

GIBNEY HOUSE (FMR), HIGHGATE



PLACE INFORMATION	
Place name	Gibney House (fmr)
Other names	Bishop Gibney's House (fmr) Lourdes
Place type	Individual building or group

HERITAGE LISTING	
inHerit ID:	13033
State Heritage Register:	
Other Listing:	Municipal Inventory Adopted 13 Nov 1995 Catholic Church Inventory 1 Jul 1998

SITE LOCATION	
Street address	50 Vincent St
Locality	Mount Lawley
Survey	LOT: 51 D/P: 2861
Vol/folio	450/34
Reserve	—

SIGNIFICANCE	
Level of significance	Considerable Very important to the heritage of the locality. High degree of integrity/authenticity.
Management category	Category 2 Conservation of the place is highly desirable. Any alterations or extensions should reinforce the significance of the place.
Statement of significance	<p>This place is a fine intact example of the Federation Arts and Crafts style executed in brick with a tile roof with timber detail.</p> <p>Its location on the property boundary and its fine detail make it a landmark in the streetscape.</p> <p>The place has historic value for its association with the establishment and development of Mount Hawthorn in the first half of the 20th century.</p> <p>The place has historic value for its association with the Catholic Church and its important role in the subdivision and development of Mount Lawley.</p> <p>The place has historic value for its association with Bishop Gibney who was a significant leader in the Catholic Church in WA and the wider community.</p> <p>The place has social value for its longevity in the streetscape and its contribution to the community sense of place.</p>

PLACE USE	
Original use	Residential: Single storey residence
Current use	Residential: Single storey residence
Other use	Religious: Housing or quarters

CONSTRUCTION DETAILS	
Construction date	1911;
Walls	Brick
Roof	Terracotta tiles
Architectural Style	Federation Arts and Crafts
Physical description	<p>The single storey bungalow is an impressive example of the Federation Arts and Crafts style.</p> <p>It has a hipped roof over the main body of the house, with a smaller hipped roof over the projecting front room.</p> <p>The roof is extended with a crippled verandah to a low eaves line. The entry porch is drawn forward from the hipped roof and verandah to form a central decorative feature which balances the asymmetry of the composition. The tiled roof has been replaced with cement tiles. The entry porch and the verandah have paired corner timber posts. The entry has a timber arch set under a timber and plaster gable, between pairs of posts with fretwork bressemer panels. It is capped with a decorative cross. The verandah bays are given a skipping rhythm with their elongated decorative brackets. A bay window with 5 casement lights and fanlights forms the front wall of the projecting room and the front room under the verandah has a pair of french doors.</p>
Condition	Good
Integrity	High
Authenticity	High

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

The house at No. 50 Vincent Street was constructed in 1911, and occupied by Catholic Bishop, Matthew Gibney following his resignation from the Bishopric. Matthew Gibney was ordained Bishop of the Perth Diocese in 1886, but problems with financial management resulted in his resignation in 1910. He is recorded as occupying a house at No. 60 Vincent Street in 1915, but this is clearly the same house with an earlier street number, as although the street numbers changed over the following years, the number of houses in that section of Vincent Street remained the same until at least 1930.

Bishop Gibney's House was known as 'Lourdes'. The house was located in close proximity to the Sacred Heart precinct at Highgate Hill. Bishop Gibney had purchased (or built) some other houses in the area in the late 1890s, which were occupied by the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions (1897-1899) and the Redemptorist Fathers (1899-1903) prior to them obtaining their own accommodation. Bishop Gibney's House was built next door to the two cottages originally occupied by the Redemptorist Fathers. The Metropolitan Water Supply Sewerage & Drainage Department (MWSSDD) plan of 1930 shows an identical semi-detached pair on either side of No. 50 Vincent Street (Nos. 46-48 & Nos. 52-54), which were most likely these aforementioned cottages.

In 1897, Bishop Gibney engaged architect Michael Cavanagh to design 20 houses for the Highgate area therefore it is likely that he designed the Bishop's residence. These earlier cottages may have been some of them. Following Bishop Gibney's death in June 1925, No. 50 Vincent Street was sold. In January 1942, the Highgate Hill parish priest, Father Wallace, purchased the property for use as his Presbytery. It continued in this function until at least 1964 (possibly much later), when a house adjoining the Sacred Heart Church was acquired for that purpose. No. 50 is still owned by the Catholic Church and is occupied by the Franciscan Friars.

Aerial photographs from the mid 20th century indicate that the form and extent of the residence have changed little since 1953.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION		
Historic theme	Cultural Life: Religion Cultural Life: Domestic Life Peopling WA: Demographic Development	
Associations	Bishop Matthew Gibney Matthew Cavanaugh	Occupant Architect
Sources	Municipal Heritage Inventory 2006 Landgate Aerial photographs 1953-2024.	

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS

