

St. Nicholas Serbian Orthodox Church, 124 Ballarat Road, Hamlyn Heights Statement of Significance

March 2026

Heritage Place:	St. Nicholas Serbian Orthodox Church, 124 Ballarat Road, Hamlyn Heights	PS ref no:	HO2060
------------------------	---	-------------------	--------



Source: City of Greater Geelong, September 2024

What is significant?

The property at 124 Ballarat Road, Hamlyn Heights, otherwise known as St Nicholas Serbian Orthodox Church, is locally significant to the City of Greater Geelong. Elements of significance are:

- The 1964 church.
- The open space around the footprint of the church.
- Unpainted exterior brick surface.

Elements that are not significant are:

- The contemporary boundary fence on all elevations of the site.
- All plantings.
- The rear tearoom.
- The extraction fan vents on the roof of the church.
- The community hall at 122 Ballarat Road.
- The residence at 120 Ballarat Road.

How is it significant?

The St Nicholas Serbian Orthodox Church is of historical, representative and social significance to the City of Greater Geelong.

Why is it significant?

The St Nicholas Serbian Orthodox Church is historically significant to the City of Greater Geelong as a historical representation of the immediate postwar emigration of Serbian Orthodox Christians into the municipality. The Church further historically represents the formation of Hamlyn Heights and Geelong's northern suburbs more broadly, informed greatly by the huge intake of post-war migrants seeking employment in Geelong. The St Nicholas Serbian Orthodox Church, as the only denominational church 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 St Nicholas Serbian Orthodox Church is of representative architectural significance to the City of Greater Geelong as a highly intact example of a restrained Orthodox Basilica planned Serbian Orthodox Church. This specific design of Serbian Orthodox Church is predominately informed by Byzantine influences, and utilises a rectilinear gabled form with a square tower, onion-domed cupolas, curved apse and chancel and the use of rounded-arch windows. The Church at 124 Ballarat Road, Hamlyn Heights, features all of the above key design traits representative of that style of Serbian Orthodox Church design. (Criterion D)

The St Nicholas Serbian Orthodox Church is of social significance to the local Serbian Orthodox community, as a place of spiritual and social gathering. Since its construction, led and funded exclusively by members of the congregation, the St Nicholas Serbian Orthodox Church has been the cornerstone of the local Serbian Orthodox community in the City of Greater Geelong. (Criterion G)

Primary sources

St. Nicholas Serbian Orthodox Church, author: Benjamin Petkov, September 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*