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# Former St. Arnaud East School No 2389, 27 Wedderburn Road, ST ARNAUD EAST



SD 264 - Former St. Arnaud  
East School No 2389,  
Wedderburn Road, ST  
ARNAUD

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## Location

27 Wedderburn Road ST ARNAUD EAST, NORTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

## Municipality

NORTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

## Level of significance

Recommended for VHR

## Heritage Listing

Northern Grampians Shire

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - August 18, 2004

The former St. Arnaud East School, Wedderburn Road, St. Arnaud East, built in 1909, has significance as an unusual rudimentary late Federation styled pavilion type School building constructed in concrete. It was the first school to be constructed in concrete. The exterior of the building appears to be largely intact.

The former St. Arnaud East State School is **architecturally** significant at a **STATE** level. It demonstrates original design qualities of an unusual late Federation styled pavilion School type in a bushland setting. These qualities include the modest scale, single storey height, simple gambrel roof form and the rendered concrete wall

construction. Other intact qualities include the rudimentary rendered concrete chimney a terra cotta pot, wide eaves with exposed timber rafters, cement lintels and the timber framed windows and multi-paned transoms. The round galvanised corrugated iron water tank also contributes to the significance of the place.

The former St. Arnaud East State School is **historically** significant at a **LOCAL** level. It is associated with the development of State Education in St. Arnaud from 1909 until 1944. It is locally significant for providing safe refuge for the children during the 1909 bushfire.

The former St. Arnaud East State School is **scientifically** significant at a **STATE** level. Its concrete wall construction is rare for a late Federation styled State School building in Victoria.

The former St. Arnaud East State School is **socially** significant at a **LOCAL** level. Although no longer used as a school building, it is still recognised and valued by some sections of the St. Arnaud community for its past function.

Overall, the former St. Arnaud East State School is of **STATE** significance.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Northern Grampians - Shire of Northern Grampians - Stage 2 Heritage Study, Wendy Jacobs, Vicki Johnson, David Rowe, Phil Taylor, 2004;
Other Names	St. Arnaud East School,
Hermes Number	111986
Property Number	

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## Physical Description 1

The former St. Arnaud East School building, Wedderburn Road, St. Arnaud East, is situated on sloping ground in a natural bushland setting surrounded by eucalypts and pine trees.

The modest, single storey, rendered concrete, late rudimentary Federation styled pavilion type school building is characterised by a simple gambrel roof form clad in introduced green-toned Colorbond. An early rudimentary rendered concrete chimney a terra cotta pot adorns the roofline. Wide overhangs with exposed timber rafters are features of the eaves. Other early features of the design include the timber framed windows and multi-paned transoms, and the cement lintels. A round galvanised corrugated iron water tank is situated to one side of the building.

The exterior of the building appears to be largely intact. A substantial crack along the full length of the wall and near the window is visible at one end.

### Comparative Information:

'The Historic Government Schools: A Comparative Study' report by Richard Peterson in 1993 does not appear to identify other Edwardian and late Federation styled pavilion type State school buildings in Victoria like the St. Arnaud East School. The closest types of school buildings to that of the St. Arnaud East School building are the hip roofed pavilions for infants (constructed between 1901 and 1914) and the Detached pavilion-type classroom (built between 1912 and 1915). Peterson believes that it is the first example of a school constructed of concrete.

The hip roofed pavilions for infants were largely constructed in metropolitan and suburban areas, including Footscray (1909), Albert Park (1912-13), Port Melbourne (1910-11), Brunswick South (1912-14) and Moonee Ponds (1918). These building were much larger with a number of rooms and they had complex hipped roof forms.

The detached pavilion type classrooms were built in suburban and rural areas, including Benalla East, Natimuk (relocated to Deakin University) and Westmere (1916). This latter building is the only pavilion classroom known

extant which was erected as the school. These buildings appear to have largely been constructed of timber and had a simple gable roof with large timber framed window openings.

*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/>*