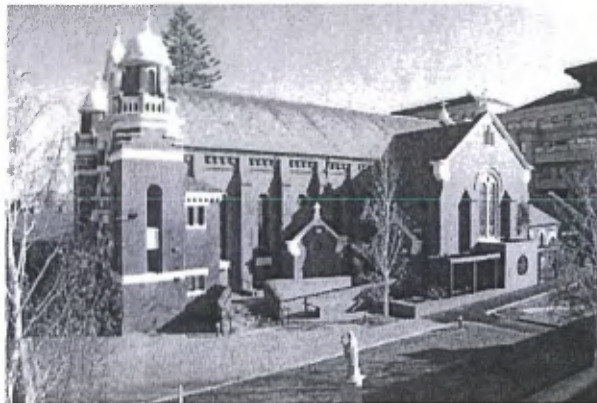


**RECOMMENDATION AND DETERMINATION ON A  
NOMINATION TO THE VICTORIAN HERITAGE REGISTER**

NAME: ST JOSEPHS CHURCH COMPLEX  
VHR NO: Not applicable  
LOCATION: 45 STANHOPE STREET MALVERN, Stonnington City  
CATEGORY: Not applicable  
FILE NO: 607978  
OFFICER/S REPORTING: Paul Roser



**RECOMMENDATION BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

- That the Place or object NOT be included in the Heritage Register [Section 32(1)(b)]
- That the Place or object be referred to the relevant planning authority for inclusion in a planning scheme [Section 32(2)]

*Tracy O'Neill*      *25/6/2008*

Manager  
Heritage Assessments

Date

*[Signature]*

Executive Director

*25.6.08*

Date

# Victorian Heritage Register



## REASON:

Draft Only - Not yet approved by the Heritage Council

The Executive Director has recently recommended that another A A Fritsch designed church be included in the Register. St Mary's Bairnsdale (East Gippsland Shire heritage overlay HO80) is one of the most remarkable of the red brick Catholic churches by the architect A A Fritsch. It was begun in 1913 and extended in 1937, combining Romanesque and Baroque external features such as a wheel window and a dome surmounting the unusually tall tower, but distinguished most of all by the remarkable and comprehensive interior decorative scheme in the form of paintings executed by the Italian Francesco Floreani.

Around Victoria Fritsch designed St Joseph's Rochester (c1914), Our Lady of Victories in Burke Road Camberwell (1913-1918), the Church of the Immaculate Conception in Glenferrie Rd Hawthorn (HO262 in the City of Boroondara's planning scheme), St Columba's in Elwood (1929, HO219 in City of Port Phillip's heritage overlay), as well as collaborating with Walter Burley Griffin & Marion Mahoney Griffin for the design of Newman College in 1915 (Victorian Heritage Register H0021). In Gippsland Fritsch designed many of the extant Catholic churches including St Ita's in Drouin (1912), St Mary's in Yarram (c1916), St Patrick's College in Sale (c1920), St Mary's in Maffra (c1924), St Michael's in Traralgon (c1930s). Lesser churches include St Joseph's Noorat, St Anthony's Glenhuntly (much altered).

St Joseph's Benalla, by Kempson & Conolly, is a grand example of the Romanesque style and is included on the Victorian Heritage Register (H845). St Joseph's Church at Benalla, constructed in 1907-8 to the designs of the architecture firm Kempson and Conolly, is architecturally important as an unusually large and ornate church building for country Victoria. It is the best example of the ecclesiastical work of the firm of Kempson and Conolly, which specialised in church design. Its design in red brick, described by the architects as "Australian Romanesque", also shows Spanish Baroque influences.

Of direct comparison to St Joseph's is the church complex of Our Lady of Mt Carmel Catholic Church in Richardson Street, South Melbourne. It was established by the Carmelite Order in 1888 and continues to be the centre for the Carmelite Order in Victoria. The original church, constructed in 1890 to the design of architect George Grey, was enlarged by additions in 1912 and 1923, culminating in 1927 with construction of the present Neo-Romanesque facade, designed by Fritsch. The adjacent large red brick Carmelite Hall was constructed in 1919 and currently houses the Carmelite Library. The Presbytery, a double story red brick villa at the rear of the church, was constructed in 1909 with substantial additions during the 1940s. The local historical, architectural and social significance of Our Lady of Mt Carmel church complex is recognised by the inclusion of the Church and Hall in the Heritage Overlay of the City of Port Phillip local planning scheme (HO238). In February 2006 the Heritage Council determined not to include Our Lady of Mt Carmel on the Victorian Heritage Register.

St Joseph's Malvern does not have sufficient cultural significance for inclusion in the Victorian Heritage Register. The building has local historical and architectural significance and is already individually included in the heritage overlay to the City of Stonnington planning scheme as HO102, with no internal controls. It is recommended that this control be retained.

## STATEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE:

Draft Only - Not yet approved by the Heritage Council

St Joseph's Church complex comprises an 1890 former church, a large presbytery of 1895, the 1908 church by Augustus A Fritsch and the primary school constructed in two phases, 1917 and 1941. The first brick church at this site was opened in 1890 and functions today as a parish hall. Following creation of the new Catholic Parish of Malvern in 1892 Archbishop Carr invited the Vincentian Fathers in Ireland to send priests to run the parish. The presbytery was constructed in 1895 to designs by Diocesan Catholic church architect A A Fritsch. The current St Joseph's was also designed on behalf of the Vincentian Fathers by Fritsch. The primary school was built in 1917 with major additions in 1941.

St Joseph's Church is in a modified form of the Romanesque style sometimes described as the 'Blood and Bandage'

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manner. It is in tuck-pointed red brick with white painted cement banding, dressings, voussoirs and details, and has a slate roof. The symmetrical facade dominated by a wheel window with stepped parapet above and niche containing a statue of St Joseph is flanked by a pair of diminutive, dome capped towers. Internally the ceiling is a fibrous plaster barrel vault with Art Nouveau motifs. There have been several phases of reordering and change including modifications to the side chapels, confessionals, sanctuary, entrance porch and side access culminating in the 2006 alterations to the nave, entry area and access points.

The presbytery is a large, symmetrical two storey building constructed of brick, rendered and painted over, with a cast iron verandah to three sides, and a slate roof. There have been several phases of additions. The interior retains its original layout, with decorative finishes from a range of periods.

The original church, with later additions, is of red brick with simple lancet windows, and modified by addition of a modern metal roof, and an inter-war scheme to convert the church to a performance hall including a stage and proscenium. The primary school is of red brick, with clinker brick for the 1942 addition, large windows, and terracotta tiled roofs.

St Joseph's Church complex is of historical significance at the local level as a church precinct containing educational and religious facilities which demonstrate the needs and operations of the Catholic Church in metropolitan Melbourne since the 1880s. The church was the first erected in Melbourne for the Vincentian Fathers.

St Joseph's Church is of architectural significance as a representative example of the Romanesque style of Catholic church building prevalent in the period 1900-1920 and a representative example of the early work of architect A A Fritsch for the Catholic Church. The Catholic Church constructed dozens of churches in this period, invariably of red brick and in the Romanesque style or a modified form. The church is a prominent local landmark.

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