
St. Arnaud Court House, 6 Napier Street, ST ARNAUD



SD 127 - Shire of Northern Grampians - Stage 2 Heritage Study, 2004



SD 127 1 - During construction. Photograph taken from St. Arnaud, A Pictorial Journey - Shire of Northern Grampians - Stage 2 Heritage Study, 2004

Location

6 Napier Street ST ARNAUD, NORTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

Municipality

NORTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO2

Heritage Listing

Northern Grampians Shire

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - August 17, 2004

Former G348 - not transferred to VHR

The St. Arnaud Court House, 6 Napier Street, St. Arnaud, was built in 1867 with a recessed entry and gable roof. In 1887-88 it was altered when the distinctive gabled iron and timber verandah with double entry into the court were added. Relatively intact, the building has been associated with law and order in the town for over 100 years. It also has significance as being the central building of an unusual grouping of former government and civic 19th and early 20th century buildings in a predominantly Victorian town, of which many are visually linked to the Queen Mary gardens.

The St. Arnaud Court House is **architecturally** significant at a **LOCAL** level. It demonstrates original design qualities of a Victorian Free Classical style, including the alterations of 1887-88. These qualities include the dominant central gable, flanking hipped roof wings and a central elaborate verandah that has a middle skillion roof and flanking gables. Other intact qualities include the: unpainted brick wall construction; slate roof and galvanised corrugated iron verandah roof cladding; five unpainted brick chimneys with corbelled and rendered tops; modest eaves; segmentally arched, timber framed, two paned double hung windows; two timber panelled entrance doors; large timber framed windows under the verandah; and the decorative features (polychrome brickwork including the multiple stringcoursing, voussoirs forming the segmental arches of the windows and above the narrow window in the gable, gable corbelling and decorative dentillated banding, vestigial pilasters, crafted timber eaves brackets, bargeboards, cast iron verandah columns and timber brackets and gable infill, and the decorative mouldings on the ridge and eaves lines of the gable and the verandah). The polished timber ceiling of the court room with its king post trusses, together with the court room bench, clerk's desk and witness stand also contribute to the significance of the place.

The St. Arnaud Court House and site are **historically** significant at a **LOCAL** level. They are associated with the successful establishment of the St. Arnaud township and more particularly with the development of the local court functions between 1867 to the present day. The building has been the centre for some of the most important hearings affecting the St. Arnaud community. The building is also associated with the Public Works Department architectural branch and the builders, Cormack and Company (1867 building) and J. Moore and H.T. Bolger (1887-88 additions).

The St. Arnaud Court House is **socially** significant at a **LOCAL** level. It is recognised and held in high esteem by the St. Arnaud community as a place of law and order.

Overall, the St. Arnaud Court House 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	111456
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

The St. Arnaud Court House forms the central building in an unusual grouping of government and civic buildings in a predominantly Victorian town. The group are significant for their inter-relationship and their visual connection to the Queen Mary gardens.

The site of the St. Arnaud Court House consists of a single storey brick court building surrounded by large open areas. The building has a substantial front setback with a gravel driveway, side lawn areas and recent garden beds.

The single storey, unpainted red brick, Victorian Free Classical styled court house building is characterised by a dominant central gable, flanking hipped roof wings and a central elaborate verandah having a middle skillion roof and flanking gables. The gable and hips of the court house are clad in slate, while the verandah is clad in

galvanised corrugated iron. Five early unpainted brick chimneys with corbelled and rendered tops adorn the roofline. Modest overhangs are a feature of the eaves. The segmentally arched, timber framed, two paned double hung windows at the sides are early, as appears to be the two timber panelled entrance doors under the verandah. The large timber framed windows under the verandah also appear to be early and are blocked up. Early decorative features of the design include polychrome brick as illustrated by the multiple stringcoursing the envelopes the building, voussoirs forming the segmental arches of the windows and particularly above the narrow window in the gable, gable corbelling and decorative dentillated banding, vestigial pilasters, crafted timber eaves brackets, bargeboards, verandah (cast iron columns and timber brackets and gable infill) and the decorative mouldings on the ridge and eaves lines of the gable and the verandah.

Internally, the building retains much of its detail, as shown in the polished timber ceiling of the court room with its king post trusses. The court room bench, clerk's desk, witness stand and other court furniture are also to be intact.

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/>