FORMER MARYS MOUNT CONVENT



FORMER MARYS MOUNT CONVENT SOHE 2008



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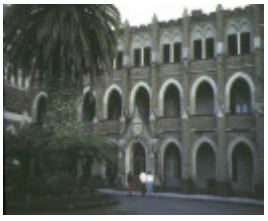
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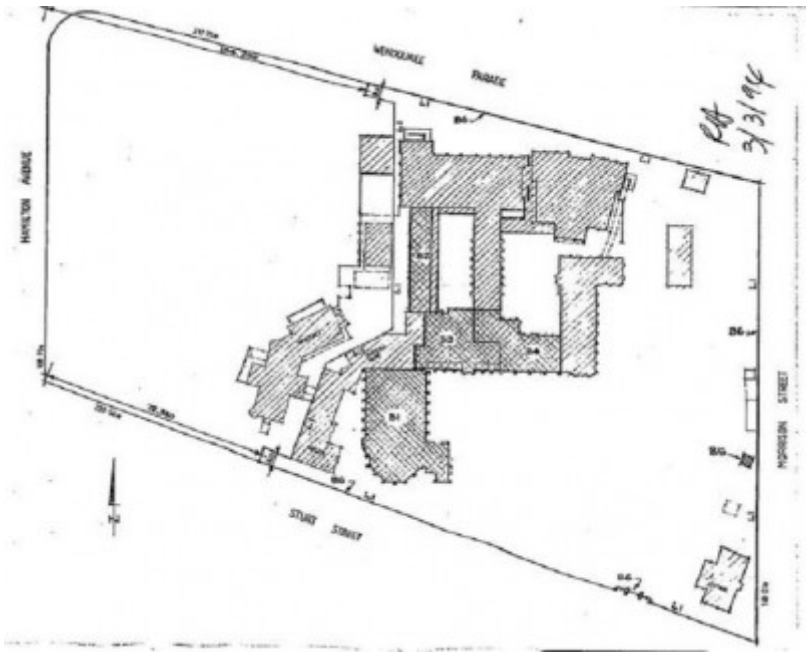
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1 loreto convent ballarat abbey side view



h01017 plan h1017

Location

1600 STURT STREET LAKE WENDOUREE, BALLARAT CITY

Municipality

BALLARAT CITY

Level of significance

Registered

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1017

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO126

VHR Registration

April 21, 1994

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - May 4, 1999

In 1875 the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Loreto sisters) acquired the two storey residence of EA Wynne for use as a convent. A three storey residential wing was added in 1882 followed by a novitiate established in honour of St Michael in 1892. The convent chapel, the church of the Immaculate Conception, which opened in 1902, was partly funded by the bequest of Countess Metternich, a former student and teacher. A third storey was added to the original convent building (Loreto Abbey) to commemorate the diamond jubilee of Mother Mary Gonzaga Barry in 1913. Mother Gonzaga, who died in 1915, is buried in the convent cemetery. Several additions, including hostel accommodation and a nursing home have been made since the Second World War.

Loreto College (also known as Mary's Mount Convent) is of considerable historic significance for its association with the Loreto sisters. The Australian branch of the order was established at Ballarat in 1875, and from Ballarat extended its mission in Victoria and the mainland states. Notable for the vigour with which it promoted education, the convent became a recognised centre of instruction for Catholic girls in Victoria.

The establishment of the convent school in 1875 marks a critical period in the history of Catholic education in Victoria, following the introduction of the Education Act (1872) and the withdrawal of government aid for church schools.

Mary's Mount is an important element of a group of buildings - St. Patrick's Cathedral, the Loreto College (Dawson Street), St Patrick's college, the Bishop's Palace and Sacred Heart College, Ballarat East - which demonstrate the particular strength of the Catholic Church in Ballarat.

The Loreto Abbey, residential wing, St. Michael's novitiate, convent chapel and the cemetery chapel [buildings 1, 2, 4 and 6] are of historical significance as the physical expression of the nineteenth and early twentieth century development of the Loreto Order in Australia. The period coincided with the tenure of Mary Gonzaga Barry as Mother Superior.

The Loreto Abbey, constructed as a private residence in 1866-67, is of historical significance as the building in which the Australian branch of the order was founded in 1875.

The Abbey is of interest in the way it demonstrates a changing pattern of architectural style and function, as the building evolved from private residence, to Abbey, to school.

Constructed in 1882, the residential wing is of architectural significance as a well executed and essentially intact example of the work of the prominent firm of architects Tappin, Gilbert and Dennehy.

The St. Michael's novitiate, constructed in 1892, is of architectural significance as an unusual example of a late nineteenth century brick masonry building with its quirky employment of polychrome brickwork, parapet denticulations, and picturesque chimney groupings.

Completed in 1902, the convent chapel is of historical significance as a symbol of the faith and identity of the Loreto community in Ballarat.

The convent chapel is of historical significance for its association with the German countess, Elizabeth Wolff Metternich.

The convent chapel is of architectural significance as possibly the largest and most elaborate convent church in Australia.

The convent chapel represents a notable application of the use of decorative paintwork and stencilling, tessellated tile work, and stained glass.

The convent chapel is of architectural significance as a well executed and essentially intact example of the work of the prominent firm of architects Reed, Smart and Tappin.

The cemetery chapel is of architectural significance for its unusual transverse gable roof terminating in a spire seated on a square base of highlight windows.

The honour roll in the cemetery chapel is an important historical record of the Loreto order in Ballarat.

The perimeter fence and entrance gates, erected in 1881, unify the disparate elements of the site and contribute to the value and importance of the Sturt Street west streetscape.

Mary's Mount is one of the most architecturally significant and intact convents in Victoria.

Permit Exemptions

General Exemptions:

General exemptions apply to all places and objects included in the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR). General exemptions have been designed to allow everyday activities, maintenance and changes to your property, which don't harm its cultural heritage significance, to proceed without the need to obtain approvals under the Heritage Act 2017.

Places of worship: In some circumstances, you can alter a place of worship to accommodate religious practices without a permit, but you must notify the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria before you start the works or activities at least 20 business days before the works or activities are to commence.

Subdivision/consolidation: Permit exemptions exist for some subdivisions and consolidations. If the subdivision or consolidation is in accordance with a planning permit granted under Part 4 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the application for the planning permit was referred to the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria as a determining referral authority, a permit is not required.

Specific exemptions may also apply to your registered place or object. If applicable, these are listed below. Specific exemptions are tailored to the conservation and management needs of an individual registered place or object and set out works and activities that are exempt from the requirements of a permit. Specific exemptions prevail if they conflict with general exemptions.

Find out more about heritage permit exemptions here.

Construction dates	1882,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Other Names	LORETO ABBEY, LORETO CONVENT,
Hermes Number	1431
Property Number	

History

Associated People: Tappin, Gilbert & Dennehy

Extent of Registration

AMENDMENT OF REGISTER OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS
Historic Building No. 1017.
Loreto College, 1660 Sturt Street, Ballarat.
(To the extent of:
1. All of the buildings known as the convent chapel, St Michaels Novitiate, Loreto Abbey, residential wing,

cemetery chapel and the entrance gates and brick fence marked B1-B6 respectively on Plan 600262O (A), endorsed by the Chairperson, Historic Buildings Council and held by the Director, Historic Buildings Council.
2. All of the land marked L1 on Plan 600262O (A) endorsed by the Chairperson, Historic Buildings Council, and held by the Director, Historic Buildings Council, being part of the land described in Memorial No.779 Book 540.)
[*Victoria Government Gazette* No. G16 21 April 1994 p.1003]

This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.

For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/