
ST LAURENCE'S CATHOLIC CONVENT



St Laurence's Catholic Convent (2020)



St Laurence's Catholic Convent (2000)

Location

37 OGILVY STREET, LEONGATHA, SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE

Municipality

SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE

Level of significance

Rec for HO area contributory

Heritage Listing

South Gippsland Shire

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

What is significant?

The convent, designed and constructed by F.W. Morris in 1914, is a timber Federation Bungalow with a hip roof that extends to form the contiguous return verandah, and a minor projecting side gable. This building has a jettied and bracketed half-timbered side gable, one rear chimney with corbelled cap and turned verandah posts with fret brackets. The main panelled door is set into a wide central case with multi-pane sidelights and highlights and the building has symmetrical paired double hung windows to the front elevation, single windows in other elevations and paired tall windows to the side gable.

How is it significant?

St. Laurence's Catholic Church complex is of local historic, aesthetic and social significance to South Gippsland Shire.

Why is it significant?

Historically, the complex demonstrates the development of St. Laurence's after it was elevated to a Parish in 1901 under the leadership of Dean Coyne, who is commemorated by the memorial at the front of the church. This scale of this complex demonstrates the status of Leongatha as a regional hub within South Gippsland. (Criterion A)

It is significant as a representative Catholic Parish centre based around a place of worship, with an associated residence, convent and school. The convent and school demonstrate the importance of education to the Catholic Church and the expansion of catholic education in the early to mid-twentieth century. (Criterion D)

Aesthetically, the church is significant for the unusual blend of Romanesque and Anglo-Dutch/Spanish Baroque architectural detailing, and for elaborate plaster decorated interior, which is of an exceptional standard and of a scale that is rare within the Shire. It is complemented by the finely detailed front fence and memorial. The presbytery and convent are fine examples of Federation bungalows with characteristic form and detailing including the dominant hipped roofs extending to form return verandahs with original details. The finely chimneys to the presbytery are also of note. The school has distinctive form and detailing including the stepped tower feature and the fluted band to the parapet, while the dominant tiled hip roof visually related to the adjoining presbytery and convent. Collectively, the four buildings form a distinctive landmark grouping. (Criterion E)

St. Laurence's has social value for its strong and enduring associations with the local community through its use as a church, school and parish centre, which has been a focal point of the local congregations for over 100 years. (Criterion G)

Heritage Study/Consultant	South Gippsland - South Gippsland Heritage Study, David Helms with Trevor Westmore, 2004;
Construction dates	1914,
Architect/Designer	Morris, FW,
Hermes Number	30847
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

The Catholic Convent at 37 Ogilvy Street, Leongatha is a wide weatherboard Federation Bungalow. The wide three sided verandah is contiguous with the main roof at a slightly lesser pitch, and it has a projecting gables at the rear, which are possibly later additions. Other notable elements include:

- One rear chimney with a strongly corbelled cap.
- Vertically battened ridge gablets.
- Turned verandah posts with fret brackets.
- Side gable ends bracketed and battened.
- A wide central door case with a paneled door and multi-pane side-lights.
- Symmetrical paired double hung windows.

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/>