

---

# ST GABRIEL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH COMPLEX



St Gabriel's Catholic Church,  
237-243 Spring Street,  
Reservoir

---

## Location

237-243 Spring Street, RESERVOIR VIC 3073

## Municipality

DAREBIN CITY

## Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO280

## Heritage Listing

Darebin City

---

## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - July 15, 2008

### *What is significant?*

St Gabriel's Catholic Church complex, comprising the church designed by S.J. Moran and constructed by F.O. Dixon in 1960, and the presbytery at 237-243 Spring Street, Reservoir is significant. The church is constructed of cream brick in the Modernist style with a roof clad in terracotta tiles and built on a diagonal to the Spring Street and Viola Street corner. The church has a recessed entrance which is faced with glazed white tiles and panels of

small green mosaic tiles. At right of the entrance is a bell tower with a cross at its top. There is a foundation stone at the base of the tower. Further west along Viola Street is a cream brick Presbytery that is contemporaneous with the church, and sympathetic to it in terms of its materials. The Presbytery is now linked to the rear of the church by additions.

The original form detailing, materials and siting of the Church and Presbytery are significant.

Later alterations and/or additions are not significant.

*How is it significant?*

St Gabriel's Catholic Church complex at 237-43 Spring Street, Reservoir is of local historic, architectural and social significance to Darebin City.

*Why is it significant?*

Historically, St Gabriel's Catholic Church complex is significant as representative example of a Catholic Church Parish complex, which provides evidence of the post-war development of Reservoir. The scale and central location of the complex also illustrates the importance of the church to Reservoir. (AHC criteria A.4, B.2, D.2)

St Gabriel's Catholic Church is architecturally significant as a good representative example of a Modernist church in Darebin, which illustrates the transition in Catholic Church design that anticipated the outcomes of the Second Vatican Council. It has aesthetic qualities as a landmark building, which are due to its scale, materials and prominent position on a corner site. (AHC criteria D.2, E.1)

Socially, St Gabriel's Catholic Church complex, Reservoir is significant as a church that is known, used and valued by the local community for over 70 years. (AHC criterion G.1)

Heritage Study/Consultant Darebin - Darebin Heritage Study, Context P/L, 2011;

Construction dates 1930, 1960,

Hermes Number 27146

Property Number

---

## Physical Description 1

A cream brick Modernist church with a roof clad in terracotta tiles and built on a diagonal to the Spring Street and Viola Street corner. The church has a recessed entrance which is faced with glazed white tiles and panels of small green mosaic tiles. At right of the entrance is a bell tower with a cross at its top. There is a foundation stone at the base of the tower.

Further west along Viola Street is a cream brick Presbytery that is contemporaneous with the church, and sympathetic to it in terms of its materials. The Presbytery is now linked to the rear of the church by additions.

On the north side of Viola Street is St Gabriel's Primary School which was built in stages from the 1930s. The early buildings are red brick and have gambrel roofs clad in terracotta tiles. Crosses are fixed to the tops of the roofs where they face Spring Street. The integrity of this building has been compromised by a Modernist addition to the centre of the building, which unsympathetic in terms of its form.

*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/>*