



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 wording of this document has been adapted from "St John the Baptist Catholic Church Moora Conservation Plan" prepared by Laura Gray, Heritage & Conservation Consultant with the documentary evidence researched and written by Father Stephen Giles MHM, Parish Priest of the Moora Parish and Wendy McKinley, Archivist at New Norcia, 2002, with amendments and/or additions by HCWA staff and the Register Committee.

PRINCIPAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORIC THEME(S)

- 8.6 Worshipping

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 406 Religion

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE*

St John the Baptist Catholic Church, Moora is a good, simple example of a stone church designed with vernacular ecclesiastical characteristics, showing some influence of the Federation Gothic architectural style. (Criterion 1.1)

St John the Baptist Catholic Church, Moora, together with the Presbytery, Nuns' residence and Catholic School, forms a distinctive cultural environment of ecclesiastical buildings. (Criterion 1.3)

11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

* 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Canberra, 1991, with additional reference to Richards, O. *Theoretical Framework for Designed Landscapes in WA*, unpublished report, 1997.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 John the Baptist Catholic Church, Moora was constructed in 1908, and has continually served the local Catholic community with services including worship, celebrations, and other events since this time. (Criterion 2.1)

St John the Baptist Catholic Church, Moora was used as a school as well as a church between 1913 and 1929, when a purpose-built schoolroom was constructed nearby. (Criterion 2.2)

St John the Baptist Catholic Church, Moora was built under the guidance of the Benedictine Monks of New Norcia at a time when Moora was under their canonical jurisdiction. (Criterion 2.3)

St John the Baptist Catholic Church, Moora was constructed by local builder D.W. Griffiths, who also quarried the stone, and made the bricks at his property in Moora, and was responsible for the construction of a number of other significant buildings in the area. (Criterion 2.3)

11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

St John the Baptist Catholic Church, Moora has been a focus for the social and spiritual lives of the local Catholic community in Moora since 1908, and is also valued by the community for its use as a school between 1913 and 1929. (Criterion 4.1)

St John the Baptist Catholic Church, Moora contributes to the Catholic community of Moora and district's sense of place as an important location for worship, weddings, funerals, and other events. (Criterion 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

St John the Baptist Catholic Church, Moora is an unusual example of a church that incorporates accommodation for the priest within the main building, with the parish priest between 1909 and 1948 living in the two rooms at the rear of the church. (Criterion 5.2)

12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

St John the Baptist Catholic Church, Moora is a representative example of a rural vernacular Federation Gothic style church constructed of local stone. (Criterion 6.1)

St John the Baptist Catholic Church, Moora demonstrates the characteristics of religious and cultural activities associated with the Catholic Church in a rural community since 1909. (Criterion 6.2)

12. 3 CONDITION

Maintenance has taken place over a period of many years. However, the long term effects of the flood damage and the lack of regular programmed maintenance and limited financial resources is becoming evident. Overall *St John the Baptist Catholic Church, Moora* is in fair to good condition.

12. 4 INTEGRITY

The original design and functional intention of the place is clear. *St John the Baptist Catholic Church, Moora* has retained a high degree of integrity.

12. 5 AUTHENTICITY

The original fabric has been retained for the most part and *St John the Baptist Catholic Church, Moora* has a high degree of authenticity.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

Supporting evidence has been taken from “St John the Baptist Catholic Church Moora Conservation Plan” prepared by Laura Gray, Heritage & Conservation Consultant with the documentary evidence researched and written by Father Stephen Giles MHM, Parish Priest of the Moora Parish and Wendy McKinley, Archivist at New Norcia, 2002.

Key sections used: Documentary Evidence, Physical Evidence, and Comparative Information.

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the documentary evidence, refer to “St John the Baptist Catholic Church Moora Conservation Plan” prepared by Laura Gray, Heritage & Conservation Consultant with the documentary evidence researched and written by Father Stephen Giles MHM, Parish Priest of the Moora Parish and Wendy McKinley, Archivist at New Norcia, 2002, pp.4-28.

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the physical evidence, refer to “St John the Baptist Catholic Church Moora Conservation Plan” prepared by Laura Gray, Heritage & Conservation Consultant with the documentary evidence researched and written by Father Stephen Giles MHM, Parish Priest of the Moora Parish and Wendy McKinley, Archivist at New Norcia, 2002, pp.29-41.

13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

For a discussion of the comparative information, refer to “St John the Baptist Catholic Church Moora Conservation Plan” prepared by Laura Gray, Heritage & Conservation Consultant with the documentary evidence researched and written by Father Stephen Giles MHM, Parish Priest of the Moora Parish and Wendy McKinley, Archivist at New Norcia, 2002, p.42.

13.4 KEY REFERENCES

“St John the Baptist Catholic Church Moora Conservation Plan” prepared by Laura Gray, Heritage & Conservation Consultant with the documentary evidence researched and written by Father Stephen Giles MHM, Parish Priest of the Moora Parish and Wendy McKinley, Archivist at New Norcia, 2002.

13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH
