

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT



ALPINE SHIRE

name: St Joseph's Catholic Church
Address: Kiewa Valley Highway DEDERANG
Place Type: Church
Citation Date: 2007

File No: AS0263

Significance Level: Local



St Joseph's Catholic Church

Recommended Heritage Protection VHR -

HI -

PS -

Architectural Style:
Federation/Edwardian Period (1902-
c.1918) Gothic



History and Historical Context

The Dederang Run was first taken up by Pincen and Roberts in 1845 and in 1870 was subdivided. It changed ownership a number of times until James Woodside purchased it in 1891. The Woodside family, who lived at Barwidgee homestead, owned it until 1950 when it was sold to the Government for Soldier Settlement.

The first Roman Catholic church was part of Creamer's house. The Creamers selected land in late 1860s and lived in the area until 1898. There were few Catholic families in the Upper Kiewa valley at the turn of the century and the farmers drove draught horses and drays to take their wives and children to Mass. A small weatherboard church was opened in 1883 and Father O'Connor was the first priest. The present church was built in 1914 and was opened free of debt by P Mahony. The bricks were burnt in a kiln in Tom Goonan's paddock and the men carted them free of charge to the church grounds. The Pioneer Gates erected in 1964, to mark the 50th anniversary of the erection of the church.

References:

Temple, Esther, 1971, The Kiewa Valley, Kiewa Valley Historical Society

Treacy, Ken, 1998, Beyond Gold. 150 Years of Memories 1848-1998, The Catholic Parish of Bright and Mt Beauty

Lewis M [ed], 1991, Victorian Churches, Melbourne,

Andrews B, 2001, Australian Gothic, Melbourne,

Relevant Historical Australian Themes

4.5 Making settlements to serve rural Australia.

8.6.4 Making places for worship

Description

Physical Description

St Joseph Catholic Church is a good representative example of its period and size. It has been constructed from face red brick with a corrugated iron roof.

There are cross finials at both gable ends. Contrasting cement-rendered dressings to the windows and copings provide a pleasing aesthetic contrast to the face brickwork. This type of contrast - face red brickwork and cream accents was particularly popular architectural aesthetic during the early 20th century and is often referred to as 'blood and bandage effect.' The side elevations are buttressed and contain regular and repetitive fenestration. The side windows consist of paired lancet type windows with an oculus over the side entrance doorway. The gable ends of the nave have tryptic lancet type windows surmounted by a narrow rectangular vent. The gables have decorative cement-rendered corbelling.

Physical Condition

Very good

Usage / Former Usage

1883 - 1914 church

1914 - present church

Intactness



High

Recommended Management

- Retain all unpainted finish to brickwork
- Retain fence and landscape setting

Comparative Analysis

Churches of similar style and scale exist in many other towns in regional Victoria

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

St Josephs Catholic Church is a red brick, gothic-inspired building which replaced a small weatherboard church that was opened in 1883. The Pioneer Memorial Gates were erected in 1964, to mark the 50th anniversary of the erection of the church. St Joseph Catholic Church is a good representative example of its period and size.

How is it significant?

St Josephs Catholic Church is of historical, social & architectural significance to the Catholic community of the Kiewa Valley, and the Alpine Shire

Why is it significant?

St Josephs Catholic Church is historically and socially significant to the Catholic community of the Kiewa Valley, and the Alpine Shire, as a long-established and valued place of worship. The gates have a high significance to the local community. St Josephs Catholic Church is architecturally important as a good representative example of its size and type. It is a gothic inspired church that illustrates many of the architectural details that are commonly associated with this genre.

Assessment Against Criteria

Criterion A

ITS IMPORTANCE IN THE COURSE, OR PATTERN, OF AUSTRALIA'S NATURAL OR CULTURAL HISTORY

A.1 Importance in the evolution of Australian flora, fauna, landscapes or climate.

A.2 Importance in maintaining existing processes or natural systems at the regional or national scale.

A.3 Importance in exhibiting unusual richness or diversity of flora, fauna, landscapes or cultural features.

A.4 Importance for association with events, developments or cultural phases which have had a significant role in the human occupation and evolution of the nation, State, region or community.

The St Joseph's Catholic Church is important in reflecting a significant phase of township growth in the Kiewa Valley, as farming intensified with improving transport facilities.

Criterion B

ITS POSSESSION OF UNCOMMON, RARE OR ENDANGERED ASPECTS OF AUSTRALIA'S NATURAL OR CULTURAL HISTORY

B.1 Importance for rare, endangered or uncommon flora, fauna, communities, ecosystems, natural landscapes or phenomena, or as a wilderness.



B.2 Importance in demonstrating a distinctive way of life, custom, process, land-use, function or design no longer practised, in danger of being lost, or of exceptional interest

Criterion C

ITS POTENTIAL TO YIELD INFORMATION THAT WILL CONTRIBUTE TO AN UNDERSTANDING OF AUSTRALIA'S NATURAL OR CULTURAL HISTORY

C.1 Importance for information contributing to a wider understanding of Australian natural history, by virtue of its use as a research site, teaching site, type locality, reference or benchmark site.

C.2 Importance for information contributing to a wider understanding of the history of human occupation of Australia

Criterion D

ITS IMPORTANCE IN DEMONSTRATING THE PRINCIPAL CHARACTERISTICS OF: (I) A CLASS OF AUSTRALIA'S NATURAL OR CULTURAL PLACES; OR (II) A CLASS OF AUSTRALIA'S NATURAL OR CULTURAL ENVIRONMENTS

D.1 Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of the range of landscapes, environments or ecosystems, the attributes of which identify them as being characteristic of their class.

D.2 Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of the range of human activities in the Australian environment (including way of life, philosophy, custom, process, land use, function, design or technique).

St Joseph's Catholic Church is important as a good representative example of its size and type. It is a gothic inspired church that illustrates many of the architectural details that are commonly associated with this genre.

Criterion E

ITS IMPORTANCE IN EXHIBITING PARTICULAR AESTHETIC CHARACTERISTICS VALUED BY A COMMUNITY OR CULTURAL GROUP

E.1 Importance for a community for aesthetic characteristics held in high esteem or otherwise valued by the community

Criterion F

ITS IMPORTANCE IN DEMONSTRATING A HIGH DEGREE OF CREATIVE OR TECHNICAL ACHIEVEMENT AT A PARTICULAR PERIOD

F.1 Importance for its technical, creative, design or artistic excellence, innovation or achievement

Criterion G

ITS STRONG OR SPECIAL ASSOCIATIONS WITH A PARTICULAR COMMUNITY OR CULTURAL GROUP FOR SOCIAL, CULTURAL OR SPIRITUAL REASONS

G.1 Importance as a place highly valued by a community for reasons of religious, spiritual, symbolic, cultural, educational, or social associations.

The church is valued by the local community as a place of worship, and the gates have a high significance to the local community.

Criterion H

ITS SPECIAL ASSOCIATION WITH THE LIFE OR WORKS OF A PERSON, OR GROUP OF PERSONS, OF IMPORTANCE IN AUSTRALIA'S NATURAL OR CULTURAL HISTORY

H.1 Importance for close associations with individuals whose activities have been significant within the history of the nation, State or region

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT



ALPINE SHIRE

Recommendations 2007

External Paint Controls	No
Internal Alteration Controls	No
Tree Controls	No
Fences & Outbuildings	No
Prohibited uses may be permitted	No
Incorporated Plan	-
Aboriginal Heritage Place	No



History and Historical Context

The settlement of Dederang appears to have nucleated in the late 1870s, as a product of selection, which broke up squatting runs. The Dederang Run was first taken up by Pincen and Roberts in 1845. In 1870 it was subdivided into smaller runs. It changed ownership a number of times until James Woodside purchased it in 1891. The Woodside family owned it until 1950 when it was sold to the Government for Soldier Settlement. A post office began in 1877, and a school was opened in 1878. A small store was built where the hotel now stands. Haig and Sons ran another store at Dederang, as well as their flourmill and sawmill at Glen Creek. Dederang races are a major annual event. They have survived from their humble beginnings in about 1870 at Steel's Racecourse where the small weatherboard church now stands, and now occur at the newer course on the west side of the highway. In 1892 a Mechanics Institute and Free Library was erected at a cost of 180 pounds and the Hall stood until 1952 when it was replaced with a new building.

The small weatherboard church was used for both Methodist and Anglican congregations, and is among Dederang's few surviving examples of earlier community infrastructure. It is not known if the church properly belongs to the "Union Church" category, a group of places which were funded in the early 1900s to provide shared worship facilities for very small congregations.

References:

Temple, Esther, 1971, The Kiewa Valley, Kiewa Valley Historical Society, p. 105 - 111

Relevant Historical Australian Themes

4.5 Making settlements to serve rural Australia.

8.6.4 Making places for worship

Description

Physical Description

The church has an utilitarian aesthetic that is reflective of the farming community that built it.

It is a timber framed weatherboard building with a moderately high-pitched gable roof. The building consists of a nave and porch. The side elevations have three regularly spaced pointed lancet type windows and these provide the only decorative architectural embellishments. The windows are timber framed with a cross mullion at the point of curvature.

The design is a spare gothic style and is relatively primitive. The gothic detailing is at its most elemental and is found in the pointed windows and the relatively steeply pitched roof.

Physical Condition

Good - lack of use may impact adversely on condition

Usage / Former Usage

Apparently no longer used. Still in use as a church in 1971

Intactness

High

Recommended Management



Retain form and weatherboard cladding

Comparative Analysis

Small, unsophisticated timber churches are relatively common in the small rural towns and communities of Victoria.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The Dederang Protestant Church is a small, spare, gothic-style weatherboard building which stands on the Kiewa Highway, at the northern end of the spread-out village surrounded by farmland. A rare piece of surviving early Dederang infrastructure, its origins may lie with the "Union Church" movement that saw small multi-congregation churches built for small and often isolated communities in the early 1900s.

How is it significant?

The Dederang Protestant Church is of historical & social significance to the rural community of the Kiewa Valley, and the Alpine Shire.

Why is it significant?

The Dederang Protestant Church is historically and socially significant to the Alpine Shire, as one of the few buildings remaining in the rural village of Dederang, which has largely been made redundant by improved roads and motor vehicle transport, enabling centralisation of facilities. The Dederang Protestant Church is significant as a reminder of an era when isolation often forced very small congregations in remote rural communities to work together to provide shared places of worship.

Assessment Against Criteria

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A.4 Importance for association with events, developments or cultural phases which have had a significant role in the human occupation and evolution of the nation, State, region or community.

The Dederang Protestant Church is important as a yardstick of the growth of the small community of Dederang.

Criterion B

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B.1 Importance for rare, endangered or uncommon flora, fauna, communities, ecosystems, natural landscapes or phenomena, or as a wilderness.

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