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# ST NEKTARIO'S GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH



St Nektario's Greek Orthodox Church



ST NEKTARIOS



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ST NEKTARIOS ENTRANCE

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## Location

138 MAJOR ROAD,, FAWKNER VIC 3060 - Property No 45382

## Municipality

MERRI-BEK CITY

## Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO405

## Heritage Listing

Merri-bek City

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - September 3, 2010

### What is significant?

St Nektario's Greek Orthodox Church at 144 Major Road, Fawkner designed by James Earle & Partners and built in 1974 is significant. The form, original external materials and detailing and siting of the church, which enables it to be viewed from all sides contributes to the significance of the place.

Other buildings on the site are not significant.

### How is it significant?

St Nektario's is of local historic, architectural and social significance to the City of Moreland.

### Why is it significant?

St Nektario's is historically and socially significant as church that demonstrates the growth of the Greek community within Moreland after World War II. First established in an earlier church on the same site, St Nektario's demonstrates the consolidation of worship amongst migrant communities in Moreland. (Criteria A & G)

St Nektario's is architecturally significant for the convincing manner in which a design traditionally executed in solid masonry material has been re-invented in concrete panels. The church displays elements of rich iconography in the circular mosaic motif and the metal window screens as well as the vernacular tradition of an outdoor water source as an important element. The interior is notable for its sculptural internal spaces created by the intersection of domes. St Nektario's Greek Orthodox church is an important and distinctive part of the prolific church architecture practice of Earle and Partners who are better known for their Wesleyan, Anglican and Presbyterian churches. (Criterion E)

Heritage Study/Consultant	Moreland - City of Moreland - North of Bell Street Heritage Study, Context Pty Ltd, 2013;
Construction dates	1974,
Architect/Designer	Earle, J,
Hermes Number	140008
Property Number	

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## Physical Description 1

St Nektario's is based on a traditional centralized church design originating from the ancient churches of the Byzantine Empire. This traditional form includes the use of a central domed space surrounded by subsidiary apses each with their own domed roof. The complex expression of domed forms exhibited in Byzantine churches were essentially solutions to building circular domes over square plans in thick walled masonry construction.

The modern equivalent of this form at St Nektario's has been inventively designed in concrete panels with semi-circular 'buttresses' that conceal the joints between panels and provide additional modelling to the facade.

St Nektario's is an interesting combination of traditional church design with structural materials of the twentieth century. There is considerable skill exercised in achieving the internal flow of space and volume with the restrictions of pre cast elements.

St Nektario's also includes symbols and imagery of importance in the Greek Orthodox tradition including gold icon circular motif centrally placed over the entrance, the metal screen windows with a Greek cross design, and a

water tap decorated in blue and with shell mosaic designed like a small traditional spring.

The church sits in an asphalted car park and landscaping includes a small palm tree and some low plantings delineating access roads and parking places.

*This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.*

*For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>*