

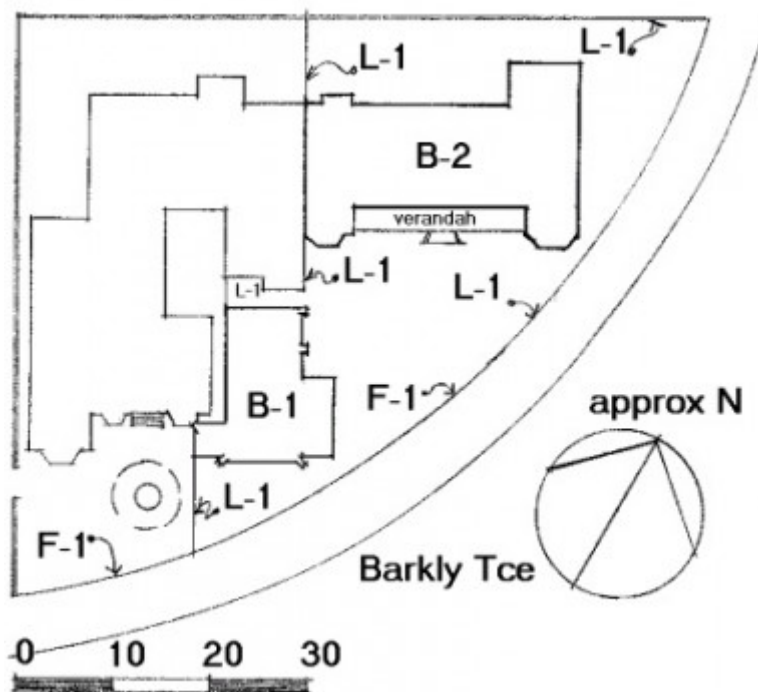
CATHOLIC COLLEGE BENDIGO



CATHOLIC COLLEGE BENDIGO SOHE
2008



1 convent of mercy bendigo front view
hall & boarders building apr1997



convent of mercy bendigo plan

Location

160 BARKLY STREET BENDIGO, Greater Bendigo City

Municipality

GREATER BENDIGO CITY

Level of significance

Registered

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1676

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO81

VHR Registration

May 21, 1998

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - June 5, 2000

The Sisters of Mercy arrived in Bendigo in 1876 and took charge of the primary and secondary education of Catholic girls. Andrew Thunder offered his own home to the sisters as their convent. This house had been built in 1865 to the designs of Vahland and Getzschmann and was extended in 1885 to designs by Tappin, Gilbert and Dennehy. The chapel was built in 1883 to a design by JM Brady but was redecorated by De Cavallero at the turn of the century and remodelled by George Austen in 1926-27. The first part of St Mary's College containing the hall and classrooms, was designed by TA Payne and opened in 1897. The three storey west wing, designed by local architects Keogh and Austen, was added in 1906.

The former Convent of Mercy is of architectural, aesthetic and historical significance to the state of Victoria.

The complex is historically significant for its associations with the Roman Catholic Church, particularly the Sisters of Mercy who were the first order of nuns to arrive in Victoria, and later the first order in the Diocese of Sandhurst, and who played an important role in education and welfare throughout the state. The arrival of the order in Bendigo in 1876 was a critical time in the history of Catholic education following the Education Act of 1872 and the withdrawal of government aid for church schools.

The hall and chapel are architecturally significant as fine examples of ecclesiastical architecture. The hall building is a significant example of Victorian period ecclesiastical architecture. Its important features include the bichrome brickwork, the prominent three front gables and the distinctive colonnade with its voussoirs, columns and highly decorative carved capitals. The red brick chapel with its large traceried window and flanking turrets is a significant example of Gothic Revival architecture.

The chapel and hall are aesthetically important for their internal decorative detail. Significant fixtures and fittings in the chapel include the mosaic floor incorporating religious motifs; the elaborately crafted marble altar and reredos with colonnettes, pinnacles and carved Last Supper scene; the carved timber stalls; the Stations of the Cross and the stained glass. The hall is particularly noteworthy for the highly decorative proscenium arch of the stage and the matching door entablature and the stained glass.

Permit Exemptions

EXEMPTIONS FROM PERMITS: (Classes of works or activities which may be undertaken without a permit under Part 4 of the Heritage Act 1995)

General Conditions:

- All exempted alterations are to be planned and carried out in a manner which prevents damage to the fabric of the registered place or object.
- Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of alterations that original or previously hidden or inaccessible details of the place or object are revealed which relate to the significance of the place or object, then the exemption covering such alteration shall cease and the Executive Director shall be notified as soon as possible.
- If there is a conservation policy and plan approved by the Executive Director, all works shall be in accordance with it.
- Nothing in this declaration prevents the Executive Director from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions.
- Nothing in this declaration exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the responsible authority where applicable.

Exterior

- Minor repairs and maintenance which replace like with like.
- Removal of extraneous items such as air conditioners, pipe work, ducting, wiring, antennae, aerials etc, and making good.
- Installation or repair of damp-proofing by either injection method or grouted pocket method.
- Regular garden maintenance.
- Installation, removal or replacement of garden watering systems.
- Laying or repair of gravel/toppings to the driveway.

Interior

- Painting of previously painted walls and ceilings provided that preparation or painting does not remove evidence of the original paint or other decorative scheme.
- Removal of paint from originally unpainted or oiled joinery, doors, architraves, skirtings and decorative strapping.
- Installation, removal or replacement of carpets and/or flexible floor coverings.
- Installation, removal or replacement of curtain track, rods, blinds and other window dressings.
- Installation, removal or replacement of hooks, nails and other devices for the hanging of mirrors, paintings and other wall mounted artworks.
- Refurbishment of bathrooms, toilets and or en suites including removal, installation or replacement of sanitary fixtures and associated piping, mirrors, walls and floor coverings.
- Installation, removal or replacement of kitchen benches and fixtures including sinks, stoves, ovens, refrigerators, dishwashers etc and associated plumbing and wiring.
- Installation, removal or replacement of ducted, hydronic or concealed radiant type heating provided that the installation does not damage existing skirtings and architraves and provided that the location of the heating unit is concealed from view.
- Installation, removal or replacement of electrical wiring provided that all new wiring is fully concealed and any original light switches, pull cords, push buttons or power outlets are retained in-situ. Note: if wiring original to the place was carried in timber conduits then the conduits should remain in-situ.
- Installation, removal or replacement of bulk insulation in the roof space.
- Installation, removal or replacement of smoke detectors.

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| Construction dates | 1865, |
| Architect/Designer | Vahland and Getzschmann, |
| Heritage Act Categories | Registered place, |
| Other Names | ST MARY'S COLLEGE, CATHERINE McAULEY COLLEGE, CONVENT OF MERCY, |
| Hermes Number | 5467 |
| Property Number | |

History

Contextual History: History of Place: The Sisters of Mercy arrived in Bendigo in 1876 and opened a school for primary and secondary boys and girls. Andrew Thunder offered his own home to the sisters as their convent. This house had been built in 1865 to the designs of Vahland and Getzschmann and was extended in 1885 to designs by Tappin, Gilbert and Dennehy. The original chapel was built in 1876 to a design by JM Brady but was redecorated by De Cavallero at the turn of the century and remodelled by George Austen in 1926-27. The first part of St Mary's College containing the hall and classrooms, was designed by TA Payne and opened in 1897. The three storey west wing, designed by local architects Keogh and Austen, was added in

1906.
 Associated People: Tappin, Gilbert & Denneby; Joseph Martin Brady; George Austin; T A Payne; Keogh & Austen;

Extent of Registration

NOTICE OF REGISTRATION

As Executive Director for the purpose of the Heritage Act, I give notice under section 46 that the Victorian Heritage Register is amended by including the Heritage Register Number 1676 in the category described as a Heritage place:

Former Convent of Mercy, now Catholic College Bendigo, Barkly Street, Bendigo, Greater Bendigo City Council.

EXTENT

1. The buildings forming part of the former Convent of the Sisters of Mercy, (now known as Catholic College Bendigo) and marked as follows on Diagram 607736 held by the Executive Director of the Heritage Council: B-1 Chapel, B-2 Hall, F-1 Stone Brick and Cast Iron Fence to Barkly Tce.
2. All of the land marked L-1 on Diagram 607736 including the footprint of the Fence F-1 held by the Executive Director of the Heritage Council, being part of the land described in Memorial No. 150 Book 628.
3. The following movable objects located in the chapel: the fourteen Stations of the Cross, the stalls (consisting of sixteen on either side), and the sedilia (Mother Superior's chair).

Dated 7 May 1998
RAY TONKIN
Executive Director

[*Victoria Government Gazette* No. G20 21 May 1998 pp.1131-1132]

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/>