

HISTORIC PLACES DOCUMENTATION SHEET

Geelong Regional Commission

Sheet 333

PLACE NAME: SACRED HEART CONVENT OF MERCY AND GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL (Former Orphanage)
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA CITY OF NEWTON

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY (References)

STYLE OR PERIOD: Victorian Gothic Revival

ARCHITECT(S)/DESIGN ORIGIN: Joseph Lowe Shaw, 1864, 1869
Davidson & Henderson, 1870
Reference: T.A. Kelly, 1874, J. Watts, 1885.

Geelong Advertiser, tender notices

BUILDER:
Reference:

PRINCIPAL ARTISANS/ARTISTS/TRADES
Reference:

TENDER NOTICE/S: Geelong Advertiser, 27th October 1863
Reference: 23rd August 1869, 28th December 1870,
11th August 1873, 7th October 1885.

DATE(S) OF CONSTRUCTION Orphanage 1864, Girls Boarding
Reference: School c 1869, Convent c 1872, chapel 1874.

ESTIMATE/CONTRACT VALUE: \$25,695 total expenditure up
to 1903.

Smith, James (Ed) The Encyclopedia of Victoria, Vol.2, p.434

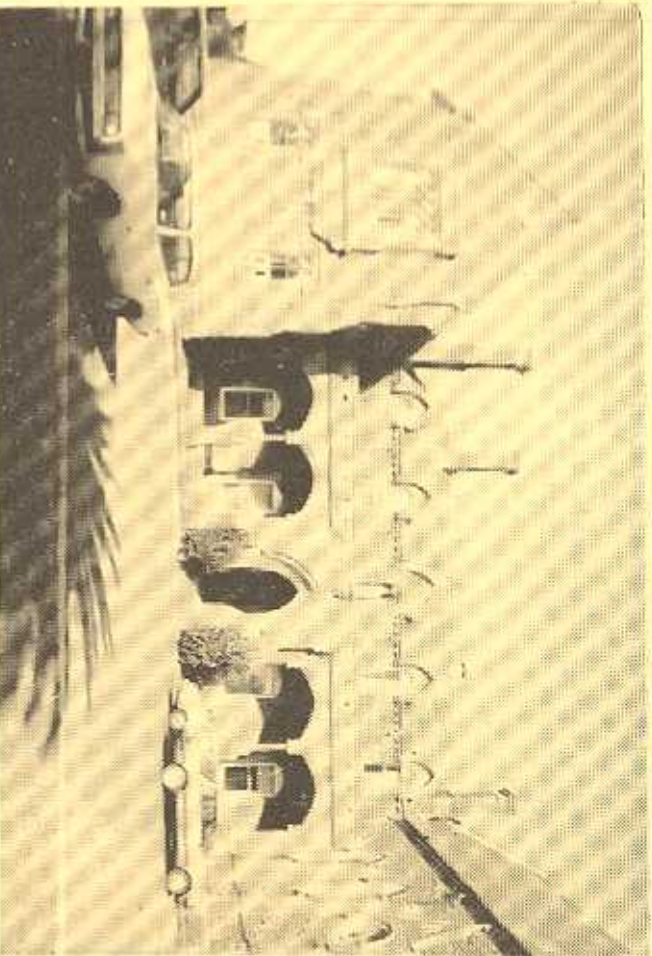
SUBSEQUENT WORKS/ALTERATIONS/ADDITIONS

The western wing was completed in 1881.
Additions were made in 1886.
Repairs and alterations were made between 1905-1910,
Messrs. Reed, Smart and Tappin were the architects.

ORIGINAL OWNER(S)/OCCUPANT(S)

Sisters of our Lady of Mercy, Order of Catholic Church.
SUBSEQUENT SIGNIFICANT OWNERS/OCCUPANTS

OTHER NOTES The Convent of Mercy was first established
c 1855 in the former residence of J.W. Selcher called
'Sunville' on the present site.



NEGATIVE FILE:

☐ Australian Heritage Commission
Register of National Estate

☒ Historic Buildings Preservation Council
Register No. 5722

☒ National Trust of Aust. (Vic)
Classified
File No. 1343

☒ Geelong Regional Commission
Register No. 220

IDENTIFICATION DATA

PLACE NAME Sacred Heart Convent of Mercy & Girls High School
ADDRESS Retreat Road,
NEWTON, 3220
*48-84 Aphrasia St
Newton*

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA City of Newton

MAP REFERENCE

48-82 Cont 7/00.

PRESENT USE Girls High School and Convent
PRESENT OWNER/LESSEE Sacred Heart Convent of Mercy
ADDRESS Retreat Road
NEWTON
TELEPHONE (052)

PLACE NAME SACRED HEART CONVENT OF MERCY AND GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL (Former Orphanage)
 LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA CITY OF NEWTON

DOCUMENTATION REFERENCES AND BIOGRAPHIC NOTES

Cinillo, P.R., and Moran, H.E., 'The Heritage and Sacred Heart Girl's College', History Research Essay, Department of Architecture, University of Melbourne, 1970.

National Trust of Australia (Victoria), File No. 1343.

Geelong Advertiser, 27th October, 1863, 31st May, 1864
 18th October, 1864, 28th December, 1864, 4th February, 1867, 1st January, 1868, 23rd August, 1869, 25th October, 1869, 20th November, 1869, 10th December, 1869, various tender notices called by J.L. Shaw, 28th December, 1870, tender for additions called by Davidson & Henderson.
 11th August, 1873, tender for Convent Church called by T.A. Kelly, (Davidson & Henderson, Geelong, acting as agents).
 15th April, 1879, tender for works called by Alexander Davidson & Co.,
 29th April, 1879, description of tenders.
 7th October, 1885, tender for additions called by Joseph Watts.

Brownhill, W.R., The History of Geelong and Corio Bay, Mike & Co., Melbourne, 1955, p. 294.

Smith, James (Ed), The Cyclopaedia of Victoria, 3 Volumes, The Cyclopaedia Co., Melbourne, 1904, Volume 2, p. 434

Geelong Historical Records Centre Photographs : 1316, 1317, 1318, 1319.

Historical Buildings Council File

CITATION

The Sacred Heart Convent of Mercy was established in 1859-60 in a large Colonial single storey mansion house 'Sunville' erected c 1850 for J.W. Belcher, and acquired by the Catholic Church in 1855. J.L. Shaw, Geelong architect, designed the original orphanage building in 1864 and the boarding school of 1869, with the new Convent building being erected 1872-74 to designs by noted church architect, T.A. Kelly. This complex of buildings, largely of bluestone with barrhead freestone dressings, is one of the finest Convents in Victoria suitably styled in the Gothic Revival traditions and with important associations with the foundation of catholic education in Victoria.

SIGNIFICANCE OF PLACE

- ☒ Its creative and/or technical accomplishment.
- ☐ Its demonstration of a way of life, custom, process or function no longer practised.
- ☐ Its demonstration 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 rarity 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
 Historic Buildings Council Register
 Australian Heritage Commission Register of the National Estate

DOCUMENTATION - Allan Williamson, Architect, 151 McKean St., North Fitzroy, 3068. Tel: 03 488 8492.

SIGNATURE DATE