

PLACE NAME: THE STELLA MARIS CONVENT (formerly "St. Helens")  
 LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA SHIRE OF CORIO

**ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY (References)**

STYLE OR PERIOD: Italianate

ARCHITECT(S)/DESIGN ORIGIN: 1848-Unknown  
 Reference:

BUILDER: Unknown  
 Reference:

PRINCIPAL ARTISANS/ARTISTS/TRADES  
 Reference:

TENDER NOTICE:  
 Reference:

DATE(S) OF CONSTRUCTION 1848  
 Reference:

Geelong Advertiser, 11th April, 1848 description  
 ESTIMATE/CONTRACT VALUE

**SUBSEQUENT WORKS/ALTERATIONS/ADDITIONS**

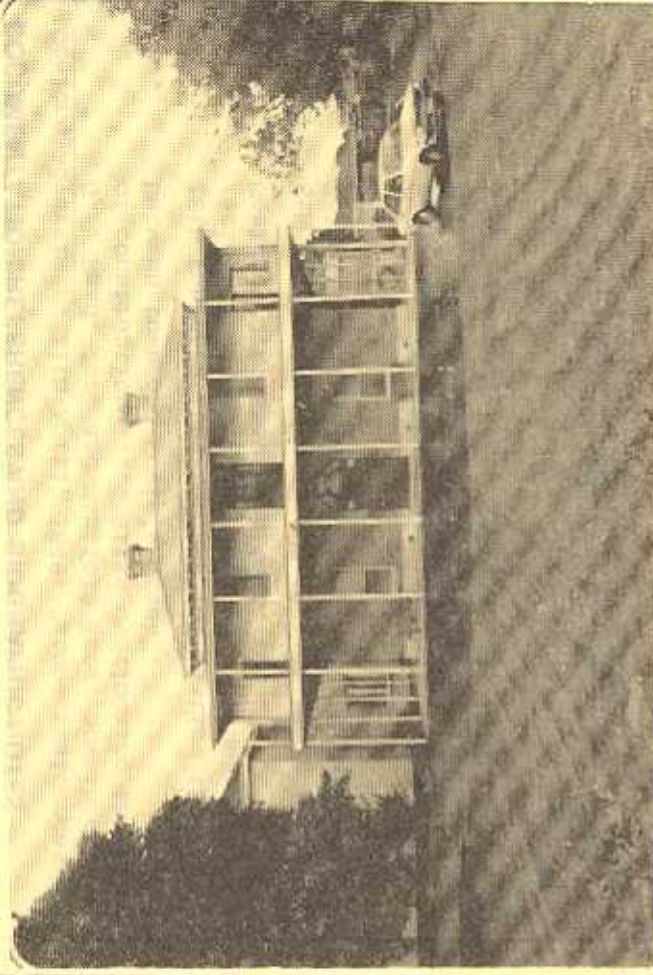
1911-2 storey wing added, dining room, classrooms, dormitory  
 1949-another wing added, ball, science lab, dormitories  
 Original verandah removed and substitute replaced.  
 1883-Alterations (extent unknown) when owned by Charles  
 Sharon.

**ORIGINAL OWNER(S)/OCCUPANT(S)**

George Frederick Read, Jnr. (1817-1854)

**SUBSEQUENT SIGNIFICANT OWNERS/OCCUPANTS**

**OTHER NOTES** St. Helens was purchased by the Sisters of  
 Mercy in October 1923.



**NEGATIVE FILE:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Australian Heritage Commission Register of National Estate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Historic Buildings Preservation Council Register No. .... File No. ....
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	National Trust of Aust. (Vic) Classified/ <del>Classified</del> File No. ....1729.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Geelong Regional Commission Register No. ....236.....

**IDENTIFICATION DATA**

PLACE NAME Stella Maris Convent formerly "St. Helens"  
 ADDRESS 39 Bay Street,  
 North Geelong, 3215.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA Shire of Corio  
 TITLE INFORMATION

**MAP REFERENCE** \_\_\_\_\_

PRESENT USE School building.  
 PRESENT OWNER/LESSEE Sisters of Mercy  
 ADDRESS Stella Maris Convent, TELEPHONE (052) 32150  
 Bay Street, North Geelong, 3215.

**PLACE NAME** THE STELLA MARIS CONVENT (formerly "St. Helens")  
**LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA** SHIRE OF CORIO

**DOCUMENTATION REFERENCES AND BIOGRAPHIC NOTES**

Geelong Advertiser, 11th April, 1848. "stone residences of G.F. Read, Jnr. and Manifold Bros. now in course of construction..... Sites overlooking the bay between town and Cowie's Creek".

18th February 1864-tenders for slating the residence of Mrs. Geo. Read. St. Helens, West Geelong. J.L. Shaw Architect.

8th August 1883-tenders for alterations to "St. Helens" for Charles Shannon, Watts & Jackson, Architects.

Ignatius, Sister M., The Wheel of Time, Advocate Press, Melbourne, 1954. P. 350. Details of the work of the Sisters of Mercy in Victoria, 1857-1953.

Langdon, H.C.C. 'George Frederick, Read (Snr.) (1788-1860)' in Pike, Douglas, Australian Dictionary of Biography, M.U.P., Melbourne, 1967, Vol. 2, pp. 365-366.

Billis, R.V. and Kenyan, A.S., Pastoral Pioneers of Port Phillip, Stockland Press Pty. Ltd., Melbourne, 1974, p.129.

National Trust of Australia (Victoria), File No. 1729.

G.F. Read (Jnr) married Helen Patterson, daughter of the Hobart Crown Solicitor, and after whom the property was probably named.

Wynd Ian, 'So Fine a Country, A History of Corio Shire', Draft Copy, to be published in late 1980.

**CITATION**

The two storey Italianate mansion formerly known as 'St. Helens' and now the Stella Maris Convent was erected in 1848 for G.F. Read (Jnr.). This two storey ashlar Barrabool stone house with encircling verandah is a transitional Italianate design, symmetrically arranged. The former 'St. Helens', is one of the earliest mansion houses in Geelong and now substantially defaced. G.F. Read (Jnr) was an important pioneer squatter in Western Victoria. The building has been occupied by the Sisters of Mercy since 1923 as a convent and teaching institution.

**SIGNIFICANCE OF PLACE**

- Its creative and/or technical accomplishment.
- Its demonstration of a way of life, custom, process or function no longer practised, in danger of being lost or of exceptional interest.
- Its strong association with an important figure or figures, development, or cultural phase.
- Its townscape and/or landscape value.
- Its scarcity value.

**SIGNIFICANCE**

- LOCAL  REGIONAL  STATE  NATIONAL  WORLD

**CONDITION**

- EXCELLENT  GOOD  FAIR  DETERIORATED  RUINS

**INTEGRITY**

- HIGH  LOW  ALTERED  DAMAGED

**RECOMMENDATIONS: PROTECTIVE MEASURES**

Geelong Regional Commission Register

**DOCUMENTATION** - Allan Willingham, Architect, 151 McKean St., North Fitzroy. 3068. Tel: 03 489 8492.

**SIGNATURE**.....**DATE**.....