

South
Australian
Heritage
Act
1978-80

HERITAGE SURVEY

ITEM IDENTIFICATION SHEET

PROJECT
HERITAGE SURVEY REGION 8

Item Ref. No. 42

ITEM NAME: Church of St. Stanislaus
Former or other Polish Hill River Church
Museum

Office Use
ITEM No.
DOCKET No.

HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The Church reflects the close-knit community established by Polish settlers in the area in the 1850s. The first group of Polish immigrants arrived in S.A. c. 1838, and another group, who arrived in 1844 moved to Sevenhill east, and developed a community which became known as Polish Hill.

The small Church-School was built 1869-70 and the completed Church was blessed 30 Nov. 1871. The first Polish priest, Fr. Leon Rogalski, arrived in 1870.

The architecture is vernacular, the congregation even made their own nails. The Church, and adjacent schoolroom (ruins) are made of roughly squared sandstone rubble walling. An underground well with a domed top is in front of the schoolroom.

The Church has been restored as a museum and the interior redecorated, to mark the centenary in 1971, by Wladyslaw Dutkiewicz.

LOCATION Address

Town Nr. Clare
Postcode 5453
Section 158
Hundred
County
L.G.A. Clare
S.H.P. Region 8
A.M.G. Ref. 6630-III
54 28480 624770

SUBJECT

2.2
2.5

PERIOD

State

Study Area

1869-84

REFERENCES

S.A. Archives, RN 126;
National Trust, 1235;
Northern Argus, 23 Feb. 1972, p.7;
Branson & Phillips, Clare & District Sketchbook, p.28;
Noye, Clare..., p.116

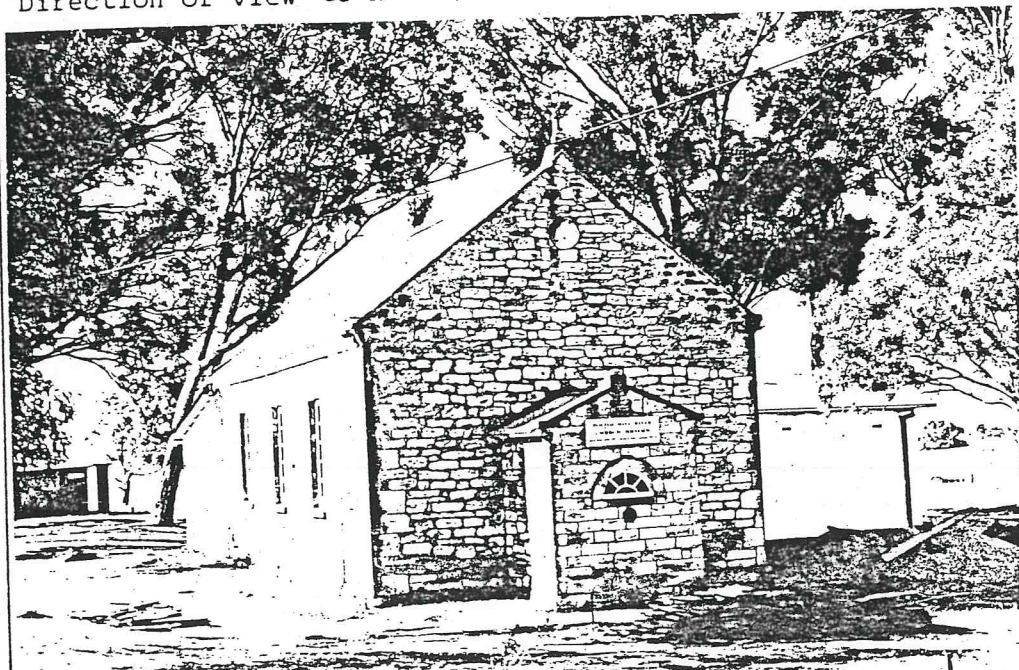
Herbal
Archival photographs H.C.B. Film 32

PHOTOGRAPH

Film No. 292

Negative No. 5

Direction of view to N



TYPE OF ITEM

LAND Natural feature ☐
Historical site ☐
Historical Gdn. ☐

BUILDING

STRUCTURE ☒

PHYSICAL CONDITION ☐

STATUS

Reg. of State Her. Items

Reg. ☒ Interim L ☐

Nominated ☐

National Estate

Reg. ☐ Proposed L ☐

National Trust

CL ☒ RL ☐ File ☐

Other

S.A. Highways Dept. ☐

Instit. of Engineers ☐

RECOMMENDATION

(A) State ☒ (B) Local ☐

PREPARED BY

HERITAGE INVESTIGATIONS

Date: 1981

ST STANISLAUS, POLISH HILL RIVER

In the middle of the nineteenth century thousands of people emigrated to other parts of the world from Europe, and large numbers from Poland came to South Australia. Many of them settled around Adelaide, Tanunda, Sevenhill, and Hill River. The last of these districts soon became known as Polish Hill River when additional Polish families from Tanunda commenced farming there.

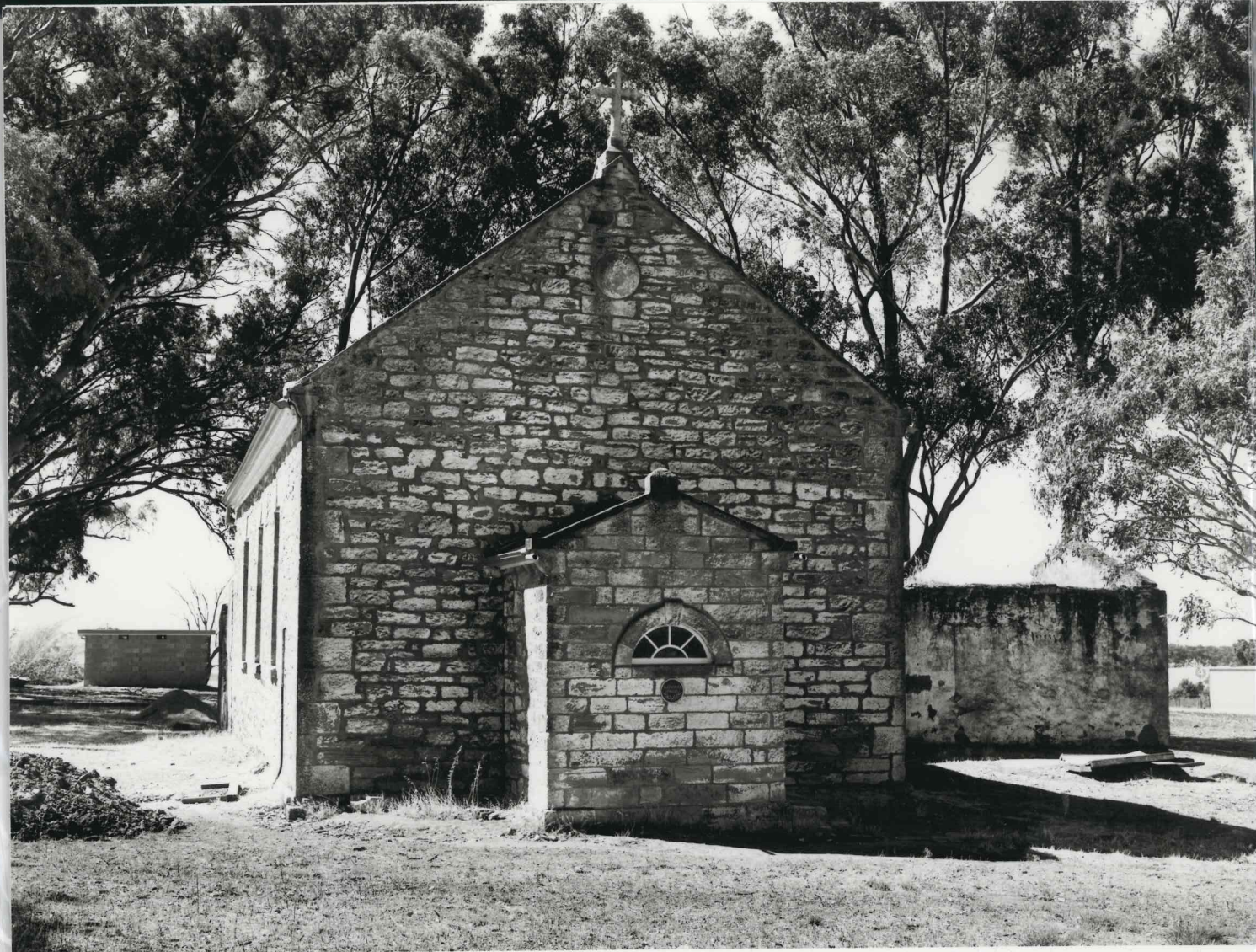
These Poles were Catholic and attended St Aloysius at Sevenhill, but the tracks to the church were rough and the services conducted in German and English, so the Polish Catholics pressed for a priest from their own country. In 1870 Father Leon Rogalski came to Sevenhill and preached his sermons in Polish. Father Rogalski realised that his parishioners, especially the children, had been educationally and spiritually neglected. At Polish Hill River he built a wooden chapel and attended there regularly. A lay teacher was appointed for the twenty children until the Sisters of St Joseph took over the teaching in 1876.

The church-school lay empty for many years. At the centenary of the establishment of the chapel the Polish community of South Australia decided to restore the building and raised money for this purpose. A new roof was necessary and the windows had been broken but, apart from the ravages of time, the church is now in its original condition. The interior is being redecorated by Wladyslaw Dutkiewicz, the well-known Adelaide artist.

Thus others of this nationality have endorsed the success of Father Rogalski, whose motivation was stated in the conclusion of his first annual report, dated 30 January 1871:

Such is the work which the Omnipotent Most Excellent God entrusted to His unworthy servant for His greater glory and for the salvation of the people.





FILM 32 CHURCH OF STANISLAW, POLISH HILL RIVER
NO 9

CLARE
31-1-79



FILM 32
NO 10

CHURCH OF STANISLAV, POLISH HILL RIVER

CLARE
31-1-79



