

Ukrainian Autocephalic Orthodox Church Nativity of the Holy Mother of God, 14 Alder Crescent, Bell Park Statement of Significance May 2025

Heritage Place:	Ukrainian Autocephalic Orthodox Church Nativity of the Holy Mother of God, 14 Alder Crescent, Bell Park	PS ref no:	HO2040
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Source: City of Greater Geelong, May 2025

What is significant?

The property at 14 Alder Crescent, Bell Park, otherwise known as the Nativity of the Holy Mother of God Ukrainian Autocephalic Orthodox Church, is locally significant to the City of Greater Geelong. Significant elements are:

- The 1971 church is of primary importance to the site.
- The setting of the church is important, with the open space on the northern, southern and western elevations.
- Unpainted external brick surface.

Non-significant elements are:

- The contemporary boundary fence.
- Rear outbuilding comprising the 1977 toilet block and tearoom.

How is it significant?

The Nativity of the Holy Mother of God Ukrainian Autocephalic Orthodox Church is of historical and representative significance to the City of Greater Geelong.

Why is it significant?

The Nativity of the Holy Mother of God Ukrainian Autocephalic Orthodox Church is historically significant to the City of Greater Geelong as a historical representation of the immediate postwar emigration of Ukrainian Orthodox Christians into the municipality. The Church further historically represents the formation of Bell Park and Geelong's northern suburbs more broadly, informed greatly by the huge intake of post-war migrants seeking employment in Geelong. The Nativity of the Holy Mother of God Ukrainian Autocephalic Orthodox Church, as the only denominational parish within the City of Greater Geelong to be constructed in the post-war period, also represents a historical spiritual expansion from the almost exclusive Church of England and Catholic communities which had up until the end of the War been the primary faith-systems within the municipality. (Criterion A)

The Nativity of the Holy Mother of God Ukrainian Autocephalic Orthodox Church is of representative architectural significance to the City of Greater Geelong as a highly intact example of a traditional Basilica planned Ukrainian Orthodox Church. This specific design of Ukrainian Orthodox Church is predominately informed by Baroque influences, and utilises a cruciform layout with intersecting gabled naves and sanctuaries, a square tower base with an octagonal segmental spire and onion-domed cupolas. Further features typical of this style and featured at the Nativity of the Holy Mother of God Ukrainian Autocephalic Orthodox Church include a curved apse and chancel, the eight-pointed Eastern Orthodox cross and the use of rounded-arch windows. The Church at 14 Alder Crescent, Bell Park, features all of the above key design traits representative of that style of Ukrainian Orthodox Church design. (Criterion D)

Primary sources

Ukrainian Autocephalic Orthodox Church Nativity of the Holy Mother of God, author: Benjamin Petkov, May 2025, peer reviewer: Mim Butcher, *The Heritage Conservancy*, May 2025.
Greater Geelong Outer Areas Heritage Study. Stage 2, Volume 16, Authentic Heritage Services Pty Ltd, 1998-2000.

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