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# Former St. Columban's Roman Catholic Church, 69-75 Main Street, GREAT WESTERN



GW 17 - Shire of Northern  
Grampians - Stage 2 Heritage  
Study, 2004

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## Location

69-75 Main Street GREAT WESTERN, NORTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

## Municipality

NORTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

## Level of significance

Recommended for Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Listing

Northern Grampians Shire

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - July 21, 2004

The former St. Columban's Roman Catholic Church, 69-75 Main Street, Great Western, makes a significant architectural and cultural contribution to the Great Western township, and has visual connections to the Anglican Church nearby. It was erected to the design of the architect M. Ryan from Stawell in 1900. It is believed to have replaced an earlier Chapel named St. Augustine's, which was erected in the early 1870s. Catholic services, however, had been held at the Great Western diggings from 1858, the early days of the first goldrush.

The former St. Columban's Roman Catholic Church is **architecturally** significant at a **LOCAL** level. It demonstrates original design qualities of a rudimentary Victorian Gothic Revival style. These qualities include the

steeply pitched roof form, projecting porch gable at the front, galvanised corrugated iron roof cladding and the unpainted brick wall construction. Other intact qualities include the lancet and point arched windows with diamond leadlighting, rendered crosses that adorn the rooflines, rendered window architraves and sills, brick buttresses with rendered copings, gable copings, pointed timber doors, corbelled masonry gable ends and the pointed arched brick voussoirs in the rear gable end.

The former St. Columban's Roman Catholic Church is **historically** significant at a **LOCAL** level. It is associated with the establishment and development of a Roman Catholic community at Great Western from 1858, with the gazettal of the present site in 1862 for use by the Roman Catholic Church, with the erection in the 1870s of a Chapel named St. Augustine's, which it replaced in 1900. The building is further associated with the Ararat architect, M. Ryan.

The former St. Columban's Roman Catholic Church is **socially** significant at a **LOCAL** level. It is recognised and highly valued by the Great Western Catholic community for religious reasons.

Overall, the former St. Columban's Roman Catholic Church, 69-75 Main Street, Great Western, is of **LOCAL** significance.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Northern Grampians - Shire of Northern Grampians - Stage 2 Heritage Study, Wendy Jacobs, Vicki Johnson, David Rowe, Phil Taylor, 2004;
Hermes Number	105067
Property Number	

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## Physical Description 1

St. Columban's Roman Catholic Church, 69-75 Main Street, Great Western, makes a significant contribution to the architectural and cultural amenity of the small rural township, and has visual connections to the Great Western Church. Situated on a large site, the brick church building is surrounded by open grassed areas and eucalyptus. The site is bound by an introduced post and rail and cyclone wire fence, with a recent timber picket gate.

The unpainted brick, rudimentary Victorian Gothic Revival styled St. Columban's Church building is characterised by a steeply pitched gable roof form clad in galvanised corrugated iron. The main gable end has a projecting minor porch gable that is also clad in galvanised corrugated iron. A lancet window, rendered crosses and regularly-arranged masonry block work (following the roof pitch), and symmetrically arranged and central pointed arched windows with diamond leadlights are other features of the main elevation.

The sides of the building are identified by brick buttresses having rendered copings. Between the buttress are pointed windows with diamond leadlights. To one side at the rear is also an early pointed timber door.

Early decorative features of the design included the masonry/rendered corbelled gable ends and the rendered window architraves and sills. The pointed arched brick voussoirs in the rear brick gable end denotes the location of a chancel that was never built.

*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/>