



**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)

- 4.1.2 Making Suburbs
- 8.6 Worshipping
- 8.13 Living in cities and suburbs

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

- 406 Religion

#### 11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE\*

*St Margaret's Anglican Church, Nedlands* is a fine example of an Inter-War Art Deco style church with Inter-War Gothic elements. (Criterion 1.2)

*St Margaret's Anglican Church, Nedlands*, prominently situated on the intersection of Tyrell and Elizabeth Streets, is valued as a local landmark by the community of Nedlands. (Criterion 1.3)

#### 11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

*St Margaret's Anglican Church, Nedlands*, is representative of the influence of Archbishop Henry Le Fanu during his time as Anglican Archbishop of Perth (1929-1946), who believed that God should be worshipped in beautiful, holy architecture. (Criterion 2.2)

*St Margaret's Anglican Church, Nedlands* is indicative of the Anglican Church's continuous history with the site from 1922, and indicates the importance of the Anglican faith to the history and development of the suburb of Nedlands. (Criterion 2.2 & 2.3)

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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Canberra, 1991, with additional reference to Richards, O. *Theoretical Framework for Designed Landscapes in WA*, unpublished report, 1997.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 Margaret's Anglican Church, Nedlands* is significant for its associating with the prominent Western Australian architect William G Bennett, who was responsible for its design. (Criterion 2.3)

### **11.3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE**

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### **11.4. SOCIAL VALUE**

*St Margaret's Anglican Church, Nedlands* is valued by the Anglican community of Nedlands, as a place for religious services, meditation and celebration. (Criterion 4.1)

*St Margaret's Anglican Church, Nedlands* is a prominent landmark, and its use by generations of Anglican worshippers contributes to the community's sense of place. (Criterion 4.2)

## **12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE**

### **12.1. RARITY**

*St Margaret's Anglican Church, Nedlands* is a fine and rare example of an Inter-War Art Deco style church, and the only identified Inter-War Art Deco style churches with Inter-War Gothic elements in Western Australia. (Criterion 5.1)

*St Margaret's Anglican Church, Nedlands* is a rare and fine example of architect W G Bennett's ecclesiastical designs. (Criterion 5.1)

### **12.2 REPRESENTATIVENESS**

*St Margaret's Anglican Church, Nedlands* is a rare Inter-War Art Deco style church with Inter-War Gothic elements. (Criterion 6.1)

### **12.3 CONDITION**

*St Margaret's Anglican Church, Nedlands* is in good condition, despite experiencing ongoing issues with falling and rising damp.

### **12.4 INTEGRITY**

*St Margaret's Anglican Church, Nedlands* has high integrity and continues in its original function as a church.

### **12.5 AUTHENTICITY**

*St Margaret's Anglican Church, Nedlands* has high authenticity, the original exterior and interior finishes and furnishings remain intact.

### 13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

The curtilage for *St Margaret's Anglican Church, Nedlands* includes St Margaret's Anglican Church (1937), its adjacent courtyard, and Garden of Remembrance (1985), as shown on HCWA Curtilage Map 1830.

The curtilage of this place does not include the adjacent Parish Hall and Offices (1972) or Rectory (c.1933), which are also part of the same Lot and Certificate of Title.

The Documentary and Physical Evidence is based on 'St Margaret's Church, Nedlands Conservation Plan', prepared by Hocking Planning and Architecture for Anglican Parish of Nedlands on behalf of Perth Diocesan Trustees (January 2007).

The Comparative Information has been compiled by the State Heritage Office.

Amendments and/or additions have been carried out by the State Heritage Office and the Register Committee.

#### 13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

*St Margaret's Anglican Church, Nedlands* is an Inter-War Art Deco style church with Inter-War Gothic elements constructed in 1937.

Shortly after the establishment of the Swan River Colony in 1829, it was quickly realised that an overland route was required linking the capital to its port at Fremantle. A track was promptly established running westwards through the area now known as Nedlands, and the suburb subsequently started to develop.<sup>1</sup>

After the discovery of West Australian gold during the 1890s triggered unprecedented migration to the State, the areas closest to the capital, such as Nedlands, experienced a dramatic increase in population and underwent significant growth. Nedlands continued to grow through the first decade of the Twentieth Century, with many ex-servicemen and their families settling in the area with the aid of War Service Loans.<sup>2</sup>

The Anglican parish of Nedlands was established at around the turn of the century, and initially held services in private homes and churches in the neighbouring suburbs of Claremont and Subiaco until the early 1920s when a church was erected for the parish on the corner of Tyrell and Elizabeth Streets.

In 1922 the Perth Diocesan Trust purchased five lots on the corner of Tyrell and Elizabeth Streets and, in 1923, a small brick and weatherboard church known as St. Mary's was erected. The church also functioned alongside a Sunday school and church rectory, which were constructed in 1927 and c.1933 respectively. The Rectory (c.1933) remains extant, but is not included as part of this assessment.

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<sup>1</sup> James, Ruth Marchant., 'From Byway to Highway: the Linking of Port & Capital', in *Early Day: Journal of the Royal West Australian Historical Society (Inc)*, Vol 1., Part 1 (2001), p. 19.

<sup>2</sup> Gregory, Jenny., *Protecting Middle-Class Suburbia: An Ideal Space for the Citizens of Inter War Perth*, in *Studies in Western Australian History*, No. 17 (1997), p79, 81.

Due to the ongoing growth in the Nedlands suburb during the 1920s and 1930s, the timber St Mary's Church quickly became too small for the growing Anglican parish.

In 1934, architects Eales, Cohen and Bennett were engaged to design a new Nedlands Anglican church, however, shortly after, this partnership was dissolved and their church was not built. William Bennett established his own architectural firm in 1936, and was awarded the contract for Nedlands' new Anglican Church, St Margaret's Anglican Church, in January 1937, with a new design.

In c.1936, the existing St Mary's church was demolished, and on 30 May 1937 the Venerable Archdeacon Riley laid the foundation stone of *St Margaret's Anglican Church, Nedlands*. The church was consecrated in 21 November 1937 by Archbishop Henry F. Le Fanu.

Bennett's decorative design for *St Margaret's Anglican Church, Nedlands*, in the Inter-War Art Deco style church with Inter-War Gothic elements, was directly influenced by Archbishop Le Fanu's belief that God should be worshipped in beautiful, holy architecture.<sup>3</sup> Other churches to be erected during Le Fanu's time as Archbishop (1929-1946), which were also influenced by his desire for beautiful church architecture, and therefore designed in a decorative style, were *St Mary's Anglican Church* in South Perth and *St Peter's Anglican Church* in Victoria Park.

Some minor additions were undertaken to *St Margaret's Anglican Church, Nedlands* in the 1950s, including the building of a cloister in 1953 linking St Margaret's Anglican Church with the 1927 Sunday School.

In the early 1970s the Parish became unhappy with the poor condition of the Sunday School. Plans were prepared for a new parish hall and offices, and the Sunday School was subsequently demolished. The new hall and offices were complete in 1973. The Parish Hall and Offices (1973) are not included as part of this assessment.

In 1985 a brick walled 'Garden of Remembrance' was added to the north east corner of the site, designed by Bennett and Associates.

For a further discussion of the documentary evidence, refer to 'St Margaret's Church, Nedlands Conservation Plan', prepared by Hocking Planning and Architecture for Anglican Parish of Nedlands on behalf of Perth Diocesan Trustees in January 2007.

### 13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

St Margaret's Anglican Church is an Inter-War Art Deco style church with Inter-War Gothic elements located on the corners of Tyrell and Elizabeth Streets in Nedlands. The two-storey building is constructed of dark red face brick with stone and white render trim, and topped with a tile roof. The west elevation, facing Tyrell Street, incorporates a semicircular apse below a white trim window and a large white cross. The north and south elevations each have four bays, each containing a rectangular white trim window. The

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<sup>3</sup> Hawtrey, C.L.M., *The Availing Struggle: A Record of the Planting and Development of the Church of England in Western Australia, 1829-1947* (1949), p.189.

southern elevation is obscured by the 1972 Parish Hall and connecting link. The eastern elevation concludes the structure with a semi-octagonal baptistery.

The interior space is arranged according to traditional principles of church planning, with a central nave aligned east to west, with sanctuary and Alter located to the east, and the main entrance to the west. The original timber interior and exterior doors remains, as does the original jarrah floors beneath carpet runners.

For a further discussion of the physical evidence for St Margaret's Anglican Church, refer to 'St Margaret's Church, Nedlands Conservation Plan', prepared by Hocking Planning and Architecture for Anglican Parish of Nedlands on behalf of Perth Diocesan Trustees in January 2007.

### 13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

#### Anglican Churches

There are 189 Anglican Churches entered in to the State Heritage Office database, of which 61 were constructed after 1930. Of those 61 churches, nineteen are located in the Metropolitan area, and four are entered in the State Register of Heritage Places. This includes:

- P2385 *St Mary's Anglican Church Complex*, South Perth – The church was constructed in 1931, and is registered as part of a larger complex which includes a former Hall (1936) Statue of Christ (1970), and Garden of Remembrance (1980).
- P2225 *St Peter's Anglican Church & Memorial Hall*, Victoria Park – The church was constructed in 1935. The church is registered with its associated Hall (1954).
- P4576 *St Lawrence's Anglican Church & Rectory*, Dalkeith – The church was constructed in 1956, and is registered with Rectory (1956).
- P8110 *St Phillip's Anglican Church*, Cottesloe (1965).

Of these four places, St Mary's in South Perth and St Peter's in Victoria Park are the most comparable for construction date.

Other churches with a comparable construction date include:

- P2416 St Luke's Anglican Church, Maylands (1934). The place was reviewed by the Register Committee in 2004 and determined not to warrant further assessment.
- P2428 St Patrick's Anglican Church, Mount Lawley (1936). This place was added to the HCWA Assessment Program in 2005.
- P1545 St George's Church (Anglican), Applecross (1935). This place has not been reviewed by the Register Committee.

The above suggests *St Margaret's Anglican Church, Nedlands* is one of a number of Anglican Churches constructed in the Metropolitan area during the 1930s.

#### Architectural Style

*St Margaret's Anglican Church, Nedlands* is an Inter-War Art Deco style church with Inter-War Gothic elements.

A search of the State Heritage Office database of churches constructed in the Inter-War Art Deco style produces just seven results. This includes two places on the State Register, they are:

- P2801 *Our Lady of Monsterrat, Southern Cross* (1936) – An Inter-War Art Deco style church.
- P11595 *First Church of Christ, Scientist, Perth* (1939) – An Inter-War Art Deco style church.

Excluding *St Margaret's Anglican Church, Nedlands*, a search of the State Heritage Places for churches constructed in the Inter-War Art Deco style with Inter-War Gothic elements produces no results.

The above suggests *St Margaret's Anglican Church, Nedlands* to be rare as a church constructed in the Inter-War Art Deco style with Inter-War Gothic features.

### **William G. Bennett**

Of the 73 places in the HCWA database that are associated with the architect William G. Bennett, just five are religious buildings. These include:

- P1621 *St David's Anglican Church, Morawa* (1933) – Eales, Cohen & Bennett
- P2385 *St Mary's Anglican Church Complex, South Perth* – Bennett, Church Hall (1936).
- P4923 *St Faith's Anglican Church & Rectory, Quairading* (1954-1965) – Nancy Allen of Bennett and Assoc.
- P8709 *Aranmore Catholic College Group, Leederville* – St Mary's Hall ((1966) now Aranmore Catholic College Hall), Bennett, Allen and Allen.
- P11607 *St Christopher's Anglican Church, Perenjori* (1953) – Bennett.

### **Archbishop Le Fanu**

Henry Le Fanu was the Anglican Archbishop of Perth from 1929 to 1946, during which time, he influenced the design of church architecture through his belief that God should be worshipped in beauty.<sup>4</sup>

Between 1929 and 1946, fifty one Anglican Churches were constructed in Western Australia,<sup>5</sup> thirty two of which are entered in to the State Heritage Office database.

Of these thirty two, *St Margaret's Anglican Church, Nedlands* has been highlighted as one of a number of churches directly influenced by Le Fanu's

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<sup>4</sup> Hawtrey, C.L.M., *The Availing Struggle: A Record of the Planting and Development of the Church of England in Western Australia, 1829-1947* (1949), p.189.

<sup>5</sup> *ibid.*

ideas about beauty in church architecture. Other churches directly influenced by Le Fanu's ideas have been identified as:<sup>6</sup>

- P2385 *St Mary's Anglican Church* in South Perth (1931).
- P2225 *St Peter's Anglican Church* in Victoria Park (1935).
- P2428 *St Patrick's Anglican Church*, Mount Lawley (1936).

The above suggests *St Margaret's Anglican Church, Nedlands* to be significant as being representative of the influence of Archbishop Le Fanu, and his belief that that God should be worshipped in beautiful, holy architecture.

#### **13.4 KEY REFERENCES**

'St Margaret's Church, Nedlands Conservation Plan', prepared by Hocking Planning and Architecture for Anglican Parish of Nedlands on behalf of Perth Diocesan Trustees in January 2007.

#### **13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH**

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<sup>6</sup>        *ibid.*