

Ukrainian Catholic Church of the Protection of the Mother of God, 43-45 Banfield Street, Bell Park Statement of Significance May 2025

Heritage Place:	Ukrainian Catholic Church of the Protection of the Mother of God, 43-45 Banfield Street, Bell Park	PS ref no:	HO2041
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Source: City of Greater Geelong, May 2025

What is significant?

The property at 43-45 Banfield Street, Bell Park, otherwise known as the Ukrainian Catholic Church of the Protection of the Mother of God, is locally significant to the City of Greater Geelong. Elements of significance are:

- The 1966 Church.
- The entrance gates on the northern carriage drive.
- The 1988 Memorial Bell Tower.
- The setting of the Church and its visual connection to Banfield Street and Alder Crescent.
- Unpainted exterior brick surface.

Non-significant elements include:

- The residence at 21 Alder Crescent.
- The rear toilet-block.
- The St Nicholas Charnetskyi community hall at 45 Banfield Street.

How is it significant?

The Ukrainian Catholic Church of the Protection of the Mother of God is of historical and representative significance to the City of Greater Geelong.

Why is it significant?

The Ukrainian Catholic Church of the Protection of the Mother of God is historically significant to the City of Greater Geelong as a historical representation of the immediate postwar emigration of Ukrainian Catholic migrants 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 Ukrainian Catholic Church of the Protection of the Mother of God, 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 white Catholic

communities which had up until the end of the War been the primary faith-systems within the municipality. (Criterion A)

The Ukrainian Catholic Church of the Protection of the Mother of God is of representative architectural significance to the City of Greater Geelong as a highly intact example of a traditional Ukrainian Catholic church built in the Kozak Baroque style. This specific design of the Ukrainian Catholic church is informed by Baroque influences, and utilises a main octagonal sanctuary with two symmetrical segmented bays housing the façade narthex and the rear apse. The whole of the roof is dominated by three substantial domed cupola, each surmounted by a crucifix. The use of repeated fenestration in symmetrical design, with diamond-formed panes and mullions, is highly expressive paired further with octagonal windows on the frieze below each cupola in contrasting colours to produce a crucifix. Above the entrance on the northern elevation of the church, a substantial mosaic ikon is present, in keeping with eastern European Christian faith systems and the Catholic Church. The Church at 43-45 Banfield Street, Bell Park, features all of the above key design traits representative of that style of Ukrainian Catholic church design. (Criterion D)

Primary sources

Ukrainian Catholic Church of the Protection of the 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*