

# ST ALBAN'S CHURCH, HIGHGATE



PLACE INFORMATION	
Place name	St Alban's Church, Highgate
Other names	
Place type	Individual building or group

HERITAGE LISTING	
inHerit ID:	2178
State Heritage Register:	22 June 2010
Other Listing:	Classified by the National Trust Classified 20 Apr 2009 Anglican Church Inventory YES 31 Jul 1996 Municipal Inventory Adopted 13 Nov 1995

SITE LOCATION	
Street address	449 Beaufort St
Locality	Highgate
Survey	LOT:21 DP:49211
Vol/folio	1432/193
Reserve	—

SIGNIFICANCE	
Level of significance	<b>Exceptional</b> Essential to the heritage of the area. Rare or outstanding example. Consider for nomination for State Register of Heritage Places if not already included.
Management category	<b>Category 1</b> The place should be retained and conserved. Any alterations or extensions should reinforce the significance of the place and be in accordance with a Conservation Plan if one is in place.
Statement of significance	<p>The place exhibits a simple design in the Victorian Romanesque, style, reflecting the economic and social conditions of the developing first suburbs of Perth in the years before and immediately after the discovery of gold in Western Australia, and a need for simplicity on the part of its then inexperienced designer J.J. Talbot Hobbs.</p> <p>The place, including its 1898 extensions, was designed by prominent architect J.J. Talbot Hobbs, and is important as one of his earliest surviving church designs.</p> <p>The place has served the community for religious observances since 1889 and continues to be significant as a place of worship for the local Anglican community, as a focus of community life and as a centre of provision of social services to disadvantaged people.</p> <p>The place is a longstanding landmark that contributes significantly to the community's sense of place.</p>

PLACE USE	
<b>Original use</b>	Religious: Church
<b>Current use</b>	Religious: Church
<b>Other use</b>	

CONSTRUCTION DETAILS	
<b>Construction date</b>	1889; 1898
<b>Walls</b>	Limestone
<b>Roof</b>	Terracotta Tile
<b>Architectural Style</b>	Victorian Romanesque
<b>Physical description</b>	<p>Victorian Romanesque style, which in the late colonial period was often used as an alternative to the Gothic. The church consists of a gabled nave and sanctuary with a parallel gabled aisle, supplemented by gabled porches, chapel, vestry etc. Gables carry arched stained glass windows.</p> <p>The church has a fleche located above the western door. A free standing bell tower stands at the rear of the church. The pipe organ and other original interior details remain in place. The church is setback from the road in an open lawned setting with mature shrubs across the front of the building. 1970 hall addition.</p>
<b>Condition</b>	Good
<b>Integrity</b>	High
<b>Authenticity</b>	High

## HISTORICAL INFORMATION

St Alban's Anglican Church, named after the first martyr of Britain, was built on five acres of bushland to serve the new subdivision of Highgate Hill, the first suburb on the north side of Perth.

The area had been subdivided and developed by surveyor Charles Crossland in 1874, and named for his birthplace in London. Highgate Hill consisted of a small isolated cluster of homes erected for workmen's cottages, in the hollow on the east side of Beaufort Street.

The first service was held on the site under a gum tree in September 1888. A public meeting was held in January 1889 in the St George's Cathedral school room regarding 'the erection of a Mission Chapel at Highgate Hill'. Such was the response that enough money was raised for the work to go ahead and the foundation stone was laid the following month by Mrs Hare (27 February 1889).

The church was designed by prominent architect John Joseph Talbot Hobbs and completed in just four months. The builder was Fred Collett and the church was deliberately set back from Lincoln Street in order that it could be replaced by a larger, more permanent structure on the corner of Lincoln and Beaufort Streets in the future. It was consecrated on 13 June 1889 and the first minister was the Very Reverend Frederick Goldsmith.

In 1895, a Rectory, also designed by Hobbs, was built on the Beaufort-Lincoln street corner of the site. The first Parish Hall was built on the corner of Beaufort Street and St Alban's Ave, and opened on 18 August 1896. The hall was used for Sunday School and later for Brownies and Girl Guides as well as for many other social occasions.

Saint Alban's Church, Highgate was an integral part of the early Anglican Church of Perth structure. It was initially the responsibility of Saint George's Cathedral, as it had no clergy of its own. Dean Goldsmith and his associated ministers conducted the services at Saint Alban's Church, Highgate until 1897, when Reverend Prive was formally instituted as the Rector of the Parish. After this time, the St Alban's clergy and congregation acted as missionaries into other areas, supporting both organisationally and financially the development of Saint Augustine's in Bayswater, and bringing services to the people of Leeder Estate, now Leederville.

**HISTORICAL INFORMATION**

In 1898, St Alban's became a separate parish and a mission was opened along with the hall. That same year the church was enlarged and a memorial stone for the extension was laid by Sir John Forrest on 30 July. The completed church was dedicated on 1 November 1898, on St Alban's Day.

When St Alban's was built in 1889, it was planned that the window in the sanctuary, the middle window on each side wall and a small window in the front would be filled in with some stained glass which had been imported a decade earlier for St George's Cathedral, but not used. However the windows in the side walls, were fitted with clear glass instead, and the stained glass, depicting St Michael and St George, was eventually installed when the Church was enlarged in 1898. An organ made in 1902 by local craftsman Robert Cecil Clifton (1854-1931) was donated and installed in the church.

In 1902, when the Queen Memorial Tower with its eight bells was added to St Georges Cathedral, a bell, believed to be one of the oldest in Australia, was offered to Saint Alban's Church, Highgate. In 1903, the lot was subdivided and Saint Alban's Avenue was created.

During the ministry of Reverend Mann (1956-1963) the original Parish Hall (1896), was replaced, and a new hall was built further back behind the church. Annual Reports for the church record that the second Parish Hall was built at a cost of £11,500, £200 of which was still outstanding. A letter dated 7 December 1961 was written to the Rectory from Rev Mann asking for donations to meet the amount. In 1966, the portion of the lot in Lincoln Street with the Rectory (1895) on it was sold and the Rectory demolished. A new Rectory was built adjacent to the church.

A vestry entry for 1969, dated 30 June, discusses the 80th anniversary celebratory restoration of the church involving the walls and roof, installation of a covered way between the church and the hall and a hall kitchen. An entry dated 5 May 1970, discusses the commencement of a restoration fund for renovation of Saint Albans Church, Highgate with the possibility of a property bequest being settled at Mt Lawley providing funds for the roof and outside walls. On 11 June 1971, it was noted that damp coursing and re-roofing of the Church was completed with financing by the bequest of the estate of Francis Matthews.

The church continues to be used for spiritual and social occasions as well as providing a pastoral function for the wider community.

**HISTORICAL INFORMATION**

<b>Historic theme</b>	Cultural Life: Religion	
	Peopling WA: Demographic development	
	Social Services: General Social Services	
<b>Associations</b>	J. J. Talbot Hobbs	Architect
	Fred Collett	Builder
	Rev Goldsmith	First Minister
<b>Sources</b>	P2178 St Alban's Church, Highgate Assessment documentation for inclusion on the State Register of Heritage Places. Municipal Heritage Inventory 2006.	

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS



ARCHIVAL IMAGES



*Courtesy SLWA image b2459543\_1 St Albans c1890*



*Courtesy SLWA image b2604195\_1 St Albans s1929*