



Proposed Development Pinjarra Masonic Hall, Pinjarra

Heritage Impact Statement

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Griffiths Architects





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Cover: North elevation of the Pinjarra Masonic Hall as viewed from Pinjarra Road. Griffiths Architects, 2017.

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Introduction

This Heritage Impact Statement (HIS) relates to the proposed development to the site of the *Pinjarra Masonic Hall* in Pinjarra, Western Australia. The HIS forms part of the development application to the Shire of Murray.

The site is occupied by a brick and corrugated iron building formerly used as a hall. The *Pinjarra Masonic Hall* is included in the State Register of Heritage Places and is located within the Pinjarra Heritage Precinct. The hall was constructed in 1903 for use by the masonic society and was used by the society until c1998.

The proposed works relate to the development of the larger vacant site upon which the hall sits for a supermarket and food outlet to the west and east of the masonic hall respectively. The subdivision of the site will form part of a separate application.

The proposed works will be assessed against the heritage values identified in the Statement of Significance for the *Pinjarra Masonic Hall*, *Pinjarra* to consider the impact that these works will have on the existing site and its heritage values.

Summary

The heritage values identified in the Statement of Significance for the *Pinjarra Masonic Hall* will remain largely unimpaired by the proposed works. The proposed works predominantly occur to areas outside of the registered heritage curtilage, and do not have any direct physical impact on the Masonic Hall.

The Masonic Hall will retain a buffer around its perimeter in the overall setting, with its presentation and relationship with Pinjarra Road remaining unchanged. The proposed landscaping areas to the west and open space (pending future development) to the east, allow for the visibility of the Hall's secondary and tertiary elevations, and to maintain its presence on the site. The landscaping also seeks to provide a buffer zone from proposed hard landscaping, inclusive of pavers and bitumen.

The proposed development seeks to develop a site which has sat vacant for an extended period. The development and increased use of the site will result in increased passive surveillance, foster sympathetic use and promote increased interaction with the hall.



Location

The subject site is located at 1922 Pinjarra Road in Pinjarra, Western Australia. In its immediate context, the Hall building is located on a large lot which has been mostly vacant for some time. The Masonic Hall fronts Pinjarra Road, faces a substantial shopping centre across Pinjarra Road north, and residential areas to the south, St Augustine's Catholic Church and St Joseph's Primary School across George Street to the east, and a medical centre across Murray Street to the west.



Figure 01: Location Plan, Pinjarra Masonic Lodge, Pinjarra. Subject site heritage listed curtilage shown red. Outline of hall building shown blue. Landgate, 2025.

Heritage Listings

The Pinjarra Masonic Hall is included on the following heritage lists;

- State Register of Heritage Places – Place No. 1758 – Registered 05 January 2001
- Shire of Murray Municipal Inventory – included 29 August 2013 – Category A
- Classified by the National Trust – 14 December 1998

The Masonic Hall is also included in the Shire of Murray Municipal Heritage Inventory as part of the Pinjarra Heritage Precinct, which has a Category A classification.



Background

The following historic background is drawn from the Assessment Documentation included in the Stage Register of Heritage Places registry entry for the Pinjarra Masonic Hall.

The years between 1850 and 1918 saw the establishment and significant development of the Pinjarra Townsite. The arrival of the railway in 1893, in conjunction with the gold boom in Western Australia and the emergence of significant industries in the region - such as agriculture, farming and timber - resulted in many public facilities being erected in the town in response to the growing demands of the community. The buildings, which appeared during this period, include the Courthouse (1888), Post Office (1896), School (1896), Mechanics Institute (1897), Road Board Office (c1900), Police Station (c1900), as well as hotels, shops and churches. Masonic Hall, Pinjarra also fits into this period of development, being constructed in 1903/04.

Although Freemasonry in Western Australia dates back to the early 1840s, control of all Lodges originally came under the control of the Grand Lodge of England. It was not until 27 February 1900 that a Sovereign Grand Lodge of Western Australia was officially formed and declared.

Soon after the Grand Lodge of Western Australia was officially declared, a group of men in the Murray region - led by John Pollard McLarty, John McNab, Alfred Thomas and William Warwick - began planning the formation of their own the building of their Masonic Hall in Pinjarra. In the meantime, they met in the Mechanics' Institute.

In July 1903, Mr John Crothers, of Crothers and Hodd (contractors), entered into a contract with the prospective Murray Lodge members for the erection of Masonic Hall, Pinjarra, which was proposed to be '...a fine brick building, up to date in every way'. In August 1903, Pinjarra Town Lot 42 was purchased by McLarty, McNab, Thomas and Warwick as joint tenants, from the Diocesan Trustees of the Church of England for a cost of £55. The members of the Murray Lodge were very keen to have a hall erected, even before their warrant from the Grand Lodge had been officially issued:

The Murray Lodge is to be erected at Pinjarra, where a number of enthusiastic brethren reside. So energetic are the members of the Murray Lodge that they have completed a Masonic Hall before applying for their warrant from the Grand Lodge of Western Australia. The Wor. Master-Designate of the Murray Lodge is Bro. J P McLarty.

On 8 November 1903, the foundation stone of Masonic Hall, Pinjarra was laid by Hon. Bro. Edward McLarty (brother of John Pollard). McLarty was a member of the legislative Council at the time. The Hall was constituted and consecrated on 15 April 1904 by the Grand Master, the Hon. J W. Hackett, LLD, with the assistance of Bro. Rev. Edward Clairs, PGC, and henceforth identified as Murray Lodge 69. Jarrahdale Lodge No. 49, established in 1901, was the sponsor Lodge. After the official ceremony, a banquet was held at the nearby Exchange Hotel.

Other Masonic halls to be built during the Federation Period (1890-1915) in regional areas, and which still exist, include Bunbury (c1892), Geraldton (c1892), Kalgoorlie (1899), Cue (1899), Jarrahdale (1901 - relocated to Mundijong in 1947), Boulder (1902), Wagin (1907), Gnowangerup (1910), and Yarloop, built just outside the period (1928).



The first Wor. Master of Murray Lodge 69, John Pollard McLarty, was the son of John and Mary McLarty who were amongst the first settlers in the Pinjarra region, moving to the area soon after they arrived in Western Australia in 1839. The McLarty family was to have a great influence on the development of Pinjarra, and their original homestead, Blythewood (just 4 kilometres out of the town centre), was a major focus for the community of Pinjarra, operating at various times as a hotel and inn, farm and post office.

John Pollard McLarty, who farmed beef and wheat in the Pinjarra region, extended the pastoral activities of the McLarty family by establishing a major pastoral station in the Kimberley in 1881, the station being called Liveringa. As well as being involved in the Murray Lodge, John Pollard was actively involved in other areas of the civic life of Pinjarra and also entered Parliament. In 1895, he joined the Public Works Department as supervisor and engineer.

John Pollard's brother, Edward, built the now historic homesteads, Liveringa (c1885) and Edenvale (1888) in the Pinjarra townsite. Like his brother, Edward McLarty was involved in the civic life of Pinjarra, being elected on the Murray Roads Board (1877), the Murray District Board of Education, the Murray Farmer's Association and the Pinjarra Common Lands Board. Edward was also to enter State politics, becoming the member for the South-West Province in 1894.

Although there was much enthusiasm for the new Lodge, in March 1906 a motion was proposed that '...owing to non-attendance of brethren a ballot be taken to decide if the Lodge shall go into recess for twelve months commencing from June 1906.' The reason for the non-attendance was apparently due to the regular late running time of trains, which at this time was the main means of transport. Although the motion was lost and the Lodge did not go into recess, the problem with the trains was still being noted in the minutes up to 1911.

On 8 January 1909, a Lodge of Sorrow was held in memory of their founding Wor. Master John Pollard McLarty, which was preceded by a march of brethren in full regalia to Edward McLarty's residence, Edenvale, and then on to the funeral. W. Bro. John McKay took over from McLarty as the Wor. Master. With the death of Alfred Edward Thomas in July 1911, the land containing Lot 42 was transferred to Murray Lodge 69, the trustees being named as John McKay, Frank Christmas and James Brown.

In 1920, Kingsley Fairbridge, the founder of the Fairbridge Farm School, was initiated into Murray Lodge 69.

Despite the early problems of attendances at meetings owing to transport problems, Murray Lodge 69 steadily grew in strength. Within the first 30 years, the outstanding debt on the hall and regalia had all been paid back, allowing the lodge to engage in improvements to the hall from time to time, as well as add more furniture. Being debt free also enabled the lodge to purchase the adjoining block of land, Lot 41, in 1936 for £50. As for Lot 42, the trustees for the Lodge were McKay and Christmas but, with the retirement of Brown in 1936, Hobart Tuckey became the third trustee and joint tenant.

In 1949, the Murray Lodge, began hosting the Masonic Christmas party for the children of the Fairbridge Farm School. In 1952, Mandurah Lodge No. 262 joined Murray in hosting this annual event.

Over the first 50 years, 276 brethren had been initiated in the lodge, and at their Jubilee Celebrations membership numbered 120.



In the 1980s, an asbestos sheeting addition was erected at the rear of the hall to provide additional kitchen and dining facilities. In the mid 1990s, all external walls of the original red brick hall were painted cream.

In 1995, Masonic Hall, Pinjarra was listed in the Peel Region's Municipal Inventory. The Pinjarra Heritage Precinct Planning Study, prepared in 1996, also included Masonic Hall, Pinjarra in the Schedule of Heritage Places in the Town Centre. This study recommended that the Shire consult with the owners with a view to ensuring the conservation and protection of the hall as a landmark on the western approach to the town.

Owing to lowering membership numbers, Murray Lodge 69 integrated with the Mandurah Lodge 262 and a new combined lodge building at Furnissdale commenced construction in 1998.

In 1998, the National Trust assessed Masonic Hall, Pinjarra and, as a result of their assessment, the hall was classified on 14 December 1998.

Physical Description

The following physical description is drawn from the Assessment Documentation included in the Stage Register of Heritage Places registry for the Pinjarra Masonic Hall.

Masonic Hall, Pinjarra, is a single-storey brick, stucco and corrugated iron building in Federation Gothic Style and erected in 1903.

Masonic Hall, Pinjarra, is located on Pinjarra Road, a short distance from the main road, George Street, and between it and Murray Street. The main section of development in Pinjarra is centred on George Street and McLarty Road. Most of the historic buildings in the town centre are located along George Street or close to it. Masonic Hall, Pinjarra, is on the edge of what might be described as the historic town core.

Pinjarra Road in the area of Masonic Hall, Pinjarra, is relatively open land and the area immediately around the lodge and which forms part of its title is undeveloped.

Masonic Hall, Pinjarra, is a free standing single-storey building set on the south side of Pinjarra Road, located on the edge of the road reserve. Pinjarra Road is a two-way pair bitumenised road, which has no street trees or footpath on its south side. The kerb is semi-mountable and the road level has accreted to the point where the bottom step of the lodge entry is well below road level. The building is set on comparatively level ground.

The Hall is a single storey solid brick construction building based on a rectangular plan with a gabled form roof. The main entry is facing Pinjarra Road, and is a gabled front with a centrally located door set within an archivault and flanking lancet windows. Over the door and almost in line with the wall plate line, the symbol of set square and dividers and the date A.D. 1903 are formed in stucco in bas relief. A trofoil shaped vent is set in the gable and the louvre itself is made of metal. The front wall of the building is constructed of tuck-pointed Flemish bond brickwork and the quoins to the corners, windows and archivaulted portico are made of stucco. A stucco finished plinth is almost buried below ground level. All of this masonry has been painted. There is a thick stucco coping along the full length of the parapet. The windows are lancet shaped with two course headers in the arches, and with the rectangular section set with a four pane fixed light and the two pointed arch section with a two pane awning light.



There are two steps up to the front doors, which are replacement flush doors. There is a raised panel transom over the front door and a small pane fixed light over the transom. Either side of the door there are two engaged columns with acanthus leaf capitals with moulded impost, then extending from the impost is the archivault with its decorative architrave comprising palmettes motifs in relief. There is a marble foundation stone set to the left of the entry doors.

The two side elevations of the Hall section are simple expressions. Modifications to the north west elevation have caused its roof line to differ from the original lines, with the loss of the gablets along the mid roof line. The side elevations are composed of four bays organized around the four lancet windows. These walls are constructed in English garden wall bond. The windows match the front windows. There is a sheerline gutter with rectangular downpipes along the eaves. There are several cast iron grilles and some clay brick grilles at the low level. The parapet extends beyond the wall plane and is corbelled out a full brick beyond it. The end of this capping is a pedimented block with a flat border and a picked face rendered panel within the border. The roof is finished with painted corrugated galvanized iron. The south east elevation has three louvred gablets and its opposite elevation has had them removed. Both elevations have 's' shaped fish plates to accommodate tie rods. There is some displaced brickwork at high level on both long elevations.

The original building is a rectangular plan room with a raised dais around three walls. The room has a door leading into the social room and the pair of doors leading to the street. The latter are not in use. The floor is made of 5" (125mm) timber, which in most instances is overlaid with carpet. The floor in the centre of the room is covered with vinyl with an inlaid pattern and this is set in a 2:1 rectangular proportion panel.

The walls are plastered and painted with a light grey dado and white paint over the dado. The windows and the old main entry doors have blue curtains fixed over them. There is a series of five tie rods across the short span of the space. The ceiling is laid in a gently curving profile and the lining is Lysaght custom orb profile galvanized iron which is lightly coloured. The colouring allows the branding on the sheets to be read. There is a small profile cove cornice. There are 4 ceiling vents, which have been covered with egg crate grilles. The lighting is predominantly suspended fluorescent batten holders, but there is one incandescent fitting with a simple shade over the door which connects to the hall.

Since the preparation of the assessment documentation conservation works to the exterior of the hall have been completed that removed the framed and fibro clad additions to the rear of the hall that were of little significance, removed all the paint to the external walls, repointed the brickwork, and re-roofed the hall in short length, galvanised sheeting.



Proposed Works

Demolition/Removal

- Removal of all site fencing around masonic hall building.
- General clearing of site as required to facilitate works.

Proposed Works

- Construction of an Aldi Supermarket to the west of the lot towards Murray Street.
- Construction of a McDonald's Restaurant to the east of the lot towards George Street.
- Construction of a 103 bay car park servicing Aldi located to the area south of the Masonic Hall.
- Construction of a 15 bay car park and drive through servicing McDonald's located west of the restaurant.
- Construction of 3 new vehicular crossovers, providing access to Murray Street, George Street and Pinjarra Road respectively.
- Landscaping works to areas adjacent to the Masonic Hall.

The proposed works do not directly involve the Masonic Hall building. The works are predominately located to the large vacant areas of the lot which surround the Masonic Hall, some of which is included within the listed heritage curtilage.

The proposal comprises the construction of an Aldi Supermarket and a McDonald's restaurant located toward the east and west ends of the overall lot respectively. Car parking areas are proposed for the central area of the lot, behind the Masonic Hall to service these new developments.

The proposed aisle width of the Aldi car parking area has been reduced to 6.8m to allow for a 2m buffer area to the rear of the Masonic Hall, allowing for pedestrian access and to better protect heritage fabric.

The Masonic Hall will remain dominant in its setting as it was previously, with its presentation and relationship with Pinjarra Road remaining unchanged. The proposed landscaping areas to the west and open space (pending future development) to the east, allow for the visibility of the Hall's secondary and tertiary elevations, and maintain its presence on the site. The landscaping provides a buffer zone from proposed hard landscaping, inclusive of pavers and bitumen.

The heritage values identified in the Statement of Significance for the *Pinjarra Masonic Hall* will remain largely unimpaired by the proposal. The proposed works predominantly occur outside of the registered heritage curtilage, and do not have direct physical impact on the Masonic Hall.

The proposal develops a site which has been vacant from c2011. The development and increased use of the site will result in increased passive surveillance, foster sympathetic use and promote increased interaction with the hall.



Statement of Significance

In this assessment, the proposed works are measured against the heritage values drawn from the Statement of Significance for the Pinjarra Masonic Hall. These statements are drawn from the place's Register Entry and are as follows;

Masonic Hall, Pinjarra, a single-storey brick and corrugated iron building in Federation Gothic Style, erected in 1903, with later utilitarian additions constructed in timber frame, clad in asbestos cement, with a painted corrugated iron roof, has cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:

the original 1903 Hall building is a fine Federation Gothic style structure with a particularly well resolved entrance portico, comprising engaged acanthus capital columns and archivault with palmette motif decorative architrave;

the place is one of a small number, or possibly the only, Federation Gothic style Lodge Hall building in Western Australia and is therefore rare;

the place is a landmark on the Murray Road or western approach to Pinjarra;

the place reflects the establishment and growth of Pinjarra and the Shire of Murray and indicates the development of supporting cultural and social institutions that were the product of the growth of one of the State's earliest country towns;

the place is associated with the McLarty family, who were prominent in the history of Pinjarra, the Shire of Murray and the State;

the place has been an integral part of the social and cultural life of the members of the Lodge, who have made important contributions to the Pinjarra community;

the place contributes to the core of recognisable historic buildings in Pinjarra, which give it its principal character; and,

the place is representative of the Freemasons movement in Western Australia and is one of the more substantial Federation period Lodge Halls in the south west of the State.

The timber framed and fibro-clad additions to the rear are of little cultural heritage significance and the plant material in the grounds is of little or no cultural heritage significance.

The latter additions have since been removed, so their mention within the Statement of Significance is no longer applicable.



Conservation Policy

A Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for the Pinjarra Masonic Hall was prepared by Considine & Griffiths Architects in 2004. This section of the report discusses the conservation policies which are applicable to the proposed works. Where there are no relevant policies, good conservation practice is to accord with Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter principles guides practice.

Policy 14 – Masonic Hall, Pinjarra (fmr) acts as a visual landmark on Murray Road to mark the entry of visitors to the town of Pinjarra via the western approach. It remains to be one of the core recognizable historic buildings in the town, which attributes to the town's principal character. Its continued conservation is important to provide historic context for the town of Pinjarra. The place charts the establishment and socio-economic growth of Pinjarra as one of the State's earliest country towns and the Shire of Murray. There should be no further encroachment on the views to the place from surrounding development.

The proposed works are in line with this policy. The Aldi Supermarket is set back from the corner of Pinjarra Road and Murray Street to maintain the visual prominence and legibility of the Masonic Hall when viewed on approach from the west.

Policy 29 – Further site development should maintain the principal view corridors to the north and west of Masonic Hall, Pinjarra (fmr).

The proposed works maintain the view corridors and have no impact on this value. The works are in line with this policy.

Policy 30 – Further development should allow a significant amount of open ground to the west of the original lodge to be retained for the maintenance of an appropriate setting.

The proposed works seek to provide landscaping to the area west of the Masonic Hall as noted in the policy. The landscaping provides a buffer zone around the Hall to assist in protecting the heritage fabric, as well as retaining the visual prominence and legibility of building elevations within its setting.



Impacts and Mitigation

In this section, the proposed works are assessed against the heritage values identified in the Statements of Significance to consider the impact that these works may have on the existing site and heritage values. Where applicable, a mitigation strategy is recommended to reduce negative impacts on identified heritage values.

Pinjarra Masonic Hall

Heritage Values	Impact Analysis	Mitigation
The original 1903 Hall building is a fine Federation Gothic style structure with a particularly well resolved entrance portico, comprising engaged acanthus capital columns and archivault with palmette motif decorative architrave.	This value is not impacted by the proposed works.	No mitigation required.
The place is one of a small number, or possibly the only, Federation Gothic style Lodge Hall building in Western Australia and is therefore rare.	This value is not impacted by the proposed works.	No mitigation required.
The place is a landmark on the Murray Road or western approach to Pinjarra.	This value is not impacted by the proposed works. The proposed supermarket is set back from the corner.	No mitigation required.
The place reflects the establishment and growth of Pinjarra and the Shire of Murray and indicates the development of supporting cultural and social institutions that were the product of the growth of one of the State's earliest country towns.	This value is not impacted by the proposed works.	No mitigation required.
The place is associated with the McLarty family, who were prominent in the history of Pinjarra, the Shire of Murray and the State.	This historic value is not impacted by the proposed works.	No mitigation required.
The place has been an integral part of the social and cultural life of the members of the Lodge, who have made important contributions to the Pinjarra community.	This social and historic value is not impacted by the proposed works.	No mitigation required.
The place contributes to the core of recognisable historic buildings in Pinjarra, which give it its principal character.	This value is not impacted by the proposed works.	No mitigation required.
the place is representative of the Freemasons movement in Western Australia and is one of the more substantial Federation period Lodge Halls in the south west of the State	This value is not impacted by the proposed works.	No mitigation required.



Photographs



Photograph 01: View looking across Pinjarra Road towards the north elevation of the Pinjarra Masonic Hall. Site fencing around the hall is proposed to be removed. Griffiths Architects, December 2017.



Photograph 02: View looking towards the west elevation of the Pinjarra Masonic Hall. Landscaping is proposed to the area visible in the foreground. Griffiths Architects, December 2017.



Photograph 03: View looking towards the east elevation of the Pinjarra Masonic Hall. Proposed future works to the area shown in the foreground are not included in this submission. Griffiths Architects, December 2017.



Photograph 04: View looking towards the south (rear) elevation of the Pinjarra Masonic Hall. Scars of former latter addition visible following removal. Griffiths Architects, December 2017.



Photograph 05: View looking towards the south (rear) elevation of the Pinjarra Masonic Hall. Scars of former latter addition visible following removal. Griffiths Architects, December 2017.



Photograph 06: Internal view looking towards the south (rear) access door. There are no works proposed to the internal areas of the Hall. Griffiths Architects, December 2017.



Photograph 07: Internal view looking towards the front access door. There are no works proposed to the internal areas of the Hall. Griffiths Architects, December 2017.



Photograph 08: Internal view showing the existing condition of the hall. There are no works proposed to the internal areas of the Hall. Griffiths Architects, December 2017.



Conclusion

The heritage values identified in the Statement of Significance for the *Pinjarra Masonic Hall* will remain largely unimpaired by the proposed works. The proposed works predominantly occur to areas outside of the registered heritage curtilage, and do not have any direct physical impact on the Masonic Hall.

The Masonic Hall will retain a buffer around its perimeter in the overall setting, with its presentation and relationship with Pinjarra Road remaining unchanged. The proposed landscaping areas to the west and open space (pending future development) to the east, allow for the visibility of the Hall's secondary and tertiary elevations, and to maintain its presence on the site. The landscaping also seeks to provide a buffer zone from proposed hard landscaping, inclusive of pavers and bitumen.

The proposed development seeks to develop a site which has sat vacant for an extended period. The development and increased use of the site will result in increased passive surveillance, foster sympathetic use and promote increased interaction with the hall.

References

Architectural drawings completed by Architecture HQ, dated June 2025.

Architectural drawings completed by Hindley and Associates, dated June 2025.

Considine & Griffiths Architects, 2004. Masonic Hall, Pinjarra (fmr) – Conservation Management Plan.

Heritage Council of Western Australia. 2001. Register of Heritage Places: *Pinjarra Masonic Hall* – Assessment Documentation.

Heritage Council of Western Australia. 2001. Register of Heritage Places: *Pinjarra Masonic Hall* – Register Entry.