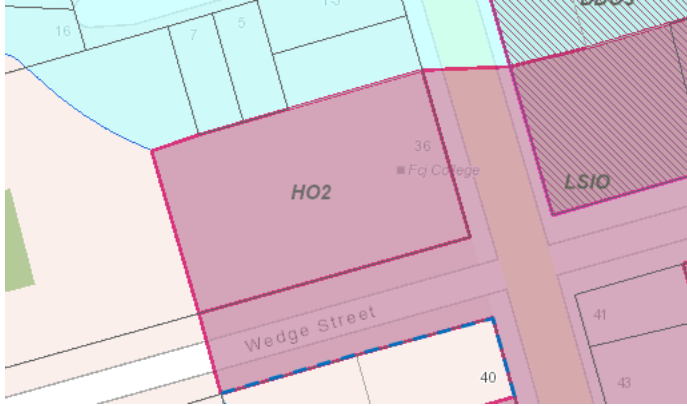


Place Citation HO2
36 Arundel Street BENALLA

Address	36 Arundel Street, BENALLA		
Heritage Overlay	HO2		
Heritage Overlay Map			
Designer/s	Unknown	Dates	1902
Significance	Local	Builder/s	Unknown
Heritage Overlay Map	The application of the heritage overlay map to the full title area is supported.	Survey Date	March 2024



36 Arundel Street Benalla - the former Faithful Companions of Jesus Convent



36 Arundel Street Benalla - the former Faithful Companions of Jesus Convent

Statement of Significance 1992

Source: Hermes number: 44375 <https://hermesorion.heritage.vic.gov.au/places/44375>

The former "Our Lady of The Angels" Convent adopts Gothic forms and a symmetrical layout also seen at the early Presentation Convent, Windsor, (1883-84) and the Brigidene Convent, Echuca (1888). Its substantially intact state and proximity within the St Joseph's Church complex give it importance at the State level.

The Convent is important locally for its role as a school in the community since 1902, and providing the only venue for secondary education for a period prior to the First World War.

The following Statement of Significance has been prepared in accordance with the Planning Practice Note 01: Applying the Heritage Overlay, (2018)

Assessment against criteria

The following analysis is based on Victorian Government Planning Practice Note 01: Applying the Heritage Overlay (August 2018).

Criterion A: Importance to the course or pattern of our cultural or natural history (historical significance).

Criterion B: Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of our cultural or natural history (rarity).

Criterion C: Potential to yield information that will contribute to understanding our cultural or natural history (research potential).

Criterion D: Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural or natural places or environments (representativeness).

Criterion E: Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics (aesthetic significance).

Criterion F: Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period (technical significance).

Criterion G: Strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons. This includes the significance of a place to Indigenous peoples as part of their continuing and developing cultural traditions (social significance).

Criterion H: Special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in our history (associative significance).

Statement of Significance

What is Significant?

36 Arundel Street, Benalla the former Faithful Companions of Jesus Convent is significant.

The context as provided by the generous landscaped setting is significant.

Significant fabric includes, but is not confined to:

- the original form, fabric and scale of the building

Place Citation H02
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- architectural features of the building: the gothic styled openings; the bi-chrome brick work walls and render ornament and details, the timber window and door joinery, the grey Welsh slate roof tiles and the brickwork chimneys; the central verandah with timber post and cast iron lace work.
- The front and surrounding fence, including brickwork, basalt foundations and render piers, gates and iron work

The building is substantially intact and has largely retained its integrity.

Alterations from the mid-twentieth century and later are not significant.

How is it Significant?

40 Arundel Street, Benalla, the former Faithful Companions of Jesus Convent, is of local historical, aesthetic and social cultural heritage significance to the Benalla Rural City.

Why is it Significant?

40 Arundel Street, Benalla, the former Faithful Companions of Jesus Convent is of historical significance as it provides evidence of the early settlement pattern of Benalla during the nineteenth century. It contributes to an understanding of the intent of Thomas Wedge's survey of 1848 where the entire west bank of the Broken River was intended to form the main civic and commercial centre of Benalla. (Criterion A)

40 Arundel Street, Benalla, the former Faithful Companions of Jesus Convent is of historical significance as it provides evidence of the presence of the Catholic Church and its role as a significant religious institution that sought to provide religious and educational instruction within Benalla. (Criterion A)

40 Arundel Street, Benalla, the former Faithful Companions of Jesus Convent is of aesthetic significance for its distinctive early twentieth century Gothic Revival architecture. The scale and fineness of its architectural expression, and this includes the symmetry of the façade, which is defined by the gothic detailing of the gable wings that flank the recessed two storey mid section. The two-storey cast iron decorative verandah is distinguished by its unusual decorative lace work and this decorative feature is also found on the two storey internal verandah. The scale and the architectural presence of the former convent provides a landmark feature within Arundel Street, Benalla. The landscaped setting and this includes grassed areas, winding pathways and mature trees contributes to the aesthetic significance of the complex. (Criterion E)

40 Arundel Street, Benalla, the former Faithful Companions of Jesus Convent is of social significance for its association with provision of religious and education instruction to the Benalla community since its construction and continues to do so up to the present day. (Criterion G)

Additional Controls

External paint controls apply	Yes
Internal alteration controls apply To the internal courtyard and this includes the: double storey verandah with cast iron decorative details and the original gothic styled openings and face brick walling and rendered detailing.	Yes
Tree controls apply	No
Outbuildings or fences not exempt under Clause 43.01-4 The external masonry fence, gates and decorative iron work.	Yes

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Included on the Victorian Heritage Register under the Heritage Act 2017	No
Prohibited uses permitted	No
Aboriginal heritage place	No
Solar energy system controls apply	Yes

Description and Integrity

The Faithful Companions of Jesus Convent (now a school campus) is a large two storeyed Gothic building. The primary façade is symmetrical with two gable fronted wings flanking a two storeyed cast iron verandah. The gable ended wings at either end having single storeyed bay windows. There is an attached two storeyed chapel wing on the south side.

The walls are constructed from bi-chrome brickwork, predominantly in red brick with bands of cream brick work at the spring line of the window arches that continue around and over the arches, and around the circular vents in the gables. At the ground level of each gable side wing there are projecting bays, constructed in brickwork and render to match the principle building and with a balcony on the first floor.

The bay walls are canted and include a gothic styled windows to each face, the front window of the south bay has been infilled with red brickwork in recent times. Further ornamentation includes rendered mouldings along the walls and on the ends of the gables. Rendered crosses stand at the pinnacle of each gable. The windows and doors of the central ground floor entry and first floor balcony are constructed with gothic arches. The balcony and entry are decorated with ornamental iron lace work and balustrades. The ironwork is unusual and distinctive and incorporates a cross, arch, sun and quatrefoil motifs in the friezes and balustrades. A two storeyed cast iron verandah overlooks the rear, U shaped courtyard.

The roof is clad in grey Welsh slate tiles, with triangular vents, and two symmetrical chimneys constructed in red brickwork and rendered top moulding.

Additions to the original building constructed in the Victorian period and further additions in the Edwardian period. Additional accommodation has been constructed to the north of the main building during the twentieth/twenty-first century.

The building has generous setbacks and there are paved paths to the circular grassed area. The landscaping includes a number of mature trees.

The front of the ground are enclosed by a fenced constructed from face red brick work with rendered piers and metal pickets between. The gates are decorative wrought metal.

The building and grounds are presently used as a secondary school.

The building is largely intact and has retained its integrity.

Place History

In March 1901 an appeal was launched to build a new convent for the F.C.J. Sisters on allotment 9 of section J on the North West corner of Wedge and Arundel Streets. The foundation stone was laid on 30 April by Archbishop Carr of Melbourne the building being completed early in 1902. It was opened in

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March 1902 by Bishop Reville. The building was brick, covering 85' x 100' with two storeys, there being 11 main rooms on the ground floor and 9 main rooms on the first floor, costing £5,520. In December 1989 the convent became part of the school and has been used for class rooms since that time.

References:

Rate Book 1900, 1901

Benalla Standard, April 12 1901, April 30 1901.

O'Connor, Sr M. Clare, *The Sisters of Faithful Companions of Jesus in Australia*, Armadale (Vic.) Graphic Workshop 1982, p.219-226.