



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.

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE*

While not on a scale with more elaborate places of worship, individual elements of the overall composition of the Church such as the timber ceiling, simple arched windows, and prominent belfry display considerable aesthetic characteristics, portraying the image of a religious building with simplicity and economy of construction. Some of the characteristics are representative of the Federation Carpenter Gothic style. (Criterion 1.1)

The Church is aesthetically significant in achieving a pleasing balance between interest and simplicity in form, fabric and construction technique. (Criterion 1.2)

St. Patrick's Anglican Church (fmr) and War Memorial, Bunbury expresses a landmark quality. The identifiable religious form of the Church illustrates a distinctive function and use of the place, which has been achieved through the adaptation of forms and materials common in domestic construction. This assists the building to sit harmoniously within the surrounding residential environment. (Criterion 1.3)

The place is a component of a visually unified group which includes the *Clifton Residence, Rathmines* (1924). The location of these places at the intersection of two streets enhances the qualities of the local landscape. (Criterion 1.3)

11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

The development of the Rathmines district, and hence the Church was a direct result of the population growth experienced during the gold boom period. (Criterion 2.2)

The Church stands as a reminder of the days when most people travelled to church on foot, and when a church was an important focal point for the local district. (Criterion 2.2)

* 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.

The Church was used by the local Greek community as a venue for Greek Orthodox religious services, including weddings, prior to 1954, when they built their own church hall. (Criterion 2.2)

The War Memorial located in the grounds of the Church commemorates those from the district who served in the armed forces during World War One, and has stood since 1920. (Criterion 2.3)

The Church is associated with the architect, Eustace Cohen, an English trained architect who was noted for his work in the Bunbury region before establishing a practice in Perth.

11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

St Patrick's Anglican Church (fmr) and War Memorial, Bunbury is highly valued by the local community for religious and social associations. (Criterion 4.1)

The Church has stood since 1908 on its spacious corner site and contributes to the local community's sense of place. This is confirmed by the efforts made to save it when demolition threatened. (Criterion 4.2)

The War Memorial contributes to local residents' sense of place and community, and has stood since 1920. (Criterion 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12.1. RARITY

The Church is a fine example of a church utilising timber construction dating from the first decade of the twentieth century. Surviving examples of timber churches are rare in Bunbury and many have been demolished throughout the State, some to make way for more substantial constructions. (Criterion 5.1)

While not a pure example of the Federation Carpenter Gothic style, the Church nevertheless displays some of the defining characteristics of the style which is more common in the eastern states. (Criterion 5.2)

12.2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

The Church is a representative component of the diverse collection of timber structures in Bunbury region. (Criterion 6.2)

The Church is representative of a small number of timber churches built for the Anglican Church in the first two decades in the twentieth Century. (Criterion 6.2)

The Church is representative of the work of architect, Eustace Cohen, a noted figure in the development of a Western Australian vernacular architecture. (Criterion 6.2)

12.3 CONDITION

St Patrick's Anglican Church (fmr) and War Memorial, Bunbury is in sound condition. The nature of the construction has inherently high requirements for maintenance. Subsidence is evident in the uneven floor and cracking wall plaster. Although the place is currently well maintained, the sustainability could be enhanced by the establishment of an overall maintenance strategy with some professional input.

12.4 INTEGRITY

St Patrick's Anglican Church (fmr) and War Memorial, Bunbury has high integrity. The place has retained its function as a place of worship for the Christian faith since construction. Alterations and additions to the fabric and form have not had any detrimental impact on the original intention or use of the place.

12.5 AUTHENTICITY

The Church has moderate authenticity. The extension to the form of the place has been adapted well to the original, but close inspection reveals the lack of authentic fabric and detailing.

The War Memorial has a high degree of authenticity.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

The documentary evidence has been compiled by Irene Ham-Sauman, Historian. The physical evidence has been compiled by Katrina Chisholm, Graduate Architect.

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

The Church is a small timber building constructed in Federation Carpenter Gothic style.¹ The place was designed by Eustace Cohen and built in 1908. A porch wing was added, probably in the late 1930s. The War Memorial, located in the grounds of the Church, is of masonry construction and was unveiled on 2 January 1920.

The site for the township of Bunbury was named in 1836, after Lieutenant Henry William St Pierre Bunbury, first explored the area and was impressed with its natural port. The townsite was surveyed in 1841. When the West Australian Land Company's settlement scheme for nearby Australind failed, many settlers moved to Bunbury.²

In 1842, the first Anglican Church in the district was built by Rev Ramsden Wollaston at Picton, between Bunbury and Australind. After Rev Wollaston was transferred to Albany in 1848, the Bunbury district did not have a resident clergyman until 1864, when Rev Joseph Withers was appointed chaplain.

Rev Withers had St Paul's Church built in 1866, to replace the twenty year old shed the district was using both for church services and as a school. Many church services conducted in Western Australia in the early years of settlement were held in buildings provided by the settlers who often conducted the services themselves due to a shortage of clergy. Rev Withers was chaplain for Bunbury from 1864-1880 and again from 1889-1893, with the intervening years spent at Williams.³

The Bunbury district was situated on land initially granted to Sir James Stirling. In 1852, he sold a half share of some 8,300 hectares of his holdings in Leschenault Location 26 and Wellington Location 41 to Frederick, Ross and Charles Mangles, William Stanhope Stockley, John Farnaby Cator and Ulysses Latrielle, for £4,400.⁴ The Mangles brothers were relatives of Lady Ellen Stirling, formerly Ellen Mangles. The land was acquired as an investment with portions being sold off over the years while the owners continued to live in England.

In 1872, Rev Joseph Withers purchased a one quarter share in 16 hectares of Leschenault Location 26, known as portion No. 11, for £128-15.⁵ By 1883,

¹ Apperly, R., Irving, R. and Reynolds, P. *A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture: Styles and terms from 1788 to the present*, Sydney, Angus & Robertson, 1994, pp. 124-127.

² Battye, J. S. (ed) *The Cyclopaedia of Western Australia*, Hussey & Gillingham, Adelaide, for the Cyclopaedia Co, 1912-13, Vol. 2, pp. 428-429.

³ *Bicentennial Dictionary of Western Australians* Perth, UWA Press, 1988; Threlfall, Delphine, 'The Development of the Anglican Church in the South West of Western Australia, thesis, Teacher's Higher Certificate, 1980, unpublished typescript, pp. 11-16.

⁴ DOLA Deed of Memorial, Vol. 6 No. 1946, 3 December 1865.

⁵ DOLA Deed of Memorial, Vol. 7 No. 932, 4 December 1872.

he was the sole owner of the whole of portion No. 11 and in 1895, he subdivided the land.⁶ The district, in East Bunbury, was known as Rathmines, after Rev Wither's home town in Ireland. The subdivision came at a time of population growth due to the opening of the Perth-Bunbury railway and the promotion of Bunbury as a tourist and holiday destination for goldfield residents. Lot 10, on the corner of Shenton Street and Australind Road (now Austral Parade), on which the Church is situated, was first purchased by Isabel Leever, wife of Coolgardie hotelkeeper Arthur Leever.⁷ It was subsequently transferred to Catherine Pasmore in 1897, and then to her husband.

In 1904, a few weeks after Rev Withers death, the Bunbury Anglican Diocese was created in response to the growth in Western Australia's population due to the gold boom. The Diocese had 17 clergy, but some districts were still without a church. At a time when people moved around their local district on foot or in horse-drawn vehicles, churches and other amenities needed to be close by. Religion played an important socialising function in early colonial society and a church building was its physical presence, often functioning also as a meeting place for the residents.

In February 1907, Rev Canon Darling addressed the people attending a church social in the Mission Hall at Rathmines, 'on the subject of raising sufficient sum of money to complete the purchase of a suitable block of land to build a Mission Church, much needed here.'⁸ Twelve months later, Lot 10 was transferred to the joint ownership of Bunbury residents Thomas Hayward, MLA, Frederick Johnson, farmer, Allan Christie, stationer, and Walter Buswell, contractor. Cost of the land was £60, and a mortgage of £200 was raised.⁹

A foundation ceremony was conducted on 25 January 1908.

The laying or placing in position of the foundation tablet of the new Church of England - St. Patrick's - at Rathmines took place on Saturday afternoon last in fine sunny weather. For some time past the operations of the Church of England in the Rathmines District have been hampered considerably owing to the lack of a suitable building for the services but the parishioners of this important suburb were willing to go into a venture, hence the building of the new Church. When completed the building will have a nave 25ft by 25ft. The sanctuary is 14ft by 12ft., and the whole of the building is in the shape of the cross of Ireland. The building will be of jarrah with an iron roof and when it is finished it will have cost the Church Committee two hundred and seven pounds for the contract of building which is being carried out by Messrs Nilsson and Banting.

Mr. E.G. Cohen, architect for the building, at the request of the Bishop, arranged the tablet in position, and then Mrs Robert Forrest came forward to perform the ceremony ... screwing a screw into the tablet and then into the frame prepared for the tablet ... with an engraved screw driver ... The tablet was of polished jarrah and the engraving denoted that the tablet was placed there on the occasion of the foundation ceremony of St. Patrick's Church, Rathmines, on the 25th day of

⁶ DOLA, Certificate of Title Vol. 12 Fol. 146, 24 December 1883; DOLA Plan 881(2), 8 February 1895, HCWA File 00348.

⁷ Certificates of Title Vol. 66 Fol. 38 & Fol. 40, HCWA File 00348.

⁸ *The Church Chronicle for the Diocese of Bunbury, Western Australia*, 23 February, 1907, p. 5.

⁹ *The Church Chronicle*, op cit, 31 March 1908, p. 7; DOLA, Certificate of Title Vol. 66 Fol. 40, HCWA File 00348.

January, 1908. The top of the tablet was surmounted with a carving of three shamrock leaves, the execution of the work being faultless.¹⁰

Esther Forrest was the wife of John Forrest's brother, Robert. Robert Forrest had established a steam flour mill in Bunbury. He was also a JP and active in public affairs. It was at their home, Grittleton Lodge, in March 1908, that a gathering of some fifty Bunbury residents farewelled Bishop Cecil Goldsmith and his wife who were leaving on a visit to Britain.¹¹ But before he left, Bishop Goldsmith was able to officiate at the opening of the Church.

St. Patrick's Anglican Church, Bunbury was formally opened by the Bishop for Divine Worship on St Patrick's Day. There was Holy Communion at 8 a.m, and Evensong at 8 p.m., special dedicatory prayers being offered at each Service. There was an overflowing congregation at 8 p.m., the night being beautifully calm with an almost new moon; and the well-lit sanctuary looked both picturesque and tasteful when viewed either from outside or within.... the Bishop offered certain dedicatory prayers, with special reference to St. Patrick, in whose memory the Church is named.... The Bishop then delivered an eloquent address, prefacing his remarks by saying how glad he was, and how glad Canon Darling and his co-workers must be at the completion of this beautiful little Church, which reflected the greatest credit upon the architect (Mr. Eustace Cowen [sic]) and the contractors (Messrs. Nellson [sic] and Banting).¹²

Architect Eustace Gresley Cohen, came to Western Australia from England in 1904, on account of ill health. He served his articles with Thomas Lockwood and Sons, of Chester, which place has been called the home of 'black and white' or half-timber architecture. Between 1904 and 1908, he was occupied with horse-breeding with his brother Gilbert at Bunbury. From 1908 to 1913 he practiced as an architect in Bunbury before joining J. Herbert Eales of Perth as Eales & Cohen. The partnership lasted until Cohen's death in 1938.¹³ John Banting and Axel Nilsson were carpenters residing in Bunbury.¹⁴

In June 1908, Rev Canon Darling wrote:

The Rathmines end of the parish ... was now financially self-supporting and paying its way. The block of land upon which they had just built their pretty church (St Patrick's) had been paid for (£60), as well as all the initial expenses connected with building, such as architects' [sic] fees, legal expenses, seats for church, insurance on building, etc., independently of grants from the parish or diocese. The church had been also nicely fenced round by them. ... The committee at Rathmines had taken over the responsibility of meeting the building debt, and were confident they by weekly subscriptions and Sunday collections, etc., they would be able to pay off the remaining debt within the given term of years. The Sunday Services at St. Patrick's Church showed a satisfactory average and the Sunday School was in a flourishing condition, upwards of 70 children being on the roll.¹⁵

¹⁰ *Southern Times*, Tuesday 28 January, 1908, p.

¹¹ *The Church Chronicle*, 31 March 1908, op cit.

¹² *ibid.*

¹³ Morison, Margaret Pitt, 'Immigrant Architects and their work 1885-1905,' Unpublished paper, p. 3.

¹⁴ Wise's Post Office Directory, 1912.

¹⁵ *The Church Chronicle*, op cit, 30 June 1908, p. 9.

In 1913, the mortgage was discharged prior to the Church being transferred to the ownership of the Diocesan Trustees of Bunbury.¹⁶ The Church was consecrated by Bishop Goldsmith on St Patrick's Day, 17 March 1918.¹⁷

A porch was added to the Church some time prior to 1950, possibly in the late 1930s, when the country was going through an upsurge in confidence following the Great Depression.¹⁸ The local Greek Orthodox community used the Church until they built their own venue. The last Greek service, a wedding, was held on 14 July 1954.¹⁹

Many early Greek immigrants were attracted to coastal towns such as Bunbury because fishing and maritime enterprises provided familiar occupations. In 1916, there were ten Greek fishermen in Bunbury, and Greeks also worked in the timber industry, especially in the mill towns. Chain migration often occurred following word of mouth information about employment opportunities. Prejudice in employment forced many Greeks to operate their own businesses, the area of food catering being especially popular.²⁰

The United Hellenic Association of Bunbury was established in 1937. Religious services were conducted sporadically in Anglican churches until land near the main pocket of Greek settlement was donated by the Barboutis family in 1953. Instead of a church, the community built a hall, which was divided in two so it served as a social venue as well as a church. Those Greeks who had steady employment in Bunbury tended to locate themselves near the hall. St Nicolas' church was built in Rathmines around 1969.²¹

In 1974, the Church was re-roofed, the work being carried out by Neville Woods.²²

Since the 1960s, a number of churches in the South-West have been demolished, including St David's in Clarke St, South Bunbury.²³ Falling numbers of churchgoers, and the availability of motor transport which allowed people to travel to a central location to attend a church service, have made many small local churches redundant. The Church was not as well patronised as St David's, nor did it ever host as many services each week, but it probably survived because the land was not considered valuable until recent years, when plans to demolish the place became public.

The Anglican Church claimed that the Church needed extensive maintenance work and was under utilised with only eight residents

16 DOLA, Certificate of Title Vol. 66 Fol. 40, HCWA File 00348.

17 Research carried out by Tanya Suba, 1992, HCWA File 00348.

18 **Note:** Research carried out by researcher Marilyn Jones on the Diocesan Yearbooks available at the Bunbury Diocese Office (1940-1950, 1956-1959) show no record of this work.

19 Research carried out by Tanya Suba, op cit, HCWA File 00348.

20 Yiannakis, John, *Megisti in the Antipodes: Castellorizian migration and settlement in Western Australia 1890-1990*, Perth, Hesperian Press, 1996, pp. 133-141.

21 *ibid*, p. 164.

22 *Yearbook: Diocese of Bunbury*, Church of England, 1976; Research carried out by Tanya Suba, op cit, HCWA File 00348.

23 *Yearbook: Diocese of Bunbury*, op cit, 1965-1980.

regularly attending services by the late 1980s. The Church wished to sell the place to raise funds for a new rectory in a neighbouring parish.²⁴ Following a public outcry at the planned demolition, the Anglican Church sold the Church intact to the Church of Christ in late 1992.²⁵ The Church of Christ use the Church as a meeting place, and have plans to add a hall, and other amenities on the site.²⁶

War Memorial

The War Memorial was unveiled in the grounds of the Church on 2 January 1920, by General Sir William R. Birdwood (Bart) G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.C.S.I., C.I.E., D.S.O., A.D.C. in his capacity as the Commander-In-Chief of the Australian Forces in World War One. General Birdwood was on a tour of the South-West, where he unveiled memorials, opened Soldier's Institutes, judged a band concert and attended civic receptions in his honour. On 2 January, following a civic reception in Bunbury, he and his official party, which included the Premier, Sir James Mitchell, the Bishop of Bunbury and various Members of Parliament,

proceeded to Rathmines where in a corner of the ground adjoining the Anglican Church a memorial stone is to be erected. The Bishop of Bunbury and Canon H. J. Adams were present and a dedicatory service was held, following which Trumpeter Wallis sounded the 'Last Post.'

Mr J. Foster Johnston then called upon General Birdwood to lay the stone to the memory of the 28 or 29 men who had enlisted from the district, five never to return.

The General ... declar[ed] the stone well and truly laid ...

Mr Fred Hamilton (chairman of the Road Board) ... said there had not been one single eligible man in Rathmines towards the end of the war.²⁷

No information is available about the memorial itself. Its laying was overshadowed somewhat by the unveiling of a larger war memorial in Victoria Square, Busselton the following Tuesday, also by General Birdwood. That memorial is of Donnybrook stone, and was sculpted by Peter Porcelli.

13. 2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

St. Patrick's Anglican Church (fmr) and War Memorial, Bunbury is situated on the corner of Austral Parade and Shenton Street within a residential area east of the town centre. The timber church is located on Lot 10 which is of an equivalent size to the surrounding residential plots. The church is of a domestic scale, corresponding to neighbouring residences, but the distinct form of the steeply pitched roof and church spire are unmistakable indicators of the function. The neighbouring Lot 9 is undeveloped and appears to form part of the church site as there is a consistency of landscaping and no physical definition between the two lots. The site is mostly flat with a slight fall to the south-west. A small number of eucalypt trees feature across the grassed site. Two saplings on the west

²⁴ *South West Times*, 29 October 1992, p. 3; *West Australian*, 17 November 1992, p. 45, HCWA File 00348.

²⁵ *Leschenault Reporter*, 11 November 1992, p. 2, HCWA File 00348; Information supplied by Katrina Chisholm from a conversation on site with Jim Ponsonby, spokesperson for Church of Christ.

²⁶ Information supplied by Katrina Chisholm, op cit.

²⁷ *South Western Times*, 6 January 1920, p. 3.

side of the building and rose bushes on the east, have been planted by Church of Christ parishioners, c.1995. The church stands in the north-east corner of the site near the stone cross war memorial which is close to the street intersection. *Clifton Residence, Rathmines* (1924), a jarrah weatherboard cottage demonstrating the development of timber framed construction, is directly across the road. The proximity of the two timber framed structures and the stone war memorial form a sub-precinct within the wider Stirling Street-Austral Parade precinct.

The Church displays some characteristics of the Federation Carpenter Gothic style, although the building lacks the Gothic motifs and pointed window openings, evident in the more sophisticated examples of this style in the eastern states of Australia.²⁸ The Latin cross plan form of the church is symmetrical laterally and longitudinally with the longer arms orientated north/south. The walls of the shorter, east and west arms of the cross terminate in gable ends while the lower level north and south ends have hipped roof forms. The centre of the cross is emphasised at roof level with a belfry, ventilated with timber louvres and pyramid spire from which the cross is missing.²⁹ The roof is steeply pitched and is decked with corrugated iron, although the spire is clad with sheet metal. Roof drainage is by means of the gutters located at the edges of the hip and is disposed of through rainwater collector heads and rectangular section downpipes located at the internal corners of the intersecting planes. The rainwater collection and disposal system forms a proportionally significant element in the overall composition.

The timber framed church walls are clad with weatherboard up to dado height and were originally finished in stucco above. The walls of the weather side, the west and north, now feature fibre cement boards in place of the stucco and which are held in position with battens. This boarded finish is also evident in the porch at the southern end which is not part of the original structure having been added some time in the late 1930s.

Door and windows openings have semi-circular arched heads. These are emphasised in the gable ends of the east and west elevations where the weather boards have been sawn in lengths to form arches around the openings. The windows are grouped in pairs along the east and west elevations. The two leaves of the painted timber entrance door at the southern end are framed, ledged, braced and boarded and feature some interesting hardware.

A small entry porch at the southern end of the church is sheltered by a roof canopy, lower than the main roof and bracketed off the south wall. The vestibule immediately inside gives access to a storage room equipped with a kitchen sink and cold water only, to the west and is divided from the main church space by a curtained opening.

Pews are arranged across the widest part of the church with a central carpeted aisle leading to the altar and the raised floor of the sanctuary in

²⁸ 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, pp. 124-127.

²⁹ Early undated photographs in HCWA file 00348 clearly show a simple, timber cross on top of the spire.

the narrower north end. A purpose built timber altar rail is located at the edge of the sanctuary floor. Other moveable items of church furniture are not original having been acquired from a variety of sources.³⁰ The foundation block is fixed to the wall in the corner between the west transept and sanctuary. An airconditioning unit, donated to the Church of Christ c.1995, has been installed on the opposing east wall.

Small diameter tie rods located below the main ceiling level, provide stability to the structure and encapsulate the square form of the nave. The strict geometry of the structure is enhanced internally by the relative complexity of the ceiling. Lined with stained pine boards, the angled planes form a significant aesthetic element. A narrow timber frieze cornice is evident beneath the ceiling on the walls of the sanctuary only.

In the altar area, coloured and textured glass has been used in the windows which are divided into small panes. The northern windows of the pairs are fixed while the others are side hinged. Timber mouldings are located above the windows in the nave. This element is repeated in the back wall, indicative of openings that existed prior to the addition of the porch. Some panes in the eastern windows still feature an applied transfer, imitating an etched pattern to the glass.

The addition of the porch at the southern end is the most significant alteration to the form of the building, although the addition sits comfortably within the original geometry. Close examination of the fabric is required to identify where original material has been introduced.

The building is in sound condition. The primary item affecting the condition of the place is the subsiding stumps as evidenced by the uneven floor level. Resulting movement in the walls from this subsidence is continuing to create cracking in the lathe and plaster finish. There is evidence of previous termite attack, although this appears to be inactive. Timber louvres in the belfry have shown deterioration only in the last month although there is no report of the roof or belfry leaking. It is uncertain whether this damage has been caused by weather or pests. Maintenance is financed by the church and parishioners with items attended to as required. In recent years since the Church of Christ acquired the place, some weatherboards and the guttering have been replaced. Current priorities include the painting of window frames, landscaping and the replacement of electrical services.

War Memorial

The War Memorial is a stone structure commemorating the fallen from the Great War. The structure consists of a cross set into an octagonal drum, with the names of local residents inscribed on tablets attached to the vertical surfaces of the octagon. A larger octagon, about one metre in diameter, forms the base for the memorial and is laid on a square stone tablet directly on the ground. The central panel of the lower octagon records the laying of the stone by General Birdwood. The memorial is in good condition with all the inscriptions still legible.

Comparative Information

³⁰ Discussion with Church of Christ parishioner, Jim Ponsonby conducted by Katrina Chisholm, Friday May 15 1998.

A small number of timber churches were built for the Anglican church between 1900 and 1920. These include St Luke's Church, Westonia (c. 1920), St Mark's Church, Mt Helena (c. 1905) and St Andrew's Church, Greenhills (1912).³¹

13.3 REFERENCES

Suba, Tanya, St. Patrick's Anglican Church Bunbury, For the Heritage Council of Western Australia, 1992.

Willcox & Associates Pty Ltd, Architectural Assessment of St. Patrick's Anglican Church, 30th October 1992.

³¹ This information has been derived from Hocking Planning and Architecture Pty Ltd, 'The Anglican Church of Australia Diocese of Perth: Inventory of Properties', July 1996.

13.4 FURTHER RESEARCH
