



THE SEFTON CHURCH PHANTOM

SPECIFICATIONS:

Date: September, 1999

Location: Sefton Church,
Merseyside, England

Photographer: Unknown

Type Camera: Unknown

Other Information: N/A

Another curious and somewhat well-known photo is this one, which first appeared in 2003 in a book by Brad Steiger entitled *Real Ghosts, Restless Spirits and Haunted Places*. According to the book, the picture was taken at Sefton Church in September, 1999, and shows what appears to be a partially transparent figure in the garb of a vicar or minister.

The individual who took the photo—whom Steiger does not identify in his book—was one of two photographers in the building at the time taking pictures, neither of whom noticed anything unusual at the time. As is usually the case, “something” was later spotted on one of the photos and the rest is paranormal history.

What I find curious about the photo in particular is that it looks to be far older than 1999. In fact, it is reminiscent of photos taken fifty years earlier, which might have been the photographer’s intent and would explain why he used specialized black and white film instead of color; he may have been going for the dramatic effect black and white film provides. This also suggests that the man knew his way around a camera, meaning that he probably knew how to do a timed exposure, which is about the only way a photo like this could be faked. (You could do it in photoshop, of course, but I assume this was a print photo, not electronic, and that the figure exists on the negative.) It’s simply a matter of setting the shutter for, say,

a thirty second exposure time, stand in front of the lens for a few seconds, and then quickly run out of frame and viola—instant ghost!

Of course, this would suggest the photo is a hoax, which is a very real possibility since the photographer apparently wishes to remain anonymous—which is always a major red flag when it comes to authenticating alleged spirit photos. On the other hand, it could be entirely authentic, making it one of the better spirit captures on record. I leave it for the reader to decide which it is.