

South Australian Heritage Act 1978-80	HERITAGE SURVEY ITEM IDENTIFICATION SHEET	PROJECT HERITAGE SURVEY REGION 8 Item Ref. No. 56
	ITEM NAME: Former Stanley Grammar School Former or other Coles Grammar School	Office Use ITEM No. DOCKET No.
HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE <p>This was a widely renowned private school. It was established in 1858 by Joseph Stear Carlyon Cole, who first came to live in Penwortham in 1855. He then became a schoolmaster in Auburn, resigning to build his school, for the 'advanced education of boys'. Up to 60 boarders lived there. The present building started 1863. The school closed in 1904 when Cole died.</p> <p>The cottage next door always belonged to the school, on school land, but the loft nearby belonged to the adjacent shop, which used it as a store; most Penwortham/Watervale boys went to the school as well as many from other parts, and who later became well-known citizens. Girls went to Penwortham School.</p> <p>The building is significant both as one of the earliest and best grammar schools and for its architectural merit. The present building was erected in 1863 (the first 6 rooms), there were numerous additions, including a dining room in 1871; in 1884 a new schoolroom and dormitories.</p> <p>The mason was Whitehead, the carpenter C.D. Rowland.</p>		LOCATION Address Commercial Rd., Town Watervale Postcode Section 146 Hundred Upper Wakefield County Stanley L.G.A. Saddleworth & Auburn S.H.P. Region 8 A.M.G. Ref. 6630-III 54 28220 623950 SUBJECT 2.1 2.6 4.10 PERIOD State Study Area 1855-68; 1869-84
REFERENCES Moyle, <u>The Wakefield...</u> , pp.38-40; Phillips & Branson, pp.10-11; AA 12 Jan 1980, 22; S.A. Archives, 1384/50A; <u>The Stanley Grammar School, Watervale</u> (Adel. 1951) Verbal Ian Sanders, Geraldine Pearce, 1982 Archival photographs Ian Sanders		TYPE OF ITEM LAND Natural feature <input type="checkbox"/> Historical site <input type="checkbox"/> Historical Gdn. <input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE <input type="checkbox"/> PHYSICAL CONDITION Good
PHOTOGRAPH Noye, <u>Clare: a district history</u> , p.193		STATUS Reg. of State Her. Items Reg. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interim L <input type="checkbox"/> Nominated <input type="checkbox"/> National Estate Reg. <input type="checkbox"/> Proposed L <input type="checkbox"/> National Trust CL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RL <input type="checkbox"/> File <input type="checkbox"/> Other S.A. Highways Dept. <input type="checkbox"/> Instit. of Engineers <input type="checkbox"/>
		RECOMMENDATION (A) State <input type="checkbox"/> (B) Local <input type="checkbox"/> PREPARED BY HERITAGE INVESTIGATIONS Date: 1982

Heritage
Act
1978-80

ITEM IDENTIFICATION SHEET

Item Ref. No. 57

ITEM NAME: Watervale Primary School
Former or other

Office Use
ITEM No.
DOCKET No.

HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The original building dates from 10th May, 1858 (according to Treloar's diary).

J.S.C. Cole, who soon afterwards established the Stanley Grammar School (see separate sheet) was the first teacher. The school building is illustrated in an early 1860s water-colour painting held by Geraldine Pearce, showing it to have changed very little since then.

LOCATION

Address Commercial Road
Town Watervale
Postcode
Section 146
Hundred Upper Wakefield
County
L.G.A. Saddleworth & Auburn
S.H.P. Region 8
A.M.G. Ref. 6630-III
54 28220 623940

SUBJECT

2.6

PERIOD

State

Study Area

1855-68

REFERENCES

S.A. Archives, Research Note 324;
Research Note 326;
"Land cruises to Watervale", (n.p.);
Francis Treloar's diary (in possession of Geraldine Pearce)

TYPE OF ITEM

LAND Natural feature ☐
Historical site ☐
Historical Gdn. ☐

BUILDING ☒

STRUCTURE ☐

PHYSICAL CONDITION ☐

Verbal Geraldine Pearce, 1982
Archival photographs "Land Cruises to Watervale", (1938)

PHOTOGRAPH

Film No. 268

Negative No. 14

Direction of view to W



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: 1982

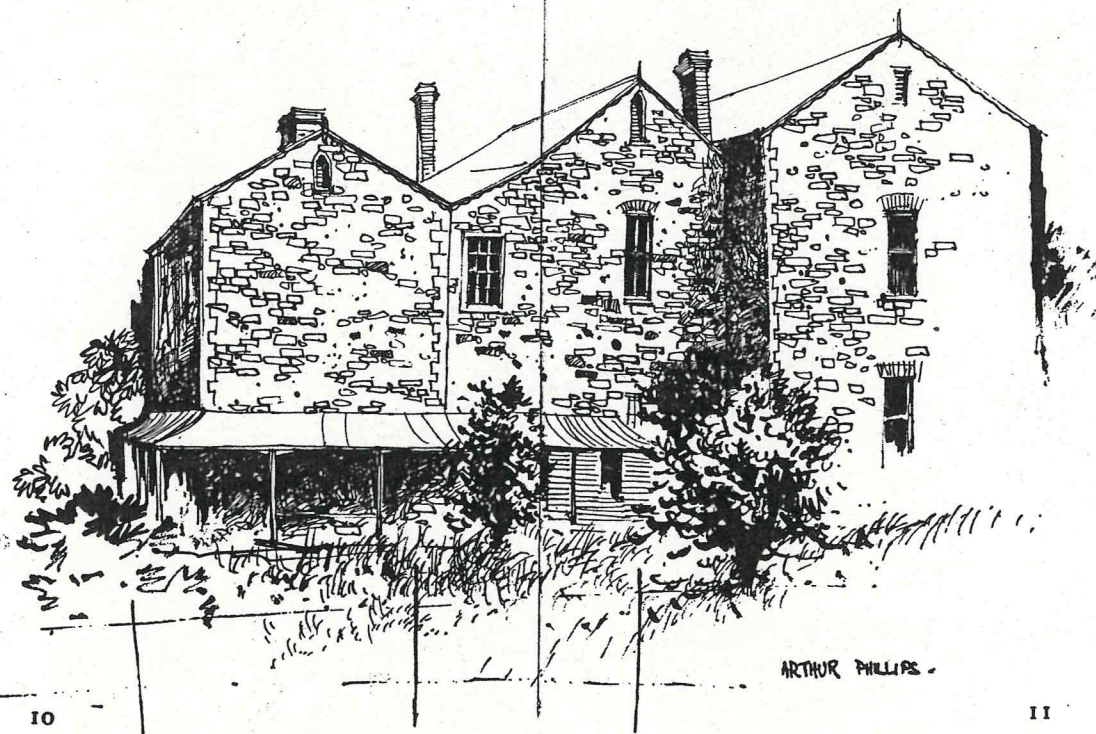
STANLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL, WATERVALE

Joseph Stear Carlyon Cole was an educationist who could be said to wear two hats. In 1856 the school at Auburn was opened and Cole became headmaster. He also took office as Clerk of the local court and the first Clerk of the Upper Wakefield District Council.

For a short time in 1858 he became a master at Pulteney Grammar School but soon returned to start a school in the Watervale Bible Christian Chapel. When the Watervale School was established in 1861, Cole was appointed the first headmaster. While in Adelaide he had become engaged to a Miss Peacock, whom he married in Watervale in 1862.

Joseph Cole then donned his other hat. Next door to the Watervale School he founded the Stanley Grammar School. He was recognised as a stern disciplinarian but a fine teacher, and his own school came to rank among the best educational institutions in South Australia. Originally it consisted of six rooms but proved so successful that an additional storey was added. The school attracted a daily attendance of fifty boarders and day scholars, many of whom later distinguished themselves in all walks of life. Soon more rooms were needed and Cole was forced to resign from the public school to devote all his attention to his private school.

In Stanley Grammar, slates from the Mintaro quarry were used for table tops and the flagstone floors of the dining-room and verandahs were laid in the same material. It is little wonder therefore that the students complained of the cold in winter.



Plea to preserve old school ties

A step through the heavy front door of the century-old Stanley Grammar School at Watervale is a step back to the time when pupils wrote on slate, raised their caps in greeting and addressed all adults as "Sir" or "Madam."

And just as they made their mark on the walls and window ledges of the stone Georgian-style building, many of those pupils went on to become SA's leading legal men, winemakers, parliamentarians, businessmen and academics.

Like the Sobels family, responsible for the Quelltaler winery at Watervale, Six Sobels graced the dormitories of the school between 1881 and 1902, and the small, neat signature of Emile Sobels is still pencilled on the plaster of the fireplace in the huge, airy schoolroom.

And young Hurtle Kidman, son of Sir Sidney Kidman "the cattle king" who attended Stanley Grammar in 1897.

There were other eventual landowners, too — Thomas Ashby; John Collins, who founded the famous Collinsville stud; the Martin brothers and the Patersons—big sheep and wheat farmers respectively.

David Shearer, who went on to be a farm implement maker, Sir John Duncan, Sir Walter Duncan and Sir David Gordon, who were all prominent parliamentarians, also attended the school.

But today the old building faces a crisis. Its old walls are starting to crumble.

Its owner, Ian Sanders, who bought it a year ago, has started a rescue attempt, but without financial help he is finding the task beyond him.

The school was founded in 1857 by a dynamo called Joseph Stear Carlyon Cole, an extraordinary man who was its sole headmaster. He taught there until he was 74.

When he retired in 1904 the school closed.

He had received the best of educations, having been thoroughly grounded in mathematics, physics, chemistry, law and English.

ANGELA BIVEN talked to Ian Sanders, owner of the old Stanley Grammar School, about the problems of rescuing the famous structure from decay.

and a student at Stanley was no doubt inspired by Cole's love of law.

And Edward Wigg, founder of E. S. Wigg & Sons, possibly realised the need for stationery in the developing colony while he was there.

On arriving in Auburn, J. S. C. Cole quickly became thoroughly involved in the district. He was appointed headmaster of the school, expanding it significantly. He was clerk of the Local Court and clerk of the Upper Wakefield District Council.

He was also secretary of the Odd-fellows, curator of the cemetery and a district correspondent for the "Register" — all of which kept him busy; but his ambition was to open his own school.

After teaching for a short time in Adelaide, he set up in a church hall in Watervale in 1857. That was the beginning of Stanley Grammar.

Three years later the first stage of the present building had been completed. Cole had designed it and ensured that each cornerstone was engraved with Roman numerals so they could be matched and locked into the correct place.

His pride was the schoolroom across the front of the building.

With its spilt balls still clinging today to the panelled-pine ceiling, it is easy to imagine 60 pupils chanting their multiplication tables while Cole supervised them from the raised platform along one side.

Cole boasted proudly in a school prospectus of the room's dimensions and facilities:

"The Principal Schoolroom is 60 x 22 feet, and 15 feet in height... The whole brilliantly lit at night by Messrs. Young & Smith's Patent Sunlight Lamps."

And those lamps were needed because from Monday to Thursday there was Evening School for students in the Upper Division.

Although the day started with assembly, inspection and marching into the classroom, at 9 a.m., evening lessons continued until 8.45 p.m.

Admittedly there was a break in lessons between 3.55 p.m. and 7 p.m., but judging from written accounts of the school's routine, the energetic

nastics and wrestling matches in a rosemary-hedged arena.

The largely country clientele of the school, which included students from as far away as Kalgoorlie, WA, no doubt approved of the fact that it was set in "about 30 acres suitably planted and enclosed as Recreation grounds for the students."

The school was, in fact, almost self-supporting, with students taking a part in growing and picking fruit and vegetables.

Cole also boasted about the health record of the school. In a time when there were few sure-fire cures for illness, it was a considerable feat that "not a single death has ever occurred" — and that despite the almost vertical stairs to the five upstairs dormitories.

Both boys and girls attended the school, but the latter were well in the minority.

Rules were stringent:

"All talking in school strictly prohibited except about the work in hand. Penalty — 20 to 200 lines.

"When you meet any of the teachers of the school salute them by raising cap. Penalty — Loss of respect.

"Boys must be respectful and deferential to the neighbors, and never annoy them by word or act. Penalty — 100 to 1000 lines.

"No boy must use strong, vulgar, or obscene language, or be guilty of any kind of lewdness. Heavy written penalty or corporal punishment, or possible expulsion."

That Cole would even resort to corporal punishment indicated the seriousness of this rule, for he had firm ideas about what education should achieve.

His emphasis was on utilitarian, practical lessons "to make not learned but intelligent, self-reliant, ready business men," and a good grounding in idealism and aesthetics "to widen the grasp and elevate the glance."

"Education by the lash will not be attempted, corporal punishment being regarded as derogatory to the dignity, and inimical to the progress of a rational nature," he wrote.

His philosophy is expressed in Latin on the old school's noticeboard hanging in the dining-hall cum laboratory

The inscriptions read: "Without learning, life to man is death" and "Let the boy so learn so that he may teach" — mottoes that no doubt helped Stanley Grammar to be regarded as one of the best educational institutions in the colony.

The old school now is on the brink of a new era. Since it closed it has had a long history of owners who variously abused or treasured it.

Ian Sanders has plans to restore the building to soundness and authenticity. He has replaced wiring and plumbing, and fixed roof leaks.

He also wants to replace cedar skirtings which were ripped from the walls by previous tenants, and intends to have the schoolroom walls, which had been chipped away, replastered.

However, the thousands of copper-plate signatures of the school's pupils can never be replaced.

Ian Sanders also has started the long task of tracking down the school's original furnishings which were auctioned off about 15 years ago.

Only one of the slate-topped dining tables remains, along with Cole's desk and the noticeboard.

The building, which on the outside is as picturesque as it ever was, is classified "A" by the National Trust, meaning that it is "essential to the heritage of Australia and should be preserved."

However, the sad thing about Stanley Grammar, and what might jeopardise even its survival, is that, despite assurances by the Australian Heritage Commission that the building would be listed for protection, it was not included on the commission's August listing.

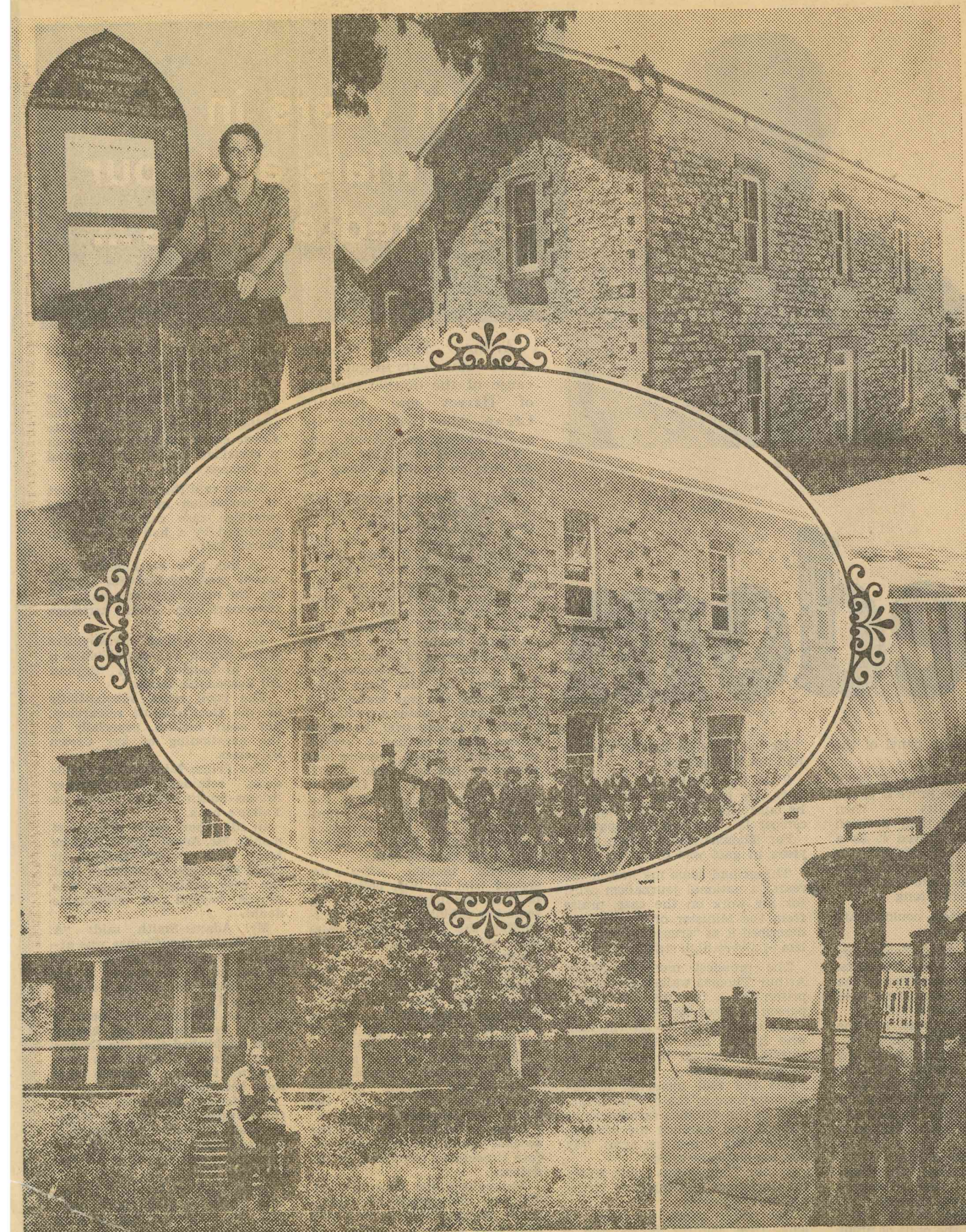
This, according to Ian Sanders, means the building is ineligible for funding — and funding, according to the commission's architect, is urgently needed to provide drainage to prevent further deterioration of the schoolroom walls.

The commission has power to prevent desecration of buildings of importance.

"Even if the commission can't supply funds for this building, it should be included on the Heritage list," Ian Sanders says.

However, the funding is doubtless important, too.

Although in 1861 the school's total cost of £4000 was originally raised from the property's earnings, there is not much hope that today the cost of repairs, perhaps amounting to \$5000,



Top left: Ian Sanders beside the original school noticeboard and headmaster's lectern. Top right: The school building in 1857. Bottom right: The school building in 1897.





FILM 29
No 1

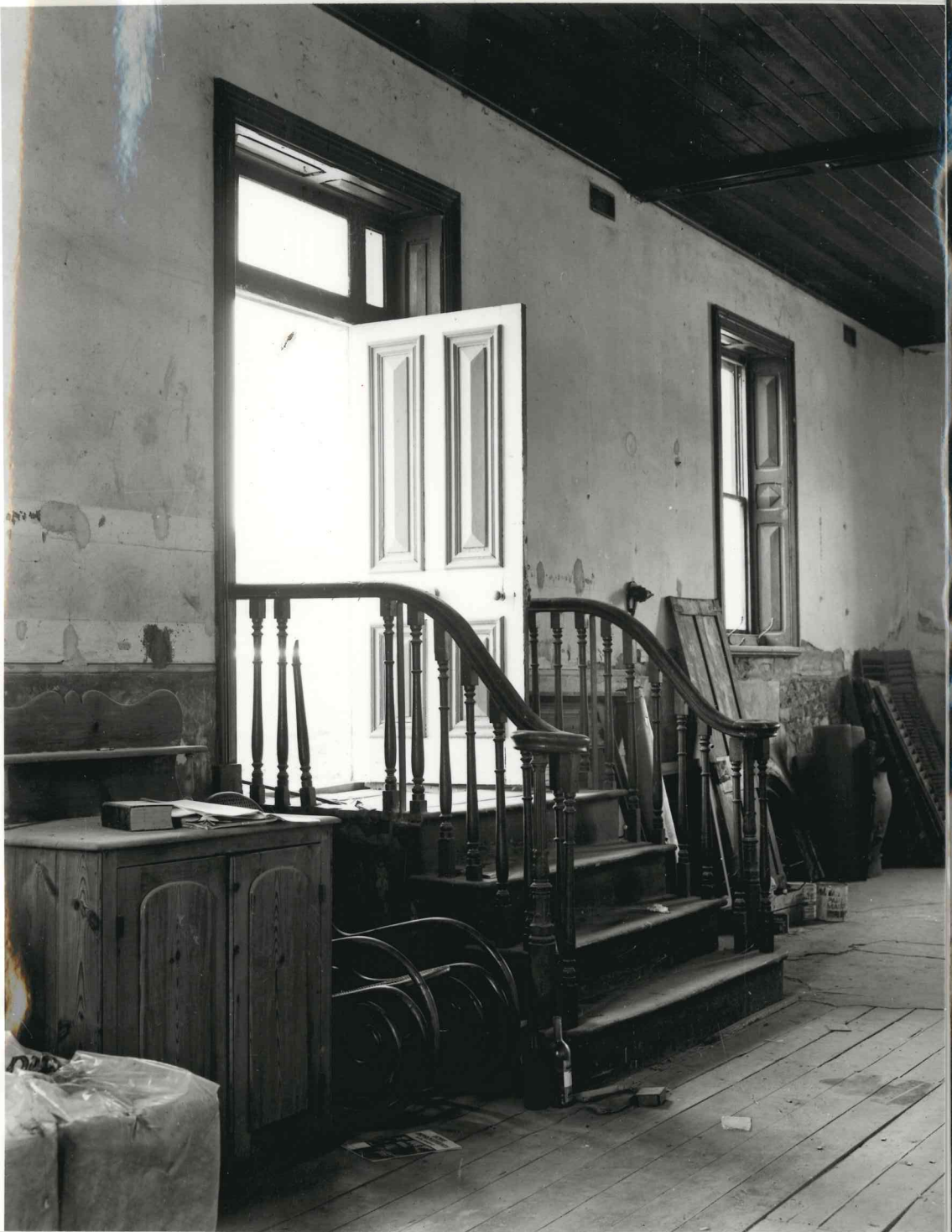
FORMER COLES GRAMMAR SCHOOL FROM SOUTH

WATERVALE
31-1-79

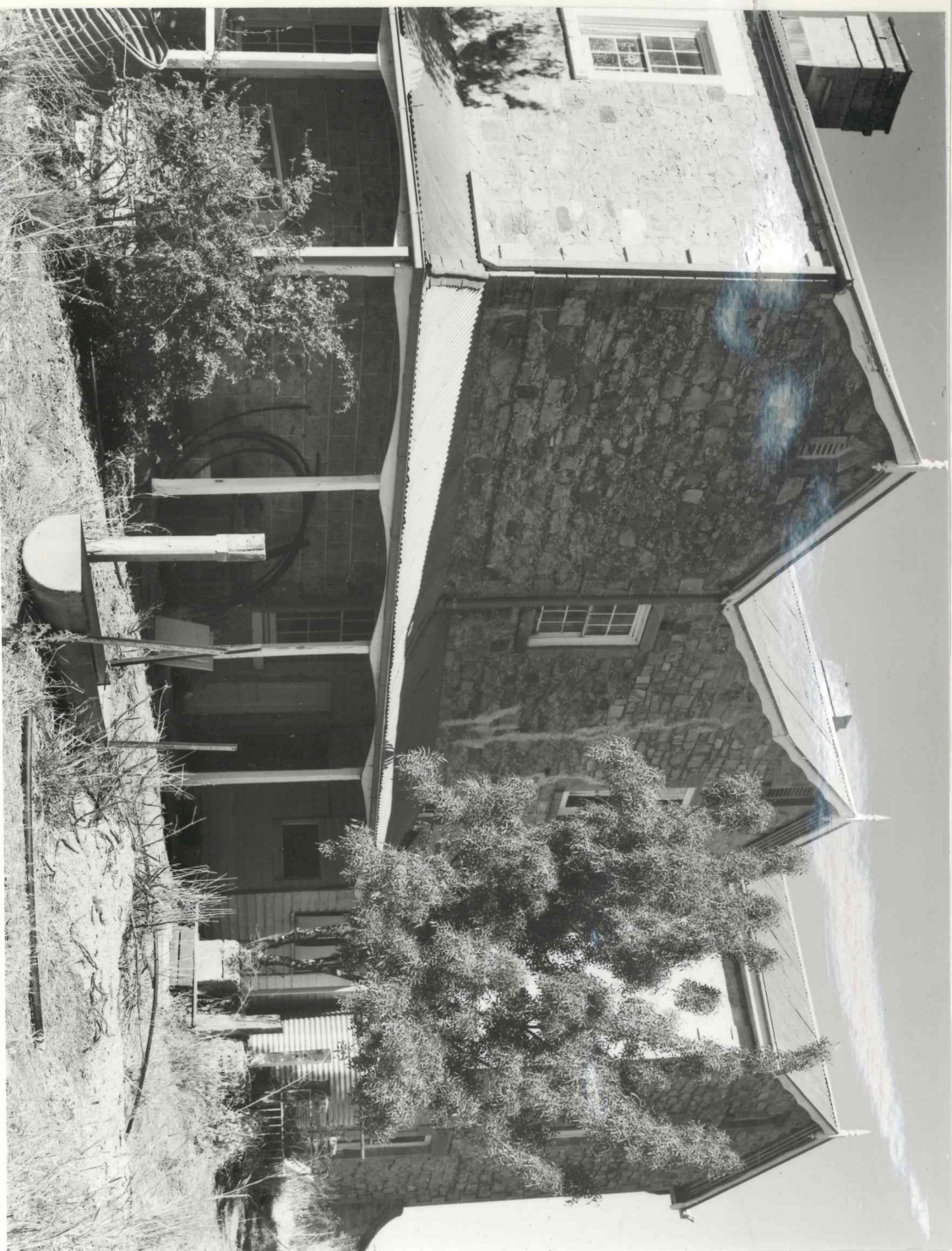


FILM 29 FORMER COLES GRAMMAR SCHOOL, DETAIL
No 3 SOUTH WEST CORNER

WATERVALE
31-1-79



FILM 29 FORMER COLES GRAMMAR SCHOOL, INTERIOR WATERVALE
 NO 6 OF MAIN COMMERCIAL RD. DOORWAY 31-1-79



FILM 29 FORMER COLES GRAMMAR SCHOOL FROM WATERVALE
 NO 5 NORTH EAST 31-1-79