

Area: Mullewa	Place Number: 3	Category: 1
Assessment Date: 10/02/1995	Last Revision Date: 03/11/2011	
HCWA Number: 1656	Asset ID: MCH126858	

PLACE DETAILS

Name:	Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and the Holy Apostles St Peter and St Paul
Other Names:	Doney Street, cnr Bowes Street
Type of Place:	Church
Address:	Doney Street, cnr Bowes Street
Suburb:	Mullewa

LOCATION

Map Reference: Mullewa Townsite	GPS Northing: 6842197.52 0000	GPS Easting: 355001.570 000
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Photo Description:

20/09/2011

T. Henkel

Landmark building in the Mullewa Townsite.

SITE DETAILS

Lot No.:	Lot 12 &13	Assess No.:	1466- 7
Reserv No.:		Vol/Fol:	1397/97
Dia/Plan:	886		

USE OF PLACE

Original Use:	Church		
Current Use:	Church		
Ownership:	Roman Catholic Bishop of Geraldton		
Public Access:	Yes	Occupied:	Occupied

DESCRIPTION

Walls:	Stone	Roof:	Tile
Condition:	Not applicable	Integrity:	
Original fabric:	Largely intact		
Modifications:	Northern transept (1962)		

The Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel is a landmark building in the town of Mullewa and is closely associated with the adjoining Priesthouse and the adjacent Catholic school which features the Presentation Convent Fmr. Access to the Church is via Doney Street. The exterior of the Church has a long, low form reminiscent of the Spanish Mission Churches of Southern California while the interior of the Church has Romanesque influences. The building is constructed of local Mullewa stone with concrete blocks for the quoins and mouldings. The red tile gable roofs contrast with the stark white of the feature domes. The main entrance to the west elevation is topped by a corbelled pediment with a deeply recessed arch within which is a large circular window. Above the double doors is an inscription in Roman lettering which reads: "DEO OPTIMO MAXIMO ET IN HONOREM B MARIAE VIRG DE MONTE CARMELO ET SS AP PETRI ET PAULI HOC TEMPLUM SACRUM" meaning To God Most Good, Most Great; and in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mount Carmel, and the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul, this Holy Temple is dedicated. The double doorway is divided by a column and on either side three spiral fluted pillars make up the mystic number of seven, as per the Book of Proverbs IX.1 – "Wisdom has built herself a House. She has erected her Seven Pillars." Extra width is given to this western elevation by the porch extending to the north and the Baptistry on the south side. In the angle of the nave and transept rises the campanile, terminating in a lantern buttressed with pinnacles at its base. The overall appearance of

the Church exterior is rough and rustic, with an absence of smooth mechanically finished surfaces. Internally, the plan of the Church is cruciform with the high altar under the main dome at the intersection of the nave and transepts. The nave has five bays spanned by transverse pointed arches that support the roof timbering. A timber choir gallery spans the western-most bay. Internal furnishings of the Church express Mons Hawes' eclectic taste in art and architecture as well as his desire to create a building that reflected the antiquity of Roman Catholicism. Over time a number of significant changes have occurred to the Church including the remodelling of the altar to face the congregation in accordance with the Second Vatican Council. In 1962 the northern transept of the Church was extended to accommodate seating for an additional 60 parishioners. At the same time, and with rising damp causing constant fretting of mortar and stone, the interior walls were rendered over. The underside of the tiled roof was previously unlined, but owing to the ingress of dust and insects into the interior space, it was subsequently lined with timber boards. However, in more recent years restoration works have once again revealed the interior rustic stone and brick walls, greatly assisted by an extensive drainage system which was installed around the building. (Refer to the Conservation Plan and the HCWA Register documentation for a detailed description of the building)

HISTORY

Construction Date:	1927	Source:	HCWA RHP Documentation
Architect:	Mon J. Hawes		
Builder:	Mon J. Hawes		

From early 1910, monthly Catholic services were conducted in the developing town of Mullewa. In that same year the local Catholic settlers commenced fund raising towards building a church in the town. The first Catholic church, a small hall-like structure located at the corner of Gray and Thomas Streets, was opened and blessed by Bishop Kelly in 1912. In 1916, Father John Cyril Hawes (b. 1876, d. 1956), who had previously trained as an architect, was appointed Parish Priest at Mullewa, where he would serve until 1938. The church hall was moved from its original site and rebuilt on the current church site in 1919, with a timber framed and iron roofed presbytery adjacent. However, Hawes had plans for an impressive replacement with an initial sketch of the new Church building dated 1920. The following year, Hawes commenced work on building the Church adjacent to the Presentation Convent, which was built in 1915. Work on the Church proceeded in stops and starts, with Hawes' work on other architectural projects for the Catholic Church taking him away from his main focus. The blessing and laying of the foundation stone took place

on 24 September 1924, with both Archbishop Clune and Geraldton's Bishop Ryan present. Hawes worked largely on his own as mason, with some paid labourer's assistance and help from local parishioners, in what was an intensely personal work for him. The completed Church was officially opened by Archbishop Clune in May 1927. Following this Hawes turned his attention to the construction of the adjoining presbytery (priesthouse) which was completed in 1929. Hawes was transferred to the Parish of Greenough in November 1938 and the following year he departed Australia to reside in the Bahamas. On 7 May 1950, a new purpose built school named Our Lady of Mount Carmel, opened adjacent to the Church while the Convent remained in use by the Sisters. In 1962, the Northern transept (St Michaels') of the Church was extended adding sixty to the seating capacity. During this time the interior walls were rendered and the diagonal laid timber board ceiling was installed. In May 1977, the Church celebrated its Golden Jubilee. In recent years a programme of conservation works has resulted in considerable work being undertaken to the Church, including the removal of the interior cement render and replacement of flooring. (Refer to the Conservation Plan and the HCWA Register documentation for a detailed history of the place)

HISTORIC THEMES

HCWA:	406 Religion 605 Famous and infamous people
AHC:	8.6.1 Worshipping together 8.6.4 Making places for worship 8.10.4 Designing and building fine buildings

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel is an outstanding example of the eclectic architectural style of Monsignor John Cyril Hawes, whose life and works as an ecclesiastical architect are prominent in the history of the MidWest region and who was parish priest at Mullewa from 1916 to 1938. The Church, which is a dominant landmark in the town and a noted tourist destination, is highly valued by the local community for its religious associations since 1927. The Church has a high degree of artistic and technical sophistication, both internally and externally, and exhibits a well resolved combination of architectural, symbolic and artistic motifs.

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY

Management Category:	1
Level of Significance:	EXCEPTIONAL SIGNIFICANCE: Essential to the heritage of the locality.
Management Recommendation:	Conservation of the place is considered essential. Any proposed change should not unduly impact on the significance of the place and be in accordance with either a Conservation Plan or Heritage Impact Statement.

OTHER LISTINGS

Heritage Council of WA - Register, 25/11/1994
National Trust of WA - Classified, 11/06/1973
Australian Heritage Commission - Register, 21/03/1978
Shire of Mullewa - Town Planning Scheme, 01/01/1970

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

HCWA RHP Documentation (P1656); Monsignor Hawes Heritage Trail (1988); Taylor, J., "Conservation Plan for Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church", 1996; Taylor, J., "Between Devotion and Design: The Architecture of John Cyril Hawes, 1876-1956", Nedlands: UWA Press 2000; Anson, P., "The Hermit of Cat Island", London: Burns & Oats, 1957; Evans, A.G., "The Conscious Stone", Melbourne: The Polding Press, 1984; Keeffe, B., "Eastward Ho: To Mullewa and The Murchison", Mullewa Shire Council, 1995; Barden, W.D., "Mullewa Through the Years 1861-1961", Mullewa Road Board, 1961.

OTHER PHOTOS



Photo Description:

20/09/2011

T. Henkel

Main entrance to the west elevation.



Photo Description:

20/09/2011

T. Henkel

East elevation showing tower and dome feature.



Photo Description:

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T. Henkel

Interior view of the church looking towards the altar.