
Church of the Immaculate Conception, 41 Queens Avenue, ST ARNAUD



SD 224 - Church of the Immaculate Conception, Queens Avenue, ST ARNAUD

Location

41 Queens Avenue 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 Church of the Immaculate Conception, 41 Queens Avenue, St. Arnaud, is significant as an intact example of a Federation Gothic styled brick Church building in rural Victoria. Built in 1906 to a design by Keogh and Austin of Bendigo, the building has serviced the local Catholic community to the present day. Internally, the Church is adorned with an intact marble high altar, sculpted by Pratellis Angrani in Genoa, Italy, and installed in the building in 1911. It remains in its original location.

The Church of the Immaculate Conception is **architecturally** significant at a **LOCAL** level. It demonstrates original design qualities of a Federation Gothic style. These qualities include the steeply pitched and parapeted gable roof form, projecting minor gables at the front and sides, and flanking rendered spires on the main gable end. Other intact qualities include the slate tile roof cladding and galvanised ridge cappings, unpainted brick wall construction, substantial rendered brick plinth with a moulded top, unpainted brick buttresses with rendered double copings and rendered steeply pointed cappings, bluestone steps with solid brick and rendered balustrades flanking the central gable porch, pointed windows having decorative leadlighting, vertical boarded pointed doors, substantial rose window with circular and quatrefoil motifs, rendered window and door drip moulds, rendered quoinwork, panelled and battened and quatrefoil gable infills, and the Celtic crosses at the apexes of the gables. Internally, the altar and alter rail is of particular significance.

The Church of the Immaculate Conception is **historically** significant at a **LOCAL** level. It is associated with the development of the Catholic Church in St. Arnaud from 1907 until the present day. This Church replaced the St. Patrick's Church nearby that had been built in 1875. The Church of the Immaculate Conception is also associated with the architect, Ernest J. Keogh of Bendigo, and the sculptor, Pratellis Angrani of Genoa, Italy.

The Church of the Immaculate Conception is **socially** significant at a **LOCAL** level. It is recognised and highly valued by the St. Arnaud community for religious reasons.

Overall, the Church of the Immaculate Conception 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	111760
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

The Church of the Immaculate Conception, 41 Queens Avenue, St. Arnaud, is identified by a brick Church building on a large asphalted site with substantial front and side setbacks. The site is also characterised by the rows of tall pine and other exotic trees along the sides.

The unpainted brick, Federation Gothic styled church building is characterised by a steeply pitched and parapeted gable roof form, projecting minor gables at the front and sides, and flanking rendered spires on the main gable end. The roof forms are clad in early slate tiles with galvanised iron ridge cappings. A substantial rendered brick plinth with a moulded top is a distinctive feature which supports the unpainted brick buttresses with rendered double copings and rendered steeply pointed cappings. The church is accessed by early bluestone steps with solid brick and rendered balustrades, which flank the central gable porch. The early pointed windows having decorative leadlighting, while the pointed doors are vertical boarded.

Early decorative features of the design include the substantial rose window with circular and quatrefoil motifs, rendered window and door drip moulds, rendered quoinwork, panelled and battened and quatrefoil gable infills, and the Celtic crosses at the apexes of the gables.

Internally, a significant feature is the altar rail imported from Genoa, Italy. It is currently in its original location.

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/>