

# SA Heritage Register

Nomination form

## South Australian HERITAGE COUNCIL

To help your nomination be successful, please fill out this form with as much information as possible.  
Feel free to expand the answer fields as much as you require or append information to the form.

Please note that places which have been nominated during past three years will not be reconsidered by the South Australian Heritage Council unless you can provide significant new information not provided through the previous nomination and assessment.

*For assistance with this form you may contact:*

Your local historical society or heritage adviser may be of assistance OR you may telephone an assessment officer in Heritage South Australia on (08) 8124 4960.

### A. Nominated Place

1. Name	
Name of Place / Object:	Rosary School Hall
Any other or former name(s):	'Rosary Church', source: <i>Mail</i> , 16 February 1918, p.5 The terms 'church school' and 'school church' are used interchangeably in keeping with the material referenced.
Is the place already on another heritage list?	No, however the present Catholic church for Prospect, Our Lady of the Rosary, situated at Barker Road, is on the local heritage register for the City of Prospect, see: <a href="https://maps.sa.gov.au/heritagesearch/HeritageItem.aspx?p_heritageno=3102">https://maps.sa.gov.au/heritagesearch/HeritageItem.aspx?p_heritageno=3102</a>

2. Location					
Street Address:	15 Gladstone Road				
	Suburb / Town: Prospect		Post Code: 5082		
Local Council Name:	City of Prospect				
Land Description: (If known)	Title:	Volume:	Folio:	Parcel Type:	Parcel No:
	CT	6045	447		D81921Q701
	Plan Type:	Plan No:	Section:	Hundred:	
		D81921Q701	370	Yatala	
GPS Location/s: (If known)	Longitude / Easting / X		Latitude / Northing / Y (Datum =)		
	138.592090		-34.884210		

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3. Ownership	
Name of Owner(s):	[REDACTED]
Contact person: (if different from owner explain relationship)	[REDACTED]
Postal Address:	Street Address: [REDACTED]
	Suburb / Town: [REDACTED] Post Code: [REDACTED]
Phone Number:	[REDACTED]
Ownership History:	See attached Nomination Report

4. Nominator (your details)	
Your Name/s:	[REDACTED]
Organisation/Position:	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Daytime Phone:	[REDACTED]
Fax:	N/A
Postal Address:	Street Address: [REDACTED]
	Suburb / Town: [REDACTED] Post Code: [REDACTED]
Email Address:	[REDACTED]

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## B. Description

5. Description of nominated place or object	
<b>Description of the nominated place or object and its current condition:</b>	<p>Located in the grounds of Rosary School between Gladstone Road and Staples Court, Prospect, the School was originally built in 1908 and the nominated Hall was added in 1918.</p> <p>The nominated Hall housed the Rosary School and parish church for the City of Prospect until 1937 when the church of Our Lady of the Rosary was built.</p> <p>From that time, the Hall has been used as a School only. The Hall is currently used by the school as a learning space for enrolled R-6 students.</p> <p><i>See attached Nomination Report</i></p>
<b>Are you aware of any modifications or additions to the place or object?</b>  Can you provide dates for these changes?	<p>Yes</p> <p>The nominated Hall was built in 1918, designed by Woods and Bagot, architects and built by C. H. Martin.</p> <p>Archbishop Robert William Spence OP, 1915-1934 (as he had become) presided over the blessing of the additions to the school in 1918.</p> <p>Asbestos was removed from the roof and the corrugated iron clad roof was replaced in the early 2000s.</p> <p>The rear room of the Hall was fitted out as a kitchen space in 2009 for learning and event preparation.</p> <p>Maintenance and alterations have occurred over the years as befits the Hall's age and continued usage as an educative space.</p>
<b>Do you believe there may be historical items under the ground?</b>  Should an archaeological investigation be considered?	<p>The applicant is not aware of any buried historic items in the location of the nominated Hall. Nor is the applicant aware if any archaeological exploration has occurred.</p>
<b>Date you inspected the place or object:</b>	<p>I last visited the nominated Hall when I requested a meeting with the School Principal on 14 April 2022. I have visually inspected the exterior of the Hall on a regular basis since then.</p>
<b>Have you had any contact with the Owner?</b>	<p>I have communicated with the present school leadership since I first heard of the planned demolition in April 2022. I attended a meeting with the School Principal on 14 April 2022. I attended a meeting hosted by the school for community members on 13 September 2022.</p> <p>I have corresponded with the current School Board, the Parish of North Adelaide Prospect, and officers of Catholic Education Office South Australia (CESA), in particular, I have been in contact with Mr Paul Angley, Planning and Development Manager of CESA.</p>



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	In or about April 2022, all of the above were made aware of the intention to prepare an application for State Heritage Listing. The preparation of the application has been ongoing since then.
<b>Current use of the place or object:</b>	<p>The Hall remains a fully functional building in the grounds of Rosary School.</p> <p>The school advised on 19 August 2022 that:</p> <p><i>The Hall is currently used Monday to Friday as a teaching and learning space and then after school hours as our Out of School Hours Care facility.</i></p> <p>Class Liturgies are held there by the Parish Priest. It also holds an external playgroup meeting for pre-school children. A social event for Reception students and other year levels was held most recently on 30 September 2022.</p>
<b>Original or former use(s):</b>	<p>The nominated Hall was built as the original Rosary School and Catholic church for the City of Prospect.</p> <p><i>See attached Nomination Report</i></p>
<b>Are there any current or long-term threats to the nominated place or object?</b>	<p><b>Yes.</b></p> <p>The current Rosary School 'Master Plan' seeks to demolish the Hall to make way for open space.</p> <p>The Catholic Church Endowment Society Inc c/o CESA has lodged a Development Application with the City of Prospect, Application ID 22032037</p> <p><a href="https://plan.sa.gov.au/development_application_register#view-22032037-DAP">https://plan.sa.gov.au/development_application_register#view-22032037-DAP</a></p> <p>In each revealed iteration of the Master Plan, less and less of the Hall has been retained. In the latest information provided by the school on 13 September 2022, it was indicated that the Hall is to be 'removed'.</p> <p><i>See attached Nomination Report</i></p>
<b>Name of Builder:</b>	<p>The original church school was built in 1908 by John Joseph (J.J.) Leahy, and was designed by Woods &amp; Bagot.</p> <p>The nominated Hall was built in 1918 by C. H. Martin Ltd, and designed by Woods, Bagot, Jory and Laybourne Smith.</p> <p><i>See attached Nomination Report</i></p>
<b>Any other information:</b>	<i>See attached Nomination Report</i>



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## C. History

6. Origins and history	
<b>Years of Construction:</b>	Construction of the original church school commenced in 1907-08 with the addition comprising the nominated Hall completed in December 1918.  Maintenance and alterations have occurred over the years as befits the Hall's age and continued usage as an educative space.
<b>Name of Designer / Architect:</b>	<i>See attached Nomination Report</i>
<b>History of the nominated place or object:</b>	<i>See attached Nomination Report</i>
<b>Historical sources used to support your nomination:</b>  Please attach copies of pages from publications or newspaper articles as appropriate.	<i>See attached Nomination Report</i>

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## D. Heritage Significance

### 7. Statement of State Significance - Why is the place or object important to South Australia?

*See attached Nomination Report*

### 8. Significance Criteria

The South Australian *Heritage Places Act 1993* lists seven criteria by which places are assessed as 'State significant.' Please tick the criteria you feel the place demonstrates and explain your reasons.

☒ It demonstrates important aspects of the evolution or pattern of the State's history. *See attached Nomination Report*

☐ It has rare, uncommon or endangered qualities that are of cultural significance.

☐ It may yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the State's history, including its natural history.

☒ It is an outstanding representative of a particular class of places of cultural significance. *See attached Nomination Report*

☐ It demonstrates a high degree of creative, aesthetic or technical accomplishment or is an outstanding representative of particular construction techniques or design characteristics.

☒ It has strong cultural or spiritual associations for the community or a group within it. *See attached Nomination Report*

☒ It has a special association with the life or work of a person or organisation or an event of historical importance. *See attached Nomination Report*

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## E. Additional Information

### 9. Images/Maps/Diagrams/Site Plans

A full range of images including maps, site plans, and photographs will help your nomination.

Please provide:

- a clear outline of the place or object being nominated within any maps or plans provided
- high quality images of the place or object (please list the total number of images being provided)
- the subject of each image
- the date each image was created
- the author of each image, and
- the copyright holder of each image (if known)

Paste images here:

*See attached nomination report*

The South Australian Heritage Council is committed to transparency in relation to the listing process and wishes to enhance public confidence in the nomination, listing and decision-making process. The Council's policy is to make nominations for State heritage listing and submissions on provisional entries publicly available via webpage or to interested parties. The Council will adhere to the Privacy Principles and your name and personal details will not be released.

I, [REDACTED], nominate **Rosary School Hall** to be heritage listed.

The information I have provided is correct to my knowledge.

[REDACTED]

Your Signature:

Date: 28 October 2022

### Nomination Form Checklist

Please check that your nomination includes:

- ☒ A clear indication of the location of the place or object (including map/s). Where a number of features are nominated, show the location of each and/or a boundary surrounding the significant elements of the site.
- ☒ A history of the place or object explaining important aspects relevant to the nomination. This should generally help support arguments of cultural significance.
- ☒ A clear description of the nominated place or object/s.
- ☒ A statement of significance and indication on how the place or object satisfies one or more of the significance criteria.
- ☒ Have you taken the opportunity to discuss the nomination with a heritage assessment officer?  
It is strongly advised you to do so prior to submitting this nomination.

Email: [DEWHeritage@sa.gov.au](mailto:DEWHeritage@sa.gov.au)

Post: Executive Officer, South Australian Heritage Council  
Department for Environment and Water  
GPO Box 1047, Adelaide SA 5001



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Rosary School Hall, 15 Gladstone Road, Prospect, (1918)

Nomination report for inclusion on the South Australian Heritage Register



Figure 1: Eastern elevation of Rosary School Hall, Prospect (photo taken by applicant, April 2022)

# SA Heritage Register

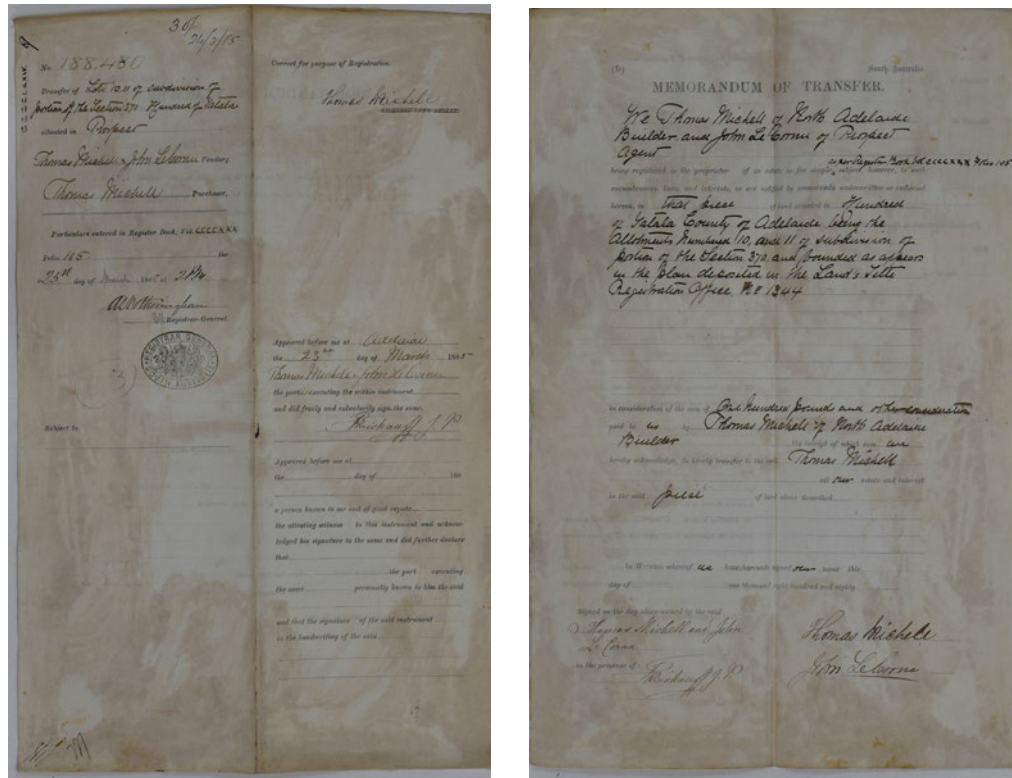
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## A. Nominated Place

### 3. Ownership

#### Ownership History



“The church is built upon allotments 10 and 11, Gladstone-road”.<sup>1</sup>

In 1907 the Catholic Church Endowment Society purchased land from Thomas Michell, namely lots 10 and 11 on Gladstone Road, Prospect for the purpose of a new School Church.<sup>2</sup>

The land was previously owned by Thomas Michell and John Le Cornu. A Memorandum of Transfer evidences the purchase of the land by Michell from Le Cornu in 1885.<sup>3</sup>

Le Cornu was known as the “father of Prospect”.<sup>4</sup> He had spent most of his working life being involved with improvements made in Prospect. He was a very conscientious worker and was very much respected. He was the Second District Clerk of the District Council of Prospect, serving from 1879 until 1921. A street in Broadview was named in his honour in the 1920s.<sup>5</sup>

Le Cornu and Michell were involved in the Prospect Methodist Church<sup>6</sup>.

Michell Street which intersects Gladstone Road, is named in honour of Thomas Michell.

Figure 2: Memorandum of Transfer, 23 March 1885, Thomas Michell and John Le Cornu to Thomas Michell.

<sup>1</sup> ‘New School Church at Prospect’, *Southern Cross*, Friday 7 August 1908, p.13

<sup>2</sup> Certificate of Title showing 1907 purchase is shown overleaf (see Figure 3)

<sup>3</sup> See Figure 2

<sup>4</sup> *Le Cornu, from Jersey to You*, Adelaide, SA : Michele Gayler, 2002., p. 328

<sup>5</sup> Prospect Local History Group website, *Old Prospectors*, <https://www.oldprospectors.com.au/le-cornu-john.html>, accessed 4 October 2022

<sup>6</sup> ‘Obituary’, *Register* (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Saturday 23 June 1923, page 8



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(C)


South Australia.  
(CERTIFICATE OF TITLE)  
Register Book.  
MCCCCXXIV Folio 9

Pursuant to Memorandum of Transfer No. 1881051  
Thomas Mitchell, Northern Adelaide Builder & now  
agent of furniture in the sample  
subject nevertheless to such incumbrances, liens, and interests, as are notified by memorial underwritten or endorsed hereon in final place of  
land situated in the Hundred of Natala County of Adelaide being the 4th lot of the  
Road through and among thirty five parcels of land bounded by the subdivision  
of the Block 163 and others of partion of the Section 210.

and bound as appears in the plan in the margin hereto and therein colored green, and in the plan deposited in the Lands Titles Registration  
Office, No. 1111 which said Section delineated in the public map of the said Hundred deposited in the office of the Surveyor-General.

In witness whereof, I have herewith signed my name and affixed  
my seal this 2nd day of April  
one thousand eight hundred and eighty-four in  
presence of  
M. H. Brown

M. H. Brown  
Registrar-General.



THE LAND IN THIS CERTIFICATE IS REDESIGNATED  
AS ALLOTMENT(S) 118 IN FILED PLAN 241  
NEW CERTIFICATE TO BE ISSUED WHEN DUPLICATE  
IS PRODUCED.

Transfer No. 1000000 from Thomas  
Mitchell to Catholic Church Endowment  
Society Incorporated of an estate in fee  
simple in the within land  
produced for registration on the 19 day  
of January 1901 at 12 noon  
Deputy Registrar General

Transfer No. 1000000 from  
Catholic Church Endowment  
Society Incorporated of an estate in fee  
simple in the within land  
produced for registration on the 22 day  
of January 1901 at 11.15 am  
Deputy Registrar General

#243274

The land in this Certificate is  
REDESIGNATED  
AS ALLOTMENT(S) 118-19  
IN FILED PLAN 241

Gladstone Rd

50 50  
12 11 10 9

TO THE SAVINGS BANK OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.  
PRODUCED BY 2-1972 AT 4-5 pm  
RELIEVING OTHER LANDS  
DEP. REG. GEN.

MORTGAGE NO. 333/004

DISCHARGE OF MORTGAGE Nos. 277334 BY  
ENDORSEMENT THEREON. PRODUCED 2-1972 AT 4-5 pm  
RELIEVING OTHER LANDS  
DEP. REG. GEN.

TO THE SAVINGS BANK OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.  
PRODUCED 2-1972 AT 4-5 pm  
RELIEVING OTHER LANDS  
DEP. REG. GEN.

THE WITHIN LAND IS DISCHARGED FROM MORTGAGE  
No. 277334 VIDE 6286/90  
PRODUCED 10-2-1972 AT 10-00

TRANSFER No. 1000000 From  
Dominican Fathers South Australia  
Inc. to Catholic Church Endowment  
Society Inc. of 29 Wakefield Street  
Adelaide 5000 or one undivided  
part thereof  
OF THE WITHIN LAND PRODUCED 21-1-1970 AT 11-10

CANCE LTD  
CONVERTED TO A "B" TITLE

Figure 3: Certificate of Title, 474/9, showing transfer from Thomas Michell to Catholic Church Endowment Society in June 1907



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### LTO Filed Plan 291 and Deposited Plan 1344

These plans show the location of the above allotments 10 and 11.

The allotments are subdivisions of Block 43 but the block is described as a lot in the Filed Plan and Deposited Plan.

Deposited Plan DP1344 shows the original lot numbers.

The lots in FP291 show the new lot numbers.

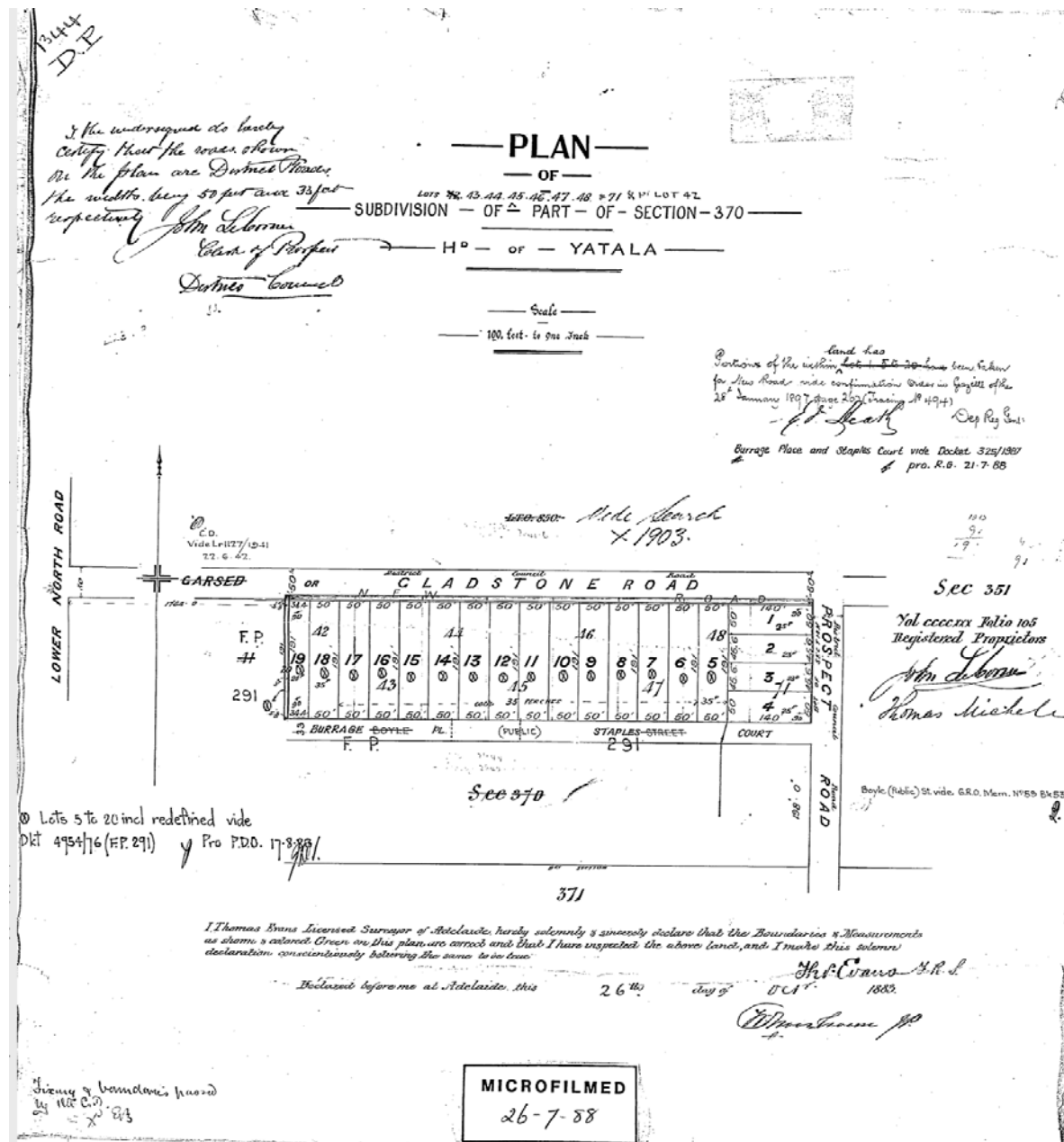
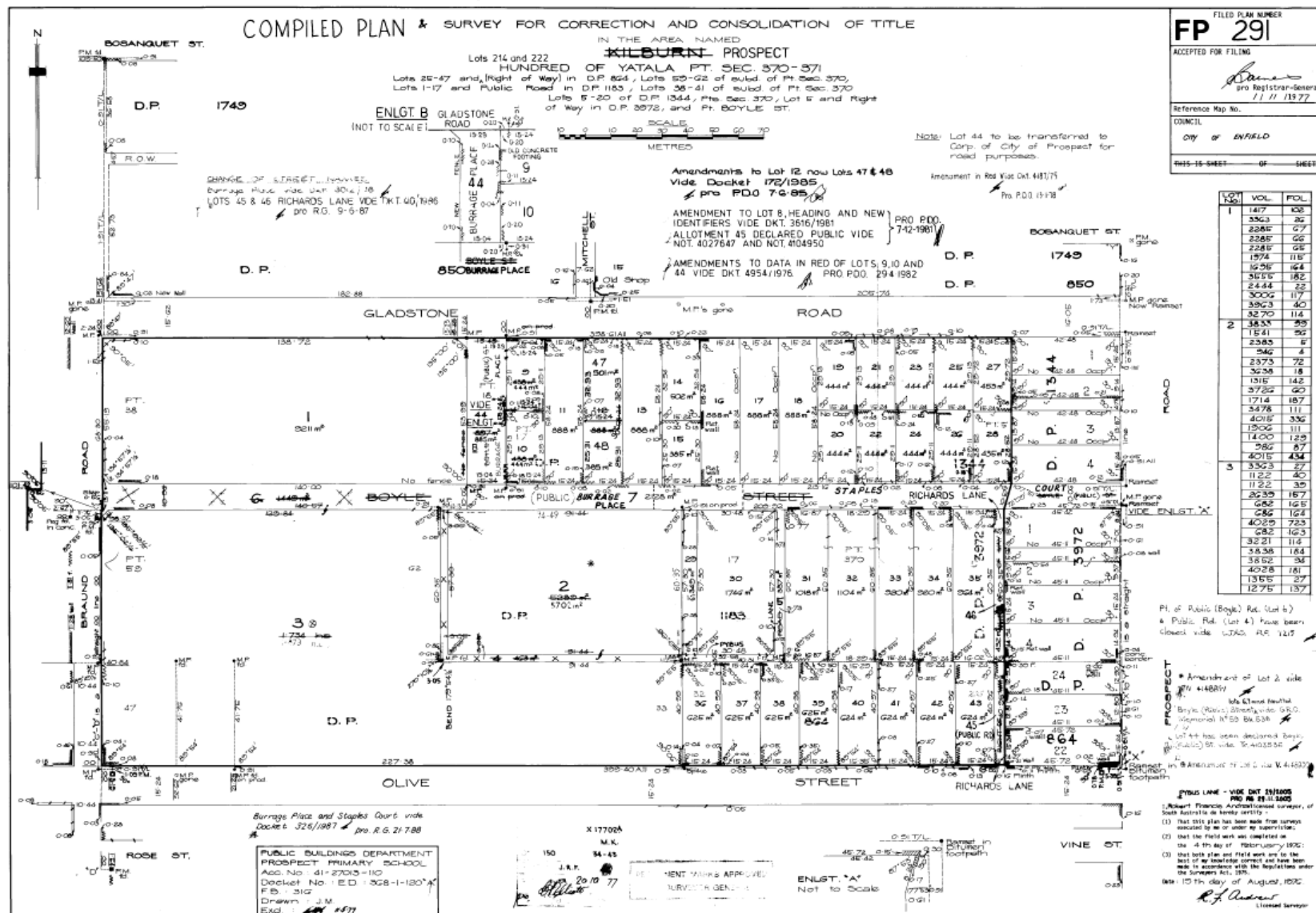


Figure 4: LTO Deposited Plan 1344  
20030705\_000000\_PlanImage\_D1344

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**Figure 5: LTO Filed  
Plan 291  
20220505010654  
\_PlanImage\_F291**

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## D 81921 Amalgamated Allotments - Deposited Plan 81921 QP 701, QP 702

SUBJECT TITLE DETAILS:									
PREFIX	VOLUME	FOLIO	OTHER	PARCEL	NUMBER	PLAN	NUMBER HUNDRED/IA/DIVISION	TOWN	REFERENCE NUMBER
CT	5092	768		ALLOTMENT 13	13	F	291 YATAA		
CT	5848	119		ALLOTMENT 14	14	F	291 YATAA		
CT	5848	120		ALLOTMENT 15	15	F	291 YATAA		
CT	5859	166		ALLOTMENT 16	16	F	291 YATAA		
CT	5861	936		ALLOTMENT 17.1B	17.1B	F	291 YATAA		
CT	5861	935		ALLOTMENT 19	19	F	291 YATAA		
CT	5861	934		ALLOTMENT 20	20	F	291 YATAA		
CT	5784	987		ALLOTMENT 29.30	29.30	F	291 YATAA		

Figure 6: Subject Title Details

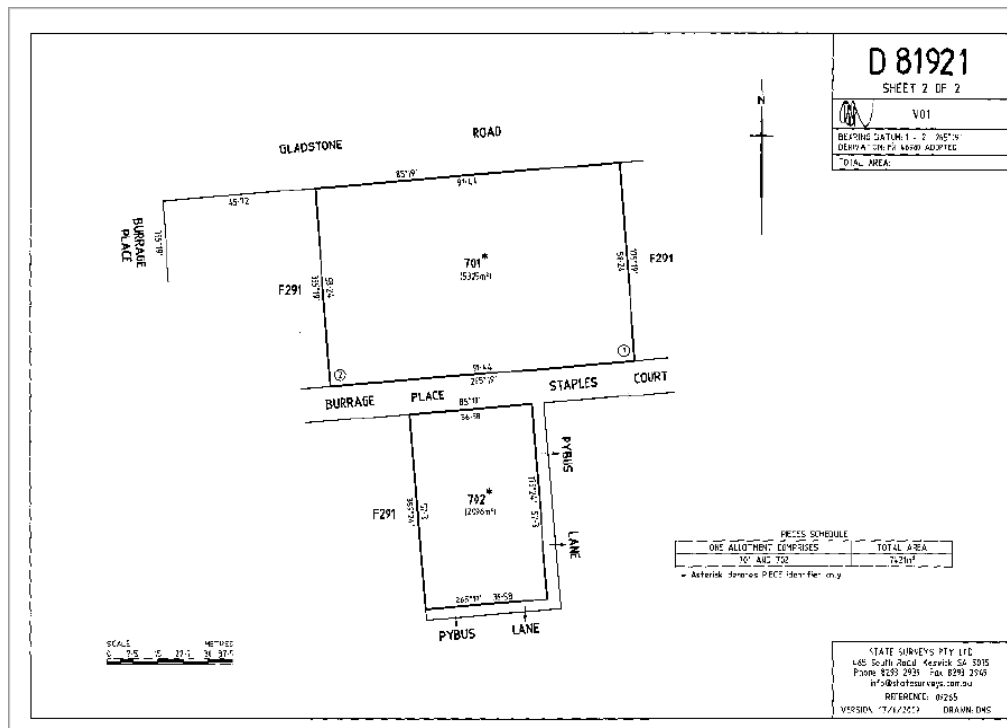


Figure 7: Amalgamated Allotments



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## District Council of Prospect Rates Assessment Books

- 1907/08 – Lots 10 and 11- Township land unbuilt on
- 1910/11 – Lot 9 – Township land unbuilt on
- 1911/12 – Lot 9 -Township land unbuilt

These assessments are shown in the name of Rev. R. W. Spence, who was the first Prior of the Dominican Fathers and was later appointed the 3<sup>rd</sup> Archbishop of Adelaide.

## Sands and MacDougall's Directories

The church school first appears in the 1909 directory.



Figure 8: 1909 Sands & MacDougall's South Australian Directory for 1909, p. 194

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## Contemporary Title CT 6045/447

This Certificate of Title is an amalgamation of 8 older titles which reflects the acquisition of property by the school over the years.<sup>7</sup>

As per the table below setting out the Child Parent Title Search, the key child titles have been traced back to their parents.

## Acquisitions by the Catholic Church Endowment Society

CT	Original Lot No	Proprietor	New Lot No.	Year of Registration
611/112	Part 9	Albert George Boynes	19	MoT: 511275 - 1910
611/113	Part 9	Louisa Stevens Rawson	20	MoT: 511274 - 1910
<b>474/9</b>	<b>10 and 11</b>	<b>Thomas Michell</b>	<b>17 and 18</b>	<b>MoT: 447014 - 1909</b>
913/172	12	William Joseph & George Frederick Gunson	16	MoT: 1145498 - 1932
4048/258	Part 13	Unknown	15	MoT: 3779196 - 1975
4048/257	Part 13	Unknown	14	MoT: 3779196 - 1975
1753/113	14	Unknown	13	Unknown
Unknown	15	Unknown	12	Unknown
1596/106	16 and 17	Alma Edith Parks	29 and 30	MoT: 1997044 - 1957

## SA Planning and Property Atlas (<https://sappa.plan.sa.gov.au/>)

Valuation No: **0525900108**  
Parcel Identifier: **D81921QP701**  
Unit No:  
Street No: **9-19**  
Street Name: **GLADSTONE**  
Street Type: **RD**  
Suburb: **PROSPECT**  
Hundred: **YATALA**  
Title Ref: **CT6045/447**  
Plan Parcel: **D81921 Q701**  
Crown Ref:  
SAILIS:

<sup>7</sup> Land Services SA, Child Parent Title Search, 10 August 2022

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## SAPPA Parcel Report

### Address Details

**Unit Number:**

**Street Number:** 9

**Street Name:** GLADSTONE

**Street Type:** RD

**Suburb:** PROSPECT

**Postcode:** 5082

**Council:** CITY OF PROSPECT

**State Electorate:** ADELAIDE (2014),  
ADELAIDE (2018), ADELAIDE (2022)

**Federal Electorate:** ADELAIDE (2013),  
ADELAIDE (2016), ADELAIDE (2019)

**Hundred:** YATALA

**Valuation Number:** 0525900108

**Title Reference:** CT6045/447

**Plan No. Parcel No.:** D81921Q701



Figure 9: South Australian Property  
and Planning Atlas  
<https://sappa.plan.sa.gov.au/>,  
6 May 2022



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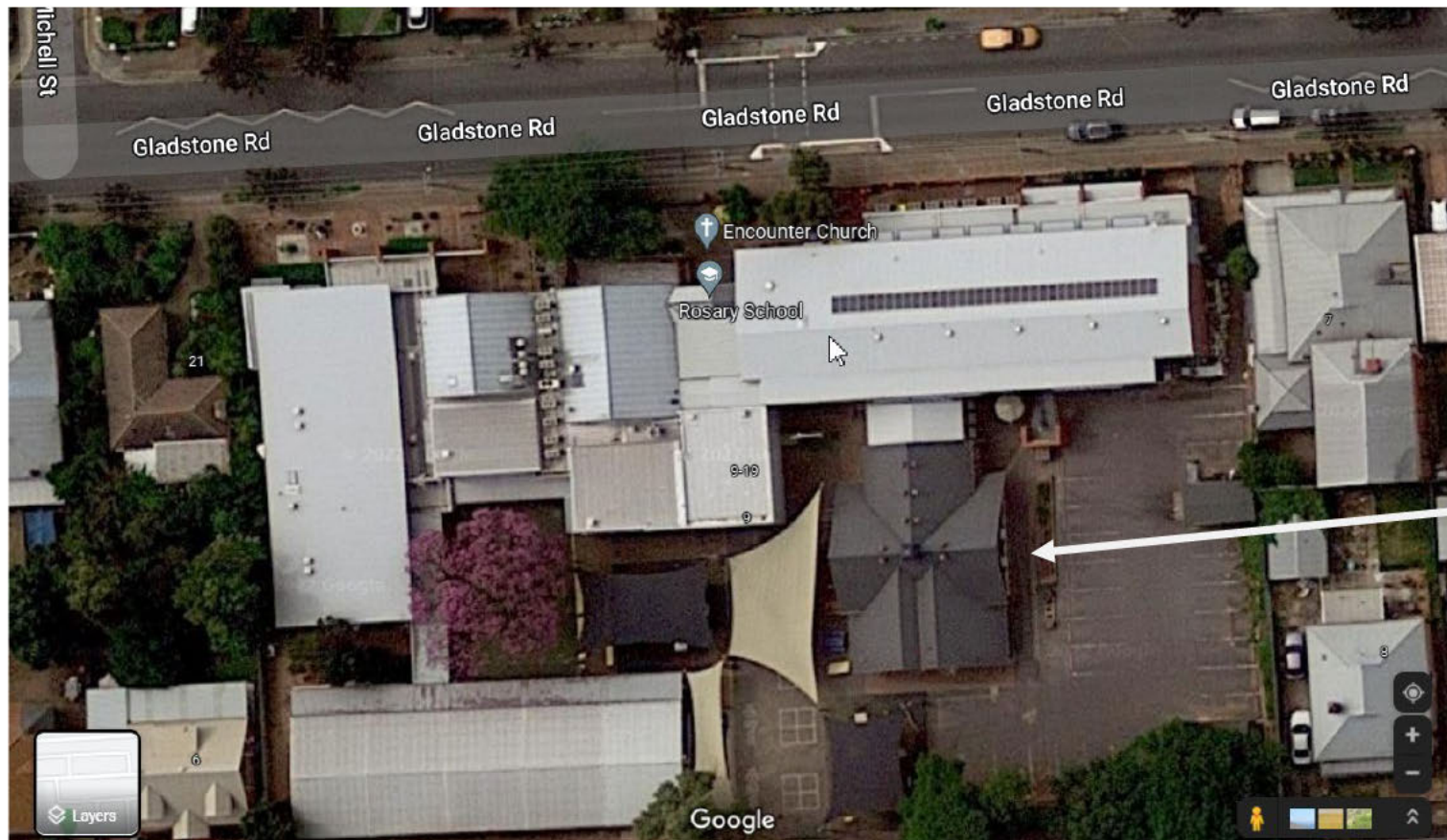
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## B. Description

### 5. Description of Nominated Place

Built in 1908 and added to in 1918 the nominated school Hall is located in the grounds of Rosary School, 15 Gladstone Road, Prospect. The nominated Hall is the extant site of the original Rosary School and parish church for the City of Prospect.

The following aerial photographs show the way in which the site has evolved over time.



1918 addition to church school and  
current nominated Rosary Hall

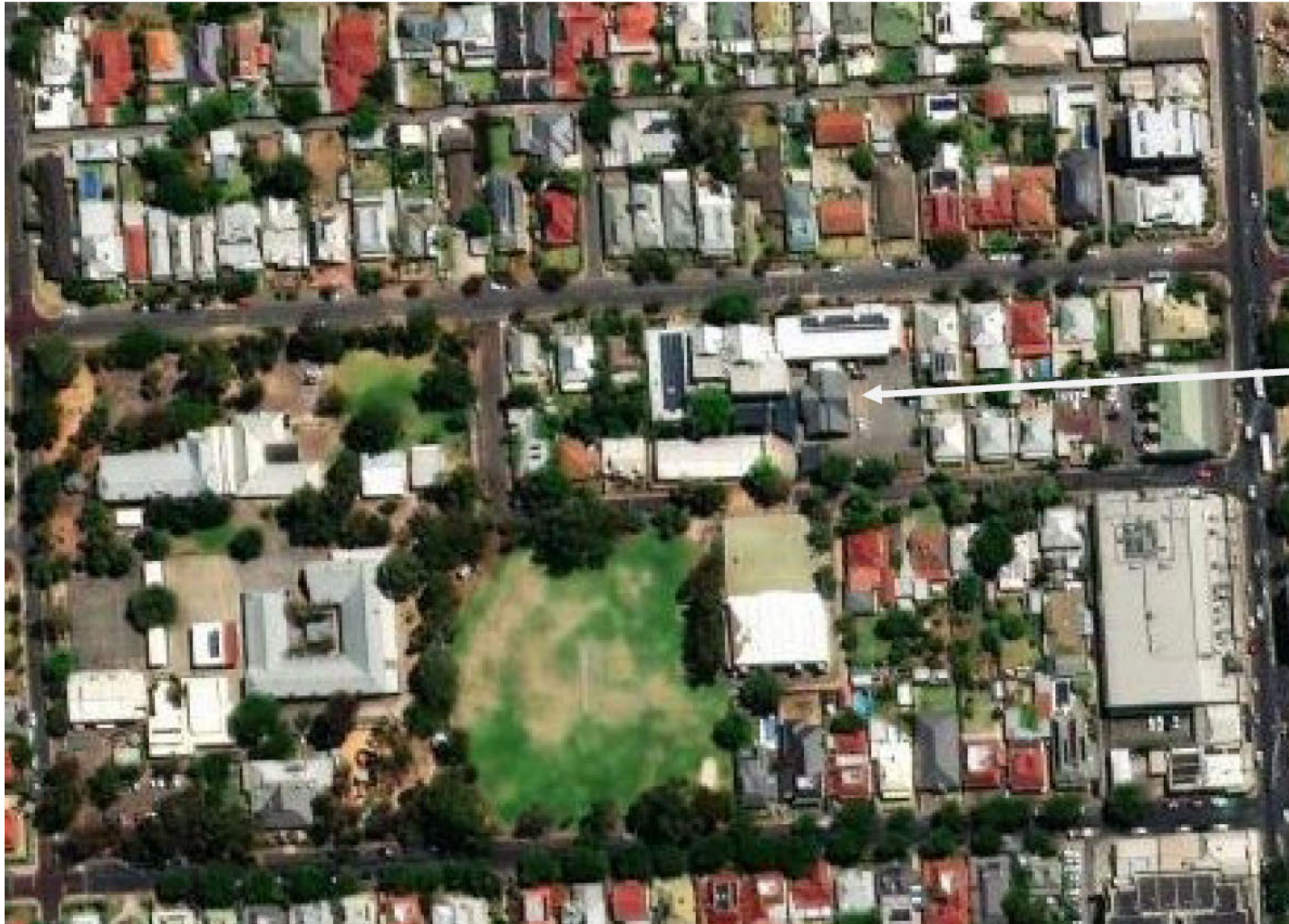
Figure 10: Aerial image of  
grounds of Rosary School, showing  
cruciform shape of the Rosary  
School Hall (Source: Google  
Maps, 2022)



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1918 addition to Church  
School and current  
nominated Rosary Hall

Figure 11: Aerial image of Prospect showing location of Rosary Hall on grounds of Rosary School, located between Gladstone Road to the North and Staples Court to the South (Source: Google Maps)



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This aerial photograph from 1992 shows that the original school building was retained for a considerable period of time. It was not replaced by the 1918 building, as has been suggested, rather the current nominated Hall was built across the rear of the old school.

Original 1908 church school

1918 addition to church school and current nominated Rosary Hall

**Figure 12: Aerial photo of the grounds of Rosary School , 1992  
showing the original 1908 school building and the 1918 addition**

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Original 1908 church school

1918 addition to church school and  
current nominated Rosary Hall

"Babies" room

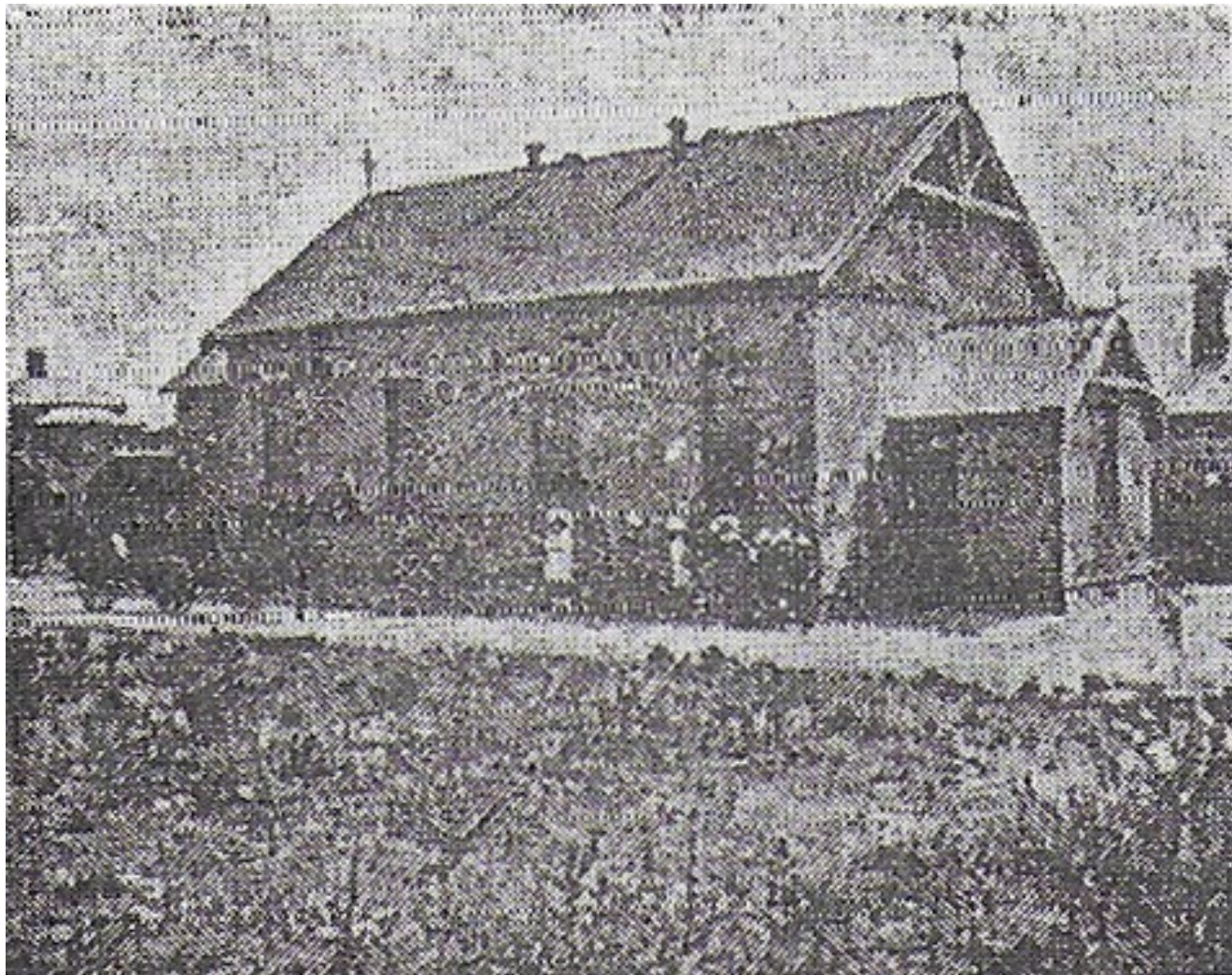
Figure 13: Site of Rosary school church building in November 1935, ICSM Historical Aerial Photography, Film Number MAP884, Run 5, Frame 4155, dated 18th November 1935. <https://imagery.aerialphotography.fsdf.org.au>



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## Opening of School-Church, Gladstone Road, Prospect.

The DOMINICAN FATHERS, North Adelaide, beg to announce that the above building will be formally BLESSED and OPENED on

**SUNDAY NEXT, AUGUST 9.**

At 3 p.m.

The opening ceremony will be performed by the RIGHT REV. MONSIGNOR BYRNE, Vicar-General, who will deliver an appropriate address.

Figure 14: Southern Cross (Adelaide, SA : 1889 – 1954) 7 August 1908, p.14

Figure 15: Original 1908 church school, *Our Lady of the Rosary Church, Prospect: Golden Jubilee 1937-1987*, Rosary Press, Adelaide, 1987, 'Selections from the Parish Photo Album'



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## New School Church at Prospect.

TO BE BLESSED AND OPENED ON SUNDAY.

A new Catholic church school is to be opened at Gladstone-road, Prospect, on Sunday afternoon next, at 3 o'clock, by the Right Rev. Mgr. Byrne, V.G., who will deliver an address appropriate to the occasion. The church is built upon allotments 10 and 11, Gladstone-road. The structure is of very simple design, without any pretension as to style. It is constructed of jarrah framing, covered externally with cement "rough cast," and lined with matched and beaded boarding. The roof is of ordinary galvanised iron, painted red. The school is 40 ft. x 25 ft., 15 ft. high to the wall plate, and about 19 ft. to the flat portion of ceiling, which is boarded. There is a small sanctuary, 13 ft. 6 in. x 13 ft., with platform for the altar two steps above the ordinary floor. The sacristy is 10 ft. x 9 ft., and is furnished with a press for vestments, &c. In front of the building is a porch 10 ft. x 8 ft., with doors opening outwards on the west and east faces, and large folding doors giving access to the schoolroom. These doors also open outwards. The porch is fitted with an ample supply of hat rails and hooks. The lighting of the room is by windows on both sides, and each window has two sashes which can be opened. Blinds are provided for the lower half. The school grounds are enclosed by a wire fence, with gates on both streets, and sufficient sanitary accommodation has been provided at the rear. Messrs. Woods & Bagot were the architects, and Mr. J. J. Leahy the builder. The Catholics of Prospect are to be congratulated on having obtained the conveniences of a church and school in their midst.

The Dominican Fathers built the original church school of the Holy Rosary in Gladstone Road, Prospect in 1908, a small timber frame building of 45ft x 25 ft. which cost just under £600. Moneys were raised by the local community.<sup>8</sup> The Catholic population of the district was small, and the school opened with only 15 pupils. However, within 10 years it was extended to take 180, the additions, costing about £2,100, being blessed on December 8, 1918.<sup>9</sup> This, then was the nominated Hall.

## New School Church at Prospect

TO BE BLESSED AND OPENED ON SUNDAY.

A new Catholic church school is to be opened at Gladstone-road, Prospect, on Sunday afternoon next, at 3 o'clock, by the Right Rev. Mgr. Byrne, V.G., who will deliver an address appropriate to the occasion. The church is built upon allotments 10 and 11, Gladstone-road. The structure is of very simple design, without any pretension as to style. It is constructed of jarrah framing, covered externally with cement "rough cast," and lined with matched and beaded boarding. The roof is of ordinary galvanised iron, painted red. The school is 40 ft. x 25 ft., 15 ft. high to the wall plate, and about 19 ft. to the flat portion of ceiling, which is boarded. There is a small sanctuary, 13 ft. 6 in. x 13 ft., with platform for the altar two steps above the ordinary floor. The sacristy is 10 ft. x 9 ft., and is furnished with a press for vestments, &c. In front of the building is a porch 10 ft. x 8 ft., with doors opening outwards on the west and east faces, and large folding doors giving access to the schoolroom. These doors also open outwards. The porch is fitted with an ample supply of hat rails and hooks. The lighting of the room is by windows on both sides, and each window has two sashes which can be opened. Blinds are provided for the lower half. The school grounds are enclosed by a wire fence, with gates on both streets, and sufficient sanitary accommodation has been provided at the rear. Messrs. Woods & Bagot were the architects, and Mr. J. J. Leahy the builder. The Catholics of Prospect are to be congratulated on having obtained the conveniences of a church and school in their midst.

Figure 16: *Southern Cross* (Adelaide, SA : 1889 – 1954), Friday 7 August 1908, page 13

<sup>8</sup> 'Strawberry Fete and Fancy Fair at North Adelaide', *Southern Cross* (Adelaide, SA : 1889 – 1954), Friday 20 Dec 1907, p. 13

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/167040949>

<sup>9</sup> Max Lamshed, *Prospect 1872 - 1972 A portrait of a city*, facsimile ed. (Prospect, South Australia: Prospect Local History Group, 2007) p. 99.

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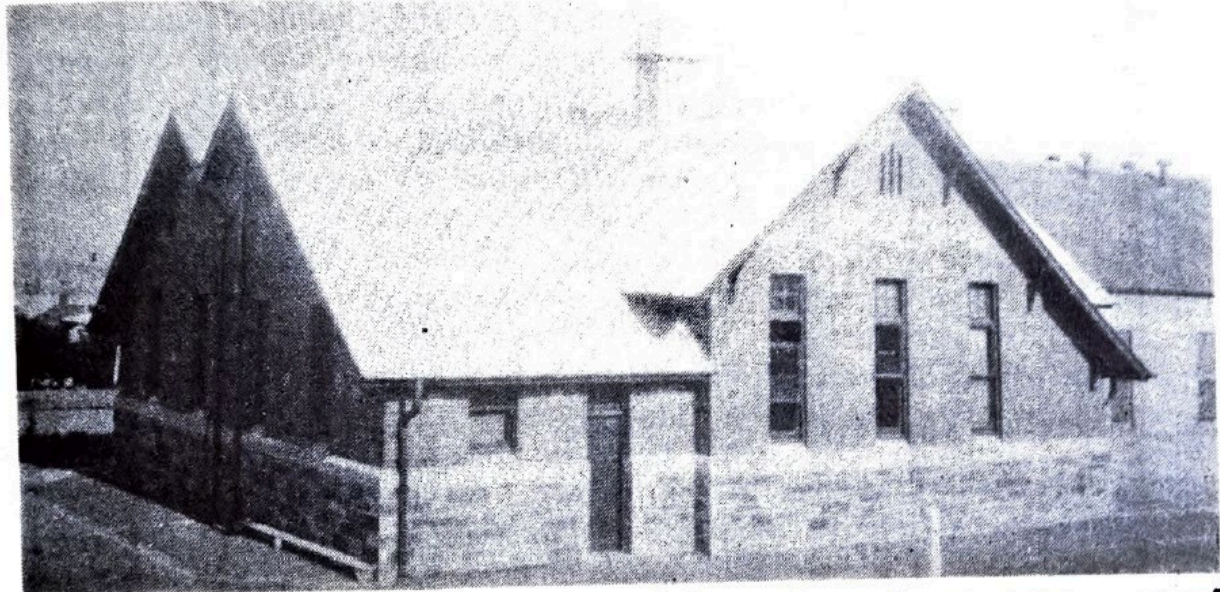
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## New School Church at Prospect

In 1918 it was announced that "...a substantial addition to the school-church has recently been erected, greatly increasing the accommodation. It has been built across the rear end of the old building of substantial brick and stone, and is wider than the original structure, which is of wood, with roughcast walls. **The new portion of the buildings contains the altar, sacristy and vestry, in addition to increasing considerably the seating accommodation**". (my emphasis)

It is ten years ago since the school church in Gladstone Road, Prospect, was opened, the district being in charge of the Dominican Fathers, North Adelaide, with the present Archbishop as Prior. On the first day that the school was opened by the Dominican Sisters from North Adelaide there were only fifteen children in attendance; now there are 180, and the congregation at Mass on Sunday averages about 200. So great has been the progress that a substantial addition to the school-church has recently been erected, greatly increasing the accommodation. It has been built across the rear end of the old building of substantial brick and stone, and is wider than the original structure, which is of wood, with roughcast walls. The new portion of the building contains the altar, sacristy, and vestry, in addition to increasing considerably the seating accommodation.

Figure 18: 'New School Church at Prospect', *Southern Cross* (Adelaide, SA 1889 - 1954), Friday 13 December 1918, page 8



The stone addition to the original "cement-rendered chicken-wire" building, the "Big Room". The door in the centre of the picture was the door to the sacristy. This, then, was Rosary Church before the completion of the present building.

Figure 17: Photograph of South-eastern elevation of Rosary School, *Our Lady of the Rosary Church*, Prospect: *Golden Jubilee 1937-1987*, Rosary Press, Adelaide, 1987

Note that the reference to "the present building refers to the current Our Lady of the Rosary Church.



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Figure 19: Photograph of Rosary Hall, South-eastern elevation, 13 April 2022, (photo taken by Applicant).



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This masonry addition to the original Hall was built in 1918 to a design by Woods Bagot Jory and Laybourne Smith Architects.

It is constructed in a Federation style, of bluestone and red brick with a rendered horizontal band.

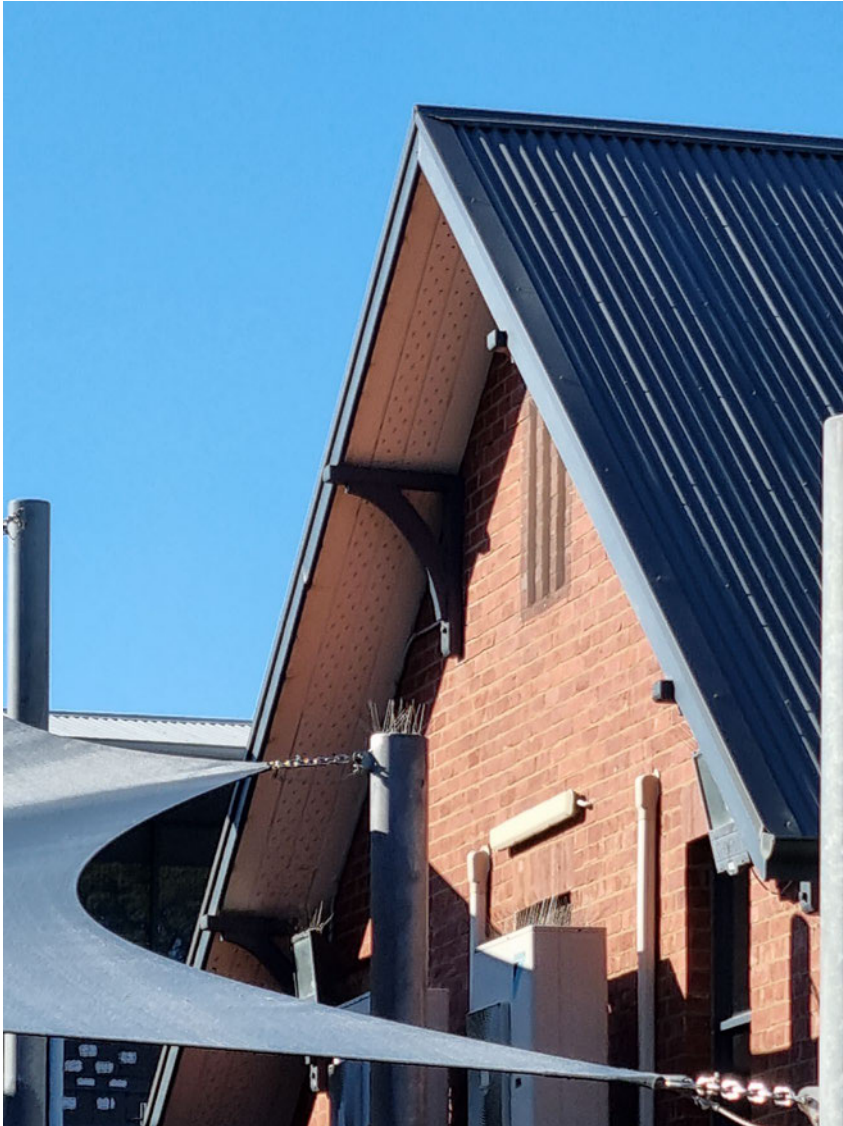
The building features English Bond brickwork above the bluestone and banding and sash windows with textured highlights. These were elements often used in contemporary public and secular buildings.

Figure 20: Rosary Hall, south-western corner, 13 April 2022 (photo taken by Applicant)

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The gabled roof forms with its cantilevered timber brackets are common features of the era.

**Figure 21: Western elevation of the Hall, showing cantilevered brackets, 13 April 2022 (photo taken by the Applicant)**



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However, the external roof form with the closely spaced double gable to the south end is quite unusual.

The rationale for this is perhaps to widen that end of the building which would house the altar, sacristy, vestry and seating accommodation so that the building could perform the function of a church.

Figure 22: Rosary Hall, southern elevation, 13 April 2022 (photo taken by Applicant)

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The cruciform shaped roof features a wooden square bell ventilation 'cupola' dome at the roof's ridge intersections.



Figure 23: Rosary Hall, wooden square bell ventilation 'cupola' dome, 13 April 2022 (photo taken by Applicant)



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## Internal ceiling



**Figure 24: Photo used with permission showing southern end of Hall, internal wooden ceiling, proscenium archway and stage area (photo supplied with permission)**

The ceiling is raked following the pitch of the roof to the underside of the collar ties which are horizontal and tie the rafters together and stop them from spreading. Initial examination indicates that the timber boarding that lines the ceiling is fixed on the underside of the rafters and there appear to be timber principles with tension rods below to tie the lower ends of the rafters.

These principles probably support horizontal under-purlins that run just above the flat upper ceiling, and these support the rafters that follow the roof pitch onto which the raking ceiling lining is fixed.

This form of roof is relatively common in older buildings as it gave a greater sense of space by extending the volume up into the lower part of the roof while still having a level of structural efficiency.

The most stable roof form uses triangular trusses where the bottom horizontal member is at the bottom of the rafters as this stabilises and puts no outward thrust on the top of the walls, but this results in a flat ceiling. The higher you lift that horizontal member, the more outward thrust is placed on the top of the walls and the larger the timber size needs to be. The form in use in the Hall is a fair compromise.

There are similarities with the Old Chamber roof of E.J. Woods' Parliament House, but the pitch of that roof is steeper as that was designed for slate. Rosary Hall likely was always intended to have a corrugated steel roof; a feature which it has retained.



**Figure 25: Photo used with permission showing southern end of Hall, internal wooden ceiling, proscenium archway and stage area (photo supplied with permission)**

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Figure 26: Photo of interior of Rosary Hall, showing wooden ceiling and proscenium arch, 2016 (photo taken by Applicant).

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<b>Current use of the place or object:</b>	The nominated Hall was originally established as a church school. Since the establishment of Our Lady of Rosary Church in 1937, the nominated building has retained its purpose as the school Hall.
<b>Original or former use(s):</b>	<p>“Rosary was a school church. It became a church on Friday afternoons when we “bigger ones” had to turn to and help the Sisters sweep the floor (after spreading damp sawdust to keep the dust down), and shift the heavy desks”.<sup>10</sup></p> <p>Rosary School was used for several years as the venue for evening meetings of the Prospect Branch of the of the Catholic Young Men’s Society (CYMS).</p> <p>Organisations that came into existence soon after the end of World War II in 1945 and established branches at Prospect were the Junior Catholic Women’s League (JCWL), the National Catholic Girls’ Movement (NCGM), and the Young Christian Workers (YCW). Members of these organisations used the buildings at Rosary School for their meetings.<sup>11</sup></p> <p>As former teacher, Ms Danae Quinn, as she then was, has written, “I taught at the school from 1982-2011. The little room to the right of the stage was the principal’s office and the room on the left was the staff room and teacher prep area. During my time there, the hall also housed two classrooms at one stage and the three reception classes at another. It was the heart of our school and will always be remembered that way by all students and staff that went through Rosary. There were still Nuns at the school when I started – Sister Hyacinth was principal from ’82-’84.”<sup>12</sup></p>
<b>Are there any current or long term threats to the nominated place or object?</b>	<p><b>Yes.</b></p> <p>The nominated Hall has not been assessed as part of any previous heritage survey, state or local.</p> <p><b>The nominated Hall currently has no demolition protections, either at a state or local level.</b></p> <p>The Catholic Church Endowment Society Inc c/o CESA has lodged a Development Application with the City of Prospect, Application ID 22032037  <a href="https://plan.sa.gov.au/development_application_register#view-22032037-DAP">https://plan.sa.gov.au/development_application_register#view-22032037-DAP</a></p>

<sup>10</sup> Thomas P. Fitzgerald O.P, *Our Lady of the Rosary Church, Prospect: Golden Jubilee 1937-1987*, Rosary Press, Adelaide, 1987

<sup>11</sup> J. R. Hickey, typewritten notes held in the Prospect Local History Collection, 27 October 1982

<sup>12</sup> Notes of Danae Hamilton, 13 September 2022, provided to the applicant



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	<p>Few details are available at this stage and public consultation, which will be required, has not begun.</p> <p>A Master Plan was prepared by the current leadership of Rosary School in 2021. In documentation provided to the current school community over the past 18 months, it has been foreshadowed that the Hall would be 'transformed' or 'reimagined'. The terms 'part' and 'partial' demolition were originally used.</p> <p>In each subsequent iteration of the Master Plan, less and less of the Hall would be retained. In the latest information provided by the school on 13 September 2022, it was indicated that the Hall is to be 'removed'.</p> <p>The Master Plan update of May 2022 indicated as follows:</p> <p>"The hall location and facilities no longer serve the purpose for our growing school community. The current location of the hall is very restrictive and limits what can be done to expand the school buildings and play opportunities. In light of this, the hall will be <i>transformed</i> and become an open gathering space. (My emphasis)</p> <p>"<i>Parts of the school hall will be retained</i> in the new design, in stone seating walls and throughout the play spaces, to acknowledge and remember Rosary School's history. Children will be able to reflect, play and recognise the hall in a contemporary way. We will also be acknowledging the hall's history and connection to the community, through photographs and imagery that will be installed in the new facilities for students, past and present, to enjoy. (My emphasis)</p> <p>"<i>Removing part of the hall</i>, makes way for exciting new play spaces, open lawn areas, tree planting and gardens, new meeting and gathering spaces, new seating areas and paving, providing flexible, contemporary and highly useable spaces for the children and families, as we move to make new memories and a renewed history for Rosary School".<sup>13</sup> (My emphasis)</p> <p>Figure 28 depicts the extent to which, in one iteration of the Master Plan, it was originally contemplated that the Hall would be reimagined. Only, the proscenium arch, the southern external wall and some of the bluestone would be retained, however no information was given as to how the features that would have been internal, would be protected against the elements.</p>
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<sup>13</sup> Rosary School website, News, Events, Latest News, *Rosary School Master Plan*, May 2022, <https://www.rosary.catholic.edu.au/news-events/latest-news/master-plan> , accessed 3 October 2022



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	<p>At a meeting held by the school on 13 September 2022, for the purpose of community engagement, a hitherto unreleased further iteration of the Master Plan was revealed in a power point presentation. It was clear that this later version of the Master Plan did not contemplate the retention of the Hall in any form. In fact, the Hall was to be 'removed'. The plans revealed at that meeting have not been made publicly available.</p> <p><b>The lack of heritage protection contrasts with buildings at Prospect Primary School, Nailsworth Primary School, and Prospect North Primary School, all of which have local heritage listings, as indeed does Our Lady of the Rosary Church.<sup>14</sup></b></p> <p>Rosary Hall was briefly mentioned in the 1989 Prospect Heritage Survey and then in the 2010 City of Prospect Heritage Review, but only in the context as having been the forerunner to the current Holy Rosary Church at Barker Street, Prospect. It does not appear that the Hall was ever contemplated for assessment, via traditional visual identification. It has not been deemed unworthy.<sup>15 16</sup></p> <p>When improvements to the school were planned in 2009, architects raised the possibility of removing the Hall or otherwise modifying it. The then Principal made it clear that the Hall was of such importance to the school that it was to be protected as it represented the 'spiritual heart of the school'.<sup>17</sup></p>
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<sup>14</sup> Government of South Australia, Location SA Map Viewer, <https://location.sa.gov.au/viewer/?map=hybrid&x=138.59349&y=-34.8935&z=17&uids=95&pinx=&piny=&pinTitle=&pinText=>

<sup>15</sup> "The Roman Catholic cause was first proclaimed in Prospect by Archdeacon Russell in 1883. In 1899, the Dominican fathers took charge of the parish. In 1908, the first church of the Holy Rosary was built in Gladstone Rd. It was a small timber structure, with a school attached. The school and church grew rapidly in numbers." Historical Consultants Pty Ltd, *Heritage Survey of the Corporation of the City of Prospect*, 1989, p.71

<sup>16</sup> "This [building] still remains as part of the Rosary School in Gladstone Road." McDougall & Vines, Conservation and Heritage Consultants, City of Prospect, Heritage Review, 2010, Part Two, p.11

<sup>17</sup> Information of the applicant's own recollection.

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Figure 27: Rosary School website, News, Events, Latest News, Rosary School Master Plan, May 2022 <https://www.rosary.catholic.edu.au/news-events/latest-news/master-plan>

This design is an earlier iteration of the Master Plan, suggesting that some portion of the nominated Hall would be retained. This is no longer the case. See [https://plan.sa.gov.au/have\\_your\\_say/notified\\_developments/current\\_notified\\_developments/submission?aid=4478](https://plan.sa.gov.au/have_your_say/notified_developments/current_notified_developments/submission?aid=4478)



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A community meeting was scheduled by the school leadership on 13 September 2022 after a survey was circulated amongst the current school community. A brochure was circulated to neighbours which outlined the apparent feedback provided in the survey and the most recent development proposal.

The school leadership noted that

*Members of our community have shared the value of the Rosary School Hall and the spiritual, cultural and historical connections to the space.*

Nevertheless, the brochure went on

*... the development proposes to **remove the hall**, given the need for new contemporary learning spaces...*

Moreover, the school leadership confirmed that:

*...the proposal seeks to retain and reimagine the space as the Dominican heart and centre of school life and activity.<sup>18</sup>*

Please see over the page for the current proposed site plan.

What the site plan does not reveal is that the Hall is to be 'reimagined' by erecting a yellow metallic arch, which can only be said to be reminiscent of half of the emblem of a popular take away franchise, by which means, it is said, children are meant to reflect on the history of the Hall 'in a contemporary way'. This was revealed in a visual 'flyover' presented at the meeting, but which has not been made public.

At the meeting, Ms Hamilton gave the applicant permission to read the following statement (as Ms Hamilton was unable to attend in person): "Such a historical landmark [as the Hall] will give students not just of Rosary but all of Adelaide an opportunity to understand what Catholic education was like historically. History and our community is in the curriculum we teach and knocking the hall down deprives students of authentic historical knowledge. New buildings do not ever fix issues of growing enrollments. The hall is all that is left. Catholic Education (CESA) should be preserving its Catholic history to give its students a living testament to Catholic schools in Adelaide. Focus needs to be on the education of the students and not on [their] dollar value... Our students in Australia have very little history to see, touch, feel – stop depriving them of knowledge and opportunity. The hall could be used to educate children... The hall was a church, administration building, staff room and class rooms. It does not deserve to end up as a pile of rubble for its service to the Catholic community of Prospect."<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> Rosary School, *Information Sheet*, undated but circulated to neighbours ahead of a community meeting on 13 September 2022

<sup>19</sup> Notes of Danae Hamilton, 13 September 2022, provided to the applicant

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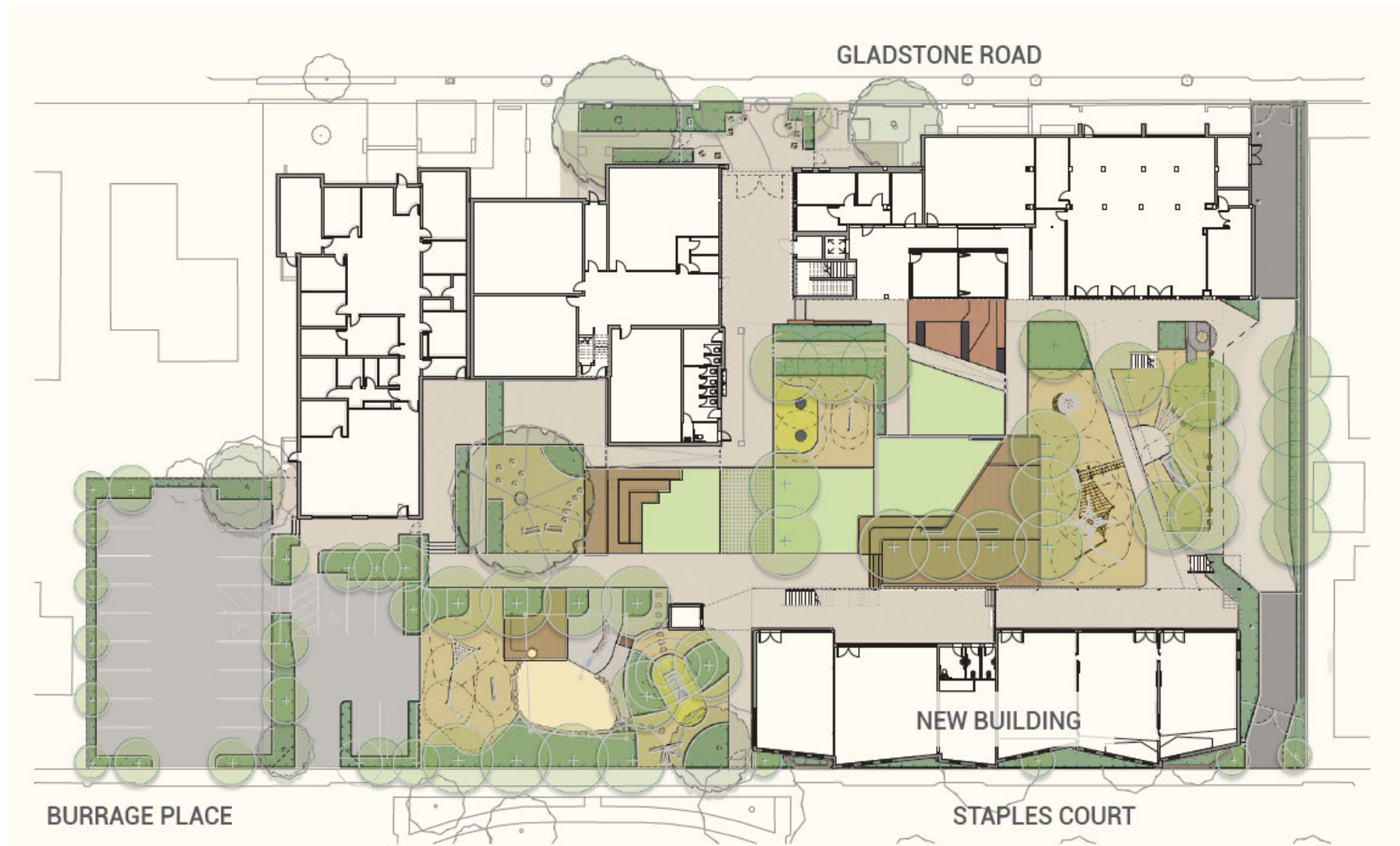


Figure 28: 'Rosary School Proposed Development, Information Sheet, proposed site plan, provided September 2022



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Figure 29: Concept Design report: 4116829, p.39 showing yellow arch in place of original proscenium arch

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## C. History

6. Origins and history		
<b>Years of Construction:</b>	<b>Start:</b> Construction of the original church school commenced in approximately 1907-08 and the nominated Hall was completed in 1918.	<b>Finish:</b> Maintenance and improvements have occurred as befits the age and use of the building as an educative space.
<b>Name of Designer / Architect:</b>	Messrs Woods & Bagot, Laybourne Smith designed the nominated Hall.	
<b>History of the nominated place or object:</b>	<p>Rosary School has served the Prospect/North Adelaide Parish since it was dedicated to the Holy Rosary and was solemnly opened and blessed on 8<sup>th</sup> August 1908.</p> <p>Prior Robert Spence bought land in Gladstone Road, Prospect to be a school and church, which was the customary way of establishing a new parish. (However, the parish remained 'North Adelaide and Prospect'). The school was opened in 1908, staffed by the Dominican Sisters from Stone, England, the successors of whom are still in North Adelaide.<sup>20</sup></p> <p>Messrs Woods &amp; Bagot were commissioned as architects to design the original church school, and the builder appointed via tender was Mr J.J. Leahy.</p> <p>About 250-300 people crowded the school church for the opening and many had to remain outside. Prior Spence announced the School would open on the following Monday 10<sup>th</sup> August 1908 and the first Mass in the School Church was celebrated on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> August at 8.00am.</p> <p>The cost of the new building was £470 plus the cost of the altar, seating etc. to total £592. Nearly £200 in donations were collected on Open Day to start to pay off the debt of £592.</p> <p>The school opened with 11 pupils and two Dominican Sisters.</p> <p>It was not long before there were sufficient children for all the classes and the school flourished beyond</p>	

<sup>20</sup> North Adelaide Prospect Parish, "Our History", <http://napparish.org.au/st-laurences-and-our-lady-of-the-rosary-history/>, accessed 27 September 2022



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	<p>expectations. It was for this reason that the nominated Hall was constructed and opened in 1918.</p> <p>Rosary School is one of the older Catholic Primary Schools in South Australia.<sup>21</sup> It boasts a history from the early days when accommodation was provided in “the tin shed that was called the ‘babies room’ located behind the main building [which is now the nominated hall]. From there, [students] graduated to the ‘bottom room’ which was actually the original church building, and thence to the ‘big room’ [the nominated Hall]”.<sup>22</sup></p> <p>Rosary was a school church. It became a church on Friday afternoons when [the older children] had to turn to help the sisters sweep the school (after spreading damp sawdust to keep the dust down) and shift the heavy desks.<sup>23</sup></p> <p>Rosary has educated Junior Primary, Primary and Secondary students since its opening. It has been the Parish worship centre, sacristy, youth club, assembly area, community centre and multi-use school Hall.<sup>24</sup></p> <p>This is the only remaining building left from the early days of Rosary School.<sup>25</sup></p>
<p><b>Historical sources used to support your nomination:</b> Please attach copies of pages from publications or newspaper articles as appropriate.</p>	<p>Cited throughout.</p>

<sup>21</sup> Aldo Floreani, “Principal’s Report”, *Rosary School 2003, Ninety Five Years*, p.2

<sup>22</sup> Fr Thomas P. Fitzgerald O.P., “Them were the days”, *Rosary School Prospect 1998 Year Book*, p.8

<sup>23</sup> ibid

<sup>24</sup> Rosary School website, “Our school today...”, <https://www.rosary.catholic.edu.au/about-rosary/our-story>, accessed 27 September 2022

<sup>25</sup> Rosary School website, “The History of Rosary School...”, <https://www.rosary.catholic.edu.au/about-rosary/our-story>, accessed 27 September 2022

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## D. Heritage Significance

### 7. Statement of State Significance - Why is the place or object important to South Australia?

"The Roman Catholic cause was first proclaimed in Prospect by Archdeacon Russell in 1883. In 1899 the Dominican fathers took charge of the parish. In 1908 the first church of the Holy Rosary was built in Gladstone Road. It was a small timber structure with a school attached. The school and church grew in popularity and numbers. This still remains as part of the Rosary School in Gladstone Road.<sup>26</sup>

**The nominated Hall is the last remaining representation of the earliest days of the Catholic Congregation within Prospect and the importance of the members of the Church in the settlement of the area.**

The history of the City of Prospect since European settlement is, like so many other suburbs and districts, a reflection of the wider history of South Australia. The events that occurred in Prospect, while sometimes spontaneous, were largely a result of the trends of society.<sup>27</sup>

An understanding of religion in South Australia is crucial if one is to understand these social trends. The establishment of the various branches of Christianity, particularly in the late nineteenth century when there was a period of building growth, is significant to the development of Adelaide's suburbs.

In the early period of the 1870s - 1880s, Prospect experienced a large population growth generally, but particularly a large increase in the Methodist and Baptist Church congregation.

The later growth of the Catholic Church congregation, particular during the Inter War period of the 1920s – 1930s, is also demonstrated through the built form of Prospect's churches. The temperance movement associated with this congregation played a significant role in the urbanisation of Prospect and the form and appearance of Prospect Road.<sup>28</sup>

Rosary Hall, then represents an even earlier period of the development of the Catholic Church in Prospect, having been built in 1908 and then extended in 1918 by the building which is the current nominated Hall.

The external and internal form, materials and decorative detailing of churches and meeting halls are important elements of the historical and social value of these buildings.

<sup>26</sup> McDougall & Vines, Conservation and Heritage Consultants, City of Prospect, Heritage Review, 2010, Part Two, p.11

<sup>27</sup> Historical Consultants Pty Ltd, *Heritage Survey of the Corporation of the City of Prospect*, 1989, p.71

<sup>28</sup> City of Prospect, *Design Guidelines for the Historic (Conservation) Zone and Local Heritage Places*, 2015, p.33



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The City of Prospect, in its *Design Guidelines for the Historic (Conservation) Zone and Local Heritage Places*, indicated that:

care should be taken to retain original features where these remain or should be reinstated to an earlier appearance where this is possible. Original materials and finishes, particularly unpainted walls and decorative mouldings, should be retained.<sup>29</sup>

Whilst the 1918 additions do not represent the entirety of the church school's history on the site, they reflect the growth of the congregation and represent the activities of the Catholic Church in the Prospect area from 1918 onwards. The nominated Hall is an extension of the built site of church services held from 1908 until 1937, and of the educative philosophy and practice of the Catholic Church within the Prospect district from 1908 to the present day.

As De Jong writes:

In the face of the shifting role of religion in contemporary society, there is still a marked interest in sacred spaces and religious buildings of the past, present and future. Culture is more than what we have inherited from the past; it is a living, dynamic and participatory present reality. The present marks a moment on a journey, which can be characterized as a continuum from the past into the future.

Humans' desire for gathering places, meeting places, reflective and prayer places and final resting places seems to be universal. Place offers people a sense of relationship with the world, with other people and with a transcendent being. In spite of many differences, notions of the sacred, of community and of belonging are widespread across denominations and faith traditions.<sup>30</sup>

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<sup>29</sup> ibid

<sup>30</sup> Ursula de Jong, "Designing Australia's sacred spaces and religious buildings: past present and future", *Architecture Australia*, <https://architectureau.com/articles/designing-australias-sacred-spaces>, 9 September 2019, accessed 27 September 2022

### 5.0 HERITAGE ASSESSMENT

#### 5.1 *Heritage Places Act 1993* criteria assessment

An assessment of the heritage significance of Rosary School Hall, 15 Gladstone Road, Prospect, (1908-18) has been undertaken against the criteria of Section 16 of the *Heritage Places Act 1993*. This assessment has found that the heritage significance of the above property is applicable to definition of criteria a), f) & g) of the above legislation. A description of these values against each criterion is provided as follows:

##### *a) It demonstrates important aspects of the evolution or pattern of the State's history.*

The presence of the Dominican Order in Australia and the south-western Pacific is essentially a product of a very great expansion of the Catholic Church's global missionary outreach in the nineteenth century, sustained by thousands of priests, brothers and nuns who left their homes in countries such as France, Ireland, Belgium, the Netherlands and Italy for the "foreign missions". The chief home source for manpower for the Australasian Dominican mission was Ireland where the Church was undergoing revitalisation and growth with the passing of the penal era.<sup>31</sup>

The Irish Dominican men came to Adelaide as parish priests and parish work provided the pattern of ministry as the Order became active in other parts of Australia.<sup>32</sup>

The first community of friars was established in Adelaide in 1898. The initiator of this move was Archpriest Bernard Nevin who had been a Dominican novice in Ireland. He suggested to the then Archbishop of Adelaide, John O'Reilly, that the Irish Dominicans be asked to make a foundation in South Australia. After negotiations with the Irish Provincial, Joseph Hickey, the invitation was accepted and three Irish Dominican friars arrived on board the *Oriental* at Largs Bay on 18 September 1898.<sup>33</sup>

In 1899 the Dominican fathers took charge of the parish of North Adelaide and Prospect which included the suburbs to the north of Prospect and Kilburn. The friars immediately commenced planning for a suitable residence and the foundation stone of St Laurence's Priory, named

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<sup>31</sup> 'A short history of the Dominican friars in Australia and the south-western Pacific region'

<https://www.op.org.au/about-the-dominicans/our-history/a-short-history-of-the-dominican-friars-in-australia-and-the-south-western-pacific-region>

<sup>32</sup> 'A short history of the Dominican friars in Australia and the south-western Pacific region'

<https://www.op.org.au/about-the-dominicans/our-history/a-short-history-of-the-dominican-friars-in-australia-and-the-south-western-pacific-region>

<sup>33</sup> *City of Prospect Heritage Review* (2010), p.11

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after the saint to whom the North Adelaide parish church is dedicated, was laid by Archbishop O'Reilly less than a year after the arrival of the friars.<sup>34</sup>

The nominated Hall is representative of the earliest days of the Catholic congregation within the city of Prospect, and the importance of the members of the church in the settlement of the area.

In his book, *Change and Continuity in the City of Prospect: Census Study 1881-2011*, Dr David Kilner makes the following observations of the demographic composition of the area which speaks of the need for the establishment of Rosary School, and the contribution it played in the growth of the Catholic congregation.

"The major growth in population took place in the 1910s, 1920s and 1930s with the population tripling between 1911 and 1933".<sup>35</sup> A contributing factor was the growing urbanisation of the population and Prospect was at centre stage.

With growing urbanisation, the need for established, formal modes of education; the modern education system emerged. Compulsory school attendance for all children was introduced in 1875, but until 1892 fees were charged, even in government schools.

"In 1881, the proportion of the population aged five years and over in Prospect who could not read [(10.8%)], was slightly higher than the proportion for the State as a whole [(8.1%)], but by 1901 the position had reversed".<sup>36</sup> This positive shift was widened by 1921 with the proportion of children in Prospect aged five and over who could not read at 3.1% and the State at 4.1%.

The benefits of government sponsored education seemingly contributed, however one must consider this turn around against the proportion of children attending non-government schools such as Rosary.<sup>37</sup>

Year	Prospect	SA
1881	28.9%	22.9%
1901	21.7%	13.0%
1921	23.9%	15.9%
1933	19.1%	14.5%

<sup>34</sup> Rosary School Prospect, 1908-1998 Year Book,

<sup>35</sup> Kilner, D., *Change and Continuity in the City of Prospect: Census Study 1881-2011*, Prospect, South Australia, 2013, p. 4

<sup>36</sup> Kilner, D., *Change and Continuity in the City of Prospect: Census Study 1881-2011*, p. 14

<sup>37</sup> Kilner, D., *Change and Continuity in the City of Prospect: Census Study 1881-2011*, p. 15



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It can be seen that children of school age in Prospect were more likely than their peers across South Australia to be attending non-government schools, notwithstanding the potential economic impost, particularly in the war-years and during the depression. This trend has continued at least until 2011 where the figure is more than 50% higher than the State as a whole. Though there is a gap in the data between 1933 and 1976, this is arguably related to the growing number of Catholic families resident in the area.

Religious affiliation in Prospect has undergone a marked change over the years. At its foundation, the area was strongly Protestant, dominated by the forerunners of the Uniting Church. The Anglican Church was also well-represented. The Catholic Church was relatively under-represented.<sup>38</sup>

The picture of religious affiliation is now a mirror image, with the Catholic and Eastern Orthodox churches predominant and the Protestant churches in decline. Of course, there has been growth in non-Christian religions in the area, but the willingness of respondents to the Census, as a whole, to acknowledge a religious affiliation has declined sharply, in common with other parts of Australia.

The establishment of a little parish church school in the earliest days of the city of Prospect, and the continued growth of the congregation, who also opt to send their children to non-government schools, is arguably an important example of the way in which a community can 'buck the trend' of a population as a whole. The nominated Hall stands at the epicentre of this demographic shift.

### *d) It is an outstanding representative of a particular class of places of cultural significance.*

The nominated Hall is an outstanding example of a modest parish church school hall in what appears to be the Australian Federation style. The cupola and the ornate wooden brackets supporting the roof on the gable ends are indicative of this style.

It is noted that the nominated Hall was designed by Woods, Bagot, Jory, & Laybourne Smith Architects, and constructed in 1918. The building design, though modest, with its featured double gables and triple venting, is reminiscent of another Federation style building, designed by Laybourne Smith; *Trefresa*, situated at 16 Victoria Avenue, Unley Park.<sup>39</sup>

'The 1919 rebuild was designed by Louis Laybourne-Smith of Woods, Bagot, Jory & Laybourne Smith Architects. Laybourne-Smith's design was featured in the Australian Home Builder in the early 1920s'.

As the watercolour and sketch below indicate, the two properties share the double gabled roof feature, the triple venting, and the ornate wooden brackets supporting the roof on the gable ends.

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<sup>38</sup> Kilner, D., *Change and Continuity in the City of Prospect: Census Study 1881-2011*, pp. 18-19

<sup>39</sup> Federation Adelaide, <https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=544173014180337&set=pb.100057629281986.-2207520000>.

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Figure 30: watercolour landscape sketch of 'Trefresa' by architect Louis Laybourne-Smith in 1919 (image courtesy of UniSA Architecture Museum)

Figure 31: elevation of 'Trefresa', 16 Victoria Avenue, Unley Park featured in the *Australian Home Builder* in the early 1920s



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The nominated Hall is far less ornate than its Anglican contemporary, St. Cuthbert's, located at 49 Prospect Road. Nevertheless, the nominated Hall has a place among the recognised works of Laybourne Smith, and is indicative of the growth in parish worship and education in the growing city of Prospect. Growth which would eventually result in the construction of the far larger Our Lady of the Rosary Church in Barker Road Prospect.

Both designed by Laybourne Smith, the two buildings, only one of which has been recognised for its heritage significance, form a significant pair of representative examples of Laybourne Smith's work for the city of Prospect.

## *f) It has strong cultural or spiritual associations for the community or a group within it.*

The leader of the first group of Dominicans, Prior Robert Spence, purchased the land on Gladstone Road, Prospect and it was on this land that a small timber structure with a school attached was erected in 1908. The school and church quickly grew in popularity in terms of its congregation and enrolled children, necessitating the addition to the church school, built in 1918. This building, the nominated Hall, remains in use as the school Hall and is the only extant element of the original Rosary School.

The nominated Hall is the forerunner of the now local heritage listed Rosary Church, situated in Barker Road, Prospect. Older and less grand than its sibling, the Rosary School Hall nevertheless displays earlier historical, economic and social themes that are of importance to the local area, as it represents the very earliest establishment and growth of the Roman Catholic congregation in Prospect.

At an individual level, the Hall has played an important part in the lives of students of Rosary School, their families and the staff and teachers of the school. Prior to 1937, Mass was celebrated there and even after 1937, when the Hall was no longer a church, children received sacraments including Confirmation and First Communion there.

From the sacred to the secular, children recall sitting in the Hall while witnessing man landing on the moon. More recently, the performance of class assemblies by the newest and smallest Reception students represented a rite of passage where they were openly celebrated and welcomed into the school community.

This Hall has borne witness to significant moments in the lives of countless members of its community.

It was at the opening and blessing of the present Our Lady of the Rosary Church that the following words were delivered by Fr McEvoy: <sup>40</sup>

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<sup>40</sup> Fr W. V. McEvoy, *Southern Cross* (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1954), Friday 3 December 1937, page 7



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## No Lifeless Thing.

But though man must needs use for his temple such materials as he can handle, still it is no lifeless thing he builds. A temple, a church, is the sign of the God-consciousness of a community. It unites the cross in the sky, it is a proclamation of the faith of those who built and those who worship.

The nominated Hall, then, is a living symbol of the growth of a community, and the strength of that community in the lived example of its faith.

### *g) It has a special association with the life or work of a person or organisation or an event of historical importance.*

The more that the history of this Hall has been examined as part of this process, the more astonishing the connections it has revealed to people of significance to the history of Prospect and the State as a whole.

#### **i. The 1908 church school was designed by Messrs Woods & Bagot. The 1918 nominated Hall by Woods Bagot Jory and Laybourne Smith**

The original school was designed by Woods & Bagot, eminent architects in South Australia and built by J.J. Leahy, a prominent builder who constructed many major buildings across Adelaide and beyond, both sacred and secular. Though modest in comparison to their other works, the building was an example of their contribution made to the community of Prospect in its earliest days.<sup>41</sup>

**Edward John Woods** was born in London in 1839. Woods decided to emigrate to South Australia and arrived in Port Adelaide in 1860. His South Australian architectural career began as a draughtsman for Edmund Wright soon becoming a partner in the practice of Wright and Woods. This partnership lasted about four years.

<sup>41</sup> *Southern Cross* (Adelaide, SA 1889-1954), Friday 7 August 1908, page 13;  
*Southern Cross* (Adelaide, SA 1889 - 1954), Friday 14 August 1908, page 13;  
*Southern Cross* (Adelaide, SA 1889 - 1954), Friday 13 December 1918, page 8.

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In 1869 the partnership was dissolved and Woods worked as a sole practitioner. Woods then formed a partnership with William McMinn.

In about 1873 Woods joined the public service as an architect to the Council of Education, simultaneously maintaining his private practice. He was subsequently appointed Architect-in-Chief of South Australia in 1877.

As architect to the Council of Education, Woods designed many schools. As Government Architect he also supervised the building of many civic buildings in Adelaide.

Old Parliament House, North Terrace, Adelaide was constructed in stages between 1843 and 1875. Architect-in-Chief, Woods adapted Wright and Tayler's original design, and supervised the construction of the building, with one of the modifications being the incorporation of an innovative ventilation system in the Assembly Chamber. The building was also wired for the future use of electricity (AHPI).

He left the government in 1884 and in 1905 began a partnership with Walter Bagot, who had been a former pupil with the practice being named Woods & Bagot.

Work for the Catholic Church by Woods included additions to St Francis Xavier's Cathedral, convents in Adelaide, Port Adelaide, and Broken Hill, and numerous chapels around South Australia.<sup>42</sup>

Evidence of Woods' work on the original school church is found in the records of Woods Bagot held in the State Library of South Australia.<sup>43</sup>

Edward Woods died on 5 January 1916, following a decline in his health. The practice continues today as one of Australia's largest architectural firms and is called Woods Bagot continuing the names of its two founding partners.

**Walter Hervey Bagot** was born on 17 March 1880 at North Adelaide. He was articled to Adelaide architect Edward John Woods in 1899 for his architectural training. In 1902 he left for the United Kingdom where he had studied architecture at the Kings College, University of London.

The partnership between Woods and Bagot lasted from 1905 until 1913. After Woods' death in 1916, the practice continued under different names, being reconstituted over the years, with Bagot remaining in the partnership.

Bagot stopped being an active partner 'some five or six years before he officially retired'. Bagot died on 27 July 1963 at North Adelaide aged 83.

Bagot's ecclesiastical building designs included work for the Roman Catholic Archdiocese for which he was architect from 1905 to 1926.

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<sup>42</sup> Collins, Julie, 'Woods. Edward John', Architecture Museum, University of South Australia, 2008, Architects of South Australia: [http://www.architectsdatabase.unisa.edu.au/arch\\_full.asp?Arch\\_ID=69](http://www.architectsdatabase.unisa.edu.au/arch_full.asp?Arch_ID=69)

<sup>43</sup> SLSA BRG18, Extract from Ledger of E. J. Woods of Principal works executed by him, p.4

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Other ecclesiastical works by the practice include St Theodore's Church for the Church of England at Toorak Gardens of 1915, the façade and extensions to the nave of St Raphael's Church, Parkside, commenced in 1916, and works at Calvary Hospital, North Adelaide, in 1917.

Bagot designed an extension for St Francis Xavier's Cathedral in Victoria Square, Adelaide between 1922 and 1926. The cathedral is the work of a number of architects beginning in 1851. Bagot's contribution is based on the original Gothic style plans drawn up by Augustus Welby Pugin.

He was also the architect for the Church of England's St Peter's Cathedral from 1907 to 1945, designing 'all the very beautiful interior fittings of the choir stalls, the Bishop's throne, [and] the pulpit'.<sup>44</sup>



Figure 32: Advertiser (Adelaide, SA 1889 - 1931), Monday 4 February 1907, page 2

**Louis Edouard Laybourne Smith** was a prominent South Australian architect who established South Australia's first School of Architecture in 1906 at the South Australian School of Mines and Industries. This achievement was recognised formally on 10 May 1963 when the Louis Laybourne Smith School of Architecture and Building was named officially for its founder (Walkley 1976). The school continues today as the Louis Laybourne Smith School of Architecture and Design at the University of South Australia.

In 1914 Laybourne Smith began working with one of Adelaide's most influential architectural firms, Woods, Bagot and Jory, becoming a partner of Woods, Bagot, Jory and Laybourne Smith in 1915, when Woods retired. Edward Woods died on 5 January 1916, following a decline in his health. Herbert Harold Jory became a partner and the practice was known as Woods, Bagot & Jory until 1917 when Louis

<sup>44</sup> Collins, Julie, 'Bagot, Walter Hervey', Architecture Museum, University of South Australia, 2008, Architects of South Australia: [http://www.architectsdatabase.unisa.edu.au/arch\\_full.asp?Arch\\_ID=7](http://www.architectsdatabase.unisa.edu.au/arch_full.asp?Arch_ID=7)



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Laybourne Smith was offered a partnership and accepted. The partnership of Woods, Bagot, Jory & Laybourne Smith continued until 1930 when Jory left to practise on his own.

Laybourne Smith is known for the diversity of his commissions including dwellings, ecclesiastical, commercial, educational, hospital and community buildings.

The diversity of commissions undertaken by Laybourne Smith is demonstrated by a number of State Heritage Places designed either in whole, or part, by him, including:

- Shops (former Balfour's Shop and Cafe), 74 Rundle Mall, Adelaide, 1924, (SHP 10411)
- Royal South Australian Deaf Society Headquarters, 261-265 South Terrace, Adelaide, 1927-1928, (SHP 13606)
- Union Building Group, The University of Adelaide (including the Lady Symon Building, the George Murray Building, the Cloisters, the Western Annex and the multi-level Union House), Victoria Drive, Adelaide, 1920s, (SHP 17619)
- Office (former AMP [Australian Mutual Provident Society] Building, former CBA), 19-23 King William Street, Adelaide, 1936, (SHP 11574)
- St Cuthbert's Anglican Church, 49 Prospect Road, Prospect, (SHP 14045)
- Main Building, Waite Agricultural Research Institute, Waite Road, Urrbrae, (SHP 14341)
- National War Memorial, North Terrace Adelaide (SHP 13660)

Laybourne Smith's recognised ecclesiastical commissions include a chapel for the Dominican Cabra Convent at Goodwood (1914), St Cuthbert's Church, Prospect (1914) and the rebuilding of St Paul's Retreat at Glen Osmond in the 1920s (Walkley 1977; Page 1986).

The Roman Catholic Church was an important client for the practice and Laybourne Smith was involved in the design of many of the buildings at Calvary Hospital, North Adelaide, these include operating theatres (1929), the Eastern Wing (1935), the Chapel (1937) and the Maternity Wing (1939-40) (Walkley 1977: 16).<sup>45</sup>

**Herbert Harold Jory** was a partner of Woods Bagot Jory and Laybourne Smith at the time of the construction of the Hall. He later left to practise on his own. He was involved in subsequent improvements to the school as a whole, charged with seeking tenders for the building

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<sup>45</sup> Sullivan, Christine, 'Smith, Louis Edouard Laybourne', Architecture Museum, University of South Australia, 2008, Architects of South Australia: [[http://www.architectsdatabase.unisa.edu.au/arch\\_full.asp?Arch\\_ID=27](http://www.architectsdatabase.unisa.edu.au/arch_full.asp?Arch_ID=27)]

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of sanitary conveniences and connections with the sewerage in 1934.<sup>46</sup> Thereafter he was appointed as architect by Fr Vincent Candler for the design and construction of the present local heritage listed Catholic Church in Prospect, Our Lady of the Rosary.<sup>47</sup>

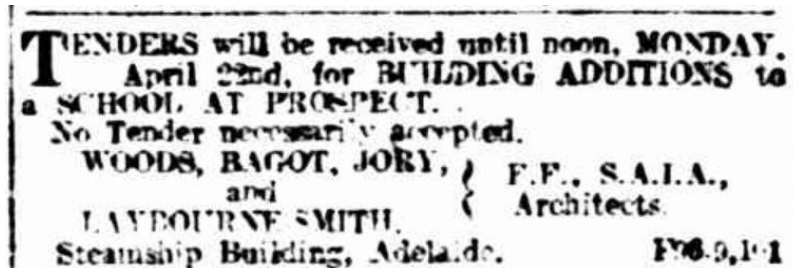


Figure 33: *The Advertiser* (Adelaide, SA : 1889 – 1931), Tuesday 9 April 1918, p.2

<sup>46</sup> 'To Bricklayers and Plumbers', *Southern Cross* (Adelaide, SA : 1889 – 1954), Friday 21 December 1934, p.14, <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/168918372>

<sup>47</sup> *Our Lady of the Rosary Church, Prospect: Golden Jubilee 1937-1987*, Adelaide, 1987., "The Builder – Fr. V. Candler O.P.

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**ii. The 1908 church school was built by John Joseph Leahy**

John Joseph Leahy was 'a building contractor who was responsible for some of the important public buildings in Adelaide. He had as a young man worked with his father, an Irish building contractor in Bristol, then added to his experience and knowledge on building projects in the United States before coming to Adelaide. His firm built the first Bank of NSW building, using local stone for the first time on a major building in Adelaide; the Royal Exchange, the Islington workshops, the Happy Valley intake tunnel, the chapel building at Cabra convent and the North Adelaide Priory and chapel were also the works of his company...John Leahy was generous with time and expertise in church affairs.<sup>48</sup>

Leahy arrived in South Australia in 1877 and built up a very successful contracting business, erecting such structures as St Dominic's Priory, Chapel and Chapter house in Molesworth Street and the additions to St Peter's Cathedral.<sup>49</sup>



**Figure 34: Photograph of J. J. Leahy  
(SLSA)**

This little church, which was dedicated to the Holy Rosary, was a neat and cheap building. There was no fear of walls cracking or plaster falling, and he believed it was an example that would be copied by others.

**Figure 35: Monsignor Byrne, Southern Cross  
(Adelaide, SA : 1889 – 1954), Friday 14 August 1908,  
p.13**

<sup>48</sup> Margaret M. Press, *Colour and Shadow: South Australian Catholics, 1906-1962* (Adelaide: Archdiocese of Adelaide, 1991), pp.51-52

<sup>49</sup> State Library of South Australia, Leahy, John Joseph - 1851-1910, <https://www.catalog.slsa.sa.gov.au/search/d?Leahy%2C+John+Joseph%2C+1851-1910>



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iii. The 1918 addition, the nominated Hall was built by Charles Henry Martin

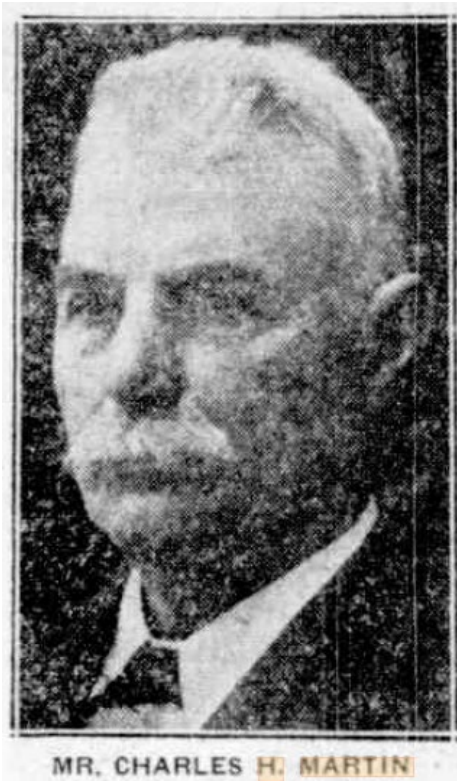


Figure 36: Photograph of C. H. Martin

C. H. Martin was engaged by Woods, Bagot, Jory and Laybourne Smith in January 1918.<sup>50</sup>

"Mr. Charles Henry Martin, who died suddenly at Young-street, North Unley on Sunday, was born at North Adelaide 77 years ago. He lived at Plympton for the greater part of his younger days, and attended the Pulteney-street Grammar School. He was apprenticed to Charles Farr & Son, builders, of Wakefield-street, and became foreman for the firm. He also acted in a similar capacity for Malcolm Reid & Co., Ltd.

He entered business on his own account in 1892, and erected many fine buildings in Adelaide, among which are "The Advertiser" building in Waymouth-street, the Beehive Buildings, the premises of G. Wood, Son & Co. Ltd., on North terrace, and Epworth Building in Pirie-street.

He became governing director of C. H. Martin Limited, in 1914. He was chairman of directors of the local board of the Federal Mutual Fire Insurance Company, and a member of the board of the Employers Mutual Assurance Limited. For nearly seven years Mr. Martin was president of the South Australian Builders' and Contractors' Association. He was the oldest member and a trustee of the Pirie-street Methodist Church, and a past-master of Emulation Lodge of Freemasons. During the past 20 years he associated himself actively with the Adult Deaf and Dumb Mission, and for 12 years was a vice-president. Mr. Martin was a member of the South Park Bowling Club for close on 20 years, and was a former president."<sup>51 52</sup>

Mr C. H. Martin was responsible for the shaping and assembling of the Honour Roll of the Cheer Up Hut Women Workers unveiled at Keswick in 1920.<sup>53</sup>

<sup>50</sup> *Southern Cross* (Adelaide, SA 1889 - 1954), Friday 13 December 1918, page 8; Ledger Vol.4, 1915-1918, p.96 (SLSA BRG18) (see over)

<sup>51</sup> "WELL-KNOWN BUILDER" *The Advertiser* (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931) 26 August 1930: 11. Web. 3 Oct 2022 < <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article30503924> >

<sup>52</sup> PROMINENT BUILDER (1930, August 25). *News* (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), p. 5 (HOME EDITION). Retrieved October 3, 2022, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article130254510>

<sup>53</sup> The Honour Roll of Cheer Up Hut Women Workers 1914–1920. Unveiled by General Sir William Birdwood in March 1920. <https://trove.nla.gov.au/work/249353326?keyword=%22C%20H%20Martin%22>

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96		Prospect Catholic School		96	99
Prior O'Kelly (St Lawrence's ra)		Received by cheque		99	7 6
1918	Jan 29	Met Public Auditor discussed proposed additions to Prospect School.			6
	30	Prepared prelim sketch plan			
		Prepared working drawings			
		Specifications - taking particulars of old school - levels etc.			
		Calling tenders & arranging			
May	11	Contract with St Martin's			
		To supervising execution of work			
Nov	19	To checking & passing of accounts. St Martin's			6
		£1933. 13. 0 -			
		5% Com on total amount expended £1933. 13. 0		96	13 6
Disbursements					
Paid to					
		Architect £10. 10. 0			
		Registrar 0. 18. 0			
		Travelling expenses 1. 0. 0		2	14 0
		£997 6		99	7 6

Figure 37: SLISA (BRG 18), extract from Ledger, Vol.4, 1915-18, p.96

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## iv. Fr Vincent Candler

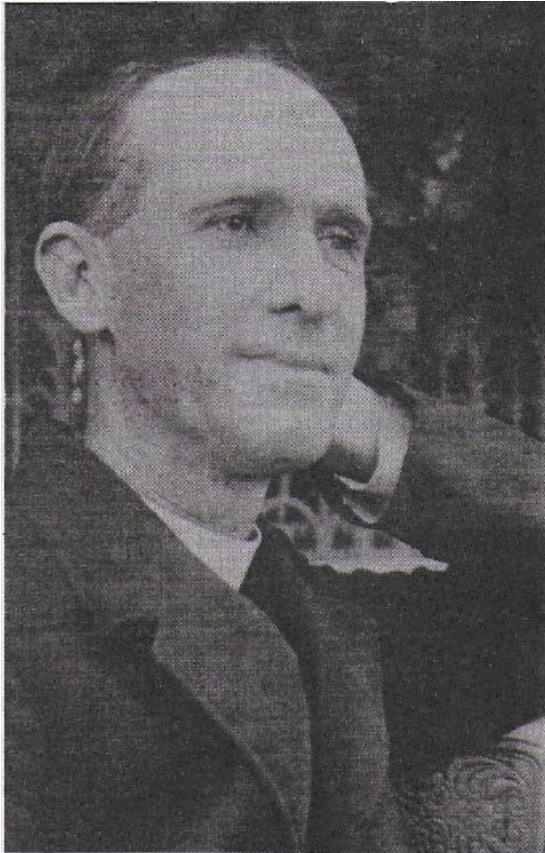


Figure 38: Photograph of Fr V. Candler

**Father Vincent Candler was the first Australian to be ordained as a Dominican Priest in Australia.**

He was studying for the priesthood in Manly before he went to make his Dominican novitiate in Ireland. He was ordained by Bishop Norton in the Dominican sisters' chapel, North Adelaide in 1908, and spent all his priestly life in Adelaide, having the care of the Prospect area for many years.<sup>54</sup>

It was in 1918 that he began his work in Prospect that claimed him for the next 30 years.

His great friend Fr W. V. McEvoy OP wrote of him:

"He and none other was the Priest of Prospect, and what Catholicism is in Prospect [in 1948, was] his doing. All his energy, all his administrative and organizing ability, all his affections and...all his prayers were given for Prospect, and were not given in vain."

Whilst he was not officially parish priest, as that role was reserved for the Dominican Prior of St Laurence's,

"you would have wasted your time trying to tell the Prospect people that. Fr. Candler was our man, our priest, our Pastor...Fr. Candler lived in our midst. We saw him walking down to Rosary School with a letter to be posted stuck in the band of his hat and with one trouser cuff still rolled up as evidence that he had just polished his shoes. We went with him on his Holy Communion rounds after Mass and listened to him praying and watched with some apprehension as the car steered itself. He had only just graduated to a car after years of driving a horse and trap...We were fascinated by the elegant gracefulness of his actions as he celebrated Mass".<sup>55</sup>

In his last years Fr Candler was resident in Rosary House, Barker Road, Prospect.

Fr Candler's memory and significant contribution to the school is recognised in the name of one of Rosary's sports houses. A similar tribute was paid to him by Blackfriars Priory school.

<sup>54</sup> *Colour and Shadow* p.34

<sup>55</sup> *Our Lady of the Rosary Church, Prospect: Golden Jubilee 1937-1987*, Adelaide, 1987., "The Builder – Fr. V. Candler O.P.



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## South Australian HERITAGE COUNCIL

### v. Archbishop Robert Spence

The first Dominican parish priest in Adelaide, Fr Robert Spence OP, was later Archbishop of Adelaide.<sup>56</sup>

#### **The first community of friars was established in Adelaide in 1898**

On the request of Archbishop O'Reilly, Spence, born in Cork, led a contingent of Irish Dominican friars to South Australia. On 18 September 1898 Spence, together with Fathers R. Headley and B. Larkin, arrived in Adelaide on *R.M.S Oriental*. Archbishop O'Reilly entrusted the parish of North Adelaide and the church of St Laurence to the three Dominican priests who formed the first Irish Dominican foundation in Australia.<sup>57</sup>

Spence was installed as the prior and for the next sixteen years he energetically cared for the parish, made additions to the church of St Laurence, and built the adjacent priory.<sup>58</sup> In the parish of North Adelaide and Prospect, the parishioners knew him as firm, gentle and tolerant, both in community and parish.

It was Spence who bought the land in Gladstone Rd in 1907 with the intention of opening a school and church.

When Archbishop O'Reilly's health was failing, Spence accompanied him when he was required to travel long distances. It was over these weeks of sea and train travel that Spence became well known to O'Reilly and in 1913 was appointed to the position of coadjutor. Despite the reluctance of the clergy and some of the bishops to nominate a religious priest to the office, the Archbishop's choice prevailed.

Spence's consecration as third Archbishop of Adelaide, as with right of succession, took place in August 1914, though it was overshadowed by the outbreak of war and the death of Pope Pius X.

Spence was the only Dominican to be a bishop in Australia until Anthony Fisher was consecrated as an auxiliary bishop for the Archdiocese of Sydney in 2003.<sup>59</sup>



**Figure 39: Photograph of Archbishop Spence, B3913, State Library of South Australia,**

<https://collections.slsa.sa.gov.au/resource/B+3913>

<sup>56</sup> Australian Dictionary of Biography, Robert William Spence, <https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/spence-robert-william-8602>

<sup>57</sup> *Southern Cross*, 23 September 1898, p. 604.

<sup>58</sup> Rice, R, 'Robert William Spence, Third Archbishop of Adelaide and Sixth Occupant of the See: Aspects of his Theology and Practice', *The Australasian Catholic Record*, pp.274-287

<sup>59</sup> "A short history of the Dominican friars in Australia and the south-western pacific region", Christopher Dowd OP *Provincial Historian*  
<https://www.op.org.au/about-the-dominicans/our-history/a-short-history-of-the-dominican-friars-in-australia-and-the-south-western-pacific-region>

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Spence served as Archbishop of Adelaide from 1915 to 1934.

Whilst Archbishop of Adelaide, he retained a close affinity with the school, presiding over the opening of further developments in 1918.



Figure 40: Notice in *Southern Cross* (Adelaide, SA 1889 - 1954), Friday 13 December 1918, page 8

The esteem in which he was held by his original parishioners did not diminish upon his elevation to the position of Archbishop.

Spence kept a watchful eye on his parish and his care was repaid with affection. At the opening of the new church school in 1918 it was reported that:

Very Rev. Prior O'Kelly made the following statement:—My first duty is to thank his Grace on behalf of the Dominican Fathers and the parishioners for coming here to-day to bless and open the new additions to this school-church and at the same time to offer him a hearty welcome to the district. I am sure I shall not arouse any jealousy when I say that to no parish is he more welcome than to this one. (Applause.) It was here he spent sixteen years of his priestly life previous to his elevation to the Arch-

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bishopric. His presence on this occasion reminds us that he served the district long before there was a thought of building a school-church here, and no one can inform us better than he of the urgent necessity there existed of providing a place in which the faithful might worship and the children receive an education to fit them for their battle in life. Referring to the report of the opening ceremony, I find that it was he, as Prior Spence, who took over the sacred edifice on being blessed by the late Monsignor Byrne, who represented the Archbishop, the late Dr. O'Reilly, on the occasion. This was in the year 1908. As time went on his Grace saw the district grow and the little school-church taxed to the utmost in affording accommodation for children and people. We can understand how it became a matter of daily concern to him in those days, and no doubt had he remained a little longer with us he would have done what we have been compelled to do and what you witness here to-day. There is one thing certain—he never lost sight of the Prospect school-church and its requirements. It was then with gladness he welcomed the proposal of enlarging it.

The number of school children on the roll book at the present moment, and who I am glad to say attend school regularly, is 180; the congregation at Mass on Sundays averages 200. The number of children on the roll book the day after the opening was 15. The increase tells its own tale. (Applause.) We, the Dominican Fathers hesitated at first putting such a heavy burden as enlarging the church on the people during such a time as we have had, but his Grace, who was well acquainted with their sterling qualities, encouraged us to go on; and, indeed, the parishioners themselves on being informed of our intentions manifested their whole-hearted co-operation.

Figure 41: *Southern Cross* (Adelaide, SA 1889 - 1954), Friday 13 December 1918, page 8

Spence died at his residence at Glen Osmond on 5 November 1934 and was buried in the West Terrace cemetery on 9 November.



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## South Australian HERITAGE COUNCIL

### vi. Dominican Sisters from Stone England.

The Catholic Church has always regarded the education of the young as part of its mission. In the early years of South Australia, the small number of Catholic schools in the colony were run by lay teachers. From the 1860s as elsewhere in Australia, it was the policy of the Church to have every child in a Catholic school and to staff these schools with members of religious orders.

To provide a sound basic Catholic education for the children of poor families, many different religious congregations were invited to South Australia to begin schools. The first groups came from Ireland: Dominican Sisters (1868), Christian Brothers (1879), and Sisters of Mercy (1880).

Another, unique community of Dominican Sisters came from England to North Adelaide.<sup>60</sup> They differed in their origins from the Dominican Sisters at Cabra College and interstate.

The six Dominican Nuns and two postulants who arrived from Stone in Staffordshire, England in 1883 had been enticed to travel to South Australia by two newly converted female members of the Baker family of Morialta.<sup>61</sup>

Their original purpose was to establish what would become Calvary Hospital. The Sisters had intended to run a hospital only for women, as their order allowed. But the South Australian government ruled that hospitals had to admit both male and female patients. This meant they had to abandon that project. Though they would have been entitled to return to England, and would not be entitled to income if they stayed, instead the Sisters turned their attention and skills to education.<sup>62</sup>

The Sisters, led by Mother Mary Rose Columba Adams O.P., used their considerable entrepreneurial skills to make a living from decorative needlework, especially that connected to the Church. This was a perfectly acceptable form of employment at the time. They purchased property and invested in the stock market, allowing the Sisters a considerable degree of self-sufficiency.

By 1884, the Sisters had established a sufficient income base which allowed them to found a school to educate women in needlework, illumination, music, painting and languages. Their tutelage manifested into an academic curriculum leading to university entrance for graduating girls. The school, St Dominic's



MOTHER MARY ROSE COLUMBA ADAMS, O.P.

**Figure 42 Photograph from William-R. Brownlow, *Memoir of Mother Mary Rose Columba Adams, O. P.: First Prioress of St. Dominic's Convent and Foundress of the Perpetual Adoration at North Adelaide*, (Burns & Oates 1895)**

<sup>60</sup> THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA, Specific subjects, David Hilliard, p.2

<sup>61</sup> Carne, Nick, 'A stitch in time', *The Southern Cross*, 3 June 2022, <https://thesoutherncross.org.au/people/2022/06/03/a-stitch-in-time/>

<sup>62</sup> 'English Dominican nuns change from running Adelaide hospital to starting St Dominic's Priory College in 1883', Adelaide A-Z

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Priory School in North Adelaide, continues to this day.<sup>63</sup>

Having successfully founded the Priory School, the Sisters turned their attention to the education of the Catholic children of Prospect. At the time, Prospect was home to many working-class families and a growing Catholic presence.

Rosary School was opened in 1908, with the aim of providing education to the poorer children of the area.

The nominated Hall was built to cater for the growing number of students.

The Sisters came from St. Dominic's Priory, North Adelaide to Prospect each day in a horse-drawn cab, which could not carry all the staff at once, so it was necessary to make two trips each morning and afternoon. Some time after 1927, "the Sisters acquired a huge hearse-like black motor car, the kind used by the film mafia bosses... We thought the car was huge, but the Sisters assured me that in it they were squeezed in much less comfortably than the old cab."

Over the years, the Sisters would work tirelessly for local children and their families, particularly in the harshest years of the Great Depression. It was, at one point, suggested that the Nuns 'were reduced to living on bread and dripping'. Councillor A.S. Horne spoke at a Council meeting in favour of a resolution to allow the Rosary Church Committee to hire the Prospect Hall on Tuesday nights to raise funds for the nuns. A letter from the Committee was read stating that because of the depression many parents were not paying their school money, and the sisters were feeling the times very much, as this was their only source of income.<sup>64</sup> The suggestion that the Nuns were living in poverty was refuted by the Prioress, however it was conceded that times were tough for the school community.<sup>65</sup>

As Fr. Thomas P. Fitzgerald recorded for the Golden Jubilee of Rosary Church,

"The great name in our school was, though, that of Sister M. Reginald, the Headmistress. She had been quite a sportswoman in her time, we were told. She used to take a tennis racquet now and then and have a hit with the girls on the tennis court. She was related to a very well-known state cricketer and used to send us boys two by two up to the wireless shop on Prospect Rd. during the Test Matches to get the latest scores.

Before we got into her class in the big room we were terrified of her...but when we came to her as pupils we got the best teaching that could be had. And we found her a very likeable person indeed.

She won and kept our loving admiration. She had a fine sense of humour somewhat barbed at times. I always felt she need not have prefaced her announcement that "Pat Fitzgerald has come top in Arithmetic" by saying, 'The age of miracles has not yet ceased.

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<sup>63</sup> Burley, S., and Teague, K., *Chapel, Cloister & Classroom, Reflections on the Dominican Sisters at North Adelaide*, 1983, St. Dominic's Priory (North Adelaide, S. Aust.)

<sup>64</sup> "Nuns At Prospect living In Poverty" *The Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954)* 28 July 1932: 15. Web. 19 Oct 2022 < <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article34691488> >.

<sup>65</sup> "PRIORESS AMAZED" *The Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954)* 29 July 1932: 12. Web. 19 Oct 2022 < <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article73993530> >.

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“She was kind, though, and the help she gave to needy children and their parents during the Depression is known only to God and to those whom she cared for His sake. She was great friend of Father Candler and together they made a good team.

They were Dominicans through and through. From them we learned know and love the Order, to know its Saints and famous people, to imbibe its traditions. Some of us trace our vocations as Dominican Sisters and Priests to their influence. In a life-time of studying theology and sacred scripture I have never had to reject anything I ever learnt from the Sisters.

We loved them as Women and valued them as friends, and learnt to tolerate their foibles and their occasional bad moods as we expected them to tolerate us. Indeed, we were sure they more than tolerated us. They loved us.”<sup>66</sup>

The nominated Hall is the ‘spiritual home of the school’, thanks largely to the care taken by the Dominican Sisters in educating and caring for the community<sup>67</sup> and the subsequent experience of moments of grace in that venue, long after the sisters’ presence diminished. The custodians of the school and subsequent generations of students of Rosary School have kept their memory alive when commencing each School Assembly in the Hall by giving thanks ‘to the Dominican Sisters who founded Rosary School’ over 100 years ago.

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<sup>66</sup> *Our Lady of the Rosary Church, Prospect: Golden Jubilee 1937-1987*, Adelaide, 1987., ‘The Sisters at Rosary, Personal Memories’.

<sup>67</sup> North Adelaide Prospect Parish, *The History of St. Laurence’s and Our Lady of the Rosary Churches*, <http://www.napparish.org.au/st-laurences-and-our-lady-of-the-rosary-history/>