Location:
73 Watton Street PENSHURST, Southern Grampians Shire

Heritage Status / Level of Significance:
Stage 2 Heritage Study Complete

Statement of Significance:
What is significant?
The single storey bluestone house at 73 Watton Street, Penshurst was built in about 1880. By the early twentieth century, the Chesswas family owned it. They had moved to Penshurst from Richmond in 1871 and became storekeepers, living in the former National School opposite their store in Bell Street. In 1945, the Sisters of Mercy purchased the house and established it as a convent. The nuns taught at the St Joseph's primary school in Martin Street until 1975. Since then, the house has been owned and occupied by the O'Brien family. It is in good condition and retains a fair degree of integrity.

How is it significant?
The former Catholic convent at 73 Watton Street, Penshurst is of historical significance to the Southern Grampians Shire and to the township of Penshurst.
Why is it significant?
The former convent is of historical significance generally as a residence in the township and specifically for its use between 1945 and 1975 as the residence of the sisters of Mercy who ran the primary school at St Joseph's Catholic Church complex.

Description

The house is in good condition.

The former Catholic Convent is a single storey symmetrical bluestone house with a gabled corrugated iron roof. The windows are twelve-paned, double-hung sashes. It has been extended in weatherboard at the rear, possibly replacing an earlier detached or semi-detached kitchen wing. A new verandah has been added at the front.

Theme 4: Building settlements, towns and cities

Theme 8 Developing Australia's cultural life
8.12 Living in and around Australian homes
8.14 Living in the country and rural settlements

residential

high degree of integrity to its 1960s condition

J. C. Watson, first owner of land
Mrs. James George Chesswas, owner of house
Sister of Mercy, occupants from 1945-1975

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<th>Heritage Study / Consultant</th>
<th>Southern Grampians - Southern Grampians Shire Heritage Study, Timothy Hubbard P/L, Annabel Neylon, 2002</th>
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<td>Construction Date Range</td>
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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