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# ST MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH AND PRESBYTERY



23170 Catholic church  
Harrow 0273



23170 Catholic church  
complex Harrow 0275



23170 Catholic church  
Harrow plaque 0278



23170 Catholic church  
Harrow side view 0274



23170 Catholic church rear  
view Harrow 0276

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## Location

Glenferrie Rd HARROW, West Wimmera Shire

## Municipality

WEST WIMMERA SHIRE

## Level of significance

Stage 2 study complete

## Heritage Listing

Southern Grampians Shire

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - October 23, 2003

What is significant? St. Michael's Catholic Church and Presbytery are located on Glenferrie Road, approximately 500 metres from the center of the township of Harrow, which is located on the opposite bank of the Glenelg River. The layout is conventional with a large nave, a porch and transepts and the architectural style is restrained Gothic Revival. The architect (if there was one) is not known, but the builder was William Husywater. The Church was constructed in 1876 on land in Swanston Street, in the center of Harrow, but was moved to its current location in 1924. There are a set of post World War Two cream brick steps at the entrance of the church. The Presbytery is located adjacent to the church, and was built on land donated by pastoralists James Daly in 1922. The Presbytery is a simple symmetrical building of pressed red bricks with a timber and corrugated iron verandah. Neither the architect nor the builder of the Presbytery is known. How is it significant? St. Michael's Catholic Church and Presbytery are of historical and social significance to the Southern Grampians Shire. Why is it Significant? St Michael's Catholic Church and Presbytery is of historical significance as one of the most substantial churches and Presbyteries to have been built in the Harrow area, illustrating the strong Catholic faith in the township and surrounding areas from the 1860s onwards. Of further historical interest is the forced relocation of the church in 1922, a result of confusion regarding ownership and titles, some thirty-five years after construction. The Presbytery is historically important as it represents the change from Harrow being a part of the Casterton Parish, to the head of its own Harrow Parish in 1920. The Church and Presbytery are of social significance for the role which the Catholic Church has played in the development of the township and surrounding area. Of further social interest is the donation of land on which the Church and Presbytery stand. The donation of this land represents the generosity of many early settlers who belonged to the congregation, including the Edgar's of Pine Hill and Daly of Clunie. The Church and Presbytery are historically and socially significant as a complex which expresses the role and position of the Catholic Church and its congregation in the community for over 120 years.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Southern Grampians - Southern Grampians Shire Heritage Study, Timothy Hubbard P/L, Annabel Neylon, 2002;
Construction dates	1876,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Hermes Number	23170
Property Number	

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## Physical Conditions

The church and the manse are in excellent condition.

## Physical Description 1

St Michael's is a large timber church in a restrained Gothic revival style. It is located on Glenferrie Road, across the Glenelg River from the main township of Harrow. It was built in 1876 and extended in 1886, but the architect's name, if an architect was responsible, is not known. The form of the church is conventional with a large nave, a porch and transepts. The walls are weatherboard painted light cream. The roofs are corrugated iron painted mid-green with four ventilators along the ridge line. Small crosses act as finials at either end of the ridge line. The doors, to the porch, sides and transepts, are ledge and brace painted dark green. The windows are square headed with simple label moulds. A set of cream brick steps, built after World War Two, lead up to the front door.

The single storey symmetrical Presbytery is adjacent to the church on its north side. The presbytery was built in 1922, and is constructed from pressed red bricks. The hipped roof is covered with terracotta Marseilles tiles. A timber and corrugated iron verandah surrounds the house on three sides. The verandah posts are long tapered brackets and the frieze is a single rail. Timber bay windows, with double hung sashes, are on either side of the

large timber front door. Two brick chimneys to the rear complete the symmetrical plan.

## **Historical Australian Themes**

Theme 8 Developing Australia's cultural life

8.6 Worshipping

8.6.1 Worshipping together

8.6.3 Founding Australian religious institutions

8.6.4 Making places for worship

8.12 Living in and around Australian homes

8.14 Living in the country and rural settlements

## **Usage/Former Usage**

Church

Presbytery now unoccupied

## **Integrity**

Both buildings have a high degree of integrity

*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/>*