

Irwin Shire Council

Municipal Inventory Place Record

Uses of the Place

Original Use: Church

Current Use: Church

Description

Walls: Rendered Stone

Roof: Corrugated iron

Condition: Good

Integrity: Medium

Orig'l Fabric:

Modifications

1996

Situated on a prominent corner location, this medium sized rectangular building is of rendered random rubble limestone construction. Built in Victorian Gothic Revival Style, the church has a steeply pitched corrugated iron roof. The north and south walls are buttressed and have three tall arched gothic windows. The only entrance is via double timber doors set into a small porch to the west end of the building. The porch roof has the same pitch as the main building. Original windows to the front (west) facade were filled in but were reopened in 1997. The building is presently undergoing restoration work in accordance with a conservation plan.

2004

The building has been restored and maintained in accordance with the recommendations of the conservation plan.

History

Const'n Date: 1884

Source:

Architect: Isaac Walker

Builder: W.H Linthorne

A building committee was formed in 1883 with the Rev. Thomas Bird as chairman. Shortly after, tenders were called and W.H. Linthorne was appointed to build the church at the contract price of £314. The Rev Bird laid the foundation stone and the two opening services held in 1884 were attended by 218 persons. The first officers of the church were F. Pearse (Society Steward), D. Brand (Chapel Steward), E.W. Clarkson and R. Pettit (Poor Stewards), John Rowland and M. Fripp (Caretaker). The first minister was the Rev. E. Holiday.

(Source: Considine & Griffiths, "Conservation Plan of Dongara Uniting Church", 1995)

The Uniting Church Committee received the Shire of Irwin Heritage Award in 2002 in recognition of their contribution to the conservation of the Dongara Uniting fmr. Methodist Church.

Chronology Entries

1884 The Methodist (now Uniting) Church was opened. Built by W. Linthorne on land donated by him, at a cost of £314/14/7.

Bunney, R & Ellery, K, Dongara 1839 - 198-, Geraldton Newspapers Print, 1975

22/06/2001 The Uniting Church Committee was awarded the Shire of Irwin Heritage Award for their efforts in the conservation of the place.

Geraldton Guardian

Historic Theme(s)

HCWA

AHC

406 Religion

8.6.1 Worshipping together

104 Land allocation and subdivision

8.6.4 Making places for worship

Statement of Significance

Dongara Uniting Church, a rendered sandstone Gothic style church with fibro cement roof, has cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:

- the place is important for its landmark quality on the intersection of Waldeck Street and Moreton Terrace
 - the place is part of a precinct of historic buildings, centred around Waldeck Street, that relates to the earliest period of Dongara's history
 - the place, a well composed, competent example of a sparingly decorated rural Victorian Rustic Gothic church, contributes to the aesthetic quality of the cultural environs within which it is located
 - the place reflects the pioneering history of the district and the growth of the town
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-the place illustrates the rise and strong influence of Methodism in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries in Western Australia and, in particular, the Victoria District; and,
-the place has been in continuous use as a place of worship and community activity since it was built in 1884 and is highly valued by the church congregation and the wider community.
The Church Hall, built in 1988, is not considered to have cultural heritage significance at this stage.

Management Category: 1A

PERMANENT ENTRY ON THE STATE REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES.

Highest level of protection appropriate. Provide maximum incentives under the Town Planning Scheme with encouragement to the owner to conserve the significance of the place. Prepare a floor plan and photographically record the place prior to any redevelopment.

Other Listings

Shire of Irwin - Town Planning Scheme (53); 01/01/1977
NTWA - Classified; 05/09/1983
HCWA - State Heritage Register (Interim); 06/09/1996
HCWA - State Heritage Register (Permanent); 21/01/1997

Supporting Information

IDHS Records
AHC Reference 009652 01-02
HCWA Database No. 1234
Considine & Griffiths, "Conservation Plan of Dongara Uniting Church", 1995
Bunney, R. and Ellery, K., "Dongara 1839-197-".
Uniting Church Inventory.

Additional Photographs

Date of Photograph 16/10/1996 IR021-1

Source: *Suba & Grundy*



Uniting Church, south-west aspects
