

## ROMAN CATHOLIC CHAPEL

West Terrace Cemetery  
Off West Terrace

‘A building of this form, date (1870) and style is rare in Australia’. This was the opinion of the Australian Heritage Commission when including the Roman Catholic Chapel on the Register of the National Estate in 1978.

Built as a memorial to the Very Reverend John Smyth, the design by E.J. Woods was chosen as a result of a competition conducted by the Smyth Memorial Fund Committee in the latter part of 1870. The foundation stone was laid 18 December 1870 by the Venerable Archdeacon, Russell VG. The opening ceremony, in front of a large crowd, was held 22 October 1871.

Constructed by Peters and Jones for about £472 it is octagonal on a plan of 21 feet internal diameter with an open timber roof rising from each angle and surmounted by a bell turret. Built of bluestone with freestone dressings, each of the buttresses is surmounted with a carved gargoyle.

Born in Ireland in 1824, the Reverend J. Smyth arrived in Adelaide in 1853. He became a great favourite of the people, priests and bishop, becoming involved in missionary work at Port Adelaide. He was also responsible for a church being constructed there in 1858. In 1865 he was appointed administrator of the diocese of Adelaide and became vicar general in 1866. He died on 30 June 1870.

The Roman Catholic Chapel is at the north-western part of the West Terrace Cemetery. The cemetery was included in Colonel Light's plan of 1837 and initially comprised an oval area of 32 acres where approximately 137 246 burials have taken place since November 1837.

Australian Heritage Commission, Letter to K. Harris, 11 September 1978; *City of Adelaide Municipal Year Book*, 1971-72; Nicol, R., ‘The Adelaide public cemetery - West Terrace’ in *Historical Society of South Australia Newsletter*, No. 58, March 1985, ‘Tombstone territory’ in *History Teachers Association of NSW, Newsletter*, No. 4, 1977, ‘Death and burial in the colony of South Australia 1836-1901’, Ph.D thesis, Sydney University, 1986; *Observer*, 28 October 1871. *South Australian Register*, 1 July 1870; State Heritage Branch, *Cemeteries of South Australia*, 1988; *West Terrace Cemetery* (pamph.), 1979.

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*

## Heritage of the City of Adelaide

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*(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.*

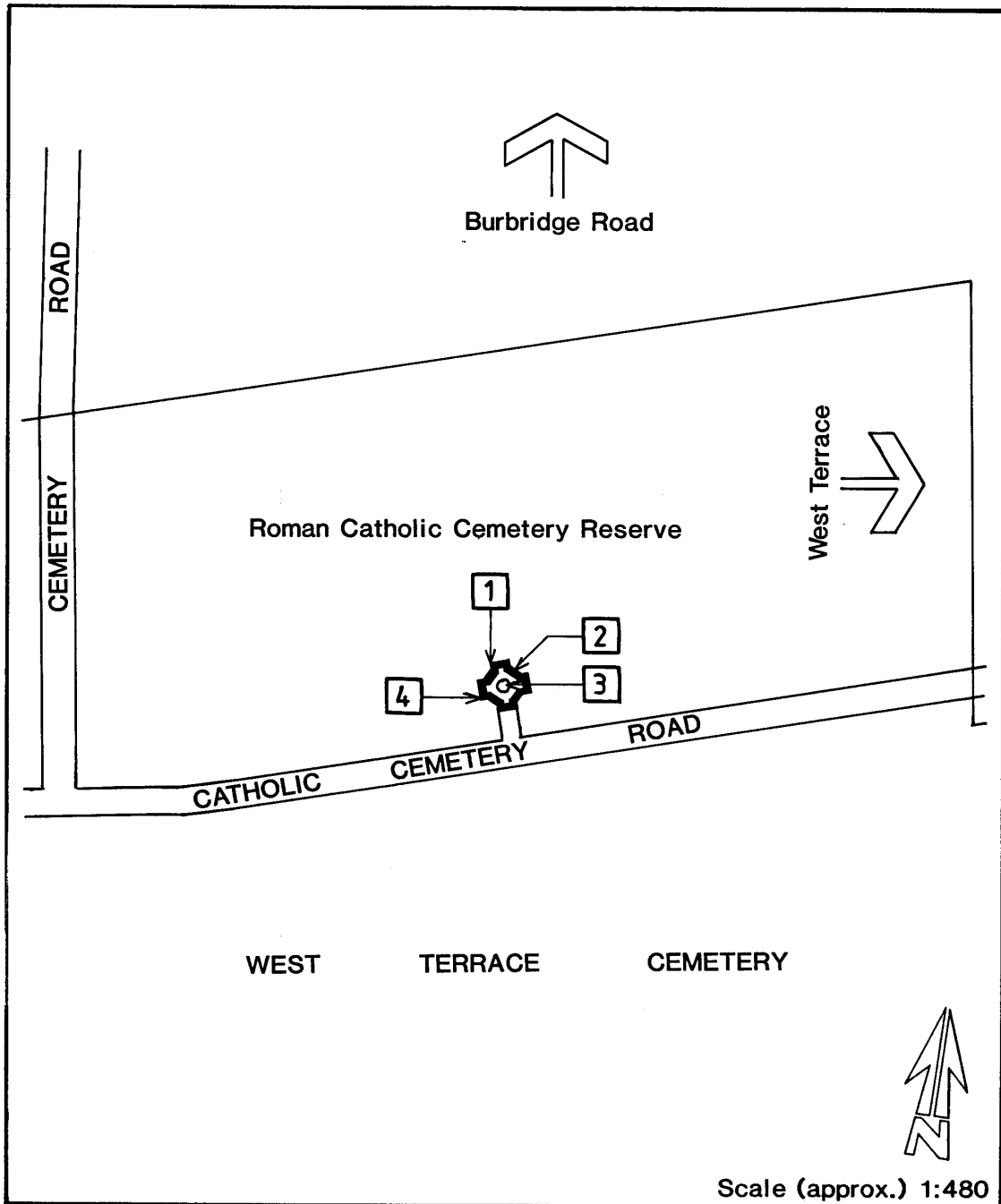


# CITY OF ADELAIDE HERITAGE STUDY

## The City Heritage Register - Definition of Items

Prepared by the Dept. of Planning and Development

|         |   |             |
|---------|---|-------------|
| Item    | ROMAN CATHOLIC CHAPEL                               | Building No |
| Address | West Terrace Cemetery (Pk. 23.05), off West Terrace | 230501      |



***Image scanned - not to stated scale.***

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### The City Heritage Register-Definition of Items

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Item ROMAN CATHOLIC CHAPEL

Building No  
230501

Address West Terrace Cemetery (Pk. 23.05), off West Terrace

#### NOTES:

1. Parapets.
2. Bluestone with sandstone detailing.
3. Spire.
4. Note: Gargoyles (many broken).