



Russians and, when they arrived, they were no religious or social institutions to support them as they settled into a new country. The migration experience was a binding force within these groups and together they established, among other things, the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, to service the needs of the growing community. Religion had an important role during this settlement period because the church was an institution through which the new migrants could practice and maintain their traditional culture, values and language. Developing a united community was also important for social interaction and support and the church became a centre of stability for these migrant groups in the Australian society.

As many religious buildings in NSW, the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church is aesthetically distinctive in its streetscape. The facade of the church was altered in 1931 and replaced with an Inter-War Romanesque design, headed by an arched lead-light window over a triple arched doorway. However, although it has undergone some modification, the design and scale of the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church ensures the building maintains its prominent position in the streetscape and in the community.

The Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church has State significance for the important role it has played, and continues to play in the lives of the Orthodox community in Sydney. For the early migrants who knew very little of Australia, the church was significant in helping them to settle into the community while being a venue through which they could practice and sustain their traditional culture, values and language. Being the first Orthodox church established in Australia, the Holy Trinity Church represented a centre of stability in the lives of these new immigrants and provided a unified institution that could counter their feelings of social and cultural isolation. Today,

over 100 years since the early days of its establishment, the Holy Trinity Church continues to play an important role in the Greek-Australian experience by being a spiritual centre for Christian Orthodox worship in NSW. Although the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church was the first to be established in Australia it does not appear to have potential to reveal further information that would contribute to a great understanding of the site.

The church does, however, have a number of both decorative and practical artefacts that date from the period of construction. Further analysis of these items could provide insight into the origins of the church and the period in which it was built.

The presence of a number of Greek Orthodox Churches in Sydney and NSW ensures that the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church is not rare in NSW today. However, being a foundational church, it is uniquely significant. The Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church has State significance as a representative example of an Orthodox church in NSW. Holy Trinity, in itself, is a doctrine that underlines all theology and spirituality in the Orthodox faith and its foundation, on May 29th, is representative of the day the Byzantine Empire fell to the Ottoman Turks in 1453 (this is also the date that all Holy Trinity Churches in the world are founded).

Although the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church which was the first of its kind in Australia, it is representative of religious buildings in Sydney that were built to service the needs of the community. Churches have always played an integral role in the community as places where people can meet and sustain their social, cultural and religious practises. As well as this, the Holy Trinity Church is also significant for the role it has played in providing stability in the newly settled immigrant communities.

The church is in very good condition with a high degree of intact original fabric.

## The Greek Orthodox Church Foundation Stones Laid

In Sydney and the suburbs there are, it is estimated, about 200 Greek families. Some months ago the idea of obtaining a piece of ground and erecting thereon an edifice wherein members of the Greek Orthodox Church could worship according to the rites of that community was conceived, and expression having been given to it, the desired movement was set on foot and warmly taken up. A committee was formed, comprising Messrs D. Kouvarar (president), A. Zackary, S. Servitopoulos, J. Theodore, D. Kominos, A. Mellik, J.G. Malouf and P. Antonio (secretary) and a piece of ground at the corner of Ridge and Bourke streets having been secured steps were taken in relation to the erection of the church, Mr. C. R. Summerhayes, of Castlereagh Street, being engaged as the architect, and the structure is now being erected. The builder is that the edifice, which will be in the Byzantine style of architecture, of the period about 800 A.D. and will hold about 400, will be completed in eight or nine weeks. It will be the first edifice erected for the Greek Orthodox Church in Australia, but it may be mentioned that for some time past members of that community have not been without means of holding services, the use of St. James's Parish Hall, in Phillip street, having been granted to them for the purpose, the priest being Archimandrit Dorotheos Samios. Yesterday afternoon the ceremony of laying the foundation - stones of the new building was performed in the presence of a large number of spectators, among them being Messrs. Biard d' Aunet (Consul General for France), E. M. Paul (Consul for Russia), M. M. V. Maniachi (Greek Consul) C. A. Falstedt (Consul for Sweden) J.T. Tillock (Consul for Argentine Republic), G.E. Russell Jones, the Revs. Canon Sharp, W. I. Carr-Smith, C. S. Smith, F. J. Albery and many others.

The service was taken by the priest, who at one period wore a handsome white robe, bordered with gold and lined with bright yellow, whilst down the centre were four crosses and a blue ribbon was also observable. The service was, of course, in Greek. During the ceremony a small metal cross was once or twice held aloft, whilst at another time it was dropped into a silver vessel containing holy water. Subsequently a small bundle of herbs - or what appeared to be such was placed against the cross the two together being then dipped in the holy water. This was twice repeated. Incense was burnt.

The priest delivered an address in which he appealed to his hearers to be loyal to the colony, and acknowledge the sympathy which had been shown with the Greek people in the present undertaking.

The Greek Consul gave a speech in English, saying that that day they began to see the accomplishment of a long-felt want. Everyone could imagine what an amount of good would be delivered by those who believed in the Greek Church, which would teach their children to become good and loyal citizens under the hospitable Government of this colony - (applause) - the mother colony of the fifth continent. A year ago, Greece was driven into unfortunate circumstances, which might have been ruinous for the whole Greek nation but for the great help they met with from the three greatest Christian powers in the world - England, France and Russia - the promoters of Greek Independence in 1830, and in 1898 (applause). A week ago there passed away the greatest statesman of this century - (hear, hear) - William Ewart Gladstone (Applause). Greece by his death had sustained irreparable loss, as he was her father, protector and friend. (Applause). He must sincerely thank his Grace the Archbishop of Sydney for his kind wishes for the success of their undertaking - (applause) - his lordship the Bishop of Bathurst for his godly and noble words of appreciation of the great movement for the gradual drawing together in close ties of the Greek and Anglican churches - (applause) - as branches of the Holy Catholic Apostolic Church. (Applause). He was also indebted to many reverend gentlemen for their kind wishes. He might be permitted to thank those present for attending, and particularly the Rev. Carr - Smith for the untiring and valuable assistance which he had nobly rendered to them - (applause) - earning the respect of the entire Greek community (applause).

The Rev. W. I. Carr - Smith expressed his pleasure at being present, and said he felt quite sure many others would have attended had they not been occupied by their regular Sunday duties. The clergy who were present that day were following up the lead given to them at home in England by their archbishops and bishops in endeavouring to bring about more friendly relations between the Greek and Anglican Churches. (Applause). The Archbishop of York and other bishops of the English Church had from time to time in recent years visited countries where the Greek Church prevailed, and he was also thankful to say that distinguished ecclesiastics from the Greek Church had paid visits to England and received the most hearty and kindly welcome (applause).

Mr. P. Papadopoulos also delivered a speech, speaking in English.

The foundation - stones were afterwards laid by the Greek Consul, there being three - one at one corner, one at another, and the third between the two, where a marble altar will be placed. In each of the stones a small iron cross, a little bottle of holy water and silver coins were placed, both English and Greek money being used. There was subsequently a collection, and the silver salver on which the contributions were placed presented what must have been a very pleasing appearance to those who had the welfare of the movement at heart, there being a large accumulation of cheques, notes, gold, and silver amounting in all to 190 pounds, 19s 3d. 50 pounds was given by Mr. Z. Comino, 10 pounds by the Greek Consul, 10 pounds by Mr J. G. Malouf. 10 pounds by Mr D. Kouvaras. 10 pounds by Mr. ZAackary and 10 pounds by Messres Stanton, Meliok and Co. Prior to yesterday's ceremony about 390 pounds had been obtained. The contract price of the building is 600 pounds but to this has to be added the cost of the land, and expense will probably have to be incurred for various articles needed for the interior of the church so that a considerable sum has yet to be obtained.

A very conspicuous figure in the afternoon's proceedings was Mr John Chatjopoulo, who was attired in the uniform of the Queen of Greece's Regiment, to which he belonged during the late war.

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