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# SACRED HEART

## Heritage Conservation Area

*A landmark church precinct which includes the Sacred Heart Monastery and Chapel, Convent and Our Lady of the Rosary Church.*

A large area of church-owned land bounded by Addison Street in the north, and Tunstall Avenue in the west and extending east of Kensington Road and south of Roma Avenue.

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### What is the area's significance?

#### ***Aesthetic Significance:***

The Sacred Heart precinct is dominated by a notable group of brick religious buildings with tile roofs, mostly Federation Gothic style, located on a prominent knoll in the western half of the City of Randwick.

The buildings are highly visible from many parts of Randwick City, due to their height, elevated siting, and roof turrets and spires. The Monastery and Chapel are located on the axes of two streets, Kensington Road and High Street. The buildings' appearance is enhanced by their setting in spacious grounds, with large areas of lawn, large copses or Moreton Bay figs, plantings of palms, camphor laurels and other mature trees, and brick walling on most street frontages.

#### ***Historic Significance:***

The Monastery and Chapel, Convent and Church have historic significance. They demonstrate the pioneering role of the Catholic Church in the early development of this part of the City of Randwick, and the contemporary religious and institutional practices of the Church. The grouping has been in continuous use since the completion of the monastery, convent and school in 1897.

The site has significance as an early land grant to Samuel Terry, a convict who became the Colony's first millionaire. The monastery and convent site have an association with the flour mill and early industries of the Lachlan Mills Estate. These preceded the area's dedication as a water catchment. The boundaries of Terry's grant are still reflected in the street pattern. This part of the grant was favoured by its elevated position, above surrounding wetlands, and made it the logical site for the first development of the area.

#### ***Social Significance:***

The Sacred Heart precinct has particular social significance for the school community and other current and former users of the site. The precinct is readily identifiable by the wider Randwick community as a landmark element in the suburb of Kensington. The elevated position was the original reason for the site's selection.

#### **Themes Represented:**

The following historical themes, identified in the 1989 Randwick Heritage Study, are directly illustrated in the conservation area:

- Modifying the landscape
- Government and institutions

- Promotion of culture, religion and education

The following themes are indirectly represented:

- Industry and commerce
- Transport and communications
- Suburbanisation

