



## 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.

#### PRINCIPAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORIC THEME(S)

- 8.6                      Worshipping

#### HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 406                      Religion

#### 11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE\*

*St Catherine's Anglican Church* is a fine example of a stone church in the Federation Gothic style constructed in the early 1900s. The place is constructed from rough dressed limestone blocks set into a lime mortar with a gable roof, and brick quoins to the buttresses and reveals of door and window openings, and contributes positively to its surroundings. (Criterion 1.3)

#### 11.2 HISTORIC VALUE

*St Catherine's Anglican Church* is important for its associations with the Anglican community of Central Greenough and it was built during a period of economic decline in the district. (Criterion 2.2)

*St Catherine's Anglican Church* is associated with a number of families who were influential in the development and economic success of the district, such as the Clinchs, the Morrells and the Padburys. (Criterion 2.3)

#### 11.3 SCIENTIFIC VALUE

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#### 11.4 SOCIAL VALUE

*St Catherine's Anglican Church* is associated with the Anglican community of Central Greenough and it continues to serve this community today. (Criterion 4.1)

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\* For consistency, all references to architectural style are taken from Apperly, Richard; Irving, Robert and Reynolds, Peter *A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture: Styles and Terms from 1788 to the Present*, Angus & Robertson, North Ryde, 1989.

*St Catherine's Anglican Church* is a component of the Historic Greenough Hamlet, which is visited daily by international visitors as well as those from inter-state and intra-state. (Criterion 4.1)

*St Catherine's Anglican Church* contributes to the Central Greenough community's sense of place, as the building was financed by members of this community, and the building contains memorial plaques which celebrate the memory of some of these individuals. The building continues to be used by the local community. (Criterion 4.2)

## **12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE**

### **12.1. RARITY**

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### **12.2 REPRESENTATIVENESS**

*St Catherine's Anglican Church* is a representative example of a small parish church designed in the Federation Gothic style.

### **12.3 CONDITION**

Overall *St Catherine's Anglican Church* is in fair condition. The place seems not to have been maintained for some time. From an external investigation, the place appears to be structurally sound. The roof seems sound and the gutters and downpipes seem adequate although there is no provision for ground level water discharge, resulting in serious deterioration of the stone and fretting mortar at the downpipe outlets (each of the four corners). The timber detailing of the roof, window and doorframes, and sills, and doors are weathered with flaking paint revealing bare timber in some places. The walls show evidence of inappropriate grey cement mortar repairs at various times. The stone shows deterioration and fretted mortar around much of the perimeter of the building below the plinth line of floor level. In the external south east corner the mortar in the brick quoining has fretted. The face of the stone is deteriorated in the corner of the north side entry, and there is extensive evidence of rising damp adjacent to that corner and along a section of wall in the north west corner and section of the north wall. There is also evidence on the interior of walls damaged, with blistered paint and fretting plaster, from moisture ingress, possibly falling damp, on the front south west corner where a section of roof flashing is missing.

### **12.4 INTEGRITY**

*St Catherine's Anglican Church* still operates as a church, thus carrying out the function for which it was originally intended. *St Catherine's Anglican Church* has a high degree of integrity.

### **12.5 AUTHENTICITY**

*St Catherine's Anglican Church* has retains a high percentage of original fabric. Only a few alterations have been made to the original fabric. The most extensive change appears to be the replacement of the chancel floor in 1952. *St Catherine's Anglican Church* has a high degree of authenticity.

### 13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

The documentary evidence and physical evidence has been compiled by Fiona Bush.

#### 13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

Construction of *St Catherine's Anglican Church* commenced in November 1913 and the building was completed by March 1914. A new vestry was added in 1952. This single-storey, stone church was commissioned by the Anglican community of Central Greenough.

Europeans settlers first moved to the Greenough region during the 1850s.<sup>1</sup> The settlers were attracted by the rich, fertile river flats on either side of the Greenough River and by the 1860s, there were thriving communities on both the Front and Back flats of the Greenough River.<sup>2</sup> Many of these early settlers appear to have been Wesleyan Methodists with strong links to the community established by the Hardey family in Perth.<sup>3</sup> Joseph Hardey laid the foundation stone for the Wesleyan Methodist Church at Greenough in 1867.<sup>4</sup>

By the 1870s, a series of droughts, floods and fires had reduced the cropping capabilities of the region and a disastrous flood in 1888 further reduced the profitability and population of the area.<sup>5</sup> After World War One, Greenough's population continued to decline; a trend that continued after World War Two.<sup>6</sup>

During the early years, the Anglican community held religious services in the Central Greenough Government School.<sup>7</sup> Their first permanent rector was George Howard who was appointed to the district in 1864.<sup>8</sup> The first Anglican Church in the district was constructed by the South Greenough parishioners in 1873. However, it was to be quite some time before Central Greenough's parishioners had a permanent place of worship.

A local Anglican landowner, Walter Padbury, donated 100 acres (40.5 ha) of land to the Anglican Church (Victoria Location 174) and a parsonage was built on this land in 1877.<sup>9</sup> In 1887, the Reverend J. Eagles Harston was appointed to the Greenough district<sup>10</sup> and while on a trip to England in 1890, he arranged for the financing, manufacture and shipment of a wood and iron church for the parishioners of Central Greenough. The shipment also included stained glass and all the furniture that would be required to furnish

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<sup>1</sup> Bain, M.A., *Ancient Landmarks: a social and economic history of the Victoria district of Western Australia 1839 - 1894*, Perth, 1975.

<sup>2</sup> Bain, M.A.

<sup>3</sup> Boersma, Ian, 'The Greenough Wesleyan Methodist Chapel.' in *Trust News*, National Trust of Australia (W.A.), Vol. 206, March 2000, p.4.

<sup>4</sup> Boersma, Ian, p.4.

<sup>5</sup> Bain, M.A., pp375 - 402.

<sup>6</sup> Boersma, Ian, p.4.

<sup>7</sup> Doncaster, E.W., *One Hundred Years on the Greenough*, Geraldton, 1964, p.5

<sup>8</sup> Doncaster, E.W., p. 3.

<sup>9</sup> Doncaster, E.W., p. 5.

<sup>10</sup> Doncaster, E.W., p. 6.

the church.<sup>11</sup> The building was erected on Church land on Company Road and consecrated on 25 March 1892.<sup>12</sup>

Unfortunately this building began to deteriorate fairly rapidly due to termite activity and by 1908 the parishioners realised that they would need to replace their church. The Ladies Guild came into action and commenced raising funds for a new building.<sup>13</sup>

At a Special Parishioner's meeting, held on 18 August 1911, discussions centred around a site for the new church. A large percentage of parishioners favoured a site closer into town rather than rebuilding close to the existing church.<sup>14</sup> Herbert Parry was chosen as the architect and a sum of £500 was set aside for the building.<sup>15</sup> The new church was to be constructed of stone with brick quoins.<sup>16</sup> A wood and iron vestry was to be constructed by the parishioners using materials salvaged from the old church.<sup>17</sup> Arrangements were made for the temporary storage of the church furniture and for church services to be held in the Ballroom of Mill Farm (formerly known as the Greenough Hotel) which was owned by Arthur Clinch.<sup>18</sup>

Tenders were called for the demolition of the old church in May 1912.<sup>19</sup> In July 1912 a site on the southern side of the Greenough Roads Board was chosen for the new church.<sup>20</sup> An agreement with the government enabled the parish to trade this portion of crown land with a block behind St. Catherine's Hall, which was owned by Thomas Clinch. Clinch donated this land to the parish.<sup>21</sup>

A large percentage of the funding for the new building was raised by the Ladies Guild. However, the parish found that it was still short by £300. Unable to secure a loan from the Diocesan Council, a parishioner, Reuben E. Morrell agreed to lend the money to the parish.<sup>22</sup> Plans for the new church were approved in June 1913<sup>23</sup> and Mr W. Bennett won the building contract.<sup>24</sup> The stone was supplied by Bishop Brothers and the parishioners agreed to cart both the stone and the sand that would be required.<sup>25</sup>

Thomas Clinch donated £25 for the cost of a foundation stone<sup>26</sup>, which the Bishop of Perth laid on 22 November 1913. A time capsule was inserted underneath the stone.<sup>27</sup> The contractor, Mr Bennett, donated three crosses to

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11 *Victorian Express*, 11/10/1890.

12 *Victorian Express*, 1/4/1892.

13 Saint Catherine's Church Ladies Guild Minutes Book, 28/5/1908.

14 Saint Catherine's Church Vestry Minutes Book, 18/8/1911.

15 Saint Catherine's Church Vestry Minutes Book, 4/1/1912.

16 Saint Catherine's Church Vestry Minutes Book, 5/4/1912.

17 Saint Catherine's Church Vestry Minutes Book, 29/8/1912.

18 Saint Catherine's Church Vestry Minutes Book, 4/1/1912.

19 Saint Catherine's Church Vestry Minutes Book, 1/5/1912.

20 Saint Catherine's Church Vestry Minutes Book, 27/7/1912.

21 *Geraldton Guardian* 1/4/1913.

22 Saint Catherine's Church Vestry Minutes Book, 2/8/1913.

23 *Geraldton Guardian* 7/6/1913.

24 Saint Catherine's Church Vestry Minutes Book, 2/8/1913.

25 Martin, G.J., 'Saint Catherine's Anglican Church, Clinch Place, Greenough Hamlet, Western Australia.' Unpublished report for Heritage Studies 311, Research Institute for Cultural Heritage, Curtin University, 10/06/1997, unpaginated and incomplete.

26 Saint Catherine's Church Accounts Book, 22/11/1913.

27 *Geraldton Guardian* 27/11/1913.

be placed on the church roof.<sup>28</sup> Work progressed rapidly and Bishop Riley consecrated the new church on 22 March 1914.<sup>29</sup>

Over the years several plans were put forward to replace the wood and iron vestry with a stone structure. The first of these was proposed in June 1938, as a memorial to C.L. and D.F. Duncan.<sup>30</sup> In 1946, Mrs Morrell offered to pay for a new stone vestry.<sup>31</sup> However, the quotes received were considered to be too high.<sup>32</sup> Efforts to proceed with a new vestry were again put forward in February 1951 when Mr Poole was asked to proceed with the construction of a new vestry.<sup>33</sup> The structure was completed by June 1952 when the Rector reported that the new vestry blended well with the rest of the church and 'is a splendid memorial to those who worshipped in the church, the late Mrs I.J. Duncan, Mrs R. Morrell and Mr R. Morrell.'<sup>34</sup>

Prior to the completion of the vestry, the church was connected to the electricity supply in June 1949. G. Morrell paid for this work in memory of Miss M. Duncan and Mr. T. Duncan.<sup>35</sup> The timber floor in the chancel was replaced in 1952 and the floor in other parts of the church repaired.<sup>36</sup>

The parish of Greenough was incorporated into the Diocese of North-West Australia in 1928 and in 1961, the parish ceased to have its own rector.<sup>37</sup> *St Catherine's Anglican Church* is currently administered from Geraldton.<sup>38</sup>

*St Catherine's Anglican Church* was classified by the National Trust in 1977 and placed on the Register of the National Estate in 1978.

## 13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

*St Catherine's Anglican Church* is a single-storey stone building designed in the Federation Gothic style. The main section of the church was constructed in 1914 and a vestry was added to the northern side in 1952. The building was constructed for the Parish of Greenough.

*St Catherine's Anglican Church* sits on a slightly elevated site on the eastern side of Clinch Place. The former *Greenough Roads Board* building is located to the north of *St Catherine's Anglican Church*, while a little distance to the south is the Old Greenough Gaol and Courthouse. *St Catherine's Anglican Church* is a component of the Historic Greenough Hamlet which is administered by the National Trust of Australia (WA).

The building is constructed from rough dressed limestone blocks set into a lime mortar. There are brick quoins to the buttresses and reveals of door and window openings. These quoins have been painted red brown. The gable roof is covered with corrugated galvanised iron. The vestry, which is a later addition, is designed in the same style as the church although the buttresses have been rendered and painted red. It is located on the northern side of the church.

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28 Saint Catherine's Church Vestry Minutes Book, 22/11/1913.

29 *Geraldton Guardian* 28/3/1914.

30 Saint Catherine's Church Vestry Minutes Book, 6/6/1938.

31 Saint Catherine's Church Vestry Minutes Book, 21/5/1946.

32 Martin, G.J.

33 Saint Catherine's Church Vestry Minutes Book, 21/2/1951.

34 Saint Catherine's Church Vestry Minutes Book, 15/6/1952.

35 Saint Catherine's Church Vestry Minutes Book, 19/6/1949.

36 Saint Catherine's Church Vestry Minutes Book, 10/9/1952.

37 Doncaster, D.W., p.8.

38 Martin, G.J.

The front of the building (west elevation) features a porch with a gable end into which are set three square headed casement windows glazed with leaded glass. A single arched window is located above this row of casement windows. Below the casement windows is a marble plaque, which bears the following inscription:

To the Glory of God  
This Stone was laid by  
The Lord Bishop of Perth  
22<sup>nd</sup> Nov.  
A.D. 1913

Entry doors are set into arched openings in the northern and southern elevations. These doors are approached via a set of steps, three on the southern side and seven on the northern side. A metal cross is set in the apex of the gable.

The front façade of the nave also has three casement windows which are set above the line of the porch roof. The central window is taller than the outside windows. The windows are glazed with obscure glass. A metal cross is located at the apex of the gable.

The rear wall of the church (eastern elevation) has three arched windows, with the central window taller than the ones on either side. The windows are glazed with leaded glass. Above these windows are three ventilators, similar in design to the windows set into the wall of the western elevation of the nave. A metal cross is fixed to the top of the gable.

The nave walls are composed of three bays into which are set single arched windows. The sanctuary has one bay with a single arched window. The window in the northern wall has been filled due to the construction of the Vestry. All of these windows are glazed with obscure glass.

The Vestry is entered via a door in the western wall. A window is set in the northern wall. The design is the same as the nave windows.

The interior features a timber floor through the nave and sanctuary, while the Vestry has a concrete floor. The internal walls are plastered and painted. The soffit is lined with Oregon pine boards. Five memorials are located around the interior. A roman brick from the church of Saint Pancreas, Canterbury has been incorporated in the west wall of the nave. The brick was brought from England by Reverend Whitehead<sup>39</sup>

### 13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

Stylistically *St Catherine's Anglican Church* can be found repeated throughout Western Australia. The style is also not restricted to the same time period. *St Catherine's Anglican Church* is essentially a simple Federation Gothic structure and similar, earlier designs can be found in *St. Luke's Church* (c.1861), at Gingin or *St. John's Church* (c.1863), at Pinjarra.<sup>40</sup> As time progressed the Gothic style was reinterpreted by architects who added features that might be said to belong more to the Romanesque style, rather than being strictly Gothic moving into what might be interpreted as Gothic Free Style. Representative examples of churches which are closer in time to *St Catherine's Anglican Church* can be found in *St Aidan's* (1903/1911),

<sup>39</sup> Saint Catherine's Church Vestry Minutes Book, 22/7/1922.

<sup>40</sup> National Trust Files

Claremont; St Mary's Roman Catholic Church (1902), Coolgardie; St Joseph's Roman Catholic Church (1908), Greenough and St Andrew's Church (1921), Mullewa.<sup>41</sup> Some of these churches have been constructed from brick, while others have been constructed of stone and feature either brick or rendered quoins.

#### **13.4 KEY REFERENCES**

Martin, G.J., Saint Catherine's Anglican Church, Clinch Place, Greenough Hamlet, Western Australia. Unpublished report for Heritage Studies 311, Research Institute for Cultural Heritage, Curtin University, 10/06/1997.

#### **13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH**

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