

BETTER HERITAGE INFORMATION SUMMARY OF STATE HERITAGE PLACE

COMMENTARY ON THE LISTING

Description and notes with respect to a place entered in the South Australian Heritage Register in accordance with either the *South Australian Heritage Act 1978* or the *Heritage Places Act 1993*.

The information contained in this document is provided in accordance with s14 and s21 of the *Heritage Places Act 1993*.

NAME: St Patrick's Catholic Church

PLACE NO.: 13397

KNOWN AS: St Patrick's Catholic Church

ADDRESS: Karna Country
268 Grote Street, Adelaide 5000
CT 5604/216 F181133 A291
Hundred of Adelaide

CONFIRMED IN THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE REGISTER:

11 September 1986

STATEMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

St Patrick's Catholic Church demonstrates the growth and consolidation of South Australia's Catholic community. Completed in 1914 and replacing an earlier church, St Patrick's Catholic Church was built to accommodate the growing Catholic population residing in Adelaide's west end. The Church demonstrates a high degree of aesthetic accomplishment and is an outstanding South Australian example of a basilica designed in the Federation Academic Classical style. St Patrick's Catholic Church also has strong cultural and spiritual associations with South Australia's Catholic Community, especially migrants, firstly from Ireland and later southern and eastern European countries.

INDICATIVE CRITERIA (under section 16 of the Heritage Places Act 1993)

(a) it demonstrates important aspects of the evolution or pattern of the State's history

St Patrick's Church demonstrates the growth and consolidation of Catholicism in South Australia between the 1840s and the early 1900s. Completed in 1914, the Church was built to accommodate the increasingly large Catholic population residing in Adelaide's west end, which could no longer fit in the original St Patrick's church, built in 1845 at the first formal site of Catholicism in South Australia.

Construction of the new Church commenced in 1912 and was opened in 1914. Both occasions were celebrated by South Australian Catholics, who by now were a well-established community. The new St Patrick's represented their consolidation as a major religious group within South Australia, one that originated in modest circumstances.

(e) it demonstrates a high degree of creative, aesthetic or technical accomplishment or is an outstanding representative of particular construction techniques or design characteristics

St Patrick's Church, completed in 1914, demonstrates a high degree of creative and aesthetic accomplishment and is an outstanding South Australian representative of Federation Academic Classical architecture with Renaissance-inspired details.

St Patrick's Church is a finely composed classical building influenced strongly by Renaissance and Baroque architecture. Its architect, Walter Hervey Bagot, was an expert in classical architecture and a passionate admirer and adherent of Italian Renaissance architecture. Bagot based his design on Filippo Brunelleschi's 15th century Renaissance era Church of San Lorenzo in Florence. This influence is particularly observable via the clerestory, bell towers, cross and globe ornaments, coffered ceiling and interior arcades. Ultimately, St Patrick's Church collates various classical and Renaissance elements and combines them in a stylistically appropriate and aesthetically pleasing way.

Upon completion, the Church was lauded by contemporaries as an architectural triumph. The press described it as 'probably the most artistic ecclesiastical structure in the State' and 'easily the most imposing edifice in the western part of the city'. Louis Laybourne Smith, a prominent architect, educator and associate of Bagot, also admired the building. Laybourne Smith praised both its appearance and the modern technologies that had been deployed to build it, particularly the use of steel and cement, commenting that he had a 'reasonable hope' that St Patrick's Church would 'live to rival' the San Lorenzo Basilica 'in length of days'.

St Patrick's Church features several of the key style indicators of what Apperly et al, call the 'Federation Academic Classical' style, including:

- Symmetrical façade,
- Dominant gabled frontispiece,
- Portico derived from classical temple front,
- Frontispiece
- Parapet concealing roof,
- Conventional classical order of architecture in composition,
- Pilasters,
- Two prominent towers employing typical academic classical motifs, including well-proportioned and detailed arched aedicules supporting octagonal tower caps.
- Monumental approach steps
- String course

Most of the style indicators are present in St Patrick's Church, reflecting its clear connection to other contemporaneous buildings around Australia that adhered to classical principles. It should be emphasised that Bagot's design was heavily inspired by Renaissance architecture and the British School at Rome. He was also a scholar and advocate of classical and Renaissance architecture.

(f) it has strong cultural or spiritual associations for the community or a group within it

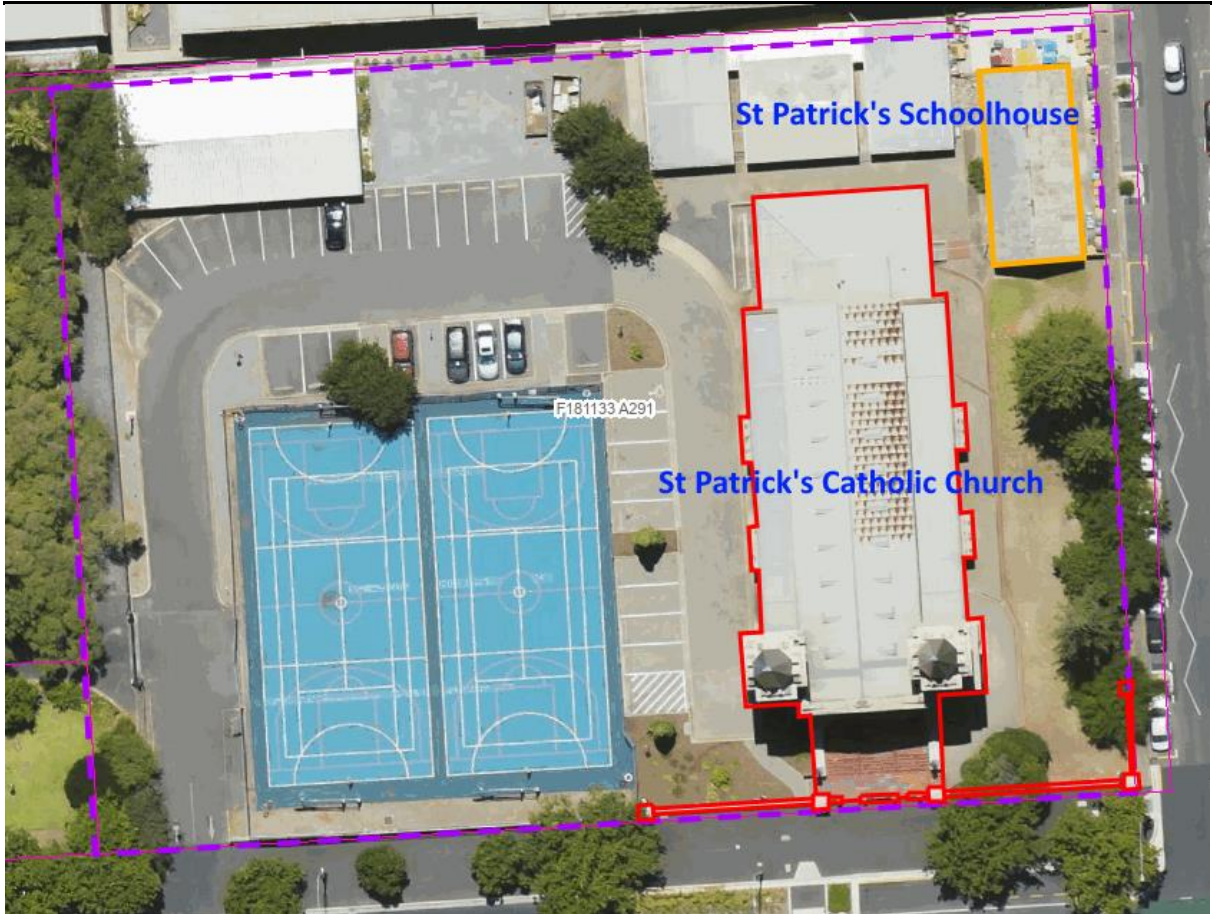
St Patrick's Church has a strong cultural and spiritual association with South Australia's Catholic community, especially migrants, first Irish and later people from southern and eastern Europe. St Patrick's Church is situated at the first formal site of Catholicism in South Australia and many Irish Catholic migrants settled in Adelaide's west end to be close to the Church and its facilities.

Throughout the twentieth century, those of Irish decent largely relocated to the suburbs, where they attended other Catholic churches, many newly built. As Catholic migrants from southern and eastern Europe began arriving in South Australia, especially following the Second World War, St Patrick's Church routinely hosted multi-ethnic and multi-lingual services for and by them. Consequently, St Patrick's Church holds strong and enduring spiritual and cultural associations for South Australia's Catholic community, both old and new.

SITE PLAN

St Patrick's Catholic Church
268 Grote Street, Adelaide




PLACE NO.: 13397



St Patrick's Catholic Church, 268 Grote Street, Adelaide SA, CT 5604/216 F181133 A291, Hundred of Adelaide.

N ↑

LEGEND

-  Parcel boundaries (Indicates extent of Listing)
-  Existing State Heritage Place(s)
-  Outline of Elements of Significance for State Heritage Place

Physical Description

St Patrick's Catholic Church is a Renaissance-inspired basilica built in what Apperly, Irving and Reynolds define as the 'Federation Academic Classical' style, meaning a design grounded strongly in classical architectural principles and constructed between c.1890 and c.1915.

Exterior

The Church comprises a symmetrical façade with two bell towers flanking a large pediment, high elevations with clerestories on the eastern and western sides, and a flat, rectangular apse with a red brick and corrugated steel extension to the rear. Additional features include:

- A rendered concrete plinth,
- Smooth horizontal rustication on the façade,
- Stucco pilasters with Doric-like (bottom) and Corinthian (top) capitals,
- A stucco Roman Corinthian pediment with simple swag relief and circular opening,
- Arched windows with steel frames (upper storey),
- Rectangular windows (lower storey) with pediments,
- An arched central entrance flanked by two rectangular entrances,
- A wide staircase with cast-iron handrails,
- Rendered masonry and cast-iron fence with cast-iron railing and gates at the front,
- A balustraded parapet,
- Corinthian columns on the bell towers,
- Octagonal spires with finials featuring globes and crosses,
- Red brick side elevations with clerestories, featuring a concrete base, rectangular leadlight windows and semi-circle windows with concrete surrounds (bottom), arch windows with concrete surrounds (top) and concrete upper section with classical detailing,
- A gabled roof clad with corrugated galvanised iron.

Interior

The interior of the basilica comprises a narthex, baptistery, nave and aisles, organ gallery, sacristy, and bell chamber. Additional features include:

- Arcaded aisles with ionic columns on either side of the nave,
- Vaulted ceilings above the aisles,
- A chancel arch above the sanctuary with a circular window above,
- Flat coffered ceiling with classical detailing.

Elements of Significance:

Elements of heritage significance include (but are not necessarily limited to):

- St Patrick's Catholic Church,
- Stairs to entrance with cast-iron handrails,
- Rendered Masonry Fence with cast-iron railing and gates.

Elements not considered to contribute to significance of place include (but are not necessarily limited to):

- Sports courts,
- Car parks,
- Asphalt surfacing,
- Other fencing
- Non-original transportable outbuildings.

HISTORY OF THE PLACE

Establishing Catholicism in South Australia

During the first few years of the colony, the Catholic community in South Australia was small and consisted largely of working-class migrants from Ireland. While the community met informally, it lacked a church and did not have a resident priest until 1841. In that year, the Church in Sydney sent Father William Benson to Adelaide. Father Benson subsequently leased a warehouse in Waymouth Street to use as a chapel. As the community continued to grow, Rome divided the diocese of Sydney in 1842 to create dioceses for Adelaide and Hobart. In 1844, Father Benson was succeeded by Father Edmund Mahoney.¹ Bishop Francis Murphy arrived later that year on 6 November.

In 1843, Pope Gregory XVI had reassigned Dr Francis Murphy to South Australia to serve as the bishop of the new diocese. Prior to his departure from New South Wales, Murphy was consecrated as a bishop at St Mary's Cathedral in Sydney on 8 September 1844, the first such consecration to take place in Australia.² Upon his arrival in Adelaide, Bishop Murphy was greeted warmly by the small Catholic community, a reception that left him enamoured with his new flock.³ However, he was concerned by the lack of Catholic institutions in the colony, writing in December that he had found his 'Mission utterly destitute of church, chapel or school' and that the 'only priest in the Colony was obliged to celebrate Mass in a large storehouse'.⁴

He was soon gifted 500 acres of rural land and £2000 from William Leigh, a wealthy landowner from Staffordshire and a recent convert to Catholicism. Along with his annual stipend from the Society for the Propagation of the Faith at Lyon and small contributions from local church members, Bishop Murphy used a portion of these funds to purchase an allotment of land at the corner of West Terrace and Grote Street for

£70.⁵ He then hired architect George Strickland Kingston to design a large school hall, also to be used as a temporary church until a cathedral could be built.⁶ Just six weeks after his arrival in Adelaide, the foundation stone of the school hall and temporary church was laid on 12 December 1844.⁷ Construction continued throughout 1845.⁸

Bishop Francis Murphy, South Australia's first Catholic Bishop, c.1858



Source: State Library of South Australia B 2763

In the meantime and while also devoting himself to constructing churches and chapels around the colony, Bishop Murphy ordered furniture and schoolbooks for the school and temporary church,⁹ and again commissioned Kingston to design a residence for the south-western corner of the site.¹⁰ During the construction of both buildings, it appears Murphy established a school at a temporary location in a 'brewery building' on Pirie Street.¹¹ Several months later, the school hall and temporary church was completed and on 8 October 1845 the school at Pirie Street appears to have been relocated there.¹² Murphy's house, adjacent to the school hall, was completed two months later and Bishop Murphy moved in on 19 December 1845. It is now known as the Archbishop's House (SHP 13398). An additional bespoke schoolhouse (SHP 26567) was constructed at the site and opened in late 1848.¹³

Bishop Murphy never meant St Patrick's to be the diocese's principal church. Instead, it was intended to be a temporary arrangement until a purpose-built cathedral was erected elsewhere. Towards this end, Bishop Murphy established the St Francis Xavier's Church Fund Society in February 1848.¹⁴ In 1850, he purchased a site on Wakefield Street and construction of the new cathedral began the following year. Despite multiple disruptions and though incomplete, St Francis Xavier's Cathedral (SHP 10892)

was consecrated and opened in 1858 - it would not be fully completed until 1996.¹⁵ Bishop Murphy passed away before it was opened and was buried at the site.¹⁶

Even with the new cathedral, the hall along Grote Street continued to operate as a church. Subsequent bishops made several additions to the building. For instance, Bishop Patrick Geoghegan added a chancel in 1860 and Bishop Laurence Shiel added a bell tower and porch in 1869. In 1871, Father John Smyth dedicated it as St Patrick's Church.¹⁷



Archbishop's House (SHP 13398) (left) and the original St Patrick's Church (on right, now demolished), after it had been dedicated c.1870.

Source: State Library of South Australia B1938

Decision to build a new St Patrick's Church*

In 1905, Archbishop John O'Reily noted that there were 52,673 Catholics residing in South Australia, with 40,460 of those living in the Archdiocese of Adelaide, which covered 'most of the southern portion of the state'.¹⁸ Within Adelaide itself, the 1901 census revealed there were 4,300 'self-described ... Catholics living in the western half of the city square mile'.¹⁹ The St Patrick's Church congregation appears to have been mainly comprised of working-class Catholics living in west Adelaide, while middle-class Catholics tended to worship at St Francis Xavier's Cathedral.

By the turn of the twentieth century,²⁰ the Catholic population residing in Adelaide's west end had grown to the extent that the original St Patrick's church could barely accommodate them.²¹ However, the archdiocese and congregation were in debt,

* This and the following sections draw primarily from David Hilliard, 'St Patrick's Church, Grote Street, Adelaide: A Short History', *Journal of the Historical Society of South Australia* No. 41 (2013): pp.30-44.

which halted their ability to build a new church. Fund-raising committees were established in 1906 and the debt was paid in full within five years.²²

With the debt cleared, on 21 May 1911 Archbishop O'Reily and the congregation agreed that it was 'necessary to provide adequate accommodation by building a new church and that funds be raised by donations, collections and monthly entertainments'.²³ By the end of the year, around £3,400 had been raised.²⁴

Design

The church committee commissioned Walter Hervey Bagot of Woods & Bagot to design the new St Patrick's Church. Woods & Bagot had been the Diocese's principal architectural firm since 1905.²⁵ According to Louis Laybourne Smith, a confidant, fellow architect and educator, Bagot 'based his design on that of the Church of San Lorenzo Florence, which was [designed] by Phillippo [sic] Brunelleschi in the year 1428 for the great Italian family of the Medici, who bore the cost of its erection'.²⁶ In a letter sent to Laybourne Smith in May 1914, Bagot wrote that after visiting the Basilica di San Lorenzo he was 'pleased to find that the proportions' of St Patrick's 'did not compare badly' to it and believed that the 'higher clerestory' of his design was 'an advantage'.²⁷

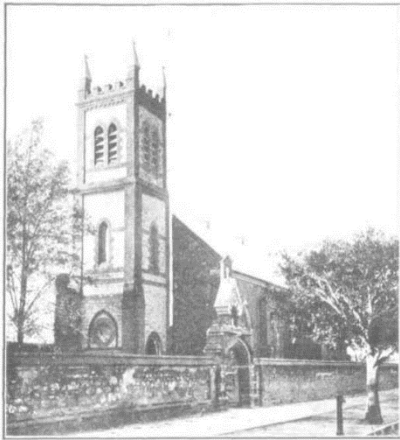
Compared to the original St Patrick's, which was a relatively modest structure, the new church was to be enormous in size and magnificent in appearance. Along with a symmetrical façade featuring two bell towers and clerestories at the sides, Bagot's design for St Patrick's also included a transept and a large dome at the rear. Other features, include classically ordered pilasters, a Roman Corinthian pediment, and symbolic ornamentation, notably the globe and cross finials atop of the bell towers. Laybourne Smith explained that:

The former [globes] represents the world; the latter [crosses], surmounting the globe[s], typifies the world governed and redeemed by the Cross, and thus effecting peace between Heaven and Earth. At the main entrance over the front door is a beautiful painting of the Dove of the Ark bearing in its beak the olive branch of peace.²⁸

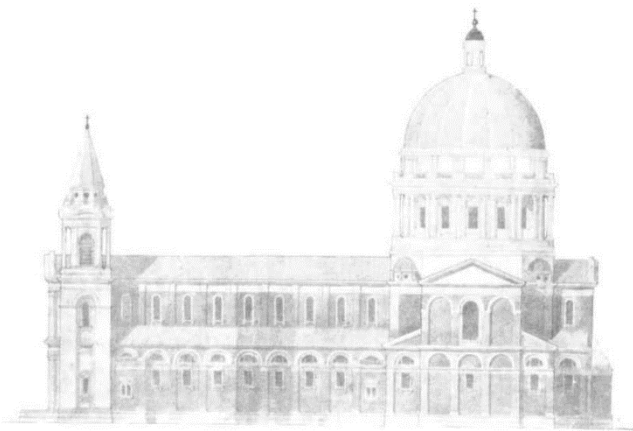
Evidently, the new St Patrick's Church was designed to make a conspicuous statement about Catholicism and its place within South Australia.

Although it followed classical design principles, Laybourne Smith highlighted that the building was to be constructed using modern technologies. He noted its 'deep and massive foundations and the steel core of its structure', as well as the 'plentiful use of cement in its walls'. These construction techniques left him with a 'reasonable hope' that St Patrick's Church would 'live to rival' the Basilica di San Lorenzo 'in length of days'.²⁹

ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH, WEST TERRACE, ADELAIDE.



THE OLD CHURCH OF ST. PATRICK.



SKETCH PLAN SHOWING SIDE ELEVATION OF NEW ST. PATRICK'S.

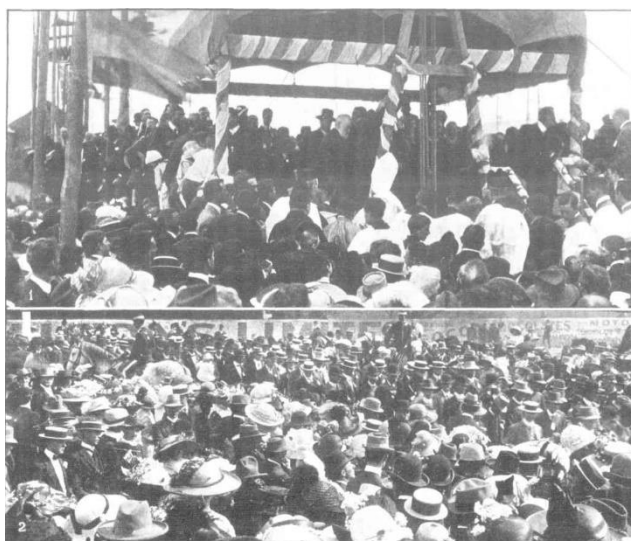
The foundation-stone of which is to be laid on Sunday, 10 November 1912.

The old St Patrick's Church (left) and Walter Hervey Bagot's design for the new St Patrick's Church (right)Source: *Adelaide Chronicle*, 9 November 1912, p.32, via trove.nla.gov.au**Construction and Opening**

The total cost to construct the building in its entirety, including the dome and transept, was estimated to be £13,500.³⁰ This was well above what the congregation had on hand. Their solution was to build the church in two stages.³¹ The front of the church, nave and aisles would be built first, and the dome and transept would follow later. Taking this approach would give the congregation time to raise enough funds to commence construction.

In June 1912, builder W. B. Bland was selected to construct the church. Bland's tender was for £13,425, the lowest received.³² Monsignor David Nevin was responsible for the budget and calculated that £6,000 could be raised to initiate construction. In addition to the available funds, Nevin predicted that a further £1,000 would be raised when the foundation stone was laid.³³

The foundation stone was laid on 10 November 1912 and a ceremony was held to mark the occasion.³⁴ A procession of around seven thousand men from various churches in and around Adelaide marched from St Francis Xavier's Cathedral to the St Patrick's site, and a sermon was delivered by Father Thomas Barrett, a priest from North Adelaide.³⁵ The *Southern Cross*, reported that 12,000 people attended the ceremony, though historian David Hilliard warns this figure may be exaggerated.³⁶ Regardless, historic photographs capture the popularity of the occasion.³⁷ The congregation raised £1,625, including £500 from Nevin. These contributions brought the net funds to around £5,000, which was enough for Bland to commence construction.³⁸



Archbishop O'Reily laying of the foundation stone (top) and the attending crowd (bottom)

Source: *Adelaide Chronicle*, 16 November 1912, p.31, via trove.nla.gov.au

Building continued until March 1914. By completion, the total cost had blown out to £17,000, once the 'building, furnishings, cast-iron fence and architect's fee' had been factored in.³⁹ The congregation had been able to pay £8,000. It was left with a debt of £9,000. Archbishop O'Reily estimated that it would cost £50,000 to complete the church.⁴⁰

Despite the financial situation, the new St Patrick's Church was met with considerable fanfare. It was blessed and dedicated on 15 March 1914. Attendees paid to attend the ceremony, which included an address by the Archbishop and High Mass. Another procession marched from St Francis Xavier's Cathedral to St Patrick's in the afternoon, this time with Irish pipers. Additional sermons were given throughout the day.⁴¹

Hilliard describes the opening of the new St Patrick's Church as a 'triumph for Adelaide's Catholic community'.⁴² Contemporaries expressed similar sentiments. The *Advertiser*, for instance, congratulated the Catholic community and praised the design and workmanship of the new church, remarking:

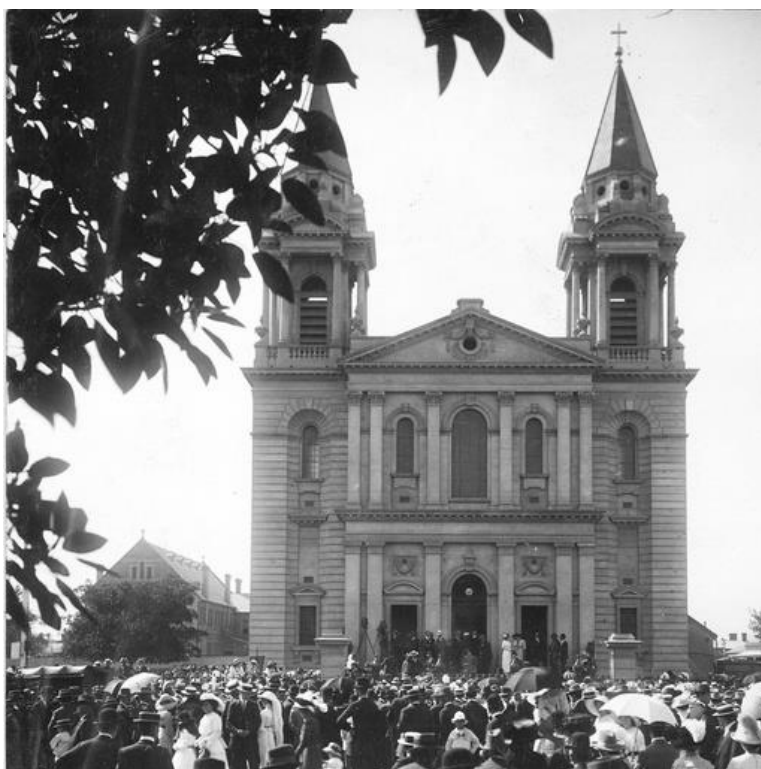
The Roman Catholic community in Adelaide have reason to be proud of the fine addition they have made to the striking buildings of the city by the provision of the noble double-towered Church of St. Patrick, which is easily the most imposing edifice in the western part of the city. The lofty spires can be discerned from a great distance, and close inspection reveals that the design is architecturally correct and ornate, and the workmanship good. The fane will long remain as a monument to the progressiveness and enthusiasm of Roman Catholics in providing temples for worship. Internally the building arrests attention. The altar is of beautiful design and the fittings generally substantial and well chosen. The paintings are remarkably good, and the statue of "Our Lady of Lourdes" is a feature of the Gospel side of the altar.⁴³

Perhaps expectedly, the *Southern Cross* described it as 'probably the most artistic ecclesiastical structure in the State' and 'in accordance with the best traditions of ecclesiastical architecture'.

The *Southern Cross* went further by declaring the new St Patrick's Church as a fitting tribute both to its namesake and the site itself. Regarding the latter, it stressed the nexus between the past and present, commenting that:

The erection of a church like that of St. Patrick is an undertaking which should appeal to every Catholic in the State, and especially Irishmen and their descendants, who owe allegiance to the great Apostle to whom it is dedicated. To Australian Catholics not of Irish descent it should likewise make its appeal, since St. Patrick's is the mother church of the city, and was the pro-cathedral of the first Bishop of Adelaide (Dr. Murphy). There is hardly one of the older Catholic families in the city or in the State that has not indelible recollections of and sacred associations with the old historic edifice. The new church which is to take its place will be one well worthy of the Apostle of Ireland, and the cradle of Catholicity in South Australia.⁴⁴

Thus, according to the *Southern Cross*, the new St Patrick's Church represented the success of Catholicism in South Australia. Whether Irish or not, it insisted the Catholic community would appreciate the new church's connection to the past.



The new St Patrick's Church in the early twentieth century, likely upon its opening in 1914.

Source: SLSA PRG 280/1/8/116

Subsequent History

The second stage of construction never commenced. It is likely that the outbreak of the First World War was the most immediate cause,⁴⁵ however the first stage had left the congregation with a sizeable debt and limited funds. Through intensive fundraising, they managed to repay the debt in full by 1925, but priorities had changed by this point in time.⁴⁶ During the early 1920s, the Archdiocese decided to 'enlarge and expand' St Francis Xavier's Cathedral. Walter Bagot was again commissioned to prepare the designs and the resulting extensions would cost £46,455. To pay for them, 'every parish in the diocese was enlisted' to assist raise funds.⁴⁷ Ultimately, the congregation simply did not have the capacity to amass the funds for the second stage of St Patrick's.

Even so, they now had two churches at the site. The old St Patrick's Church stood for decades after the new one opened. In time, however, the congregation ceased using it and it eventually fell into disrepair due to rising damp. It was demolished in 1959.⁴⁸



The old St Patrick's Church in the process of demolition, 1959.

Source: SLSA B 14233

By the middle of the twentieth century, the demographics of the congregation began to change. From the 1890s, Maronite Catholics from the Middle East, particularly from what is now Lebanon, had been attending their own services at St Patrick's.⁴⁹ However, the congregation remained predominantly of Irish decent. After the Second World War, large numbers of migrants from southern and eastern Europe arrived in South Australia and settled in the west of the City of Adelaide. As many were Catholic, St Patrick's became their local church. Hilliard notes that by the 'early 1960s St Patrick's

had become an international church', offering multi-lingual services for Italians, Ukrainians, Croatians and Germans.⁵⁰

Overlapping this development was the suburbanisation of greater Adelaide. During the 1960s and 1970s, the Catholic community residing in Adelaide's west began to relocate to neighbourhoods outside of the city, where new churches were built throughout the suburbs. Consequently, the number of Catholics residing in the City of Adelaide dwindled, dropping from around 1,700 in the early 1960s to 600 in 1977.⁵¹

Regardless, services are still held at St Patrick's Church, particularly for Croatian and Portuguese migrants.⁵² It is also a popular venue for wedding ceremonies.⁵³ Moreover, the Church's aesthetic and historical importance continues to be recognised.⁵⁴

Chronology

Year	Event
1841	South Australia's first resident Catholic priest, Father William Benson, arrives in Adelaide.
1842	Rome subdivides the diocese of Sydney to create the dioceses of Hobart and Adelaide.
1844	Bishop Francis Murphy arrives in South Australia. William Leigh donates a large sum of money and 504 acres of land to Bishop Murphy. Bishop Murphy purchases an acre of land on the corner of West Terrace and Grote Street for £70. The foundation stone for a combined Catholic school hall and temporary church is laid on 12 December.
1845	First St Patrick's Church (also used as a school) opens on 5 October. Archbishop's House (SHP 13398) is built. The foundation stone for St Mary's Catholic Church is laid in Morphett Vale on 28 July.
1846	The first bespoke Catholic church, St Mary's (SHP 10596), opens in Morphett Vale on 4 January.
1848	The foundation stone for the new St Patrick's Schoolhouse is laid on 25 January and the building is completed by the end of the year. St. Francis Xavier's Church Fund Society commences on 6 February.
1849	St. Michaels Church at Clare opens.
1850	Dry Creek (Salisbury) Church opens.
1856	Saint Aloysius' College at Sevenhill, the first Catholic boarding school in South Australia, opens.

- 1858 Bishop Murphy passes away on 26 April.
St Francis Xavier's Cathedral opens on 11 July.
- 1859 Bishop Patrick Geoghegan is consecrated as the new Bishop of Adelaide.
- 1866 Bishop Laurence Sheil is consecrated as the new Bishop of Adelaide.
- 1873 Christopher Augustine Reynolds becomes the new Bishop.
- 1887 Bishop Reynolds becomes the first Archbishop of Adelaide.
- 1895 John O'Reily becomes the Archbishop.
- c.1900 The original St Patrick's Church struggles to accommodate the growing Catholic population in Adelaide's west end.
- 1905 Walter Hervey Bagot becomes the official architect for the Archdiocese of Adelaide.
Monsignor Bernard Nevin assumes greater responsibilities after Archbishop O'Reily's health deteriorates, reducing his public appearances.
- 1911 Archbishop O'Reily and the St Patrick's congregation decide that a new church should be constructed at the site to replace the old church. Fundraising for the new church commences. £3400 is collected by the end of the year.**
- 1912 Architect Walter Hervey Bagot designs the new St Patrick's Catholic Church (SHP 13397).
Builder W. B. Bland's tender is accepted.
The foundation stone for the church is laid on 10 November.**
- 1914 First part of the new St Patrick's Catholic Church (SHP 13397) is opened on 15 March.**
- 1915 Robert William Spence becomes the Archbishop.
- 1925 The debt for the cathedral's construction is fully absolved.**
- c. 1926 The church acquires a pipe organ from the closed Hindmarsh Square Congressional Church, built by J. E. Dodd.
- 1950s St Patrick's becomes an 'international church', delivering services to Italian, Ukrainian, Croatian and German migrants.
- 1959 The original St Patrick's Church is demolished.**
- 1977 The number of Catholic people residing in Adelaide's west-end declines to about 600, down from around 1,700 in the 1960s.
- 1986 St Patrick's Catholic Church (SHP 13397) is listed as a State Heritage Place on 11 September.**
- 2008 Heritage consultants McDougall and Vines complete a Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for St Patrick's Church and 'Tragedy Hall'.

2012 St Patrick's celebrates the centenary anniversary of its foundation stone being laid in 1912. Historian David Hilliard delivers a lecture at St Patrick's Church on its history.

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- 'St Patrick's Church, West Terrace, Adelaide', photograph, *Adelaide Chronicle*, 16 November 1912, p.31.
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SITE DETAILS

St Patrick's Catholic Church
268 Grote Street, Adelaide

PLACE NO.: 13397

DESCRIPTION OF PLACE:	Renaissance-inspired basilica with portico, classically ordered pilasters, clerestories and two bell-towers featuring octagonal spires.		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION:	1912 - 1914		
REGISTER STATUS:	Confirmed 11 September 1986		
CURRENT USE:	Church, 1914 -		
ARCHITECT:	Walter H. Bagot, 1912		
BUILDER:	W. B. Bland, 1912		
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:	City of Adelaide		
LOCATION:	Street No.:	268	
	Street Name:	Grote	
	Town/Suburb:	Adelaide	
	Post Code:	5000	
LAND DESCRIPTION:	Title		
	Reference:	CT 5604/216 F181133 A291	
	Hundred:	Adelaide	

PHOTOS

St Patrick's Catholic Church
268 Grote Street, Adelaide

PLACE NO.: 13397



St Patrick's Catholic Church under construction, c.1913-1914

Source: Wikimedia Commons. Reproduced per [CC0 1.0 Deed](#) | [CC0 1.0 Universal](#) | [Creative Commons](#)



St Patrick's Catholic Church shortly after completion, c.1914

Source: Photograph by Henry Krischock, SLSA B 283

PHOTOS

St Patrick's Catholic Church
268 Grote Street, Adelaide

PLACE NO.: 13397



St Patrick's Catholic Church, c.1914

Source: SLSA B 30560



Altar inside St Patrick's, c.1915

Source: SLSA PRG 280/1/19/143



St. Patrick's Catholic Church, c.1914

Source: SLSA B 18070



Interior facing sanctuary, c.1920.

Source: SLSA B 58665

PHOTOS

St Patrick's Catholic Church
268 Grote Street, Adelaide

PLACE NO.: 13397



Front elevation of St. Patrick's Catholic Church, July 2023

Source: Google Street View



Eastern elevation of St. Patrick's Catholic Church, July 2023

Source: Google Street View

PHOTOS

St Patrick's Catholic Church
268 Grote Street, Adelaide

PLACE NO.: 13397



Interior of St Patrick's Catholic Church facing the front (south) showing nave, clerestory, arcades with ionic columns and coffered ceiling with classical detailing, 2013.

Source: DEW Files, 2013

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- ³ Cardinal Patrick Francis Moran, *History of the Catholic Church in Australasia* (Sydney; Wellington: The Oceanic Publishing Company, Limited, 1895), pp.511-512.
- ⁴ Bishop Francis Murphy quoted in Thorpe, 'Murphy, Francis (1795-1858)'.
- ⁵ Hilliard, 'St Patrick's Church', pp.31-32.
- ⁶ Donald Langmead, *Accidental Architect: The Life and Times of George Strickland Kingston* (Sydney: Crossing Press, 1994), pp.142-144 and p.249.
- ⁷ Francis Murphy, *The Journal of Francis Murphy, First Catholic Bishop of Adelaide*, Vol. One. Condon, Brian (Ed.) (Magill: South Australian College of Education, 1983), p.83.
- ⁸ Langmead, *Accidental Architect*, p.249.
- ⁹ Murphy, *The Journal of Francis Murphy*, p.88.
- ¹⁰ Langmead, *Accidental Architect*, p.143.
- ¹¹ Press, *From Our Broken Toil*, p.55.
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- ¹³ See Murphy, *Journal of Francis Murphy*, p.128 and 'Mining Intelligence', *South Australian Register* (Adelaide), 30 December 1848, p.2.
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- ¹⁵ Alexander Parsons, 'St Francis Xavier's Cathedral', SA History Hub, History Trust of South Australia, 2023. <https://sahistoryhub.history.sa.gov.au/places/st-francis-xaviers-cathedral>
- ¹⁶ Parsons, 'St Francis Xavier's Cathedral'.
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- ²⁰ Hilliard, 'St Patrick's Church', p.34
- ²¹ Hilliard, 'St Patrick's Church', p.35.
- ²² Hilliard, 'St Patrick's Church', pp.35-36.
- ²³ Hilliard, 'St Patrick's Church', p.36.
- ²⁴ Hilliard, 'St Patrick's Church', p.36.
- ²⁵ Julie Collins, 'Bagot, Walter Hervey', Architects of South Australia, Architecture Museum, University of South Australia, 2008. https://architectsdatabase.unisa.edu.au/arch_full.asp?Arch_ID=7
- ²⁶ Louis Laybourne-Smith, 'St Patrick's Church, Adelaide', *Salon: Being the Journal of the Institute of Architects, New South Wales* 2:9 (1 April 1914), p.555. Also see Hilliard, 'St Patrick's Church', p.37; and Vedrana Budimir, 'Saint Patrick's Church', SA History Hub, History Trust of South Australia, 2003. <https://sahistoryhub.history.sa.gov.au/places/saint-patricks-church>
- ²⁷ Walter Hervey Bagot, letter to Louis Laybourne-Smith, quoted in Collins, 'Bagot, Walter Hervey'; Hilliard, 'St Patrick's Church', p.37.
- ²⁸ Laybourne-Smith, 'St Patrick's Church', p.556.
- ²⁹ Laybourne-Smith, 'St Patrick's Church', p.555.
- ³⁰ Hilliard, 'St Patrick's Church', p.37.
- ³¹ Hilliard, 'St Patrick's Church', p.37.
- ³² 'Item No. 89: St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church, 260 Grote Street' in Peter Donovan, Susan Marsden and Paul Stark, *City of Adelaide Heritage Survey* (Adelaide: City of Adelaide Department of City Planning, 1982), p.119.

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- ³³ Hilliard, 'St Patrick's Church', p.36.
- ³⁴ 'Item No. 89: St. Patrick's', p.119; Hilliard, 'St Patrick's Church', p.38; Budimir, 'Saint Patrick's Church'.
- ³⁵ Hilliard, 'St Patrick's Church', pp.38-39.
- ³⁶ Hilliard, 'St Patrick's Church', p.38.
- ³⁷ See 'St Patrick's Church, West Terrace, Adelaide', photograph, *Adelaide Chronicle*, 16 November 1912, p.31.
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