



REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES - ASSESSMENT DOCUMENTATION

11. ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The criteria adopted by the Heritage Council in September 1991, have been used to determine the cultural heritage significance of the place.

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE

Charles Street Methodist Mission Chapel and Methodist Church have aesthetic characteristics as well composed buildings, which are individually aesthetically pleasing. This pair of buildings, near a major intersection, contribute to the community's sense of place and serve as a local landmark due to their aesthetic impact, their scale and their uniqueness in relation to the surrounding residential and light industrial building stock. (Criteria 1.1, 1.3)

Combined with neighbouring buildings from the same era, the place forms part of a significant historic precinct. This precinct includes, amongst other places, the house adjoining the north boundary of the Charles Street Church; the shops on the corner of Newcastle Street and Charles Street; the former Newcastle Street Government School (TAFE Annex); 482 Newcastle Street, the original Manse, designed by James Hine, and several other houses on Newcastle Street. This group of buildings also form part of a larger historic residential precinct dating from the same era which is centred around Carr Street. Much of the Charles Street congregation was drawn from this area. (Criterion 1.4)

11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

Built on the outskirts of a rapidly expanding city centre during a time of great confidence, the history and use of *Charles Street Methodist Mission Chapel and Methodist Church* illustrates the changing demographics and land use within this suburb; in particular, rapid growth followed by gradual industrialisation; the decline of the Methodist and other Protestant congregations; and, the influx of immigrants from southern Europe following World War II. (Criterion 2.1)

Charles Street Methodist Mission Chapel and Methodist Church represents the of activity and influence of Methodism in Western Australia in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. (Criterion 2.2)

11.3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

In the recent past, *Charles Street Methodist Mission Chapel and Methodist Church* has been highly valued both as a religious and a community meeting place. First, as a Methodist church and then, from the 1940s to the 1960s, as a popular youth club. These community links were interrupted when *Charles Street Methodist Mission Chapel and Methodist Church* was acquired by TAFE. People who have used these buildings for religious and youth club activities still remember them fondly and some bitterness still exists over their compulsory acquisition by the Crown. (Criterion 4.1)

Charles Street Methodist Mission Chapel and Methodist Church also has some importance as a reminder of the past residential nature of this part of West Perth, the evidence of which has largely been obscured by the construction of the Mitchell Freeway in the 1970s. (Criterion 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12.1. RARITY

The importance of *Charles Street Methodist Mission Chapel and Methodist Church* is as a pair rather than as individual examples. The church is a well executed but common building type, and the rarity value of the timber chapel, as one of the last surviving examples of this type in the metropolitan area, has been diminished by modification of original detail. There are, however, few examples in the Perth Metropolitan area of an older timber chapel surviving alongside a later masonry church, because the chapel was often demolished at the time of completion of the replacement church, or when it became dilapidated at a later date. Another original timber chapel survives behind *St Mark's Anglican Church* in Bassendean, but it is not in good condition. The importance of *Charles Street Methodist Mission Chapel and Methodist Church* will increase if this and other examples are compromised or destroyed. (Criteria 5.1, 5.2)

The stained glass windows are important because of their unusual construction; the geometric tracery is constructed from turned timber rather than the typical stone or metal frame. (Criterion 5.1)

12.2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

These two buildings, individually, and as a pair, demonstrate the principal features and attributes which identify them as being characteristic of a Victorian Carpenter Gothic style of chapel and a Victorian Free Gothic style of church. While they still appear to be representative of their class from the street, on closer inspection it is apparent that their importance has been diminished by accretions and alterations to the original fabric. (Criterion 6.1)

The representativeness of *Charles Street Methodist Mission Chapel and Methodist Church* has been somewhat diminished, as the interior of these buildings only partly describe the characteristics of the activities that they were constructed to accommodate, as most of the fittings were removed when the continuity of ninety-six years of church and community use ceased in the 1980s. (Criterion 6.2)

12.3 CONDITION

The condition of the elements of the church and chapel vary enormously between fair to good. Documentary evidence records a history of termite damage and periods of neglect, followed by alterations to the fabric to suit the buildings to new purposes. The more intrusive elements and interventions carried out after the 1940s, tend to be in good to fair condition, while some of the more significant earlier fabric is in poor condition. Some elements, such as the stained glass window and vestry brickwork, have deteriorated considerably.

The roof and roof plumbing of the church have recently been replaced in a reasonably sympathetic manner, but the chapel requires some urgent repairs to make the building weatherproof: to weatherboards, lancet windows and

the roof. The porch is currently dismantled and most of the components are in storage.

Detailed considerations of condition may be found in the Conservation Plan by Considine and Griffiths Architects Pty. Ltd., 'Former Charles Street Mission Methodist Chapel and Methodist Church Conservation Plan', (1995). This plan has been received by the Building Management Authority and is currently being used as the basis for implementation of conservation works to the timber chapel.

12.4 INTEGRITY

Integrity is addressed in detail in the Conservation Plan by Considine and Griffiths Architects Pty. Ltd., 'Former Charles Street Mission Methodist Chapel and Methodist Church Conservation Plan', (1995). The extent of original fabric intact is moderate, but the intention of each phase of development is legible to the tutored eye. Most of the rooms host compatible uses in terms of the fabric, though some have suffered severely during the adaptive process. These alterations are representative of those that similar buildings underwent, due to the changing demographics and the requirements of use of religious buildings in the 1950s and 1960s and does not diminish the integrity of the place. Most of both buildings are capable of restoration, with notable exceptions, such as the church stage, where major works would be required. As the original use of the place is long passed, the integrity of *Charles Street Methodist Mission Chapel and Methodist Church* is low to moderate.

12.5 AUTHENTICITY

These two buildings read from the street as being fairly authentic, but closer inspection reveals a lack of original detail and many intrusive small alterations which are due to the continual changes to the fabric, particularly to the north, south and west elevations and also to the use of the buildings. Because of this *Charles Street Methodist Mission Chapel and Methodist Church* has a low degree of authenticity overall.

The addition of the brick ablution block in the 1950s, the youth club in the 1960s and the demountable classroom in the 1980s, has produced a cluttered, hard landscaped site very different from the original open grassed suburban site. Very little remains of the original 1890s site treatments evident in early photographs. For more detail refer to the Conservation Plan by Considine and Griffiths Architects Pty. Ltd., 'Former Charles Street Mission Methodist Chapel and Methodist Church Conservation Plan', (1995).

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

For a detailed discussion of the documentary evidence, refer to the Conservation Plan by Considine and Griffiths Architects Pty. Ltd., 'Former Charles Street Mission Methodist Chapel and Methodist Church Conservation Plan', (1995).

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

For a detailed discussion of the physical evidence, refer to the Conservation Plan by Considine and Griffiths Architects Pty. Ltd., 'Former Charles Street Mission Methodist Chapel and Methodist Church Conservation Plan', (1995).

13.3 REFERENCES

Considine and Griffiths Architects Pty. Ltd., 'Former Charles Street Mission Methodist Chapel and Methodist Church Conservation Plan', (1995).