 6.2)

12. 3 CONDITION

Convent of the Sacred Heart (fmr) is in sound condition. Work has been done to alleviate problems of masonry deterioration and roof sheeting failure. Maintenance has been undertaken on a reasonably regular basis, and with restoration/reconstruction works (on the external timberwork particularly) the place could be brought back to very good condition.

Conservation works were carried out on the Convent, under the direction of John Taylor, in February 1998. This included works done to the masonry, verandah posts and boards, and replacement of guttering.

12. 4 INTEGRITY

Convent of the Sacred Heart (fmr) has a moderate degree of integrity. Although the place is no longer used for its original purpose, the use of the convent for residential and museum/display purposes is compatible with the original intention of the place.

12. 5 AUTHENTICITY

Convent of the Sacred Heart (fmr) retains a high degree of authenticity. The changes to the interior demonstrate evolution of use. The cement rendering of the external walls can be reversed.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

Attached are key sections of the supporting evidence prepared by John Taylor Architects, 'Conservation Plan for the "Nagle Centre"', (prepared for the St Mary's Parish Council, February 1997).

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the documentary evidence refer to John Taylor Architects, 'Conservation Plan for the "Nagle Centre"', (prepared for the St Mary's Parish Council, February 1997).

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the physical evidence refer to John Taylor Architects, 'Conservation Plan for the "Nagle Centre"', (prepared for the St Mary's Parish Council, February 1997).

13.3 REFERENCES

John Taylor Architects, 'Conservation Plan for the "Nagle Centre"', (prepared for the St Mary's Parish Council, February 1997).

13.4 FURTHER RESEARCH
