

City of Subiaco - Local Government Inventory Place Record

Name	St Matthews Anglican Church
Address	114 Onslow Road, Shenton Park
Lot Number	Lot 77 D/P 95289
Photograph (2014)	
Construction Date	1932
Architectural Style	Inter-War Gothic
Historical Notes	<p>The first Wesleyan Methodist Church in the Subiaco district was constructed on Broome Road (Hay Street) in 1896.</p> <p>Long-term plans for a larger church to serve the West Subiaco area were put in place in September 1923, when Lots 17, 18 and 19 on deposited plan 2374 were transferred to a group of local men, serving as trustees under the provisions of the Methodist Church Model Deed of Western Australia, 1912. This site extended the church grounds along the Derby Road frontage to Onslow Road.</p> <p>Almost 9 years later, in February 1932, tenders were called by the architects (Powell, Cameron and Chisholm) for the erection of a new church.</p> <p>The new Methodist Church was dedicated on 6 August:</p> <p><i>Between 400 and 500 people crowded into the new Methodist Church in Derby-road, West Subiaco, on Saturday afternoon, when the building was dedicated by the president of the West Australian Methodist Conference (the Rev. M. R. Maley). The erection of a new church was first suggested about eight years ago, when, owing to the foresight of the late Mr. E. S. Snow, arrangements were made to secure the three blocks upon which the building stands. Since then the debt on the block has been discharged, and £650 has been collected or donated towards the cost of the building and furnishings (about £1,600).</i></p>

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	<p>In 1977, the Methodist, Congregational and Presbyterian Churches of Australia merged as the Uniting Church. Over time, the combined church property was rationalised with some church buildings becoming surplus to requirements – including all of the former Methodist Church buildings in Subiaco. By the mid 1990s the Subiaco congregation “had agreed to sell their traditional church buildings and taken a step of faith to explore how to be ‘God’s presence’ in their community in a new way.” In 2000 this was achieved in Shenton Park by the establishment of the Warehouse café on Onslow Road, which aimed to provide “a Christ-centred place where people from all walks of life felt comfortable.”</p> <p>In 1996-1997, the Derby Road Church was offered a new lease of life when it was re-dedicated as St Matthew’s Anglican Church, replacing the former Anglican Church at 74-78 Keightley Road, Shenton Park (since demolished). In the late 1990s, the place was once again enlarged, when a new building was erected on the eastern side of the church, immediately in front of the c.1960 addition. This provided space for offices and meeting rooms as well as a new entry to the church.</p> <p>Within the City of Subiaco, St Matthew’s Anglican Church is now the only surviving example of a former Methodist Church.</p> <p><i>For a comprehensive Historical Description of the place refer to Heritage assessment of St Matthew’s Church prepared by Greenward Consulting (October 2016)</i></p>
Physical Description	<p>114 Onslow Road, Shenton Park, was designed in the Inter-war Gothic style, a traditional form which was still widely favoured for church buildings during that period.</p> <p>Key elements include the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asymmetrical plan, which is subtly expressed in the rectangular entrance porch at the south-western corner; • Steeply pitched gabled roof, clad with grey tiles (originally designed as an orange, terra-cotta roof); • Red face-brick walls, constructed in Flemish bond to the face of the main (south) façade and in stretcher bond to the other walls and buttresses; • Rock-faced stone foundations with a rendered cap; • Rendered cement detailing to the main façade, including window quoins, moulded string courses, a decorative triple arched panel below the main window, raised triangular buttress caps, parapet capping and a chequer-board apex panel; • Rendered cement detailing to the squat entrance porch at the south-western corner, including crenellations, raised triangular buttress caps, deep moulded cornice and quoins; • Restrained rendered cement detailing to the other elevations, comprising simple window quoins and buttress caps; • Ecclesiastical designs for the stained glass to the main triple arched windows of the south elevation. • Multi-coloured, diamond patterned glazing to the other windows of the south elevation and to the entrance porch. • Pair of foundation stones, one set below each of the side windows to the main façade. <p><i>For a comprehensive Physical Description of the place refer to Heritage assessment</i></p>

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	<i>of St Matthew's Church prepared by Greenward Consulting (October 2016)</i>
Associations	
Statement of Significance	<p>114 Onslow Road, Shenton Park, Subiaco is of cultural heritage significance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As the only example of a former Methodist church remaining in the City of Subiaco (which over time saw the construction of seven Methodist churches on various sites in Subiaco, Shenton Park and Jolimont); • As an example of the ecclesiastical work of Powell, Cameron and Chisholm, architects, during the inter-war era; • As physical evidence of the consolidation of Shenton Park as an established suburb in the Inter-War period; • For the historical and social values related to its former use as part of the Subiaco Circuit of the Methodist (and later Uniting) Church; • For the historical and social values related to its role as part of the ongoing presence of the Anglican Church in the City of Subiaco; • For its social significance for former and current members of the congregations and for those who have celebrated important life events at this church; • For its landmark value in Shenton Park.
Level of Significance/ Contribution	Considerable Significance (Level 2)
Listings	<p>1995 Local Government Inventory -Adopted 28/02/1995 2003 Local Government Inventory -Adopted 4/02/2003 Uniting Church Inventory – 30/09/1992 Town Planning Scheme Heritage List - 22/03/2016</p>
Main Sources / References	Heritage Assessment prepared by Greenward Consulting October 2016