
CATHOLIC CONVENT (FORMER)



23354 Catholic Convent
Former 73 Watton St
Penshurst 0920



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Penshurst 0821

Location

73 Watton Street, PENSURST VIC 3289 - Property No 0071

Municipality

SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

Level of significance

Stage 2 study complete

Heritage Listing

Southern Grampians Shire

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - December 16, 2003

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.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Southern Grampians - Southern Grampians Shire Heritage Study, Timothy Hubbard P/L, Annabel Neylon, 2002;
Construction dates	1880,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Hermes Number	23354
Property Number	

Physical Conditions

The house is in good condition.

Physical Description 1

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.

Historical Australian Themes

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

Usage/Former Usage

residential

Integrity

high degree of integrity to its 1960s condition

Physical Description 2

J. C. Watson, first owner of land

Mrs. James George Chesswas, owner of house

Sister of Mercy, occupants from 1945-1975

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/>