**Statement of Significance: Former Catholic Apostolic Church, 53-63 Queensberry Street, Carlton (November, 2021)**

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| **Heritage Place:** | Former Catholic Apostolic Church Complex | **PS ref no:** | HO90 |

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**What is significant?**

The former Catholic Apostolic Church complex at 53-63 Queensberry Street, Carlton, now known as the Romanian Orthodox Church of St Peter and Paul, originally constructed in 1867 and incorporating extensions and building works of 1888, is significant.

**How is it significant?**

The former Catholic Apostolic Church complex at 53-63 Queensberry Street, Carlton, of 1867 and 1888, is of local historical and aesthetic significance, and of representative value.

**Why is it significant?**

The former Catholic Apostolic Church complex at 53-63 Queensberry Street, Carlton, is of historical significance (Criterion A). The church was constructed on land which, as part of the subdivision of Crown land in Carlton, was one of numerous - and generous – land grants made to religious denominations in the mid-nineteenth century. Built and opened in 1867, it came after St Andrews Presbyterian Church (also known as the Gaelic Church) constructed in 1854-55 on the corner of Queensberry and Rathdowne streets; and before the Primitive Methodist Church constructed in 1864 on the corner of Lygon and Queensberry streets. The subject church also survives these contemporary and nearby ecclesiastical developments. The church is significant for its association with the Catholic Apostolic Church, and is understood to be one of a very few purpose-built churches for this group in Australia. It also provides evidence of the presence of non-conforming and independent churches, or break-away church groups and congregations, in nineteenth century Australia. The church is additionally associated with prolific architect Leonard Terry, a renowned church designer, amongst other building types. Terry was also involved in the 1880s works to the church, which were significant in extent and effectively transformed the building.

The former Catholic Apostolic Church complex at 53-63 Queensberry Street, Carlton, is of aesthetic significance, and is a handsome bluestone Gothic Revival church in the early English Gothic style for which Terry was celebrated (Criterion E). While the 1880s works were undertaken with regard to the pre-existing style and materiality, and those sections of the original building closest to the street were retained, the simple, early character of the building was altered at this time. However, characteristics and components of the original church were retained including the bluestone building material, buttresses to corners, the steeply-pitched hipped roof form clad in slate with simple ventilators, and the main gabled end wall to Queensberry Street incorporating the tall central window with pointed arch, window tracery and quoin details to reveals. The 1880s presbytery also extends the understated Gothic stylings of the original church. The front metal palisade fence on a stepped bluestone plinth, with bluestone piers and several pedestrian gates, dates from the 1930s but contributes to the character and presentation of the church complex).

The former Catholic Apostolic Church complex also retains key representative elements of an historical church complex (Criterion D). The substantial and intact nineteenth century property is relatively externally intact to its 1880s form and layout, and retains original 1880s components within the complex, including the church and presbytery set in landscaped grounds.

**Primary source**

*Carlton Heritage Review (Lovell Chen, 2021)*