

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)

- 5.6 Working in the home
- 8.1 Organising recreation
- 8.6 Worshipping
- 8.10.4 Designing and building fine buildings
- 8.12 Living in and around Australian homes
- 8.14 Living in the country and rural settlements
- 9.2.1 Being children
- 9.2.2 Joining youth organisations
- 9.3.1 Establishing partnerships

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 306 Domestic activities
- 404 Community services and utilities
- 405 Sport, recreation and entertainment
- 406 Religion

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE*

Wesley Church Group, Albany is an excellent example of a church complex with the Church (Victorian Academic Gothic) and Manse (Victorian Rustic Gothic) both particularly fine, substantial and ornately decorated buildings; (Criterion 1.1)

The Church and Manse are both finely designed buildings demonstrating artistic excellence in their overall form and detailing. (Criterion 1.2)

Wesley Church Group, Albany is a landmark in central Albany, as a collection of substantial church buildings fronting Duke Street and the Church in particular is a landmark element, visible from Albany foreshore, with its spire (from 1891 to the

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Canberra, 1991, with additional reference to Richards, O. *Theoretical Framework for Designed Landscapes in WA*, unpublished report, 1997.

present the only church spire in Albany) a feature of the town skyline. (Criterion 1.3)

Wesley Church Group, Albany contributes to an historic precinct of buildings along Duke Street, dating from the 1890s on. (Criterion 1.3)

The individual elements of *Wesley Church Group, Albany* together form a cohesive group of church buildings, closely sited and constructed to complement each other. (Criterion 1.4)

11. 2. HISTORIC VALUE

Wesley Church Group, Albany has been the site of the Methodist Church in Albany since 1863 and demonstrates in its multiple construction stages the expansion and significance of the Methodist population in the area. (Criterion 2.1)

The Church was constructed in 1889-1891 as Albany boomed following the opening of the Great Southern Railway, and its substantial size is evidence of the confidence and optimism in the town at the time. (Criterion 2.2)

Wesley Church Group, Albany was designed by several prominent architects, including Alfred M. Bonython (Church, 1889-1891) and James Hine (Albert Hall, 1914) and also includes the work of less prominent architects who designed many local buildings, including George Johnston (Manse, 1903) and Harold Smith (Lesser/Kindergarten Hall, 1958). (Criterion 2.3)

Wesley Church Group, Albany is associated with many prominent Albany citizens, including, Margaret and John Robinson, the latter a founder of Albany's main department store, who donated the cost of the manse and much of Albert Hall, and their son Herbert, a mayor and Member of Parliament who donated land for Albert Hall. (Criterion 2.3)

The Manse exemplifies the societal expectations of the time where the public areas were more highly decorated than those areas where visitors were not expected to visit. (Criterion 2.4)

11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

Wesley Church Group, Albany has since its inception in 1863 been the hub of Methodism in the Albany region, and later a vibrant parish of the Uniting Church, and as such is highly valued by the community as a social and religious centre. (Criterion 4.1)

Wesley Church Group, Albany contributes to the Albany community's sense of place as a social and visual landmark, with a strong program of community works extending its influence beyond church members. (Criterion 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

Albert Hall is a rare and fine example of a church hall designed in the Federation Gothic style. (Criterion 5.1)

The Manse is a rare and fine example of a residence designed in Victorian Rustic Gothic style, and a rare example of church housing in this style. (Criteria 5.1 & 5.2)

12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

The Church is an excellent representative example of Victorian Academic Gothic architecture, and Albert Hall is also a good example of the Federation Gothic style. (Criterion 6.1)

Wesley Church Group, Albany is an excellent and substantial representative example of the practice of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries of locating church worship, social and residential buildings together on one site, where possible sited near the centre of a town. (Criterion 6.2)

12. 3 CONDITION

Wesley Church Group, Albany is in good condition.

The Church is in good condition. Minor maintenance issues are identified in the conservation plan. External paving is causing problems with rising damp, and there is also some falling damp at the west and south walls, which receive the prevailing rains.

The Manse is in good condition. Joinery and other detailing requires maintenance and the concrete verandah floors at front and rear, as well as other hard surfacing, are causing problems with rising damp.

Albert Hall, including the Fellowship Room, and the Lesser/Kindergarten Hall are also in good condition. Lime mortar is in a poor state and there are some issues of rust. A small amount of cracking has been identified in the Fellowship Room.

Centenary Hall is in fair to good condition. The original lime-based mortar and areas of cement mortar replacement are in poor condition. Brickwork around some windows is allowing moisture to penetrate. There is some cracking to the walls and the floors are unstable in some places.

12. 4 INTEGRITY

Wesley Church Group, Albany has high integrity. All the buildings continue to be used for their original purposes, with the minor exception of the Lesser/Kindergarten Hall, which is no longer used as a kindergarten. However, it was also built as a church hall and meeting room, and this function continues to the present.

12. 5 AUTHENTICITY

Wesley Church Group, Albany has high authenticity, with little change to the original buildings and most extant fabric authentic.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

The documentation for this place was prepared by Clare Menck in July 2014, with amendments and/or additions by the State Heritage Office and the Register Committee.

The heritage assessment summarises information presented in Lynne Farrow Architect & Helen Munt Historian, 'Wesley Church Group, Albany: Conservation Plan', April 2013, prepared for the Albany Wesley Congregation of the Uniting Church in Australia.

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

Wesley Church Group, Albany, comprises a Church (1891), Manse (1903), Albert Hall (1914), Centenary Hall (1930) and Lesser/Kindergarten Hall (1959), constructed for the Methodist Church.

The Methodist movement was founded by Church of England minister John Wesley in England in 1738. It emphasised personal devotion, charitable works and missionary activities. Although Wesley saw Methodism as a revival movement within the Church of England, it increasingly conflicted with Anglicanism and Wesley also provided structure for its continuation as an independent organisation. Four years after his death in 1791, the Methodist Church separated from the Church of England. Methodism was not tied to traditional English parish structure, and as such it was particularly successful among populations uprooted from their origins: first the urban working classes forming in response to the Industrial Revolution, and later the migrant populations settling British colonies around the world.¹ Although subject to persecution, it was reported that there were over 70,000 Methodist in Britain by the turn of the nineteenth century, and over 134,000 members in other countries.²

Methodists arrived in Western Australia as a group in February 1830, led by Joseph and John Hardey and the Clarkson family, and set up a small religious community at what is now Maylands. Small chapels were built in 1834 and 1841, but the first substantial Methodist church in the Metropolitan area was *Wesley Church, Perth*, constructed in 1870.³ The 1848 census listed 276 Methodists in the Colony, out of a recorded settler population of 4,622.⁴

A non-denominational church was constructed in Albany in 1835, and Methodists were one of several groups that used it for worship and prayer meetings from this time.⁵

From the 1860s, the Methodists planned for their own church.⁶ The land was gifted to the church by Sophia and John Uglow in 1862. Sophia had inherited it

¹ Justo L. Gonzalez, *The Story of Christianity: Volume 2: The Reformation to the Present Day*, Harper Collins, New York, 1985, pp.209-216.

Note: Methodism in America separated from both Anglicanism and British Methodism in 1784, largely in response to American Independence from Britain. However, it was British Methodists who came to Western Australia.

² Lynne Farrow Architect & Helen Munt Historian, 'Wesley Church Group, Albany: Conservation Plan', April 2013, prepared for the Albany Wesley Congregation of the Uniting Church in Australia, p.9

³ SHO Register Documentation, P02003 *Wesley Church, Perth*, May 1995

⁴ Alison Longworth, 'Methodism in Western Australia, 1829-1977', in Glen O'Brien & Hilary M. Carey (eds), *Methodism in Australia: A History*, Ashgate Publishing, Surrey UK & Burlington USA, 2015, p.93

⁵ Farrow & Munt, 'Wesley Church Group, Albany: Conservation Plan', April 2013, p.9

⁶ Farrow & Munt, 'Wesley Church Group, Albany: Conservation Plan', April 2013, pp.9-10

from her first husband, Sergeant Philip Baker, who had been recipient of the original Crown Grant for the land. A Chapel was completed in 1863, constructed of brick by William Thomas, with woodwork by John Underwood Green. In addition to worship, the Chapel was used for Sunday School classes. The latter were subsidised by the government because, in keeping with Methodist philosophies of practical service to the poor, they taught reading and writing.⁷

Sunday School was a development of nineteenth century Protestantism aimed at fostering both literacy and biblical knowledge among the poor. Sunday Schools were largely offered into poor communities by middle class churches, and became a very important aspect of Christian practice through the nineteenth century, with Sunday School attendance often outnumbering congregational worship numbers. By the mid-nineteenth century Methodism, originally a church largely for the poor, was becoming increasingly middle class.⁸

Sophia Uglow had lived in Albany from 1837. After her first husband died, in 1845 she married widower John Uglow, a former farmer who had established a store in Albany. Both were committed Methodists and played a significant role in lobbying for a permanent minister and fundraising for the Church.⁹

By 1870, Methodists formed 5% of the colony's population. Growth of the church more than kept pace with the general population increase, and the 1891 census recorded 9% of the population as Methodists.¹⁰

The first permanent Methodist minister for Albany arrived in 1871, prior to which travelling preachers served the local community. The congregation grew and in 1876 the Chapel was extended by 20 feet and a new vestry added. Sophia Uglow sold the congregation a small hipped-roof cottage next door to the east of the Chapel, for use as a manse. When the first married minister arrived, in 1881, the cottage was extended with five additional rooms.¹¹

In 1884, Rev Thomas Clarke Laurance's wife purchased a bell in Ireland that was hung in a wooden tower northeast of the Chapel.¹²

As the congregation continued to grow, a larger church was needed. Plans were drawn in 1889 by Alfred Bonython of Adelaide, and local builders John Pringle and H. Boundy were appointed to construct the new building. It was constructed west of the Chapel, on land obtained from Sophia Uglow. Mrs Uglow died in 1891, shortly before the new Church opened in September of that year.¹³

Albany was growing rapidly in this period. It was the main port for the Colony up to the construction of Fremantle Harbour in 1897. The Great Southern Railway opened in 1889, dramatically improving the town's connection with its hinterland as well as with Perth. Gold had already been discovered in the Kimberley and discoveries in the Eastern Goldfields would soon follow. The Methodists' decision

⁷ Farrow & Munt, 'Wesley Church Group, Albany: Conservation Plan', April 2013, p.10

⁸ Justo L. Gonzalez, *The Story of Christianity: Volume 2: The Reformation to the Present Day*, Harper Collins, New York, 1985, pp.254-55 & 272

⁹ Farrow & Munt, 'Wesley Church Group, Albany: Conservation Plan', April 2013, p.35

¹⁰ Marian Aveling, 'Western Australian Society: The Religious Aspect', in C.T. Stannage (ed), *A New History of Western Australia*, UWA Press, Nedlands, 1981, p.592

¹¹ Farrow & Munt, 'Wesley Church Group, Albany: Conservation Plan', April 2013, pp.9-111

¹² Farrow & Munt, 'Wesley Church Group, Albany: Conservation Plan', April 2013, p.11

¹³ Farrow & Munt, 'Wesley Church Group, Albany: Conservation Plan', April 2013, pp.13-14

to build a church with seating for 450, despite having a membership of only 33 in 1889, reflects this growth and confidence in Albany.¹⁴

The new church featured a slender spire covered in lead tiles, which as the only church spire in Albany became a landmark feature.¹⁵

A school was opened in the Chapel, now used as a hall, in 1891. It was non-denominational, originally known as Albany Collegiate School and from 1895 renamed as Albany James' School on account of the teachers, Mr and Mrs James.¹⁶

Evangelical Protestant churches across Australia experienced rapid growth in the 1890s, including the Methodists, Baptists and Churches of Christ. The period saw these churches engage in vigorous moral and social campaigns, including campaigning against alcohol, gambling and prostitution, urging Sabbath observance, establishing women's refuges, lobbying for women's suffrage and demanding better wages and working conditions.¹⁷

The original manse required replacement by the 1890s, but the Trustees had no funds for this. John and Margaret Robinson, members of the congregation, subsequently donated funds for construction of a more substantial manse, along with much of its furnishings, with the congregation fundraising to complete the fit-out. The original manse was demolished in 1903. A new stone residence was constructed in its place, designed by local architect George Johnston and constructed by Charles Layton, a well-known identity in Albany who was an undertaker in addition to a builder, a local Councillor and for a time being licensee of the Esplanade Hotel. Working with Thomas Bros (masons) they reused as much material from the earlier house as possible. In addition to reusing the earlier bricks, joists and floorboards, recycled elements included the former front door being rehung as the new back door and a cedar mantelpiece being reinstalled in the study. The new residence, completed in October 1903, included octagonal chimneys, the only ones known in Albany.¹⁸

The Robinsons had arrived in Albany in 1878 and by the 1890s John Robinson was a notable Albany businessman, a founder of the town's principle department store Drew Robinson & Co. He held many senior roles at the Church, including Treasurer, Sunday School Superintendent and Senior Circuit Steward, as well as serving the Methodist Home for Children, Education Board and Albany Mechanic's Institute. A memorial window for Margaret Robinson was installed in the church by her son Herbert, later Mayor and then MLA for Albany, following her death in 1910.¹⁹

Land adjacent to the Church premises was purchased in 1913 by Herbert Robinson and donated to the Church for the purpose of constructing a larger hall, which was required to cater for the burgeoning Sunday School. Perth

¹⁴ Farrow & Munt, 'Wesley Church Group, Albany: Conservation Plan', April 2013, pp.14-15; SHO Register Documentation, P03262 *Albany Railway Station*, August 2009

¹⁵ Farrow & Munt, 'Wesley Church Group, Albany: Conservation Plan', April 2013, p.15

¹⁶ Farrow & Munt, 'Wesley Church Group, Albany: Conservation Plan', April 2013, p.16

¹⁷ Marian Aveling, 'Western Australian Society: The Religious Aspect', in C.T. Stannage (ed), *A New History of Western Australia*, UWA Press, Nedlands, 1981, p.598

¹⁸ Farrow & Munt, 'Wesley Church Group, Albany: Conservation Plan', April 2013, p.16-17

¹⁹ Farrow & Munt, 'Wesley Church Group, Albany: Conservation Plan', April 2013, p.20, 33-34; SHO Register Documentation, P15562 *Garryowen*, July 2007

architect James Hine drew plans and Mr A Thomson of Katanning was awarded the construction contract. Thomson was also a Katanning Road Board member and Member of Parliament.

In 1914, the Chapel was largely demolished and the new building erected in its place, opened in November 1914 as 'Albert Hall'.²⁰

An honour roll was installed in the Church after World War One, listing both servicemen and nurses.²¹

In 1930, a further hall for young people was added to the rear of the Church, specifically designed to cater for indoor sports popular at the time, including roller skating, table tennis and badminton. The new building, designed by parishioner William Mawson and built by Jonas Beetham, was officially named 'Centenary Hall', acknowledging the centenary of Methodists arriving in the Colony in 1830, but was also known as the Young People's Welfare Hall.²²

Mawson and his wife Esther were devout Methodists, holding many roles within the Church. Mawson also served as a Town Councillor and Mayor, as well as senior committees for several other community and business associations. He was a wheelwright and joiner.²³

The Albany Kindergarten Association began using Centenary Hall in 1953, and the Church subsequently planned new buildings to better accommodate them. Toilets and a shed were demolished at the rear of Albert Hall in 1958 to allow for construction of considerable extensions to the 1914 structure. The additions, including the 'Kindergarten Hall', were completed in 1959, with the new premises used by the AKA to teach Aboriginal and disadvantaged children.²⁴

A new organ was installed in the Church in 1966, constructed by Paul Hufner of Inglewood. This replaced the small chamber pipe organ that had been installed in the gallery in 1893-94 and relocated near the altar in 1941. The 1884 bell, which had been on loan to Albany High School from the 1920s, was rehung at the Church in 1972.²⁵

Across Australia, Methodist, Presbyterian and Congregationalist Churches amalgamated in 1977 to form the Uniting Church in Australia. Albany's Wesleyan Methodist and Presbyterian (Scots) Churches became a new parish together, there being no Congregationalist groups in Albany, but each continued to operate as relatively separate congregations. The Methodist became Albany Wesley Uniting Church. The Presbyterians had been established in Albany since 1889.²⁶

In the twenty-first century, the Wesley and Scots congregations combined to form one group, on account of declining numbers. The combined congregation alternates its worship services between the Wesley and Scots Uniting Churches, the latter an 1892 building.²⁷

20 Farrow & Munt, 'Wesley Church Group, Albany: Conservation Plan', April 2013, pp.21-23

21 Farrow & Munt, 'Wesley Church Group, Albany: Conservation Plan', April 2013, p.25

22 Farrow & Munt, 'Wesley Church Group, Albany: Conservation Plan', April 2013, pp.26-27

23 Farrow & Munt, 'Wesley Church Group, Albany: Conservation Plan', April 2013, pp.39-40

24 Farrow & Munt, 'Wesley Church Group, Albany: Conservation Plan', April 2013, pp.28-29

25 Farrow & Munt, 'Wesley Church Group, Albany: Conservation Plan', April 2013, pp.25 & 30

26 Farrow & Munt, 'Wesley Church Group, Albany: Conservation Plan', April 2013, pp.15 & 30-31

27 Farrow & Munt, 'Wesley Church Group, Albany: Conservation Plan', April 2013, pp.32-33

In 2017, *Wesley Church Group, Albany* remains in use for various church purposes. The Church is regularly used for worship and community events. The Fellowship Room is a meeting room. The Kindergarten Hall is now known as the Lesser Hall and is in use for congregational gatherings such as morning teas and craft meetings. Albert Hall functions as the main church hall. It includes a stage and is used for various classes and public events such as Festival of Perth Great Southern concerts, the latter on account of its good acoustics. Centenary Hall is partitioned into five spaces and used as office, meeting room, museum, and store. The Manse continues to be the residence of the Uniting Church minister for Albany. The congregation has a strong outreach focus and has many connections into the wider community.²⁸

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

Wesley Church Group, Albany, comprises a Church (1891), Manse (1903), Albert Hall (1914), Centenary Hall (1930) and Lesser/Kindergarten Hall (1959), constructed for the Methodist Church.

Wesley Church Group, Albany is located at Lot 3 Duke Street, within the central area of Albany. It is part of a collection of historic buildings along Duke Street, the earliest of which date from the 1830s. Albert Hall, the Church and the Manse are sited adjacent to each other (west to east) facing onto Duke Street. The Kindergarten Hall is effectively a rear extension to Albert Hall and Centenary Hall is constructed to the rear of the Church.

Wesley Church

The Church is a granite building in the Victorian Academic Gothic style, with red brick used as a contrasting element in windows and decorative elements. The building has a steeply pitched gable roof of corrugated iron with a lantern spire at the ridge. Overall the building has a symmetrical plan.

The front façade has a parapeted gable and is separated into three bays by two granite buttresses. The two side bays have double timber entrance doors, each below a decorative bicoloured brick arches that contain small round leadlight windows. The central bay, which is larger than the others, contains the main decorative elements: three lancet windows at ground floor level, a large triptych window above this and an eye-shaped vent in the upper portion, all encased in red brick, with bicolour brickwork in the arch over the triptych window. The apex of the gable has a decorative panel of red and turquoise tiles and a finial. A lantern spire is located on the roof ridge about 2-3 metres back from the front façade.

The sides of the building are each divided into five bays by six granite buttresses. Each bay has a pair of lancet windows with red brick casings. The central bay on the east wall has had these replaced with one large figurative stained glass memorial window.

The rear elevation is similar to the front façade, but less ornate. A faceted single-storey section housing the vestry projects out at ground level.

Internally, the Church is one large nave, with an entrance hall at each of the southern corners and a choir loft over these. The wooden pews are original.

²⁸ Farrow & Munt, 'Wesley Church Group, Albany: Conservation Plan', April 2013, pp.1-2, 33

Manse

The Manse is an ornate and substantial residence designed in the Victorian Rustic Gothic style. It is predominantly granite, with brick detailing and a hipped corrugated iron roof.

The asymmetrical south elevation (front) of the Manse is particularly ornate, including: projecting arched gothic entrance porch with parapeted gable, six hexagonal chimneys, skillion verandah with decorative timber brackets and gothic frieze, octagonal-roofed projecting bay near the southeast corner, projecting bay with single storey turret at the southwest corner, tessellated tiles to the entrance porch, side lights and fan lights to the single leaf front door, quoining to corners and window casings, decorative geometric-pattern panelling at the base of the faceted bays, scrolled eaves brackets and turned arched pilasters to the bay windows.

Other elevations are comparatively plain. Windows are double-hung sashes. The rear elevation has a central verandah between two projecting wings.

Internally, the Manse is arranged around a U-shaped hallway, which is accessed from a spacious entrance hall. Most of the rooms, including the main bedrooms, living areas and study, are on the outside of the hallway, which wraps two smaller bedrooms (originally servants' quarters) and the bathroom. Rooms are spacious, and detailing is high quality, especially in the entrance, drawing room and dining room. The latter two rooms both retain ornate timber mantelpieces with tiled hearths, of which the drawing room tiles are believed to be original. Fireplaces with less detailed mantels are present in the study and bedrooms. An original serving hatch between dining room and kitchen has also been retained. The higher skirting boards, ornate architraves to the doors and decorative cornices of the hallway, drawing room and dining room are demonstrably different to the simpler features of the remaining private rooms of the dwelling, reflecting the fact that visitors were expected to view only the three public spaces.

Albert Hall

Albert Hall is a predominantly brick building with a granite façade and brick detailing, constructed in the Federation Gothic style, with a steeply pitched corrugated iron roof.

Albert Hall is sited immediately adjacent to the Church and its gabled southern façade complements the earlier church, with matching steep gable roof, but simpler detailing and a smaller volume. The double timber entrance doors are central to the south (front) façade, inset to form a porch, with an arched lancet fan light over the door (not inset) and the whole entrance framed in red brick quoining. Above the door are five narrow rectangular windows divided by brick piers. The gable over these windows is lined with half-timbered panelling and a centrally located metal louvred vent.

The sides of Albert Hall are divided into five bays by projecting brick piers. On the west side, there are four windows, each a double lancet within a single arch. On the east side there are three of these windows and the north bay has a timber door.

The Fellowship Room is a brick structure with steeply pitched corrugated iron roof, located north of the northeast corner of Albert Hall. Internally, it has a high vaulted ceiling, lined with pine boarding.

Internally, Albert Hall is one large space plus the Fellowship Room. The Hall has a timber floor and timber lined ceiling. At the sides it matches the roof pitch, and in the centre it flattens out to a long north-south panel. A stage is at the north end of the Hall.

Lesser/Kindergarten Hall

The Kindergarten Hall abuts the north side of Albert Hall, and there is a connecting door through the kitchen. The Kindergarten Hall is a single-storey brick building with shallow-pitched asbestos roof, in the Post-war International Style. It is divided by concrete pillars into six bays along its west façade and four on its east. The west side has large windows between the pillars in the central bays but the east side bays are mostly blank brick walls, with two double-door entrances. The southeast corner of the Kindergarten Hall abuts the west wall of the Fellowship Room. This section is the kitchen, store and hallway and serves both the Kindergarten Hall and Albert Hall. The main volume of the Kindergarten Hall is a single room with a low-pitched raked ceiling lined in plaster. Toilets are located at the north end.

Centenary Hall

Centenary Hall is brick building with a medium-pitched roof lined in corrugated iron sheeting. Centenary Hall has few distinguishing stylistic features but is designed in sympathy with the surrounding buildings and has most in common with the Inter-War Gothic style.²⁹

Centenary Hall is largely symmetrical, with the exception of a store added on the north side. It is divided east-west into five bays by brick pillars with cement copings, with a double timber door central within the south elevation and another in the centre of the east end. Internally there are timber floors and ceilings of plasterboard panels on aluminium strips. The large original internal space has been divided by timber veneer partitions into five smaller rooms, the largest of which comprises about one third of the original hall space.

13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION³⁰

Church Building Groups

It was common practice through the nineteenth and twentieth centuries for church congregations to co-locate a church, hall and some form of housing on one site. The housing for protestant churches was usually a family residence (manse/rectory/presbytery) while Catholic churches often had accommodation for a group of adults (presbytery/convent). Congregations, especially Catholic, also often constructed school buildings on the same site or nearby. Some church groups also have associated graveyards.

The SHO database lists 32 places that include a church, church hall and religious housing, of which 11 are on the State Register of Heritage Places. Sixteen of these groups date at least in part from the nineteenth century (eight on the Register).

²⁹ Note: the Conservation Plan identifies this building as Inter-War Chicagoesque style, but this appears to be an error.

³⁰ Comparative information relating to architects and builders is based on Farrow & Munt, 'Wesley Church Group, Albany: Conservation Plan', April 2013, pp.36-42. Additional information has been added from the State Heritage Office database.

Groups of church buildings have often been constructed over a span of time and as a result display a range of architectural styles. It is also common for the church building to be architecturally significant, while the residence and often also the hall are more modestly designed. *Wesley Church Group, Albany* is also one of the more substantial groups, especially among Protestant churches, as it comprises three halls, a large manse, and a very substantial Church designed to seat 450 people.

Methodism

Methodists arrived in Western Australia as a group in February 1830. Small Methodist chapels were subsequently built in Perth in 1834 and 1841, but the first substantial Methodist church in the Metropolitan area was P2003 *Wesley Church, Perth*, constructed in 1870, after the first Chapel had been built at Albany.³¹ Methodists also formed a very large proportion of the early population of Greenough, encouraged by prominent businessman and Methodist church member, George Shenton.³²

The State Heritage Office database lists 146 places with a religious use associated with the Methodist church', of which 14 are on the Register. Of the 146 places, 30 were constructed before 1901, including the following 6 registered places:

- P0955 *Wesley Church, Fremantle* (1889)
- P1167 *Wesley Methodist Chapel (fmr), Greenough* (1867-1870)
- P2003 *Wesley Church, Perth* (1870-1871, RHP)
- P1234 *Dongara Uniting Church* (1884)
- P2237 *Charles Street Methodist Mission Chapel & Methodist Church, West Perth* (1890)
- P2462 *Wesley Church and Manse (fmr), Guildford* (1883-1892)

Wesley Church Group, Albany contains an early example of a Methodist Church (1889-1891), and the site as a whole is an early representative example of a place of Methodist worship.

Architectural Styles

Victorian Academic Gothic (Church)

The SHO database notes 11 Churches designed in the Victorian Academic Gothic style, of which 10 are on the State Register of Heritage Places. Three of these are outside the Metropolitan area, with one in the Great Southern region:

- P0878 *Scots Uniting Church* (1892) – constructed of stone
- P1891 *St John's Anglican Church & Parish Hall, Northam* (1890) - constructed of stone
- P2003 *Wesley Church* (1870) – of brick construction
- P2101 *St George's Cathedral, Perth* (1879) - constructed of stone

³¹ SHO Register Documentation, P02003 *Wesley Church, Perth*, May 1995

³² SHO Register Documentation, P02003 *Wesley Church, Perth*, October 1999

- P2124 *St Mary's Roman Catholic Cathedral*, Perth (1865) - constructed of stone
- P2462 *Wesley Church and Manse (fmr)*, Guildford (1883) – rendered brick construction
- P2482 *St Matthews Church*, Guildford (1873) – of brick construction
- P2496 *St Mary's Church and Graveyard*, Middle Swan (1838) - of brick construction
- P2878 *St Patrick's Catholic Church, Presbytery & Hall*, York (1887 to 1894) – of local stone construction
- P16297 *St Joseph's Catholic Church Group*, Albany (1877) – of rendered brick construction

The Victorian Academic Gothic style is an architectural style commonly applied to early church buildings. Wesley Church Albany is an excellent, early representative example of a church designed in this style.

Federation Gothic style

Albert Hall

There are 25 places (13 RHP) in the SHO database linked to both Federation Gothic style and the use 'Church Hall'. However, it appears that most of these are groups that include a Church in the style, and a hall in some other style. Where a church hall is in the Federation Gothic style it was often designed as a church and converted to a hall after a second, larger church was built (eg. P00487 *Congregational Hall & Congregational Church, Claremont*, (RHP) with 1896 hall and 1906 church; P16300 *Uniting Church Group, Northam* (RHP) with 1892 hall and 1901 church, formerly Methodist). Two places are on the Register where the church hall was purpose-built as a hall in Federation Gothic style: P00489 *St Aidan's Uniting Church and Hall*, 1903 church with 1911 hall) and P02101 *Burt Memorial Hall, Perth* (1918), associated with P02102 *St George's Cathedral*.

Albert Hall is a rare and fine example of a church hall designed in the Federation Gothic style.

Manse

There is one place on the SHO database that comprises Religious Housing or Quarters' designed in the Victorian Rustic Gothic style. P3213 *Holy Trinity Church, Hall & Rectory* (RHP) includes a Rectory in the Victorian Gothic style, with the associated church and hall in a different style. The SHO database lists 4 single storey residences in the Victorian Rustic Gothic style, including the following place which is on the Register: P0046 *Hawthorndene*, Albany (1892).

The Manse is a rare and fine example of a residence designed in Victorian Rustic Gothic style, and a rare example of church housing in this style.

Post War International style (Kindergarten Hall)

The SHO database lists 81 places in Post-War International style, of which 21 are on the State Register. Most of these are more substantial buildings than the Kindergarten Hall, and better demonstrations of the style.

Notable Architects and Builders

Alfred M. Bonython – Architect (Church, 1891):

Places designed by Bonython include a four-storey office building for the National Mutual Life Assurance Company Perth, P00955 *Wesley Church, Fremantle* (RHP), P02890 York Methodist Church and several residences including for E.C. Shenton.

George Johnston (also Johnson) – Architect (Manse, 1903):

Other Albany places designed by Johnston are: Scots Uniting Church Manse (1898), Spencer Street residence for Mr Waters (1902), Reservoir at Middleton Road (1902), P00023 *Albany Masonic Hall* (1903, RHP) hall and residence cnr Collie Street and Stirling Terrace (c.1904), and P02626 St George's Church Hall Wagin (1912).

James Hine – Architect (Albert Hall, 1914):

Hine designed many church buildings, including: P00210 *Queens Methodist Church, Boulder* (1903, RHP), P00489 Bagot Road Congregational Church, Subiaco (1905) and P02099 *St Andrews Presbyterian Church, Perth* (1906, RHP). He also designed 1907 additions at P03857 Methodist Ladies College Claremont and the first buildings at P02379 *Wesley College, South Perth* (1923, RHP) and served as the latter school's architect until his death in 1928.

Harold Smith – Architect (Kindergarten Hall, 1958):

Smith, as part of Hobbs Winning and Leighton architectural practice in the 1950s, and later Hobbs Smith & Holmes, was involved in the design of many buildings in Albany and surrounding areas, including offices, shopping centres, social clubs, halls, school buildings and commercial premises.

Charles Layton – Builder (Manse, 1903):

Layton's other work includes P00051 *Albany Courthouse* (1897) and P00074 *Albany Town Hall* (1888, RHP).

Alexander Thomson – Builder (Albert Hall, 1914):

Public buildings built by Thomson were mainly in Katanning, and include: P01358 *Presbyterian Church* (1906, RHP), P01337 Royal Exchange Hotel (1905), P03317 *Mechanics' Institute* (1906, RHP) and the private hospital Brockhurst (1911).

13. 4 KEY REFERENCES

Lynne Farrow Architect & Helen Munt Historian, 'Wesley Church Group, Albany: Conservation Plan', April 2013, prepared for the Albany Wesley Congregation of the Uniting Church in Australia.

13. 5 FURTHER RESEARCH
