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# PRESENTATION CONVENT



204437\_Heathcote\_Pohlman  
Street\_18\_Presentation  
Convent\_img01



204437\_Heathcote\_Pohlman  
Street\_18\_Presentation  
Convent\_img05



204437\_Heathcote\_Pohlman  
Street\_18\_Presentation  
Convent\_img06



204437\_Heathcote\_Pohlman  
Street\_18\_Presentation  
Convent\_img08



204437\_Heathcote\_Pohlman  
Street\_18\_Presentation  
Convent\_img09



204437\_Heathcote\_Pohlman  
Street\_18\_Presentation  
Convent\_img14

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## Location

18 POHLMAN STREET, HEATHCOTE - PROPERTY NUMBER 204437, GREATER BENDIGO CITY

## Municipality

GREATER BENDIGO CITY

## Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO778

## Heritage Listing

Greater Bendigo City

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - September 24, 2023

### What is significant?

The former Presentation Convent built in 1925 and the palm trees are of significance. The Holy Rosary School situated on the same site is not of significance.

### How is it significant?

Presentation Convent is of local historic, aesthetic and social significance to the City of Greater Bendigo.

### Why is it significant?

The Presentation Convent is of historical significance for its associations with Father O'Dea whose desire to see nuns assist in the work of the parish in Heathcote led to the building of the convent and to the setting up of Catholic primary education in Heathcote. *Criterion A*

Architects Kempson and Connolly who also designed the Roman Catholic Cathedral in Bendigo, were associated with the design of a number of buildings for the Catholic church. Although relatively conservative in design, the Presentation Convent makes a strong statement on the corner of Pohlman and Ebden Street and is comparable with Our Lady Help of Christians church on the opposite corner which is designed in similar materials. *Criterion E*

Despite the original use of the building now being redundant, the current use as an adjunct to Holy Rosary School is one in which the continuing associations with the Catholic Church and the provision of education in Heathcote, are able to continue. *Criterion G*

Heritage Study/Consultant	Greater Bendigo - Former Shires of Mclvor and Strathfieldsaye Heritage Study, Context P/L, 2008;
Construction dates	1925,
Architect/Designer	Kempson & Conolly,
Other Names	Catholic Convent, Canary Island palms ( <i>Phoenix canariensis</i> ),
Hermes Number	32870
Property Number	

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## Physical Description 1

The former Presentation Convent is designed in a conservative style for its construction date of 1925. It combines elements of transitional Victorian architecture in the symmetry and use of cast iron balustrading and brackets. The use of red brick and render would place this building stylistically in the Edwardian era, however the rough cast render to the gable ends and the terra cotta tiled roof suggest Interwar styling. The ground floor front windows are designed in a very similar manner to those of Our Lady Help of Christians Church at 59 Ebden Street, suggesting that the same designer or architect designed both these buildings. The stylized Serlian motifs of these windows are formed in concrete, however unlike those of the church, these form a prominent feature by projecting forward of the front wall and are surmounted by small rendered crosses. Crosses are repeated on the apex of both gable ends. The arch window feature is repeated throughout the building in a simplified form where doorways or windows require more prominence. Horizontal emphasis is given to the building through the use of

string courses in render that define the first floor level and the sill level of windows. The front windows and door beneath the verandah are of leaded glass in a squared design.

The convent is set in expansive grounds that contained a small outbuilding of 1920s construction in red brick with a tiled roof, and a number of mature trees including several palm trees planted in a group. The outbuilding was demolished in 2008.

The site also contains the Holy Rosary Primary School which is not of interest.

## **Physical Conditions**

Good

## **Integrity**

High

## **Historical Australian Themes**

8.0 Building community life

8.1 Maintaining spiritual life

*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/>*