



**HERITAGE
COUNCIL**
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES

Removed Entry

The interim registration of this place was not made permanent and therefore lapsed on 24 July 1992. Notice of this decision under the Heritage of Western Australia Act 1990 appeared in the Government Gazette on 19 October 1992.

1. **NUMBER** 2227
2. **NAME** Sisters of St John of God Convent Chapel
3. **DESCRIPTION OF ELEMENTS INCLUDED IN THIS ENTRY (GENERAL)**
4. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA** Perth
5. **LOCATION** McCourt Street, Subiaco 6008
Lot 2 D 64642 C/ T 1523/ 596
6. **OWNER**
7. **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF PLACE (ASSESSMENT IN DETAIL)**

AESTHETIC VALUE

CRITERION 1 It is significant in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by the community.

1.1 Importance to a community for aesthetic characteristics

Public response to the proposed demolition of the chapel indicates a degree of value to the community in which its aesthetic appeal is important.

1.2 Importance for its creative, design or artistic excellence, innovation or achievement

In its external presentation the Chapel does not cross the Heritage Council's threshold, the nearby St Joseph's Church being a much finer example of Henderson's work. However, the quality of the internal spaces crosses the threshold of significance.

1.3 Importance for its contribution to the aesthetic values of the setting demonstrated by a landmark quality or having impact on important vistas or otherwise contributing to the identified aesthetic qualities of the cultural environs or the natural landscape within which it is located.

The chapel has a notable landmark quality, particularly on the approaches from Salvado Road and Haydn Bunton Drive, from Rokeby Road in Subiaco, and from Subiaco Railway Station.

1.4 In the case of an historic precinct, importance for the aesthetic character created by the individual components which collectively form a significant streetscape, townscape or cultural environment

Along with the nearby St Joseph's church and manse, the chapel forms a townscape element that helps to define the locality. Its aesthetic characteristics, together with St Joseph's similar style, are the sole remaining widely understood cultural codes that signify the original religious motivation of this highly regarded health services institution site.

HISTORIC VALUE

CRITERION 2 *It is significant in the evolution or pattern of the history of Western Australia*

2.1 Importance for the density or diversity of cultural features illustrating the human occupation and evolution of the locality, region or the state

Not crossing the Heritage Council's threshold, though of some significance as an example of the Convent and Chapel, an important Western Australian cultural institution.

2.2 Importance in relation to an event, phase or activity of historic importance in the locality, the region or the State

The size and pretension of the Chapel is physical evidence of the nature and belief of the Sisters of St John of God and the respect in which they were held in the mid 20th century. It reflects the importance of the community as the centre of the Order in Australia. The Chapel itself is described on its foundation stone as a memorial to the pioneer Sisters of St John of God.

2.3 Importance for close association with an individual or individuals whose life, works or activities have been significant within the history of the nation, State or region.

The Church is one of three local examples of the work of the architect, E Le B Henderson.

2.4 Importance as an example of technical, creative, design or artistic excellence, innovation or achievement in a particular period.

Not crossing the Heritage Council's threshold. Its design achievement within the given context of adoption of an historic stylism is the subject of varied opinion.

SCIENTIFIC VALUE

CRITERION 3A *It has demonstrable potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the natural or cultural history of Western Australia.*

3.1 Importance for information contributing to a wider understanding of natural or cultural history by virtue of its use as a research site, teaching site, type locality, reference or benchmark site.

Not applicable.

3.2 Importance for its potential to yield information contributing to a wider understanding of the history of human occupation of the locality, region or the State.

Not applicable.

CRITERION 3B *It is significant in demonstrating a high degree of technical innovation or achievement.*

3.3 Importance for its technical innovation or achievement.

The Chapel represents an elaborate example of the use of pressed cement.

SOCIAL VALUE

CRITERION 4 *It is significant through association with a community or cultural group in Western Australia for social, cultural, educational or spiritual reasons.*

4.1 Importance as a place highly valued by a community or cultural group for reasons of social, cultural, religious, spiritual, aesthetic or educational associations.

The Chapel is strongly associated with the Sisters of St John of God and their role in the community as carers for the sick.

4.2 Importance in contributing to a community's sense of place.

Along with St Joseph's Church and Manse, the Catherine McAuley Centre and the Home of the Good Shepherd, the building is important in distinguishing the district from other suburbs by the unusually strong presence of religious institutions. It is also the most important feature visible from outside the site which proclaims the religious nature of the hospital/ convent precinct.

RARITY

CRITERION 5 *It demonstrates rare, uncommon or endangered aspects of the cultural heritage of Western Australia.*

5.1 Importance for rare, endangered or uncommon structures, landscapes or phenomena.

Convents and their chapels are a building type which is endangered because of the declining numbers entering the associated way of life.

5.2 Importance in demonstrating a distinctive way of life, custom, process, land-use, function or design no longer practised in, or in danger of being lost from, or of exceptional interest to, the locality, region or the State.

The building symbolises a way of life - a religious order dedicated to the care of the sick - which is in decline.

REPRESENTATIVENESS

CRITERION 6 *It is significant in demonstrating the characteristics of a class of cultural places or environments in the State.*

6.1 Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a range of landscapes or environments, the attributes of which identify as being characteristic of its class.

Not applicable.

6.2 Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristic of the range of human activities (including way of life, philosophy, custom, process, land-use, function, design or technique) in the environment of the locality, region or the State.

The Chapel has some significance as a component of the group of religious institutions in the locality.

CONDITION, INTEGRITY AND AUTHENTICITY

CONDITION - Externally, the place is in good condition; internally most of the liturgical fittings have been substantially demolished but it is otherwise in good condition.

INTEGRITY - The values of the place are capable of being recovered by appropriate restoration.

AUTHENTICITY - The remnant fabric is in its original state.

8. DATE OF GAZETTAL

Interim Entry 24/ 07/ 1992

Removal of Entry 19/ 10/ 1992

[Removed pursuant to Ministerial direction dated 19/10/1992]

9. CONSERVATION ORDER

10. HERITAGE AGREEMENT