

St. Patrick Church
1853-74; 1906

Building History

St. Patrick's Church was the first Catholic church in the city and was built to serve an expanding population of Irish immigrants in Lowell during the mid 19th century. The current Gothic Revival granite church was built between 1853 and 1874, replacing a smaller wood-frame church built in 1831.

A major fire in 1904 necessitated the reconstruction of much of the gutted interior. St. Patrick's was designed by prominent architect Patrick Keely whose other Lowell works include the Immaculate Conception Church (140 East Merrimack Street; 1868), St. Michael's Church (543 Bridge Street, 1884-1900), and demolished St. Peter's Church (Gorham Street, 1892-1900).

Today, beyond a history of serving Irish and French parishioners, the parish offers native language pastoral care to communities of Hispanic, Vietnamese and Burmese Catholics. Over the past several years, the church has undertaken extensive restoration of the building including stained glass and pipe organ.



St. Patrick Church, ca. 1893 (Photo – Art Work of Lowell and Vicinity, 1893)