



## 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 documentation for this place is based on the heritage assessments for *St Swithun's Church, Lesmurdie House and Estate* and *St Brigid's College*, completed by Wayne Moredount, Historian, and Palassis Architects, in November 2003 and January 2004, with amendments and/or additions by HCWA staff and the Register Committee.

#### PRINCIPAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORIC THEME(S)

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|--------|--|
| 3.22   | Lodging people                                   |
| 3.26   | Providing health services                        |
| 3.26.3 | Developing alternative approaches to good health |
| 6.2    | Establishing schools                             |
| 8.14   | Living in the country and rural settlements      |
| 8.5.2  | Helping other people                             |
| 8.6    | Worshipping                                      |

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

- |     |                            |
|-----|----------------------------|
| 107 | Settlements                |
| 402 | Education and science      |
| 406 | Religion                   |
| 605 | Famous and infamous people |

#### 11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE\*

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Canberra, 1991, with additional reference to Richards, O. *Theoretical Framework for Designed Landscapes in WA*, unpublished report, 1997.

St Swithun's Church is a modest but pleasing example of a Federation Gothic style church constructed of local laterite stone with brick quoining and exhibiting pleasing proportions and simple Gothic details. (Criterion 1.1)

St Brigid's College is an elegant complex of Federation Anglo-Dutch (Cape Dutch Revival) buildings featuring light-coloured smooth walling, picturesque Dutch parapeted gables, and intricately modelled facades with ornate scrolling, label moulding and round windows. (Criterion 1.1)

Lesmurdie House & Estate is a good example of the Federation Queen Anne style, exhibiting picturesque and asymmetrical forms, ornate timber detailing, face-brickwork and laterite stonewalling. Its interior is generously proportioned and finely crafted, with elements of the Arts and Crafts style such as solid jarrah wall paneling, jarrah ceiling beams, and ornate timber joinery and floors. (Criterion 1.1)

Lesmurdie House & Estate's is landscaped in Federation garden style and comprises a range of mature exotic and native trees, informal garden beds, a concrete garden bathing-pool with a miniature waterfall, and a large gravel terrace that overlooks the lawn areas, the orchard store and Lesmurdie Brook. The gardens combine with the nearby native forest to produce pleasing environs for Lesmurdie House. (Criterion 1.1)

St Swithun's Church has a bushland garden setting comprising a number of significant Marri trees (*Eucalyptus calophylla*), laterite stone boulders, informal gravel paths and native flora, which combine to produce pleasing environs. (Criterion 1.1)

St Brigid's College is set within an attractive garden setting featuring expanses of lawn, serpentine paths, flower beds and mature exotic and native trees, including significant plantings of Canary Island Date Palms (*Phoenix canariensis*) along the entry driveway, Poplars (*Populus sp.*) lining the eastern edge of the tennis courts, and Marri trees (*Eucalyptus calophylla*) along Catherine Place. (Criterion 1.1)

St Brigid's College is an important and distinct landmark located in a prominent position on Lesmurdie Road. It has high townscape value associated with the elegant buildings and attractive garden setting. (Criterion 1.3)

The group, although not strongly visually linked, were designed by the same architect and together create a cultural environment. (Criterion 1.4)

## 11. 2. HISTORIC VALUE

*Lesmurdie Group* is an important historic precinct closely linked to the development of the Kalamunda district in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and particularly, the locality of Lesmurdie, which derives its name from Lesmurdie House & Estate. (Criterion 2.1)

Lesmurdie House & Estate, originally constructed as a rural residence for the Sanderson family, later served that area as a private hotel/guesthouse and a private hospital. (Criterion 2.2)

From 1920 to 1924, St Brigid's College operated as St Andrew's Convalescent Home, owned and operated by the Red Cross, providing care in a peaceful and healthy environment for convalescent returned World War One military personnel. The place also provided convalescent care facilities for the Perth Hospital, used as an auxiliary hospital leased from the Red Cross, from 1925 to 1928. (Criterion 2.1)

St Brigid's College is closely connected with the expansion of Catholic education in Western Australia, functioning as the boarding school component of St Brigid's School, West Perth from 1929 to 2005. (Criterion 2.1)

*Lesmurdie Group* represents the values and way of life of Anglophile groups within Australian society, with Lesmurdie House & Estate modeled on 'Bullerswood', the Sanderson family home in Kent, England, and occupying the same relation to the local community as a squire's house did to a traditional English village, and St Swithun's Church and St Brigid's College occupying the roles of the traditional village church and village school, respectively. Archibald Sanderson also carefully selected and arranged the mortgage finance for those who would settle on Lesmurdie land that he subdivided, to ensure that they were of a 'type' in harmony with his vision for the area. (Criterion 2.2)

Lesmurdie House & Estate was the place chosen by Government officials to accommodate the Duke and Duchess of York for a weekend retreat, while on their tour of Australia in 1927 after the opening of Parliament House in Canberra, a visit that reinforced the already existing sense that the place had the role in the locality of a traditional English village squire's house, and generated publicity to boost the growing hills tourism industry in the Interwar years. (Criterion 2.2)

St Brigid's College is historically and socially linked with Villa Maria Hostel, the Monastery of the Oblate Fathers, the Convent of the Sisters of Mercy, and the Parish Church for Lesmurdie, all situated opposite the College on Lesmurdie Road, which together form a Catholic nursing, educational and religious precinct. (Criterion 2.2)

*Lesmurdie Group* was funded by and built on land originally owned by local developer, lawyer and State politician Archibald Sanderson, and designed by his brother-in-law, George Herbert Parry, a prominent Perth architect who worked throughout the Kalamunda region during the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century. The first Rector of St Swithun's Church was G.H. Parry's brother, Rev. Lionel Walpole Parry. Lesmurdie House & Estate was owned by members of the Sanderson family (and related families) from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century until 2000. (Criterion 2.3)

The jarrah paneling in the drawing room of Lesmurdie House, created by local builder and joiner, Albert John Secrett in 1911, is a fine example of skilled craftsmanship. (Criterion 2.4)

### **11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE**

Lesmurdie House & Estate has potential as a teaching site for architecture, design and history students. The various stages of the buildings' development are still discernible and demonstrate the methods taken to accommodate changing needs. (Criterion 3.2)

### **11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE**

*Lesmurdie Group* is highly valued by the local community for its associations with the Sanderson family, who played a leading role in community affairs in the early twentieth century. (Criterion 4.1)

St Brigid's College is valued by its community of students and staff, past and present, and by the wider Catholic community of Perth, for its provision of boarding accommodation and education since 1929. (Criterion 4.1)

St Swithun's Church is highly valued by members of the Anglican community in the Kalamunda district, as demonstrated when, due to pressure from local parishioners, the place became the parish church for the newly-formed Parochial District of Lesmurdie in 1990. (Criterion 4.1)

*Lesmurdie Group* is important in contributing to the local community's sense of place, featuring prominently in published histories of the Kalamunda district, with Lesmurdie House & Estate and St Swithun's Church also being the subject of historical monographs, published in 1979 and 1995 respectively. (Criterion 4.2)

St Brigid's College contributes to the community's sense of place as a landmark on Lesmurdie Road. (Criterion 4.1)

## **12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE**

### **12. 1. RARITY**

The 1913-21 building within the St Brigid's College complex is a rare and substantial example of South African Cape Dutch Revival style architecture in Western Australia. This structure was modeled on 'Groote Schuur', Capetown, designed by Sir Herbert Baker as the home of the first president of South Africa, Cecil Rhodes, and all subsequent South African presidents. (Criterion 5.1)

*Lesmurdie Group* is rare in Western Australia as the heart of a planned village-style community modeled on traditional British class society. (Criterion 5.2)

### **12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS**

St Swithun's Church is representative of the Federation Gothic style of architecture, of which the place is a modest but pleasing example. (Criterion 6.1)

St Brigid's College is representative of the Federation Anglo-Dutch style of architecture, being a literal translation of the Cape Dutch Revival style into a Western Australian setting. (Criterion 6.1)

Lesmurdie House & Estate is representative of a Federation Queen Anne style residence with a Federation garden, developed as a private retreat in the hills district east of Perth. (Criterion 6.1)

*Lesmurdie Group* is representative of the work of architect George Herbert Parry, especially in the hills area, during the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century. (Criterion 6.2)

St Brigid's College is representative of a regional boarding school for the education of girls. (Criterion 6.2)

### **12. 3 CONDITION**

Lesmurdie House & Estate is in good condition and has generally been well maintained. Parts of the interior fabric of the residence show signs of water damage, particularly the floor of the former Dining Room and ceiling of the enclosed front verandah.

The former orchard store is in fair condition and shows considerable signs of wear. The verandah and roof need maintenance to stabilize their condition. Internally, the original fabric is in fair condition, with the floors and walls showing signs of deterioration caused by age and wear.

The grounds of Lesmurdie House & Estate are in good condition and are well maintained. The brick and timber fence that edges the gravel terrace is in fair condition, although a number of fence palings are missing. The gardens, lawns and trees are well maintained. The concrete garden bathing-pool and Lesmurdie Brook are in good condition, although ducks currently inhabit the pool.

St Brigid's College is in very good condition and has been well maintained. The grounds are in good condition.

St Swithun's Church is in good condition and has been well maintained. The bushland garden setting has also been well maintained and contributes to the overall appearance of the place.

#### **12. 4 INTEGRITY**

*Lesmurdie Group* has high integrity. Although the group is no longer the heart of a village community, each element continues in use for its original purpose.

Lesmurdie House & Estate has high integrity. The place has had a number of uses, although it was predominantly used as a residence and a guesthouse. The Sanderson family occupied the house until 1934, when Lesmurdie House was converted for use as a private hotel, and in 1942 the place was used as sleeping quarters for RAAF signalwomen. In 1945, Lesmurdie House was converted into three flats, which were let out until 1960, when it was equipped as a private hospital. Also in 1960 the orchard store was converted into a guesthouse. Lesmurdie House & Estate reverted to a private residence in 1973 when Hugh and Catherine Sanderson purchased the property. In 2003, the first floor of Lesmurdie House is used as a residence, while the current owners, St Brigid's College, use the rest of the house for small functions and storage. The orchard store continues to be used for storage and also as the gardeners' lunchroom.

St Brigid's College has high integrity. The place has been used predominantly used as a boarding school, but during the 1920s was used as a convalescent home (St Andrew's Convalescent Home) by the Red Cross. In 2005, the 1913-21 and 1938 buildings are used as classrooms, while the residential functions are accommodated in purpose-built wings on the west side of Catherine Place. The former Sisters' Convent is currently used as teaching offices, while the Chapel continues to be used for religious gatherings.

St Swithun's Church has high integrity and has continued to function as a place of worship for the local community.

#### **12. 5 AUTHENTICITY**

Lesmurdie House & Estate has a high level of authenticity. The residence has been extended on various occasions, but the original form and materials have been maintained, and the extensions are not inconsistent with the original design intent. External changes to the place include the addition of a nursery wing in 1912, a second storey added in 1913, and the re-building of the kitchen in 1955-56. Major changes to the orchard store were in 1960 when the verandah was enclosed.

St Brigid's College has a high level of authenticity. The school buildings have been extended on various occasions, but the original form and materials have been maintained. In 1921 George Herbert Parry designed

an addition to the earlier school building in the Cape Dutch Revival style. This style was continued when in 1938, a two-storey building was added to the north of the original (1913-21) building to house classrooms and a music room. In 1967, an undercroft, canteen and new music rooms were added to the north side of the 1938 building. This was extended in 1975 and again in 1978.

In 1971, another building (currently used as the secondary school administration) was constructed to the north of the 1938 building, facing Lesmurdie Road. Also in 1971, a new primary school was opened on the west side of Catherine Place. In 1980, the verandahs of the 1913-21 Building were enclosed. The gymnasium was built in 1983-85, with renovations in 1995. A new fitness centre and swimming pool were constructed in 2001, built adjacent to the gym and replacing the former outdoor pool (constructed in 1974). In 1998, the two-storey McAuley Wing Science and Technology Centre was opened and a link built to connect it with the 1913-21 Building. In 2000 the old science rooms were converted into home economics rooms and a General Purpose Learning Area (GPLA). Also at this time, the existing home economics rooms were converted into a canteen area and GPLA.

Other external changes include the painting of some of the face stonework and also the ornamental scrolls.

St Swithun's Church has a high degree of authenticity. Changes to the place include the replacement of the jarrah walling to the front (west) elevation with concrete masonry blocks in 1950, the renovation of the interior of the church in 1987, and the repainting and repair of the church in 1993. Although the replacement of the jarrah wall affected the appearance of the place, it was consistent with the original design intent and has not adversely affected the authenticity. The maintenance of the interior has also been consistent with the original design. In 2001, the corrugated iron gable roof was replaced with 'Federation Red' Colorbond roof sheeting.

In 1988 improvements were made to the bushland garden and in 1992, thirty-nine Lemon Scented Gums (*Eucalyptus citriodora*) were planted in the area surrounding the church. The new trees are sympathetic to the naturalistic style setting and have not adversely affected the authenticity of the place.

### 13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

The documentary evidence has been compiled by Wayne Moredoundt, Historian. The physical evidence has been compiled by Palassis Architects.

Amendments have been made by Heritage Council officers to combine the assessment documentation for Lesmurdie House & Estate, St Swithun's Church, and St Brigid's College into a single document.

#### 13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

*Lesmurdie Group* consists of three places designed by George Herbert Parry and constructed for local landowner Archibald Sanderson: Lesmurdie House & Estate, St Swithun's Church, and St Brigid's College.

Lesmurdie House & Estate comprises a two-storey Federation Queen Anne style residence first constructed as a two-roomed cottage in 1898, with subsequent additions in 1910, 1912, 1913 and 1955-56. The place is constructed of local laterite stone and red brick, with Marseilles pattern roof tiles.

St Swithun's Church comprises a single-storey laterite stone and brick church with a steeply pitched Colorbond roof in the Federation Gothic style, built in 1909 on a large sloping block at 195 Lesmurdie Road, Lesmurdie. The porch at the west end (the front) of the building was enclosed with concrete masonry blocks in the 1950s. The history of St Swithun's Church is closely associated with the development of Kalamunda as an Anglican parochial district (proclaimed in 1909) and also as a shire within the administrative system of local government in Western Australia. St Swithun's Church was an integral part of the Parish of Kalamunda from its consecration on 16 January 1910 until the formation of the Parochial District of Lesmurdie, with St Swithun's as the Parish Church, in July 1990.<sup>1</sup>

St Brigid's College comprises a complex of Cape Dutch Revival style school buildings, first constructed in the period from 1913-21, with subsequent additions in 1938, 1965, 1967-78, 1971 and 1998. The place is constructed of rendered brick with a laterite stone and brick base and terracotta tile roof.

The history of *Lesmurdie Group* is closely associated with the development of the Kalamunda district and with the Sanderson family of Lesmurdie. The first stimulus for settlement of the area, which is now the Shire of Kalamunda, was provided by the rich jarrah forests of the Darling Range. In 1864, Benjamin Mason acquired a license to cut timber over an area of approximately 260 hectares in what is now the locality of Carmel. By 1871, Mason's timber concession had expanded to 40,000 hectares, subject to the construction of a tramway from the Darling Range to the Cannington Landing on the Canning River. In partnership with Francis Bird, Mason had the tramway completed by January 1872, but there were, from the outset, problems with the reliability of the system. These difficulties, combined with

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<sup>1</sup> James A. Richardson, *St Swithun's Anglican Church Lesmurdie: A Living Heritage*, Perth, 1995, p. 2.



strong competition from other mills in the Range, brought about the closure of Mason's Mill in 1882.<sup>2</sup>

During this period, two other settlers had established properties in this part of the Darling Range, having moved out from Guildford in search of cheap but fertile land. In 1873, William Mead acquired a 16 hectare lot in the south east corner of what is now the locality of Gooseberry Hill. In addition to a small orchard, Mead also grazed sheep on his land. The Stirk family moved onto a 4 hectare allotment at the top of the scarp in 1881. Situated on the track from the old timber mill down to Guildford (now Kalamunda Road) this was fertile land, well suited for market gardening.<sup>3</sup>

While Stirk, Mead and others who followed had realized the agricultural potential of this part of the Darling Range, the problem of access and communication continued to impede the further development of the Kalamunda District. By the mid-1880s, new rail lines were linking outlying parts of Perth to the capital and its port. With the opening of the Guildford-Perth-Fremantle line in 1881, suburban settlements were established around railway stations along the route, and the railway network was extended to York via Chidlow Wells.<sup>4</sup>

A beneficiary of this improvement in the transport of goods and people was the timber industry, which grew rapidly now that the railway provided a more efficient link from mills to the sea ports. To take advantage of this situation, Edward Keane, engineer and manager of the Midland Railway Company, proposed the construction of a rail line down the escarpment, linking the abandoned Mason-Bird Mill to Midland (and so on to Fremantle). Keane's proposal, for exclusive rights to cut timber over the previous Mason-Bird concession, subject to the construction of a railway, was approved by the State Government. As part of the arrangement with the State Government, Keane's zig-zag railway was to carry the public and the general freight of the area. This agreement was to continue in force until the end of 1899, at which time the Government would have the right to purchase the line.<sup>5</sup>

By the end of July 1891, the railway was completed. The course of the line was through Bushmead to the foot of the Hills at Maida Vale, then up the escarpment in three zig-zag stages to Gooseberry Hill. From there, it ran to Stirk's Landing, Guppy's Siding, Twelve Mile Siding, Heidelberg, Green's Landing, Monument Hill and Pickering Brook to Canning Mills. Although Canning Mills, with a population of around 400, was the centre of activity in this part of the Range, each of the sidings and landings represented settled landholdings.<sup>6</sup>

From these stop-over points and population centres, settlers took up land, particularly for orchards, and the population within the Kalamunda area gradually increased. The large growth in the State's population between the

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<sup>2</sup> Philip J. Bonser, 'Kalamunda: The Evolution of a Suburban Settlement', M. Arch. Thesis, University of Western Australia, 1980, p. 17.

<sup>3</sup> *Western Mail*, 8 October 1931.

<sup>4</sup> Bonser, 'Kalmunda', pp. 19-20.

<sup>5</sup> Bonser, 'Kalmunda', pp. 20-21.

<sup>6</sup> Bonser, 'Kalmunda', p. 21.

mid-1890s and the middle of the first decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century also provided an impetus for the expansion of Kalamunda. Population increase created a high demand for agricultural produce and so a greater incentive for settlement in the Darling Range, an area now known for its productive soil.<sup>7</sup>

The great drawback to settlement in the Kalamunda District was, however, the erratic nature of the rail service. As a result, most agricultural produce was transported to the city by cart, on a road which, for a quarter of its fifteen miles, was loose sand. This meant that the journey took about three or four hours in a light trap, a great handicap with perishable fruit.<sup>8</sup>

In late 1896, the Kalamunda settlers formed an agricultural society, the Darling Range Vine and Fruitgrowers' Association, in order to obtain improvements to the District facilities, with a newly arrived (part-time) settler, Archibald Sanderson, elected as the first Chairman. After lobbying by the Association, Premier Forrest approved, in principle, the creation of a separate Roads District for the Hills area, the Darling Range Road Board (formed in 1898). Around the same time, the Association was also successful in obtaining government assistance for the upgrading of the cart track to Midland, and for the erection of an agricultural hall. This building, completed in 1898, became the nucleus for the small community. In further development of the area, a general store had been established on the Stirk property, with the proprietor also providing a daily cartage service to the Perth Markets in a horse-drawn cart. Hills settlers also wanted the State Government to exercise its option to take control of the zig-zag railway, and to have a town site gazetted for the District.<sup>9</sup>

It was the above-mentioned Archibald Sanderson who developed *Lesmurdie Group*. Sanderson had been born at Glen Thompson, Victoria, in 1870, the fourth son of John Sanderson, who had founded (in 1858) the Melbourne firm of John Sanderson and Co, an agency of Sanderson and Murray, wool merchants of Galshiels, Scotland. In 1871, the family returned to England where John Sanderson became a partner in Sanderson and Murray's London Branch in 1876. Archibald Sanderson was educated at Haileybury College in England, and later attended Oxford University, where he graduated with honours in modern history in 1892.<sup>10</sup>

With three older brothers, William (1864-1900), Leslie (1867-1914) and John (1868-1945), there was no immediate position in the family business for Archibald Sanderson. He and his two younger brothers had, then, to make their own way in the world. From 1892 until 1894, he worked as a journalist in New Zealand. In 1894, Sanderson came to Western Australia and, with camera and notebook, cycled through the Coolgardie goldfields in

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<sup>7</sup> Bonser, 'Kalmunda', p. 21.

<sup>8</sup> P.G. Wicken, 'A Visit to Gooseberry Hill', *Journal of the Department of Agriculture of Western Australia*, Vol. 10, 1904, p. 398. Cited in Bonser, 'Kalmunda', pp. 21-22.

<sup>9</sup> John Slee, *Cala Munnda: A Home in the Forest: A History of Kalmunda*, Shire of Kalamunda, 1979, pp. 88-89. 100.

<sup>10</sup> Hugh Sanderson, ed., *Lesmurdie: A Home in the Hills: From the diary of Maude Sanderson*, Nine Club, Perth, second edition, 1998, pp. 17-18.

the capacity of special correspondent of the *Christchurch Press* and the *New Zealand Times*. In Coolgardie, he joined with the brother of a Melbourne friend on a mining claim at the beginning of 1895 but, after his partner died from typhoid, he moved to another claim at Kalgoorlie. Although the new claim was promising, his father refused to advance him the couple of hundred pounds needed to develop the mine. He sold his claim and, later in 1895, moved to Perth.<sup>11</sup> There, Sanderson found work as assistant master of the Perth High School for a few months and, on the establishment of the Perth *Morning Herald*, he joined the staff as leader-writer and assistant-editor, and remained there until 1899.

### **The establishment of Lesmurdie Group by Archibald Sanderson**

It was while at the Perth High School that Sanderson became acquainted with E.W. 'Paddy' Haynes, who, in 1895, brought him to visit a property Haynes had purchased some time previously, in the Darling Range. Sanderson liked the country and, in 1897, bought a portion of Hayne's land (Lot 227) for £20. Sanderson worked in the city during the week and, on weekends, camped in a tent, spent his time clearing and developing his Hills block. Sanderson also employed a man to care-take during the week and carry on with clearing the land.<sup>12</sup>

In early 1898, when the only accommodation on the land was a tent, Sanderson's father, mother and sister, Alice, paid a visit to see Archibald and his life in Perth and Lesmurdie. His father showed interest in Archibald's situation by sending £50 to the building fund for the planned community Agricultural Hall. Later in the year, his brother Leslie also visited. By this time, a simple wattle and daub cottage of two rooms and a verandah had been built on the land by A. Jacks, at a cost of £72. This simple structure was called 'Lesmurdie' by Sanderson, named for a boyhood holiday home of Archibald's on the upper reaches of the river Deveron, Banffshire, in Scotland. It was the first stage of construction on the site, and its location would later be the site of the laterite and stone residence now known as Lesmurdie House. It was also in 1898 that Sanderson was elected a member of the first Darling Range Road Board.<sup>13</sup>

After returning to England, Archibald's father wrote back to his son in Lesmurdie, acknowledging the news that accommodation on the block had been improved:

I am glad you find the Lesmurdie cottage comfortable, and I am sure it must be a great improvement on a tent. A wife and a seat in Parliament will follow in due course.<sup>14</sup>

In a letter to his mother in late 1898, Archibald Sanderson also revealed some of his plans for the Lesmurdie land:

I am looking forward to the arrival of the *Maori King* with my fruit trees. The day will come when the colony will export apples to the London market, and the brand

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<sup>11</sup> *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Vol 11, Melbourne University Press, 1988, pp. 515-516.

<sup>12</sup> Sanderson, *Lesmurdie*, pp. 22-23.

<sup>13</sup> A water-colour sketch of the cottage was painted by the caretaker employed by Sanderson. Sanderson, *Lesmurdie*, p. 8, 23-24.

<sup>14</sup> Quoted in Sanderson, *Lesmurdie*, p. 26.

Lesmurdie shall be synonymous with the best fruit, if good stock, and careful management have any value. The tenants are going quietly and steadily on with their work, and the place is vastly improved since Alice took tea in the tent!<sup>15</sup>

Samuel Wheelwright and Richard Brady, who were engaged by Archibald Sanderson to clear his land and plant an orchard, shared the newly-built Lesmurdie cottage, until 1901, at which time they built on a block of their own further south.<sup>16</sup>

In 1900, Archibald Sanderson's interest in a life in politics led to him standing (unsuccessfully) as an anti-Federationist candidate for the seat of East Perth in State elections. By now, Sanderson, ill with overwork, was advised by a doctor friend to have a long rest at his family's home in Kent. After spending time in England, Sanderson traveled to France. At the Chateau Loudenne in Bordeaux he remained for six months, learning viticultural techniques that he thought might prove useful back in Lesmurdie. Sanderson returned to Perth in 1901, resuming his previous job at the *Daily News*.<sup>17</sup>

As a member of the Darling Range Road Board, Sanderson continued to lobby the Government to gazette a town site in the district. This proposition was acceded to in December 1901 when the Governor set aside Crown land, the section of land numbered 48/3699, Location 397 on the Canning Hills, to form a town site at Stirk's Landing, Gooseberry Hill. This land had in fact been selected by residents at a special meeting held some months earlier to discuss the matter.<sup>18</sup>

The site chosen was central to most of the land already taken up by settlers, adjacent to an established stop-over for the train, and close to the Agricultural Hall, the Government school built in 1895, and at the site of the only Post Office to service the area. The chosen site was also unsuitable for agricultural purposes, being on solid rock, and with no easily available source of water.<sup>19</sup> In 1901, the town of Kalamunda was laid out with the road parallel to the rail line (Railway Road) designated as the main town street, and lots in its vicinity attracted most interest at the first auction in the area. Although not all the town lots were sold initially, all of those on Railway Road were acquired by businessmen for commercial use.<sup>20</sup>

In 1902, Archibald Sanderson formed the Upper Darling Railway League, to lobby the Government to take over the railway. In a submission to the Western Australian Premier, the League claimed that commercial enterprises along the line made the take-over an economically viable proposition, as cartage revenue for transport from the area to Midland for the previous year equated to the agreed take-over price from the Government, a sum of £20,000. The Railway League also drew attention to the natural beauty of the area serviced by the line and its recreational potential for the

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<sup>15</sup> Quoted in Sanderson, *Lesmurdie*, p. 26.

<sup>16</sup> Sanderson, *Lesmurdie*, p. 27.

<sup>17</sup> Sanderson, *Lesmurdie*, pp. 27-29.

<sup>18</sup> Slee, *Cala Munnda*, p. 111.

<sup>19</sup> Bonser, 'Kalamunda', p. 26.

<sup>20</sup> *Swan Express*, 2 November 1901.

people of Perth. Finally, towards the end of 1902, the Government agreed to purchase the rail line, with the matter concluded the following year.<sup>21</sup>

Early in 1903, Archibald's father John Sanderson died of a sudden heart attack. As he had by now decided on a career in politics, Archibald Sanderson traveled to England to console his widowed mother and to study law, which he considered the best preparation for political life. After enrolling to read law at the Inner Temple of the Inns of Court in London, he settled down to study. In 1906, he was called to the Bar. In the same year, he met, and married, Maude, a daughter of the late Henry Hutton Parry (1826-1893), Anglican Bishop of Perth (1877-1893).<sup>22</sup> Later in 1906, he and Maude returned to Perth and he was called to the Western Australian Bar on 26 November 1907.<sup>23</sup>

Upon Archibald Sanderson's return to Western Australia with his new wife in 1906, they settled at Lesmurdie House & Estate. By this time, additional building work to the cottage had been carried out by William Patterson, who, with his wife, had leased the property during Sanderson's time in England.<sup>24</sup> The cottage now had four rooms, with a small verandah in front. Beside the house was another two room building; a stone kitchen behind a hessian-walled room, also with a verandah in front. In 1907, half of the back verandah on the cottage was enclosed to provide a spare bedroom, and the two separate buildings were linked by a small cement courtyard, which was partially roofed. Adjoining the cottage, two large brick rooms were built; a bedroom for Archibald and Maude, and a dining room with a central fireplace. In addition, a weatherboard and iron three-roomed shed was built at the side of the cottage, to house the family of George Champion, who was emigrating from Kent to act as gardener at the property. Also during this time, the overgrowth in the orchard was cleared away, the course of the brook was straightened, and timber was prepared for a new bridge to give a more direct route to the house.<sup>25</sup>

In mid-1907, Maude Sanderson's mother, Mary Susannah Parry (1851-1909), arrived in Perth, to stay for some months at Lesmurdie House & Estate to help with the arrival of baby Alison Sanderson, born in August of that year. At the beginning of 1908, Archibald Sanderson opened an office in Perth for working as a solicitor, and began preparing to contest the Legislative Assembly seat of Swan, with the election due to be held by the end of the year. It was also in 1908, that Archibald Sanderson purchased and subdivided two one hundred acre blocks at Lesmurdie for housing, and 'put picked people on them, with very favourable mortgage conditions. A pleasant little community was being established.'<sup>26</sup>

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<sup>21</sup> Bonser, 'Kalamunda', p. 31.

<sup>22</sup> *West Australian*, 16 November 1893.

<sup>23</sup> J.S. Battye, ed., *The Cyclopaedia of Western Australia*, vol. 1, Perth, 1913, p. 333.

<sup>24</sup> William Patterson and his wife purchased a portion of the nearby brookland and built themselves a house there. Sanderson, *Lesmurdie*, p. 52.

<sup>25</sup> Sanderson, *Lesmurdie*, pp. 55, 57.

<sup>26</sup> *Swan Express*, 29 August 1908; Sanderson, *Lesmurdie*, pp. 57, 59, 62, 83.

The widow of the former Bishop Parry of Perth, Mary Parry was a devout Anglican who found it difficult while she was staying at Lesmurdie to attend the only church in the district (St Barnabas, built in 1899, relocated in 1911, demolished in 1928), located some distance away in the Kalamunda town site, at the corner of Boonooloo and Kalamunda Roads. Archibald Sanderson proposed, therefore, to have a church built locally, so that his mother-in-law could easily attend services as often as she desired. To this end, Sanderson granted a one acre plot of land (Kalamunda Lot 210) to the Church of England as the site for a new church. Plans were drawn up by George Herbert Parry, Mary Parry's son and Maude Sanderson's brother, in 1908 and early 1909.<sup>27</sup>

George Herbert Parry was a son of the former Bishop Parry of Perth. He was born in Western Australia in 1882 and, after High School in Perth, completed his education in England. After working as an architect in London, he returned to Perth in 1907 and joined the Public Works Department. He later joined in partnership with architects Cavanagh and Cavanagh. Three years later, he established his own practice in Perth. Parry was also responsible for the design of other buildings in the Kalamunda district including Kalamunda Agricultural Hall (1924), and the Kalamunda Hotel (1927).<sup>28</sup>

Building of the church commenced in 1909 with the volunteer labour of local stonemason, Mr Johnson, together with builders Gilchrist, Patterson and McClure. By June 1909, the Lesmurdie church was apparently well-advanced in construction.<sup>29</sup> By October of the same year, the church was nearly completed. To this point, the building work had cost £255, towards which the church office had given £100, with £20 granted towards the furnishing of the church.<sup>30</sup>

The church was built with walls of locally quarried laterite set in pale coloured cement. Buttresses and corners of the walls were to be of brick, and the mouldings and buttresses were to be cement rendered.<sup>31</sup> The corrugated iron roof was supported on jarrah beams and no ceiling was provided (until the later 1950s). The casement windows were arranged in a pattern of three doubles on the south side and two on the north to permit a cooling cross breeze in the hot summer months. The windows, with Oregon frames, were imported ready glazed from England.<sup>32</sup>

Although the original plans showed otherwise, the western end (the front of the building) was built of jarrah weather boards to permit the easy extension of the church if the local congregation expanded.<sup>33</sup> In another departure

<sup>27</sup> Order in Council, dated 26 August 1908. Cited in Richardson, *St Swithun's*, p. 15, Battye Map Collection, Rare Map 944C/11.

<sup>28</sup> J.S. Battye, ed., *The Cyclopaedia of Western Australia*, vol. 1, p. 633.

<sup>29</sup> *Swan Express*, 4 June 1909.

<sup>30</sup> From the diary of F.W. Gunning, cited in Richardson, *St Swithun's*, p. 129.

<sup>31</sup> Battye Map Collection, Rare Map 944C/11.

<sup>32</sup> Richardson, *St Swithun's*, p. 19.

<sup>33</sup> The original plans drawn by Herbert Parry in March 1908 show a vestry built on the west of the church, and the (west) end of the church constructed in the same laterite as the rest of the building. Battye Map Collection, Rare Map 944C/11.

from Parry's plans, the original entrance, on the north west corner of the building, was not constructed. Instead of entering from this point, from where the worshiper would move through to an enclosed porch area, and from there, left into the Nave, or right into the Vestry, visitors to the Church climbed narrow wooden stairs to a wooden door, set in the middle of the timber west wall. From there, entry was straight into the Nave. As a result, there was no weather protection for the visitor, or the space immediately inside the Church.<sup>34</sup>

St Swithun's Church was consecrated on 16 January 1910 by the Anglican Bishop of Perth, Charles Owen Leaven Riley.<sup>35</sup> Unfortunately, by this time, Mary Parry, for whose benefit the building of the church was originally proposed, had passed away. After an illness of some months, she died in Perth at the end of October 1909.

Another factor that may have influenced the financial contribution of Archibald Sanderson to the building of St Swithun's Church was the possibility that Rev. Lionel Walpole Parry (Sanderson's brother-in-law, a brother of Maude Sanderson and George Herbert Parry) might be appointed to minister in the District. In fact, Rev L.W. Parry was appointed the first Rector of St Barnabas at the time that the Anglican Parochial District of Kalamunda was declared in 1909, the same year that he was ordained a minister of the Church of England. As part of the Rector's duties, he would deliver Holy Communion in Gooseberry Hill, at St Barnabas in Kalamunda, and at St Swithun's Church in Lesmurdie. Parry remained in this position until 1912, although he also occasionally conducted the service at St Swithun's Church in later years.<sup>36</sup>

It is likely also that the building of St Swithun's Church fitted into Archibald Sanderson's vision of recreating aspects of British class society in Western Australia. Archibald and Maude spoke of England as 'Home', although both were born in Australia, and they travelled to Britain frequently for extended periods of time. Like the members of various newly prosperous individuals and groups within British society,<sup>37</sup> they also emulated the attitudes, values and customs of traditionally aristocratic classes. Lesmurdie House & Estate was, in fact, named for a boyhood holiday home of Archibald Sanderson's on the upper reaches of the river Deveron, Banffshire, in Scotland, and was modeled on 'Bullerswood', the house that John Anderson had built for Archibald, and the rest of his family, at Chislehurst, in Kent, in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>38</sup>

At the beginning of 1910, Maude Sanderson left with her two daughters and their nursemaid for Albany, where they planned to stay for three months

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<sup>34</sup> Photograph of *St Swithun's Church, Lesmurdie* (ca 1912), Local History Collection, Kalamunda Library.

<sup>35</sup> Certificate of Consecration, in Richardson, *St Swithun's*, p. 18.

<sup>36</sup> Richardson, *St Swithun's*, pp. 8-10.

<sup>37</sup> Archie Sanderson's grandfather, William, had achieved prosperity through a wool merchanting and banking business in England, while Archie's father, John, had become successful with a wool exporting and shipping business in Melbourne. Sanderson, *Lesmurdie*, pp. 14-15.

<sup>38</sup> Sanderson, *Lesmurdie*, pp. 14-15.

while building works to Lesmurdie House were carried out. Archibald Sanderson, in the meantime, was travelling the State in his chauffeur-driven automobile, campaigning as one of three Liberal candidates for three Senate vacancies, with the election due to be held in April 1910. (In September 1909, Sanderson had been selected as a Senate candidate by the Liberal Party). After his unsuccessful bid the Sandersons left for a month's stay in Melbourne, with their children remaining in Perth with 'Nurse' Barton. With wet weather in the Hills delaying construction, it was not until early August 1910 that the Sanderson family moved back into Lesmurdie House & Estate.<sup>39</sup>

Under George Herbert Parry's direction, a Georgian-style front wing, built of local laterite stone with a tile roof, had been added to the house and the two roomed cottage was demolished.<sup>40</sup> Lesmurdie House was modeled on 'Bullerswood', the house that John Anderson had built for Archibald, and the rest of his family, at Chislehurst, in Kent, in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>41</sup> The design of 'Bullerswood' was the first independent project undertaken by young architect Ernest Newton, who had trained with the 19<sup>th</sup> century design luminary, William Morris.<sup>42</sup>

'Bullerswood' was built of brick, stone and tile on a sloping site, with brick terraces an important feature of the design. Paneling in the hall and staircase, the metalwork and the furnishings, were all especially commissioned for the house. All of these were to influence the design of Lesmurdie House. In addition, some of the original 'Bullerswood' furniture and carpets were purchased by Archibald Sanderson in 1920 for use in Lesmurdie House. Coincidentally, George Herbert Parry, the architect responsible for most of the design of Lesmurdie House', had, in his time as an architectural student in England, been sent to carry out measured drawings of 'Bullerswood'. When Parry was commissioned by Sanderson to design the additions to Lesmurdie House, he was uniquely aware of his clients' background and their expectations for the design of their house.<sup>43</sup>

In September 1911, the Sanderson family moved out of Lesmurdie House for two weeks, so that painting and wood paneling could be undertaken. The paneling was carried out by Albert John Secrett who, after emigrating to Australia in 1910, worked on renovations to the Perth Mint. At Lesmurdie House, Secrett installed 450 separate jarrah panels in the Drawing Room of the house, with the timber cut from the Sanderson property.<sup>44</sup>

It was also in 1911 that the Liberal Club was formed, with Archibald Sanderson as its first President. Early in 1912, Sanderson successfully contested a by-election for a Legislative Council seat. A few months later he gained the seat permanently as the successful candidate for the

<sup>39</sup> Sanderson, *Lesmurdie*, pp. 62-66.

<sup>40</sup> A sketch by Herbert Parry (dated April 1911) is reproduced in Sanderson, *Lesmurdie*, p. 10.

<sup>41</sup> Sanderson, *Lesmurdie*, pp. 14-15.

<sup>42</sup> Sanderson, *Lesmurdie*, p. 12.

<sup>43</sup> Sanderson, *Lesmurdie*, p. 15.

<sup>44</sup> Sanderson, *Lesmurdie*, p. 69; Biographical information sheet on Albert John Secrett, Local History Section, Kalamunda Library.



Metropolitan-Suburban province in the Legislative Council for the Liberal Party.<sup>45</sup>

Archibald Sanderson's aristocratic self-image was also apparent in his political life. After his election to the Legislative Council in 1912 he considered himself as 'one of a House of revision and non-party in function', and, on visits to London, he 'made himself known at the Colonial Office ... [and gave] much valuable information'.<sup>46</sup> He attempted to live the life of a gentleman at Lesmurdie House & Estate, employing domestic servants, including a 'nanny' ('Nurse'), who provided most of the day-to-day care for the Sanderson children, when they were not boarded away from the family home.<sup>47</sup>

In August 1912, the 'nursery wing' of Lesmurdie House was completed, in time for a new child, whose birth was expected the following month.<sup>48</sup> At the beginning of 1913, the Sandersons, with two of their four children, sailed to England for a holiday, basing themselves at 'Bullerswood'.

In 1913, Archibald Sanderson had a private day and boarding school, 'St Andrews College', built near Lesmurdie House & Estate where some of his own children, as well as children of other 'respectable' local families, attended. This building was designed by George Herbert Parry as a long two-storey rectangular structure, built of local laterite stone with a corrugated iron roof, which faced the entrance drive to Lesmurdie House & Estate. There were verandahs on both levels of the building with simple timber railing enclosing the upper level.<sup>49</sup> A courtyard to the rear of this building was railed in and a semi-circular drive was set out from the northern approach which abutted on to the main road.<sup>50</sup> The building was designed in the Cape Dutch style of the residence of Cecil Rhodes, and all subsequent South African presidents, 'Groote Schuur', on the side of Table Mountain, near Capetown.

According to Maude Sanderson, and repeated in all subsequent accounts of the school, Archibald Sanderson had convinced a Mrs Jones and her daughter to transfer their small school at Swanbourne to a site on part of the Lesmurdie property in 1913.<sup>51</sup> For two years the school flourished, with an enrolment of over 20 students, including boarders. However, after Mrs Jones died, Miss Jones felt unable to continue and resigned her position. The school carried on, with the Junior Mistress in charge, until around 1918-19.<sup>52</sup>

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<sup>45</sup> J.S. Battye, ed., *The Cyclopaedia of Western Australia*, vol. 1, Perth, 1913, p. 333.

<sup>46</sup> Information and quotations from Sanderson, *Lesmurdie*, p. 93.

<sup>47</sup> On occasion, the children boarded with 'Nurse' in the City, where they attended school. Sanderson, *Lesmurdie*, pp. 55, 63, 66, 87.

<sup>48</sup> Sanderson, *Lesmurdie*, p. 69.

<sup>49</sup> Photograph of the building in Sanderson, *Lesmurdie*, p. 85. No plans for either the 1913 or 1921 buildings have survived.

<sup>50</sup> Sanderson, *Lesmurdie*, pp. 62, 83.

<sup>51</sup> Sanderson, *Lesmurdie*, p. 83.

<sup>52</sup> Sanderson, *Lesmurdie*, p. 83.

The version of events detailed above does not find confirmation in available documentary evidence. Firstly, in the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century there are no reports of a school operating in Swanbourne at all. Secondly, there are only two references in the Post Office Directory to the involvement of Mrs and Miss Jones in schools in Perth during the period under consideration. Mrs and Miss Jones are recorded as operating 'Hale House School' in 1907, while in 1912, a Miss J. Jones ran a school in Claremont.<sup>53</sup>

There was, however, a private school recorded as operating in Kalamunda, under the direction of Mrs Thursfield Cook, from 1908 to 1913.<sup>54</sup> From 1914, Mrs E. Thursfield-Cooke is listed in the Post Office Directory as running a 'private school' in Lesmurdie. From 1917, this is described as a 'Grammar School'. From 1921, William H. Cooke is listed with Mrs E. Thursfield Cooke as running a private school at Lesmurdie. This listing continues until 1926 for Mrs Cooke and until the following year for Mr Cooke.<sup>55</sup>

According to John Slee, 'Miss Cook' opened the Gooseberry Hill Grammar School for girls in a building in Railway Road, Kalamunda, in 1907.<sup>56</sup> Moreover, Philip Bonser claims that the Gooseberry Hill Grammar School operated as a boarding and day school until 1923. Bonser also claims that Archibald Sanderson wanted to establish the school on his property as the equivalent for male boarders of the Gooseberry Hill Grammar School.<sup>57</sup>

It has also proved difficult to confirm the construction date of the original Lesmurdie school, the fore-runner of St Brigid's College, as being in late 1913. An exhaustive search of all editions of the *W.A. Mining, Building and Engineering Journal* from the beginning of 1912 to the end of 1919 did not provide any information about Sanderson's Lesmurdie School. In this case, Maude Sanderson's account of the construction date is likely to be correct, as photographic evidence of the school construction also includes a number of her children in the scene, the ages of whom are known.<sup>58</sup>

According to the available sources of information about the Lesmurdie school established by Archibald Sanderson, the school was built to a design by George Herbert Parry on part of the Sanderson property in Lesmurdie in late 1913. The school ran from its establishment around the end of 1913 until late 1919 or early 1920 until sold by Archibald Sanderson to the Red Cross Society.<sup>59</sup>

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<sup>53</sup> *Post Office Directories*, 1900-1920.

<sup>54</sup> Also recorded as 'Mrs Thursfield Cooke', 'Mrs Thursfield-Cook', and 'Mrs E.T. Cooke'. Even more confusingly, there is also a 'Miss E. Thursfield' recorded as principal of Lemyne Ladies' College in Hay Street, Subiaco, in 1907, and as running a school in Collins Street, Perth, in 1910, 1911, 1912, and 1913. *Post Office Directories*, 1900-1915.

<sup>55</sup> *Post Office Directories*, 1910-1930.

<sup>56</sup> Slee, *Cala Munnnda*, p. 189.

<sup>57</sup> There is, however, no reference provided for this claim. Bonser, *Kalamunda*, p. 60.

<sup>58</sup> Photograph of the building in Sanderson, *Lesmurdie*, p. 85.

<sup>59</sup> *Annual Report of the Australian Red Cross Society, Western Australian Division*, 1923, p. 23.

## Lesmurdie House & Estate, 1913-2005

In 1913, a second storey, also designed by George Herbert Parry, was added to Lesmurdie House. A description of Lesmurdie House & Estate appeared in the *W.A. Motorist and Wheelman* in 1915:

One enters 'Lesmurdie' and is struck by what might be termed the democratic homeliness of the place; there is nothing cold or forbidding about it ... Mr Sanderson speaks with pride of the fact that most of the buildings are of local production. Some of the bricks were made on the premises; the main building is of local stone, but the roofing, both of the house and of the fruit house- prettily built in pagoda style- has been constructed of the famous Wunderlich (Marseilles) tiles. The house, which was built by Mr Blackburn, was designed by Mr G.H. Parry ... who also furnished the design for the handsome jarrah paneling in the reception room. For wood and water purposes, there is an oil engine, the installation of which Mr Sanderson strongly recommends in country homes, while so far as lighting is concerned, he is absolutely independent. The whole of the house and its appointments are lighted through the medium of petrol-air gas machine. The plant supplies a brilliant illuminant ... The wonder is that more city men do not follow in Mr Sanderson's footsteps. As motor cars go- and few cars are better known in the Ranges than Mr Sanderson's Clement Talbot- 'Lesmurdie', and, indeed, the whole of the Ranges, are within coo-ee, so to speak, of the city.<sup>60</sup>

By this time, the grounds of Lesmurdie House & Estate were extensively developed. The slopes around the house were all planted, mainly with orange trees, but also with mixed fruit trees, peach and apricot, apple, pear, plum, and grape vines. In front of the house was a wide gravel terrace, railed in with a white fence, intersected with brick posts. The brook had been channeled into a long straight run from the southern boundary until it turned below the house in an easy curve, and reached its passage below a new bridge, carrying the road up to the house. The brook ran on through neighbouring property to eventually reach the Lesmurdie Falls, some distance below.<sup>61</sup>

After spending most of 1921 in England and France, the Sanderson family returned to Lesmurdie in early 1922. Later in this year, Archibald Sanderson resigned his seat in the Legislative Council to stand, again unsuccessfully, as an Australian Country party candidate for the Senate. He had been consistently *laissez-faire* in a conservative Upper House. He deplored the 'nightmare of socialistic enterprises' in Western Australia, but more often than his Liberal colleagues he supported bills from the Labor-controlled Assembly, and he praised 'the value of the Labor Party's public services.' Sanderson's attention now was directed to his solicitor's business, and to the settlement of mortgagees on sub-divided blocks of adjacent land he had acquired in 1908.<sup>62</sup>

In 1927, during the visit of the Duke and Duchess of York to Australia for the opening of the new Parliament House in Canberra, Lesmurdie House & Estate was used as a weekend retreat for the Royal visitors. On 24 April 1927, the Premier's Secretary had come to inspect Lesmurdie House & Estate to gauge its suitability for a Royal retreat. By the time the matter was decided, there was only two weeks before the visitors arrived to get the

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<sup>60</sup> *W.A. Motorist and Wheelman*, 20 December 1915, pp. 34-38.

<sup>61</sup> Sanderson, *Lesmurdie*, p. 72.

<sup>62</sup> *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Vol. 11, 1988, p. 516; Sanderson, *Lesmurdie*, pp. 90-95.

house and property in order. Five gardeners, two painters and various Public Works officers arrived and began work. In addition to the general maintenance work at Lesmurdie House & Estate, new curtains were hung in all the rooms.<sup>63</sup>

On the Saturday of their visit, 21 May 1927, the Royal party spent the afternoon and evening talking and dining at Lesmurdie House & Estate. On Sunday morning they went horse riding, and in the afternoon went for a drive around the Kalamunda district.<sup>64</sup> A description of Lesmurdie House & Estate at this time was published in the *Western Mail*:

The heavy jarrah door ... opens onto the stone-paved hall-way. To the right of this is the main hall, paneled and beamed with jarrah. All the furniture here is of jarrah also, upholstered and cushioned in blue ... The wide hearth now hidden by a large satin screen, framed in jarrah ... High windows opposite this look out on the courtyard and command a fine view of the country ... out of this hall is a doorway leading to a well-stocked library and study. The dining-room is particularly handsome, both in structure and arrangement. Here also, jarrah is used for beams, flooring, framework and furniture. The very large and handsome fireplace is tiled in blue ... Through glass-panelled doors, one comes to the summer dining-room, cool and green and stone-flagged, an old but well-trained vine being its only roofing. The kitchen and domestic offices lead out of this. Up a few stairs out of the main corridor is the chief bedroom with its twin beds of plain but exquisitely polished jarrah. A daintily equipped dressing-table of jarrah faces the high windows. From these one can obtain a perfect view of the hill-country around- the room itself being cool and quiet and dignified in its severely simple style. The gardens surrounding the house are beautifully laid out, these being a flower garden, kitchen garden and orchard. Into a concrete bathing-pool from a miniature waterfall, runs the stream that helps to feed Lesmurdie Falls.<sup>65</sup>

The visit of the Duke and Duchess of York to Lesmurdie House & Estate sparked an interest in the Kalamunda area that provided a boost for the growing hills tourism industry.<sup>66</sup>

From 1935, Archibald Sanderson's financial difficulties compelled him to lease Lesmurdie House & Estate to tenants who operated it as a private hotel. In the meantime, the family rented a house in Cottesloe. On 18 June 1937, Archibald Sanderson died and was buried in the Anglican cemetery at Guildford. He was survived by his wife, three daughters and four sons. When Sanderson's estate was valued for probate, it showed a deficiency of £1141, an indication that the family had been living well beyond its means. The Sandersons had always employed a cook, one or more people to take care of the children, as well as gardeners and farm workers. In addition, they had taken frequent and extended trips overseas and interstate, and had sent most of their children to expensive private schools in Perth, Melbourne, England and France.<sup>67</sup>

Lesmurdie House & Estate was commandeered for military use during World War Two. In 1942, Lesmurdie House was used as sleeping quarters for RAAF signalwomen, who operated a wireless transmitting station in

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<sup>63</sup> Sanderson, *Lesmurdie*, p. 96.

<sup>64</sup> A detailed account of the Royal visit can be found in *Kalamunda Historical Society Bulletin*, May 2002.

<sup>65</sup> *Western Mail*, 2 June 1927.

<sup>66</sup> *Swan Express*, 10 June 1927.

<sup>67</sup> Sanderson, *Lesmurdie*, p. 105; *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Vol. 11, p. 516.

Lesmurdie. In 1945, the house was converted into three flats, and let to Sanderson family members, or various other tenants, until 1960.<sup>68</sup>

Major renovations were undertaken to Lesmurdie House & Estate during 1955 and 1956. During this time, the Kitchen and former Servery were completely gutted and rebuilt, and the breeze-way on the east elevation was enclosed to form a sleep-out.<sup>69</sup>

In 1960, the house was sold to Mr and Mrs Howard Press, whose daughter Margery Sanderson had married Archibald and Maude Sanderson's eldest son, Archibald Henry. Not long after purchasing Lesmurdie House & Estate, Howard Press died. The house was then equipped as a private (acute care) hospital for use by local doctors, and managed by Margery Sanderson. An operating theatre was constructed beneath the porte-cochere and the bathroom alongside the 'Sanderson' room was re-roofed. This establishment operated successfully until 1973.<sup>70</sup> Also around 1960, the stone orchard store below Lesmurdie House was converted for use as a guesthouse for family members.<sup>71</sup>

During this period, Lesmurdie House & Estate was re-purchased by Maude Sanderson and, after her death in November 1973, and the death of Henry Sanderson six months later, the house was purchased from the Estate by Hugh Sanderson, the second son of Archibald and Maude Sanderson. With the establishment of the Kalamunda Hospital in Spring Road in 1973, Lesmurdie House & Estate reverted to private residential use.<sup>72</sup>

In 1974, Hugh and Catherine Sanderson moved into Lesmurdie House & Estate and began cleaning and improving the grounds. They planted hundreds of trees around the dam and in the bush and paddocks. These were to complement early plantings of oaks, planes, willows, poplars, chestnuts, magnolias, and other cold-climate exotics. In 1985, Hugh Sanderson died. His wife, Catherine, remained at Lesmurdie House & Estate until her death in 2000.<sup>73</sup> Lesmurdie House & Estate was then purchased by the adjoining St Brigid's College.<sup>74</sup>

From 2002, St Brigid's College entered into a long-term maintenance program for the place. To date this has included cleaning and reglazing roof tiles, painting, and electrical rewiring. Further planned renovations include work to the kitchen, bathroom and laundry of Lesmurdie House, and to the Orchard Store.<sup>75</sup>

In 2005, the first floor of Lesmurdie House is used as a residence while the current owners, St Brigid's College, use the other spaces for small

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<sup>68</sup> From information compiled by E.A. Capill, Local Studies Collection, Kalamunda Library.

<sup>69</sup> Archival photographs dated 1955 and 1956, held by St Brigid's College.

<sup>70</sup> Archival photographs dated 1956, held by St Brigid's College.

<sup>71</sup> From information compiled by E.A. Capill, Local Studies Collection, Kalamunda Library.

<sup>72</sup> Sanderson, *Lesmurdie*, p. 105, 108.

<sup>73</sup> Information sheet produced by Catherine Sanderson (Dawson) in October 1999. Held in the Local Studies Collection in the Kalamunda Library.

<sup>74</sup> From information provided by the Bursar, St Brigid's College, 20 October 2003.

<sup>75</sup> Amelia Toffoli, Principal, St Brigid's College, letter of 5 February 2004, on HCWA file P10384.

functions and for storage. The orchard store is currently used for storage, and as a gardeners' lunchroom.<sup>76</sup>

### **St Brigids College, 1920-2005**

On 5 August 1920, the original Lesmurdie school building and adjoining land, consisting of Certificate of Title 936/145, Canning Location 369, Kalamunda Lot 360, and Part of Canning Locations 227 and 432; and Certificate of Title 796/149, Kalamunda Lot 359, was purchased for £6,000<sup>77</sup> with funds held for these purposes in the Convalescent Homes Fund of the Western Australian Division of the Australian Red Cross Society. This Convalescent Homes Fund held a total of £20,000; £5,000 contributed from the Red Cross Fund and £15,000 from the W.A. Day Fund.<sup>78</sup>

Subsequently, on 12 August 1920, the property was leased to the Commonwealth Repatriation Committee for use as a Soldiers' Convalescent Home.<sup>79</sup> The value of the property, including land, the original and additional buildings was, in August 1921, almost £16,000. In addition, there was held furniture and equipment to the value of around £2,500.<sup>80</sup>

Some of the information summarized above is also confirmed in the *Western Mail* of 24 November 1921:

It will be remembered that the first building erected upon the site was the school built by Mr A. Sanderson M.L.C., and which was bought by the Commonwealth Government for the soldiers on account of the healthy surroundings and the beautiful hill air.<sup>81</sup>

The newspaper account also described the recently completed additions on the site:

Mr Parry, the architect, has now completed the plan, and merged as it were the old building into its present artistic form. It is interesting to know that Mr Parry went for inspiration to the plan of Cecil Rhodes' historic home, *Groote Schuur*, near Capetown, and the establishment, made of local Kalamunda stone with its jarrah finishing, with its paved courtyard, pleasant balcony and garden, is admirably suited to the Western Australian climate. This is a matter for rejoicing that the convalescent returned men have a home to go to that will provide them with the care and comfort they so well deserve. In the spacious hall on the north side many a happy opportunity will occur to foregather at the entertainments of various kinds, friends delight to give them, while the provision for reading and recreation, the dining rooms, etc., are all designed to give that touch of home atmosphere so essential in achieving the purpose for which the home is designed, namely, the restoration of the health of the men. Mr Herbert Parry is to be congratulated upon the fine building the completion of which means so much to all concerned.<sup>82</sup>

On each side of the entrance to the newly-built 'St Andrew's Convalescent Home' (as it was known) was a marble slab proclaiming the laying of the

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<sup>76</sup> From information provided by the Bursar, St Brigid's College, 20 October 2003.

<sup>77</sup> Sanderson, *Lesmurdie*, p. 84.

<sup>78</sup> *Annual Report of the Australian Red Cross Society, Western Australian Division*, 1929, p. 29

<sup>79</sup> *Annual Report of the Australian Red Cross Society, Western Australian Division*, 1923, p. 23.

<sup>80</sup> *Annual Report of the Australian Red Cross Society, Western Australian Division*, 1922, p. 24.

<sup>81</sup> *Western Mail*, 24 November 1921, p. 29.

<sup>82</sup> As part of the article, there is also a full page of photographs of the new building, including one of the building frontage, two of the Hall, and two of the courtyard. *Western Mail*, 24 November 1921, p. 23.

foundation stone by General Sir William Birdwood and General Sir John Joseph Talbot Hobbs. Apparently, these stones have subsequently been covered over.<sup>83</sup>

During the year 1922-1923, various improvements to the Kalamunda property were carried out. The existing septic system was converted to a Montgomerie Neilson Sewerage System (at a cost of around £85) and electric power, which had become available in Kalamunda, was utilized for lighting the buildings, reusing the existing wiring and fittings (at a cost of about £110).<sup>84</sup>

In 1924, the Repatriation Department advised the Red Cross that the Kalamunda Convalescent Home would not be required after 31 October of that year.<sup>85</sup> Immediately after this decision was known, the Board of the Perth Hospital opened negotiations with the Red Cross for the lease of the Kalamunda property as an auxiliary hospital for convalescents, as their existing space in Wellington Street was insufficient.<sup>86</sup> A lease (dated 28 January 1926) for three years from 17 March 1925 was signed with the Perth Hospital.<sup>87</sup>

The first period of the lease of this property to the Perth Hospital expired in March 1928, and the Hospital Board decided to exercise the right of renewal contained in the lease. However, immediately afterward, the Board decided that, owing to the condition of the Hospital finances, it was necessary to close the Kalamunda Auxiliary Hospital and applied to the Red Cross to be released from their tenancy. The Red Cross then entered into negotiations with the Hospital authorities regarding the matter and, in the meantime, began to plan for the disposal of the property by sale or lease.<sup>88</sup>

As a healing environment, the Kalamunda Hospital was a success, but visitors complained about the difficulties of getting to the area by public transport. Moreover, the cost of transporting patients and supplies proved greater than the Hospital had expected. By 1928, the Perth Hospital's finances could no longer sustain the burden of maintaining the Auxiliary Hospital and, in June 1928, it closed down. During its three years of operation it cared for 1,425 patients, and its closure meant a substantial worsening of accommodation in the city Hospital.<sup>89</sup>

In March 1929, the Red Cross accepted an offer of £9,000 cash for the purchase of 'St Andrew's' Convalescent Home by the Sisters of Mercy who planned to establish a boarding school extension of St Brigid's High School,

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<sup>83</sup> Anne McLay, *Women Out of Their Sphere: A History of the Sisters of Mercy in Western Australia*, Vanguard Press, Perth, 1992, footnote #30, text p. 157.

<sup>84</sup> Previously, electricity was provided by a generator and storage battery system. *Annual Report of the Australian Red Cross Society, Western Australian Division, 1923*, p. 8.

<sup>85</sup> *Annual Report of the Australian Red Cross Society, Western Australian Division, 1924*, p. 7.

<sup>86</sup> Geoffrey Bolton and Prue Joske, *History of Royal Perth Hospital*, UWA Press, Perth, 1982, p. 72.

<sup>87</sup> *Annual Report of the Australian Red Cross Society, Western Australian Division, 1927*, p. 22.

<sup>88</sup> *Annual Report of the Australian Red Cross Society, Western Australian Division, 1928*, p. 7.

<sup>89</sup> Bolton and Joske, *History of Royal Perth Hospital*, pp. 72-73.

West Perth.<sup>90</sup> The sale included the whole of the buildings, land and furniture. This was the best offer that could be obtained by the Red Cross Society as there was no prospect of the property being needed for any of the Society's uses, and it would, after the Hospital had moved out, become a financial liability to the Society.<sup>91</sup>

The Sisters of Mercy was established in Dublin, Ireland, in 1831 by Catherine McAuley (1787-1841). The first Sisters of Mercy arrived in Perth in 1846 and established a school on St George's Terrace and a convent in Victoria Square. In 1888, the order acquired premises in West Perth where they established St Brigid's Convent. The order had grown considerably by this time and had established schools in Perth, York, Guildford, Bunbury and Geraldton.<sup>92</sup>

St Brigid's High School, West Perth, began as a Young Ladies' School, operated by the Sisters of Mercy, on the site of St Brigid's Convent, from 24 May 1901. The school initially offered English, French, Italian, art, and other subjects considered essential socially, although, when pupils began taking University entrance examinations, the curriculum became increasingly academic. In 1902, the St Brigid's School population included ten boarders and 26 day students. In 1921, a new primary school building was opened at West Perth, accommodating 450 pupils. By 1928, the secondary student population had peaked at 150, meaning that there was inadequate space for a High School with a large boarding component on the West Perth site.<sup>93</sup>

The new St Brigid's College, Lesmurdie commenced officially on 23 April 1929, with 36 boarders and three day girls. The girls, with their personal belongings, clambered aboard a shearer's truck for the ride up to Lesmurdie, followed by two cars transporting the Sisters. On the first night there, the water pipes burst at bathtime, and the electricity failed in half of the building.<sup>94</sup> There were eight Mercy Sisters in residence at St Brigid's College, headed by Mother Teresa Reilly. They not only shared accommodation with the girls, but cooked, washed and cleaned for them, and taught them all day at school. On weekends, Sisters from West Perth would drive up to the Hills and continue lessons for the weekend.<sup>95</sup>

From the beginning, St Brigid's College set a strong tradition of concerts, drama and public speaking, with an orchestra established in the first year, which had fourteen members by 1931, including first and second violins, viola and cello. A prospectus for 1933 listed a course of study that included 'all branches of a solid English Education' together with French, German,

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<sup>90</sup> Maude Sanderson claims that the purchase price was £12,000 (Sanderson, *Lesmurdie*, p. 84) but the accounts of the Red Cross clearly show the amount to be £9,000. (*Annual Report of the Australian Red Cross Society, Western Australian Division*, 1929, p. 29.)

<sup>91</sup> *Annual Report of the Australian Red Cross Society, Western Australian Division*, 1929, pp. 6-7.

<sup>92</sup> Information cited in *St Brigid's Convent Assessment Documentation*, HCWA P02433, from Palassis Architects, *Conservation Plan, former St Brigid's Convent*, BMA, Perth, 1994.

<sup>93</sup> McLay, *Women Out of Their Sphere*, pp. 134-135, 156.

<sup>94</sup> McLay, *Women Out of Their Sphere*, p. 157. Photograph of girls on the back of the truck at p. 151.

<sup>95</sup> *St Brigid's College: Diamond Jubilee Yearbook, 1929-89*, 1989, p. 14.



Latin, Greek, Music (Piano, Violin, Cello, Mandolin and Organ), Singing, Painting (in Oil and Water Colours), Book-keeping, Shorthand, Typewriting Elocution, Physical Culture, Needlework (Plain and Ornamental), Theory of Music, and Harmony (including Counterpoint). Pupils were prepared for 'University Examinations and other Examinations', as well as for the Royal Academy of Music, and Trinity College, London.<sup>96</sup>

From the first years, sport was an important part of life at St Brigid's College. The Sisters laid out three tennis courts, a basketball and a croquet court, leveled out a large playing field for hockey, and built the first of three swimming pools. The Sisters also improved the grounds in more general ways, whitewashing the stone of the building, planted gardens and lawns, and adorned the courtyard with palms and ferns, and a fountain in the shape of a swan.<sup>97</sup>

The religious life of the students at St Brigid's College was well catered for although a small majority of the student body was non-Catholic, as had been the case previously in West Perth. In 1931, the first three day religious retreat was conducted with the girls involved observing strict silence, reading religious literature, visiting the Chapel, saying prayers and attending confession.<sup>98</sup>

In the early years of St Brigid's College, most activities including sleeping, dining, bathing, studying and teaching took place in the original 1921 building. In 1938, with over eighty boarders, a new two storey building in a similar style to the original was erected to the north of the original structure.<sup>99</sup> The new building provided class rooms for Grades IV to Leaving, a science block, four music rooms, with the top storey used as the boarders' study hall at night. For many years the 1938 building was the sole class room building, housing both Primary and Secondary students.<sup>100</sup>

During the 1930s and 1940s, St Brigid's College was primarily a boarding school, staffed almost entirely by the Sisters of Mercy, who taught during the day and looked after the physical and emotional needs of the boarders during and after school hours. The Sisters slept upstairs in cubicles at the school end of the dormitory, and had to pass the boarders' beds on their way out. While there was no privacy for them at the end of a long day's work, the Sisters formed a close bond with the students.<sup>101</sup>

In the late 1950s, the Sisters and students of St Brigid's College contributed to the establishment of the Oblate Fathers Monastery opposite the College on Lesmurdie Road. The presence of the Fathers enriched the liturgical and social life of the College and the Monastery formed the nucleus of further expansion of Catholic religious institutions in the area.<sup>102</sup>

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<sup>96</sup> Prospectus reproduced in *Diamond Jubilee Yearbook*, p. 3.

<sup>97</sup> McLay, *Women Out of Their Sphere*, p. 158.

<sup>98</sup> *Diamond Jubilee Yearbook*, p. 42.

<sup>99</sup> The designer and builder of this new structure are unknown.

<sup>100</sup> McLay, *Women Out of Their Sphere*, p. 158; *Diamond Jubilee Yearbook*, p. 6.

<sup>101</sup> McLay, *Women Out of Their Sphere*, p. 160.

<sup>102</sup> *Diamond Jubilee Yearbook*, p. 10.

In 1971, the primary school was separated from the secondary school, when seven class rooms and a staff room were built on the adjoining Glen Road site at a cost of \$332,000.<sup>103</sup> In 1974, a swimming pool (no longer extant) was built on the Glen Road site at a cost of \$12,500.<sup>104</sup> A junior primary school was established in 1975 at a cost of \$128,000.<sup>105</sup> In 1977, the primary school became co-educational. This had already been tried in 1960s, but without success. By 1989, however, the primary school was comprised of almost equal numbers of boys and girls. The secondary school remained single-sex, with Catholic boys in the area able to attend the nearby Mazenod College (established in 1966), run by the Oblate Fathers.<sup>106</sup>

In 1965, the Sisters' Convent and Chapel was built to the west of the original 1913-21 building. The following year, a library was set up on the first floor of the 1913-21 building by the newly-formed School Council.<sup>107</sup>

In 1967, a new building was constructed to the north of the 1938 building on Catherine Place. Designed by architect Ernest Rossen, it contained two science rooms, an undercroft, tuck shop and new music rooms. It was officially opened on 21 September 1967.<sup>108</sup>

In 1971, another building (currently used as the secondary school administration) was constructed to the north of the 1938 building, facing Lesmurdie Road. It was designed by architects, Oldham Boas Ednie-Brown and contained a school library and six class rooms. It was officially opened on 21 February 1971.<sup>109</sup>

A new secondary school science laboratory, designed by Peter Hunt, Architect was completed in 1975 at a cost of \$70,000.<sup>110</sup> In 1978, a western wing was constructed to the west of the 1938 building, adjoining the south of the 1967 building, at a cost of \$175,000.<sup>111</sup>

In 1980, verandahs facing the courtyard of the original building were enclosed at a cost of \$30,000.<sup>112</sup> At the end of 1983, work commenced on a new gymnasium building, which was completed at the beginning of 1985, at a cost of \$540,000.<sup>113</sup>

<sup>103</sup> Shire of Kalamunda Building Licence # 6970947.

<sup>104</sup> Shire of Kalamunda Building Licence # 7374923.

<sup>105</sup> Shire of Kalamunda Building Licence # 74751520.

<sup>106</sup> *Diamond Jubilee Yearbook*, p. 96; McLay, *Women Out of Their Sphere*, p. 350.

<sup>107</sup> Information from College Bursar, 4 January 2004.

<sup>108</sup> Shire of Kalamunda Building Licences # 66670623, # 66671734; Information from College Bursar, 4 January 2004.

<sup>109</sup> Shire of Kalamunda Building Licence # 69700947; Information from College Bursar, 4 January 2004.

<sup>110</sup> Shire of Kalamunda Building Licence # 747545; Information from College Bursar, 4 January 2004.

<sup>111</sup> Shire of Kalamunda Building Licence # 7778486; *Diamond Jubilee Yearbook*, p. 117; John Harper-Nelson, compiler and editor, *A Line on Kalamunda*, The Nine Club, Perth, 1978, p. 36.

<sup>112</sup> Shire of Kalamunda Building Licences # 7980930, # 7980931.

<sup>113</sup> Shire of Kalamunda Building Licence # 8384566.

In 1988, the convent quarters at St Brigid's College were handed over to the College Administration at no cost, and the Sisters, eight in all, moved to a small house across Lesmurdie Road, next to Villa Maria.<sup>114</sup> The former Convent was made available for Year 12 boarders and staff.<sup>115</sup>

In March 1990, a new boarding school complex (built by Pindan Constructions) was opened at St Brigid's College to accommodate the 120 boarders expected in that year and 150 the following year. (Secondary school enrolment in 1989 was around 500 students.) The Sisters of Mercy built the complex (at a cost of \$4,260,000) with the aid of a low interest State Government loan.<sup>116</sup>

1995 saw the amalgamation of the primary and secondary schools under one Principal, Mary Retel, a former student of the College, who was also first lay College Head. The College then consisted of four sections: Boarding, Junior, Middle and Senior Schools.<sup>117</sup>

In 1998 the McAuley Wing Science & Technology Centre was constructed immediately south of the original 1913-21 Building.<sup>118</sup>

In 2000, the old science rooms in St Brigid's College were converted into Home Economics Rooms and a General Purpose Learning Area (GPLA). Also at this time, the existing Home Economics Rooms were converted into a canteen area and a GPLA. This work was carried out at a cost of \$503,800.<sup>119</sup> In 2002, a Swimming Pool and Fitness Centre was built adjacent to the existing Gymnasium, at a cost of \$3,451,098.<sup>120</sup>

In 2005, St Brigid's College continued to operate as a Catholic secondary school for girls with both boarding and day students.

### **St Swithuns Church, 1927-2005**

In 1927, during the visit of the Duke and Duchess of York to Lesmurdie House & Estate, the local people of Kalamunda assumed that the Duke, as son of the head of the Anglican Church in England would attend the morning service at St Swithun's Church. On the Sunday of their visit, 22 May 1927, they had gathered in large numbers to greet the Duke there. While most of the Sandersons attended the morning service at the church, which was to be given by family member, Rev. Lionel Parry, the Duke of York and his party went horse riding, while the Duchess 'rested'. When the Rector received word of this situation, he arranged for the Church's Lay Reader to shout to the assembled crowd: 'You can all go home - they're not coming!'.<sup>121</sup>

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<sup>114</sup> McLay, *Women Out of Their Sphere*, p. 350.

<sup>115</sup> *Diamond Jubilee Yearbook*, p. 11.

<sup>116</sup> McLay, *Women Out of Their Sphere*, p. 350.

<sup>117</sup> Information from College Bursar, 4 January 2004.

<sup>118</sup> Information from College Bursar, November 2003.

<sup>119</sup> Shire of Kalamunda Building Licence # 01020028; Information from College Bursar, 4 January 2004.

<sup>120</sup> Shire of Kalamunda Building Licence # 01020501.

<sup>121</sup> Richardson, *St Swithun's*, p. 130; Sanderson, *Lesmurdie*, p. 100.

Electricity was connected to St Swithun's Church before World War Two, but had to be disconnected during the 1940s because the electricity meter was commandeered for the war effort. All the pews were then aligned along one side of the Church to make maximum use of available light.<sup>122</sup>

In May 1948, George Herbert Parry drew up plans for the construction of a new west wall, which was to be built of laterite stone, in harmony with the rest of the building.<sup>123</sup> This was designed to replace the existing jarrah weatherboards. In addition, and also on the west wall, it was proposed to build a new Vestry, with a small entrance alcove on the north east of this extension.<sup>124</sup> This was not built, however. Instead, around 1950, the present façade of painted concrete masonry blocks, tiled porch and concrete steps was constructed.<sup>125</sup>

In the second half of the 1950s, a ceiling was installed under the corrugated iron roof of St Swithun's Church. This was paid for by public subscription, in memory of Bryan Pellow Davies, who had died in 1954, after thirty years of service to the local Church as a people's warden and lay preacher. (This ceiling was replaced in 1993.)<sup>126</sup>

In mid-1965, long-time parishioner Lillian Pettit proposed that a low rock wall be built around the Lesmurdie Road portion of the grounds of St Swithun's Church. She offered to pay the cost of construction, which would commemorate her deceased husband, George Pettit. Gino Brescasin was engaged to build the wall of locally quarried laterite stone, which was completed in September 1965. The wall also bears a plaque with the words 'George Pettit, 1877-1961' inscribed.<sup>127</sup>

In early 1982, there was considerable discussion regarding the building of a church hall adjacent to St Swithun's Church as Lesmurdie parishioners had to attend functions at St Barnabas in Kalamunda. However, these proposals did not progress at that time. Four years later, the Anglican Diocesan Secretary advised the Kalamunda Parish that negotiations were underway with the Catholic Church to acquire a half acre of their land in the immediate vicinity (east) of St Swithun's Church, as the site of a new rectory and office/assembly room with kitchen and toilets. By August 1987, the transfer of land was completed.<sup>128</sup>

Now that a suitable site was arranged, a contract for building of a rectory and associated amenities was concluded with builders, Lifestyle Constructions, and preliminary work began on 20 July 1987. On 9 August 1987, a foundation stone was sited and a dedication ceremony was officiated by the Assistant Bishop of Perth. While building work was in progress, various improvements to St Swithun's Church were carried out. These included the replacement of parts of the iron roof and repainting of

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<sup>122</sup> Richardson, *St Swithun's*, p. 133.

<sup>123</sup> Battye Map Collection, Rare Map 944C/3B.

<sup>124</sup> Battye Map Collection, Rare Map 944C/3A.

<sup>125</sup> Richardson, *St Swithun's*, p. 19.

<sup>126</sup> Richardson, *St Swithun's*, p. 130.

<sup>127</sup> Richardson, *St Swithun's*, pp. 69-70.

<sup>128</sup> Richardson, *St Swithun's*, pp. 40-52.

the renovated surface; the repainting of exterior woodwork; the inspection and remediation of electrical wiring; the carpeting of the previously bare concrete floor; and the replacement of curtains hung behind the altar. The grounds of the Church were also improved by planting of trees and shrubs. The completed Rectory and Hall was dedicated by the Archbishop of Perth, Dr Peter Carnley, on 6 December 1987.<sup>129</sup>

In 1989, a proposal was submitted to the Anglican Diocesan Council to establish Lesmurdie as a separate Parish with St Swithun's as its parish church. This proposal was duly approved, and Lesmurdie was established as a Parochial District separate from Kalamunda on 1 July 1990. A few weeks later, the first permanent priest of St Swithun's Church, the Reverend Kevern Rapkin, was appointed.<sup>130</sup> With the creation of a separate Lesmurdie Parish, monthly attendances at St Swithun's Church grew, mainly because the number of services increased from approximately 25-50 annually (in previous years), to 250-280 annually in the years from 1991.<sup>131</sup>

In December 1990, St Swithun's Church obtained the old organ from St Barnabas Church, Kalamunda. This was an old American Wurlitzer, which was restored for use in the Lesmurdie Church. A dedication service for the organ was held at St Swithun's on Sunday 9 December 1990.<sup>132</sup>

In 1991, the Vestry of St Swithun's commissioned an architect, Iris Rosen, to produce a plan to extend the Church and develop the whole site. Although the Vestry adopted the plan, there was no money to proceed further with the project.<sup>133</sup>

In 1992, a parishioner supplied and planted 39 lemon-scented eucalypts in the grounds of the Church. During February and March 1993, St Swithun's Church was repainted both internally and externally, and a new ceiling was put in place. While the renovations were being carried out, the Congregation met in the nearby Church Hall.<sup>134</sup>

On 3 October 1993, St Swithun's held a Blessing of the Animals Service in recognition of World Animal Day<sup>135</sup> and on 5 February 1995, a special service was held in St Swithun's Church to celebrate cancellation of outstanding debt on the Church's building works.<sup>136</sup> Also around this time,

<sup>129</sup> Richardson, *St Swithun's*, pp. 53-54, *West Australian*, 7 December 1987..

<sup>130</sup> Richardson, *St Swithun's*, pp. 63-65.

<sup>131</sup> The number of services in a year varied considerably between 1910 and 1990, depending on the availability of an ordained priest. For example, in 1910 there were 67 services held, in 1923 there were 42, in 1940 there were 6, in 1967 there were 21, and in 1988 there were 81 held. Average attendances per service varied from 9 (1910), 18 (1917), 32 (1968) and 38 (the highest recorded average) in 1987. From 1990 to 1995, attendances per service averaged around 20 people. From statistical tables for *St Swithun's Church, Lesmurdie* in Richardson, *St Swithun's*, pp. 125-126.

<sup>132</sup> *Echo*, 10 December 1990.

<sup>133</sup> 'Rector's Report 1991/92', reproduced in Richards, *St Swithun's*, pp. 102-104.

<sup>134</sup> *Hills Gazette*, Kalamunda Edition, 14 May 1993.

<sup>135</sup> Notice of service reported in the *Echo*, 26 September 1993.

<sup>136</sup> *Anglican Messenger*, March 1995.

the Rector conducted an environmental service, a marriage renewal service and a Harvest Festival.<sup>137</sup>

In the Church Warden's Report for 1994/95, the suggestion was made again that 'modest development' of the Church should be considered, particularly the completion of the western end of the building. Lack of finances prevented this project proceeding.<sup>138</sup>

In 1995, St Swithun's Church Council published *St Swithun's Anglican Church Lesmurdie: A Living Heritage*, a history of the Church by James A. Richardson.

In 2001, the corrugated iron gable roof was replaced with 'Federation Red' Colorbond roof sheeting.<sup>139</sup>

In 2005, St Swithun's Church still functions as the Parish Church for the Parochial District of Lesmurdie.

## 13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

*Lesmurdie Group* consists of three places deigned by George Herbert Parry and constructed for local landowner Archibald Sanderson: Lesmurdie House & Estate, St Swithun's Church, and St Brigid's College.

Lesmurdie House & Estate comprises a two-storey Federation Queen Anne style residence first constructed as a two-roomed cottage in 1898, with subsequent additions in 1910, 1912, 1913 and 1955-56. The place is constructed of local laterite stone and red brick, with Marseilles pattern roof tiles.

St Brigid's College comprises a complex of Anglo-Dutch school buildings, first constructed in 1913-21 as a literal translation of the Cape Dutch Revival style in a Western Australian setting, with subsequent additions in 1938, 1965, 1967-78, 1971 and 1998. The place is constructed of rendered brick with a laterite stone and brick base and terracotta tile roof.

St Swithun's Church comprises a single-storey laterite stone church in a bushland setting, with brick quoining and a steeply pitched corrugated iron roof in the Federation Gothic style, built in 1909 on a large sloping block at 195 Lesmurdie Road, Lesmurdie. The porch at the west end (the front) of the building was enclosed with concrete masonry blocks in the 1950s.

### LESMURDIE HOUSE & ESTATE

#### Setting

Lesmurdie House & Estate is located at the southwest end of Catherine Place, which runs in a northeast-southwest direction and comes directly off Lesmurdie Road. The site is bounded to the east by Lesmurdie Road, to the south by Grove Road, to the west by Warlingham Drive, and to the north it

<sup>137</sup> 'Church Warden's Report', 1994-95, cited in Richards, *St Swithun's*, pp. 110.

<sup>138</sup> Report reproduced in Richardson, *St Swithun's*, p. 110.

<sup>139</sup> Kay Arrantash and Peter Newing, Wardens, St Swithun's Church, letter of 4 February 2004, on HCWA file P1262.

directly abuts the boundary of St Brigid's College. Lesmurdie Brook runs in a northwest-southeast direction through the site, with the sides of the valley on either side. The residence is located in a raised position on the southwest side of the valley, which is populated by native bushland and overlooks Lesmurdie Brook. The orchard store is located on the lower northeast side of the brook and is surrounded by gently sloping pasture.

The designed landscape can be described as Federation garden style.<sup>140</sup> Access to the site is primarily from the north via a gravel driveway off Catherine Place. The driveway is lined with a number of mature trees including three significant Ghost Gums (*Eucalyptus laeliae*) and various fruit trees located north of the house. The driveway marks the original Kalamunda-Perth road through the estate and connects to the terrace. The terrace comprises a large leveled gravel area to the front (east) of the house with brick and timber fencing along its north, east and south edges. A roadway extends from the south end of the terrace, providing access to the rest of the estate. A brick and timber stair on the east edge connects the terrace to the lower level gardens and the orchard store. The lower level comprises sloping expanses of lawn densely populated with shady mature trees (including *Platanus sp.*, *Quercus sp.*, *Eucalyptus sp.*, and *Populus sp.*) and informal garden beds, edged with laterite stone. Lesmurdie Brook is a major feature of the lower level garden, its edges have been concreted and a number of stepped crossings have been formed. A variety of ferns, grasses and shrubs overhang the edges of the brook, and can also be seen on the edges of the concrete garden bathing-pool. The pool is located northwest of the orchard store, adjacent to the driveway. It comprises a shallow rectangular pool originally used for outdoor bathing, fed with water direct from the brook. A small waterfall is formed at the northern edge of the pool where the water rejoins the brook.

Flower gardens are located on all sides of the house, and also around the terrace. A large kitchen garden is located to the west of the house, and is integrated into the Vine Court. A timber arbor covered with grapevines forms the roof of the Vine Court, which has original stone-flagged floors and laterite stone and brick retaining walls on two sides. Directly west of the kitchen garden is an area of native bushland, comprising mainly Marri (*Eucalyptus calophylla*) and Jarrah (*Eucalyptus marginata*) trees and low scrub, separated from the house by a gravel area. This bushland covers the ridge of the valley and forms a backdrop for the house.

The majority of the fruit trees were planted in 1913 when the second storey was added to Lesmurdie House. In 1974 other major improvements to the grounds were carried out, including the planting of hundreds of trees around the dam, and in the bush and paddocks.

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<sup>140</sup> 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.

### **Lesmurdie House (c.1906, 1910, 1912, 1913, 1955-56)**

Lesmurdie House comprises a two-storey Federation Queen Anne style residence constructed of local laterite stone and red brick, with Marseilles pattern roof tiles. The building is located on the site of the original (1898) wattle and daub cottage occupied by the Sanderson's until its demolition in 1910. The house has informal but picturesque massing, featuring a projecting canted bay window on the north elevation, an ensemble of varied roof shapes, and warm face-brick and stonework with contrasting painted timber detailing adorning the gables and the eaves. A flying gable projects above the bay window and its stucco gable wall features a painted timber gable screen. The boxed eaves are lined and painted white and feature ornamental mouldings to the soffit. A similar treatment is applied to the ceiling of the porch located on the east elevation above the main entry door. There are two doors on the east elevation, the main entry, comprising a heavy timber baronial door that opens into the Entrance Lobby, and a secondary entry with a stoop and entry stairs that opens into the 'Albert' room, located at the northernmost end of the east elevation. Lesmurdie House features multi-pane timber-framed windows, painted white, and typically vertically proportioned and regularly spaced. A number of those on the north and east elevations feature slatted timber shutters attached to the external walls and painted dark green to match the barge boards.

A porte-cochere is located on the east elevation (at the southern end) and comprises a single storey brick enclosure with a hipped Marseilles tile roof, originally used as a point of entry and also possibly a garage. The porte-cochere was traditionally open on two sides (east and south) and featured a decorative timber valance across the heads of both openings. These valances are still intact but are concealed by the addition of a dark green roller-shutter door on the east side, and a range of ad-hoc materials enclosing the south side. Similarly, a lean-to construction has been added to the south side of the porte-cochere (against the wall of the bathroom) for storage.

Lesmurdie House was designed to accommodate the topography of the site, which falls away to the east, and as such, is split over two levels. The ground floor comprises the bulk of the plan and extends as far west as the kitchen and outdoor dining room (Vine Court). The second-storey (added in 1913) is located on the higher ground to the west and comprises a brick and laterite stone section with Marseilles tile hipped roof. The junction between the ground and first floor is evidenced externally by a change in material (weatherboard and fibro cladding) on both the north and south elevations, marking the 1912 addition of the nursery (above the laundry and storeroom). A single-storey sunroom, characterised by brick walls and large areas of timber-framed glazing, is located west of the two-storey section (at the upper level) and faces the bushland.

Lesmurdie House has a roughly L-shaped plan with the Vine Court located in the corner return. Entry is from the east via the Entrance Lobby, which features checkerboard stone floors, ornate timber joinery, and a wrought iron sliding door that opens into the Hall. A passage extends south from the Hall and connects with the porte-cochere. To the east of the passage is the



former breeze-way, which originally opened onto an external terrace but has since been enclosed to form a sleep-out. The sleep-out has glazed infill walls, tiled floors, and particle-board ceilings, and only the passage wall appears to be part of the early building fabric. To the west of the passage are the former Dining Room and the 'Sanderson' room, both of which have been considerably modified. The Dining Room has plastered and painted walls, timber joinery and carpet floors and there is evidence of a former fireplace on the south wall, and exposed timber ceiling beams that have been painted and partially concealed by plasterboard. A timber-framed glazed door with window lights on either side is located in the west wall and opens from the Dining Room into the Vine Court. The 'Sanderson' room has original timber floors, timber joinery and plastered and painted walls. A former fireplace is located on the north wall and, as with the Dining Room, the timber ceiling beams have been painted and partially concealed with plasterboard. There is a bathroom to the south of the 'Sanderson' room which features terrazzo floors, plastered and painted walls, plastered ceilings and timber-framed windows and doors.

Directly north of the Hall is the Paneled Room, a former sitting room featuring solid jarrah wall paneling on the plastered and painted walls, jarrah floors, and exposed jarrah ceiling beams and joists, typical of an Arts and Crafts style interior. There is a large feature fireplace on the west wall, which is largely intact but missing the feature tile surrounds (believed to have been removed when the Sanderson family finally vacated the place). Located north of the Paneled Room is the 'Albert' room, and directly adjacent to that is the 'York' room. These rooms typically comprise plastered and painted walls, ornate timber joinery, polished timber floors and timber-framed multi-pane windows. The 'York' room also features the canted bay window visible on the north elevation, with evidence of a former fireplace on its west wall. The 'Elizabeth' room is located directly adjacent to the 'York' room and has been converted for use as a bathroom, comprising terrazzo floors, plastered and painted walls and a plasterboard ceiling. Both the 'York' and 'Elizabeth' rooms open into the stair Lobby and the Kitchen.

The Kitchen and former Servery are located west of the hall, and have been combined into one room (1955). The floors throughout are cork tiles, the walls are plastered and painted, and there appear to be recent plasterboard ceilings, with some evidence of the original timber joinery. A potbelly stove has been installed in front of the south wall of the former Servery, and some feature-brick facing has been applied to the lower part of the wall. The Kitchen has timber cupboards on all walls with a central island bench. An early Metters stove is located on the west wall, alongside an early firewood store near the rear door. Doors open from both the Kitchen and the former Servery into the Vine Court and also north to the Lobby, which contains the timber stair to the first floor, and access to the laundry and storeroom, located below the stair.

The first floor of Lesmurdie House was added in 1912/13 and has had considerable modifications as evidenced by the weatherboard infill along the south elevation. These modifications are most likely the result of the various changes of use, particularly the conversion of the house to three

individual flats in 1945, and then its fit-out as a private hospital in 1960. The first floor comprises only four rooms including the sunroom to the far west, the 'Lady Cavan' room, the 'Bowes-Lyon' room and the former bathroom, all accessed from a passage along the southernmost edge of the building. This first floor area is currently used as a residence and is mostly inaccessible.

Changes to Lesmurdie House include the conversion of the 'Elizabeth' room to a bathroom (during its use as a private hospital from 1960-73); the modifications to the former Dining Room, including the removal of the fireplace and the installation of a new plasterboard ceiling; the installation of a new ceiling in the 'Sanderson' room; the removal of the fireplace surrounds in the Paneled Room; the removal of the wall between the Kitchen and the Served; the re-roofing of the bathroom directly adjacent to the 'Sanderson' room; the enclosure of the sleep-out and the porte-cochere; and, the modifications to the internal layout of the first floor. Many of these changes appear to be a direct result of the numerous changes of use for the place. Lesmurdie House is in good condition overall and has been well maintained.

#### **The Orchard Store (original construction date unknown, additions in 1960)**

The orchard store is located northeast of Lesmurdie House and comprises a one-roomed single-storey building constructed of laterite stone and red-brick, with a distinctive Marseilles tiled bellcast roof and verandahs on all four sides. The verandahs feature simple classical-style concrete columns supporting a timber-framed roof. An inscription, "Painted 2 Coats 29<sup>th</sup>/4/15 J.R." is painted on the inside leaf of one of the timber beams at the southwest corner of the verandah.

The verandahs have been enclosed on three sides with fibrous cement sheeting, creating a number of secondary rooms including a kitchenette, a bathroom, and general storage areas, all arranged around the original central room. The kitchenette features linoleum floors, wall-papered walls, a Metters stove, which has been installed into the south wall, and a range of kitchen cabinets. The bathroom has linoleum floors and painted plasterboard walls and ceilings, and also contains a toilet, a vanity basin and a bath. The central room features timber floors, plastered and painted walls, and a plasterboard ceiling. A fireplace is located on the east wall, consistent with its former use as a guesthouse, and there are window openings on the north, south and west, although a number of these have been bricked in. A timber-framed lined and ledged door is located on the south wall of the central room, while a timber-framed glazed door, probably the original entry, is located on the west elevation.

Changes to the orchard store include the enclosure of the verandahs (and their subsequent fit-outs to accommodate domestic functions, probably dating from 1960), and the bricking in of a number of window openings on the north and south elevations. Overall the orchard store is in fair to good condition, but shows signs of deterioration, particularly in the verandah and roof fabric.

## **ST BRIGID'S COLLEGE**

St Brigid's College is located on the west side of Lesmurdie Road, which runs in a roughly north-south direction until it intersects with Canning Road to the east. The school grounds are divided into two, the primary school to the west and the secondary and middle school to the east, and are physically separated by Catherine Place. Glen Road marks the northernmost boundary of the primary school site. Lesmurdie House & Estate is located directly adjacent to the secondary and middle school site, at the southern end of Catherine Place. St Swithun's Church and Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church are both located directly opposite St Brigid's College, on the east side of Lesmurdie Road. Residential lots are located on the north side of Glen Road, and on the east side of Lesmurdie Road.

The secondary and middle school component of St Brigid's College comprises the original school building constructed in 1913-21, the 1938 Building, the Secondary School Administration wing (1971), the former Sisters' Convent and Chapel (1965), the 1967-78 Building, and the McAuley Wing Science & Technology Centre (1998). The Primary School (1971) on the west side of Catherine Place comprises administration and classroom wings, the primary school Library, the Arts & Crafts Centre, the Fitness Centre & Swimming Pool (2001), and the primary school oval. The boarding facilities (1990) are located south of the primary school.

### **Setting**

St Brigid's College is set back approximately thirty metres from Lesmurdie Road on a site that falls away to the southwest towards Lesmurdie Brook. A low rendered brick wall with scalloped bays and square piers forms the east boundary fence along Lesmurdie Road and features entry and exit gateways at the north and south ends. A curved driveway off Lesmurdie Road forms the approach to the buildings and is a significant landscape element. Mature Canary Island Date Palms (*Phoenix canariensis*) line the curved edges of the driveway, while a range of exotic and native trees are located throughout the grounds. The trees are planted in broad expanses of undulating lawn, interspersed with formal garden beds and serpentine paved roads and paths. Local laterite stone has been used in the construction of a series of curved retaining walls and also for the raised garden beds. Tennis courts and grassed playing fields are located directly south of the driveway and extend approximately 400 metres along Lesmurdie Road. A row of mature Poplars (*Populus sp.*) line the west side of the tennis courts, while more are located on the west side of the playing fields, and also further west, near the carpark off Catherine Place. A number of mature Marri trees (*Eucalyptus calophylla*), probably remnant bushland, are located on both sides of Catherine Place, in the grounds of the primary school and in the secondary and middle school.

### **1913-21 Building**

The original school building is constructed of rendered brick with a face-brick and laterite stone base, and has an enclosed courtyard plan. The front

(east) section was built in 1921 as an addition to the rear 1913 section and is two-storey with a basement level, has rendered masonry walls on a face-brick base, an original terracotta tile hipped roof, gable parapets on the east and west ends, and first floor balconies on the east and the west elevations (the balcony on the west has been enclosed). Attached directly to the two-storey front section, and stepping down with the topography of the site, is the single-storey rear section (also with a basement). The rear section is the original school building (1913) and has rendered masonry walls on a laterite stone base, a hipped corrugated iron roof, and a verandah along the western end. A weatherboard extension is suspended over the eastern verandah, similarly, the east wall of the westernmost wing facing the courtyard is weatherboard.

The central courtyard is fully enclosed by the building fabric and has been considerably modified - the original verandah has been infilled with glazed panels to form an internal corridor, and the roof has been re-clad with corrugated iron. A timber-framed classroom with a hipped corrugated iron roof has been built in the western half of the courtyard space. A steel fire stair, connecting to the first floor enclosed balcony, is located in the northeast corner of the courtyard.

The building was designed in the Federation Anglo-Dutch style by architect, George Herbert Parry, as a literal translation of the Cape Dutch Revival style in a Western Australian setting. Typical of the style, the building has rendered and white-painted masonry walls, intricately modelled facades, three parapeted Dutch gables forming the main façade, and a verandah (also known as a *stoep*) running nearly the full length of the main façade with seats at both ends. The verandah is recessed between the two outer gable walls and supports a first floor balcony that features an intricate filigree balustrade. The verandah has six ionic-style columns, raised on a continuous plinth, and grouped in pairs on either side of the central entry bay. The entry bay is two-storey and has an elaborately decorated parapet gable which projects slightly from the wall. On the ground floor, the central bay features a wide arched opening with redbrick quoining, a filigree fanlight, and a pair of painted timber doors. The first floor of the central bay features a large bay timber-framed window with distinctive bell arch head and is adorned with ornate scrolls and label moulds. The two gables either side of the verandah are also elaborately shaped, and comprise three windows, including a pair of vertically proportioned double-hung casements, a semi-circular window, and an elliptical window located in the upper section of the gable. As with the central bay, each of the openings is adorned with ornate scrolls and label moulds, producing an intricately modelled façade.

Internally, the plan of the 1913-21 building has a series of classrooms arranged around the central courtyard, with the enclosed verandah (now an internal corridor) forming the primary circulation space. The inside walls of the corridor are typically original face-brick (the western wall is weatherboard) the floors are carpet and the ceilings are lined with plasterboard. The outer edges comprise aluminium-framed glazing panels

fixed between the original verandah columns, which are square masonry columns with a rough stucco finish.

Access to the original building is primarily from the east via the main entry and entry vestibule. The vestibule opens directly into the corridor and faces a set of stained glass windows entitled 'St Patrick', 'St Brigid', 'St Teresa' and 'The Sacred Heart', positioned between the square masonry columns. To the south of the vestibule are the stair hall, containing a timber staircase which provides vertical access to the first floor corridor and east balcony, student toilets, and H1 and H2, both classrooms. A passage to the west of H2 forms a link between the original building and the McAuley Wing (1998). To the north of the vestibule are an office and store, H7 (a classroom), and the 'Heritage Chapel'. Raised timber stoops are located at both ends of the corridor and provide access to the 'Heritage Chapel', a large room approximately 15m long x 6.5m wide, running in an east-west direction. The 'Heritage Chapel' has polished timber floors, plastered and painted masonry walls, and timber lined ceilings with exposed timber beams and ornate brackets. A large canted bay window is located on the north wall, opposite the main entry door, which contains a statue of Christ and a small offering table. A statue of the Virgin Mary is located in the northeast corner of the Chapel and another statue, an angel, is located in the southwest corner. Two ornate timber pews are located along the north and south walls, the rest of the seating is temporary. A passage is located directly west of the Chapel and connects the original building to the 1967 Building. Similarly, a passage through the western wall of the corridor connects the original building to the former Sisters' Convent and Chapel (1965).

### **1938 Building**

The building program in 1938 involved the addition of a free-standing two-storey building directly north of the 1913-21 building, accommodating classrooms and music rooms. A courtyard, approximately 16m wide x 24m long, is formed by the space between the two buildings, and is partially enclosed to the west by the undercroft of the 1967-78 Building, and to the east by a courtyard wall. The courtyard wall is constructed of rendered and white-painted masonry and is capped with a row of terracotta tiles. A wide arched door way with an ornate filigree gate forms the main opening through the wall and connects the courtyard with the front (east) gardens. The courtyard is paved and features a central fountain and informal garden beds and shrubbery. A single-storey building (1938) with a terracotta tile hipped roof is located in the northeast corner of the courtyard. Similarly, a single-storey lean-to is located in the southeast corner, also attached to courtyard wall and the 1913-21 building.

As with the original 1913-21 building, the 1938 building was designed in the Federation Anglo-Dutch style and features the same rendered and white-painted masonry walls and terracotta tile roof, typical of the Cape Dutch Revival style.

The 1938 building is rectangular in plan and oriented in an east-west direction, with the primary façade, an elaborate parapeted Dutch gable, facing east. The main entry door is positioned centrally on the east façade

and is adorned with ornate framing of Cape Dutch inspiration. Either side of the door, and directly above, are a number of narrow, vertically proportioned round-headed windows with stained glass infill. The upper part of the gable has a niche housing a statue of the Virgin Mary and is adorned with a Latin cross. Two mature cypresses (probably *Chamaecyparis* sp.) are planted in front of the east façade, either side of the main entry door.

### **Former Sisters' Convent and Chapel (1965)**

The former Sisters' Convent and Chapel is located west of the original 1913-21 Building and comprises a three-storey face-brick building with a corrugated iron gable roof, and a single-storey wing that projects from the south. A link connects the three-storey section to the west end of the 1913-21 Building, while external access to the single-storey wing is from its west side. The Chapel is located in the single-storey wing and is still used for religious congregation, while the three-storey section, formerly the convent, is being used as teaching staff offices.

### **1967-78 Building**

The 1967-78 Building comprises a three-storey complex of rendered masonry buildings, painted white, and featuring extensive strip-window glazing, with a variety of corrugated iron hipped and gable roofs. It was constructed in 1967 to the west of the 1938 Building to accommodate new science rooms, music rooms, a canteen, and an undercroft on the ground floor. In 1978 a new secondary school science laboratory was added, and in 1978, a western wing was constructed to the west of the 1938 building, adjoining the south of the 1967 section. The 1967-78 Building has a strong presence on Catherine Place, and it forms a physical link between the 1913-21 Building and the 1938 Building, as well as partially enclosing the courtyard between them.

### **Secondary School Administration (1971)**

The Administration comprises a single-storey building attached directly to the north side of the 1938 building, and built in 1971 as a Library and six classroom block. The Administration building has rendered and white-painted walls, and an ornate Dutch parapeted gable to the east elevation, designed to match the aesthetic of the early school buildings. A niche with a statue of the Virgin Mary adorns the upper gable wall, while below, there is an awning supported on square masonry columns and a canted bay window. A curved concrete ramp forms the approach to the building on its south side, where the entry is located. The entry opens into a foyer and a central corridor provides access to the offices located to the north, east and west.

### **The McAuley Wing Science & Technology Centre (1998)**

The McAuley Wing is located immediately south of the original 1913-21 Building and comprises a two-storey rendered and white-painted building with a face-brick base, designed in 1998 to complement the design aesthetic of the early school buildings. The McAuley Wing features elaborate parapeted Dutch gables on four elevations, a terracotta tile gable roof, a *stoep* across the east elevation, and vertically proportioned windows.

The McAuley Wing is connected to the south wall of the original 1913-21 Building by a glazed link.

### **The Primary School (1971) & Other Buildings**

The primary school buildings are located on the west side of Catherine Place and include the single-storey brick and tile classrooms, administration, and library buildings, which are grouped around a central quadrangle, and also the Arts & Crafts Centre and the playground. The sports oval is located southwest of the main school buildings, and the Fitness Centre (including swimming pool) is located east of the oval. The boarders' accommodation (1990) is located southwest of the Fitness Centre, with access off Catherine Place.

### **ST SWITHUN'S CHURCH**

St Swithun's Church is located on the east side of Lesmurdie Road, which runs in a roughly north-south direction until it intersects with Canning Road to the east. Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church is located immediately south of St Swithun's Church, and the two places are separated by a low laterite stonewall and a row of mature trees (*Eucalyptus sp.*). A rendered brick and tile single-storey residence is located to the north of St Swithun's Church, and the Rectory, a single-storey brick and tile building constructed on the church site in 1989, is located to the east.

St Swithun's Church is set back approximately twelve metres from Lesmurdie Road on a site that rises slightly to the east and is bounded by low laterite stone walls on the north, south and west sides. Access to the site is directly off Lesmurdie Road with gravel driveways to the north and south of the building that connect to the Rectory. An informal gravel carparking area is located on the north side of St Swithun's Church, with more parking available in front of the Rectory. A row of Lemon Scented Gums (*Eucalyptus citriodora*) line the west wall and are part of a planting program around the site dating from 1992. More mature trees (*Eucalyptus sp.*) are located along the north and south boundaries, while a number of mature Marri trees (*Eucalyptus calophylla*) are integrated into the bushland garden.

The bushland garden forms the immediate setting for St Swithun's Church and comprises informal gravel paths, laterite stone boulders, and native garden beds with rock edging. A small shrine and a birdbath are located within the garden, on the south side of the building. The garden abutting the south wall of the church is a consecrated memorial garden used for the interment of ashes.

St Swithun's Church comprises a single-storey Federation Gothic style church, constructed of local laterite stone with brick quoining, and featuring a steeply pitched Colorbond gable roof. The exterior appearance of the church is characterised by the striking textured walling of the local stone, and the contrasting cream-painted west elevation. The west (front) gable wall (added in 1950) is constructed of concrete masonry blocks and features a simple projecting entry porch with a Colorbond gable roof

supported on timber posts. The porch is accessed from the west by concrete stairs, or from the north via a concrete ramp. The entry door is located on the west elevation (sheltered by the porch) and comprises a four-centred arched opening with a solid timber door on wrought-iron hinges. The primary window openings are on the north and south elevations, comprising vertically proportioned side-hung casements with ornate gothic tracery incorporated into the timber frames. A three-sided polygonal apse projects from the east wall and features its own Colorbond hipped roof. A small and narrow vent is located in the east gable wall above the apse.

St Swithun's Church has a simple orthogonal plan, oriented in an east-west direction, with the entry at the east and the sanctuary at the west. The entry opens directly into the nave, which has plastered and painted masonry walls, carpet floors (on a concrete slab), truncated plaster ceilings, and is modestly furnished with ornate timber pews either side of the central aisle. The pews appear to be part of the original furnishings, along with the Latin cross housed in the apse, and also the simple timber altar table. The sanctuary and the apse are located east of the nave and both have plastered and painted masonry walls, truncated plaster ceilings and carpet floors. The sanctuary floor is raised 150mm above the floor of the nave, and has a low timber balustrade. The apse is located east of the sanctuary and comprises a three-sided polygonal space, framed by a Gothic arch, and raised 150mm above the floor of the sanctuary. The plastered and painted walls of the apse are concealed by fabric curtains, which form a backdrop for the large timber Latin cross and the altar.

Renovations in 1987 included the replacement of parts of the iron roof and repainting of the renovated surface; the repainting of exterior woodwork; the inspection and remediation of electrical wiring; the carpeting of the previously bare concrete floor; and the replacement of curtains hung behind the altar. Improvements to the garden were carried out in 1988, and then in 1992 thirty-nine Lemon Scented Gums (*Eucalyptus citriodora*) were planted around the site. During February and March 1993, St Swithun's Church was repainted both internally and externally, and a new ceiling was put in place. In 2001, the corrugated iron gable roof was replaced with 'Federation Red' Colorbond roof sheeting.

*St Swithun's Church*, including its bushland garden, is in good condition and has been well maintained.

### 13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

While there are a number of examples of socially engineered settlements in Western Australia, *Lesmurdie Group* is the only known example in the State of a British-style village focused around the property of landed gentry, with subdivided land parcels sold by the 'squire' figure to approved prospective residents.

P02585 *Bejoording Homestead Complex and Central Square* was established from the late 1850s as part of an agricultural worker's village designed following an English model to provide small land holdings for farm workers on large estates, organised around a central square or



common. Bejoording did not eventuate as a settlement of this nature due to unique social and economic conditions of the Swan River Colony in the nineteenth century, and *Bejoording Homestead Complex* contains the only remaining buildings associated with the planned settlement. This settlement differs from *Lesmurdie Group* in that it was not organised around a 'squire's residence', and never eventuated as a village as originally planned.

Passmore Avenue, North Fremantle, was developed in the early 1890s as a private street containing eight workers cottages. Henry Passmore, a PWD engineer, purchased two town lots facing John Street to create one large block, planted a shared park along the John Street frontage with a decorative drive to the centre of the block, where the cottages were constructed, and provided an orchard and vegetable gardens to the rear. The cottages were owned on a shared purple title until the 1990s. In 2004, five original cottages remained. The orchard and front gardens have been lost.<sup>141</sup>

Settlements constructed to serve workers, including social facilities such as schools and churches, often accompanied enterprises such as mining or timber milling. For example, mine owner Joseph Horrocks attempted to create his own village in the 1860s at Gwalla, (later Northampton) providing for the physical, social and spiritual needs of his workers. Notably, he constructed a non-denominational church to serve the community (P01902 *Church & Cemetery, Gwalla*). He is remembered as a philanthropist in the region. In the Southwest, many private timber companies built settlements for their workers. P11381 *Pemberton Timber Mill Workers' Cottage Precinct* was constructed by State Saw Mills from 1913-14 in a similar manner to the private settlements. Rather than a 'squire', this settlement had a manager's house. The first manager at Pemberton was W. Properjohn, who was involved in selecting the site and supervising initial construction, while also serving as mill manager at Big Brook. These settlements differ from *Lesmurdie Group*, as the latter was neither organised by an employer to serve workers, nor united by a common enterprise.

Many pastoral properties, especially those remote from established settlements, had something of a village character, as employees lived on site. Some also constructed a church on their property (eg. P02284 *St Werburghs Chapel and Cememtery*) and others built a schoolroom to serve local children (eg. P08922 *Brookside, Hillview & Surrounds, Northampton*) but these examples demonstrate responses to challenges posed by the remoteness of Australian pastoral enterprises rather than a transplanting of British village ideologies.

Later government-initiated post-War 'village' subdivisions, such as P11936 Maniana Precinct Queens Park, arose from a completely different philosophical basis, aiming to provide affordable housing for low-income earners.

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<sup>141</sup> Passmore Avenue Files, Fremantle Local History Collection.  
**Register of Heritage Places - Assessment Doc'n**  
**28/06/2005**

*Lesmurdie Group* is rare as the heart of a purposefully-created village-style community modeled on traditional British class society, with Lesmurdie House & Estate occupying the role of a squire's house in a traditional English village, and St Swithun's Church and St Brigid's College occupying the roles of the traditional village church and village school, respectively. Such an example of intentional social geography is rare in Western Australia.

The HCWA database reveals 21 works attributed to the architect George Herbert Parry, seven of which are entered on the State Register of Heritage Places, namely P1161 *St Catherine's Anglican Church, Greenough* (1914), P01251 *Kalamunda Hotel and Original Kalamunda Hotel* (1902; 1928), P1685 *St Cuthbert's Anglican Church, Darlington* (1925), P2101 *Burt Memorial Hall, Perth*, (1918), P2225 *St Peter's Anglican Church & Memorial Hall, Victoria Park* (1935, with Marshall Clifton), P02242 *Hale School (fmr), West Perth* (1914), P02225 *St Peter's Anglican Church and Memorial Hall, Victoria Park* (1935), and P04607 *The Chapel of the Guardian Angel, Queens Park* (1937, with Marshall Clifton). P01254 *Kalamunda Agricultural Hall* (1896) was also designed by Parry. In 2004, it was found to be below threshold for entry into the Register.

*Lesmurdie Group* is representative of the work of architect, George Herbert Parry, especially in the hills area, during the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century.

### **Lesmurdie House & Estate**

Lesmurdie House & Estate may be compared to a number of other places built in the same time period, of similar function, architectural style and construction material.

The HCWA database lists 17 two-storey residences constructed of local stone, seven of which were constructed between 1890 and 1915. Five of these are entered on the State Register of Heritage Places, namely P00107 *Basildene Farmhouse, Margaret River*, P01669 *Pindar Hotel (fmr)*, P02081 *1 Museum Street, Northbridge*, P02855 *York Post Office* and elements of P13806 *Ord & Bateman Street Precinct, Fremantle*. A further three places entered on the State Register of Heritage Places may also be compared to Lesmurdie House & Estate as two-storey private residences constructed of local stone from earlier time periods, namely P00028 *The Rocks* (1884), Albany, P02893 *Bridge House & Grounds* (1860), York, and P04285 *Pioneer Museum* (1862), Greenough.

The HCWA database lists only six other Federation Queen Anne style residences constructed of local stone, two of which are entered on the State Register of Heritage Places, namely P02081 *1 Museum Street, Perth*, P03417 and *Telyarup Homestead, Gnowangerup*. A third place, P03848 *House, 69 Mount Street, Perth*, was removed from the Register in 2001.

*1 Museum Street* (1897), Perth, comprises a pair of two-storey semi-detached houses in the Federation Queen Anne style, with richly detailed roofscapes, cast iron balustrades and fine brick and stonework on the front

and return facades. Unlike Lesmurdie House & Estate, *1 Museum Street* was constructed as an investment property in a metropolitan setting, but is of a similar architectural style and scale. *1 Museum Street* has a lesser degree of integrity and authenticity than Lesmurdie House & Estate and is in worse condition. *1 Museum Street* is classified by the National Trust and is listed on the City of Perth's Municipal Inventory.

*Telyarup Homestead, Gnowangerup*, comprises a Federation Queen Anne single-storey tuck-pointed brick and iron farmhouse and associated farm structures, first constructed in 1910, with later additions in 1918. As with Lesmurdie House & Estate, *Telyarup Homestead, Gnowangerup* displays quality craftsmanship in the detailing of the interior and exterior and is a fine and well-appointed example of the Federation Queen Anne style of architecture in a rural location. *Telyarup Homestead, Gnowangerup* may be compared to Lesmurdie House & Estate in terms of integrity but has a lesser degree of authenticity and is in worse condition. *Telyarup Homestead, Gnowangerup* is included on the Shire of Gnowangerup's Municipal Inventory.

Lesmurdie House & Estate is representative of a Federation Queen Anne style residence with a Federation style garden, developed as a private retreat in the hills district east of Perth.

### **St Brigid's College**

St Brigid's College may be compared to a number of other places that are similar in terms of architectural style, function and architectural designer.

The HCWA database reveals 15 other places in the Federation Anglo-Dutch style, of which, only four are entered on the State Register of Heritage Places, namely P00308 *Broomehill Shire Hall and Road Board Offices (fmr)*, P01303 *Semaphore Chambers*, 77-79 Hannan Street, Kalgoorlie, P01811 *Mardoc Building, Narrogin*, and P02024 *Commercial Building, 21 Howard Street, Perth*.

P00308 *Broomehill Shire Hall and Road Board Offices (fmr)* comprises a timber framed, iron clad hall in Federation vernacular style with a Inter-War Anglo-Dutch brick frontage. The place was constructed in 1910, with the Inter-War Anglo-Dutch brick frontage added in 1928. The place is in fair condition, with high authenticity and integrity. It is classified by the National Trust and is included on the Shire of Broomehill's Municipal Inventory.

P02024 *Commercial Building, 21 Howard Street, Perth*, comprises a two-storey brick, stone and stucco building in the Federation Anglo-Dutch style, exhibiting a strongly modelled and detailed redbrick façade with a number of decorative elements, and a rusticated limestone base. *Commercial Building, 21 Howard Street, Perth*, was first constructed in 1905 and may be compared to St Brigid's College in terms of condition, authenticity and integrity. It is classified by the National Trust, is interim listed on the Register of the National Estate, and is included on the City of Perth Municipal Inventory.

P01303 *Semaphore Chambers*, Kalgoorlie, comprises a double-storey rendered brick and iron commercial building, constructed in 1899 in the Federation Anglo Dutch style, and featuring an elaborate Dutch gable and an exuberant parapet line. *Semaphore Chambers* may be compared to St Brigid's College in terms of condition and integrity, but has a lesser degree of authenticity. *Semaphore Chambers* is classified by the National Trust and is included on the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder Municipal Inventory.

P01811 *Mardoc Building, Narrogin*, comprises a three-storey rendered brick and tile commercial/residential building, constructed in 1908-10, and featuring a number of Federation Anglo-Dutch elements including small-paned upper floor windows, arched openings, highly decorated Dutch gables and a terracotta tiled roof. *Mardoc Building, Narrogin* may be compared to St Brigid's College in terms of condition, but has lesser integrity and authenticity. *Mardoc Building, Narrogin* is listed on the Register of the National Estate and is included on the Shire of Narrogin's Municipal Inventory.

A number of other buildings not directly identified by the HCWA database as Federation Anglo-Dutch style may also be compared to St Brigid's College in terms of architectural style, namely P01832 Captain Stirling Hotel, Nedlands, P02407 Inglewood Hotel, Mount Lawley (neither of which are entered on the State Register of Heritage Places), and P03801 *Royal King's Park Tennis Club, Perth*.

Captain Stirling Hotel, Nedlands, comprises a two-storey rendered brick and tile Inter-War Spanish Mission building, designed by Marshall Clifton and George Herbert Parry, and constructed in 1935. The building features a Cape Dutch Revival influenced gable and main entrance, apparently influenced by Parry's work at St Brigid's College<sup>142</sup>. Similarly, Inglewood Hotel, a two-storey rendered brick and tile Inter-War Spanish Mission building constructed in 1935-36 by Marshall Clifton and George Herbert Parry, has extensive Cape Dutch Revival details. As with the Captain Stirling Hotel, the Inglewood Hotel relates to Parry's earlier work in Lesmurdie.

*Royal King's Park Tennis Club, Perth*, consists of various memorial gates, tennis courts and spectators stands, including the Member's Stand and Pavilion (1926), and the McGibbon Stand (1935), both in the Cape Dutch Revival style. Both feature elaborate Dutch gables, rendered walls and terracotta tile roofs and may be compared to *St Brigid's College* in terms of condition, integrity and authenticity. *Royal King's Park Tennis Club, Perth*, is classified by the National Trust and is entered on the State Register of Heritage Places.

St Brigid's College is representative of the Federation Anglo-Dutch style of architecture, and the literal translation of the Cape Dutch Revival style in a Western Australian setting.

*St Brigid's College* is one of ten private girls boarding colleges in the Perth area, the others being Penrhos College, Como (Uniting Church), Presbyterian Ladies College, Peppermint Grove, St Hilda's Anglican School

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<sup>142</sup> Molyneaux, Ian for the RAI, *Looking around Perth*, Wescolour Press, 1981, page 60-61  
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for Girls, Mosman Park, Iona Presentation College, Mosman Park (Catholic), Methodist Ladies College, Claremont (Uniting Church), Mercedes College, Perth (Catholic), Perth College, Mt Lawley (Anglican), Santa Maria College, Attadale (Catholic), and St Mary's Anglican School for Girls, Karrinyup. None of these are entered in the Register.<sup>143</sup>

The HCWA database lists 287 other places used as schools or colleges, constructed between 1890-1915, of which 98 include brick construction and 39 include stone construction. Fifty of these 287 schools are entered on the State Register of Heritage Places. Only two boarding schools have been identified among this group, being P01310 *Christian Brothers College (fmr), Kalgoorlie*, and P02181 *Sacred Heart Convent and School, Highgate*. The HCWA database also lists three other places associated with the Sisters of Mercy in Western Australia, namely P01976 *St Brigid's College, Northbridge*, (1881-1982), P08709 *Aranmore Catholic College Precinct* (1920-1950), Leederville, and P02433 *St Kieran Roman Catholic Church Parish Group* (1914-1937), Tuart Hill. Of these, P01976 *St Brigid's College, Northbridge* and P08709 *Aranmore Catholic College Precinct* are entered onto the State Register of Heritage Places.

St Brigid's College is representative of a regional boarding school for the education of girls, run by the Sisters of Mercy as an annex of St Brigid's Convent in West Perth.

### **St Swithun's Church**

St Swithun's Church may be compared to a number of other churches, dating from a similar time period, and constructed using 'local stone'.

The HCWA database reveals 21 other churches constructed of 'local stone' between 1890 and 1915, and of these, seven are entered on the State Register of Heritage Places, namely P00690 *Lombadina Mission, Dampier Peninsular*, P01063 *St John's Uniting Church (fmr), Geraldton*, P01168 *Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Walkaway*, P1240 *Seventh Day Adventist Church, Bookara*, P01505 *Dingup Anglican Church, Balbarrup*, P01656 *Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel & Holy Apostles St Peter & St Paul, Priesthouse and former Presentation Convent*, and P02332 *Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Roebourne*.

Eight of the 22 churches constructed of 'local stone' between 1890 and 1915 are in the Federation Gothic style, namely P00143 *St John in the Wilderness Church and Dale Community Hall, Dale*, P00150 *St Mary's Anglican Church, Rectory and Eucalyptus Citriodora Tree, Beverley*, P00258 *Methodist Church (fmr), Bridgetown*, P01168 *Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Walkaway*, P01600 *Methodist Church (fmr), Moora*, P02357 *St Stephen's Anglican Church, Serpentine*, and P02652 *St George's Anglican Church*.

St Swithun's Church is representative of the Federation Gothic style of architecture, of which the place is a modest but pleasing example.

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<sup>143</sup> For additional detail, refer to draft heritage assessment documentation or Methodist Ladies College, Claremont, on HCWA file P3857.

#### **13. 4 KEY REFERENCES**

Hugh Sanderson, ed., *Lesmurdie. A Home in the Hills: From the diary of Maude Sanderson*, the Nine Club, Perth, 1979, 1998.

*St Brigid's College Diamond Jubilee Yearbook, 1929-89*, Kalamunda, 1989.

James A. Richardson, *St Swithun's Anglican Church Lesmurdie: A Living Heritage*, *St Swithun's Church*, Lesmurdie Council, 1995.

#### **13. 5 FURTHER RESEARCH**

Further biographical research might be undertaken in relation to Archibald Sanderson, George Herbert Parry and Lionel Walpole Parry.

Further research may uncover more information about the first school to operate (c.1913-1918) in what is now the earliest part of St Brigid's College.

Further research might reveal the architect and builder for the 1938 building at St Brigid's College.