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# Former Little Sisters Of The Poor Complex



B5179 St John The Baptist  
Monastery

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## Location

104 - 112 St Georges Road,, NORTHCOTE VIC 3070 - Property No B5179

## Municipality

DAREBIN CITY

## Level of significance

State

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1950

## Heritage Listing

National Trust

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - April 17, 2007

The former Little Sisters of the Poor complex, constructed in stages between 1885 and 1912, is of state historical significance as the first religious institution to be specially formed in Australia for the care of the aged poor. It is also significant as the first permanent house established by the Little Sisters of the Poor in Australia. Founded in France in the early nineteenth century, the Little Sisters became helpers of the aged poor on a global scale and were active in the local community over a long period. The construction of an institution specifically accommodating the aged poor reflects the demographic composition of the colony with the aging of the gold-rush population, as well as the government's failure to provide any form of social security in the nineteenth century.

The main building of the complex (1889-1909) is of architectural significance in the State as among the largest single 19th century charitable buildings to be inspired by Medieval architecture, in this case of Anglo-French origin. It is among the largest surviving structures erected for charitable purposes. It is one of the few nineteenth century buildings surviving in an externally near original condition of this use-type in the State, religious or otherwise. It also contributes to a locally important 19th and early 20th century residential precinct, being prominent in the locality and a landmark, visible from as far away as Essendon. It is a large and plain example of the work of the architect John Flannagan (designer of the 1888-90 first stage of the building) and the work of the architects Kempson and Conolly who were responsible for the 1908-1909 additions which followed Flannagan's original plan, despite changes in detail. The early farm buildings are of local significance as representative of the early rural stage of Northcote's development, and the first stage of the Home for the aged. The nearby timber chapel is notable for its picturesque detailing.

Classification includes the whole complex, including the grounds, the buildings, and the perimeter walls and gates.

Classified: 24/06/1982

Revised: 20/10/1993

Other Names      St John The Baptist Greek Orthodox Monastery,

Hermes Number    65429

Property Number

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*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/>*