Statement of Significance: St. Constantine and St. Helen Greek Orthodox Church, Part 27-39 Barry Street, South Yarra (June 2026)

Heritage Place:	St. Constantine and St. Helen Greek Orthodox Church Part 27-39 Barry Street, South Yarra	**PS ref no:**	HO795



Figure 1: *View of the St. Constantine and St. Helen Greek Orthodox Church from Barry Street, South Yarra* (GJM Heritage, July 2024).

What is significant?

St. Constantine and St. Helen Greek Orthodox Church at 27-39 Barry Street, South Yarra, constructed 1969-70.

Elements that contribute to the significance of the place include:

- Church constructed in a Byzantine Revival style
- Textured walls clad in grey split-face concrete brick
- Tile-clad parapeted gabled roof form of moderate pitch to nave
- Rectangular plan
- Symmetrical principal elevation with arcaded central recessed porch set between two square towers crowned with blue-painted domes and crosses

- Extensive use of contrasting smooth, white-painted render quoining to the towers, stylised raked corbel table to the front gable, front arcade and ocular window, triple arch-headed tower vents, and surrounds to arch-headed window openings at the principal elevation and along the side walls
- Three bay arcade to central front porch with wider central arch, supported on round columns, with stylised capitals decorated with Greek crosses
- Timber entry doors with glazed semi-circular highlights
- Lower tower and nave windows of consistent size and detail, with white-painted glazing bars and coloured glass forming simple crosses.

The addition to the rear and the landscaping immediately surrounding the building do not contribute to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

St. Constantine and St. Helen Greek Orthodox Church at 27-39 Barry Street, South Yarra, is of local historical, aesthetic and social significance to the City of Stonnington.

Why is it significant?

St. Constantine and St. Helen Greek Orthodox Church, South Yarra has strong associations with post-war migration in the City of Stonnington and demonstrates the significant growth of the Greek community within the municipality following World War II. This period transformed the social, cultural and economic character of the municipality and a number of institutions were constructed at this time to service the social and spiritual needs of the rapidly expanding Greek population. As the only purpose-built Greek Orthodox Church in the City of Stonnington, St Constantine and St Helen Greek Orthodox Church clearly demonstrates this historical phase in the City of Stonnington. It demonstrates the importance of religious and community institutions to serve as places of gathering and connection for local migrant communities at that time along with their desire to reflect their culture through an interpretation of traditional Greek religious architecture (Criterion A).

St. Constantine and St. Helen Greek Orthodox Church, South Yarra is a well-executed example of a postwar Byzantine Revival style church that directly draws on the architectural traditions of the migrant Greek community. The detailing, including textured concrete brick walls, symmetrical principal elevation with arcaded central porch and stylised raked corbel-table, square towers crowned with blue-painted cupolas and crosses, extensive use of contrasting smooth render highlighting and repetitive arched openings and motifs, presents a highly resolved expression of postwar migrant architecture and creates an imposing form within the streetscape (Criterion E).

St. Constantine and St. Helen Greek Orthodox Church, South Yarra is of social significance for its ongoing use by the local Greek community since opening in 1970. St Constantine and St Helen Greek Orthodox Church, South Yarra continues to provide pastoral care of its parishioners and remains a focal point for the Greek community. The connection of the community to the traditional forms and practice of Greek Orthodox Christianity is expressed in the Byzantine Revival architecture of the church (Criterion G).

Primary source

South Yarra Heritage Review (GJM Heritage, March 2025).