

Brief History of St Mary's Catholic Church, City of Clayton, Clayton County, Iowa

The Catholic Church in Clayton, Iowa, known as St. Mary's, was built in 1870 at a cost of \$2,000 on lands purchased in the name of the Rev John Hennesy, Bishop of Dubuque, from Julius & Margaret Hover and Joseph Godard; both halves of lot 4 on block 21.

The picture postcard of the church dated 1917, was among the possessions of Susan Ricker and donated to the museum by Vern Wirkler.

Services were discontinued at the church in 1926. The building which originally stood on the road to the sand mine, then stood idle and unused.

In 1944, the building was sold to the highest bidder, George Rolfes, for \$350 and was then taken down. The lot was sold and transferred to Mrs. Arthur Adams in 1945.

Sources: Clayton County History 1882 pg 714; Louise Liers Clayton History Picture Book courtesy Kent Werges; St. Joseph Catholic Church Garnavillo Centennial Book; information from Vicki Spiker.

Compiled 2-3-2017 by Jane Thein, Garnavillo Historical Society