



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.

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE

The place has aesthetic value as a simple, timber framed weatherboard and iron church, built on a domestic scale. The aesthetic value of the place would be enhanced by the reinstatement of the steeple. (The base of the steeple tower still exists on the roof of the building; the steeple itself is kept in safe storage.) (Criterion 1.1)

The former church is situated in a residential area and the domestic scale of the church contributes to the residential streetscape. It is an unobtrusive landmark. (Criterion 1.3)

11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

The former church represents the activities and development of the Anglican congregation in Narembeen. The place also demonstrates the interdenominational interaction of the churches in the early years of their establishment in Narembeen. For over twenty-five years, this church was the only consecrated place of religious worship in Narembeen. (Criterion 2.1)

The place is characteristic of the type of weatherboard church built in country towns in the 1920s/30s. It demonstrates the poverty of the wheatbelt during the depression years, when only a small amount of money could be raised for the building. (Criterion 2.1)

The building is important in demonstrating a phase of the development of the town and the region, by being the first church built and consecrated in Narembeen. (Criterion 2.2)

Many of the pioneers of the district were in the Anglican or Methodist congregations who attended the church or participated in the fundraising or management roles of the vestry. Henry Hale (lawyer) and Paddy Connolly (hotelier) donated the land for the church, and the Ladies Guild and Girls Friendly Society made important contributions to the church and its members. (Criterion 2.3)

11.3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

The place was highly valued by the community as a place of religious worship, where marriages, baptisms and deaths were celebrated, and the social aspects of community involvement and support. (Criterion 4.1)

It contributes to the community's sense of place by having been the focal point of major ceremonial events in the community and by becoming a repository for items demonstrating the history and heritage of the district. (Criterion 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

Narembeen Museum, the first church to be built in Narembeen, and remained the only consecrated place of religious worship for twenty five years. It is the only church building of this type in the Narembeen district. (Criterion 5.1)

The church building is uncommon because it has no east or west windows. (Criterion 5.1)

The former church represents a way of life that is no longer practised, where the whole community was involved in the church activities and the church in turn contributed to the community. (Criterion 5.2)

12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

Narembeen Museum is representative of a type of weatherboard church building, characteristic of many country towns, which is no longer common in the Western Australian wheatbelt. It is indicative of the type of community funded churches in the country districts. (Criterion 6.1)

The former church is characteristic of a range of customs and religious beliefs associated with the Anglican and Methodist churches, and in particular with these congregations in Narembeen. (Criterion 6.2)

12. 3 CONDITION

Despite disuse and a lack of maintenance in recent years, the present condition of the place is good.

12. 4 INTEGRITY

The use of the building as a local museum has ensured that it be represented as a former church and, as a result, its original intention remains obvious. The place has a high degree of integrity.

12. 5 AUTHENTICITY

The building has a high degree of authenticity.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

Attached are key sections of the supporting evidence prepared by Laura Gray - Conservation Professional: 'Church Building formerly St Paul's Anglican Church Narembeen Conservation Plan' (for Shire of Narembeen, November 1995)

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

For a detailed discussion of the documentary evidence of the place refer to the report by Laura Gray - Conservation Professional: 'Church Building formerly St Paul's Anglican Church Narembeen Conservation Plan' (for Shire of Narembeen, November 1995)

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

For a detailed discussion of the physical evidence of the place refer to the report by Laura Gray - Conservation Professional: 'Church Building formerly St Paul's Anglican Church Narembeen Conservation Plan' (for Shire of Narembeen, November 1995)

13.3 REFERENCES

Laura Gray - Conservation Professional: 'Church Building formerly St Paul's Anglican Church Narembeen Conservation Plan' (for Shire of Narembeen, November 1995)