



## 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.

The documentation for this place is based on the heritage assessment completed by Jacqui Sherriff, Historian and Philip Griffiths, Architect, in November 2003, with amendments and/or additions by HCWA staff and the Register Committee.

#### PRINCIPAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORIC THEME(S)

- 6.2 Establishing schools
- 8.6 Worshipping
- 8.13 Living in cities and suburbs

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

- 402 Education and science
- 406 Religion

#### 11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE\*

St. Mary's Church, St. Mary's Presbytery, and former St. Mary's Convent are very fine examples of their respective buildings types, with St. Mary's Church an excellent application of the Inter-War Gothic style to a substantial parish church. While the St. Mary's School building, Mann Building and Aranmore Catholic College Hall are not of the same order of aesthetic value, these buildings do make a significant contribution to the group of buildings and external spaces that make up the whole of the Aranmore site. (Criterion 1.1)

St. Mary's Church displays 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 1.2)

---

\* 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Canberra, 1991, with additional reference to Richards, O. *Theoretical Framework for Designed Landscapes in WA*, unpublished report, 1997.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. Mary's Church is a prominent landmark in the district, being sited on high ground, with a tall tower and spire. (Criterion 1.3)

St. Mary's Church, St. Mary's Presbytery, and St. Mary's Convent fmr, St. Mary's School building, Mann Building, and Aranmore Catholic College Hall, in combination with their landscape setting, make up a significant group of related places, with common characteristics of design and purpose. St. Mary's Church, St. Mary's Presbytery, and St. Mary's Convent fmr form a particularly strong visual group within the complex. (Criterion 1.4)

## **11. 2. HISTORIC VALUE**

The instigation and subsequent development and consolidation of *Aranmore Catholic College Group* provides important evidence of the development of the North Perth and Leederville districts, its class and religious demographic, and the development of Catholic primary and more latterly secondary education in the State. (Criterion 2.1)

St Mary's Church and Presbytery provide evidence of the strength and growth of the Catholic community in areas north of Perth and are a substantial expression of the development of the church at a time of significant activity in the Inter-War period. (Criterion 2.2)

The development of the primary, secondary and then co-educational secondary college is evidence of the growth in importance of Catholic education in Western Australia. The development of the place also reflects the move away from single sex Catholic education in many locations in Western Australia to a co-educational system. (Criterion 2.2)

St Mary's Convent fmr and Christian Brother' College fmr are significant evidence of the work if the Sisters of Mercy and the Christian Brothers, who established the schools in response to the needs of a growing Roman Catholic community. (Criterion 2.3)

The parish church of St. Mary's, Presbytery, Convent, St. Mary's School, St Mary's Hall (now Aranmore Catholic College Hall), and Christian Brothers College (Mann Building) were all completed under the direction and via the enthusiastic support of Monsignor John Francis Moloney, who was first parish priest and served in that position until his death in 1958. (Criterion 2.3)

St. Mary's Church was designed by Ernest H Hamilton, is one of his finest works, and is the one of the most substantial Roman Catholic churches to be built in Western Australia. (Criterion 2.3)

## **11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE**

----

## **11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE**

*Aranmore Catholic College Group* is valued by the Roman Catholic community in the region immediately north of Perth for its religious and educational role since 1919. (Criterion 4.1)

The place is known in the Italian Catholic community for hosting an annual Italian street parade celebrating the parish's patron saint, Saint Rocco, which has been held in Leederville since 1968 and is attended by Italians from across Perth and from churches in Italy affiliating with St Rocco. (Criterion 4.1)

St. Mary's Church is a prominent and well-designed landmark that contributes to the region's sense of place. (Criterion 4.2)

## **12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE**

### **12.1. RARITY**

St. Mary's Church is rare to the extent that the design of the church and its very tall tower and spire are more akin to the design elements generally reserved for a cathedral. (Criterion 5.1)

### **12.2 REPRESENTATIVENESS**

St Mary's Church is a very fine application of the Inter-War Gothic style of architecture, while the former convent, presbytery, teaching block and monastery represent a well-crafted application of the architectural language of the style in a very simple and decorative form. (Criterion 6.1)

*Aranmore Catholic College Group* is indicative of the growth and development of the district, when North Perth and Leederville were the populated by a predominantly Irish Roman Catholic congregation, then of the development of the Catholic education system, its evolutions to cater for a changing demographic and the endeavours to meet with changing standards. (Criterion 6.2)

### **12.3 CONDITION**

The buildings in the *Aranmore Catholic College Group* are generally adequately or well maintained. Buildings such as the presbytery have undergone many changes though maintenance and have lost some important exterior detail. Other buildings within the group have remained largely intact.

There is an ongoing programme of maintenance and overall the buildings are in fair to good condition.

### **12.4 INTEGRITY**

The church, presbytery and teaching facilities remain in use for their intended purpose. With the withdrawal of the Orders, the convent and monastery are now used for college administration and teaching, although the original purpose remains reasonably legible. Overall the place retains a moderate to high degree of authenticity.

### **12.5 AUTHENTICITY**

There have been numerous incremental changes to the buildings, particularly to the former convent and teaching spaces. The underlying

structures to all buildings remains authentic and much change relates to fabric removal. Kitchens have been removed from the convent and monastery, some rooms have been combined or partitioned. On the whole the remaining fabric retains a high degree of authenticity.

### 13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

The documentary evidence has been compiled by Jacqui Sherriff, Historian. The physical evidence has been compiled by Philip Griffiths, Architect.

#### 13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

*Aranmore Catholic College Group* comprises the single storey brick, stucco and tile *St. Mary's Church* (1923 and 1937), two storey concrete block and corrugated iron roof Aranmore Catholic College Hall (formerly St Mary's Hall 1929), two storey brick and tile St. Mary's Convent fmr (1933), two storey brick and tile St. Mary's Presbytery (1934), two storey brick and tile Mann Building (1942), two storey brick and tile St. Mary's School fmr (1952), three storey brick and asbestos roof Murphy Wing, two storey brick and tile St. Joseph's Science Block (1965), single storey brick and tile St. Mary's Parish Centre (1972), single storey brick and iron A and I Bateman Manual Arts Block (1979), two storey brick and tile J. F. Moloney Library (1982) and other minor structures in a designed landscape setting.

Leederville was named after the Leeder family, who arrived in Western Australia in 1830 and took up land around Lake Monger. In the 1890s, the land was subdivided as Leeder Estate and sold off in stages. The Estate was one of a number of old land grants subdivided at this time to meet the demand for residential lots as a result of the population increase that accompanied the gold rushes. Not all of the estate was sold off, as Mrs Teresa Leeder continued to reside in the family home (on the site of St Mary's Church at the corner of Franklin and Shakespeare streets) until her death in October 1922.<sup>1</sup>

Catherine McAuley founded the Institute of Sisters of Mercy in Dublin in 1831, with the sisters concentrating on helping and educating poor women and nursing the sick. The Order rapidly spread throughout Ireland, into England and to North America, Australia and New Zealand.<sup>2</sup> The first group of Sisters of Mercy arrived in Western Australia on 8 January 1846 at the invitation of the Catholic Bishop, Dr John Brady.<sup>3</sup>

Supplemented by the arrival of more Sisters from overseas and other Australian colonies, the Sisters of Mercy established convents and schools throughout Western Australia, firstly in Perth, then Fremantle and Guildford before branching out elsewhere in the state. Between 1880 and 1900, branch convents and schools were established in Subiaco, North Perth, West Perth, Victoria Park, York, Geraldton, Bunbury, Toodyay and Coolgardie.<sup>4</sup> West Perth (St Brigid's) was declared an autonomous

---

<sup>1</sup> *The Record*, 5 May 1923, p. 2.

<sup>2</sup> Anne McLay, *Women out of their sphere: Sisters of Mercy in Western Australia from 1846*, Vanguard Press, Northbridge, 1992, pp. 221-3. The Order soon became the second largest female order in the world behind the French Daughters of Charity.

<sup>3</sup> *ibid.*, pp. 7-10. The group included professed nuns Ursula Frayne (founding Mother Superior), Catherine Gogarty and Anne Xavier, novices Xavier Dillon, Ignatia de la Hoyde, Aloysius Kelly and Baptist O'Donnell and postulate-to-be, Catherine O'Reilly. They arrived on the same boat as the Benedictine priests who established themselves at New Norcia.

<sup>4</sup> *ibid.*, p. 69.

foundation on 25 May 1896 and in the early 1900s began to branch out into the suburbs north of the railway tracks.<sup>5</sup>

By the early 1900s, the developing Leeder Estate was characterised by modest brick and weatherboard housing. The Catholic Church recognised that residents required access to Catholic religious instruction and schooling and in 1903, the Sisters of Mercy from St Brigid's in West Perth established a branch house in a six-roomed cottage at the corner of Marion and Shakespeare streets. The first mass was held in this combined church and school, which they named 'Arranmore', on 27 May 1903.<sup>6</sup> By April the following year, a new church/school building had been completed alongside the cottage facing Marian Street and the Sisters of Mercy were able to use the cottage as their convent:

Convent and school were very much intertwined in those early days at Arranmore. Children drenched on the way to school in wet weather would be taken into the convent kitchen and dried out before the fire, eating biscuits and cake meanwhile. Next to the kitchen was a shade house, used as a classroom, covered with purple bougainvillea. It had a dirt floor, Hessian walls and turn-over desk...The girls delighted in fitting the garments on washing day to particular nuns. School finished early every Wednesday because the sisters had to go – by horse and buggy – into West Perth for confession....<sup>7</sup>

Arranmore also took boarders, many of them girls from poorer families. In 1915, there were about 12 boarders at the school, whose dormitory was on the enclosed verandah on the Shakespeare Street side of the convent. A large hedge screened the convent from the street and made the dormitory more private.<sup>8</sup>

Initially part of the West Perth parish, the parish of Leederville was formed in March 1919. A cottage at 46 Franklin Street was purchased for use as the presbytery and John Francis Moloney was appointed the first parish priest.<sup>9</sup>

Between 1921 and 1923, the Catholic Church purchased three blocks of land on which to build a permanent place of worship, including two of the last Leeder Estate blocks following Mrs Leeder's death in October 1922.<sup>10</sup> By March 1923, the City of Perth had approved block plans for the Church.<sup>11</sup> In order to raise funds for the construction of the Church building, dances and euchre parties were held in the North Perth Town Hall each week.<sup>12</sup>

---

<sup>5</sup> Ibid., p. 148.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid., pp. 148-49. Its official title was 'Our Lady of the Perpetual Succor'. Arranmore is an isle off the County Galway, Ireland. Arranmore, the Sisters of Mercy's first branch house, was followed by Osborne Park (1920) and Lesmurdie (1929).

<sup>7</sup> Ibid., pp. 148-49.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid., p. 149.

<sup>9</sup> John Taylor Architect, 'Conservation Plan for St Mary's Church, Leederville', May 1998, p. 13, citing 'Leederville Parish History', information provided by the Catholic Church Office, Archdiocese of Perth.

<sup>10</sup> *The Record*, 5 May 1923, p. 2.

<sup>11</sup> Block Plan, Roman Catholic Church, Leederville, Ernest H Hamilton, Architect, stamped as conditionally approved by the City of Perth, 28 March 1923, City of Perth Building Licence Records, as reproduced in John Taylor Architect, op. cit, p. 26.

<sup>12</sup> *The Record*, 27 May 1922, p. 4; 16 May 1923, p. 2.

The foundation stone for the Church, to be named St Mary's, was laid on 6 May 1923 by the Archbishop of Perth.<sup>13</sup> Storm damage during August, which lifted the roof under construction, caused some delay in building.<sup>14</sup>

Designed by Ernest H Hamilton and built by E Russell<sup>15</sup>, St Mary's Church was officially opened on 9 December 1923 by his Grace, Archbishop Clune.<sup>16</sup> A contemporary photograph shows a timber picket fence along the Franklin Street frontage.<sup>17</sup> Local parishioners, the Berry Brothers, are credited with the internal joinery work.<sup>18</sup>

An undated sewerage plan (c.1931) shows the extent of the St Mary's buildings at this time. They included the weatherboard convent school (1904, since demolished) in a 'T' shape with verandahs surrounding the stem of the T facing Marian Street, and the weatherboard convent (old cottage) with enclosed verandahs on the street and side elevations at the corner of Shakespeare and Marian streets. The grounds were largely open and undeveloped, apart from three small weatherboard and corrugated iron buildings and two gravel tennis courts to the north-west.<sup>19</sup> To the north of Franklin Street was St Mary's Church, identified as being brick with a gravel path sweeping across the front of the church either side of the entry porch. Other buildings at the rear of the site were a weatherboard garage, weatherboard shed and water closet.<sup>20</sup>

Records indicate that a hall was purchased from the Goldfields in 1928 and erected at the corner of Franklin and Oxford streets in 1929. However, this hall is not shown on the c. 1931 sewerage diagram.<sup>21</sup>

A new convent for the Sisters of Mercy was blessed and opened by the Coadjutor Archbishop, the Most Reverend Dr Prendiville, in November 1933. Construction had commenced the previous May, when His Grace Archbishop Clune laid the foundation stone.

The convent, which is a fine two storey building, 160 feet in length and 30 feet wide, is at the corner of Franklin and Shakespeare-streets, facing St Mary's Church...Behind the new building is the old convent and school, where the Sisters have resided for the past 31 years, this being one of the first three houses to be

---

<sup>13</sup> *The Record*, 12 May 1923, p. 4.

<sup>14</sup> *The Record*, 11 August 1923, p. 13.

<sup>15</sup> Information from foundation stone; 'Block Plan Roman Catholic Church, Leederville', from City of Perth Building Licence Records, as cited in John Taylor Architect, op. cit., p. 14.

<sup>16</sup> *The Record*, 1 December 1923, p. 14. No reference to the actual opening was found in subsequent issues of *The Record*.

<sup>17</sup> *The Record*, 16 August 1973, p. 3, photograph captioned '...a picture of St Mary's Church...after its opening day on December 27 fifty years ago'.

<sup>18</sup> *The Record*, 5 December 1996, p. 16. At the time of construction, Berry Brothers were advertising in *The Record* as 'specialists in church furniture'.

<sup>19</sup> Metropolitan Sewerage, City of Perth, Sheet 157, n.d. (c. 1931), Cons 4156, State Records Office of Western Australia (SROWA).

<sup>20</sup> Metropolitan Sewerage, City of Perth, Sheet 156, n.d., Cons 4156, SROWA. Franklin Street had previously been named Shaftesbury Street, but the name was changed in June 1930.

<sup>21</sup> *The Record*, 16 August 1973, p. 3. The State Records Office holds an undated, unsigned plan for a Church Hall, corner of Shaftesbury (now Franklin) and Oxford streets. This was for a two storey building of steel and iron construction, with shops on the ground floor and hall, kitchen and two dressing rooms above. Public Health Authority, 'Plan for Church Hall, cnr Shaftesbury and Oxford St, n.d., Cons 5094, Item 175, SROWA.

erected on the estate by the Leeder family. In addition to the transference of the existing primary school, the new building will, commencing in the new year, provide secondary education for Catholic children in the district, the high school section occupying the west wing. The net cost of the convent is £5,300, and of this about £4,000 has already been received. For the erection of the building the parish priest, Father Moloney, has been mainly responsible, the Coadjutor Archbishop describing him as architect, clerk of works, foreman, and even bricklayer's assistant. The convent was almost entirely built of West Australian material, and gave employment to many workmen since its commencement in May last.<sup>22</sup>

By May 1934, the construction of a new presbytery next to the Church was underway:

It is hoped that the new presbytery will be in keeping with St Mary's Church – not yet completed – alongside which will stand in years to come, and St Mary's Convent, which it will face across the street.<sup>23</sup>

The Presbytery was opened in November 1934.<sup>24</sup>

At the time, the parish proudly boasted of its new buildings:

Surely, if slowly, our parish is acquiring those buildings without which no parish can function efficiently. Already we have a church, which admittedly cannot be classed with the classic churches of Australia but is one that meets, and has met, our needs and one which our parish is proud of. We have a primary and also a high school, both flourishing and maintaining a high degree of efficiency. We have a parochial hall, which would be a credit to any parish in Australia, and which ranks amongst the very best in West Australia. We have a convent also of which the convent and occupants are justly proud, and now at last we are about to see a presbytery in keeping with the other parochial buildings.<sup>25</sup>

As in earlier years, much of the fundraising for these buildings was achieved through the annual bazaar and popular weekly dances and euchre meetings held in St Mary's Hall (now Aranmore Catholic College Hall).<sup>26</sup>

Work to complete St Mary's Church commenced in May 1937 and finished in February 1938. The extensions included 'two bays to the nave, a spacious Sanctuary, two sacristies, a baptistery, and two side altars'. Large stained-glass windows featuring the Crucifixion and the Last Supper and made by Matthieson and Gibson (of London and Melbourne) were installed in the Sanctuary and a large terrazzo Communion rail, made by Franzan Brothers of Perth, enclosed the Sanctuary. The imposing tower and spire were identified as a 'landmark for miles around'. The Church could now accommodate about 200 people.<sup>27</sup> In opening and blessing the Church, the Archbishop congratulated Father Moloney on his zeal and energy in completing God's House:

The new Church was a standing tribute to his work and to the generosity of the parishioners of St Mary's Parish, who had now a fully completed church, on a

---

<sup>22</sup> *The Record*, 25 November 1933, p. 10. The same edition contains an extensive list of donors to the Convent building fund (p. 8).

<sup>23</sup> *The Record*, 5 May 1934, p. 9.

<sup>24</sup> *The Record*, 10 November 1934, p. 8.

<sup>25</sup> *The Record*, 5 May 1934, p. 9.

<sup>26</sup> See, for example, *The Record*, 14 April 1934, p. 9; 10 November 1934, p. 8.

<sup>27</sup> *The Record*, 19 February 1938, p. 15.



commanding site, whose spire, like the hand of an apostle, pointed heavenwards, leading their thoughts to high and nobler things'.<sup>28</sup>

The bell installed in the new belltower had been cast at the O'Byrne Foundry in Dublin in 1928 and the mounting equipment is inscribed: 'M Byrnes Patent Rotary Mounting'.<sup>29</sup>

Meanwhile, a number of other Catholic teaching orders had been established in Western Australia at the invitation of Bishop Matthew Gibney, amongst them the Christian Brothers.<sup>30</sup> Successful Irish businessman, Edmund Rice had founded the Christian Brothers in the early 1830s, with the aim of providing free education for boys.<sup>31</sup> The Order printed its own text books, which were both distinctly national and Catholic in sentiment. Both of these principles were imported to Australia when Brother Patrick Ambrose Treacy established the first Christian Brothers' School in Melbourne in 1868. Treacy also set up 'pay schools', where boys were offered a higher standard of education, in Dundedin (1876), St Kilda (1878), Adelaide (1879), and three in Sydney (1879), Nudgee (1891) and Ballarat (1893).<sup>32</sup>

Following Gibney's successful negotiations with Brother Treacy to set up schools in Western Australia, two brothers took over St Patrick's Boys Primary School in Irwin Street, East Perth. Treacy preferred the site at 1 St George's Terrace for a combined primary and secondary school, and St Patrick's reopened on that site in February 1894. Christian Brothers' colleges (CBCs) followed in Albany (1898), Fremantle (1901) and Kalgoorlie (1906).<sup>33</sup>

By the early 1930s, the Christian Brothers' St Patrick's School (by now in Wellington Street and the largest CBC in the state) was overcrowded, with the average number of students per class over 70. To ease the overcrowding, a new school was opened in Highgate Hill in February 1936 but a lack of funding meant that the school opened with only five classrooms, a science hall and a Brothers' residence. As numbers grew, the need for further accommodation in both the inner city schools became

---

<sup>28</sup> Ibid. See also, Public Health Authority plans (not named, undated, unsigned) showing detail of these works, Cons 5094, Item 522, SROWA. These drawings may have been part of the original work by architect Ernest Hamilton.

<sup>29</sup> John Taylor Architect, op. cit., p. 16, citing physical evidence of bell inscription.

<sup>30</sup> Kevin Paull, *Beyond Dreams in Stone: A History of the Christian Brothers' Colleges in Western Australia 1894-2000*, Trustees of the Christian Brothers in WA Inc, Salter Point, 2001, pp. 9-13. Gibney's call for religious teaching orders accompanied the abolition of the dual system of education by the Western Australian government, which ended financial assistance to church and other private schools. As members of Religious Orders were not paid a full teacher's salary, Catholic schools remained affordable for many parents.

<sup>31</sup> *ibid.*, p. 14.

<sup>32</sup> *ibid.*, pp. 15-17.

<sup>33</sup> *ibid.*, pp. 17-36. Meanwhile, there was great debate about the use of the Christian Brothers' own text books in Australian schools. Local authorities (Gibney, Treacy et al) did not want to insist on their use as governments generally found them too Catholic and anti-British and threatened to withdraw government funding. However, the authorities in Ireland insisted on their use in all Christian Brothers' schools.

evident, but the size of both sites limited the potential for physical expansion.<sup>34</sup>

In order to address the problem, it was decided to build another school at Leederville:

...Monsignor Moloney, the parish priest of Leederville, was only too willing to build a school. He ruled his working class parish with assured authoritarianism and so money and land were not insuperable problems. He had already built a Church, a convent and a School for girls, under the management of the Sisters of Mercy. He paid for these buildings with a thriving social program of raffles, dances, fancy dress balls and fetes. He simply extended the program to finance another school and residence. To gain the land he simply divided the original block on which the Girls' School stood and designated one half as St Mary's Boys' School.<sup>35</sup>

The Most Reverend Dr Prendiville opened the new college on 8 February 1942. During the ceremony, the Archbishop paid tribute to Father Moloney:

The beautiful new building was in keeping with the other buildings of the parish. It was worthy of the purpose for which it had been erected. It was a modern school with well ventilated and well-lighted classrooms. It met the most rigid demands of modern educational requirements. He heartily congratulated Monsignor Moloney and all associated with him for the work...He had designed and supervised the building, had acted the part of plumber, carpenter, and tiler. He (the Archbishop) was deeply grateful to Monsignor Moloney for the splendid buildings of Leederville and for his help in connection with building activities in other parts of the Archdiocese.

The question was often asked, continued his Grace, why the Church continued building in war time, when materials were so urgently required for the war effort. It was imperative that the work of the Church should go on in peace and war. Hence permission had been sought in Canberra for the necessary expenditure, and when the circumstances had been explained, the permission had been readily granted.<sup>36</sup>

The Brothers were given the deeds of the property in exchange for staff in the college and Father J G Hyland was appointed principle. There were 138 students in attendance on the first day, including 38 in the senior class.<sup>37</sup> Enrolments remained static at CBC Leederville, during the remainder of the war years, but grew to around three hundred in the early fifties.<sup>38</sup> In the 1950s, only 37 per cent of the boys attending CBC Leederville came from the local parish. As at Highgate, the school lost its local identity to a large extent and became a regional high school.<sup>39</sup>

A new primary and secondary school building (located between the Convent and CBC buildings facing Franklin Street) was completed in 1952 and St

---

<sup>34</sup> ibid., pp. 118-121.

<sup>35</sup> ibid., p. 122, citing Parish Notes, St Mary's Presbytery, Leederville; Leederville House Annals, Westcourt Archives, Perth (CB HQ, Salter Point).

<sup>36</sup> *The Record*, 12 February 1942, p. 14.

<sup>37</sup> Paull, op. cit., p. 123, citing Leederville House Annals, Westcourt Archives, Perth (CB HQ, Salter Point).

<sup>38</sup> ibid.

<sup>39</sup> ibid., p. 173.

Mary's primary and secondary schools were formally united in 1954. By this time, the school was known as St Mary's College.<sup>40</sup>

An iron and stone fence was erected around the church and presbytery in 1956.<sup>41</sup>

Moloney is credited with being the driving force behind the construction of all the buildings at St Mary's and CBC Leederville during this period. In 1939, he was conferred the dignity of Domestic Prelate to His Holiness the Pope, and in the ceremony held at St Mary's Church, the Archbishop praised his work in the Archdiocese, particularly in the Leederville parish:

The energy of Moloney was truly amazing; every parish in which he had laboured contained monuments to his zeal for the cause of God and His Church – schools, churches, and other parochial buildings – but more important was the spiritual progress which resulted from this self-sacrificing priestly work.<sup>42</sup>

Moloney received further commendation on his golden jubilee of 50 years as a priest in 1955:

Monsignor Moloney started with nothing in his new parish. In the long spans of his pastorate covering half a century he has performed a monumental task of development, not only in arranging the building of the parish unit but by acting as architect and supervisor of works. St Mary's Church, the presbytery, the hall, the girls' school, the boys' school and the primary school in Leederville proper are the work of his hands.<sup>43</sup>

Moloney died in February 1958<sup>44</sup> and the parishioners erected the high altar in St Mary's Church in his honour. His work is also commemorated by a plaque in the nave. The Right Reverend Monsignor A T Langmead was appointed the next parish priest.<sup>45</sup>

Plans and specifications for outbuildings at St Mary's Church were prepared by E Le B Henderson and Thompson Architects in November 1958. These comprised a new toilet block adjacent to the north-west corner of the church and combined garage and laundry behind the presbytery.<sup>46</sup> Some internal work was undertaken, including the removal of a short wall in the sacristy for new fittings and the provision of cupboards in the tribune, tower and working sacristy.<sup>47</sup>

---

<sup>40</sup> McLay, op. cit., p. 348. Public Health Authority, 'Site Plan of Proposed Additions to St Mary's School, Leederville', unsigned and undated, Cons 5094, Item 411, SROWA, *West Australian* 6 June 1955 p. 6.

<sup>41</sup> John Taylor Architect, op. cit., p. 20, citing St Mary's Leederville, brochure from Diamond Jubilee, 6 May 1983 (updated information inserted c. 1992).

<sup>42</sup> *The Record*, 12 January 1939, p. 15.

<sup>43</sup> *The Record*, 9 June 1955, p. 1. Moloney also built the school-church at Gwelup, the parish church and school at Osborne Park and the school-church at Scarborough.

<sup>44</sup> *The Record*, 27 February 1958, p. 1.

<sup>45</sup> John Taylor Architect, op. cit., p. 17.

<sup>46</sup> 'St Mary's Church and Presbytery, Leederville, Proposed Lavatories, Garage and Laundry etc for Right Rev. Monsignor Langmead', E le B Henderson & Thompson, Architects, City of Perth Archives, as reproduced in John Taylor Architect, op. cit., p. 50.

<sup>47</sup> John Taylor Architect, op. cit., p. 17, no reference given.

By 1960, there were more than 400 children from Grade 1 to 5<sup>th</sup> year High School and 28 sisters in residence at St Mary's Convent School, including 15 novices.<sup>48</sup>

Following the Vatican II Council (1962-64), alterations were made to the internal layout of the Church in accordance with changes in church liturgy. The sanctuary was rearranged with the altar moved forward and baptismal font was relocated to the front of the nave from its previous position at the rear of the church.<sup>49</sup>

Commencing around 1960, a three-storey brick construction classroom block was erected to the west of the Murphy Wing. The wing was built in two stages.

In 1965, Oldham, Boas, Ednie-Brown and Partners prepared plans for a new high school building on the corner of Shakespeare and Marion streets. The two storey brick and tile building comprised three science laboratories on the ground floor and hall, library and domestic science rooms above and was constructed on the site of the original convent building (weatherboard cottage).<sup>50</sup>

In January 1966, architects W G Bennett, Allen and Allen prepared plans for alterations to St Mary's Hall (now Aranmore Catholic College Hall). The existing hall, comprising stage and hall with a supper room and kitchen to the north, was to be extended with the addition of an entrance hall, men's and ladies' cloak rooms and toilets and paved area to the north and west.<sup>51</sup>

In 1968, the parish adopted St Rocco as its patron saint, and initiated an annual street procession and celebration to commemorate this relationship. This was in response to the growing number of Italian migrants in the parish for whom it was an important tradition to have and celebrate a patron saint. Italians from all over Perth, the Archbishop and some guests from churches in Italy that associate with St Rocco, attend the November event each year, bringing banners to process through the streets of Leederville behind a statue of St Rocco. The procession is followed with a celebration meal in the church hall. This event has been celebrated since 1968 and is ongoing.<sup>52</sup>

A new Parish Centre was built in Franklin Street (next to the Presbytery) in 1972. Designed by Broderick and Partners, the single storey brick and tile centre included a resource centre, hall, kitchen, store and meeting rooms.<sup>53</sup>

---

<sup>48</sup> McLay, op. cit., p. 348.

<sup>49</sup> John Taylor Architect, op. cit, p. 17, no reference given.

<sup>50</sup> Public Health Authority, 'Proposed St Mary's New High School, Shakespeare Street, Leederville, for the Sisters of Mercy', Oldham, Boas, Ednie-Brown and Partners, December 1965, Sheets 1 & 2, Cons 5094, Item 411, SROWA.

<sup>51</sup> Public Health Authority, 'St Mary's Church Hall, Oxford Street, Proposed Additions for the Very Reverend Monsignor Langmead', January 1966, Cons 5094, Item 175, SROWA.

<sup>52</sup> Fr Jim Petri, parish priest at St Mary's 1991-2004, conversation with Clare Schulz, 24 May 2005.

<sup>53</sup> Public Health Department, 'St Mary's Parish Centre', Broderick and Partners, July 1972, Cons 5094, Item 175, SROWA.

When a new primary school was built in Brentham Street, Leederville, in 1975, the St Mary's primary and secondary schools once again formally separated.<sup>54</sup>

By the early 1980s, CBC Leederville and St Mary's Convent School were both facing a common problem of the time: providing a large number of students with quality education to the completion of Year 12. Both schools were forced to provide a wider curriculum to a broad range of students, a task which both schools found difficult to accomplish. Located side by side, an obvious solution was to amalgamate them into one large campus. However, each school had its own educational ethos: St Mary's remained fairly conservative while CBC Leederville was more experimental.<sup>55</sup>

In the 1970s, CBC Leederville was noted for its 'radical solutions' to problems facing many schools:

Under principal Br J V Mann the college tried to make students more responsible for their own lives by encouraging them to make decisions about school life. The student council was given the power to help mold school policy. Parents were alarmed at the outward signs of this change. A smoking room was permitted at the school; dress standards and student appearance deteriorated. Where some schools tried to take a stand against the fashions of the day, at Leederville long hair became *de rigueur*.<sup>56</sup>

However, the experiment was largely a failure and according to Paul, property was defaced, classes were uncontrollable and students returned poor academic results.<sup>57</sup>

Despite this, Principal Br P J Cronin of CBC Leederville (appointed 1978) immediately began to set the groundwork for the amalgamation of the two schools

...by providing them with a raft of common policies. He developed in conjunction with St Mary's a uniform system of subject assessment and devised a combined code of conduct for students of both schools. As well as this he unified the system of fees between the schools and began a program of construction that upgraded the buildings and grounds.<sup>58</sup>

Br Cronin built a manual arts and crafts centre on the opposite side of Franklin Street, and had plans to eventually close the street and expand the playing areas. The Centre was financed at least in part by sponsorship and capital grants and was completed to designs by Michael Broderick and Partners in 1979.<sup>59</sup> On completion, the building was named the A and I Bateman Manual Arts building. With the help of the Federal Government's capital grants program and the State Government's low interest loan scheme, the two schools combined to build a new library and the Glendalough Parish School became CBC Primary School.<sup>60</sup> The library was

---

<sup>54</sup> McLay, op. cit., p. 348.

<sup>55</sup> Paul, op. cit., p. 272.

<sup>56</sup> *ibid.*, p. 226.

<sup>57</sup> *ibid.*, p. 228.

<sup>58</sup> *ibid.*, p. 272.

<sup>59</sup> Information on plaques in entry area noted on site visit 5 November 2003.

<sup>60</sup> *ibid.*, pp. 272-73.

built to designs by Michael Broderick and Partners and completed and opened in 1982 and named after the first parish priest, J. F. Moloney.<sup>61</sup>

Despite these efforts, the principles of both schools were hesitant to formally amalgamate, feeling that an ideal compromise had been achieved in establishing a co-educational senior school and single-sexed middle schools. However, the two schools still required separate administrations, which meant that they were economically unfeasible should lay principals be appointed. However, when Br K J Paull was appointed principle of CBC Leederville in 1983, he made the final steps towards amalgamation. This involved the relocation of the remaining Sisters of Mercy and Christian Brothers away from the convent and college to nearby houses so that their accommodation could be used for a central administration area and common staff room.<sup>62</sup> An Interim Board was selected and set about drawing up a budget, planning the buildings and choosing school colours and uniform. Some staff and parents were concerned about the amalgamation.<sup>63</sup>

Between the individual schools closing in 1986 and opening of the school as the amalgamated entity of Aranmore College the following year, the Brothers' monastery was converted into a staffroom and the classrooms re-organised. Franklin Street was closed and the grounds expanded. Aranmore College was named to commemorate the first school opened in Leederville by the Sisters of Mercy in 1903. Within 12 months, the boys' primary school at Glendalough combined with St Mary's Primary School in Leederville (and renamed Aranmore Primary) to become a double-streamed K-7 school.<sup>64</sup>

Both CBC Leederville and St Mary's Convent School had traditionally been multicultural, with large numbers of Italian, Greek and Slavic, and later Vietnamese children. In the nineties, the school became even more multicultural, with over 60 nationalities attending the college.<sup>65</sup>

Management of Aranmore was transferred to the Catholic Education Commission in 1988, although the congregation retain title to the land on which the school and church buildings stand.<sup>66</sup> In fact, the Church, Presbytery, and Parish Centre are owned by the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Perth, the St Mary's Convent School land by the Sisters of Mercy, and the former Christian Brothers College parts of the site are retained by the Christian Brothers.

Under the guidance of Father Patrick Russell (appointed Parish Priest in 1986) and Father Samuel Rodomonti, restoration work on the Church commenced in the late 1980s. The choir window was restored in 1990 and the following year, remedial work was carried out on concrete surfaces and

---

<sup>61</sup> Information on plaques in entry area noted on site visit 5 November 2003

<sup>62</sup> *ibid*, p. 273.

<sup>63</sup> *ibid*, p. 274.

<sup>64</sup> *ibid*, p. 275.

<sup>65</sup> Paull, *op. cit.*, pp. 276-77.

<sup>66</sup> McLay, *op. cit.*, p. 349.

the steeple, with the replacement of finials and towers. Gifts and loans from parishioners financed much of the work.<sup>67</sup>

In the 1990s, St Mary's Church continued to be a popular venue for weddings, particularly with former students of Aranmore College.<sup>68</sup>

In 2005, Aranmore College continues as a coeducational Catholic day school, and St Mary's Parish is active in the church buildings.

### 13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

*Aranmore Catholic College Group* comprises the St. Mary's Parish buildings (Church, Presbytery and Parish Centre) and the College buildings (the remainder of the buildings). The major elements of the group are the single storey brick, stucco and tile *St. Mary's Church* (1923 and 1937), the two storey concrete block and corrugated iron roof Aranmore Catholic College Hall (formerly St Mary's Hall 1929), two storey brick and tile St. Mary's Convent fmr (1933), two storey brick and tile St. Mary's Presbytery (1934), two storey brick and tile Mann Building (1942), two storey brick and tile St. Mary's School fmr (1952), three storey brick and asbestos roof Murphy Wing, two storey brick and tile St. Joseph's Science Block (1965), single storey brick and tile St. Mary's Parish Centre (1972), single storey brick and iron A and I Bateman Manual Arts Block (1979), two storey brick and tile J. F. Moloney Library (1982) and other minor structures in a designed landscape setting.

*Aranmore Catholic College Group* is located in the north-eastern corner of Leederville, at a high point in the district, and set between two major traffic arteries, Oxford and Loftus streets. The site is bounded by a right-of-way to the north, Shakespeare Street to the east, Marian Street to the south and Oxford Street to the west. The school is arranged along both sides of the now closed Franklin Street that runs between Oxford and Loftus streets. The general built environment context comprises late nineteenth and early twentieth century residences in streets lined with Queensland Box Trees (*Lephostemon conferta*). In the vicinity of the school, grassed verges have given away to right angle car parking for school and parish related purposes. Franklin Street has a cul-de-sac at both ends, providing access to parts of the school site, parking, and open landscaped space. The street is paved with red bitumen and concrete paths pass through the public domain, with the dominant street tree planting comprising Fiddlewood (*Citharexylum fruticosum*), and other plantings including London Planes (*Platinus x acerfolia*) Queensland Box Trees, an Umbrella Tree, Lemon Scented Gums (*Eucalyptus citriodora*), and Coprosma (*Coprosma spp.*).

St. Mary's Convent fmr building is set in formal lawns, fringed with bed plantings and the lawned garden to the south (Convent Garden). There are hard playing surfaces on the southern boundary, and parking areas in the closed streets, in front of the Mann Building and around the presbytery.

---

<sup>67</sup> John Taylor Architect, op. cit., p. 18, citing St Mary's Leederville, brochure from Diamond Jubilee, 6 May 1983 (updated information inserted c. 1992).

<sup>68</sup> *The Record*, 5 December 1996, p. 16.

Plantings in the spaces around and between buildings comprise native and exotic plant elections. Generally plant types are grouped so that there are groups of Eucalypts (*Eucalyptus spp.*), Cocos Palms (*Syagms romanzoffiana*), Iron Wood Trees (*Eucalyptus sideroxylon*), Bottlebrushes (*Callitemon spp.*), Rottneest Island Ti Trees (*Callitris preissii*), New Zealand Christmas Trees (*Metrosideros excelsa*), and Tree Ferns (*Cyathea australis*). Other individual plantings include Siberian Elm (*Ulmus parvifolia*), English Oak (*Quercus robur*), an Umbrella Tree (*Schefflera actinophylla*), Cypress Trees (*Cupressus spp.*), Peppermint Trees (*Agonis flexuosa*), Chinese Tallow(*Sapium sebiferum*), and two relatively mature Norfolk Island Pines (*Araucaria heterophylla*).

### **Timber church/school building Marian Street (1904)**

The building on the corner of Marian and Shakespeare streets was demolished in preparation for the construction of the St, Joseph's Science Block in 1965. There is no surface evidence of this building.

### **St Mary's Church (1923 and 1937)**

St Mary's Church is by parish standards a large brick and tile Inter-War Gothic church building with a belltower and tall spire. (Registered place No. 2196). The design of the church is of high artistic merit and is the finest design of any building in the group. It is an atavistic use of the gothic style and is classified as an Inter-War Gothic style church. The design of the place is very elaborate for a parish church and is more akin to a small cathedral. With its tall belltower and spire, together with its siting on the highest piece of land in the district, St. Mary's Church is a prominent landmark and can be seen from long distances.

The church is built to an auditory plan, with an entrance porch, long nave, sanctuary and flanking transepts, with the tower located to the south of the eastern transept. This planning arrangement gives the church its characteristic form with its low porch with perpendicular gothic south facing window and east and west facing doors, the nave of six bays, also with perpendicular gothic windows. The intermediate bays are articulated with stepped brick buttresses, while the corner buttresses extend though the roofline and terminate in decorative pinnacles with crockets applied to the pinnacles. The tall south window set over the porch is also in the perpendicular style. All of these lights have stained glass leadlight windows.

The belltower and spire is a square plan element that is engaged with the nave and the eastern transept. It rises to over twice the height of the church. There is a slight change in motif on the tower, where perpendicular windows give way to pairs of slim lancets. At the top of the tower there is a pinnacle on each corner in the same design as those applied to the nave. The stucco finished tower then takes on slender proportions, terminating in a cross at the top. The dominant wall material is brick, with stucco banding, opening architraves, label moulds, balustrades, parapet caps, pinnacles and the like.

### **Aranmore Catholic College Hall (formerly St Mary's Hall 1929 and 1966)**



The Hall comprises a pair of rendered brick and iron roofed shops on the Oxford Street elevation with a second floor level over the shops, designed in a stripped Inter-War Functionalist style to form a large single space hall in concrete 'rock faced' block construction, corrugated iron roof, with utilitarian toilet and ancillary facilities on the northern elevation.

The front elevation comprises a gable wall divided by piers that extend beyond the parapet with flat pier tops. The façade is divided into ground and second floor by a continuous flat roofed awning, suspended off the building wall. The ground floor section comprises a glazed tile dado, rendered brick upper walls, and a series of metal framed window and timber framed and clad doors. The first walls are articulated by the piers and aluminium framed windows in former door openings. The gable wall is topped with a Latin cross and the face of the wall has the 'St Mary's Hall 1929' applied to it in relief lettering. The body of the hall is constructed in 'rock faced' concrete blocks laid in stretcher bond, with piers at regular intervals along the walls. In most bays there are small pane windows with large panels of fixed light and centre pivot lights at the top. At the mid point of the south wall, there is a pair of doors with a canvas awning over them, and these doors effectively operate as the entry. The roof is a gabled corrugated iron format, with a continuous rolled ridge ventilation capping. To the north lies the addition that comprises the change rooms, kitchen, toilets and the like.

The hall has a simple plan, with the main body of the hall to the south, stage at the east end and shops and entry to the west end, and additions to the north.

The hall has a timber floor, plastered wall to the west and south and plastered and painted brick walls to the north, a cathedral ceiling lined with boards and cover battens. The bottom chords of the steel construction roof trusses protrude under the ceiling. Two sets of timber stairs lead up to the first floor accommodation at the western end. The stage is raised about 4'0" above the main floor level, and has a vertical timber boarded front. The proscenium arch is simply treated, with splayed walls to the front of the stage to the arch line, and corrugated iron wall cladding over the arch to complete a simple treatment.

It would appear that a balcony has been removed from the western end of the hall, the ceiling replaced and the whole of the north wall modified to cater for the additions to the north. Internal doors are flush panel and are replacements for earlier door types. Fluorescent lighting and radiant gas heaters have been fitted.

### **St. Mary's Convent fmr (1933) now College Administration**

St. Mary's Convent fmr (1933) has a grassed forecourt, with a path aligned with the entry axis, lined with standard roses terminating in a pair of cypress trees. The former convent is a two storey brick and tile building stripped of style references as a whole. However, in its joinery and glazing details, there are stylistic references to the Federation Arts and Crafts style. The convent is built to a Roman 'L' shaped plan, with two gabled roof ends terminating at a centrally located loggia across the front of the building, with the western leg of the place extending south to form the L shape. The gable bays are constructed in red face brickwork with cut and struck joints, divided

into six panels by five stucco bands. There are sets of three windows at ground and first floor level and the gables are terminated with a stucco parapet capping and Latin cross. A single storey sanctuary extends off the east of the two-storey section of the building. The loggia has a concrete floor, stucco columns, a curved frieze decorated with dentils, a steel balustrade, with windows within the loggia being double hung sashes and at first floor level there is a series of half glazed French doors. The front entrance comprises a part glazed door with sidelights and a hopper light over. All of the glazing is stained glass leadlight. The rear verandah is a simpler form of construction with timber posts, floor structure and balustrades.

The building is planned around a central entry and staircase to the first floor, with a centrally located corridor extending from the entrance axis to the east and west. At ground floor level, the rooms that extend along the front or northern part of the plan were two parlours and two cells. The walls between the hall and the parlours have been removed to form a reception area for the College's administration, but otherwise the parlours have been left intact. The rear or south side of the corridor is taken up with cells, now used as offices and stores. There is a large space at the eastern end that was designed as a chapel and is the principal's office, with a small sanctuary on the eastern wall, the arch to which can still be seen from inside the principal's office. A toilet addition has been made to the verandah at the eastern end via a former cell. The western end originally contained two classrooms, refectory and kitchen but is now used for teaching spaces. The first floor level is planned along the same corridor spine as the ground floor, but is lined with small cells on both sides, with a large work room and study at the east end and community rooms at the west end with toilets to the rear. These spaces are used for administration, storage, and teaching.

The interiors comprise carpeted timber floors, splayed timber skirtings, plastered walls, plasterboard and cover batten ceilings, 6 panel paneled doors, with arched top rails, hopper lights to principal rooms, stained glass and paneled doors with hopper and side lights and main access points, and French doors to first floor cells. The parlours, larger cells at ground and first floor have cast iron fireboxes, tiled surrounds and timber mantles and these are finely designed elements. The internal stair has stop chamfered newels, with a plain timber vertical baluster format balustrade, and timber paneling the sides of the stair and to the stair soffit. Ceiling roses are employed sparingly for the major spaces.

The major changes would appear to be in the blocking of the sanctuary from the chapel, the removal of two parlour walls to form a new reception area, the inclusion of toilets on the east side of the building, modifications to existing toilets, and the introduction of suspended ceilings in a number of rooms. The bones of the original concept and much of the detail remains intact. It is most likely that internal joinery was originally stained and varnished and has subsequently been painted over.

There is some mortar fretting on the weather faces of the building. The building is generally well maintained and in good condition.

### **St. Mary's Presbytery (1934 and 1958)**

St. Mary's Presbytery (1934) is a two storey brick and tile building stripped of style references as a whole. However, in its joinery and glazing details, there are stylistic references to the Federation Arts and Crafts style. The grounds of the presbytery have been paved with only small sections of lawn remaining. The building is asymmetrically planned with a gabled thrust bay at the front of the house, and verandahs to the front and sides being the dominant visual elements. The walls are brick with stucco bands using a similar architectural language to the convent on the opposite side of Franklin Street. Here, however, the gable is stressed by its weighty proportions, regular stucco bands, and by the corbelled out gable, with stucco ends and parapet cap, cross, and louvred gable. The verandahs lead off this projecting room to the north and east, and are detailed with concrete ground floors, stop chamfered timber posts, fine post brackets, and timber upper floors. Timber balustrades have been removed and replaced with very thin mild steel balustrades with fine vertical balusters, which detract from the presentation of the verandahs. There are concrete steps leading up to the front verandah and on to the finely designed front door, with side and hopper lights, all glazed with stained glass leadlights that include the words 'St. Mary's'. Principal windows are divided into bays of three, with three awning lights in each, while the remaining windows are mainly single pane double hung sashes, which is probably the format of all of the windows at the time of construction. The ends of the verandahs are clad in match boarding. The roof is covered in Marseilles pattern terracotta tiles and there are plain metal gutters along the eaves. The east verandah has been filled in at ground floor level to form the maid's room and a small bathroom has been added to the rear of the maid's room. There is a set of brick toilets and a garage to the rear. These are of a utilitarian design.

The plan is organized around three key access points, the front entrance and central corridor, the east corridor that give access to the church, and the stair on the western wall of the presbytery. There are three living spaces on the ground floor, a dining room plus a kitchen area and maid's rooms built into the verandah. The upper floor has five living spaces, a common bathroom and an ensuite bathroom.

This building was completed the year after the convent by the same architects using the same design motifs, so that the interiors are very similar to those of the convent. The fireplaces and surrounds vary and joinery has been left varnished.

The changes involve the refitting of the kitchen, the addition of the maid's room and bathroom, and the partitioning of the stair hall to make a counting room. Verandah balustrades have changed and the windows to the south elevation would appear to have been replaced with awning lights. Room uses have altered from the time when three priests used to occupy the place because now the place is occupied by only one priest. Several rooms appear not to be in use.

The exterior of the house suffers from a lack of painting and general maintenance, while the interior is in a good state of repair.

### **Mann Building (1942)**

The Mann Building was built as a monastery for the Christian Brothers and is a two storey brick and tile building. It is designed along very similar lines to the convent. The plan is reversed, with former kitchen and refectory on the eastern side rather than the west. The stylistic devices are similar to the convent, but simplified. For example, the front verandah is simply masonry detailing and there are no French doors to the upper cells, just windows opening over the verandah.

The interior planning too is similar to the convent, but the entrance hall and stair are smaller, with a simple scissor stair without a stair hall leading to the first floor. The cell arrangement of the ground floor, refectory and classroom arrangement is similar to the convent, with a narrow corridor serving the cells to the east. Upstairs most of the cells have been removed to open up the space into a range of small and very large spaces. Instead of the curved head doors that were used in the convent and presbytery, the doors are simply paneled with square heads.

Many windows have been replaced with aluminium. Some rooms have been re-arranged and suspended ceilings introduced in some areas. The kitchen has been removed and most of the first floor cells eliminated.

The building is generally well maintained and in good condition.

### **St. Mary's School (1952)**

St. Mary's School (1952) is a purpose designed teaching block, built as part of St. Mary's School. It is a two storey brick and tile buildings with some minor references to Gothic styling in terms of gable vents and the like. This building is similar in style to the convent building and is located to its immediate west. The building is planned around groups of three classrooms arranged along the east-west axis, with entrance to the rooms from the south verandah, and two classrooms at each end of the group of three with access direct from the school grounds on the north side and verandah on the south side. The first floor follows a similar pattern, except that the end rooms are interlinked to provide access.

The building presents two two-storey gabled bays to the north, with a module of the three classrooms with three sets of windows each strung between the gabled bays. At the western end there is a pair of doors that once served as the main entrance, but is no longer used in this manner. Short flights of steps lead up to the classroom and main entrances.

The gabled bays are brick construction divided into sections with stucco string courses, and large sets of windows at ground and first floor levels in four major bays with hopper lights over the main windows. In common with the Presbytery, the gables are corbelled out over the wall line and a stucco parapet capping completes the tops of the gables. Set high in each gable is a louvred vent in a perpendicular Gothic format, complete with stucco quoins and label moulds. Classroom windows in the infill section between gabled bays are much smaller and use the classical 2:1 proportions. Sashes in all windows appear to have been replaced. There are steel escape stairs at the ends of the building, which are a later addition. The rear elevation employs the same architectural vocabulary as the convent, including the verandah construction and styling details.

### **Murphy Wing (c1960)**

The Murphy Wing is located on the south-western corner of the site and is a linear plan classroom block, oriented along a north-south axis. It is a three storey red brick building, with a corrugated asbestos cement roof, concrete floors and aluminium windows. Due to the slope of the site, there are ground floor entries to the lower two floors while the upper floor is accessible only by stair. Concrete stairs are located on the outside of the building, and both stairs and balconies have painted steel balustrades.

### **St. Joseph's Science Block (1965)**

St. Joseph's Science Block is a two storey brick and low pitched tiled roof building, located on the site of the original timber construction school building. It is oriented on the north-south axis. It comprises two levels of science teaching and support spaces. It was originally planned as a science block, library, hall and domestic science building. It has concrete floors, concrete columns and verandahs, soft pink brick exteriors, aluminium framed awning windows, some cement rendered panels, and painted mild steel balustrades. It is very much a building of its day and the stylistic expression was used on secondary school buildings throughout the state.

### **St. Mary's Parish Centre (1972)**

St. Mary's Parish Centre is a single storey brick and tile building, designed in a simple style that resembles a residence. Its plan comprises a small hall, parish resource centre, two meeting rooms, kitchen, and toilets. The external walls are deep red face brick, the windows are aluminium framed and the roof is covered with terracotta tiles over a gambrel pattern framing system.

### **A and I Bateman Manual Arts Block (1979)**

A and I Bateman Manual Arts Block is a single storey brick and tile building, designed as a small scale industrial building. Though it uses the same material as the parish centre, the roofs are a combination of flat and mono-pitched patterns to produce top lighting into deep plan workshop spaces.

### **J. F. Moloney Library (1982)**

J. F. Moloney Library is located on the southern side of the site adjacent to the Mann Building. It has a small ground floor footprint, with the first floor extending over a greater area, to produce an undercroft. It is a two storey brick and tile building with aluminum windows.

### **Miscellaneous Buildings**

There are other minor buildings on the site including a small Marian Shrine in brick construction to the west of the church, the single storey brick and tile music room to the south of the convent, the single storey brick and metal deck roofed canteen and shelter shed block to the south of the old St. Mary's School building, Foley House, a building on Oxford Street, built as a house, and a modern brick and iron garage building to the west of the Murphy Wing. None of these buildings is of particular architectural merit.

### 13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

#### Convent Schools and Colleges

Late nineteenth century and twentieth century catholic schools were built to a similar pattern. The pattern of convents and monasteries was almost the same. Generally the external form was symmetrical with a central section of accommodation containing the main entrance and two end bays of building that extended forward and beyond the rear of the central section. The ends of the building were often designed with gabled roofs.

The plan form follows a very similar pattern, whether the building is a convent or monastery school, or simply a convent or monastery. There is always a centrally located front entrance, sometimes with a gabled emphasis (*St Joseph's Coolgardie*) or under a colonnade [St. Mary's Convent fmr and *St Brigid's Convent (fmr)*, Northbridge (RHP 1976)]. Either side of the entrance hall, there are parlours and beyond the parlours on the alignment of the entrance hall, a stair to the upper level. At ground floor level, a long corridor runs the length of the central section, terminating on the end wings. The accommodation on the ground floor wings generally provides accommodation for the superiors and for the members of the order. At either end of the accommodation the rooms are larger and the planning of these elements differs from place to place. There is generally an oratory or chapel at one end at ground (St Mary's Convent fmr) or first floor [*Redemptorist Monastery & Church*, North Perth (RHP 02218) and *St. Brigid's*], with one of the large room being a refectory, library, or in the case of convent or monastery schools, classrooms. Support facilities such as the kitchens are generally to the rear of one of the wings, or close by, with laundries in separate buildings. In some instances, there are front and rear verandahs (St. Mary's and *St. Brigid's*), while *St. Anthony's Convent of Mercy*, Coolgardie (RHP 573) and *Redemptorist Monastery* have only rear verandahs.

The buildings are generally two storeys in height, though the *Redemptorist Monastery* is three storeys, as is the Home of the Good Shepherd, West Leederville (former convent, part of P8880 Ruislip Street Catholic Precinct).

Later classroom blocks built prior to the post World War II period followed similar formal planning arrangements, with a central range of classrooms accessible from a rear verandah, and then twin classrooms at each end to complete the symmetry and to give them a similar external appearance to the earlier combined convent and classroom blocks.

Contemporary monastery and convent school building are designed to a similar style and are generally decorated in a sparing manner so that the building form, verandahs and rhythm of openings give it its characteristic appearance. *Redemptorist Monastery*, Home of the Good Shepherd, Loreto Primary School & Convent, Nedlands (P13658) and St. Brigid's College, Lesmurdie (P1261, part of RHP 16819) are exceptions to this approach and make use of Gothic and Cape Dutch design elements to render their elevations more picturesque.

The former convent within *Convent of Mercy Group (fmr)*, Bunbury (RHP 379) is also richly decorated externally, but now has a low degree of authenticity following its conversion to an art gallery.

Other convent schools included in the Register of Heritage Places include *Convent of Mercy and School (fmr)*, York (RHP 2879), *Convent of Sacred Heart, Northampton* (RHP 1902), *Dominican Convent (fmr)*, Greenough (RHP 1142), *St Joseph's Convent*, Boulder (RHP 190), *St Joseph's Convent (fmr)*, Albany (RHP 0001) and *Reidy House*, (formerly St Rita's Convent & School) Katanning (RHP 1332). There are many other convents and the remains of convents that are yet to be assessed.

The convent and college buildings at *Aranmore Catholic College Group* fit with a general pattern of development for comparable institutions. The buildings are well detailed and restrained, with most of the decorative flourish being reserved for the stained glass leadlights, internal stairs and areas such as the former chapel in St. Mary's. The buildings completed after the commencement of World War II are very simple and without decorative embellishment.

The buildings that make up the site of New Norcia are highly elaborate designs and employ a range of stylistic devices, with each building having its own clearly identifiable decorative approach.

Church apart, the buildings that make up *Aranmore Catholic College Group* that was completed 1952 are good standard pattern buildings. In combination with the parish church and the landscape setting, the group has a collective aesthetic value greater than the sum of the parts.

*Aranmore Catholic College Group* is one of the few places to retain a use closely allied to its original intention.

### **Ernest Hamilton**

Ernest Hamilton was born c. 1870 and became a draughtsman in the Western Australian Public Works Department in August 1892, where he prepared architectural contract drawings for such buildings as the Guildford Courthouse, the Government Offices and Perth Modern School. By 1923, Hamilton was listed as an Associate of the Royal Institute of Architects of Western Australia. At this time, he may have been working for Poole and Mouritzen and is believed to have designed the Capitol Theatre (demolished; William Street) and Subiaco Clock Tower.<sup>69</sup>

## **13. 4 KEY REFERENCES**

John Taylor Architect, 'Conservation Plan for St Mary's Church, Leederville', May 1998.

## **13. 5 FURTHER RESEARCH**

Father Moloney as architect/designer/builder of various individual buildings that comprise *Aranmore Catholic College*.

---

<sup>69</sup> John Hamilton, family member, conversation cited in John Taylor Architect, op. cit., p. 14; *The West Australian*, 27 June 1928, p. 15. It is interesting to note that Hamilton was twice retrenched from the PWD (1898 and again in 1901). See Ian Kelly, 'Architectural Biography 1890-1915', prepared as part of thesis for degree of Master of Architecture, Department of Architecture, University of Western Australia, 1991.

Should a Conservation Plan be prepared for any of all of the buildings, the Parish Archives, archives of the Archdiocese and the archives of St Brigid's and Christian Brothers should be accessed for further information.