



## Heritage Citation



### Good Shepherd Home (former)

#### Key details

Also known as

Mt. Maria Training School

<b>Addresses</b>	At 67 Osborne Road, Mitchelton, Queensland 4053
<b>Type of place</b>	Residence (group), Workplace, Institutional / group housing, Workshop
<b>Period</b>	Interwar 1919-1939
<b>Style</b>	Romanesque
<b>Lot plan</b>	L54_RP18795; L55_RP18795; L1_SP154913
<b>Key dates</b>	Local Heritage Place Since — 1 July 2005 Date of Citation — January 2007
<b>Construction</b>	Walls: Face brick
<b>People/associations</b>	Hennessy, Hennessy and Co. (Architect); S.S Carrick (Builder)
<b>Criterion for listing</b>	(A) Historical; (E) Aesthetic; (H) Historical association

This former Good Shepherd Home was constructed in 1931 for the Sisters of the Good Shepherd and comprised a convent, girls' home, and by 1932, a commercial laundry. The land surrounding the Home enjoyed a range of market and vegetable gardens and farm animals while the main building comprised a refectory, theatre/hall, chapel, recreation rooms and bakehouse. Extensive and expensive additions and extensions to the site were completed in 1955. The Home was later renamed the Mt. Maria Training School, however it eventually closed in 1974 due to a lack of funding. In 1978, the building was reopened as part of Mt. Maria Senior College while the commercial laundry continues to operate separate to the school.

## History

In 1930 the Sisters of the Good Shepherd acquired a 36-acre parcel of land from Frederick Cole for £3,500. Subsequently, in March 1931 the sisters bought almost 40 acres from the State Finance & Agency Co (a block running north from Kedron Brook and later transferred to the Brisbane City Council to form Teralba Park), and just under 48 acres from James Robinson on the southern banks of the creek, adjoining the 1930 site. The first group of sisters moved into the unfurnished cottage already standing on the site, reported to have been Cole's 'Prospect' homestead, in December 1930.

Preparations began to build a convent, girls' home and commercial laundry on the site. Perth's Archbishop Patrick Clune laid the foundation stone of the Good Shepherd Home in December 1930. Architects Hennessy, Hennessy & Co designed and Brisbane contractor S.S. Carrick, constructed a Romanesque double storey U-shaped brick and tile building, with wide verandahs over ground floor arcades. In December 1931, Archbishop Duhig officially opened the series of buildings, the day the first girls arrived to take up residence. Here the sisters cared for, in Duhig's words, "young girls whose lot in life is not conducive either to their religious or

material welfare ... such girls find a happy home [here]". The home offered chapel and convent, dormitories, refectory, theatre/hall, recreation rooms, kitchen, bakehouse and a commercial laundry, completed in 1932. At a time of depression and severe unemployment, the church congratulated itself on the employment of over 70 men on the building work, part of a larger endeavour to provide employment in difficult times.

The sisters had chosen fertile acreage capable of supporting vegetable gardens and cattle grazing, to feed themselves and their charges. By 1954 the site boasted market and vegetable gardens, cow bails and bull pens, turkey pens and fowlhouse. In April 1955 extensive, but unspecified additions to the home (possibly including additional machinery and furnishings) costing over £50,000 were opened. Inspection of the site shows that these extensions were most likely to have been additions to the laundry, covering part of the original facade and adding space at the back and sides.

The home was later renamed the Mount Maria Training School for delinquent girls, taking in girls who had been sent by the State Government for reformation, and training them for later domestic and service occupations such as needlework, laundry, or cooking. A number of these girls were of indigenous heritage and were under the control of the Aboriginal Protector. The home was closed late in 1974 due to lack of funds and staff.

The buildings were reopened in 1978 as the coeducational Mount Maria Senior College for students in years 11 and 12. The laundry still operates as a commercial concern, separate from the school, in conjunction with the Woolloowin Holy Cross Laundry.

In 1993 over eight hectares were leased to the Australian Catholic University until 2040, leaving the remainder of the site as it is today.

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## Description

Architects Hennessy, Hennessy & Co designed, and Brisbane contractor S.S. Carrick constructed a Romanesque double storey U-shaped brick and tile building, with wide verandahs over ground floor arcades.

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## Statement of significance

### Relevant assessment criteria

This is a place of local heritage significance and meets one or more of the local heritage criteria under the Heritage planning scheme policy of the *Brisbane City Plan 2014*. It is significant because:

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## Historical

### CRITERION A

The place is important in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of the city's or local area's history

as evidence of the presence of religious institutional care for girls in Brisbane in the twentieth century which highlights now outdated societal ideals.

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## Aesthetic

### CRITERION E

The place is important because of its aesthetic significance

as an imposing brick Romanesque style building that makes a strong aesthetic contribution to the grounds of Mt Maria Senior College.

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## Historical association

### CRITERION H

The place has a special association with the life or work of a particular person, group or organization of importance in the city's or local area's history

as an example of the institutional work of architects Hennessy, Hennessy & Co.

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## References

1. Queensland Certificates of Title
2. Detail plan 1856, 6 October 1954
3. *Daily Mail*, 5 December 1930; 2 April 1931; 17 July 1931; 11 December 1931
4. *Queenslander*, 17 December 1931, p. 28
5. *Brisbane Courier*, 6 January 1932; 29 April 1932
6. *Courier Mail*, 11 March 1936
7. *Catholic Leader*, 17 December 1931; 28 April 1955; 15 June 1975; 22 February 1981

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**Note:** This citation has been prepared on the basis of evidence available at the time including an external examination of the building. The statement of significance is a summary of the most culturally important aspects of the property based on the available evidence, and may be re-assessed if further information becomes available. The purpose of this citation is to provide an informed evaluation for heritage registration and information. This does not negate the necessity for a thorough conservation study by a qualified practitioner, before any action is taken which may affect its heritage significance.

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