HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES

Permanent Entry

1. DATA BASE No. 3011

2. NAME *Thomas Little Memorial Hall* (1854-57, 1884, 1979, 1992)
FORMER NAME Church of the Immaculate Conception

3. LOCATION Ferguson Road, Dardanup

4. DESCRIPTION OF PLACE INCLUDED IN THIS ENTRY
That part of Lot 2 on Plan 17554, being part of the land comprised in Certificate of Title Volume 1907 Folio 679 as is defined in Heritage Council of Western Australia survey drawing No. 3011 prepared by Steffanoni Ewing and Cruickshank Pty. Ltd.

5. LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA Shire of Dardanup

6. OWNER Roman Catholic Bishop of Bunbury

7. HERITAGE LISTINGS

• Register of Heritage Places:	Interim Entry	09/01/1998
	Permanent Entry	07/04/1998
• National Trust Classification:		----------
• Town Planning Scheme:		----------
• Municipal Inventory:		----------
• Register of the National Estate:		----------

8. CONSERVATION ORDER

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9. HERITAGE AGREEMENT

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10. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Thomas Little Memorial Hall, a small brick rural neo-Gothic chapel of the mid-nineteenth century, has cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:

the original building is the first Catholic church established outside the metropolitan area of the Swan River Colony. It is of considerable significance as the ecclesiastical centre for the Catholic Church in the south-west coastal districts in the early history of European settlement;

the place is closely associated with Thomas Little, an early landowner and developer in the Dardanup area, Irish and Italian migrant farmers and the Benedictines at New Norcia;

the place is able to demonstrate the importance of religious ritual and liturgy as a focal point for a close-knit minority group of Irish rural settlers in the early days of European settlement in Western Australia;

the place has the refined proportions of an Irish rural neo-Gothic chapel transferred without interpretation to an Australian setting; and,

the place demonstrates the manual skills and resourcefulness of colonial tradespeople using hand tools and local materials.

The sacristy which now forms part of the building is of less significance than the main church building, while the front porch is an intrusive element.