

Area: Mullewa	Place Number: 50	Category: 1
Assessment Date: 10/02/1995	Last Revision Date: 14/03/2012	
HCWA Number: 1672	Asset ID: MCH127084	

PLACE DETAILS

Name:	Main Building - Christian Brothers' Agricultural School
Other Names:	Central Building - St Mary's CBAS
Type of Place:	Agricultural School
Address:	970 Kelly Road
Suburb:	Tardun

LOCATION

Map Reference:	GPS Northing: 6824347.77	GPS Easting: 384340.440
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Photo Description:

5/10/2011

T. Henkel

Main Building - south and east elevations with Chapel at far left.

SITE DETAILS

Lot No.:	Lot 9642	Assess No.:	671
Reserv No.:		Vol/Fol:	2170/791
Dia/Plan:	159498		

USE OF PLACE

Original Use:	Agricultural School		
Current Use:	Residential (in part)		
Ownership:	The Trustees of the Christian Brothers		
Public Access:	No	Occupied:	Occupied

DESCRIPTION

Walls:	Concrete Block (rendered)	Roof:	Tiles
Condition:	Good	Integrity:	
Original fabric:	Largely intact		
Modifications:			

Located on the east side of Kelly Road approximately 1 kilometre north of the intersection with Mindage Spring Road, the Christian Brothers Agricultural College commands an elevated position with views of the surrounding countryside including south to the Pallottine Brothers' Wandalgu Hostel. The complex consists of a number of buildings, including a substantial two storey masonry building as well as single storey school buildings and facilities spread over a large area. The Main Building is centrally located within the complex and consists of a large two storey rendered concrete block building with a hipped and gabled clay tiled roof with parapets. The building comprises two wings either side of a central walk-through stretching east-west. The southern facade is symmetrical, with a tall central tower section and projecting parapet walls to gable roofs at each end. Originally there were open verandahs at both ground and first floor levels on all four facades, but most of the upper level verandahs have now been filled in with aluminium framed windows. There are matching tall rendered and truncated columns to the ground floor verandah. There are underground water tanks to the corners of the building. (Refer to the conservation plan for a detailed description of the building)

HISTORY

Construction Date: 1935 **Source:** HCWA RHP
Documentation &
Foundation Ston

Architect: Mon J. Hawes, Summerhayes

Builder: David Mitchell

In 1927 uncleared land was secured by the Christian Brothers to construct an agricultural school with the purpose "to prevent the drift to the city of old boys, originally from the counrty". In 1928, Bro Paul Keaney and Bro E. Mulguinney arrived to prepare for the first eight boys who arrived the following year. The original site was located 3kms to the south, however a new site was selected and plans were prepared for the main building by priest architect Monsignor John Hawes. Work commenced on the building in 1935, with much construction work carried out by the staff and students, with professional supervision. The only significant change to the original Hawes' design was a reduction in the height of the central tower. The original wing of the Main Building was officially blessed and opened by His Lordship the Most Reverend Dr J.P. O'Collins, Bishop of Geraldton on 6 December 1936. The Foundation Stone was laid by the Hon J.J. Keneally, Chairman of the Lotteries Commission on 18 October 1936. Designed by Architects Summerhayes and Associates, the Western Wing was built between 1953 and 1956. The school had its peak number of 250 boys in 1943 when the Airforce occupied the Clontarf Orphanage in Perth, forcing the boys to relocate to the Mullewa facility. After 1963, no more orphan boys went to the school. In recent times the numbers of students declined and the school closed several years ago. (Refer to the conservation plan for a detailed history of the building)

HISTORIC THEMES

HCWA: 406 Religion
402 Education and science
605 Famous and infamous people

AHC: 6.2 Establishing schools
8.6 Worshipping
6.3 Training people for workplace skills

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Main Building is an integral part of the Christian Brothers' Agricultural School complex which is a unique example of a farm school designed and developed by the Christain Brothers for the education of boys who

showed potential as farmers. The building has considerable historic significance and is closely associated with renowned Priest-Architect Monsignor John Hawes whose works are prominent in the MidWest Region. The building has a high degree of artistic and technical sophistication and exhibits the architectural motifs of the Inter-War Romanesque Style. The place is highly valued by the Catholic community, former students and the wider Mullewa community and contributes to the community's sense of place. Further the place has landmark qualities owing to its elevated position and distinctive architectural form.

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, 20/10/2000

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

HCWA RHP Documentation (P1672); Monsignor Hawes Heritage Trail (1988); Taylor, J., "Conservation Plan for Christian Brothers' Agricultural School", 1999; 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; Keefe, 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:

5/10/2011

T. Henkel

Main Building - Foundation Stone



Photo Description:

5/10/2011

T. Henkel

Main Building - rear (north) elevation showing western end.