

The Mother of God 'Joy of All Who Sorrow' Russian Orthodox Church, 17 Yaraan Street, Bell Park Statement of Significance May 2025

Heritage Place:	The Mother of God 'Joy of All Who Sorrow' Russian Orthodox Church, 17 Yaraan Street, Bell Park	PS ref no:	HO2052
------------------------	--	-------------------	--------



Source: City of Greater Geelong, June 2024

What is significant?

The property at 17 Yaraan Street, Bell Park, otherwise known as the Mother of God 'Joy of All Who Sorrow' Russian Orthodox Church, is locally significant to the City of Greater Geelong. Significant elements include:

- The main 1962 Church.
- The circular processional paving around the exterior of the Church.
- Open setting around church.
- Unpainted exterior brick surface.

Elements not of significance include:

- Later alterations and additions comprising the:
 - Western carpark;
 - Boundary fence;
 - The plantings;
 - 1979 Sunday School,
 - Rear bathroom block and adjoining water tank, and;
 - 1968 Parish Hall.

How is it significant?

The Mother of God 'Joy of All Who Sorrow' Russian Orthodox Church is of historical, representative and social significance to the City of Greater Geelong.

Why is it significant?

The Mother of God 'Joy of All Who Sorrow' Russian Orthodox Church is historically significant to the City of Greater Geelong as a historical representation of the immediate postwar emigration of Russian Orthodox Christians into the municipality. As the only denominational parish within the municipality and one of the first to be established in the State following the end of the Second World War, the Mother of God 'Joy of All Who

Sorrow' Russian Orthodox Church 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 Mother of God 'Joy of All Who Sorrow' Russian Orthodox Church is of representative architectural significance to the City of Greater Geelong as a highly intact example of a 'ship-type' Russian Orthodox Church. This specific design of Russian Orthodox Church predominately utilised a cruciform layout with intersecting gabled naves, a central square tower base, a segmental spire and five onion-cupolas representing Jesus Christ and the four evangelists – Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Further features typical of this style and featured at the Mother of God 'Joy of All Who Sorrow' Russian Orthodox Church include a curved sanctuary, the eight-pointed Russian Orthodox crosse and the use of rounded-arch windows. The Church at 17 Yaraan Street, Bell Park, features all of the above key design traits representative of that style of Russian Orthodox Design.

(Criterion D)

The Mother of God 'Joy of All Who Sorrow' Russian Orthodox Church is of social significance to the local Russian Orthodox community, as a place of spiritual and social gathering. Since its construction, led exclusively by members of the congregation with recycled materials sourced by the community, the Mother of God 'Joy of All Who Sorrow' Russian Orthodox Church has been the cornerstone of the local Russian Orthodox community in the City of Greater Geelong. (Criterion G)

Primary sources

The Mother of God 'Joy of All Who Sorrow' Russian Orthodox Church, author: Benjamin Petkov, June 2024, 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*