



Hon Albert Jacob MLA
Minister for Heritage

Ministerial Statement

November 13, 2013

First Serbian Orthodox Church heritage listed

Australia's second oldest Serbian Orthodox Church, and the first to be built in Western Australia, has been entered in the State Register of Heritage Places.

Heritage Minister Albert Jacob said the Serbian Orthodox Church of St Sava in Highgate illustrated the rich religious and cultural tradition Serbian migrants brought to Australia.

The Serbian Orthodox Church of St Sava comprises a church (1954-55), bell tower (1974) and Sunday school building (1984).

"Together they tell the story of the thriving Serbian population in the post-World War II period and the growing need for a place of worship and education," Mr Jacob said.

"Although there were Serbian communities throughout Australia from as early as the late 1800s, the first Serbian Orthodox Church in Australia wasn't built until 1953 in New South Wales.

"The first Serbian Orthodox church service was held in WA in 1951 in a Greek Orthodox Church and by 1954, the community had raised enough money to build St Sava, Australia's second Serbian Orthodox Church."

The place is an exceptional example of Christian Orthodox Church design and is highly significant because all original elements are intact.

"The dome topped church roof and bell tower provides an impressive interior space that houses ornate artworks, finely painted wall icons and mosaics," the Minister said.

The church has functioned continuously as a place of worship and is highly valued by the Serbian community which will celebrate its 60th anniversary in 2014.

Fact File

- More than 1,350 places listed in State Register of Heritage Places, managed by the Heritage Council and State Heritage Office
- Visit <http://www.stateheritage.wa.gov.au> for more information

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