

Archaeological Site Report	SiteNo	9/2/084/0072
	Site Name	Old Rhenish School Hostel, 3 Blom Street,
	Date	Stellenbosch
	Project	
	CaseNID	
	Coords	-33.929920, 18.679160
Page No: 1 SiteAutoID: 27580		

Site Category: Building

SiteComments:

Archive Import History: On the western side of the Braak, not far from the well- known little Rhenish Church, stands the Rhenish Hostel, the oldest girls' boarding school in our country. This building fills a very special niche in the history of education in. Stellenbosch and, indeed, in South Africa. On 1st May, 1860, the local Rhenish missionaries established a girls' school for the children of the Rhenish missionaries in South Africa in a building on the northern side of the Braak. The small building served as both school and hostel and within two years was found to be too small, especially as other inhabitants of Stellenbosch indicated that they would like their daughters to attend the school. Other accommodation thus became imperative. The Rhenish missionary at Stellenbosch at that time, the Rev. G. Terlinden, bought for this purpose an erf with a house on it on the western side of the Braak from the Anglican minister, the Rev. F. Carlyon. Certain necessary alteration were made to the living-room and in May, 1862, the first twelve girls moved in. As was the case with the original building, this one was used as both school and hostel. Very soon the school again proved to be too small, so that alterations and extensions had to be made to the building. The old homestead which backed on to the Braak, was now changed to front on the Braak. Extensions were systematically made to the school so that by the year 1880 or 1890 it had reached its present dimensions. The school did not only increase in size but also did pioneering work with regard to the education of girls. Indeed, it was here that Domestic Science as a school subject was introduced in South Africa for the first time. In the course of a century this school established an educational tradition very nearly unparalleled in our country. Apart from the historical significance of the building, its interesting architectural style imparts a special character to the Braak as an early nineteenth century town square. Together with the Rhenish Church, the Burgher House, the St. Mary's Church, the Coachman's House, Laetitia and other buildings, the square forms a unique architectural complex. Proclaimed 1969" Visual Description: Colours: Site Features: Condition: Good Construction Date: Materials: Catalogue: , No: , Significance Category:

Damage Types: