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# PANAGIA SOUMELA GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH



View from Amis Crescent

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## Location

20 AMIS CRESCENT, KEILOR EAST, MOONEE VALLEY CITY

## Municipality

MOONEE VALLEY CITY

## Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO327

## Heritage Listing

Moonee Valley City

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

### *What is significant?*

The Panagia Soumela Greek Orthodox Church in Amis Crescent, East Keilor, was designed in 1993 by Greek-born architect John Michelakos, and completed in 1995. It is a large rendered brick building designed in a Byzantine-influenced style that evokes the traditional churches in Europe.

### *How is it significant?*

The Panagia Soumela Church is of historical and aesthetic significance to the City of Moonee Valley

### *Why is it significant?*

Aesthetically, the Panagia Soumela Church is a particularly fine, if rather late, example of an Orthodox church in Victoria that was deliberately designed in an evocative and exotic style inspired by traditional ecclesiastical architecture of the denomination's country of origin. This tradition can be traced back to the first purpose-built Greek Orthodox church erected in East Melbourne in 1900, and reached its pinnacle in the second half of the twentieth century. This church, with its stark walls, curved parapets, arched loggia and distinctive stepped towers, remains as a landmark in the local area, and a highly unusual building within the entire municipality that is only comparable to the Ukrainian Orthodox church in Essendon.

Historically, the Panagia Soumela Church is significant as one of a number of new Greek Orthodox churches that were established in Melbourne's outer suburbs during the 1990s, demonstrating the respective increase of Greek communities in those areas. Although of relatively recent origin, the Panagia Soumela church serves as a historic lynchpin for the Greek community that has strongly characterised the East Keilor/Avondale Heights area since the 1950s.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Moonee Valley - City of Moonee Valley Gap Heritage Study, Heritage Alliance, 2005;
Construction dates	1993,
Hermes Number	29631
Property Number	

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## Physical Description 1

The Church of Panagia Soumela is a large masonry building on a traditional cruciform plan, comprising a tall central gable-roofed nave flanked by low skillion-roofed transepts. The roof is clad with glazed terracotta tiles and the walls are finished with textured render. The street facade has a central arched loggia with curved parapet and plain columns, and a wide doorway with panelled timber doors and a blind fanlight. This porch is flanked by two tall stepped towers, each level having a round-arched window and its own hipped roof. Between these two towers, the nave roof is concealed by a second curved parapet with a contiguous row of five arched windows. All windows are multi-paned, metal-framed, and contain opaque amber glass.

**ASSESSED BY** S Reeves

**ASSESSMENT DATE** November 2004

## Historical Australian Themes

## THEMATIC CONTEXT

2.4 Migrating

8.6 Worshipping

### **Physical Conditions**

The church is in excellent condition.

### **Integrity**

The church is substantially intact.

*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/>*