



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

St Mary's Church provides a picturesque silhouette in its bush setting. The mature trees and 1959 lych gate contribute to the aesthetic qualities of the graveyard. (Criterion 1.1)

St Mary's Church is an example of a simple, colonial church adapted and enlarged in the Victorian Academic Gothic revival style, using local materials and building methods. (Criterion 1.2).

11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

St Mary's Church is associated with the settlement of the Swan Valley from the first decade of the settlement of the Swan River Colony and is typical of the local architecture built by settlers to replicate their way of life in Britain. (Criterion 2.1)

The graveyard, adjacent to the church, contains the graves of many European settlers of the Swan Valley. (Criterion 2.3)

The lych gate, constructed in 1959, commemorates Dr John Ferguson and his wife Isabella, who settled in the Swan Valley in 1859. (Criterion 2.3)

11.3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

St Mary's Church has value as a European burial site, dating from the first decade of the settlement of the Swan River Colony, to the present. It demonstrates changing burial practices over the past 157 years. (Criteria 3.1, 3.2)

11.4. SOCIAL VALUE

St Mary's Church is highly valued by the community for its religious associations. The place is a place of commemoration of the settlers of the area. (Criterion 4.1)

The place also has a close association with the social history of the former Anglican Orphanage nearby, in its function as the Orphanage church. (Criterion 4.1)

St Mary's Church contributes to the community's sense of place as a reminder of the colonial development of the Swan Valley. (Criterion 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12.1. RARITY

St Mary's Church is an uncommon example of a mid-nineteenth century Church set in a surrounding cemetery. The 1838+ graveyard surrounding the Church is rare because of its early establishment - within nine years of the foundation of the Swan River Colony - and for its continued use as a burial ground. (Criterion 5.1)

12.2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

St Mary's Church is representative of the style and materials of church construction in the mid-nineteenth century in Western Australia. The surrounding graveyard is representative of the changes in burial practices in Anglican graveyards in Western Australia, since 1838. (Criterion 6.1)

St Mary's Church has the potential to yield information that contributes to the understanding of the values and customs of the European inhabitants of the Swan Valley in the mid-nineteenth century, and the role of religion in their lives. (Criterion 6.2)

12.3 CONDITION

St Mary's Church is in sound condition, although some fabric is fragile and subject to deterioration arising from exposure and rising damp.

For a full discussion of the condition of the place see the Conservation Report by Ron Bodycoat, Duncan Stephen and Mercer, Architects 'St Mary's Church, Middle Swan, Conservation Plan' (for the Swan Anglican Parish, August 1995). This plan has been received by the Vestry and is currently being used as the basis for implementation of conservation works to the place.

12.4 INTEGRITY

St Mary's Church continues to be used as a place of worship, and the graveyard continues to be used as a place of burial. *St Mary's Church* retains a high degree of integrity.

For a full discussion of the integrity of the place see the Conservation Report by Ron Bodycoat, Duncan Stephen and Mercer, Architects 'St Mary's Church, Middle Swan, Conservation Plan' (for the Swan Anglican Parish, August 1995).

12.5 AUTHENTICITY

There have been alterations and changes in functional and physical requirements in over a century of use which are evident in the church. Similarly, the graveyard also reflects changes in style of gravestones and in burial practise. These changes contribute to, rather than diminish, the authenticity of the place. *St Mary's Church* retains a high degree of authenticity.

For a full discussion of the authenticity of the place see the Conservation Report by Ron Bodycoat, Duncan Stephen and Mercer, Architects 'St Mary's

Church, Middle Swan, Conservation Plan' (for the Swan Anglican Parish, August 1995).

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

Attached are key sections of the supporting evidence prepared by Ron Bodycoat, Duncan Stephen and Mercer, Architects 'St Mary's Church, Middle Swan, Conservation Plan' (for the Swan Anglican Parish, August 1995).

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

For a detailed discussion of the documentary evidence, refer to the Conservation Plan by Ron Bodycoat, Duncan Stephen and Mercer, Architects 'St Mary's Church, Middle Swan, Conservation Plan' (for the Swan Anglican Parish, August 1995).

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

For a detailed discussion of the physical evidence, refer to the Conservation Plan by Ron Bodycoat, Duncan Stephen and Mercer, Architects 'St Mary's Church, Middle Swan, Conservation Plan' (for the Swan Anglican Parish, August 1995).

13.3 REFERENCES

Ron Bodycoat, Duncan Stephen and Mercer, Architects 'St Mary's Church, Middle Swan, Conservation Plan' (for the Swan Anglican Parish, August 1995).