

NORTH PERTH BAPTIST CHURCH AND HALL (FMR)



PLACE INFORMATION	
Place name	North Perth Baptist Church and Hall (fmr)
Other names	Commercial Premises
Place type	Individual building or group

HERITAGE LISTING	
inHerit ID:	2213
State Heritage Register:	
Other Listing:	Municipal Inventory Adopted 13 Nov 1995

SITE LOCATION	
Street address	315 Fitzgerald St
Locality	North Perth
Survey	LOT: 530 D/P: 30376
Vol/folio	1552/766
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>North Perth Baptist Church and Hall (former) is a good example of the Federation Romanesque style, which contributes significantly to the townscape as a landmark located at a prominent intersection.</p> <p>The place has historic value for its associations with the development of North Perth in the early 20th century.</p> <p>The place has historic value for as a demonstration of the growth and decline of organised religion throughout the 20th century</p> <p>The place had an important social value to the community and members of the Baptist and Uniting Church since 1904 and, while not currently serving its intended use, the social value has continued for many who recall using these buildings for religious and social activities.</p>

PLACE USE	
Original use	Religious: Church Religious: Church Hall
Current use	Commercial: Office
Other use	Social/Recreational: Other Sports Building
CONSTRUCTION DETAILS	
Construction date	1904; 1922
Walls	Brick
Roof	Corrugated metal sheeting
Architectural Style	Federation Romanesque
Physical description	Both buildings are single storey of considerable proportions. They are both red face brick with white stucco detailing. The hall, facing Vincent Street, is the simpler of the two and features a trio of narrow arched windows high on the front gable.
	The church also facing Vincent Street on the corner of Fitzgerald Street features a chequerboard pattern under a wide arched string course above three tall narrow arched windows. Above this are three arched vents. This feature is duplicated on the partial gable set back behind the main gable. Gardens are in place in the setback on the street frontages behind a low brick and palisade fence
Condition	Moderate
Integrity	High
Authenticity	High

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

The first Perth Baptist church was officially formed on 23 June 1895, and other churches were founded at Fremantle and Katanning. On 4 December 1896, a Baptist Union was formed of the existing churches. A division developed in the church over the issue of open (non-baptised) or close (baptised) membership. The group favouring close membership established a separate church in the William Street Oddfellows hall while the open membership group remained at the Museum Street church. Both groups undertook mission work in the North Perth area, with the first services of the North Perth parish being held in the North Perth Municipal Chambers in February 1902.

In 1904, the Museum Street group built a church on the corner of Vincent and Fitzgerald streets to cater for the developing North Perth parish. The foundation stone for the new Baptist church was laid on 6 July 1904, by Reverend Silas Mead, and the dedication service was held on 26 October. The church was designed by architect Duncan H. Inverarity and built by Mr. Gamble for £822.

The Museum Street group soon found the new church a strain on their financial resources, so they sold the church to the William Street group for £1,250. The group took possession of the North Perth Baptist Church on 1 May 1905. The first recorded clergyman was Reverend Samuel T. Pitman from January 1904 to July 1909.

The North Perth parish extended its work to Osborne Park, Mount Hawthorn and Maylands. Churches were established in those suburbs with North Perth as the Mother church. In 1917, there were two pastors for the four churches, Reverend E. M. Hall and Reverend J. D. Howell. Victoria Park joined the group in 1917.

In 1922, during Reverend Henry Keeve's incumbency, a Memorial Hall measuring 75ft by 30ft, was built beside the Church at a cost of £1,400. The foundation stone, laid on 22 January 1922, listed the names of those members of the congregation who died in World War I.

In 1930, the clergyman was Reverend William Gilmour and due to his work and that of others the active membership of the North Perth Baptist Church reached 100, the highest in the church's history. A Sunday School for 120 children, Junior, Intermediate and Senior Christian Endeavour Societies, Boys' Club, Girls' clubs and a Ladies' Guild were conducted in the parish.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

By 1935, (during Reverend A. P. Dawson's period) the population of the area had begun to age, with young people moving to the outer suburbs.

In 1957, a house adjacent to the church was bought as a manse, possibly for Reverend Dr. E. G. Gibson who was the clergyman there around that time. The cost of this manse was £3,500. The congregation continued to decline and the North Perth Baptist Church was closed in 1976, with Reverend C. Carter (5 February 1967 to December 1967) being the last clergyman in residence. The sale of the properties was finalised by September 1980 and the church was de-consecrated.

In October 1981, the then owner shot two men and then killed himself after a dispute of the building's stained glass windows. The murdered men were said to have been negotiating to buy the church buildings. The church was put on the market in March 1983. Both the church and the hall were subsequently used for commercial purposes.

Aerial photographs from the mid 20th century onwards indicate that the form and extent of the subject place have changed little since that time. Today the Church Building is used as a yoga studio.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Historic theme	Cultural Life: Religion Economy: Commerce Cultural Life: Recreation - Sport Peopling WA: Demographic Development	
Associations	Duncan H. Inverarity Rev Silas Mead Rev Samuel T. Pitman	Architect Founder First Clergyman
Sources	Municipal Heritage Inventory 2006 Landgate Aerial photographs 1953-2024. The West Australian, 7 July 1904, p. 7.	

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS

