



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 Black Range Church Conservation Plan with amendments and/or additions by HCWA staff and the Register Committee.

PRINCIPAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORIC THEME(S)

- 6.2 Establishing schools
- 8.6 Worshipping

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 402 Education
- 406 Religion

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE*

Black Range Church features stained glass windows produced in 1995 by Perth Artist Judy Kotai of Mount Olive Stained Glass Studio. (Criterion 1.2)

Black Range Church is important to the residents of the Town of Sandstone as one of a small number of buildings in the town, with uninterrupted views to and from the site, and as such is a local landmark. (Criterion 1.3)

11.2 HISTORIC VALUE

Black Range Church was constructed as a response to the influx of population to the area following the discovery of gold near Sandstone in 1903, and was an important public building in the mining settlement. (Criterion 2.1)

* 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Canberra, 1991, with additional reference to Richards, O. *Theoretical Framework for Designed Landscapes in WA*, unpublished report, 1997.

Black Range Church was constructed in 1908, only two years after the establishment of Sandstone, to serve the local Catholic population, and was in regular use for Catholic worship until the 1970s. (Criterion 2.2)

Black Range Church was used as a school by the Presentation Sisters from 1909 for a number of years until a regular school building was constructed in the town. (Criterion 2.2)

The current use of *Black Range Church* as an interdenominational church for Anglican, Catholic and Uniting Church communities provides evidence of trends towards greater ecumenism brought about in the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries by shrinking rural populations and the relaxation of rigid denominational distinctions. (Criterion 2.2)

11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

Black Range Church has been an important focus of Catholic religious life in Sandstone since 1908, and contributes to the local community's sense of place as a prominent public building and, more recently, as a social and religious focus for a number of Christian communities. (Criteria 4.1 & 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

Black Range Church is a rare surviving example of a timber-framed corrugated iron-clad church lined internally with pressed metal in three different patterns. (Criterion 5.1)

12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

Black Range Church is a representative example of a church that is integral to the local community's religious practices and way of life. (Criterion 6.2)

12. 3 CONDITION

Black Range Church is in good condition, being currently maintained by the local government authority that recognizes its heritage value and social significance to the community. Some earlier repair work was not sensitive to the existing fabric.

12. 4 INTEGRITY

Black Range Church has a high degree of integrity. The church is still being used for the original purpose for which it was designed. The change of use from Catholic to an ecumenical church has not affected the way the building is used and did not require any major modification to the building fabric. The

original intention of the cultural values remains largely intact in spite of the demolition of some elements over time.

The likely long-term sustainability of the values identified and their ability to be restored is well assured, given that there is adequate documentary evidence and physical evidence of the original form and fabric of the place. The time frame for any restorative process is relatively extensive.

12.5 AUTHENTICITY

Black Range Church is largely intact, and the extant fabric of the building retains a moderate degree of authenticity. The original sanctuary and transepts were demolished in 1959. After comparing the documentary photographic evidence with the existing building, one can determine that the major building form is in its original state. Return of the known removed fabric and fittings such as statues, bell, candelabra, confessional and other items previously located at the church would elevate the level of authenticity.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

Supporting evidence has been taken from “Conservation Plan for Black Range Church (formerly St Athanasius’ Church), Sandstone, Western Australia” prepared by John Taylor, architect for the Shire of Sandstone.

Key sections used are: 2.0 Documentary Evidence (pp. 21-31), 4.0 Physical Evidence (pp. 43-51).

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the documentary evidence, refer to “Conservation Plan for Black Range Church (formerly St Athanasius’ Church), Sandstone, Western Australia” prepared by John Taylor, architect for the Shire of Sandstone.

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the physical evidence, refer to “Conservation Plan for Black Range Church (formerly St Athanasius’ Church), Sandstone, Western Australia” prepared by John Taylor, architect for the Shire of Sandstone.

13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

For a discussion of comparative information, refer to “Conservation Plan for Black Range Church (formerly St Athanasius’ Church), Sandstone, Western Australia” prepared by John Taylor, architect for the Shire of Sandstone.

Note: The comparative places that have photographs presented in the Conservation Plan have all been demolished.

13.4 KEY REFERENCES

“Conservation Plan for Black Range Church (formerly St Athanasius’ Church), Sandstone, Western Australia” prepared by John Taylor, architect for the Shire of Sandstone.

13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH
