

St Michael's Parish Hall, 268 High Street, Ashburton Statement of Significance

Heritage Place:	St Michael's Parish Hall	PS ref no:	HO922
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What is significant?

St Michael's Parish Hall 268 High Street, Ashburton, 1933, is significant. The 1940s additions contribute to the significance of the place, Additions and alterations to the building after 1947 are not significant. The grotto contributes to the historic setting of the place.

How is it significant?

St Michael's Parish Hall is historically, architecturally and aesthetically significant to the City of Boroondara.

Why is it significant?

St Michael's Parish Hall is historically significant as the first Roman Catholic church of St Michael's parish, Ashburton. The hall also served as the first parish school and was extended in 1947 at a time of significant post-war growth in Ashburton with the foundation and expansion of the Ashburton Housing Commission estate. Both the 1933 Hall and its 1940s extensions served as a multipurpose church and school until the construction of the new St Michael's Memorial Church nearby in 1953. (Criterion A)

St Michael's Parish Hall is a particularly fine and outstanding local example of a church hall from the interwar period in Boroondara. It demonstrates Romanesque styling and Christian decorative scheme applied to a church hall. It is particularly distinctive as a multipurpose church and school building from the interwar period, with its dual use evident in the fabric through the ecclesiastical façade to the street with Christian detailing, combined with the multipaned windows and side veranda typical of a school building. (Criterion D)

St Michael's Parish Hall, designed by PJ O'Connor in 1933, is aesthetically significant for its demonstration of Romanesque design, with Lombard band on the tower; arch and tympanum over the doorway; central wheel window and dominant wall on the front façade, with moulded arched string courses on the piers. Other fine aesthetic elements include the different forms of cross motifs that testify to its former historical use as a church. The hall is also distinctive for its Spanish Mission influenced broad eaves formed by the overhanging pyramidal tower roof, and the projecting front clipped gable with timber brackets adding a touch of Arts & Crafts influence. (Criterion E)

St Michael's Parish Hall is significant for its association with the Roman Catholic community in Ashburton since the 1930, serving as the first church until the 1950s and later as the Parish Hall serving the adjacent primary school. (Criterion G)

Primary source

City of Boroondara Municipal-Wide Heritage Gap Study Volume 8: Ashburton (Context Pty Ltd, February 2021)

This document is an incorporated document in the Boroondara Planning Scheme pursuant to section 6(2)(j) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*