

BUILDING TITLE MARY'S MOUNT COLLEGE
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA CITY OF BALLAARAT

NATIONAL ESTATE PROJECT No.
DOCUMENTATION OF LISTED HISTORIC BUILDINGS IN VICTORIA

DESIGNATION H.B.P.C. REGISTER No. NATIONAL TRUST ☒ ☒ FILE No.

BUILDING TYPE CONVENT
BUILDING NAME MARY'S MOUNT COLLEGE
STATE VICTORIA
LOCAL GOVT AREA CITY OF BALLAARAT
STREET STURT No. 1602
SUBURB/TOWN BALLARAT
CITY BALLAARAT POSTCODE 3305
RURAL
NEAREST CENTRE Km.

TITLE REFERENCE Vol Fol
DIRECTORY

NEGATIVE FILE FILM 3 / FRAMES 12, 13, 14, 15

PHOTOGRAPHIC ILLUSTRATION
DATE OF SURVEY/INSPECTION JULY 1978

OWNERSHIP ORIGINAL AGAR WYNNE / RESIDENCE
PRESENT LORETO ABBEY (MARY'S MOUNT COLLEGE)
ADDRESS

ARCHITECT/PRACTICE
BUILDER
ARTISANS/TRADES

TENDERS
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION
ESTIMATE/CONTRACT VALUE
ALTERATIONS/ADDITIONS CHAPEL COMPLETED 1902, VARIOUS OTHER ADDITIONS.

REFERENCE

BUILDING CITATION

The Loreto Nuns purchased the home of Agar Wynne in 1875 for their first convent in Australia and from this Mary's Mount developed.

The convent of ashlar sandstone is not of a particularly distinctive late Gothic Revival design but the grouping of the chapel, arcaded cloister section and east wing around the front gardens is quite impressive. Also of importance are the delightful patterned brick grotto with transverse gable roof and central spire, and a three storey wing constructed of red brick with bands of cream, a castellated parapet and an extraordinary skyline due to the row of chimneys.

The whole complex is intact in the principal approaches from Sturt Street. The complex is of statewide importance as the best and most intact example of convent architecture and several elements - the chapel, cloister, rear brick wing and grotto are of particular importance. The convent forms the principal element in an important environmental area.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that this convent complex be added to the Historic Buildings Register, the Register of the National Estate, and be specified under Clause 8 of the Town and Country Planning Act (Third Schedule).

- 01 GOVERNMENT RECORDS
- 02 LOCAL GOVERNMENT RECORDS
- 03 ARCHIVES/CATALOGUES
- 04 ARCHITECTS INDEX
- 05 ARCHITECTURAL DRAWINGS/ILLUSTRATIONS
- 06 PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORDS
- 07 NATIONAL TRUST FILE/ HISTORIC BUILDINGS PRESERVATION COUNCIL FILE
- 08 PRIVATE RECORDS

05. VERNON COLLECTION: ADDITIONS TO LORETO CONVENT,
BALLARAT, TAPPIN, GILBERT AND DENNEHY, UNDATED.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. J. NEIL AND M.C. SAYERS, BALLARAT SKETCHBOOK
2. J. SMITH, CYCLOPEDIA OF VICTORIA V.2. P.246
3. BALLARAT ILLUSTRATED P.47

ASSESSMENT OF LISTING
CONDITION/INTEGRITY OF BUILDING
SIGNIFICANCE OF BUILDING
LANDSCAPE/STREETSCAPE/ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE PART OF RECOMMENDED
AREA A3.9

DOCUMENTATION JACQUES LEWIS VINES DATE SEPTEMBER 1978.
ARCHITECTS 430

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MARY'S MOUNT COLLEGE, 1602 STURT STREET
BUILDING ANALYSIS AND DESCRIPTION

The convent began as the home of Agar Wynne, a solicitor, grazier, and owner of mines. The house was purchased in 1875 by the Loreto nuns to become the Order's first Australian home.¹ The Chapel was begun by 1899, but work stopped due to lack of funds. It was completed in 1902 due to generosity of Countess Elizabeth Wolff Mettenick who stayed at the convent.²

A new wing of nuns' cells and dormitories was designed by Tappin Gilbert and Dennehy,³ to be linked by cloisters to the existing building. Other additions and new buildings have been constructed but no information regarding these has been ascertained.

This building is one of the most comprehensive and important convents in the state in terms of intactness, size and number of related buildings and freedom from intrusive additions, except at the rear.

It is constructed of ashlar sandstone with dressings for windows, turrets and cappings. Although the building is not of a particularly distinctive late Gothic Revival design, the grouping of the chapel, arcaded cloister section, and east wing around the front gardens is quite impressive. The garden, with mature trees, is enclosed by a high buttressed brick fence with elaborate wrought iron entrance gates beneath a four-centred arch and small side arch for pedestrians. There is also a delightful

patterned brick grotto with transverse gable roof and central spire. The chapel itself is well massed, as the ecclesiastic east faces Sturt Street, which is terminated by a handsome pair of octagonal castellated turrets, an apse with three large wheel windows, and a gallery below which is quite effective as a continuation of the side aisles.

1. J.Neil and M.C.Sayers *Ballarat Sketchbook*.
2. loc. cit.
3. Drawings Vernon Collection, undated.

BUILDING ANALYSIS AND DESCRIPTION

There is a rather bizarre three storied wing at the rear of somewhat greater architectural interest. It is constructed of red brick with bands of cream, a castellated top and a row of six chimneys all along the west side which provide a rather extraordinary skyline. At one end there is an even higher row of chimneys joined by an arch to form a bell-cote within which there is a great wheel and bell, while at the other end is a double arched motif, again between two chimneys.

The whole complex is intact on the principal approaches from Sturt Street. The complex is of statewide importance as the best and most intact example of convent architecture, and several elements - the chapel, cloisters, rear brick wing and grotto are of particular importance. The complex, when viewed from Sturt Street, is enhanced by the mature trees of the front garden area.

The convent forms the principal element of an important environmental area.

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