Victorian Heritage Database Report

Auxilium College -Salesians of Don Bosco Seminary



Location:
465 Lysterfield Road, Lysterfield VIC 3156 - Property No 61449

Heritage Status / Level of Significance:
Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number:
Listing Authority: HI

Heritage Overlay Number: HO217

Statement of Significance:
The 1880s two-storey building on this site, formerly The Leasowes, has high local significance as a remaining example of a 19 century rural retreat and holiday house built for Edward Charsley, a Melbourne barrister, who entertained guests there and bred racehorses, and later,

as the home in the 1890s of Edward Quinn, grazier, and his family. From the mid-1960s, it has been the Auxilium College, a seminary run by a Catholic religious order to train young men for the Salesian priesthood, and a retreat centre for school, parish and other groups.

Description

Auxilium College comprises a collection of buildings set within an extensive, semi-rural property. The buildings on the site are generally on a small scale, constructed from timber although a number of corrugated iron sheds are included. The main building is a substantial two storey former house and is set within a landscaped garden including mature pines, palms and peppercorn trees.

The rectangular plan building has an asymmetrical facade, with a recessed return verandah on ground floor level, and an overhung first floor. The first floor appears to date from a later period.

The ground floor is stylistically different from the upper level. It is constructed from timber, which is overlaid with a grid of timber strapping. The elevated verandah floor has been concreted, although it is likely to have been lined originally with timber boards. The base of the building is constructed from regularly shaped blocks of granite, which extend to form the base of the verandah pillars, and are crowned with brick piers. Decorative timber fretwork and turned timber pilasters adorn the solid pillars, which are connected by a simple timber balustrade. The verandah roof is lined with narrow timber boards and the windows are timber framed, double hung, with stained glass highlights adjacent to the front entrance.

The upper level of the seminary building appears to date from the turn of the century and is built in the 'Old English' style. This includes asymmetrical massing with projecting gable ended bays and intersecting corrugated iron gable roofs edged with decorative timber bargeboards. The walls are clad with imitation half-timbering and panels of textured render. The windows are casements.

The house is surrounded to the south and west by several recent, single storey additions, constructed in a similar style to the upper floor, using half-timbering and panels of textured render, as well as timber-lined, flat roofed extensions.

Good

Altered

Heritage Study / Consultant	Yarra Ranges - Shire of Yarra Ranges Heritage Study, Context Pty Ltd, 2000
Construction Date Range	1884 - 1884
Architect / Designer	
Municipality	YARRA RANGES SHIRE
Other names	
Hermes number	115103
Property number	61449

This place/object may also be State heritage listed. Check the Victorian Heritage Database. For further details, contact the local Council or go to Planning Schemes Online