
Two storey building, 106-108 Napier Street, ST ARNAUD



SD 176 - Two-storey building,
106 Napier Street, ST
ARNAUD

Location

106-108 Napier 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 18, 2004

The two-storey building at 106-108 Napier Street, St. Arnaud, makes a significant architectural contribution to the northern section of the commercial streetscape. It appears to have been erected as early as 1872 and was known as 'Criterion House' by 1892 when it was occupied by Arch Richie, who was a Draper and Importer. In the earlier decades of the 20th century the building was owned by the United Friendly Society, who ran a dispensary in one of the ground floor shops and held meetings in the first floor meeting room. While the upper floor of the building is largely intact, the ground floor and verandah have experienced a number of alterations.

Although altered, the two-storey building at 106-108 Napier Street, is **architecturally** significant at a **LOCAL** level. It continues to demonstrate a number of original design qualities of a Late Victorian Free Classical style. These qualities include the central, shallow pedimented parapet flanked by a balustraded parapet with rectangular piers at the ends, the highly decorative and dentillated cornice that projects slightly at the centre to account for the projecting pedimented parapet above the window bay below, triple consoles below the parapet piers, and the early unpainted brick chimney, which has an early rendered, bracketed and widely projecting top. Other intact qualities include the central window bay with its timber framed double hung windows, the 'U.F.S. Meeting Room' signage in the lower pane of the central upstairs window, the Corinthian pilasters supported on pedestals with incised rectangular motifs and linked with a balustrade that accentuate the central window bay, the slightly projecting stringcourses projecting from the top of the window pedestals, and the projecting, smoothly rusticated blockwork forming elongated pilasters at the sides of the facade.

The two-storey building at 106-108 Napier Street, is **historically** significant at a **LOCAL** level. It is associated with commercial developments in St. Arnaud in the 19th century, possibly as early as 1872 and certainly by 1892 when it was known as 'Criterion House', and is particularly associated with the United Friendly Society, who ran a dispensary in one of the ground floor shops for many years and held meetings in the first floor meeting room.

Overall, the two-storey building at 106-108 Napier Street, St. Arnaud, 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	111688
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

The building at 106-108 Napier Street, St. Arnaud, makes an important architectural contribution to the northern commercial streetscape.

The two storey, rendered brick, Late Victorian Free Classical styled building is characterised by a central, shallow pedimented parapet flanked by a balustraded parapet with rectangular piers at the ends. These piers were once adorned with rendered urns now removed. The base of the parapet is accentuated by a highly decorative and dentillated cornice that projects slightly at the centre to account for the projecting pedimented parapet above the window bay below. The ends of the cornice terminate into triple consoles below the parapet piers. Behind the parapet an early unpainted brick chimney is visible, which has an early rendered, bracketed and widely projecting top.

Another original and important feature of the design is the central window bay, with a middle timber framed double hung window flanked by narrower timber framed double hung windows. These windows are accentuated by the Corinthian window pilasters supported on pedestals with incised rectangular motifs and linked with a balustrade. Slightly projecting stringcourses project from the top of the window pedestals. The 'U.F.S. Meeting Room' signage in the lower pane of the central upstairs window is still visible. The sides of the facade are highlighted by the projecting, smoothly rusticated blockwork forming elongated pilasters.

The ground floor and verandah sections of the building have experienced several alterations. The skillion galvanised deck verandah with metal frame and columns has been introduced, replacing an earlier skillion verandah with a large timber valance hoarding and parapet that was supported by worked timber columns. The brick wall construction and shopfront windows also appear to have been introduced, replacing earlier shopfront windows and doors of similar proportions.

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/>