



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 wording of this document has been adapted from *St Mary's Anglican Church, Dardanup*, Dardanup Conservation Plan with amendments and/or additions by HCWA staff and the Register Committee.

PRINCIPAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORIC THEME(S)

- 4.5 Making settlements to serve rural Australia
- 8.6 Worshipping

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 406 Religion

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE*

St Mary's Anglican Church, Dardanup is a well designed and executed modest example of a Federation Romanesque style of building in a rural setting, featuring a castellated front porch, compact form and scale, and intricate stained glass Sanctuary windows. (Criterion 1.2)

St Mary's Anglican Church, Dardanup the place is a notable landmark as a prominent building in an open location on the main Picton-Boyanup road. (Criterion 1.3)

St Mary's Anglican Church, Dardanup contributes to the rural character of Dardanup by virtue of its open, treed setting, and together with the former Post Office (1895), Dardanup shop (1902) and Dardanup Hotel (1905), located across the nearby railway line, forms a small historic precinct. (Criterion 1.4)

* 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Canberra, 1991, with additional reference to Richards, O. *Theoretical Framework for Designed Landscapes in WA*, unpublished report, 1997.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 Mary's Anglican Church, Dardanup was among the first of the parish churches erected in the South West following the establishment of the Anglican Diocese of Bunbury in 1904. (Criterion 2.1)

St Mary's Anglican Church, Dardanup demonstrates the growing prosperity of the small rural town of Dardanup at the beginning of the twentieth century, and provides evidence of the influence of the small local Anglican community in a predominantly Irish Roman Catholic town. (Criterion 2.2)

The church has strong associations with Harry Withal Venn, a prominent member of the Forrest government, who played a major role in the erection of the church, and with his wife Charlotte Venn, a prominent parish member and benefactor of the church from its construction to her death in 1936. The stained glass windows in the sanctuary of the church are dedicated to Harry Venn's memory, and an attached plaque commemorates Charlotte's significant involvement in the church. (Criterion 2.3)

11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

St Mary's Anglican Church, Dardanup functions as a repository of the community's history and collective memory, as evidenced by the number of memorials and dedications contained within the church donated by family members, including a number of the prominent early families in the district such as the Venns, Craigs, Johnstons, Bretts, Palmers and Jarvises. (Criterion 4.1)

The church continues to play an important role in the religious and social life of the past and present Anglican community in Dardanup, through regular church services and as a venue for weddings, baptisms and funerals. (Criterion 4.1)

St Mary's Anglican Church, Dardanup contributes to the wider community's sense of place as a local landmark near to a group of buildings associated with the early development of Dardanup. (Criterion 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

St Mary's Anglican Church, Dardanup is the smallest rural example of a Federation Romanesque style church in Western Australia, and is one of few examples of this style in the State. It is unusual for its castellated front porch and intricate stained glass windows in what is otherwise a simple building. (Criterion 5.1)

12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

St Mary's Anglican Church, Dardanup is representative of a rural Anglican Church, designed and constructed in a Federation Romanesque style. (Criterion 6.1)

12. 3 CONDITION

St Mary's Anglican Church, Dardanup is generally in a good condition. The brickwork is generally in a sound condition, however the grey mortar to the walls and buttresses is in a very poor condition. The large circular wall vent at the apex of the gable is in a poor condition. The front doors are in a good condition although the fanlight above has been boarded over. Generally all timber windows are in a good condition although all timber work requires refurbishment. To the east elevation the windows have a steel mesh over which is in a poor condition. The arched frame to the door to the vestry is cracked and the paint work is in a poor condition. There are fine cracks in the walls over the arched openings to the north and south of the nave and patching of former cracks over the entry doors and north arch.

12. 4 INTEGRITY

The building has a high degree of integrity. It continues its original function as an Anglican Church.

12. 5 AUTHENTICITY

The place has high authenticity. Most of the original form and fabric remains, although minor alterations have introduced some new finishes and some landscape elements have been altered.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

Supporting evidence has been taken from “St Mary’s Church, Dardanup, Conservation Plan” prepared by Naomi Lawrance, Architect for *St Mary’s Church Dardanup* Parish Committee and Heritage Council of WA in 2001.

Key Sections Used: Documentary Evidence pp9-28; Physical Evidence pp.29-59; Analysis of the Documentary and Physical Evidence pp.60-66.

13. 1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

For a description of the documentary evidence, refer to “St Mary’s Church, Dardanup, Conservation Plan” prepared by Naomi Lawrance, Architect for *St Mary’s Church Dardanup* Parish Committee and Heritage Council of WA.

13. 2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

For a description of the physical evidence, refer to “St Mary’s Church, Dardanup, Conservation Plan” prepared by Naomi Lawrance, Architect for *St Mary’s Church Dardanup* Parish Committee and Heritage Council of WA.

13. 3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

For a comparative analysis refer to “St Mary’s Church, Dardanup, Conservation Plan” prepared by Naomi Lawrance, Architect for *St Mary’s Church Dardanup* Parish Committee and Heritage Council of WA.

13. 4 KEY REFERENCES

“St Mary’s Church, Dardanup, Conservation Plan” prepared by Naomi Lawrance, Architect for *St Mary’s Church Dardanup* Parish Committee and Heritage Council of WA.

13. 5 FURTHER RESEARCH
