

St Joseph's Church



City of Darebin Heritage
Review 2000



Map Ref: **30 D9**

Within Heritage Overlay Area.

City of Darebin Heritage Review 2000

Location

140 Westbourne Grove NORTHCOTE, Darebin City

Municipality

DAREBIN CITY

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO97

Heritage Listing

Darebin City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

St Joseph's Church is of local architectural significance, dominating the east end of Westbourne Grove. The Church is distinguished by its large scale and fine detailing.

Heritage Study/Consultant Darebin - Darebin Heritage Review, Andrew Ward, 2000;

Architect/Designer Vanheems, GW,

Hermes Number 24257

Property Number

Physical Description 1

St Joseph's Church, like the Presbyterian Church in James Street, is designed in a Romanesque manner which, with its red brick and stucco dressings, shows an Italian derivation. Designed with a nave and side-aisles plan, the external treatment involves division of the walls into buttress-bays and fenestration either in arcade-groups or as a single oculus to provide a visual focus within these bays. The porch is arcaded between the two entrance recesses, and the dominant gable of the nave is repeated on the porch to emphasise these doors. Typically Romanesque brattishing and dentilation is achieved in brickwork at the eaves and adds to the generally evident enthusiasm for expression of the materials used.

This church style was perfected by a former Northcote resident, architect, AA Fritsch, in examples such as Our Lady of Mt Carmel, Middle Park (1918-) and particularly the Catholic Church at Benalla. What makes Northcote's St Joseph's Church unusual is the placement of the tower, off centre at the crossing, being almost a gesture to the quadrangle created between the presbytery and the church. This tower has blind arcades to the walls, with unusual staggered placement of the ventilators; towers at each corner and crenulated parapet complete the Medieval manner. Unusual conical caps have been placed on those towers. The original, probably timber picket, front fence has been removed and new unsympathetic paving and landscaping 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/>