

ARANMORE CATHOLIC COLLEGE GROUP, LEEDERVILLE



PLACE INFORMATION	
Place name	Aranmore Catholic College Group
Other names	Aranmore St Mary's Convent and School St Mary's College Christian Brothers College
Place type	Individual building or group

HERITAGE LISTING	
inHerit ID:	8709, 2196, 2202
State Heritage Register:	3 June 2005
Other Listing:	Municipal Inventory Adopted 13 Nov 1995 Aboriginal Heritage Sites Register Recorded

SITE LOCATION	
Street address	30-42 Franklin St 51 Franklin St
Locality	Leederville
Survey	LOT: 80 D/P: 53837 LOT: 200 D/P: 406572
Vol/folio	1496/399
Reserve	—

SIGNIFICANCE	
Level of significance	Exceptional 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	Category 1 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	St. Mary's Church, St. Mary's Presbytery, and St. Mary's Convent fmr, St. Mary's School building, Mann Building, and Aranmore Catholic College Hall, in combination with their landscape setting, make up a significant group, with St. Mary's Church, St. Mary's Presbytery, and St. Mary's Convent fmr forming a particularly strong visual group.
	St. Mary's Church displays a high degree of artistic and technical sophistication, both internally and externally, exhibits a well-resolved combination of architectural, symbolic and artistic motifs, is a visual focus of the district, and is architecturally the finest building in the group.
	St. Mary's Church is rare as a parish church with a very tall tower and spire, visible a significant distance from the building, that are more akin to design elements generally reserved for a cathedral.
	The place provides important evidence of the development of the North Perth and Leederville district, its class and religious demographic, and the development of a Catholic parish, primary education, and more recently secondary education in the State.
	St Mary's Church and Presbytery provide evidence of the strength and growth of the Catholic community in areas north of Perth and are a substantial expression of the development of the church at a time of significant activity in the Inter-War period.

SIGNIFICANCE

Statement of significance	<p>The place as a whole is significant evidence of the work of the Sisters of Mercy and the Christian Brothers, who established the schools in response to the needs of a growing Roman Catholic community.</p> <p>The place is known in the Italian Catholic community for hosting an annual Italian street parade celebrating the parish's patron saint, Saint Rocco, which has been held in Leederville since 1968 and is attended by Italians from across Perth and from churches in Italy affiliating with St Rocco.</p>
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PLACE USE

Original use	<p>Religious: Church, Cathedral or Chapel Religious: Housing or Quarters Educational: Combined School</p>
Current use	<p>Educational: Combined School Religious: Office or Administration Building</p>
Other use	<p>Religious: Monastery or Convent</p>

CONSTRUCTION DETAILS

Construction date	1923-1982
Walls	Brick Stone Timber
Roof	Terracotta Tile
Architectural Style	Inter-War Gothic / Inter-War Romanesque

CONSTRUCTION DETAILS

Physical description	<p>Aranmore Catholic College Group, comprising the single storey brick, stucco and tile St. Mary's Church (1923 and 1937), two storey concrete block and corrugated iron roof Aranmore Catholic College Hall (formerly St Mary's Hall, 1929), two storey brick and tile St. Mary's Convent fmr (1933), two storey brick and tile St. Mary's Presbytery (1934), two storey brick and tile Mann Building (1942), two storey brick and tile St. Mary's School fmr (1952), three storey brick and asbestos roof Murphy Wing, two storey brick and tile</p> <p>St. Joseph's Science Block (1965), single storey brick and tile St. Mary's Parish Centre (1972), single storey brick and iron A and I Bateman Manual Arts Block (1979), two storey brick and tile J. F. Moloney Library (1982) and other minor structures in a designed landscape setting.</p> <p>CHURCH: The church is a red brick and tile building in the Inter-War Gothic style, with characteristic stone mullioned windows, parapeted gable, spire and other vertical elements and entrance porch. Imposing gable roofed church with a tall bell tower and spire. Constructed with gothic design elements including arched windows and doors and buttresses at the sides. The central and side windows feature characteristic stone tracery and stained-glass lead lights. The building has a projecting entrance porch at the front. A spire of this scale is unusual in a suburban parish church, being more commonly found on cathedrals.</p>
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CONSTRUCTION DETAILS

PRESBYTERY: This two storey brick and tile residence has a two storey timber verandah on three sides. The projecting front rooms have a gable that is topped with a cross and has a simple vertical rectangular vent feature. This projection also has a horizontal band of stucco above and below each window, and a fifth band across the gable. Original timber balustrades on the upper verandah have been replaced by metal railing. The presbytery is situated adjacent to St Mary's Church, facing Franklin Street.

FORMER CONVENT: A two-storey red brick and tile building with symmetrical projecting wings at either end, each with a gable end, and connected by a two storey verandah or colonnade. The façade features decorative horizontal stucco bands which are typical of the period. The windows mirror those of St Mary's Presbytery, part of the Aranmore complex, with those on the lower floor being divided into nine square lights (3x3, the top 3 being fanlights) and those on the top floor being regular casement windows hung with 3 square fanlights.

HALL: A local hall with ground floor shop front appearance to Oxford Street. It is truncated at the corner and has a corner doorway. The rendered front gable has a cross at its apex. The date '1929' is on the gable. The hall itself extends along Franklin Street, which slopes upwards. Tall windows are set into each section of the hall, defined by projecting pilasters. The group occupies the entire street block bounded by Oxford, Salisbury, Marion and Shakespeare Streets and incorporates Franklin Street and includes landscaped areas, paving, playing fields and carpark areas. Numerous modifications to facilitate the continued development and use of the place.

Physical description

Condition	Good
Integrity	High
Authenticity	High

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

The Sisters of Mercy established a convent and primary school on the corner of Marian and Shakespeare Streets in 1903. The Sisters of Mercy is a religious order founded by Catherine McAuley in Ireland in 1831. The sisters' mission is to serve the poor and the needy with many engaging in medical care, community programs and teaching. The Leederville School opened in an existing weatherboard house and it was known as Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Convent, Aranmore. A weatherboard school building was established further west on Marian Street. This building was most likely also used for church services. It is shown on the MWSSDD sewerage plan of c.1930 as being constructed in the traditional cross-shape.

The Leederville Parish was established on 1 March 1919, and the first presbytery was an existing cottage at 46 Franklin Street. The first parish priest was the long-serving Monsignor J. F. Maloney (1919-1958). Theresa Leeder occupied a house on the corner of Franklin and Shakespeare streets, and when she died on 26 October 1922, this land was purchased in March 1923 as the site for St Mary's Church.

The foundation stone for the church was laid on 6 May 1923 and the Church was opened on 9 December that year. The architect for St Mary's Church was Ernest H. Hamilton. Hamilton originally worked as a draughtsman for the Public Works Department and was involved with the design of Perth Modern School in 1909. As a privately employed architect in the 1920s, he designed the Subiaco Clock Tower war memorial. He was most likely assisted with the design of St Mary's Church by Leederville parish priest Monsignor J. F. Maloney, who was known for his forceful and outspoken opinions. Mons Maloney was the parish priest from 1919 - 1958, and was a driving force in the development of the parish and the Aranmore College group. The Berry Brothers, members of the Leederville parish, were responsible for the extensive jarrah joinery in the Church.

Monsignor Maloney became very well-known in the district and some of the St Mary's school girls recalled being frightened of him because he was so stern. They dared not be late to church as he called to them and made them walk down the whole length of the aisle to the front pews. He was remembered by others with fondness and for being a man he could turn his hands to most things. One resident recalled seeing him perched high on the steeple doing some maintenance with his cassock flying in the breeze. In 1929, a church hall, reputed to have been moved from the goldfields, was erected on the corner of Franklin and Oxford streets.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

This was named St Mary's Hall. It presents a shop-front to Oxford Street, and the front two rooms may have been used originally to house an op-shop or some similar fund-raising function for the parish. Many early residents recall going to weddings, dances and other fund raising functions in this hall and the children attended the school's annual fancy dress ball there.

On 21 November 1933, the Sisters of Mercy opened the new novitiate and convent building. They were then able to extend the school to secondary level for girls. The school was renamed St Mary's College. The following year, a new Presbytery was built on the west side of the Church, directly opposite the new convent building, and the priests took up residence on 5 November that year. Monsignor Maloney is credited with the design of this presbytery. In 1937, St Mary's Church was enlarged and the bell tower added, the additions being blessed by the Archbishop on 13 February 1938. The terrazzo Communion rail, which was added at this time, was made by Fanzan Brothers of Perth. The Church bell had been cast at the O'Byrne Foundry in Dublin in 1928. The iron and stone fencing around the Church on both street frontages was erected in 1956.

In February 1942, the Christian Brothers opened their college on the adjoining site west of St Mary's College with 140 boys. In 1971, the senior classes at St Mary's and CBC were amalgamated and St Mary's Primary School moved to a new site on Brentham Street in 1976. The Christian Brothers established an upper primary school for the boys on Jugan Street, Glendalough. Various other buildings were added to the two secondary school complexes over the years, and they shared some facilities, including a library, canteen and sports grounds. In 1986, St Mary's and CBC amalgamated as Aranmore Catholic College, a fully co-ed school. Franklin Street was closed to vehicular traffic and landscaped.

In 1991, the St Mary's convent building was remodelled for offices and classrooms, with new convent accommodation being provided on Shakespeare Street, opposite the College complex. St Mary's Parish Centre, a hall building of domestic scale, was constructed in 1968 behind St Mary's Hall. The architect was Matthew Broderick and the builder Fennesey Holdings Pty Ltd.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

The Parish Centre is well patronized by groups in the parish, but has little heritage significance. Following construction of the Parish Centre, St Mary's Hall - no longer required as a church hall, became part of the school complex. The Hall continues to be used as the venue for lower school social functions, music and drama concerts, graduation ceremonies, meetings, parent group functions, and any other activity that requires a large space, including local community use as an election polling place.

Aerial photographs from the mid 20th century onwards show the gradual increase in structures on what is now the Aranmore Catholic College campus. The first significant upgrades were in the 1970s, and the second was the aforementioned closure of Franklin street and the landscaping and parking adjustments made in the late 1980s. More buildings were added to the south side of the site in 2008, and the tennis and play spaces upgraded around this time. There have been few changes since then.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Historic theme	Cultural Life: Religion Social Services: Education	
Associations	Catherine McAuley Monsignor J. F. Maloney Ernest H. Hamilton Fanzan Brothers Matthew Broderick Fennesey Holdings Pty Ltd	Sisters of Mercy Founder Priest Architect Builders Architect Builders
Sources	P8709 Aranmore Catholic College Group, Assessment Documentation. DPLH.	

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS

