



**HERITAGE
COUNCIL**
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES

Register Entry

1. **DATA BASE No.** 13658
2. **NAME** Loreto Primary School & Convent Group, Nedlands
FORMER NAME (or OTHER NAMES)
3. **LOCATION** 69 Webster Street, Nedlands
4. **DESCRIPTION OF PLACE INCLUDED IN THIS ENTRY**
 1. Lots 414, 415, 416, 420, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, and 441 on Plan 1747, being the land contained in Certificate of Title Volume 1031 Folio 899.
 2. Lot 417 on Plan 1747 being the land contained in Certificate of Title Volume 660 Folio 166.
 3. Lots 418 and 419 on Plan 1747 being the land contained in Certificate of Title Volume 644 Folio 27.
5. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA** City of Nedlands
6. **HERITAGE LISTINGS**
 - Register of Heritage Places: 07/06/2024
 - National Trust Classification: -----
 - Local Planning Scheme – Heritage List: -----
 - Local Heritage Survey: 23/10/2018
7. **ORDERS UNDER SECTION OF THE ACT**

8. **HERITAGE AGREEMENT**

9. **STATEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE**
What is significant?

Loreto Primary School & Convent Group, Nedlands comprises a substantial two-storey symmetrical brick and tile Inter- War Gothic style Convent School Building, constructed in two stages in 1931 and 1940, and Barry Park – an area of mature

native vegetation, Early Childhood and Library Building (c1970s), Performing Arts Centre (2011), Pre-kindergarten (late 20th century), Centenary Pavilion, (late 20th century), and various outdoor play areas.

Elements that contribute to the significance of the place include (but are not limited to):

- The Convent School Building, constructed in two stages in 1930 and 1940.
- Internal elements of the Convent School Building including decorative pressed metal ceilings, ornate plasterwork ceilings, jarrah staircases, oriel windows, and leadlight window detailing to the primary entrance and entrance to the southern elevation.
- The setting, including Barry Park – an area of mature native vegetation.
- Limestone Grotto

The following elements, do not contribute to the significance of the place:

- Early Childhood and Library Building (c1970s)
- Performing Arts Centre (2011)
- Pre-kindergarten (late 20th century)
- Centenary Pavilion (late 20th century)
- Tennis and basketball courts, courtyard spaces, outdoor play areas
- Modern internal fitout to original convent building including services, contemporary joinery, toilets, kitchens/servery.

Intrusive elements

- External services and utilities

How is it significant?

Loreto Primary School & Convent Group, Nedlands is of aesthetic, historic, scientific, social, and spiritual value and satisfies the following factors relevant to cultural heritage significance:

- A. importance in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of Western Australia's history;
- B. importance in demonstrating rare, uncommon or endangered aspects of Western Australia's heritage;
- C. potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Western Australia's history;
- E. strong or special meaning it has for any group or community because of social, cultural or spiritual associations;
- F. importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by any group or community;
- G. special association it has with the life or work of a person, group or organisation of importance in Western Australia's history;

Why is it significant?

Loreto Primary School & Convent Group, Nedlands is of aesthetic value as a good example of a substantial, well composed two-storey symmetrical brick and tile Inter-War Gothic style Convent School Building, constructed in two stages in 1930 and 1940, featuring elements typical of the Inter-War Gothic style, including decorative oriel windows. (Factor F)

Loreto Primary School & Convent Group, Nedlands is of historic value as the first convent and school building purposely constructed for the Loreto Order in Western Australia in 1931, since their first arrival in the State in 1897, and illustrates the Order's commitment to the education of children in Western Australia. (Factor A)

Loreto Primary School & Convent Group, Nedlands was the third Loreto School established in Western Australia following those at Adelaide Terrace (1897) and Claremont (1901). It was the only purpose-built school of the three and is the only Loreto School that remains extant in the State. (Factors A and B)

Loreto Primary School & Convent Group, Nedlands is of social and spiritual value for its role in the education of the Catholic community in the Nedlands area since it was first established in 1931 and is highly valued by the school community, including teachers and former students and their families, as demonstrated by the nearly 1300 signatures for a petition calling for the school to remain open after 2023. (Factor E)

Loreto Primary School & Convent Group, Nedlands is a landmark on Webster Street in Nedlands. Its pleasing composition of the Convent School Building, and mature trees and grounds contribute to the overall aesthetic qualities of the streetscape and to the community's sense of place. (Factor F)

The interior of the main Convent School Building has notable finely designed elements including, leadlight window detailing to the main front entrance, timber staircase, ornate plasterwork ceilings, and decorative pressed metal ceilings. (Factor F)

Loreto Primary School & Convent Group, Nedlands is associated with Sister Veronica Brady, a prominent member of the Loreto Nedlands community, who gained a national and international reputation as a public intellectual, author, literary critic and advocate for Aboriginal and women's rights. (Factor G)

Loreto Primary School & Convent Group, Nedlands has potential to yield information about the early operation of Catholic schooling in the State from the 1930's onwards, by way of potential sub surface deposits. (Factor C)