
327-329 Burnley Street



RICHMOND BURNLEY
STREET 327-329.jpg

Location

327-329 BURNLEY STREET RICHMOND, YARRA CITY

Municipality

YARRA CITY

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO484

Heritage Listing

Yarra City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - August 25, 2015

What is significant?

The Greek Orthodox Church of the Holy Trinity at 327-39 Burnley Street, Richmond is significant. The present church, constructed c.1985, incorporates some of the original structure of the 1911 Church of Christ: this is demonstrated in the side walls, which retain half windows with pointed arches with leadlight glass. The symmetrical facade comprises a recessed central entry with a half-circular parapet with a Trefoil cross (representing the Holy Trinity) above, which is set between flanking two storey side wings with square parapets.

Behind this, the front of the nave is defined by a high wall with a half-circular parapet, which creates the illusion of a barrel-vaulted roof (the nave roof is gable fronted). All of these facade elements are constructed of bi-chrome brick, which has been expressed as quoining around the sides of the windows, to frame the doors and tops of windows, and as a stringcourse following the shape of the main central parapet, which also features diaper patterns. The triple-arched entry comprises paired central doors with flanking single doors with wrought iron decoration including the traditional two-headed eagle holding an orb and sword, and directly above is a half-circle window inset with a another Trefoil cross and Orthodox icons and symbols (including Partridges, which are understood to be a sign of the coming of the Holy Spirit). There are round-arched windows in the flanking wings and main parapet with leadlight featuring a cross with sunray pattern, and small, pointed arch, clerestory windows in the side walls of the Nave.

Internally, the church has a traditional Orthodox interior with painted frescos on the upper walls of the nave depicting religious icons. It is divided into a narthex, nave and sanctuary. The nave and the sanctuary are separated by an iconostasis, a wall of icons and religious paintings and doors.

How is it significant?

The Greek Orthodox Church of the Holy Trinity at 327-29 Burnley Street, Richmond is of local historic and architectural significance to the City of Yarra.

Why is it significant?

The Greek Orthodox Church of the Holy Trinity is associated with the migration of Greek people to Richmond in the post-war era. It demonstrates the rich religious and cultural traditions that Greek migrants brought to Australia, and the continuation of those traditions in this country. Although the present church dates to 1985, the Greek Orthodox Church Holy Trinity has been associated with this site since 1962 and it was one of the first Greek Orthodox churches established in Melbourne in the post-war period. The church also demonstrates the re-use of existing churches by new congregations and is significant for its former use by the Church of Christ from 1911 to the 1950s. (Criterion A)

It is significant as a representative example of a church built by the Greek migrant community, with a traditional east-west axial layout and design that makes stylistic references to traditional Orthodox architecture in Europe. This includes the arched circular parapets (giving the impression of a barrel-vaulted roof), triple-arched entry at the west end, the use of traditional Orthodox symbols and iconography, round-arched windows, and the use of clerestory windows in the side walls to admit light. (Criterion D)

Heritage Study/Consultant	Yarra - Heritage Gap Study: Review of Central Richmond 2014, Context P/L, 2014; Yarra - Heritage Gap Study, Graeme Butler & Associates, 2007;
Hermes Number	169673
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

The Greek Orthodox Church of the Holy Trinity is oriented east-west and the plan and form of the building, long and rectangular with the nave walls raised higher than the side aisles broadly resembles the basilica form of early Orthodox churches in Europe. The present church incorporates some of the original structure of the original Church of Christ: this is demonstrated in the side walls, which retain half windows with pointed arches with leadlight glass. The symmetrical facade comprises a recessed central entry with a half-circular parapet with a Trefoil cross (representing the Holy Trinity) above, which is set between flanking two storey side wings with square parapets. Behind this, the front of the nave is defined by a high wall with a half-circular parapet, which creates the illusion of a barrel-vaulted roof (the nave roof is gable fronted). All of these facade elements are constructed of bi-chrome brick, which has been expressed as quoining around the sides of the windows, to frame the doors and tops of windows, and as a stringcourse following the shape of the main central parapet, which also

features diaper patterns. The triple-arched entry comprises paired central doors with flanking single doors with wrought iron decoration including the traditional two-headed eagle holding an orb and sword (this symbolises the historic unity between the Byzantine Orthodox church and State and the dual sovereignty of the Byzantine Emperor with the left head representing Rome [the West] and right head representing Constantinople [the East]), and directly above is a half-circle window inset with a another Trefoil cross and Orthodox icons and symbols (including Partridges, which are understood to be a sign of the coming of the Holy Spirit). There are round-arched windows in the flanking wings and main parapet with leadlight featuring a cross with sunray pattern, and small, pointed arch, clerestory windows in the side walls of the Nave.

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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/>