

Archaeological Site Report	SiteNo	9/2/106/0002
	Site Name	Groenberg School, Wellington District
	Date	
	Project	
	CaseNID	
	Coords	-33.581305, 19.019332

Page No: 1 **SiteAutoID:** 27195

Site Category: Building

SiteComments:

Archive Import History: The school was built in the sixties of the 19th century. C. P. Hoogenhout, who played an important part in the first phase of the Afrikaans Language Movement, was the teacher there from 3 August 1874 until the beginning of the 20th century. Much of his most important work was done there. The farm Welbedacht is situated close to the asphalt road, about eight kilometres from Wellington in the direction of Hermon. Within the boundaries of this farm on an enclosed piece of ground stands the old Groenberg Primary School building with a house next to it. The name of C. P. Hoogenhout is inseparably connected with this old school and house. He was one of the most important figures during the first phase of the Afrikaans Language Movement. C. P. Hoogenhout arrived in South Africa in 1860 and accepted a teaching post near Paarl, where he made the acquaintance of Arnoldus Pannevis. Six years after his arrival the Groenberg school was erected and on 3rd August, 1874, Hoogenhout was appointed as teacher there. The little building consisted of three rooms—one was used as a classroom while Hoogenhout and his wife occupied the other two rooms. The teacher's residence next to the school was not completed until 1878 and thus Hoogenhout and his wife were able to move into their new home. He taught at this school until December, 1908. Already in 1873 Hoogenhout commenced campaigning in public for the recognition of Afrikaans so that it could be used in the schools and also for translating the Bible into the mother-tongue of the Afrikaner. A great deal of his important work was done while he lived in the school and also after that. In his trap drawn by one horse, he regularly travelled from Groenberg to Paarl to meet the champions of Afrikaans there. When the "Genootskap van Regte Afrikaners" was instituted on 14th August, 1875, he was elected chairman of the society. Thus with Groenberg as his headquarters, he became the official leader of the First Afrikaans Language Movement. Here he also wrote his "Gesprekke tussen Oom Jan Vasvat en Neef Daantjie Loslaat" for De Zuid.Afrikaan, his contributions to Die Patriot, his part of the "Geskiedenis van ons Land in die Taal van ons Volk" (1877) and his "Eerste Afrikaanse Printjies Boeki vir Soet Kinders, by 'Oom Jan wat Versies maak'." At this school Hoogenhout also had to endure the wrath, reproaches and threats of dissenters as well as of those people under whose authority he was placed. Apart from its connection with C. P. Hoogenhout and the First Afrikaans Language Movement, this little school was used as a farm school for precisely one century and as such it serves as visible evidence of an old system which contributed a great deal to our progress in the field of education. The buildings, together with the oak-trees which were planted in 1867, form an attractive Visual Description: Colours: Site Features: Condition: Construction Date: Materials: Catalogue: , No: , Significance Category:

AdminComments:

This small two-roomed school building was built c.1860. CP Hoogenhout, who played an important part in the first phase of the Afrikaans Language Movement, taught at Groenberg from 3 August 1874 until the turn of the century. Much of his important work w Bibliography archive:

Damage Types: