

# WHITEFRIARS CARMELITE MONASTERY

Place No. 319

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<b>ADDRESS</b>	Cnr Park Road and Heads Road Donvale	<b>Last Update</b>
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<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<p>This salmon-coloured brick monastery complex is designed in the form of a Romanesque basilica.</p> <p>'Whitefriars' crossing tower has three tall lancets on each side. These have curious concave shouldered heads. The north entrance has complex sandstone receding mouldings, probably American Romanesque influenced. There is a grape and vine motif on the architrave and studs on vertical ribs on the timber doors. There are two papal seals above, with a virgin and child in between. All are carved in stone. Beside the north aisle is an arcade with carved sandstone Romanesque columns with impost blocks, under capitals. There are good small copper bracket lamps.</p> <p>The drive is lined with agapanthus and pines. The vehicular and pedestrian gates are important (presumably dating from the sanatorium). The gateposts are large dressed bluestone blocks, with classical mouldings and coursing, the fine wrought iron gates.</p> <p>The building is comparable to St. Haralambous Greek Orthodox Church (Refer to separate citation in this Study)</p>		
<b>Condition</b>	Excellent	<b>Integrity</b>	Intact
<b>Threats</b>		<b>Key elements</b>	Building
<b>Designer</b>	Tom Payne, architect.		

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<b>HISTORY</b>	<p>The first Carmelites to arrive in Australia were lay Associates of the Order, James Dempsey and John Butler. They came as convicts to Sydney in 1802, transported for their part in the Irish Rebellion of 1798.</p> <p>In 1881 five Carmelites from Dublin, led by Prior Joseph Butler founded a community in Gawler, then in Sandridge. In 1937 their successors decided to built a monastery outside the city for training priests and brothers, led by Father Paul Cleary. The 115 acre property Cleary bought had been a sanatorium, destroyed by fire.</p> <p>The first priests arrived in late 1937. The bush was cleared for farmland; pastures, pigs, vegetables and fruit trees.</p> <p>Tom Payne was the architect of this salmon-coloured brick monastery complex, in the form of a Romanesque basilica. He later designed the chapel at Newman College. The design won an architectural award for special purpose buildings.</p> <p>'Whitefriars' crossing tower has three tall lancets on each side. These have curious concave shouldered heads. The north entrance has complex sandstone receding mouldings, probably American Romanesque influenced. There is a grape and vine motif on the architrave and studs on vertical ribs on the timber doors. There are two papal seals above, with a virgin and child in between. All are carved in stone. Besite the north aisle is an arcade with carved sandstone Romanesque columns with impost blocks, under capitals. There are good small copper bracket lamps.</p> <p>The drive is lined with agapanthus and pines. The vehicular and pedestrian gates are important (presumably dating from the sanatorium). The gateposts are large dressed bluestone blocks, with classical mouldings and coursing, the fine wrought iron gates.</p> <p>In 1961 Whitefriars College relocated elsewhere on the site. The Whitefriars buildings are now used for seminars, courses and conferences. The carmelites still live in the community [129].</p> <p>Comparable to St. Haralambous Greek Orthodox Church.</p>		
<b>Creation Date</b>	c1940s	<b>Change Dates</b>	
<b>Associations</b>		<b>Local Themes</b>	

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**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE** Of regional architectural significance as an early design of Tom Payne architect; Payne went on to design the chapel at Newman College. Locally significant as an important landmark in the district. There are fine vehicular and pedestrian gates and bluestone posts remaining from the earlier institution.

**LEVEL**

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**RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Heritage Register Listings**  
**Register**

**Reference**

**Zoning**

**Status**

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None Specified

**Extent**

**Heritage Schedule**

External Paint Controls:

On VHR:

VHR Ref No:

Internal Alteration Controls:

Prohibited Uses:

Tree Controls:

Aboriginal Heritage Place:

Outbuildings or Fences:

Incorporated Plan:

Incorporated Plan Details

Description:

**Conservation Management**

**Extra Research**

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**BIBLIOGRAPHY** [129] Whitefriars Park brochure