SA Heritage Register

Nomination form

South Australian
HERITAGE COUNCIL

To help your nomination be successful, please fill out this form with as much information as possible.
Feel free to expand the answer fields as much as you require or append information to the form.

Please note that places which have been nominated during past three years will not be reconsidered by the South Australian Heritage Council unless you can provide significant new information not provided through the previous nomination and assessment.

For assistance with this form you may contact:
Your local historical society or heritage adviser may be of assistance OR you may telephone an assessment officer in Heritage South Australia on (08) 8124 4960.

A. Nominated Place

1. Name	
Name of Place / Object:	Original Settlement of Blumberg
Any other or former name(s):	
Is the place already on another heritage list?	No

2. Location					
Street Address:	Lot 16 DP13143 Torrens Valley Road				
	Suburb / Town: Birdwood			Post Code: 5234	
Local Council Name:	Adelaide Hills Council				
Land Description: (if known)	Title:	Volume:	Folio:	Parcel Type:	Parcel No:
	Plan Type:	Plan No:	Section:	Hundred:	
GPS Location/s: (If known)	Longitude / Easting / X		Latitude / Northing / Y (Datum =)		

3. Ownership	
Name of Owner(s):	
Contact person: (if different from owner explain relationship)	
Postal Address:	
Phone Number:	
Ownership History:	

4. Nominator (your details)	
Your Name/s:	
Organisation/Position:	
Daytime Phone:	
Fax:	
Postal Address:	

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Email Address:	

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B. Description

5. Description of nominated place or object	
Description of the nominated place or object and its current condition:	There are several items of historical significance located on this parcel of land and neighbouring properties. **1. The Ruins of the Travellers Inn (stables still standing)** **2. Remains of Christoph Krueger's House (an Elder of the first Lutheran Church, Blumberg)** **3. Remains of a swing bridge over the River Torrens** **4. The site of the original Lutheran Church at Blumberg** **5. A cemetery containing the remains of the first settlers of Birdwood (10 names are identified on a plaque in the location)**
Are you aware of any modifications or additions to the place or object? Can you provide dates for these changes?	No
Do you believe there may be historical items under the ground? Should an archaeological investigation be considered?	Yes, there is a high chance that other ruins or artifacts could be located in the area as this is believed, by locals, to be the site of the first settlement of the town of Blumberg.
Date you inspected the place or object:	October 2020
Have you had any contact with the Owner?	No
Current use of the place or object:	Primary Production on Watershed land – sheep are currently run on the property.
Original or former use(s):	
Are there any current or long term threats to the nominated place or object?	Yes. A solar station has just been approved by the Adelaide Hills Council to be built on the land.
Name of Builder:	Tetris Energy Pty Ltd
Any other information:	Development Application Number 20/530/473 78 oppositions were sent to council to oppose the development. A Council Assessment Panel meeting occurred on 21st October 2020 and approval was granted from the panel for the build to go ahead. Although major concerns for the heritage importance of this land were raised, the CAP stated that they were not listed as state or local heritage places and so this argument carried little weight.

C. History

6. Origins and history	
Years of Construction:	**Start:** Approx 1845 **Finish:**
Name of Designer / Architect:	First German Settlers of Blumberg

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History of the nominated place or object:	I have attached a document of a heritage survey carried out for the South Australian Department of Environment and Planning by the South Australian Centre for Settlement Studies in 1984. This document contains the information we currently are aware of about the multiple locations.
Historical sources used to support your nomination: Please attach copies of pages from publications or newspaper articles as appropriate.	Heritage survey carried out for the South Australian Department of Environment and Planning by the South Australian Centre for Settlement Studies in 1984. Australian Historical Archaeology, 3, 1985, Gordon Young, page 46

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D. Heritage Significance

7. Statement of State Significance - Why is the place or object important to South Australia?
These places are of state significance because it is believed to be the location of the first settlement of Blumberg (Birdwood). This town was settled in the mid 1840s by the second wave of German immigrants. Along with their brilliant workmanship, they brought with them their strong Lutheran faith. I believe the stables that currently exist (as a part of the original inn) could be an example of the workmanship of these early German settlers. Christoph Krueger was an elder of the first Lutheran Church at Blumberg and there is a plaque indicating the remains of his house. The cemetery contains the remains of 10 first German settlers, the first burial being of 7 year old Juliane Huebner in 1848. When viewing all items on a map, it is clear to see the connection between all items of this small settlement. These places can also be linked to the placement of the current Lutheran Church as this has been built in close proximity to the settlement.

8. Significance Criteria		
The South Australian *Heritage Places Act 1993* lists seven criteria by which places are assessed as 'State significant.' Please tick the criteria you feel the place demonstrates and explain your reasons.		
☒	**It demonstrates important aspects of the evolution or pattern of the State's history.**	The Germans that settled in Birdwood were second/third wave settlers from North West Germany (not East Germany like other settlements in the area) and brought with them a different way of farming. This is quite different to the way of farming that had originally occurred with German settlement in neighbouring areas. In Blumberg, farming land was much larger and settlements more spread out. This parcel of land continues to be owned by a member of the Rathjen family. Although the change in way of farming occurred, this site still demonstrates the importance of the Lutheran faith to the people who settled here.
☐	**It has rare, uncommon or endangered qualities that are of cultural significance.**	
☐	**It may yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the State's history, including its natural history.**	
☐	**It is an outstanding representative of a particular class of places of cultural significance.**	
☐	**It demonstrates a high degree of creative, aesthetic or technical accomplishment or is an outstanding representative of particular construction techniques or design characteristics.**	

☐	**It has strong cultural or spiritual associations for the community or a group within it.**
☐	**It has a special association with the life or work of a person or organisation or an event of historical importance.**

E. Additional Information

9. Images/Maps/Diagrams/Site Plans

A full range of images including maps, site plans, and photographs will help your nomination.
Please provide:

- a clear outline of the place or object being nominated within any maps or plans provided
- high quality images of the place or object (please list the total number of images being provided)
- the subject of each image
- the date each image was created
- the author of each image, and
- the copyright holder of each image (if known)

Paste images here:

I will send evidence in a separate file. All images were taken/created in October 2020.

Photo 1 – Satellite image of the entire area. Created by Bianca Laister
Photo 2 – Satellite image of each item identified. Created by Bianca Laister
Photo 3 – Photo of cemetery aspect. Taken by Tricia Hood
Photo 4 – Photo of cemetery. Taken by Tricia Hood
Photo 5 – Photo of cemetery plaque with names and dates. Taken by Tricia Hood
Photo 6 – Photo of remains of first Lutheran Church. Taken by Tricia Hood
Photo 7 – Photo of plaque identifying remains of first Lutheran Church. Taken by Tricia Hood
Photo 8 – Photo of plaque identifying Christoph Krueger's house remains. Taken by Tricia Hood
Photos 9 – 13 Photos of text taken from Heritage Survey carried out by the South Australian Department of Environment and Planning by the South Australian Centre for Settlement Studies 1984. Provided by Liesa Lombard.
Document – Australian Historical Archaeology, 3, 1985, Gordon Young, page 46

South Australian HERITAGE COUNCIL

The South Australian Heritage Council is committed to transparency in relation to the listing process and wishes to enhance public confidence in the nomination, listing and decision-making process. The Council's policy is to make nominations for State heritage listing and submissions on provisional entries publicly available via webpage or to interested parties. The Council will adhere to the Privacy Principles and your name and personal details will not be released.

I/we, nominate "the first settlement of Blumberg" to be heritage listed.

The information I/we have provided is correct to my/our knowledge.

Your Signature/s: **Date:**

Nomination Form Checklist
Please check that your nomination includes: ☒A clear indication of the location of the place or object (including map/s). Where a number of features are nominated, show the location of each and/or a boundary surrounding the significant elements of the site. ☒A history of the place or object explaining important aspects relevant to the nomination. This should generally help support arguments of cultural significance. ☒A clear description of the nominated place or object/s. ☒A statement of significance and indication on how the place or object satisfies one or more of the significance criteria. ☒ Have you taken the opportunity to discuss the nomination with a heritage assessment officer? It is strongly advised you to do so prior to submitting this nomination.

Email: DEWHeritage@sa.gov.au
Post: Executive Officer, South Australian Heritage Council
Department for Environment and Water
GPO Box 1047, Adelaide SA 5001

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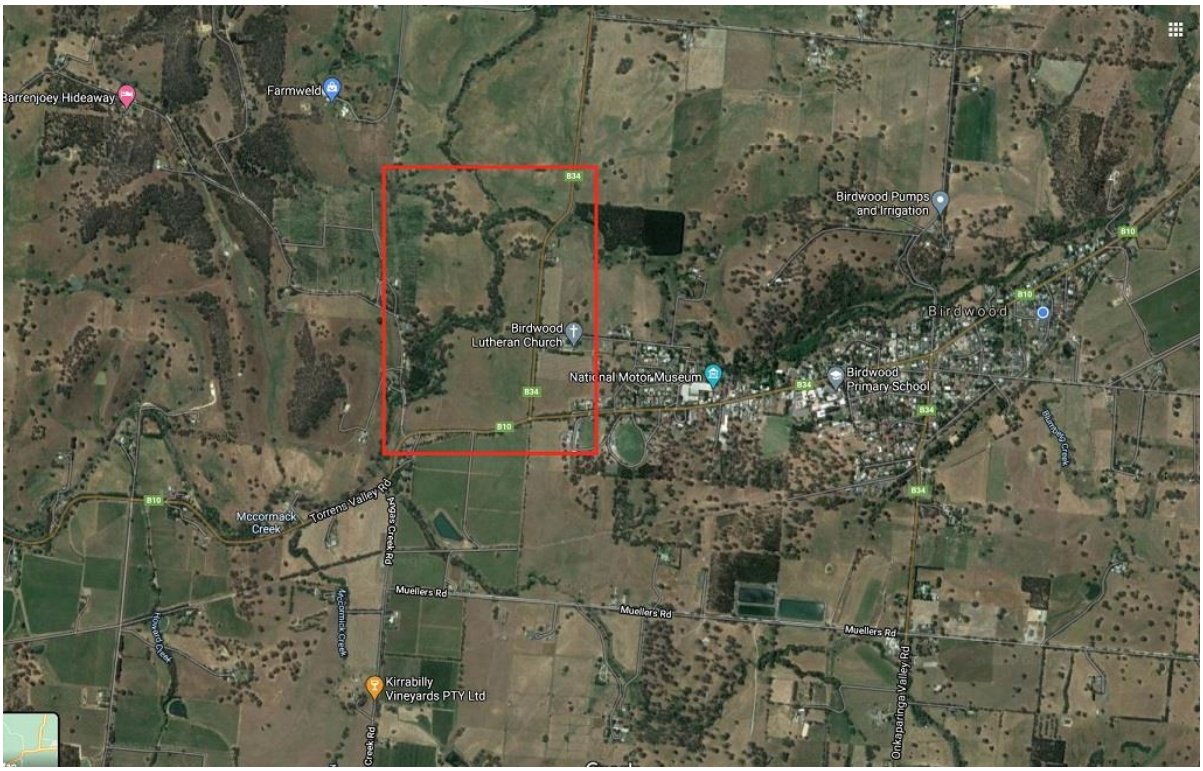

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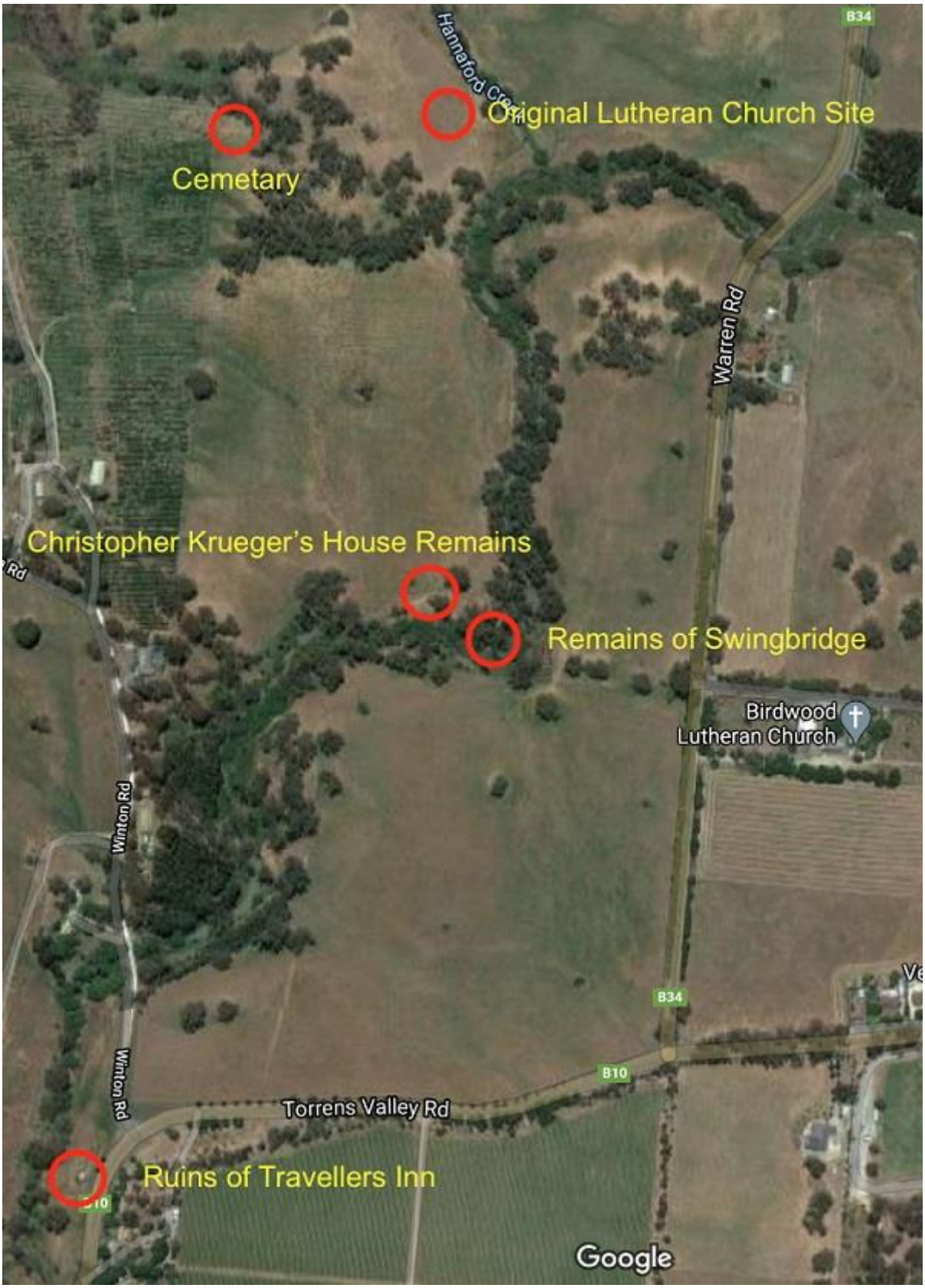

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03_04_Young.pdf

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The first burial took place in July, 1848 when Juliane Huebner, aged 7, was interred in the cemetery.

G. Rathjen, Sources and Tributaries, p. 36.

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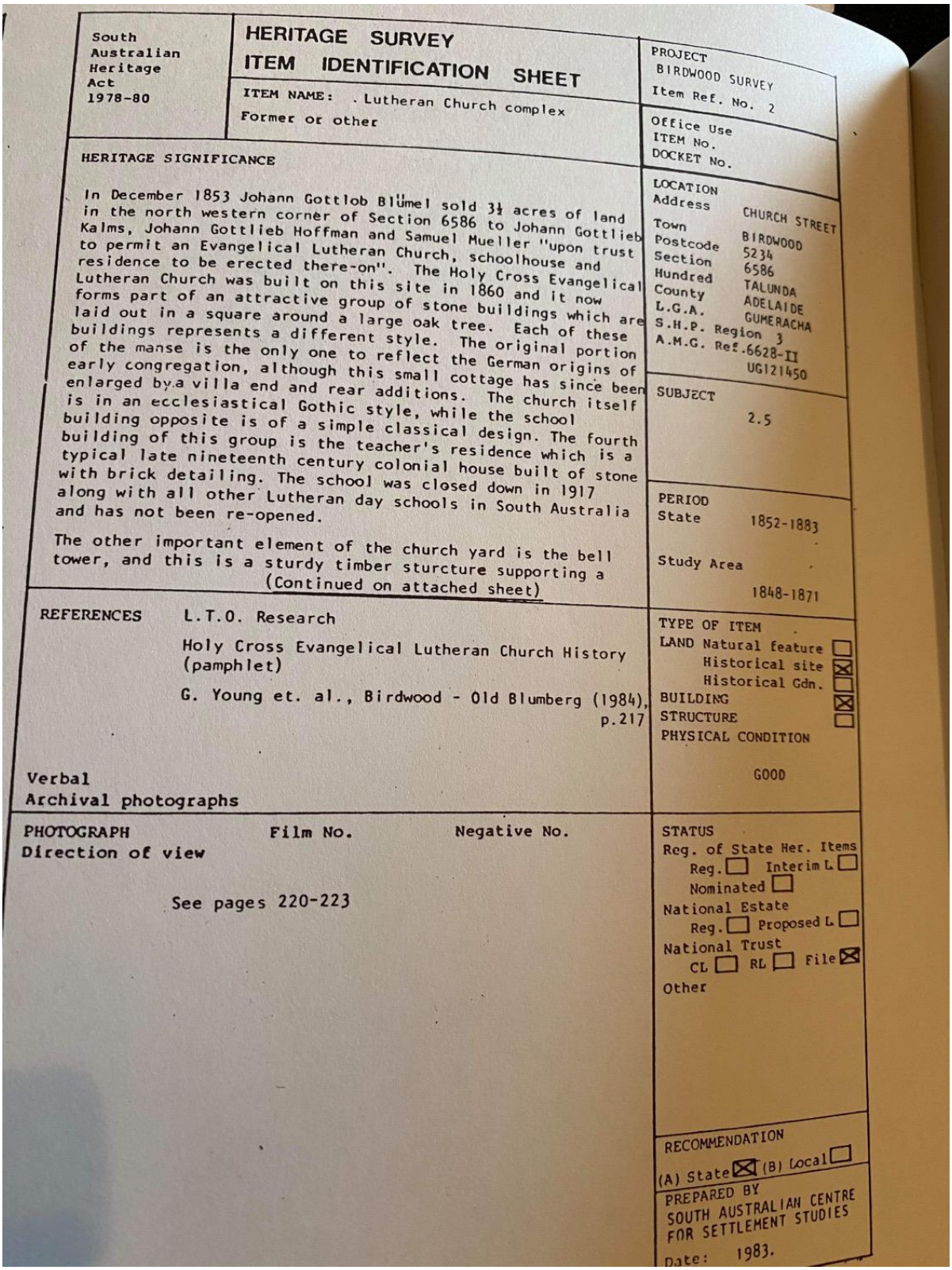


South Australian Heritage Act 1978-80

HERITAGE SURVEY
ITEM IDENTIFICATION SHEET

ITEM NAME: . Lutheran Church complex
Former or other

PROJECT
BIRDWOOD SURVEY
Item Ref. No. 2

Office Use
ITEM No.
DOCKET No.

HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

In December 1853 Johann Gottlob Blümel sold 3½ acres of land in the north western corner of Section 6586 to Johann Gottlieb Kalms, Johann Gottlieb Hoffman and Samuel Mueller "upon trust to permit an Evangelical Lutheran Church, schoolhouse and residence to be erected there-on". The Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church was built on this site in 1860 and it now forms part of an attractive group of stone buildings which are laid out in a square around a large oak tree. Each of these buildings represents a different style. The original portion of the manse is the only one to reflect the German origins of early congregation, although this small cottage has since been enlarged by a villa end and rear additions. The church itself is in an ecclesiastical Gothic style, while the school building opposite is of a simple classical design. The fourth building of this group is the teacher's residence which is a typical late nineteenth century colonial house built of stone with brick detailing. The school was closed down in 1917 along with all other Lutheran day schools in South Australia and has not been re-opened.

The other important element of the church yard is the bell tower, and this is a sturdy timber sturcture supporting a
(Continued on attached sheet)

LOCATION
Address CHURCH STREET
Town BIRDWOOD
Postcode 5234
Section 6586
Hundred TALUNDA
County ADELAIDE
L.G.A. GUMERACHA
S.H.P. Region 3
A.M.G. Ref. 6628-II UG121450

SUBJECT
2.5

PERIOD
State 1852-1883

Study Area
1848-1871

REFERENCES
L.T.O. Research
Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church History (pamphlet)
G. Young et. al., Birdwood - Old Blumberg (1984), p.217

Verbal
Archival photographs

TYPE OF ITEM
LAND Natural feature ☐
Historical site ☒
Historical Gdn. ☐
BUILDING ☒
STRUCTURE ☐
PHYSICAL CONDITION
GOOD

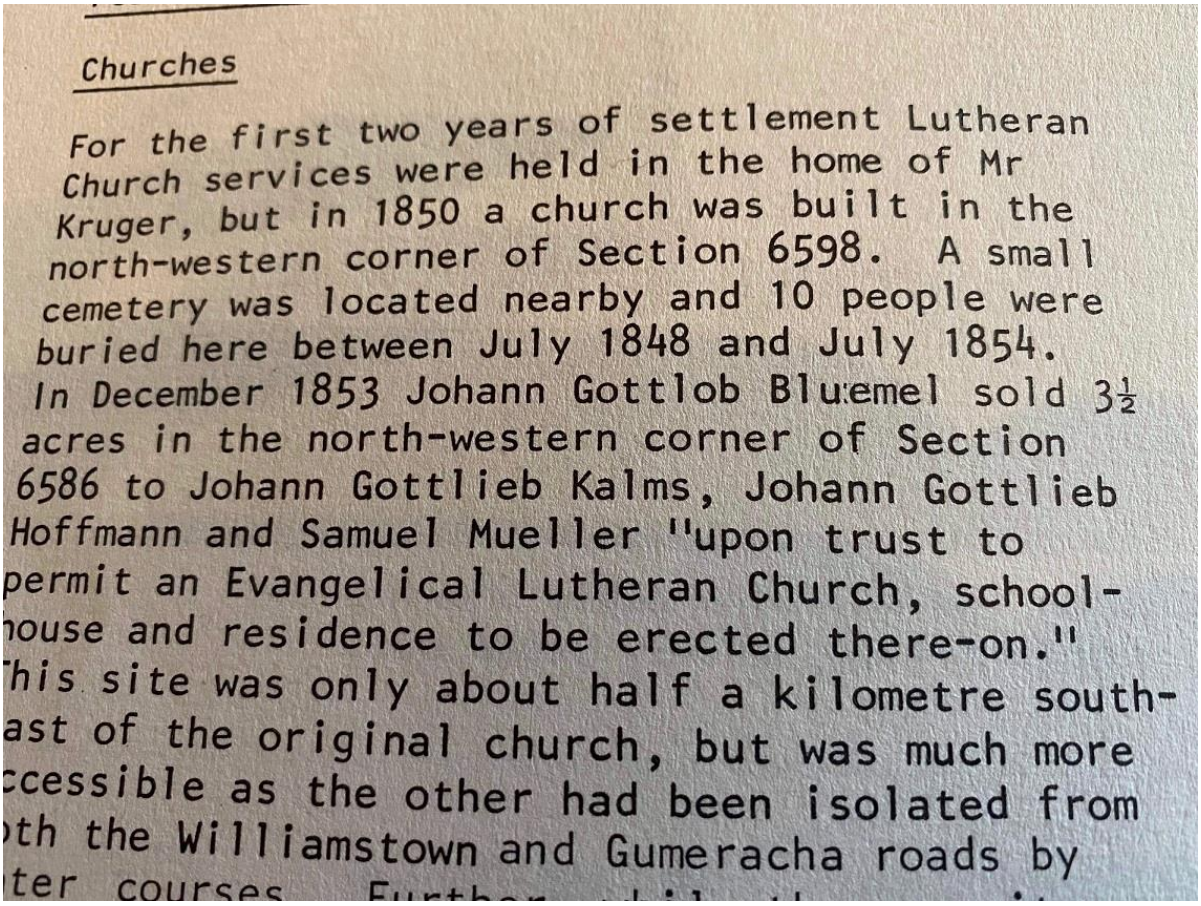
PHOTOGRAPH Film No. Negative No.
Direction of view

See pages 220-223

STATUS
Reg. of State Her. Items
Reg. ☐ Interim L. ☐
Nominated ☐
National Estate
Reg. ☐ Proposed L. ☐
National Trust
CL ☐ RL ☐ File ☒
Other

RECOMMENDATION
(A) State ☒ (B) Local ☐

PREPARED BY
SOUTH AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR SETTLEMENT STUDIES
Date: 1983.



Churches

For the first two years of settlement Lutheran Church services were held in the home of Mr Kruger, but in 1850 a church was built in the north-western corner of Section 6598. A small cemetery was located nearby and 10 people were buried here between July 1848 and July 1854. In December 1853 Johann Gottlob Bluemel sold 3½ acres in the north-western corner of Section 6586 to Johann Gottlieb Kalms, Johann Gottlieb Hoffmann and Samuel Mueller "upon trust to permit an Evangelical Lutheran Church, school-house and residence to be erected there-on." This site was only about half a kilometre south-east of the original church, but was much more accessible as the other had been isolated from both the Williamstown and Gumeracha roads by later courses. Further

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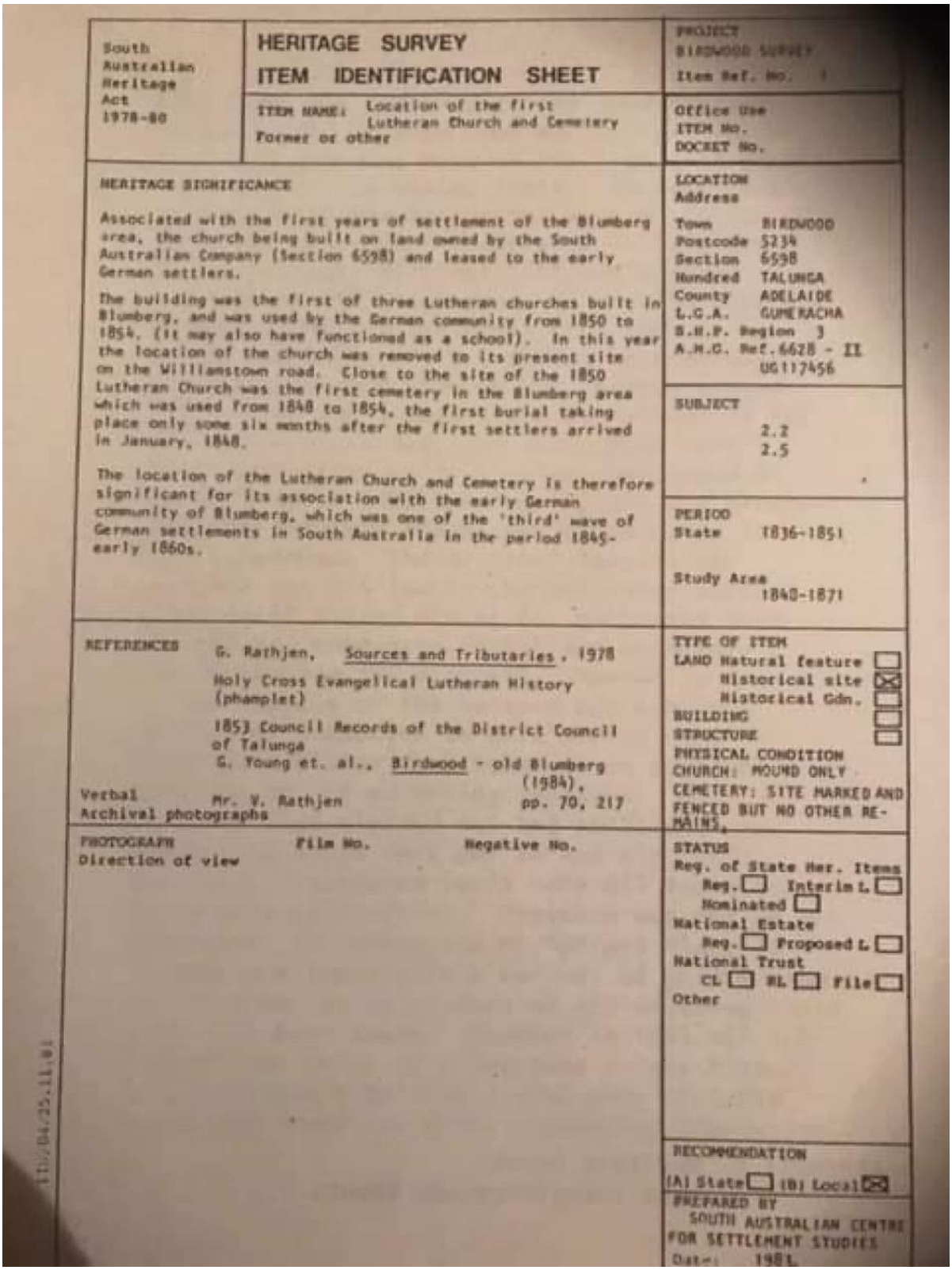

South Australian Heritage Act 1978-80

HERITAGE SURVEY
ITEM IDENTIFICATION SHEET

PROJECT
BIRDWOOD SURVEY
Item Ref. No. 1

ITEM NAME: Location of the first Lutheran Church and Cemetery
Former or other

Office Use
ITEM No.
DOCKET No.

HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

Associated with the first years of settlement of the Blumberg area, the church being built on land owned by the South Australian Company (Section 6598) and leased to the early German settlers.

The building was the first of three Lutheran churches built in Blumberg, and was used by the German community from 1850 to 1854. (It may also have functioned as a school). In this year the location of the church was removed to its present site on the Williamstown road. Close to the site of the 1850 Lutheran Church was the first cemetery in the Blumberg area which was used from 1848 to 1854, the first burial taking place only some six months after the first settlers arrived in January, 1848.

The location of the Lutheran Church and Cemetery is therefore significant for its association with the early German community of Blumberg, which was one of the 'third' wave of German settlements in South Australia in the period 1845-early 1860s.

LOCATION
Address

Town BIRDWOOD
Postcode 5234
Section 6598
Hundred TALUNGA
County ADELAIDE
L.G.A. GUMERACHA
S.H.P. Region 3
A.M.G. Ref. 6628 - II
UG117456

SUBJECT
2.2
2.5

PERIOD
State 1836-1851

Study Area
1840-1871

REFERENCES

G. Rathjen, Sources and Tributaries, 1978

Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran History (phamplet)

1853 Council Records of the District Council of Talunga

G. Young et. al., Birdwood - old Blumberg (1984), pp. 70, 217

Verbal Mr. V. Rathjen
Archival photographs

TYPE OF ITEM
LAND Natural feature ☐
Historical site ☒
Historical Gdn. ☐
BUILDING ☐
STRUCTURE ☐

PHYSICAL CONDITION
CHURCH: MOUND ONLY
CEMETERY: SITE MARKED AND FENCED BUT NO OTHER REMAINS.

PHOTOGRAPH Film No. Negative No.
Direction of view

STATUS
Reg. of State Her. Items
Reg. ☐ Interim L. ☐
Nominated ☐
National Estate
Reg. ☐ Proposed L. ☐
National Trust
CL ☐ RL ☐ File ☐
Other

RECOMMENDATION
(A) State ☐ (B) Local ☒

PREPARED BY
SOUTH AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR SETTLEMENT STUDIES
Date: 1981

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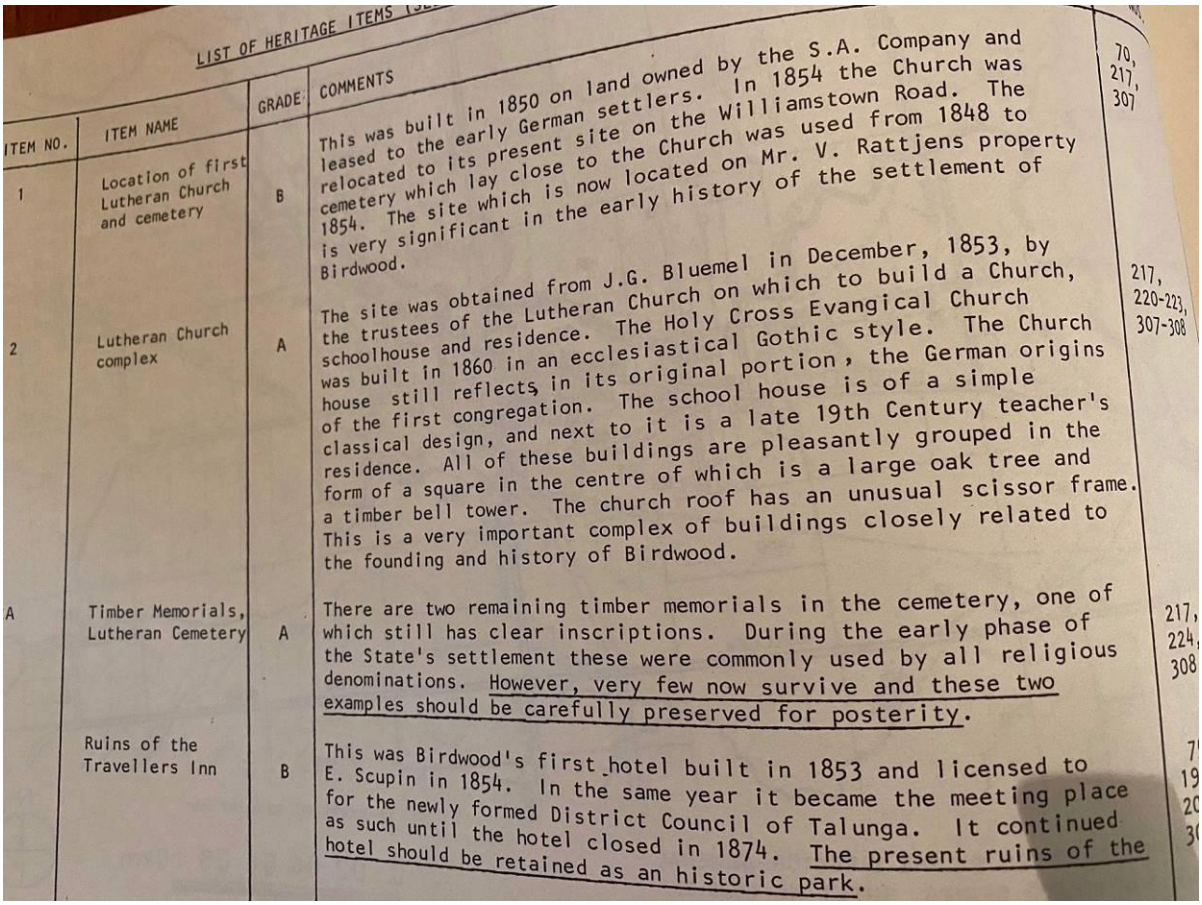

LIST OF HERITAGE ITEMS

ITEM NO.	ITEM NAME	GRADE	COMMENTS	
1	Location of first Lutheran Church and cemetery	B	This was built in 1850 on land owned by the S.A. Company and leased to the early German settlers. In 1854 the Church was relocated to its present site on the Williamstown Road. The cemetery which lay close to the Church was used from 1848 to 1854. The site which is now located on Mr. V. Rattjens property is very significant in the early history of the settlement of Birdwood.	70, 217, 307
2	Lutheran Church complex	A	The site was obtained from J.G. Bluemel in December, 1853, by the trustees of the Lutheran Church on which to build a Church, schoolhouse and residence. The Holy Cross Evangical Church was built in 1860 in an ecclesiastical Gothic style. The Church house still reflects, in its original portion, the German origins of the first congregation. The school house is of a simple classical design, and next to it is a late 19th Century teacher's residence. All of these buildings are pleasantly grouped in the form of a square in the centre of which is a large oak tree and a timber bell tower. The church roof has an unusual scissor frame. This is a very important complex of buildings closely related to the founding and history of Birdwood.	217, 220-223, 307-308
A	Timber Memorials, Lutheran Cemetery	A	There are two remaining timber memorials in the cemetery, one of which still has clear inscriptions. During the early phase of the State's settlement these were commonly used by all religious denominations. However, very few now survive and these two examples should be carefully preserved for posterity.	217, 224, 308
	Ruins of the Travellers Inn	B	This was Birdwood's first hotel built in 1853 and licensed to E. Scupin in 1854. In the same year it became the meeting place for the newly formed District Council of Talunga. It continued as such until the hotel closed in 1874. The present ruins of the hotel should be retained as an historic park.	

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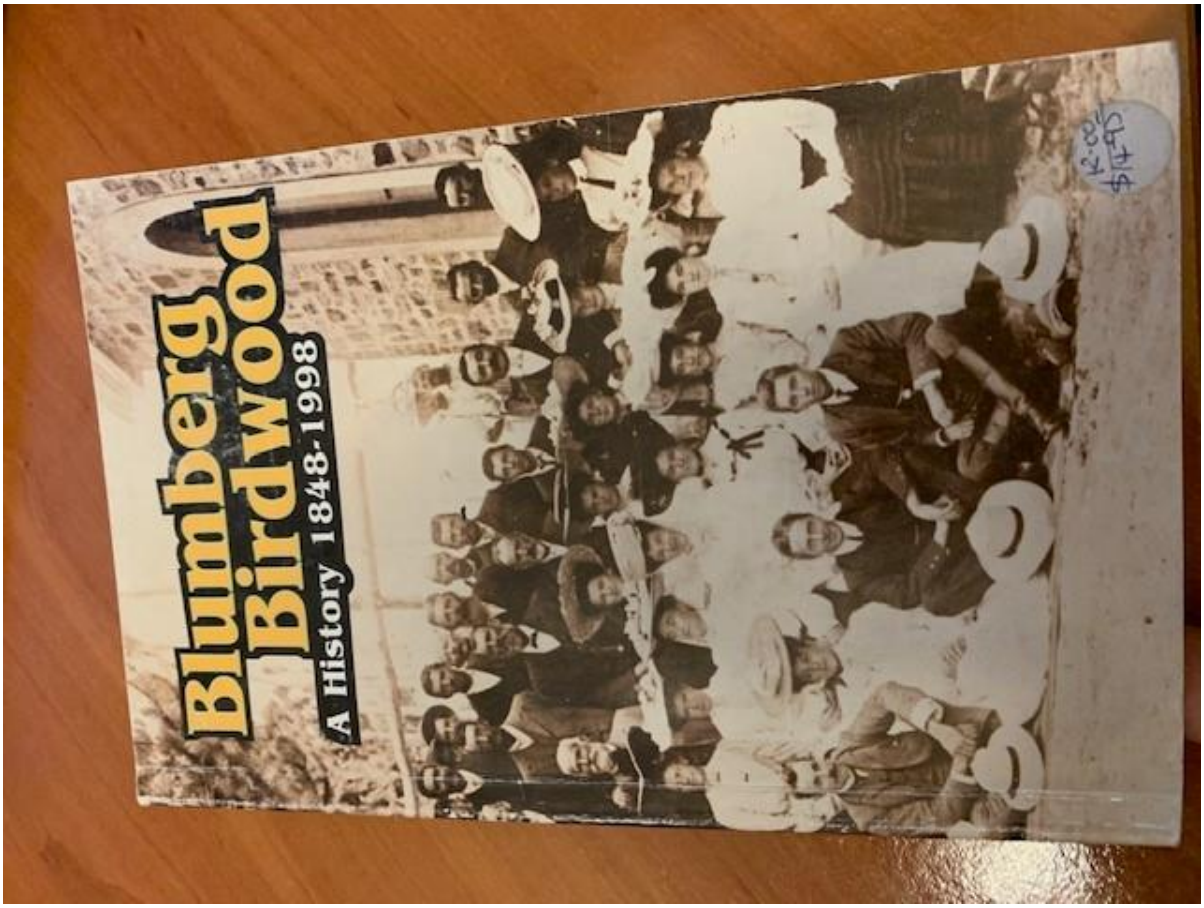

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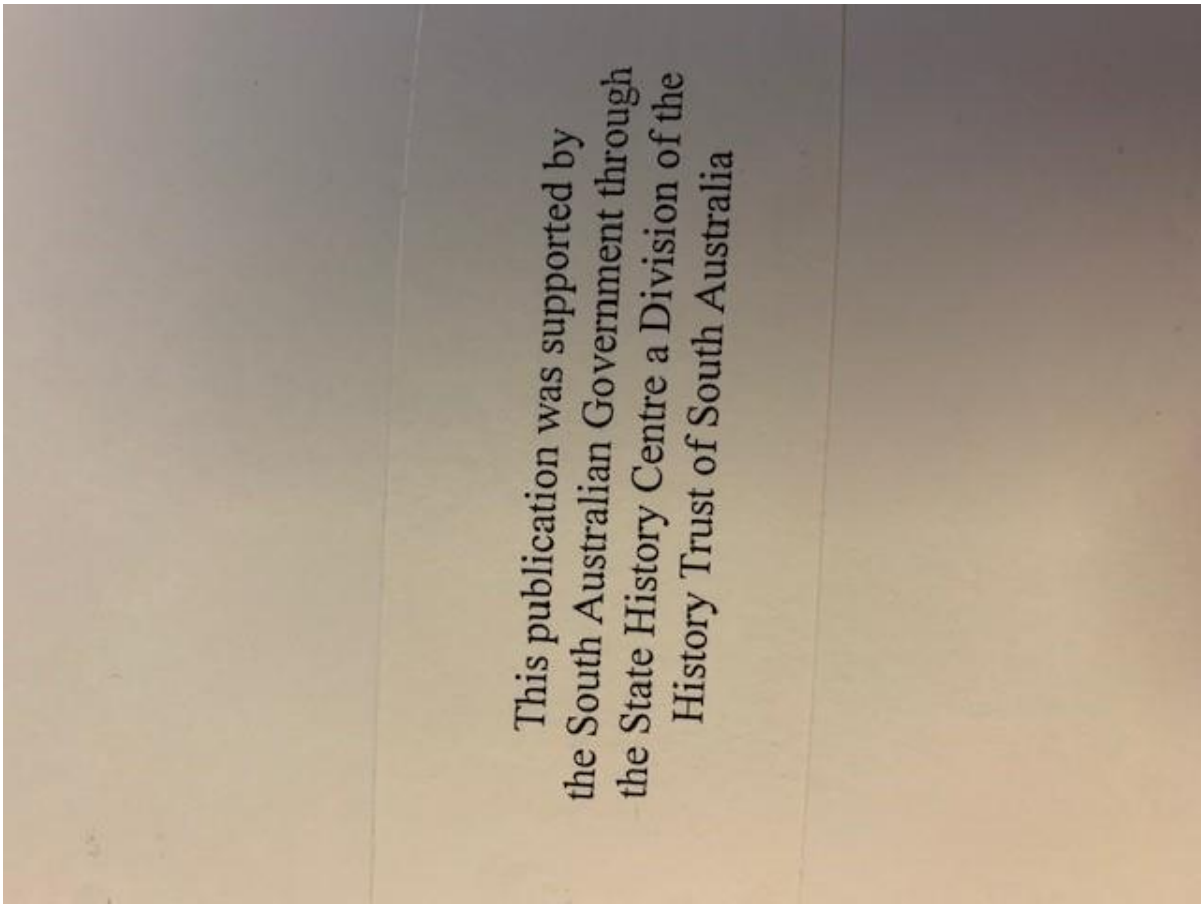

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observer to have established a happy mean. There is a strong and viable Lutheran community with its Ladies Guild and men's fellowship and the presence of Lutheranism is never far from the daily life of the town; however, neither is there any doubt that the Lutheran community lives in and with the rest of the town and remains always cheerful and interested. Sadly, as is happening with many churches today, the lack of priests to take over the ministry has affected Birdwood's church and at present it must share its Pastor with other congregations.

Blumberg/Birdwood has had three Lutheran churches in addition to a dissenting chapel which was still in existence up to the 1920s. After a short period in which services were held in the home of Christoph Kruger, who is recorded as having a fine singing voice (Anon) a modest church was built on the north side of the river, unfortunately, severe flooding made it inaccessible in bad weather and so the church was relocated. The Church of the Holy Cross, the present plain but handsome structure, was built in 1860 and has recently acquired a new bell tower. As is common with Lutheran churches the bell tower sits on the ground rather than up in a steeple although, irritatingly for the historian, a ground based bell is not unique to Lutheran churches and Birdwood's

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Catholic church of St. Matthews sports this same architectural feature. The Lutheran bell is at present proudly rung by Neville Maczcoviak - a name which not only reminds us of a cheery faced farmer but also of the fact that the ethnic origin of many of our Lutheran settlers was in east Germany, just over the border in what is now Poland. The first baptism at Blumberg, presumably in the older church, was of Johannes Lydia Mertin, and was recorded in 1855.

Like all Lutheran churches it is tidy and well kept but the presence of heritage buildings of three different eras gives it a cosy appearance which others lack. One of the buildings has recently been demolished to make way for a modern building.

Roman Catholics

The Roman Catholic Church was not long behind the Lutheran in coming to Blumberg. From almost the beginning of settlement, there was large Irish Catholic contingent in Blumberg. Happily there seems to have