

# HERITAGE PLACE

**NAME OF PLACE:** ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

**ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE:** Tarrayoukyan Road TARRAYOUKYAN

**STUDY NUMBER:** 073

**HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:**

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**PRECINCT:** outside

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:** Southern Grampians Shire

**PARISH:** PARISH OF TARRAYOUKYAN

**ACCESS DESCRIPTION:**

CFA 387C-4; approx 100 metres north of Tarrayoukyan Road

**SIGNIFICANCE RATING:** Local



St Joseph's Catholic Church, Tarrayoukyan Road, Tarrayoukyan. Interior of Church.

**Image Date:** 16/11/03

**EXTENT OF LISTING:**

To the extent of: 1. All the building and all of the land.

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## **PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:**

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."

## **HISTORY:**

Tarrayoukyan village was once a budding township, of which very little remains today. The Tarrayoukyan cemetery and St Joseph's Catholic Church are the two surviving sites.

James Reece at Tarrayoukyan built the Royal Oak hotel in 1874. A blacksmith's shop was built nearby, forming the beginnings of a village. A store and post office were constructed by Richard Carey next to the Royal Oak, and were later combined with the hotel. These buildings were destroyed by fire in May 1959. State School No. 1688 opened on half time in 1875, operating full time by 1876. This school closed in 1914 and was removed.

St Joseph's Catholic Church was built in 1874, and survives as the sole remaining building in Tarrayoukyan. Father Patrick Cavanagh, who was posted to Casterton for 3 months, celebrated the first recorded Mass in the church on 7th February 1875.

The church was originally built in brick in a simple Gothic design, with a corrugated iron roof. A photograph of the former brick structure hangs in the church. In 1912, the brick fabric of the building had become unstable.

The parish decided to salvage the existing structure, rather than demolish and rebuild. The footings and floor were retained, and new walls were constructed in timber to replace the deteriorated brick ones. According to local parishioners, propping and bracing may have retained the original roof, while the brick walls below were removed and in filled with timber.

According to the Coleraine Albion 1961, the 50th anniversary of the present church was celebrated on 3rd June 1961.

## **THEMATIC CONTEXT:**

Theme 8 Developing Australia's cultural life

8.6 Worshipping

8.6.1 Worshipping together

8.6.4 Making places for worship

## **CONDITION:**

The church is well maintained, and shows signs of recent refurbishment, including the fitting of carpets and

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memorial plaques. The stone footings around the church show signs of movement, with several attempts to stabilise them visible.

## **INTEGRITY:**

High degree of integrity, post the reconstruction in timber.

## **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:**

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.

## **COMPARISON:**

093 St Michael's Catholic Church and Presbytery, Glenferrie Road, Harrow  
069 St Joseph's Catholic Church, Cnr McKebery and Read Sts, Coleraine  
236 St Joseph's Catholic Church, Martin Street, Penshurst  
303 St Thomas' Catholic Church, McLennan Street, Glenthompson.

**ASSESSED BY:** MGT

**ASSESSMENT DATE:**

23-Oct-03

## **EXISTING LISTINGS:**

## **HERITAGE STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Include in VHR  Include in RNE  Include in Local Planning Scheme

No Recommendations for Inclusions

## **REFERENCES:**

Author	Title	Year	Page
G. Brown	Forgotten Histories of the Western District		