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# Former Bell & Lorimer General Store, 24 Kings Avenue, ST ARNAUD



SD 080a - Former Bell and Lorimer General Store, 24 Kings Avenue, ST ARNAUD



SD 080b - Undated photograph from St. Arnaud, A Pictorial Journey.



SD 080c - Photograph, side view showing verandah.

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## Location

24 Kings Avenue ST ARNAUD, 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 - August 12, 2004

The former Bell and Lorimer Store, 24 Kings Avenue, St. Arnaud, makes a significant architectural and visual contribution to the streetscape. Believed to have been built in the 1860s for Bell and Stewart, this largely intact building was originally known as Bell and Stewart's General Store, and soon after it became Bell and Lorimer's General Store, which consisted of a grocery, ironmongery, and wine and spirit merchant business.

The former Bell and Lorimer Store is **architecturally** significant at a **LOCAL** level. demonstrates original Victorian qualities which include the two storey composition and the dominant parapet with a projecting cornice surmounted by flanking urns. Other intact qualities include the incised rectangular title panel under the parapet,

four bayed composition of first floor timber framed double hung windows, skillion verandah clad in galvanised corrugated iron with early valence hoarding, timber framed shopfronts with ingoes, window and openings, and timber and glazed doors at one end.

The former Bell and Lorimer Store is **historically** significant at a **LOCAL** level. It is associated with the development of Bell and Stewart's General Store from the 1860s until the later 1870s when it became Bell and Lorimer's General Store. The building is therefore associated with James Stewart, a Scotsman, who took up mining before turning to storekeeping in St. Arnaud. Stewart was also one of the Councillors elected to the first municipal Council of St. Arnaud and he was twice Mayor. Also associated with the building was James Bell, who later became Sir James Bell, an M.L.C. from 1881-1889, and who succeeded Sir James Lorimer as the Minister of Defence in 1889.

The former Bell and Lorimer Store is **socially** significant at a **LOCAL** level. It is recognised by the St. Arnaud community as one of the 19th century commercial buildings in the town originally owned by the well-known and prominent owners, James Stewart, James Bell and later, James Lorimer.

Overall, the former Bell and Lorimer Store 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	108565
Property Number	

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## Physical Description 1

The former Bell and Lorimer General Store, 24 Kings Avenue, St. Arnaud, makes an important architectural and visual contribution to the streetscape.

The two storey, rendered brick, Victorian building is characterised by a parapet with a projecting cornice and surmounted by flanking urns. Under the parapet is an early incised rectangular title panel which reads: "Victoria Bitter Foster's Larger". The four bayed composition of the first floor is denoted by the regularly spaced and early single timber framed double hung windows. Introduced wall signage between the two central windows reads: "Fraser's Licensed Grocer." Another distinctive feature of the design is the early skillion verandah clad in galvanised corrugated iron with early valence hoarding. It is supported by introduced round steel columns with a decorative, introduced valance. The ground floor has early timber framed shopfronts with ingoes and early timber and glazed doors at one end, and early window and door openings at the other end.

*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/>*