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## Two storey building (former Mewkell's Chemist shop), 71 Napier Street, ST ARNAUD



SD 160a - Two-storey building (former Mewkells Chemist shop), 71 Napier Street, ST ARNAUD



SD 160b - Undated photograph from St. Arnaud, A Pictorial Journey.

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### Location

71 Napier Street 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 former Chemist's Shop and Residence, 71 Napier Street, St. Arnaud, makes a significant architectural and visual contribution to the predominantly Victorian and Federation streetscape. This building was constructed in 1867 for Henry Bewley, early St. Arnaud chemist. It was later occupied from 1899 by H.J. Mewkill, chemist, who leased it from James Brain until Brain's death in 1923. Mewkill's son was still operating the pharmacy in 1955.

The building has significance as a reasonably intact, although unfortunately overpainted, Victorian dichromatic brick commercial building in St. Arnaud. The former Chemist's Shop and Residence is **architecturally** significant

at a **LOCAL** level. Although partially altered, it demonstrates original design qualities of a Victorian commercial style. These qualities include the simple parapet and projecting brick cornice that crown the building, incised rectangular title panel and two single timber framed double hung windows. Other intact qualities include the two storey height, dichromatic brick wall construction (but not overpainting), and the form and proportions of the ground floor shopfront, ingo and door openings.

The former Chemist's Shop and Residence is **historically** significant at a **LOCAL** level. It is associated with commercial developments in St. Arnaud in the 19th century, notably with the establishment of Henry Bewley's pharmacy from 1867 and with the development of H.J. Mewkill's pharmacy from 1899 until at least 1955. The building also has associations with G.B. McNair, dentist, during the early 20th century, and with James Brain, owner from the late 19th century until his death in 1923.

The former Chemist's Shop and Residence is **socially** significant at a **LOCAL** level. It is recognised by the St. Arnaud community as having public value as one of the early pharmacies constructed in the 19th century that operated until at least the early 20th century.

Overall, the former Chemist's Shop and Residence is of **LOCAL** significance.

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|---------------------------|--|
| Heritage Study/Consultant | Northern Grampians - Shire of Northern Grampians - Stage 2 Heritage Study, Wendy Jacobs, Vicki Johnson, David Rowe, Phil Taylor, 2004; |
| Hermes Number             | 111565   |
| Property Number           |  |

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## Physical Description 1

The former Chemist's Shop and Residence, 71 Napier Street, St. Arnaud, makes a significant architectural and visual contribution to the predominantly Victorian and Federation streetscape.

The two storey, brick (introduced overpainting), Victorian commercial styled building is characterised by a simple parapet and projecting brick cornice that crown the building. Below the parapet is an incised rectangular title panel and two single timber framed double hung windows. The recessed side wing with timber framed window is a later addition.

Separating the ground from the first floor is an introduced cantilever verandah, supported by an introduced steel rod that spans across the lower reaches of the first floor. The form and proportions of the ground floor shopfront, ingo and door openings are original, but the doors, metal framed shopfronts, stall board cladding and tiled surrounds have all been introduced.

*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/>*