

---

# VILLA MARIA, LATER VILLA MAR



Villa Maria - Later Villa Mar

---

## Location

27 O'Neil Road BEACONSFIELD, Cardinia Shire

## Municipality

CARDINIA SHIRE

## Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO94

## Heritage Listing

Cardinia Shire

---

## Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

Villa Maria is significant to the Cardinia Shire as a well-preserved stylistically sophisticated villa closely associated with the Catholic Church, with identifiable and notable Catholic attributes such as the inner courtyard and chapel. The house has important leadlight and ceiling detailing, along with original joinery in the main rooms.

Villa Maria also represents the type of rural retreat which the area was then noted for and may, by remnant fabric in the building, reflect some aspect of the long O'Neill tenure.

## *Regional Significance*

Heritage Study/Consultant	Cardinia - Cardinia Shire Heritage Study 1996, Graeme Butler & Associates, 1996;
Construction dates	1915,
Other Names	27 O'Neil Road, Beaconsfield,
Hermes Number	30156
Property Number	

---

## **Physical Description 1**

This is a Federation Bungalow styled farm house sited at the top of a hill and concealed by a mature garden and trees reached by a long drive from a picketed entrance (round-head).

The complex includes: an Edwardian-era weatherboard former rest home with a corrugated iron roof, 12 bedrooms, a kitchen, dining room, a former chapel and two bathrooms.

There is also a smaller contemporary house at the rear, with three bedrooms and a verandah, which was reputedly once used by the priests and another cottage once occupied by the farm manager. Outbuildings include poultry sheds and a galvanised iron garage with an earth floor 8.

The main hipped roof is augmented by gabled projecting room bays with some ornate leadlight windows and door-lights (one bearing the name of the house) The bullnose profile verandah encircles the front of the house and is decorated with fretted timber friezes. The house interior is notable for the former chapel, the internal verandahed courtyard and the ornamental ceilings throughout. There is reputedly a well under the kitchen cupboard (perhaps from the O'Neill occupation?) and a windmill was once near the kitchen door.

The garden evokes two distinct periods, one of the c1900 era and the other of the 1930s or later. The drive is lined with Monterey pines while the house garden contains Monterey cypress, deodar cedar, elms, golden privet hedges, Camellia japonica (numerous), rhododendrons, Erythina sp., an old fig, quince and peach trees. There is a small ornamental concrete lined pond of the 1930s which takes the overflow from the well.

## **Physical Conditions**

The original wings of the houses are in generally externally original condition, unrelated with additions at the rear of the main house.

## **Historical Australian Themes**

Historical Themes

10.4 Selectors' houses, gardens

10.7 Farmhouses/farm complexes & outbuildings, gardens

## **Physical Description 2**

Associations - Catholic Church; O'Neill, John

*This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.*

*For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>*