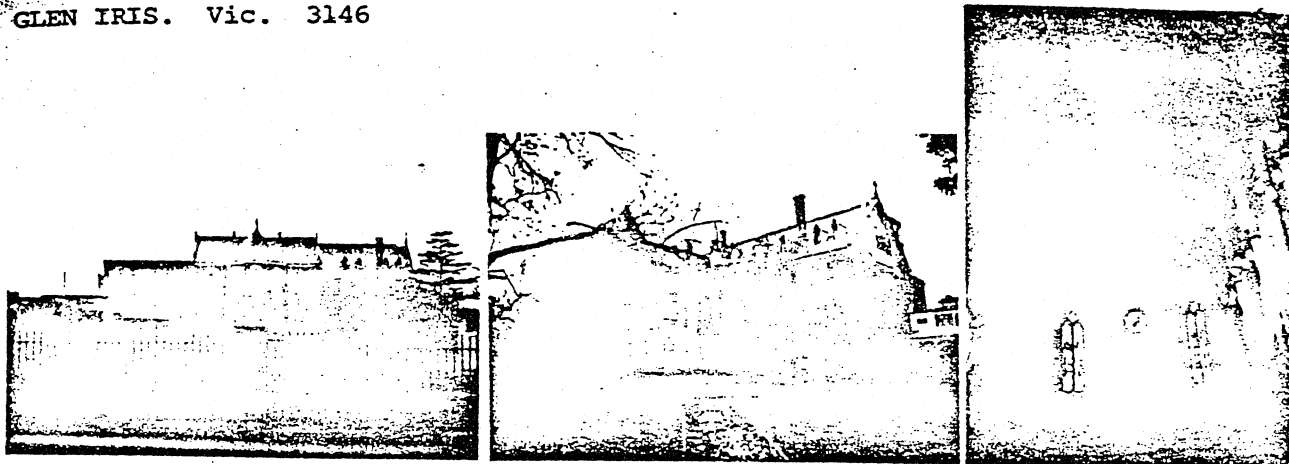


SCHOOL BUILDINGS, SACRED HEART

HO 7 MAP 7

M/03/07B

172 Burke Road,  
GLEN IRIS. Vic. 3146



BUILDING CITATION

School Buildings, Convent of the Sacred Heart, Glen Iris, are a red brick, L-shaped complex, comprising the three storey with attic S.E. wing (1890) and the N.W. chapel wing (1904), built to designs of Tappin, Gilbert and Dennehy. A bluestone plinth supports tuck-pointed brickwork, with details apparently sandstone (S.E. wing) and stucco (Chapel wing). Roofs are of slate, with unusual terra cotta ridge cappings and dormer windows.

School Buildings, Convent of the Sacred Heart, Glen Iris, are a local landmark and typify late 19th century convent/school buildings. Stylistically, the earliest S.E. wing is a utilitarian gothic revival style, with decorative arches, large brick chimneys and dormer windows with patterned sides relieving the severity of the design. The Chapel wing (1904) is in a Tudor revival style, the Chapel itself being of note for the fan vault tracery decorating the barrel vaulted ceiling and its European fittings.

School Buildings, Convent of the Sacred Heart, Glen Iris, are substantially intact, although a castellated lift motor room and extensive unsympathetic buildings to the east and north have been added.

Of local significance.

PRINCIPAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION

1. Percy-Dove, Clare. Brynmawr: The High Hill, The Sacre Coeur Association, Glen Iris, 1976.
2. Author unknown. Some of the Fruits of Fifty Years, A.H. Massina & Co., Melbourne, 1897.

RESEARCH INTO THE CONVENT OF THE SACRED HEART -

172-76 BURKE ROAD, MALVERN.

"Brynmawr", an old two-storey house built in 1859 for Michael Keeley, which still stands in the grounds of the Sacred Heart Convent in Burke Road, Malvern, was owned in the 1870s by Robert Morgan, solicitor.<sup>(1)</sup> An examination of the Malvern Rate Books for the period of Morgan's ownership provides no clues concerning alterations/additions (if any) carried out by Morgan.

The 1877 Rate Book, for example, simply records that R. C. Morgan and E. Green are owners of suburban allotments 119, 121, 122, 123, 124, with "house etc.", rated £250 at Gardiner, Parish of Prahran, in the County of Bourke.<sup>(2)</sup> Allotments 121-124 became the site of the East Malvern mansion built in 1891 by John M. Davies, one of Melbourne's leading solicitors and land speculators. This building is now part of the Malvern Church of England Grammar School.<sup>(3)</sup>

FREDERICK ROBERTS, IRONMONGER, 1881-86.

The description of allotment 119 and house does not change in the rate books until 1881 when there is a change in ownership. F. Roberts, ironmonger, the new owner, is

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(1) See National Trust file 3390.

(2) Malvern Shire Rate Book 1877, RB 25.

(3) See National Trust file. Malvern Grammar School.

described as o/o of house and land in Burke Road, rated £260.<sup>(4)</sup> It stands between land in allotment 118 owned by Thomas Parker, merchant, rated £110<sup>(5)</sup> and land, allotments 121-24, still owned by R. C. Morgan (for J. B. Davies).<sup>(6)</sup> The 1886 Rate Book describes "Brynmawr" as a house and ten acres, rated £350, and still owned by Frederick Roberts.<sup>(7)</sup>

SISTERS OF THE SACRED HEART, 1887-1975.

The Sisters of the Sacred Heart are shown as the owners of allotment 119 "with house etc." on ten acres of land for the first time in the 1888 Malvern Rate Book.<sup>(8)</sup>

The acquisition of this property is described in J. B. Cooper's history of Malvern. "The property the nuns bought in Burke Road," writes Cooper, "was a very costly one, consisting of several acres of well laid out grounds and a commodious house. The house after two years' occupation, was found by the nuns to be too small for their requirements, and it was decided to build a large convent".<sup>(9)</sup>

The Rate Books tell of the building of a brick convent between 1889/90. The 1889 Rate Book lists "Brynmawr" as belonging to the Sisters of the Sacred Heart, Margaret Moran, Lady Superior, on allotment 119 - ten acres and a twelve-roomed brick house rated at £425.<sup>(10)</sup> The following year the

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- (4) Malvern Shire Rate Book 1882, RB 601.  
(5) Ibid, RB 600.  
(6) Ibid, RB 602.  
(7) Ibid 1886, RB 2088.  
(8) Ibid 1888, RB 3052.  
(9) J. B. Cooper, The History of Malvern, Melb. 1935, p. 178.  
(10) Malvern Shire Rate Book 1889, RB 3800.

Sisters' property is described as consisting of a building of thirteen rooms and a two-roomed wooden house on ten acres of land, rated at £480.<sup>(11)</sup> The 1891 Rate Book shows much greater changes. The Trustees of the Convent, Sacre Coeur, are recorded now as o/o of a brick house of fourteen rooms on 9-3-23 acres rated £250 and a brick building of 35 rooms "in progress" rated at £370.<sup>(12)</sup> The 1892 rate book simply describes the two Convent buildings as "B" Convent, 14 R.", but the rating soars to £1085.<sup>(13)</sup> It stands next to a brick house "in progress" and land of 25 acres on allotments 121-124 rated £1100 owned by John M. Davies, gentleman.<sup>(14)</sup>

Cooper tells of the laying of the Convent's foundation stone on 13 June 1890, the Feast of the Sacred Heart, by Archbishop Carr assisted by the Very Rev. Dr. Donaghty, V.G., the Very Rev. J. L. Hegarty and Rev. T. Cahill, S.J.<sup>(15)</sup>

The description of the Convent buildings remains the same in the Malvern rate books. However, during the 1890s bank crash period, there are appeals to reduce ratings. In 1894 the Convent's rating is reduced on appeal from £900 to £800.<sup>(16)</sup> J. M. Davies, gentleman, has the rating on his brick mansion of 31 rooms on 25 acres of land reduced from £843 to £550.<sup>(17)</sup> In 1895 Convent ratings are reduced on appeal again from £700 to £550.<sup>(18)</sup> The rating remains at £500 until

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(11) Ibid 1890, Central & Eastern Riding, RB 4063, 4064.

(12) Ibid 1891, RB 5433, 5434.

(13) Ibid 1892, Eastern Riding, RB 5522.

(14) Ibid, RB 5521.

(15) Cooper, P. 178.

(16) Ibid, 1895, Central & East, RB 4270, 4271.

(17) Ibid RB 4268.

(18) Ibid 1895/96, RB 4271, 4272.

1905/6 when it is increased to £650.<sup>(19)</sup> J. M. Davies, now Solicitor-General, continues to have NAV of £500 on his property.<sup>(20)</sup>

An addition to the "Brynmawr" building is shown in the 1910/11 Town of Malvern rate book, when the Trustees of the Convent are listed as o/o of a brick house of fifteen rooms on 9 - 2 - 23 acres, rated £650.<sup>(21)</sup>

The most recent 1974 Malvern Valuation Book describes the property as a brick convent on land 507 X 857, non-rateable, owned by the Trustees, Convent of the Sacred Heart.

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(19) Town of Malvern Shire Rate Book 1906/7, North and East, RB 4898.

(20) Ibid, RB 4897.

(21) Valuation and Rate Book Town of Malvern, South and East Wards, 1910/11, RB 6083.

LIST OF SOURCES:

Cooper, J. B., The History of Malvern, Melb. 1935.

Malvern Rate and Valuation Books, 1877 - 1975.

Melbourne/Victorian Directories.

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C. Kellaway.

15/5/75.