

Area: Geraldton	Place Number: 357	Category: 2
Assessment Date: 30/10/1996	Last Revision Date: 11/03/2010	
HCWA Number: 13750	Asset ID: MCH126480	

PLACE DETAILS

Name:	Nagle College & Stella Maris Convent
Other Names:	Stella Maris College (Presentation College)
Type of Place:	School/Convent
Address:	103 Sanford Street
Suburb:	Geraldton

LOCATION

Map Reference: 15.15	GPS Northing: 6814317.00	GPS Easting: 266718.000
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Photo Description:

10/08/2007

Rod Milne

View to Nagle College from Sanford Street.

SITE DETAILS

Lot No.:	Lot 10	Assess No.:	11676
Reserv No.:		Vol/Fol:	
Dia/Plan:			

USE OF PLACE

Original Use:	School/Convent		
Current Use:	School/Convent		
Ownership:	Catholic Church		
Public Access:	Restricted	Occupied:	Occupied

DESCRIPTION

Walls:	Brick	Roof:	Tile/Asbestos
Condition:	Good	Integrity:	
Original fabric:			
Modifications:			

Nagle College is located on an elevated site to the west of the adjacent St Francis Xavier Cathedral. The college is a collection of buildings and extensions dating back to 1902 for the original convent. The convent is a two storey, brick building of Federation Free Style character with first floor balcony forming a verandah around the ground floor below. The convent is partly obscured by large Norfolk Island Pine trees and is located to the north of the main college, entry wing. This building has been constructed in two stages. The first stage is the wing east of the entry tower and was built as in 1911 and is of red brick with rendered banding. The tower and the wing to the west were built post-war, in 1951, as an extension to the eastern wing. The whole building was re-roofed with red terra cotta tiles, and the roof extends out over a continuous, two storey verandah either side of the entry. The verandah has a rendered, first floor balustrade and is supported on tall rendered columns. Together, the roof and verandah unify the building but they obscure the different ages of the two wings; however, changes in brickwork and the type of window frames (timber for the former and metal for the latter) provide visual clues at close inspection. The 1951 entry tower is of three storey proportions, featuring narrow Gothic windows above the entry arch and castellation to the octagonal spires either side of the tower and the parapet between them which is complete with cross. The tower was built as the focal point and has an Inter-War Gothic appearance that dominates the more 'functionalist' approach to the rest of the building of that time and the following 20 years or so. Two and three storey buildings to the east, behind the entry wings, are flat roofed, concrete framed with brick infill and

aluminium windows. A courtyard between these two buildings has recently been opened up to provide a vista through to the Cathedral to the north-east. The most recent buildings are to the south and are of two storey brick appearance, more in keeping with the adjacent entry wings.

With the amalgamation of Stella Maris (girls) and St Patrick's (boys) high schools, the residential accommodation for students has all been located at the former St Patrick's campus in the rationalisation and co-educational approach of the new Nagle College.

HISTORY

Construction Date:	1902	Source:	Presentation History
Architect:	Henderson & Jefferies		
Builder:	Pat Ryan		

The Congregation of the Sisters of the Presentation was founded by Nano Nagle in 1775 in Cork, Ireland. ("The Call and The Vision, The Presentation Sisters- 100 years in Western Australia", p1)

Following an invitation by Bishop Matthew Gibney, a small group of Presentation Sisters arrived in Geraldton, Western Australia in 1891 and took up residence in the former convent of both the Mercy and Josephite Sisters, a stone building located on the corner of Marine Terrace and Lewis Street. Commencing work in Geraldton almost immediately, the Sisters took over the already established Assisted Schools as well as opening a High School. The School was named "Star of the Sea", later to be called "Stella Maris Presentation College". (Ibid., p2 & 4)

By 1896 the Sisters had four schools in Geraldton - a boys school, girls school, infants school and secondary school. However over the next few years government changes in education including the cessation of financial assistance and the establishment of free, compulsory and secular State Schools, put pressures on the educational role of the Sisters. (Ibid., p34 & 35)

The Presentation Sisters also had a largely educational role elsewhere in the MidWest Region and other parts of Western Australia, particularly from the early 1900s on.

The old convent building in Geraldton was deemed to be unsatisfactory and was to be resumed for railway expansion. Therefore in 1902 work commenced on the construction of the present convent on land granted by the Government. The substantial convent building was opened on 15 April, 1903, with the foundation stone having been laid in the previous year by Bishop Kelly, the first Bishop of Geraldton. (Ibid., p6 & 36)

The new convent was built on top of a sandhill which was levelled by Mr Eddie Byrne using his horse and dray. The architects, Messrs Henderson and Jefferies of Perth had already designed the Bishop's Palace in 1900.

(Ibid., p36) A high school and an elementary school were constructed not long after opening of the convent. However, it was on 25 March, 1911 that the Foundation Stone of the present Stella Maris College building was laid by Bishop Kelly. Opened in 1912, the Contractor for the building was Mr Pat Ryan. (Ibid., p39 & 40)

On 16 July, 1941 the Presentation Sisters celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Foundation of the order in Geraldton. (Ibid., p46) In February 1942 boarders were evacuated to Mt Magnet following the battle for Singapore. Leaving only a skeleton staff of Sisters at the College, the students gradually returned as the year passed. (Ibid., p47)

In 1951 a new wing was constructed to the right of the entrance tower of Stella Maris College as well as reconstruction work to the original section of the building., including major changes to the verandahs. The cost of this work without fittings was \$65,000. (Ibid., p49) In 1964 the second extension to the college was commenced consisting of a three storey building which contained boarders' facilities on the top floor and six classrooms on the lower two floors. Designed by Mr W. Marcolina it was built at a cost of \$100,000. (Ibid., p56) Also designed by Mr W. Marcolina, the four storey Maitland Street wing was built in 1970 and was extended in 1980 to a design by Architect Mr Lew Eves. (Ibid., p58) On 3 April 1990 the new administration block was opened. (Ibid., p70)

In 1969 the two separate congregations of Perth and Geraldton were brought together by the formation of "The Congregation of the Presentation Sisters of Western Australia". (p2)

Since the Nagle College amalgamation, there has been some rationalisation of building use, site planning and new facilities designed by architect Michael Broderick & Partners.

HISTORIC THEMES

HCWA:	402 Education and science 406 Religion
AHC:	6.2 Establishing schools 8.6.3 Founding Australian religious institutions

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Nagle College has very high aesthetic, historic and social significance for Geraldton as an important grouping of education and Roman Catholic buildings in association with the adjacent St Francis Xavier Cathedral and the former Bishop's Palace. It is important historically and socially as a long established educational institution and as an alternative to the government school system, and in particular, for its residential student accommodation which has served the region. The buildings provide a

strong aesthetic for the town scape and add variety in the building style of buildings.

RECOMMENDATION:

Future building should endeavour to unify the complex of buildings without obscuring the different periods of construction in the College's development.

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY

Management Category:	2
Level of Significance:	CONSIDERABLE SIGNIFICANCE: Very important to the heritage of the locality.
Management Recommendation:	Conservation of the place is highly recommended. Any proposed change should not unduly impact on the heritage values of the place and should retain significant fabric wherever feasible.

OTHER LISTINGS

No other listings

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

"The Call and the Vision, The Presentation Sisters - 100 Years in Western Australia".
Bain, M.A., "A Life of its Own", City of Geraldton, 1996.
GLLSPC - Buildings (Schools) & Geraldton (General).

OTHER PHOTOS



Photo Description:

30/10/1996

Suba & Grundy

Front facade, main building, Nagle College.