
ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH



23147 St Joseph s
Tarrayoukyan interior 0104



23147 St Joseph s
Tarrayoukyan photo 0106



23147 St Joseph
sTarrayoukyan interior 0105



23147 St Joseph s
Tarrayoukyan plaque 0107



23147 St Josephs
Tarrayoukyan exterior 0109

Location

Tarrayoukyan Road TARRAYOUKYAN, Southern Grampians Shire

Municipality

SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

Level of significance

Stage 2 study complete

Heritage Listing

Southern Grampians Shire

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - October 23, 2003

What is significant?

St Joseph's Catholic Church, located in Tarrayoukyan Road, in the failed township of Tarrayoukyan is the last remaining structure in the township. The church is the second St. Joseph's on the site. It was built in 1912, replacing the earlier brick church, which dated from 1874. The current St. Josephs is a simple timber church with a corrugated iron roof , built on the stone footings of the earlier building. The church as a simple rectangular nave , with a sacristy and confessional added later on the west side, and an entrance porch on the south side added around 1950. The church is located in a prominent location near the Tarrayoukyan cemetery, and continues to be used by the Catholic congregation in the area. The church is in very good condition and retains a high degree of integrity .

How is it significant?

St Joseph' Catholic Church is of historical significance to the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

St Joseph's Catholic Church is of historical significance as the last surviving building of the township of Tarrayoukyan, which was established in the 1860s and 1870s. It represents the decline of many very small towns, and their failure for one reason or another to thrive. The church is historically important as it provides a strong indication of the early population of Tarrayoukyan, mainly Irish Catholic immigrants, who desired to build a Catholic church in their growing township. The church demonstrates the importance of Catholicism within the community since the 1870s.

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| Heritage Study/Consultant | Southern Grampians - Southern Grampians Shire Heritage Study, Timothy Hubbard P/L, Annabel Neylon, 2002; |
| Construction dates | 1874, |
| Hermes Number | 23147 |
| Property Number | |

Physical Conditions

The church is well maintained, and shows signs of recent refurbishment, including the fitting of carpets and memorial plaques. The stone footings around the church show signs of movement, with several attempts to stabilise them visible.

Physical Description 1

St Joseph's Catholic Church is located on Tarrayoukyan Road, approximately 150 metres north of Tarrayoukyan Road. The church is built of timber with a corrugated iron roof, on the stone footings of an earlier 1874 building. It consists of a simple rectangular nave built in 1912, with a sacristy and confessional added later on the west side, and an entrance porch on the south side added around 1950.

Inside, the church has a well preserved timber panelled ceiling, which may have survived from the earlier building. The 10 simple timber lancet windows are filled with tinted opaque glass. The walls are horizontal tongue-in-groove pine panelling above a vertical timber dado. An old tabernacle, in enameled brass, is said to have come from an old convent in Melbourne. The large crucifix behind the altar was donated by the Neeson family in about 1960. There are 6 roof vents, and 14 wall vents in the nave.

A photograph of the original 1874 building hangs near the door to the sacristy. Below it a brass plaque reads "ST JOSEPH'S The first recorded Mass in this church was celebrated by Fr Patrick Cavanagh on 7th February 1875. A gathering honouring the pioneers who erected the church was held with Mass celebrated by Fr Gerald Baldock 125 years later on 12th March 2000."

Historical Australian Themes

Theme 8 Developing Australia's cultural life

8.6 Worshipping

8.6.1 Worshipping together

8.6.4 Making places for worship

Usage/Former Usage

Church

Integrity

High degree of integrity, post the reconstruction in timber.

Physical Description 2

Father Patrick Cavanagh

Neeson family

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/>