HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES

Permanent Entry

Assessment Documentation

11. ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

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

PRINCIPAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORIC THEME(S)

- 2.5 Promoting settlement
- 4.5 Making settlements to serve rural Australia
- 7.6.12 Conserving Australia's heritage
- 8.6 Worshipping

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 107 Settlements
- 406 Religion
- 602 Early settlers
- 109 Environmental Change

11. 1 AESTHETIC VALUE*

St James' Anglican Church, South Greenough is a good example of Victorian Romanesque style applied to a simple rural church. (Criterion 1.1)

St James' Anglican Church, South Greenough is a landmark on the Brand Highway, marking the southern approach to the historic precinct of Greenough. (Criterion 1.3)

Although to the south of and visually remote from the central cluster of extant buildings at Greenough, *St James Anglican Church, South Greenough* is an element of the historically important Central Greenough (historic settlement), and contributes to its overall cohesiveness as a cultural environment. (Criterion 1.4)

St James' Anglican Church, South Greenough is visually appealing within its open isolated rural setting which reflects its historical context. (Criterion 1.3)

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Canberra, 1991, with additional reference to Richards, O. *Theoretical Framework for Designed Landscapes in WA*, unpublished report, 1997.

11. 2. HISTORIC VALUE

St James' Anglican Church, South Greenough was one of three original 1860s churches established in the then-flourishing township of Greenough. Greenough was the first rural settlement established in the Greenough-Irwin regions, which developed into an important wheat-growing district that supplied wheat for the fledgling colony in the mid-nineteenth century. (Criterion 2.1)

St James' Anglican Church, South Greenough was one of the two earliest Anglican churches in what is now the North West Dioceses of the Anglican Church, being constructed from 1868 simultaneously with Christ Church Geraldton. (Criterion 2.1)

St James' Anglican Church, South Greenough was constructed at a time when the Front Flats was the focus of population for the Victoria District. Its subsequent decline due to rust affected wheat and eventual abandonment, shows the shift in population in the area towards the Back Flats, particularly after devastating floods in 1888 and the construction of the railway line through Walkaway (Back Flats) in 1894. (Criterion 2.1)

Construction of *St James' Anglican Church, South Greenough* began in 1868 prior to a devastating incidence of red rust that destroyed much of the region's wheat crop for that year and significantly reduced donations to the church building fund. Its simple design and lack of detailing is indicative of the precarious economic situation of farmers in the Greenough area in the early years of settlement. (Criterion 2.2)

St James' Anglican Church, South Greenough was the first Anglican church in the Victoria District, serving the population of the Irwin District prior to the construction of a Dongara church in 1894, and was the heart of Anglican religious and social life from its construction until a second Anglican church was built in Greenough in 1892, and was a continuing site of Anglican worship until 1961. (Criterion 2.2)

St James' Anglican Church, South Greenough retains an open isolated rural setting reminiscent of its historical context. (Criterion 2.2)

Resident Magistrate Edward Hayes Laurence was instrumental in supporting Anglican religious activity in Greenough, beginning Sunday School in the unfinished *St James' Anglican Church, South Greenough* in 1870 and ensuring worship services continued in periods when no priest was assigned to the parish. (Criterion 2.3)

11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

St James' Anglican Church, South Greenough may contain evidence for ingenuity in construction techniques and materials during time of economic adversity. (Criterion 3.3)

The presence of the original butt jointed jarrah floorboards would suggest archaeological material will be present in the floor space. The extant well is also likely to contain archaeological material as unused items were often discarded or deposited in this manner once a well was no longer in use. This material may provide further details regarding the economic circumstances, beliefs and lifeways of the local population (Criterion 3.1 & 3.2)

The presence of the rare plant species Long-flowered Nancy *(Wurmbea tubulosi)* within the site is of environmental significance. (Criterion 3.1)

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

St James' Anglican Church, South Greenough was a focus of Anglican religious life for ninety years, and as such is valued by members of the Anglican community for religious reasons. (Criterion 4.1)

St James' Anglican Church, South Greenough is valued by the wider community as an important remnant of early Greenough, and is indicative of the development of heritage ethos as demonstrated by local campaigns from the 1960s to ensure the place was saved after a decision by the Anglican Church to demolish it, and by the long-term interest and involvement of the National Trust in its preservation, including organising and funding conservation works in 1975. (Criterion 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

St James' Anglican Church, South Greenough is a rare example in the State of an extant Victorian Romanesque style church, especially from the 1860s-1880s period. (Criterion 5.1)

St James' Anglican Church, South Greenough is the earliest extant Anglican church in the region, the only survivor of the first two Anglican churches built in what is now the Anglican Diocese of the Northwest, and a rare example of an extant nineteenth century Anglican church north of Perth. (Criterion 5.2)

12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

St James' Anglican Church, South Greenough is representative of simple rural churches in the Midwest region, including in particular the use of local stone. (Criterion 6.1)

St James' Anglican Church, South Greenough is a good representative example of a building from the peak period of the settlement of Greenough, when the majority of the population in the Victoria District was focussed on the Front Flats. (Criterion 6.2)

12. 3 CONDITION

The place is in fair condition.

12. 4 INTEGRITY

The place has high integrity. Although it has been vacant for many years and has lost all internal fittings, its original function as a church is clearly evident and could be reinstated, as the place has never been adapted for any other purpose.

12. 5 AUTHENTICITY

The place has high authenticity. The fabric of the place remains largely as constructed in 1868-71, with the exception of removal of internal furniture and replacement of the original roofing material.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

This document has been based on 'St James' Church, South Greenough, Western Australia: Conservation Plan', prepared for the National Trust by Eastman Poletti Sherwood Architects and Gary Martin Historian in December 2006, with amendments and/or additions by HCWA staff and the Register Committee.

13. 1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the documentary evidence, refer to 'St James' Church, South Greenough, Western Australia: Conservation Plan', prepared for the National Trust by Eastman Poletti Sherwood Architects and Gary Martin Historian in December 2006.

13. 2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the physical evidence, refer to 'St James' Church, South Greenough, Western Australia: Conservation Plan', prepared for the National Trust by Eastman Poletti Sherwood Architects and Gary Martin Historian in December 2006.

13. 3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

For a discussion of the comparative information, refer to 'St James' Church, South Greenough, Western Australia: Conservation Plan', prepared for the National Trust by Eastman Poletti Sherwood Architects and Gary Martin Historian in December 2006.

There are twenty churches in the HCWA database noted as having been constructed between 1865 and 1875, of which six are Registered. Most are larger than *St James' Anglican Church, South Greenough*. Of similar scale are P01167 *Wesley Methodist Chapel (fmr),* Greenough (1867), and P02284 *St Werburgh's Chapel and Cemetery,* Mt Barker (1874). *St James' Anglican Church, South Greenough* is the only one of the twenty churches to be constructed in the Victorian Romanesque style, and the only Victorian Romanesque style church noted in the database as constructed between 1856 and 1889.

There are only nine places in the HCWA database noted as being constructed in the Victorian Romanesque style, of which seven are churches. Six of the nine are Registered, and another has been assessed and is being considered for entry into the Register. Most are much larger and more detailed than *St James Anglican Church, South Greenough*. Of comparable scale is P02332 *Holy Trinity Anglican Church,* Roebourne (1895), which although simple is more detailed than *St James' Anglican Church, South Greenough,* featuring a part-octagonal apse at the altar end and studded Gothic arched double-doors in the entry porch, and continues in use as a church. The Abbey Church at P02622 Benedictine Monastery Precinct, New Norcia, includes an early section (1860 & 1870) in Victorian Romanesque style that was relatively simple in design and detailing, but has been extensively reworked as part of later Spanish Mission style extensions and alterations.

St James' Anglican Church, South Greenough is a good example of Victorian Romanesque style applied to a simple rural church. It is a rare example in the State of an extant Victorian Romanesque style church, especially from the 1860s-1880s period.

The first churches built in Greenough, to serve the three main denominations represented in the area, were St Peter's Catholic Church (1864-67), Wesley Methodist Chapel (1867-69) and *St James' Anglican Church, South Greenough* (1868-71). Of these, St Peters has been demolished (site included in HCWA database as P13991) and P01167 *Wesley Methodist Chapel (fmr),* although still extant, is derelict, noted at the time of its entry into the Register (1999) as being a ruin.

The HCWA database includes 24 extant buildings in the Greenough township area that date from before *St James' Anglican Church, South Greenough* was constructed (1868), the earliest being from 1850. Nine of these places are on the Register. P01137 Greenough Historic Hamlet is included in the HCWA assessment program. It is a precinct that includes 43 individual places in the database, including six of the nine Registered places. *St James' Anglican Church, South Greenough* is linked in the HCWA database as part of P01137 Central Greenough (historic settlment). However, its inclusion in the precinct would be a matter for consideration at the time of an assessment of the precinct as a whole, as it is somewhat distant to the main group of buildings.

St James' Anglican Church, South Greenough is a good representative example of a building from the peak period of the settlement of Greenough, when the majority of the population in the Victoria District was focussed on the Front Flats.

Christ Church Geraldton, which was also constructed by the Anglican Church from 1868, was demolished in 1962 (site included in HCWA database as P13448). Other early Anglican churches in the region were St Catherine's, Greenough (replaced 1914, site P13879), P01212 *St John the Baptist Anglican Church,* Dongara (1884) RHP, and P01168 *Holy Trinity Anglican Church*, Walkaway (1903) RHP. The HCWA database lists no other extant Anglican churches in the Midwest Region dating from the nineteenth century, and only one other Anglican church anywhere in the northwest from this period. This is P2332 *Holy Trinity Anglican Church*, Roebourne (1895), which is the only church of any denomination north of the Midwest region noted in the HCWA database as being from the nineteenth century. The Anglican Diocese of the Northwest has not compiled a heritage inventory. The Anglican Diocese of Perth Heritage Inventory includes only three churches north of Perth, outside the Avon Valley, dating from the nineteenth century. These are P00479 Holy Trinity Anglican Church and Cemetery, Bindoon (1886, Below Threshold); P00672 St Anne's Anglican Church, Dandaragan (1885, Backlog 'no'); and, P01085 *St Luke's Anglican Church, Cemetery and Belfry*, Gingin (1860, RHP).

St James' Anglican Church, South Greenough is the earliest extant Anglican church in the region, the only survivor of the first two Anglican churches built in what is now the Anglican Diocese of the Northwest, and a rare example of an extant nineteenth century Anglican church north of Perth.

13. 4 KEY REFERENCES

‘St James' Church, South Greenough, Western Australia: Conservation Plan', prepared for the National Trust by Eastman Poletti Sherwood Architects and Gary Martin Historian in December 2006.

13. 5 FURTHER RESEARCH
