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# St. Arnaud Hospital, 52 North Western Road, ST ARNAUD



SD 192 - St. Arnaud Hospital,  
North Western Road, ST  
ARNAUD

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## Location

52 North Western Road 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 18, 2004

The St. Arnaud Hospital, 52 North Western Road, St. Arnaud, makes a significant architectural, historical and social contribution to the local township. Substantially altered since its initial construction in 1874 (to a design by J.A. Schneider), the hospital complex also has an 1890s wing, 1920s interwar Bungalow section and a 1937 two storey "Modernist" addition which all contribute to an understanding of its historical development.

The St. Arnaud Hospital is **architecturally** significant at a **LOCAL** level. It demonstrates some original design qualities of a Victorian Picturesque style (in the remaining side pavilions), interwar Bungalow style (in the projecting wing) and interwar "Modernist" style (in the two storey section).

The intact Victorian Picturesque qualities include the parapeted gable ends supported by multi-corbelled brackets, brick wall construction, galvanised corrugated iron roof cladding, galvanised ventilation stacks, finials, gable oculus ventilators, narrow gable ventilators, and the doorway and window openings (but not construction).

The intact interwar Bungalow qualities include the longitudinal gable roof form, minor gable and verandah gable that project towards the side and front respectively, brick wall construction, lapped galvanised corrugated iron roof cladding, timber framed double hung windows, wide eaves with beaded lining boards, projecting rendered brick stringcourse, timber gable brackets, side broken back verandah, and the decorative gable infill (stucco work, ventilators, shingling and small brackets).

The intact interwar "Modernist" qualities include the one and storey storey heights, shallow hipped roof forms and the raised central mechanical plant. Other intact qualities include the regularly arranged timber framed double hung windows (or the openings for the windows), steel balustraded balconies, and very wide eaves.

The St. Arnaud Hospital is **historically** significant at a **LOCAL** level. It is associated with the establishment and evolution of a hospital in St. Arnaud from 1874 until the present day. The complex has associations with the Melbourne architect, Joseph Schneider, who designed the original Victorian Picturesque pavilions that served the St. Arnaud community in the ensuing years. Nurses were accommodated in a house to the side of the building, and by 1895 the hospital had expanded to five wards. Together with the original 1874 pavilions, the 1920s interwar Bungalow and 1937 interwar "Modernist" sections are a physical legacy of the successive developments and growth of the hospital throughout the 19th and early 20th centuries.

The St. Arnaud Hospital is **socially** significant at a **LOCAL** level. It is recognised and highly valued by the St. Arnaud community as a centre of regional medical services.

Overall, the St. Arnaud Hospital 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	111708
Property Number	

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## Physical Description 1

The St. Arnaud Hospital site, 52 North Western Road, St. Arnaud, is set on a large allotment with open grassed areas, large mature pine and eucalypt trees and perimeter plantings. There are also bitumen roads, concrete paths and concrete kerbs and channels that have all been introduced.

The two storey hospital building complex consists of a number of sections. The earliest pavilions are to one side of the complex and comprise Victorian picturesque styled brick gabled wings with parapeted ends supported by multi-corbelled brackets. Their roof forms are clad in galvanised corrugated iron with at least one early wing having round galvanised ventilation stacks along the ridgeline. Other early features of these pavilions are the finials that crown the gable ends, gable oculus ventilators, narrow gable ventilators, and doorway and window openings. These early wings have been greatly altered, with the addition of hipped roof projecting wings, aluminium framed windows, skillion additions and overpainting. Other sections of the original design have been demolished.

Another early pavilion is the interwar brick Bungalow ward. It is characterised by a longitudinal gable roof form, together with a minor gable and verandah gable that project towards the side and front respectively. These roof forms are clad in lapped galvanised corrugated iron. Other early features of the design include the timber framed double hung windows, wide eaves with beaded lining boards, projecting rendered brick stringcourse, timber gable

brackets, side broken back verandah, and the decorative gable infill (stucco work, ventilators, shingling and small brackets).

The most substantial section of the hospital is the interwar "Modern" one and storey storey, shallow hipped buildings that have a raised central mechanical plant. These brick buildings feature regularly arranged timber framed double hung windows (or at the very least, the openings of the windows with introduced aluminium framed doors or windows), steel balustraded balconies, and very wide eaves.

Other buildings on the hospital site represent more recent additions.

*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/>*