

# James Renwick Architectural Sketches of St. Patrick's Cathedral Collection

## **Historical Context:**

The Archives of the Archdiocese of New York houses numerous sketches of St. Patrick's Cathedral from its earliest stages of construction to its completion in 1879. A vast majority of the sketches are the work of architects James Renwick Jr. and William Rodrigue, and builders William Joyce and James Hall. Renwick's firm continued to work on the construction even after his death.

Important dates regarding the construction of St. Patrick's Cathedral:

1853: Archbishop John Hughes announces plan to build a new cathedral and James Renwick, Jr. is selected as the architect.

1858: Cornerstone is laid

1861-1865: Construction is halted during the Civil War

1879: Cathedral is formally open

1888: Spires are completed

1895: James Renwick Jr. dies

1900: construction begins on the Lady Chapel after a bequest from Eugene Kelly

1909: the Lady Chapel is completed

1910: the Cathedral is consecrated by Cardinal Farley

Additional renovations have been made since 1910 on the Cathedral, but do not correspond to the drawings found at the Archives.

## **About the collection:**

The sketches at the Archives predate the construction of the Lady Chapel in 1900. They are organized by type of sketch: the Cathedral, the Archbishop and Parish Houses, or Details. Additionally, there are two batches of sketches. The first is numbered 1 to 91. The second is numbered 1A to 50A, which corresponds to sketches that were found at the Cathedral in 1978. Sketches that have Renwick's signature or firm's stamp are noted in the list. The Archives'

collection of Renwick sketches is not complete as a number of them can be found at Columbia University ([http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/archival/collections/ldpd\\_3460567/](http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/archival/collections/ldpd_3460567/)).

**Inventory:**

Description	Sketch Number	Cathedral, Details, Archbishop house/Parish house, or Lady Chapel?	Date
Detail of Archbishop's House	1	Archbishop House/Parish House	
Excavation of Cellar of Archbishop's House Plan; interior	5	Archbishop House/Parish House	
Pencil Drawing of Archbishop's House Façade and Floor Plan; exterior	11	Archbishop House/Parish House	
Elevation of South East End Ink Drawing; exterior	12	Archbishop House/Parish House	
Unidentified Dimensioned Drawing, Probably Archbishop's House	14	Archbishop House/Parish House	
Ink drawing with blue and yellow watercolor of detail of window jamb of archbishop's house	53	Archbishop House/Parish House	
Pencil Studies of Archbishop's house	45	Archbishop House/Parish House	
Pencil Studies of Archbishop's house or Parish House	46	Archbishop House/Parish House	
Pencil drawings of Archbishop's House, dimensioned	47	Archbishop House/Parish House	
Ink drawing with blue watercolor of 51st street elevation of Parish House	48	Archbishop House/Parish House	
Pencil study of coupled window of parish house	49	Archbishop House/Parish House	
Blueprint of south elevation of parish house	59	Archbishop House/Parish House	

Blueprint of east elevation of parish house with dimensioned section	60	Archbishop House/Parish House	
Blueprint of north elevation of parish house	61	Archbishop House/Parish House	
Blueprint of north elevation of parish house	62	Archbishop House/Parish House	
Ink drawing of north elevation of parish house	63	Archbishop House/Parish House	
Two pencil drawings of east elevation of parish house	65	Archbishop House/Parish House	
Pencil and watercolor studies of door and window trim of Archbishop's house	66	Archbishop House/Parish House	
Ink drawing with watercolor detail of window jamb in Archbishop's house	71	Archbishop House/Parish House	
Surveyor's map of Parish House	77	Archbishop House/Parish House	Oct. 3, 1881
Ink drawing of dimensioned section of east elevation with watercolor of the parish house	64	Archbishop House/Parish House	
Ink and watercolor drawing of parish house south elevation	80	Archbishop House/Parish House	
Ink and watercolor drawing of parish house elevation on 51st Street	81	Archbishop House/Parish House	
Ink and watercolor drawing of parish house elevation on Madison Avenue	82	Archbishop House/Parish House	
Ink drawing of parish house rear elevation	83	Archbishop House/Parish House	
Ink and watercolor drawing of 1st storey of parish house	84	Archbishop House/Parish House	1882
Ink and watercolor drawing of fourth storey of parish house	85	Archbishop House/Parish House	1882

Ink and watercolor drawing of second storey of parish house	86	Archbishop House/Parish House	
Ink and watercolor drawing of basement of parish house	87	Archbishop House/Parish House	
Plan of South Elevation with South Tower; exterior	7	Cathedral	
Section of South Aisle and Star Pattern of Ceiling; interior	10	Cathedral	
Ink Drawing of the Cellar Area; interior	13	Cathedral	
Ink drawing of longitudinal section	19	Cathedral	
Dimensioned ink drawing, possibly plans of high altar and reredos; interior	20	Cathedral	
Ground Line Measurements of Building (not St. Patrick's)	2		
Dimensioned ink drawing, possibly plans of high altar and reredos; interior	21	Cathedral	
Ground Plan	8A	Cathedral	
Probable North or South Transept Entrance Design; exterior	6	Cathedral	
Pencil Drawings of the west front of cathedral, unidentified altar and miscellaneous	54	Cathedral	
Pencil study of south elevation	55	cathedral	
Pencil drawing of plan looking up to skylight opening to chapels	56	Cathedral	
ink drawing with watercolor of doors	57	Cathedral	
Ink drawing of pier plans	58	Cathedral	
Pencil drawing of unidentified altar with pinnacled canopy	67	Cathedral	
Early drawing of East End of Cathedral; flying buttresses shown	5A	Cathedral	
Dimensioned Ink Drawing of Transept; interior	15	Cathedral	
Ink and watercolor drawing of parts of spires including elevation, front elevation of an octagonal chamber of spire	88	Cathedral	

Unidentified Pencil and Watercolor Design, possibly a floor design; interior	3	Details	
Pencil drawing of probable plan of altar steps and peredos (high altar); interior	4	Details	
Section study of Altar Rail and Probable Altar; interior	8	Details	
Elevation of Stationary Frame	9	Details	
Ink drawing of two bays of nave arcade with additional unidentified sketch, possible floor plan; interior	17	Details	
Ink drawing of six aisle windows; interior	18	Details	
Ink drawing of pier base, dimensioned, with some pencil drawings of pier captials	25	Details	
Pencil drawing, unidentified	23	Details	
Ink drawing of transept pinnacle and side aisle pinnacle, two pier bases, plan showing clerestory sill and sill of clerestory window, mullion of clerestory window, sill mould of triforium and lower sill of triforium	24	Details	
Pencil drawing of one-half pier base	26	Details	
Specifications of pulpit written in ink on lined paper	27	Details	
Ink drawing of plan of pulpit	28	Details	
Pencil drawing of pulpit	29	Details	
Ink drawing of pulpit	30	Details	
Ink drawing of pulpit, steps and balustrade with pencil sketch of statue added at top of baluster	31	Details	
Ink drawing of pulpit	32	Details	
Ink drawing of partial pulpit stairway and partial balustrade	33	Details	

Ink drawing of pulpit and steps without balustrade	34	Details	
Ink drawing of floor plan of pulpit with water colors	35	Details	
Ink drawing of pulpit	36	Details	
Blueprint of plan of pulpit	37	Details	
Ink drawing of pulpit pasted on paper which is drawn base of pulpit and steps dimensioned from floor to platform	38	Details	
Red and black ink drawing of pulpit canopy	39	Details	
Ink drawing of pulpit	40	Details	
Pencil drawing of dimensioned girder with dimensioned section	69	Details	
Ink drawing of balustrade probably on roof	72	Details	
Ink drawing of pulpit	41	Details	
Blueprint with blue watercolor of pulpit	42	Details	
Blueprint: partial drawing of pulpit steps and balustrade (on left) and drawing of pulpit with steps without balustrade, dimensioned from floor to platform (on right)	43	Details	
Two dimensioned ink drawings with faded watercolor of tower door jambs	44	Details	
Pencil drawing of water spits of side aisle and chapel storey	50	Details	
Blueprint with watercolor of holy water well	51	Details	
Ink drawing of unidentified altar, possibly early study of high altar	52	Details	
Section through nave and one aisle showing wood and iron trusses in the former.	40A	Details	
Exterior door details	39A	Details	

Details presumed to be of frieze band at the side chapels along either side of nave	41A	Details	
Pipe joint sketch	43A	Details	
Window details; tracery	44A	Details	
Front window, center aisle	45A	Details	
Communion rail	23A	Details	
Communion rail of side altar	22A	Details	
column or collonette; Details of the bishop throne on high altar	46A	Details	
Tracery of side aisles, 4 windows	50A	Details	
Blueprint of pulpit	68	Details	
Red and black ink dimensioned drawing of elevation or girder	70	Details	
Ink and watercolor drawing, dimensioned, probably area of boiler room ceiling with dimensioned section and elevation	73	Details	
Four unidentified ink drawings including three arches	74	Details	
Pencil and watercolor design, possibly tiles of floor	75	Details	
Ink and watercolor drawings of three dimensioned sections of a building	76	Details	
The old box pews	25A	Details	
The old box pews	25B	Details	
Gable of Transept	12A	Details	
Ink and watercolor drawings of three plans for unidentified object (possibly pulpit)	78	Details	
Ink and watercolor drawing of double lancet window with tracery; also several unidentified designs on same drawing	79	Details	
Ink drawing of unidentified structure	89	Details	

Ink and watercolor drawing of unidentified plans (possibly pier columns)	90	Details	
Various unidentified fragments	91	Details	
Window tracery detail	6A	Details	
Detail plan of aspe; method of support for clerestory buttresses on east wall	11A	Details	
Section through nave showing elevation of aspe	9A	Details	
Bracket of steam metal full size for leaders	27A	Details	
Interior Details	32A	Details	
Altar Rail	33A	Details	
Boiler House	31A	Details	
Detail of niches flanking transept entrances on the inside	30A	Details	
Rose window in front	16A	Details	
Truss details in iron and wood; plan of crossing	15A	Details	
Unidentified wall section; carefully dimensioned throughout; rough sketch for a plan for a Lady Chapel on back	14A	Details	
Two pairs of doors	20A	Details	
Plan of organ gallery	19A	Details	
open wood stair; probably to organ gallery	21A	Details	
Window tracery detail	17A	Details	
Elevation of doors towards church	34A	Details	
Brackets of steam metal for leaders of cathedral	35A	Details	
Steps of the altar	28A	Details	
exterior details	29A	details	
Front door capital	26A	Details	
Tracery over central door	42A	Details	
leaders for cathedral	49A	Details	
Clerestory and sanctuary window; back and side	47A	Details	
Clestory and transept windows	48A	Details	



Pencil Drawing of East End Showing Lady Chapel and Chevet of Chapels	16	Cathedral	
Pencil drawing, possibly lady chapel	22	Cathedral	
Preliminary study for west front	3A	Cathedral	
Cathedral plan showing layout with proposed buttresses at East end	2A	Cathedral	
East end of Cathedral revised; Apse is given as built; flying buttresses not shown	10A	Cathedral	
Plan of east end of Cathedral; stalls are shown; high altar	13A	Cathedral	
Plan of Cathedral giving subject matter and makers names of the stained glass windows	36A	Cathedral	
Plan of Cathedral giving subject matter and makers names of the stained glass windows	37A	Cathedral	
Dimensioned outline of clerestory and nave	38A	Cathedral	
Design for Lady chapel; east and side elevations	18A	Cathedral	
Section through chancel showing high altar with hexagonal baldacchin, flying buttresses, and masonry vaults, and one detail of a lateral bay	4A	Cathedral	
Stalls of cathedral	24A	Cathedral	
Seating plan		Cathedral	
Mounted map showing parish boundaries of the Cathedral			1967
The Grand Fair at the Cathedral, Newspaper Image			1878
Mounted copy of the Grand Fair at the Cathedral, Newspaper Image			1878
The Grand Fair at the Cathedral, Newspaper Image			1878
Poster of St. Patrick's Day Parade, NY, NY by Kamil Kubik			
Copy of a painting by Nels Brosted; St. Patrick's, NYC 100 Year Celebration			1979
Sketches of Cathedral in folder with additional information (3 copies)			

<i>New York Morning Express</i> , August 16, 1858			1858
<i>The New York Times</i> , "Account of the Laying of the Cornerstone of St. Patrick's Cathedral," August 16, 1858			1858
<i>The Art Journal</i> , "New American Churches"			1876
<i>New York Herald</i> , "The Marble Temple. Solemn Dedication of St. Patrick's Cathedral Yesterday," May 26, 1879			1879
<i>Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper</i> , "Dedication of St. Patrick's Cathedral," June 5, 1879			1879
<i>New York Freeman's Journal and Catholic Register</i> , "Centenary of the Diocese of New York," June 20, 1908			1908
Federated Colored Catholics of the United States, photograph, on the steps of St. Patrick's Cathedral, September 4, 1932			1932
Poster for The Baroque Art of Minos Concert, December 5, 1981			1981
The Roman Catholic Cathedral of New York, with Grand Plan Inset, "Miss Helen Louisa Gibson, with Compliments of Jas. Renwick," Helio-type Printing Company			
Ground Floor Plan for Proposed Treasury			1988
Cellar Floor Plan for Proposed Treasury			1988
Cross Section for Proposed Treasury			1988
Longitudinal Section for Proposed Treasury			1988
Plant and Long Section for Proposed Treasury			1988
Plan and Section, West Section for Proposed Treasury			1988
Plan and Section, Middle Section for Proposed Treasury			1988
Plan and Section, East Section for Proposed Treasury			1988
Proposed addition under South Garden			1988

Partial Plan and Section, Left Third for Proposed Treasury			1988
Columns for Proposed Treasury			1988