



# 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

*Saint Peter's Catholic Church* is valued by the community for its intrinsic aesthetic qualities as an example of Australian ecclesiastical vernacular, with Gothic stylistic references. (Criterion 1.1)

Specific elements, such as the stained glass windows and ornate ceiling carpentry are significant for their craftsmanship and creative excellence. (Criterion 1.2)

*Saint Peter's Catholic Church* possesses landmark qualities, being a highly visible building in central Greenough. (Criterion 1.3)

The place is a focal point within the streetscape and is valued for its contribution to the overall aesthetic of the Greenough hamlet. (Criterion 1.4)

### 11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

*Saint Peter's Catholic Church* is important in relation to the historical development of the Greenough community. (Criterion 2.1)

Greenough is historically important in terms of the spread of settlement through Western Australia, and its fabric, including the church, symbolises the pioneering spirit of those who opened up the mid-west. The place is therefore important for its contribution to the public's understanding of the history of the community, locality and State. (Criterion 2.2)

Under the management of the National Trust, the historic hamlet of Greenough is now open to members of the public for inspection, and although *Saint Peter's Catholic Church* maintains its original function as a place of worship, a new emphasis has been placed on its contribution towards the historical character of the Greenough townscape. (Criterion 2.2)

Historical importance to the region also stems from the church's association with certain pioneering figures who played key roles in the history of the region. Commemorated in the building's stained glass windows are John and Ellen Sweeney, Father Lecaille, Mrs James Reynolds, John and Margaret Morrisey, Mother Gabriel and Mr W. Martin, the builder. (Criterion 2.3)

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

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

*Saint Peter's Catholic Church* is of social value to a large number of Catholics who are presently associated with the place, or have been in the past. It also played an important part in the development of the local Catholic church, including the Presentation Sisters and Dominican order. (Criterion 4.1)

Further value may be attributed to the importance of the place with respect to development of Greenough's social-historical character. The building reflects the consolidation of community and the formation of a recognisable town centre at central Greenough after the flood of 1888. (Criterion 4.2)

## **12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE**

### **12. 1. RARITY**

Within the context of the north-west, the building fabric is a rare example of an early and substantial Christian house of worship. (Criterion 5.1)

The setting of the church within an authentic grouping (hamlet) of heritage buildings is particularly rare. Few modern intrusions may be found within the hamlet, which provides the visitor with a unique opportunity to appreciate the church within a setting that is authentically similar to the time when the place was constructed. (Criterion 5.1)

### **12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS**

Viewed within a broad context, the building fabric is typical of early Australian church architecture in its material, design and detailing. (Criterion 6.1)

The place contributes towards a tangible demonstration of the district's former character. As such, it is valuable in terms of the public's interpretation of the historical development of Greenough, and is particularly assisted in this function by its prominent location. (Criterion 6.1)

### **12. 3 CONDITION**

*Saint Peter's Catholic Church* is generally in good structural condition, being of sound construction and maintained regularly. Certain original finishes have been destroyed or damaged by weathering, deterioration from damp, or repair work. Alterations that have occurred to the building since its construction are few and of minor significance. Certain elements have been removed from the building and its immediate context, but it is possible to re-instate them.

### **12. 4 INTEGRITY**

The overall integrity of *Saint Peter's Catholic Church* is high, much original building fabric surviving into the present time. The building has maintained its original function, assisting in the social-historical interpretation of the place, as well as ensuring usage of the place sympathetic to the fabric.

### **12. 5 AUTHENTICITY**

Much of the building fabric and furnishings of *Saint Peter's Catholic Church* survives with a high degree of authenticity. Modifications to external masonry in response to the degeneration from rising damp have lowered the authenticity of finish in some areas, as has the installation of a concrete floor. Most other finishes appear to be reasonably consistent with the original intent.

### **13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE**

Attached are key sections of the supporting evidence prepared by Kevin Palassis, Christopher Paterson and Ian Boersma of Palassis Architects: 'Conservation Plan; St. Peter's Church, Greenough, Western Australia' (prepared for St Peter's Catholic Church Advisory Committee June 1996).

#### **13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE**

For a discussion of the documentary evidence refer to Kevin Palassis, Christopher Paterson and Ian Boersma of Palassis Architects: 'Conservation Plan; St. Peter's Church, Greenough, Western Australia' (prepared for St Peter's Catholic Church Advisory Committee June 1996).

#### **13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE**

For a discussion of the physical evidence refer to Kevin Palassis, Christopher Paterson and Ian Boersma of Palassis Architects: 'Conservation Plan; St. Peter's Church, Greenough, Western Australia' (prepared for St Peter's Catholic Church Advisory Committee June 1996).

#### **13.3 REFERENCES**

Kevin Palassis, Christopher Paterson and Ian Boersma of Palassis Architects: 'Conservation Plan; St. Peter's Church, Greenough, Western Australia' (prepared for St Peter's Catholic Church Advisory Committee June 1996).