

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH AND BELLTOWER

282-288 Franklin Street

This church is of particular historical significance as it is the principal place of worship for the Greek Community in the city and is a most prominent symbol of non-British migration to Australia.

The first Greek community in South Australia began in Port Pirie in the early 1920s. At the same time, the Brotherhood of Kasterlorizian had also migrated to South Australia from the group of twelve islands of Kastelorizo (or Megisti) close to the Turkish mainland. When the islands came under Turkish sovereignty after the First World War they migrated to Port Pirie and here provided for the religious well-being of the Greek community. From this first small group a few travelled to Adelaide and by 1925 the tiny community had created a Greek Orthodox community in and around Franklin Street, where residential property was inexpensive. Their first religious service was held in the Holy Trinity Church Hall in 1929 and they continued to use the hall for important services and festivals. Ordinary services were held in Union Hall, Franklin Street.



(CD Ref 3964/19)

By 1936 the first Greek Orthodox church in South Australia was built and consecrated. The first priest, Father Germanos Iliou, came from Perth, having travelled around Australia to raise funds to build the church, getting 'a penny here and a penny there'.

The city's Greek community grew slowly from 211 in 1933 to 288 by 1947, then leapt with the influx of post-war immigrants, reaching 703 by 1954. Numbers stayed at that level until the early 1970s when many Greek families moved from the west end to the suburbs.

In 1957 a community hall was built beside the church. This was used as a venue for fund raising activities to build a larger church as the original church was by then too small for the congregation. The new church replaced the old in 1966. The architects were S. Psaltis, H. Tsakalidis, Michael Beltsos and John Lentakis. Athanasios Vardatsikos took two years to complete the exquisite icons which decorate the walls.

The new building reflects very closely the original design specifications. The brief suggested that the final building should not be dominated by adjoining buildings, should provide for the

Heritage of the City of Adelaide

seating of 500 people, draw from elements characteristic of Greek architecture (particularly Byzantine elements such as the dome, arch and circle), and closely relate the sanctuary to the nave so that the congregation would be close to the altar.

The church makes a positive contribution to the streetscape because of its scale and distinctive design including the bell tower.

ACA, *Annual report 1937-38*, p. 10; *Building and Architecture*, Vol. 6, no.4, June/July 1967 pp.20-5; Langmead, D.(ed), *Creed and* pp.20-5; Langmead, D.(ed), *Creed and architecture*, SAIT, 1970, pp.65-72; Marinakis, Father & Milton, H.G., Verbal information, 18 December 1985.

The text in this Information Sheet was copied from the **Heritage of the City of Adelaide: An Illustrated Guide**, (1996). The photographs contained in this Information Sheet are a selection of those held by Heritage Services, in digital format.

The property described in this Information Sheet is included in the Register of State Heritage places. A heritage listing does not mean or imply right of access by the public to such properties.

The heritage related Principles of Development Control as well as the Precinct specific objectives and Principles of Development Control are contained in the Adelaide (City) Development Plan. These should be referred to in whole when contemplating any development.

Further information on the Heritage Incentives Scheme, an initiative of Council to sponsor timely and appropriate conservation action is available upon request of the Customer Service Centre.



CITY OF ADELAIDE HERITAGE STUDY

The City Heritage Register - Definition of Items

Prepared by the Dept. of Planning and Development

Item	GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH AND BELL TOWER	Building No 5/2129
Address	282-288 Franklin Street 28-40 Grattan Street	CTs 4152/922-924

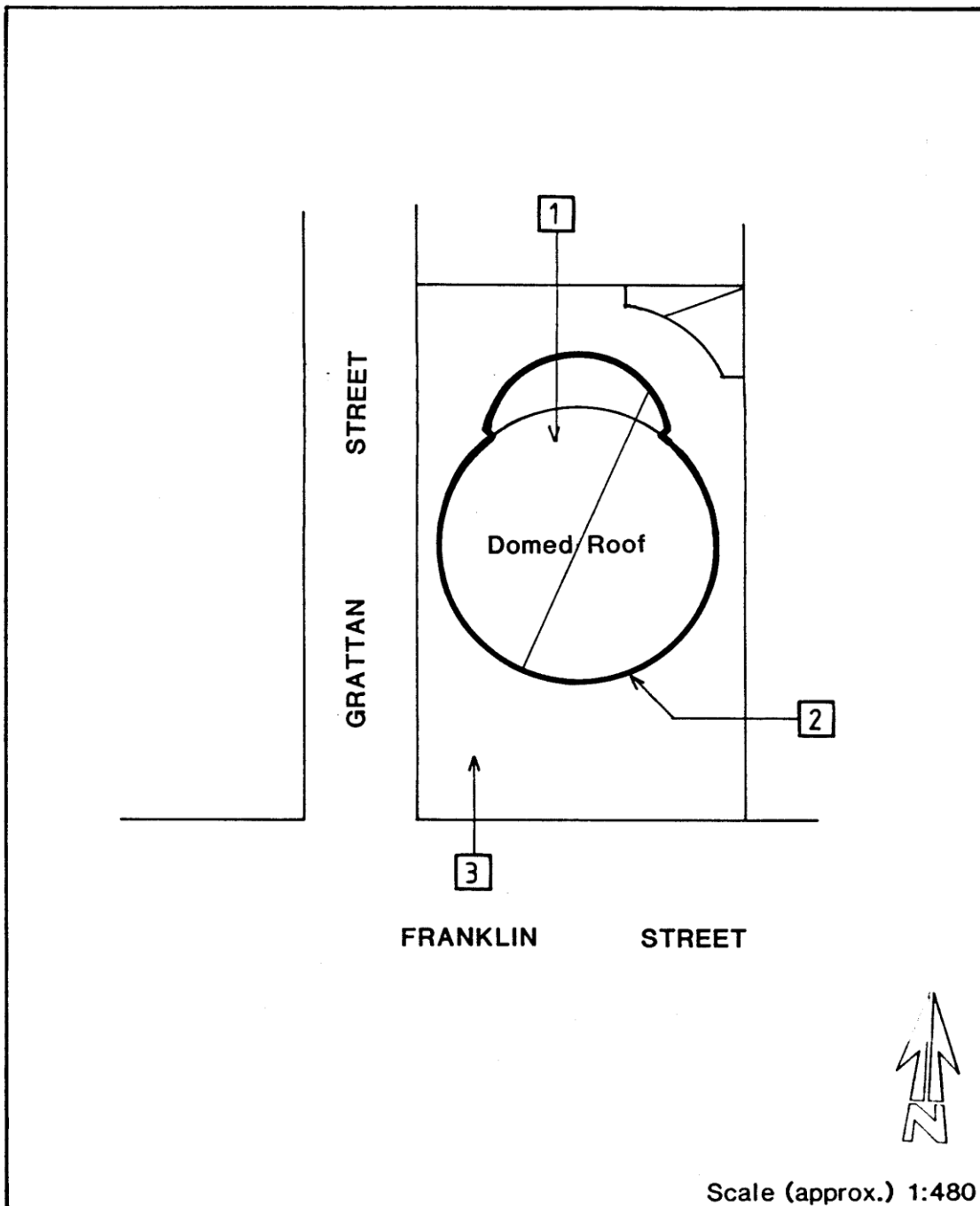


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NOTES:

1. Sheet metal roof cladding.
2. Brick construction with rendered concrete columns and arches.
3. Bell Tower.