
Uniting Church & Sunday School Hall, 26-28 McMahon Street, ST ARNAUD



SD 115 - Shire of Northern
Grampians - Stage 2 Heritage
Study, 2004

Location

26-28 McMahon Street ST ARNAUD, NORTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

Municipality

NORTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

Level of significance

Recommended for Heritage Overlay

Heritage Listing

Northern Grampians Shire

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - August 17, 2004

The St. Arnaud Uniting Church and Sunday School Hall, 26-28 McMahon Street, St. Arnaud, make a significant contribution to the visual and architectural amenity of the local area. The Victorian Early English styled Church building was constructed in 1875 to a design by Wharton and Vickers, architects of Melbourne. The neighbouring Sunday School hall was built in 1923-24 and both buildings served the Presbyterian congregation until Union in the 1970s when the name was changed to the Uniting Church.

The St. Arnaud Uniting Church is **architecturally** significant at a **LOCAL** level. It demonstrates original design qualities of a Victorian Early English Gothic style. These qualities include the parapeted steeply pitched gable

roof form (clad in slate) and the tower and steeple, with elongated loopholes in the second stage, etiolated colonnets at the corners of the belfry, a tightly designed eave, and a spire of a broken-backed profile. Other intact qualities include the unpainted brick construction, elegant cast iron spire finial; ventilation dormers adorning the ridgeline of the church roof; distinctively neat cement dressings including the plinths, projecting stringcourses, architraves and quoinwork about the windows and doors, drip moulds and octagonal minor spire; pointed windows; large three light window in the gable; steeply pitched gabled doorway and skillion porch (with the roof clad in slate); segmentally arched doorway with two early double timber doors and a quatrefoil above; rear, side minor gable roof form clad in slate; double doorway with a Tudor-like drip moulded arch; timber framed, twelve paned, double hung windows; and the unpainted brick chimney.

The St. Arnaud Uniting Church Sunday School Hall is also **architecturally** significant at a **LOCAL** level. It demonstrates original design qualities of an interwar Gothic style. These qualities include the simple gable roof form clad in lapped galvanised corrugated iron with four galvanised iron ventilation stacks on the ridgeline. Other intact qualities include the unpainted brick construction, wide eaves with exposed rafters; regularly spaced brick pilasters; pointed timber framed windows with dressed cement sills; quatrefoil window in the main gable; timber finial; and the main double timber door opening. The open lawn areas of the Queens Mary Gardens, mature trees and other landscaping also contribute to the significance of the place.

The St. Arnaud Uniting Church and Sunday School Hall are **historically** significant at a **LOCAL** level. They are associated with the development of the Presbyterian Church from 183-75 until the 1970s when the Church buildings became part of the Uniting Church of Australia. The Church building is also associated with the Melbourne architects, Wharton and Vickers.

The St. Arnaud Uniting Church and Sunday School Hall are **socially** significant at a **LOCAL** level. They are recognised and valued by the St. Arnaud community for religious reasons.

Overall, the St. Arnaud Uniting Church and Sunday School Hall are 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	111440
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

The St. Arnaud Uniting Church, 26-28 McMahon Street, St. Arnaud, makes an important visual contribution to the local streetscape. The site is identified by a large brick church with neighbouring brick Sunday School hall, together with substantial lawn areas and mature trees of the Queens Mary Gardens. The site has a large front and side setback, with access to the Church buildings from concrete and asphalt pavements.

The unpainted brick, Victorian Early English Gothic styled Uniting Church building is especially characterised by a parapeted steeply pitched gable roof form and imposing tower and spire. The 41 foot high roof forms are clad in early slate, with ventilation dormers adorning the ridgeline of the church gable. The 66 foot high tower has elongated loopholes in the second stage, etiolated colonnets at the corners of the belfry, a tightly designed eave, and a spire of a broken-backed profile. The spire is surmounted by an elegant cast iron finial. The Church building is also identified by its distinctively neat detailing, as shown in the cement dressings of the plinths, projecting stringcourses, architraves and quoinwork about the windows and doors, drip moulds and octagonal minor spire. The pointed windows are early, and the large three light window in the gable forms another feature of the design. The building is accessed through a steeply pitched gabled doorway into a skillion porch and the roof also clad in early slate tiles. The segmentally arched doorway has two early double timber doors with a quatrefoil above. Projecting from the rear at the side of the building is minor gable roof form (clad in slate) representing the

1938 additions. The same brick wall construction and cement dressings are also apparent, although the double doorway has a Tudor-like drip moulded arch and the windows are early timber framed, twelve paned, double hung type. An unpainted brick chimney adorns the gable end of this projecting wing.

Connected to the small projecting wing is the mid twentieth century Gothic Sunday School Hall. It is characterised by a simple gable roof form adorned with four galvanised iron ventilation stacks. The roof is clad in early lapped and painted galvanised corrugated iron. Wide overhangs and exposed rafters are a feature of the eaves. Along the sides of the building are regularly spaced brick pilasters, with early timber framed windows between. These windows have early dressed cement sills. The main gable end is adorned with a quatrefoil window and a timber finial, with pointed windows flanking the central, main double timber door opening. The painted galvanised corrugated iron gable porch on stop chamfered timber columns appears to be a later addition.

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/>