



REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES - ASSESSMENT DOCUMENTATION

11. ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The criteria adopted by the Heritage Council in November, 1996 have been used to determine the cultural heritage significance of the place.

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE *

Saint Mary's Catholic Church has a high degree of artistic and technical sophistication, both internally and externally, and exhibits a well resolved combination of architectural, symbolic and artistic motifs. (Criterion 1.1)

Saint Mary's Catholic Church has aesthetic significance for its architecture. The use of the Inter War Gothic style characteristics throughout the building, culminating in the splendid tower and spire, exhibit design and artistic excellence. The atavistic use of the Inter War Gothic style characteristics adds interest to the building. (Criterion 1.2)

Saint Mary's Catholic Church has a landmark quality in Leederville due to the elevated location, the imposing tower and ecclesiastical architecture which have a substantial impact upon the streetscape, and its prominent location on the corner of Franklin and Shakespeare streets. (Criterion 1.3)

In association with the Presbytery, the College and the Convent, *Saint Mary's Catholic Church* forms a precinct of early twentieth century Catholic buildings in Leederville. (Criterion 1.4)

11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

Saint Mary's Catholic Church has a close association with the expansion of the activities of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Perth in the early part of the twentieth century. (Criterion 2.1)

Saint Mary's Catholic Church has a close association with Monsignor J.F. Maloney. As the first parish priest from 1919 to 1958, Maloney was instrumental in the early development of the Leederville parish. (Criteria 2.2 & 2.3)

11.3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

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

Saint Mary's Catholic Church has demonstrable potential to yield information contributing to a wider understanding of the history of human occupation of the Leederville area. (Criterion 3.2)

Saint Mary's Catholic Church demonstrates technical sophistication in the construction of the nave roof, supported by the timber 'hammer-beam' truss system, and in the tower construction. (Criterion 3.3)

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

Saint Mary's Catholic Church is highly valued by the community of Leederville and the surrounding suburbs as a place to celebrate religious observance, and as an example of work by the architect E.H. Hamilton and the first parish priest, Monsignor J.F. Maloney. (Criterion 4.1)

Saint Mary's Catholic Church contributes to the community's sense of place and is significant through its association with the Roman Catholic Church community in Western Australia. (Criterion 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

Saint Mary's Catholic Church is a rare example of a parish church with a 'grand' bell tower of such prominence, the scale of which is usually incorporated into the design of cathedrals. (Criterion 5.1)

12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

Saint Mary's Catholic Church demonstrates the characteristics of the Church class of Christian places of congregational worship in Australia, and is representative of the Inter-War Gothic (c.1915-c.1940) style of architecture. (Criterion 6.1)

12. 3 CONDITION

Saint Mary's Catholic Church is in good condition. Maintenance of the building has been undertaken on a reasonably regular basis. However, the ongoing maintenance requirements are considerable, and it is apparent that a significant 'catch-up' maintenance program is required in the near future.

12. 4 INTEGRITY

Saint Mary's Catholic Church has a high degree of integrity. The church continues to be used for the purpose for which it was designed and the original intention of the cultural values is highly intact. The likely long term sustainability of the values identified and their ability to be restored is well assured. The time frame for any restorative process is relatively extensive.

12. 5 AUTHENTICITY

Saint Mary's Catholic Church is intact, and retains a high degree of authenticity. Very little of the initial documentation prepared for the construction of the church has been located. Nevertheless, after studying the available documentation and the existing building, one can determine that the fabric (including the 1938 additions) is very much in its original state. The changes to the interior that have occurred due to liturgical changes are necessary and demonstrate evolution of use.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

Attached are key sections of the supporting evidence prepared by John Taylor Architect, 'Conservation Plan for St Mary's Church, Leederville, Western Australia'(prepared for Saint Mary's Parish, May 1998).

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

For a detailed discussion of the documentary evidence, refer to John Taylor Architect, 'Conservation Plan for St Mary's Church, Leederville, Western Australia'(prepared for Saint Mary's Parish, May 1998).

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

For a detailed discussion of the physical evidence, refer to John Taylor Architect, 'Conservation Plan for St Mary's Church, Leederville, Western Australia'(prepared for Saint Mary's Parish, May 1998).

13.3 REFERENCES

John Taylor Architect, 'Conservation Plan for St Mary's Church, Leederville, Western Australia'(prepared for Saint Mary's Parish, May 1998).

13.4 FURTHER RESEARCH
