

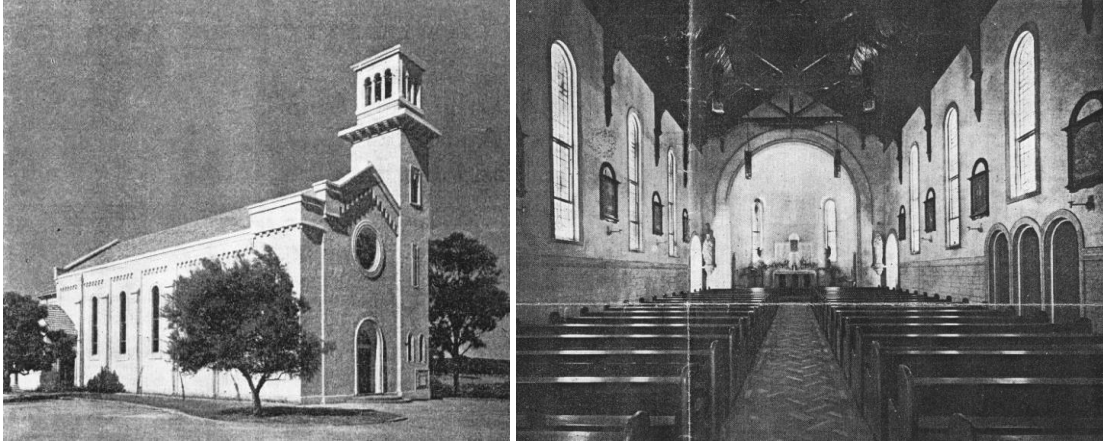
Marie Jackson-Harding

(*The Record*, 25 Dec 1941, p.9; 1942 NAA B884 W45375)

Marie Therese Jackson (1916-1993) was born 3 November 1916 at 142 Chelmsford Road, North Perth; daughter of Robert Thomas Jackson (1876-1930) and Mary Josephine McCann (1877-1965). Marie was educated to the Leaving Standard at Loreto Convent School, Claremont and commenced an Arts degree at the University of Western Australia (UWA) before deciding on architecture as a career. She became articled to prominent Perth architect Reginald Summerhayes (1897-1965) from 3 January 1937 for 3 years. Reg Summerhayes' designs at Loreto Claremont were built in 1937; family memory suggests Jackson's involvement with this project and later guidance work for the school's successor founded in 1977, John XXIII College.

Sadly, in April 1939 Marie Jackson, her friend Zoie Bennett and many others from the architectural profession in Western Australia attended the Karrakatta funeral of Alfred R.L. Wright (1861-1939), Architects' Board chair and mentor to many young architects. It is possible that Jackson was considering sitting examinations for registration as an architect at this time, as family records contain examples of Board examination drawings for the period.

The Clontarf Chapel was designed by Marie Jackson in 1940, after she had been introduced to the superior, Christian Brother Paul Francis Keaney. This fine chapel was quite an achievement for such a young architect. Early in 1941 Jackson joined the staff of the Public Works Department (PWD). In March 1942, she enlisted for Second World War (1939-1945) service in the Australian Women's Army Service, with various postings through until discharge in October 1945.



Exterior and interior of Clontarf Chapel of 1941 (*The Record*, 25 Dec 1941, pp.11-12).

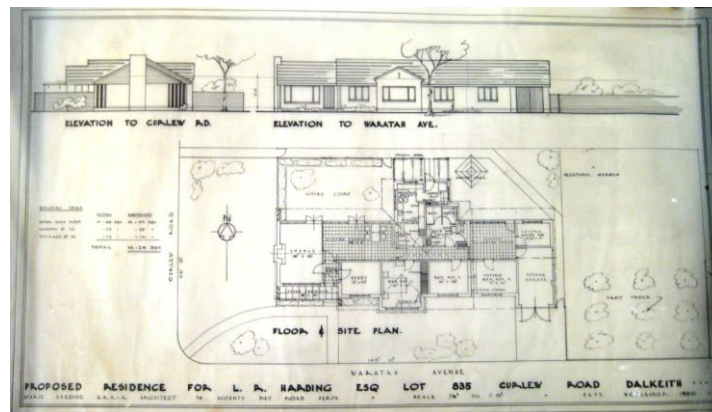
Marie Jackson drew up a master plan for the St Francis Xavier Native Mission at Wandering from 1945. The archives of the Catholic Archdiocese of Perth hold Marie Jackson's drawings for the mission including the master plans, convent, orphanage, rectory and various proposed dormitories and classrooms. Also included are her drawings dated 1945-1947 for reservoirs, a large outdoor crucifix and grotto. Only her design of the rectory, convent, orphanage buildings and the crucifix were completed, although the broad aspects of her master plan layout governed subsequent development at the mission site. The timber framed asbestos sheet clad rectory was the first building on the site, and the foundation stone for the convent was laid by Archbishop Prendiville in 1947.



St Francis Xavier Native Mission at Wandering (www.noongarculture.org.au)

As an indication of her status amongst her confreres, at the annual "T-Square Ball" hosted by the Architectural Students' Association of WA in May 1946, Marie Jackson and John D. Mercer (1923-1988) from the Association were appointed to receive the Lieutenant-Governor Sir James Mitchell and Lady Mitchell at the Embassy Ballroom. Jackson was President of the Architectural Students' Association in 1947.

With the disruption of the Second World War slowing the potential studies of both men and women, just six females were registered as architects in Western Australia in the first half of the Twentieth Century, with Marie Jackson being the sixth female registrant - no. 200 in February 1949. Marie followed Margaret Pitt Morison (Oct 1924, no.102 & Aug 1929, no.129), Nancy Allen (Dec 1932, no.138), Dorothea Hancock (Dec 1932, no.139); Zoie Bennett-Fryer (Dec 1933, no.142), and Margaret Feilman (Dec 1945, no.176). Jackson remained a registered architect in WA from 1949 until at least 1968.



Residence 55 Waratah Avenue cnr Curlew Road Dalkeith 1950 (courtesy Roger Harding).

Marie married engineer Lewis Ronald Harding (1917-2008) in 1947. Lew Harding eventually became the chief structural engineer in the Architectural Division at the PWD. Marie designed the family residence at 55 Waratah Avenue, on the corner of Curlew Road in Dalkeith during 1950, and it was built in 1951. The couple had children: Michael 1950 stillborn, 1951 Peter, 1953 Roger (completed a Bachelor of Architecture degree at UWA), and in 1955 John. Marie died at Dalkeith 13 March 1993, aged 76 years. Lewis lived to 91 years, and passed away at Dalkeith in 2008. A greater record of Marie Jackson-Harding's work from the 1950s onward remains to be documented.



Steel and timber hyperboloid roof grandstand at Mount Newman 1974, Trevor Lewis-Jones with Marie T. Harding (*A pictorial guide to identifying Australian architecture*, Apperly et al, p.257).

References:

'His Grace Opens New Chapel', *The Record*, 25 Dec 1941, pp.9, 11, 12.

NAA B884, W45375: JACKSON MARIE THERESE : Service Number - W45375 : DOB 03 Nov 1916 : POB - PERTH WA : POE - PERTH WA : NOK - JACKSON MARY

'T-Square ball', *The West Australian*, 28 May 1946, p.7 (details of attendees, dress of Jackson).

'Architects Dance at the Embassy', *The West Australian*, 29 May 1947, p.13 (President ASA).

'Town for Half Castes: an ambitious project', *Kalgoorlie Miner*, 22 July 1947, p.4.

'Native Mission Opened at Wandering', *Cathedral Chronicle*, 1 August 1947, p.1.

Heritage Council of Western Australia, Register of Heritage Places assessment documentation for Clontarf, accessed 25 March 2014 at <http://inherit.stateheritage.wa.gov.au/public>

Meeting with Roger Harding, 25 March 2014, at 55 Waratah Avenue Dalkeith.

Email from Adjunct Professor John Stephens, 19 August 2017, noting information on St Francis Xavier Native Mission, and citing Gallagher, John E., 1971. "Wandering Mission as part of the Pallottine mission effort in assimilating the Australian Aborigine". Thesis, Teachers Higher Certificate. (State Library Q 305.89915 GAL).

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