

Area: Greenough	Place Number: 97	Category: 2
Assessment Date: 30/09/1997	Last Revision Date: 09/03/2005	
HCWA Number: 4308	Asset ID: MCH126540	

PLACE DETAILS

Name:	St John's Catholic Church (Fmr)
Other Names:	St John's Catholic Church
Type of Place:	Church
Address:	Bridgid Road
Suburb:	Bootenal

LOCATION

Map	Geraldton	GPS	6804792.00	GPS	278896.000
Reference:	N.E.	Northing:	0000	Easting:	000



Photo Description:

16/09/2004

Henkel

Church adapted for use as residence

SITE DETAILS

Lot No.:	CG 1369	Assess No.:	63095
Reserv No.:		Vol/Fol:	
Dia/Plan:			

USE OF PLACE

Original Use:	Church		
Current Use:	Residence		
Ownership:			
Public Access:	No	Occupied:	Occupied

DESCRIPTION

Walls:	Limestone	Roof:	Shadowline
Condition:	Poor	Integrity:	
Original fabric:	Stone section to east side.		
Modifications:	New 1970 church addition.		

Situated on Bridgid Road, west of Edward Road, the former St John's Church is a small rendered stone building which has been adapted for use as a residence. The simple structure has a shadowline gable roof and a slightly offset gable roof to a small addition at the rear, possibly the c1903 addition. A concrete block extension has been added to the rear. The rendered walls of the church have an ashlar finish which is enhanced by quoining to the corners. The front facade has a centrally placed door which is accessed via several steps. The arched door is accentuated by a gothic arched rendered moulding above. An aluminium framed sliding door has been added to the south facade which also features a metal chimney flue.

HISTORY

Construction Date:	1874	Source:	Marchant James, R.
Architect:	Fr Lecaille		
Builder:	Not available		

St John's Catholic Church was built in 1874 by Fr. Lecaille on a 12 acre glebe on the North Back Flats. Despite the absence of a resident priest, services were held at regular intervals. The building was also used as a school whenever Catholic lay teachers were available. However, on 1 April 1902 Presentation Sisters Brigid Kenny and Teresa Cunningham opened a church-school in the small church. Prior to the adjacent

convent [Place No. 96] being completed in December the sisters lived in a curtained-off portion of the church. Following the arrival of the Presentation Sisters the small church was repaired and enlarged using funds raised by the local parishioners. Following the construction of the Bootenal Hall [Place No. 91] the annual concerts and speech nights were held there.

During the late 1920s or early 1930s St John's Church was extensively damaged by fire. During the Second World War an RAAF training school was established in a field opposite the convent which resulted in the evacuation of the Sisters who were considered to be too close, but returned at the end of the war. The adjacent St John's Convent closed in 1962. The church closed and was purchased privately and adapted for use as a residence.

(Source: Marchant James, R., "Cork to Capricorn", pp.73, 194-9)

HISTORIC THEMES

HCWA:	406 Religion 402 Education and science 602 Early settlers
AHC:	8.6.3 Founding Australian religious institutions 6.2 Establishing schools

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The former St John's Catholic Church has high historic significance as one of the first churches to be built in the Victoria District and for its association with Fr Lecaille who was instrumental in building a number of church-schools in the region. The place has further significance for its association with the Presentation Sisters and for its use as a school for many years. Together with the adjacent former St John's Convent and Catholic Cemetery, the former St John's Church is an essential element in a small catholic precinct and was an integral part of the small Bootenal community. Although altered, the place has considerable aesthetic value given its simple style and compact scale and is evidence of small rural churches of the 1870s.

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY

Management Category:	2
Level of Significance:	CONSIDERABLE SIGNIFICANCE: Very important to the heritage of the locality.

Management
Recommendation:

Conservation of the place is highly recommended. Any proposed change should not unduly impact on the heritage values of the place and should retain significant fabric wherever feasible.

OTHER LISTINGS

No other listings

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Bibliography:

Marchant James, R., "Cork to Capricorn - A History of the Presentation Sisters in Western Australia 1891-1991", 1996.

McGuinness, R., "From the Emerald Isle to the Sunburnt Land", 1999.

Lloyd, M., "Mid West Heritage", 1999, p. 7.

HCWA Database No. 4308.

OTHER PHOTOS

No other photos