



**HERITAGE
COUNCIL**
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES – ASSESSMENT DOCUMENTATION

11. ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

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

PRINCIPAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORIC THEME(S)

- 8.5.3 Associating for mutual aid
- 8.6.2 Maintaining religious traditions and ceremonies

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 406 Religion
- 407 Cultural activities

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE*

Albany Masonic Hall is a fine example of a regional Masonic Hall in the Federation Academic Classical style, exhibiting a symmetrical composition with restrained classical detailing. The Lodge room is a well-proportioned and ornately detailed space, displaying architectural symbolism associated with Freemasonry. (Criterion 1.2)

Albany Masonic Hall has landmark qualities, being located prominently on a corner of the historic precincts of Spencer and Earl Streets. (Criterion 1.3)

11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

Albany Masonic Hall is the home of Plantagenet Lodge, the third oldest Lodge in the State. (Criterion 2.2)

Albany Masonic Hall demonstrates the specific requirements of Masonic ceremony. (Criterion 2.2)

Albany Masonic Hall was designed by a local architect, Mr G. Johnston, and constructed by local builders Fairchild and Ives. (Criterion 2.3)

Many prominent Albany citizens have been associated with *Albany Masonic Hall* as members of the three lodges that use the building. (Criterion 2.3)

* 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Canberra, 1991, with additional reference to Richards, O. *Theoretical Framework for Designed Landscapes in WA*, unpublished report, 1997.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. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

Albany Masonic Hall continues to be important for past and present members of the three Lodges that meet there. (Criterion 4.1)

Albany Masonic Hall has associations with the development of Albany in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, and with a number of prominent local citizens. (Criterion 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

Albany Masonic Hall is rare as a continuous location of Masonic practices from 1874 until 2008. (Criterion 5.1)

12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

Albany Masonic Hall is representative of Lodges in Western Australia constructed in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. (Criterion 6.2)

12. 3 CONDITION

Albany Masonic Hall is in fair to good condition. Water damage from falling damp at the west of the building has caused cracking in the masonry and plasterwork. The roof sheeting, gutters and downpipes were replaced in early 2004 and are in good condition. Joinery, particularly the windows, is in urgent need of repainting.

12. 4 INTEGRITY

Albany Masonic Hall has a high degree of integrity, as its internal spaces are still (2008) used for their original purposes of Lodge Room, general hall and kitchen.

12. 5 AUTHENTICITY

Albany Masonic Hall has a high degree of authenticity, with the form of the original building easily legible and much original fabric remaining. Although there has been removal of the porch, windows, brick fence and cast-iron railings from the west of the building, the remaining fabric is authentic. The 1966 southern redbrick skillion replaces a 1925 addition.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

This document has been based on 'Albany Masonic Hall: Conservation Plan', Lynne Farrow Architect, with Jacqui Sherriff, for Masonic Hall Company, in December 2004, with amendments and/or additions by HCWA staff and the Register Committee.

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

For Documentary Evidence see 'Albany Masonic Hall: Conservation Plan', Lynne Farrow Architect, with Jacqui Sherriff, for Masonic Hall Company, in December 2004, pp. 28-47

Although the building has since been sold by the Masonic Lodge Hall Company Pty Ltd, and there are currently (2007) plans for redevelopment, it continues to function as a meeting place for local Masons.¹ The completion of a new Masonic Hall as part of the Albany Club in Aberdeen Street is expected to take about 18 months.

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

For Physical Evidence see 'Albany Masonic Hall: Conservation Plan', Lynne Farrow Architect, with Jacqui Sherriff, for Masonic Hall Company, in December 2004, pp. 54-73

13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

Traditionally, the design of a Masonic Hall is said to be influenced by the Temple of Solomon. Usually constructed on an east-west axis, the Lodge Master sits at the east end of the Lodge room. A section of black and white chequered flooring was usually incorporated into the room, in an alleged allusion to that of Solomon's Temple. The ceiling was often canopied with zodiacal symbols standing for the universe.

There are 88 Masonic Lodges on the HCWA database, of which 9 are entered on the Register:

00175 *Masonic Temple, Boulder* (1901/02): a single-storey Federation Academic Classical style brick building, designed by M. McKay Hopkins.

00380 *Masonic Hall, Bunbury* (1893, 1935): a single-storey, double volume, brick and corrugated iron building, constructed in 1893 in the Federation Academic style and remodeled in 1935 in the Inter-War Art Deco style, with a dominate and distinctive Inter-War Art Deco style façade to Wittenoom Street. The site is retained by a low brick wall, and contains the Masonic Hall proper along its north and eastern boundaries, with a wing of smaller rooms along the western boundary, set behind an expanse of open lawn.

00637 *Masonic Lodge (fmr), Cue* (1899): a timber framed structure clad with corrugated iron. The place demonstrates an innovative use of building materials and a high degree of craftsmanship.

01046 *Masonic Lodge, Geraldton* (1892, 1921, 1934): a two-storey stone, brick and fibre-cement building, in Federation Free Classical style, constructed for the occupation of the Geraldton Lodge of Freemasons. The original construction in

¹ Telephone conversation with Albany Historical Society, 11 December 2006.

1892 comprised a festive room and entry, with spiral staircase, on the ground floor and a Lodge room on the upper floor.

01275 *Masonic Lodge, Kalgoorlie* (1899/1900): a single-storey Federation Academic Classical style building of pink-coloured sandstone, designed by Harvey G Draper.

01758 *Masonic Hall, Pinjarra* (1903, 1913): a single-story brick and corrugated iron building in Federation Gothic Style, erected in 1903, with later utilitarian additions constructed in timber frame, clad in asbestos cement, with a painted corrugated iron roof. The place is rare as possibly the only Masonic Hall in WA to be built in Federation Gothic Style.

01828 *Nedlands Park Masonic Hall* (1935): a two-storey brick building with terracotta tiled and corrugated metal roofs, a distinctive façade to the street in the Inter War Art Deco style with Masonic interior detailing and contents. The interior spaces, fittings and decorative treatments remain relatively intact.

02444 *Freemasons Hall (fmr), (1929) Subiaco*: a two-storey brick building in Inter War Free Classical style. The front elevation is symmetrical with coved returns and a central arch with Ionic columns leading to the main entrance. A projected and decorated pediment has the words 'Freemasons' Hall' on it. Below this are six pilasters of the Ionic order with deeply moulded stringcourse providing a horizontal pattern.

16003 *Bassendean Masonic Lodge (fmr), (1934)*: a single-storey brick, tile and corrugated iron building.

Buildings in Albany designed in the classical style or incorporating classical elements include:

00003 *Albany Club* (1886): a two-storey building constructed of stuccoed brick and corrugated iron roof, designed in the Victorian Style with Italianate elements.

00028 *The Rocks* (1884): a large two-storey stone house with verandahs, on an imposing site overlooking the town and harbour by William Grylls Knight, first Mayor of Albany.

00058 *Albany House* (1884): a two-storey rendered masonry and iron office building with residential facilities. An early example of a regional branch of the Union Bank in Western Australia, and a substantial pre-gold rush building.

00074 *Albany Town Hall* (1888): a stucco and granite, two-storied public building with a clock tower. It is very much a landmark building with the clock tower being highly visible from along most of the length of York Street.

03572 *Hillside* (1886): a two-storey rendered brick and stone building in the Victorian Filigree style.

Albany Masonic Hall is representative of Lodges in the State and buildings of its era in Albany. Its significance is the rarity of a continuously used Lodge for more than a century.

13. 4 KEY REFERENCES

'Albany Masonic Hall: Conservation Plan', Lynne Farrow Architect, with Jacqui Sherriff, for Masonic Hall Company, in December 2004

13. 5 FURTHER RESEARCH
