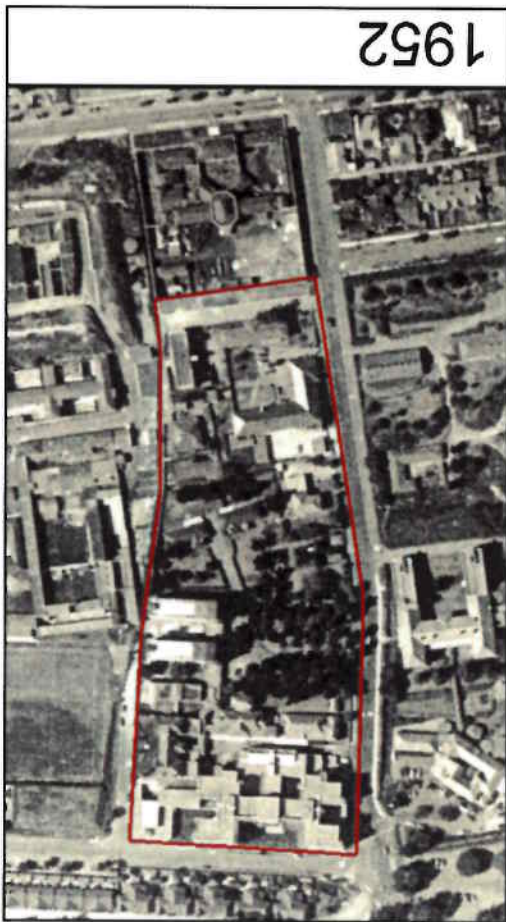


CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN
 FOR THE WESTERN PORTION OF
 CONSTITUTION HILL COMPLEX,
 HOSPITAL HILL,
 BRAAMFONTEIN,
 JOHANNESBURG

A

TOWARDS



CONSTITUTION HILL: WESTERN PORTION

CONSTITUTION HILL: WESTERN PORTION

CONSERVATION STUDY

Revision 3: 26 November 2001

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TOWARDS A CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE WESTERN PORTION OF CONSTITUTION HILL COMPLEX, HOSPITAL HILL, BRAAMFONTEIN, JOHANNESBURG

Compiled by H.M.J. Prins, Heritage Consultant for Constitution Hill with assistance from W.A. Martinson and advice from Consultants acknowledged in the text of this report.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Report

This report has been commissioned by the Johannesburg Development Agency (JDA) for submission to the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA).

1.2 The Site

(i) The report covers the heritage significance of the portion of the Constitution Hill site situated west of the Gaol structures known as Sections 4 and 5. It is the area west of the boundary wall which separated the Johannesburg gaol from the land on which the Mortuary, at its south end and the Queen Victoria Hospital, at its north side, now stand.

(ii) Annexure 8.2 (i) of the Report contains Plan Drawing No1 prepared by OMM Design and Urban Solutions, which shows a portion of the site defined by a solid black line. This portion now referred to as the Western Portion, is defined by Joubert Street on the west, Sam Hancock Street on the north, the Women's Gaol on the south and Section 4 and 5 on the east.

(iii) The Women's Gaol is also on the west side of Constitution Hill, but is NOT included in this study. It will be dealt with in a later report covering the Eastern Portion of Constitution Hill.

(iv) Negotiations with the relevant authorities are presently taking place to include, within the Western Portion, a small strip of land north of Sam Hancock Street on which there are presently a number of attached houses (row housing). If these negotiations are successful, these dwellings which housed Prison Officials, will be restored, together with the Governor's House (on the east side of Hospital Street) as part of the Conservation Policy for the Eastern Portion, which is still to be presented to SAHRA.

(v) Annexure 8.2 (ii) of the Report contains Plan Drawing Number 2, prepared by OMM Design Workshop and Urban Solutions, which shows the existing buildings on the Western Portion. Buildings or

portions of the buildings, which it is proposed to demolish, are shown in red and those to be retained are shown in green.

1.3 Submission to SAHRA

The following background information should be noted when considering the proposed Conservation Policy.

- (i) SAHRA has granted demolition permits for a number of buildings on the Eastern Portion of Constitution Hill. Most notable of these is the Awaiting Trial Block.
- (ii) The buildings for which demolition permits were granted on the Eastern Portion have already been removed. The Awaiting Trial Block which had undoubted cultural significance by virtue of the quality of its building fabric and history will be suitably commemorated in the new development of the Constitutional Court. Many regret the disappearance of the Awaiting Trial Block, because it was where all prisoners (many of whom are remembered for their part in the political struggles of almost a hundred years of South Africa's history) were held in custody while awaiting trial.
- (iv) Despite its undoubted significance it was deemed necessary by SAHRA to allow the Awaiting Trial Block to be demolished because without this there would have been no Constitutional Court on the site now under discussion.
- (v) It is pure conjecture where, if not on the chosen site, the Court would have been built, but it is certain that but for the concession made by SAHRA it would have been located elsewhere, possibly even out of Johannesburg.
- (vi) Very significant cultural benefits have flowed from the decision by SAHRA to grant a demolition permit for the Awaiting Trial Block (and other less culturally significant buildings) to provide a satisfactory site and setting for the Constitutional Court.
- (vii) Apart from the Constitutional Court and its undoubted potential to be a place of great cultural significance, the spaces around the new Court building have been designed to create opportunities to commemorate the historic significance of the Gaol and the personalities and events associated with it. These spaces also afford opportunities for a wide range of artistic expression to be encouraged, developed and displayed. Similar devices are envisaged for the Western Portion.
- (viii) Even more important than anything else, from the perspective of heritage conservation, is the incentive to conserve the heritage

buildings on the Eastern Portion which the decision to build the Constitution Court there, has afforded.

(ix) It is generally agreed that the Old Fort, the Women's Gaol and Sections 4 and 5 are of great cultural significance and that their repair and maintenance are a prerequisite to the building of the Constitutional Court. It would be totally unacceptable for the Court to be situated in an area of neglect and decay. This cannot be countenanced under any circumstances.

(x) The costs of repair and long-term maintenance associated with the heritage buildings of Constitution Hill are likely to be very high.

(xi) If uses which are appropriate to the heritage status and historic nature of the conserved buildings are to be insisted upon and maintained, then it is unlikely that the revenue these buildings can produce will be sufficient to cover the cost of maintaining them.

(xii) If Constitution Hill is to be financially viable and the cultural heritage on it made secure, then alternative sources of income will have to be found.

(xiii) Reference should be made to Annexure 8.1 (i). "Revitalization of the Constitution Hill Precinct: Rational for Financial Sustainability" prepared by Koor Dindar and Hamlyn Gebhardi Quantity Surveyors, which augments this aspect of the study.

(xiv) Reference should also be made to Annexure 8.1 (iii): "Constitution Hill Town Planning Proposals" prepared by Nico Botha Town Planner. This deals with the planning proposals to consolidate the Western and Eastern Portions and includes a concept for the overall management of the site with a view to protect the cultural value of the precinct.

(xv) The Western Portion is important, primarily because it completes the parcel of land bounded by Joubert Street on the west, Hospital Street on the east, Sam Hancock Street on the north and Koize Street on the south. Developed as envisaged and shown on Drawing No. 3, it affords opportunities for development which will contribute to the financial well being of the precinct as a whole.

(xvi) The development envisaged on the Western Portion is shown in Annexure 8.2 (iii), which contains Drawing No. 3. Reference should also be made to Annexure 8.1 (ii) "Motivation for the Redevelopment of the Western Landparcels" Both of these documents were prepared by OMM Design Workshop and Urban Solutions.

(xvii) The development as illustrated and described will necessitate the demolition of some buildings or portions of buildings on the Western

Portion. These proposed demolitions are shown in Annexure 8.2 (ii) Drawing No.2.

(xviii) It will be seen from the historical surveys that follow that the Western Portion has a long association, with two institutions, namely the Queen Victoria Maternity Hospital and the Johannesburg Mortuary, dating back to the early part of the 20th Century.

(xix) On both the hospital and mortuary sites there are buildings of architectural value and undoubted sociological significances.

(xx) On both sites, most of the buildings are older than 60 years.

(xxi) For the purposes of this Report, a building situated between the mortuary and the west boundary wall of the prison complex, namely the Chief Warden's House has been included as part of the Western Portion in general, and as part of the Mortuary Site in particular.

(xxii) On the basis of age or architectural value or associations with other buildings on the site or in terms of how the two institutions functioned, a case might be made for the conservation of most of the buildings on the Western Portion. This would however reduce the area to another "museum" precinct, since the possible uses would be limited to existing floor plans and bulk and the uneconomic utilization of spaces between existing buildings. This applies more to smaller buildings on the site, but the retention of all or some of the buildings for which demolition permits are requested would render the creation of adequate parking in a super basement or a number of connected basements very difficult and uneconomic

(xxiii) In considering the conservation policy for the Western Portion, which follows, the Plans Application Committee of SAHRA is requested to pay special attention to the above background information which explains and justifies the approach taken in formulating the Conservation Policy.

Outbuildings and portion of South Elevation



Composite North Elevation



House of the Medical Superintendent of the General Hospital circa 1936

2.1 *Photographic Survey of the Queen Victoria Maternity Hospital Site*

2.0 SURVEY OF EXISTING BUILDINGS

Portion of North Elevation



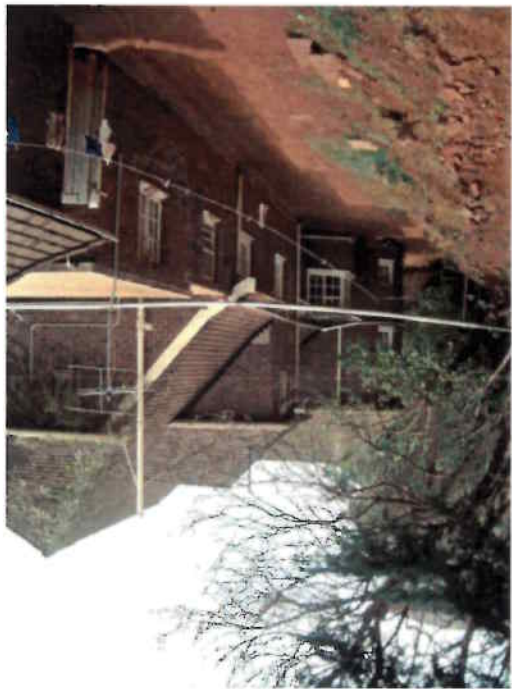
South East Elevation



North Elevation



South Elevation

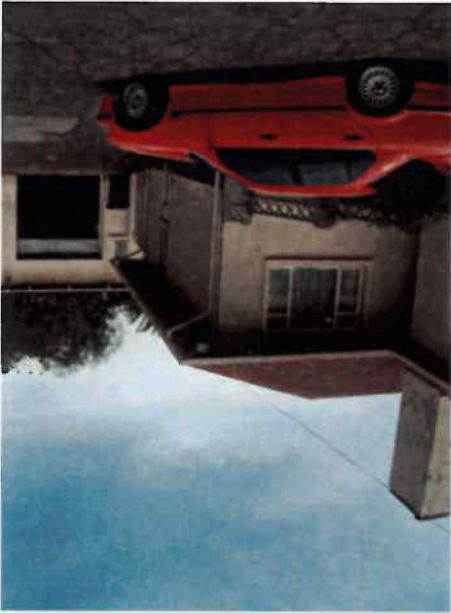


House of the Assistant Superintendent of the General Hospital circa 1930

View up Common driveway



N W Elevation (of House No 1)



N E Elevation (of House No 2)



North facade (of House No 1)

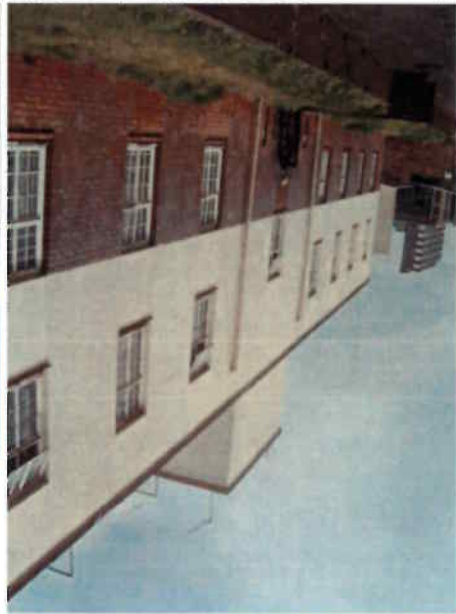


Two Staff Houses circa 1940

West and North Elevation of multi-storey Apartment Blocks (to be retained)

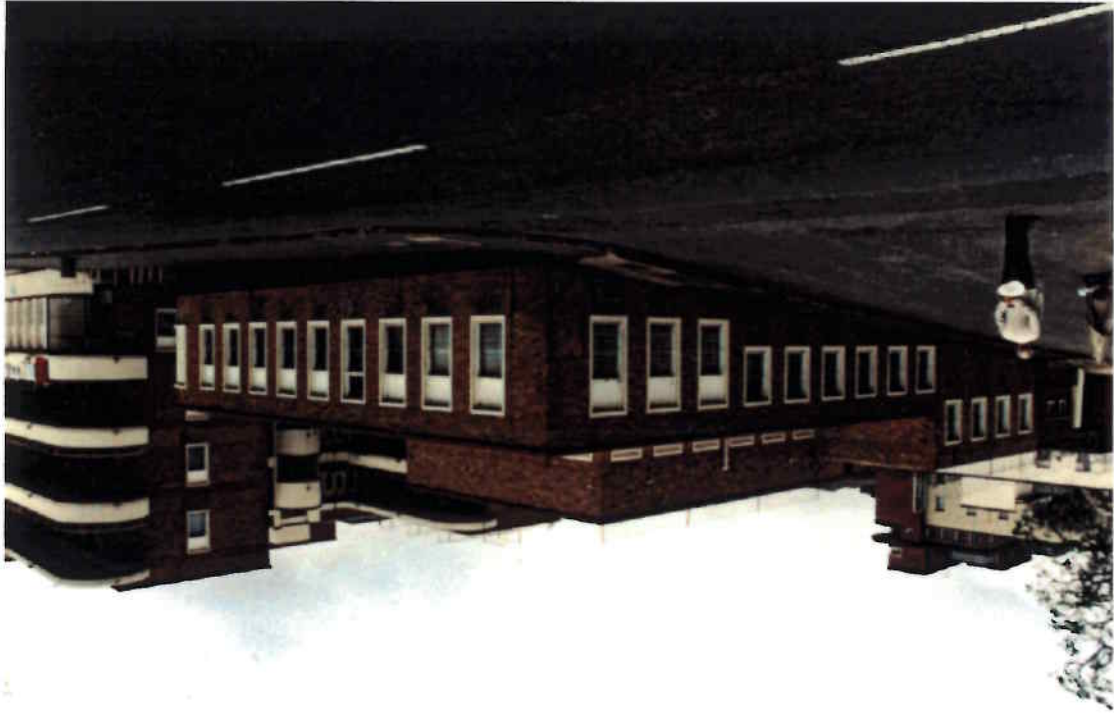


Apartment Block B: North and South Elevations (to be demolished)



Queen Victoria Maternity Hospital Apartment Buildings circa 1940 to 1943

North East Elevation of Kitchen Block (to be demolished)



North Elevation of Main Building (to be retained)



Queen Victoria Maternity Hospital: Main Building and Kitchen Wing 1943

West Elevation



East Elevation



2.2 Photographic Survey of Johannesburg Mortuary Site
Police Married Quarters (Mortuary Staff) 1940

North Elevation



South Elevation

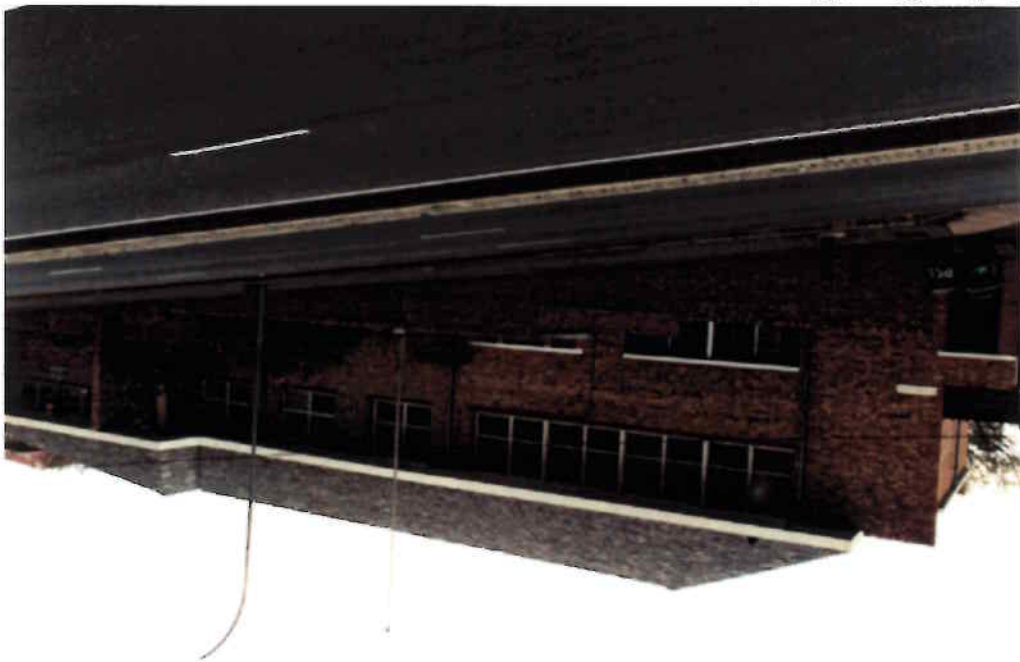


Police Forensic Medicine Institute 1937

Detail of South Elevation

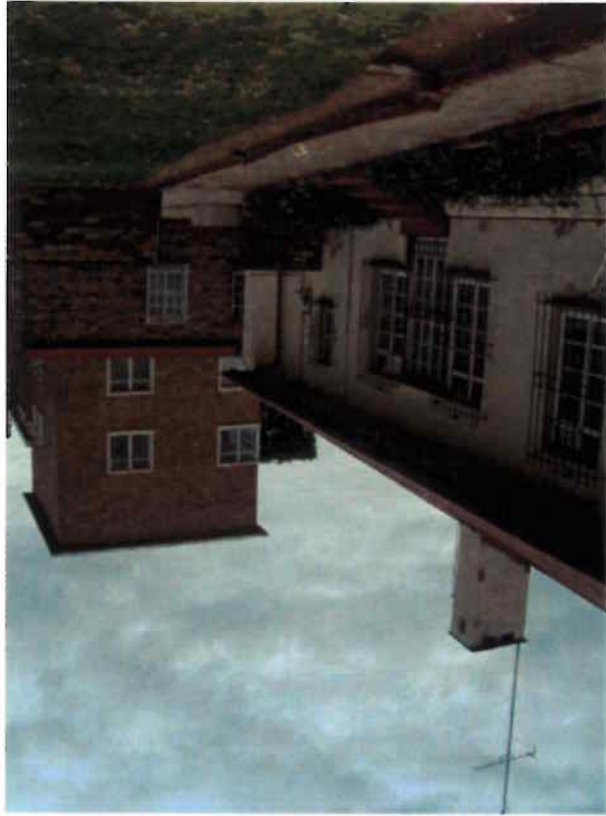


Joubert Street Elevation



Johannesburg Mortuary 1940

West Elevation



North Elevation



Johannesburg Gaol, Chief Warders House c 1900

The Queen Victoria Maternity Home, as the Institution was originally called, was founded in May 1904, under the auspices of the Guild of Loyal Women of South Africa.

• Origin & Objects

(i) Queen Victoria Maternity Home

3.2 Architectural, Sociological and Historical Significance

(iv) Nevertheless when excavations commence on site this will be carefully supervised and if any remains or deposits are discovered these will be referred to Dr Van Schalkwyk for an opinion.

(iii) Dr Van Schalkwyk of the National Cultural History Museum in Pretoria has been appointed to advise on the archaeology of the Eastern and Western Portions. He has expressed the opinion that few if any archaeological remains will be discovered since it may be anticipated that when the present buildings were constructed that all past evidence was removed.

(ii) There is no visible evidence of any remains of earlier buildings nor of any archaeological deposits.

(i) Most of the existing structures on the western portion were built in the 1930's. (See 3.2. Architectural, Sociological and Historical Significance). These buildings replaced earlier ones, which date back to the first decade of the 20th Century.

3.1 Archaeological Significance

3.0 CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE WEST PORTION

(iii) Copies of the measured drawings, including any significant architectural details, will, if required, be made available to SAHRA for their archive when the survey is complete.

(ii) It has not been possible to gain access to some of the buildings, namely the houses and apartment buildings, all of which are still occupied by residents who are expected to vacate the buildings early in 2002, when the survey can be completed.

(i) Measured drawings comprising Plans, Sections and Elevations of many of the buildings older than 60 years (which it is intended to demolish) have already been made.

2.3 Drawing Surveys

In June 1906, the institution moved to the old Children's Undernominational Home in Beit Street until the end of June 1907.

The committee of management of the Queen Victoria Home first rented a house in End Street, capable of accommodating 11 patients and a small cottage for the use of the nursing staff. These premises were soon found to be inadequate and on the 1 January 1905, three houses in Siemert Road and Sivewright Avenue, Doornfontein, "capable of accommodating 28 maternity patients" as well as the nursing staff, were leased.

First Premises

"It is free to all denominations and sections of the community without regard to creed or nationality".
"Its assets can never be distributed and are for ever vested for public benefit, and it is intended to continue in existence for so long as its means and establishment will permit of its maintenance".

The first constitution was published in June 1904 and some significant extracts are noted below:

Constitution

The Institution was intended for the treatment of maternity cases but there is, however, ample evidence to show that the treatment of diseases of women was also undertaken.
doctors and nurses.

Another class of women whose claims to consideration were recognized were the wives of warders, policemen and soldiers who, whilst they could afford a nominal fee, were unable to meet the expenses of private

The primary object of the Home was charitable: there were a large number of women who could neither afford the expense of proper nursing or medical aid nor had proper accommodation at home, during their illness.

On 1 June 1904 Lady Lawley, the wife of Sir Arthur Lawley, the Lieutenant Governor of the Transvaal, formally opened the Maternity Home as a public institution.

The Guild had been founded in 1900 during the Anglo Boer War as an expression of solidarity between British and Dutch women. During the war they occupied themselves with good works, such as comforts for the troops. After the war the Guild continued working on community projects such as the Queen Victoria Hospital and the Guild Cottage.

1.1.1

The new buildings for the hospital consisted of three blocks, one of which was for the Administration and the Nursing staff, and two for the

The Hospital Buildings 1907 - 1943

The new buildings were erected at a cost of £20 000 on the site thus leased from the municipality. Lady Selborne laid the foundation stone on 16 August 1906, and the hospital was formally opened by Lord Selborne on 27 June 1907 and occupied the following day.

New Buildings near Milner Park - the site of the existing Hospital

The Government authorized the Trustees of the Queen Victoria Hospital to transfer the New Doornfontein land to the municipality in consideration of the municipality granting the Hospital a lease, for 80 years at a nominal rental, of the two acres near Milner Park. The lease included certain conditions including that the Hospital should always remain a maternity home and that it should not be run for profit.

Another Resolution was then passed (in June 1905) under which various stands in New Doornfontein, known as Otto Square, were reserved for hospital purposes (under the Crown Lands Disposal Ordinance) in the name of the Trustees of the Queen Victoria Hospital for Women. There were, however, municipal objections to the erection of permanent Hospital premises on this site, and the land was exchanged in August 1906 by an arrangement between the municipality and the Government for two acres of ground east of Milner Park.

As early as June 1904, an application had been made to the Government for a grant of ground "for the purpose of erecting the permanent buildings of the Queen Victoria Hospital for Women." The Government responded by passing an Executive Council Resolution in November 1904, under which certain Johannesburg stands were reserved for hospital purposes in the name of the "Trustees of the Queen Victoria Hospital for Women". The land to revert to the Government when no longer used for the purposes mentioned. This ground was afterwards found to be required for other purposes and the Resolution was rescinded.

Site for New Premises

The Executive of the Transvaal Government was approached in 1906 for financial assistance towards the construction of new premises with the result that the Government undertook: "to bear half the cost of erection of a suitable hospital in Johannesburg of 50 beds, for maternity cases and diseases of women, the total Government contribution not to exceed £10 000".

Funding for New Premises

A committee was established in 1911, under the direction of Jan Smuts (then Colonial Secretary of the Government of the Transvaal) to "conduct an enquiry into the workings of the Queen Victoria Hospital for Women in Johannesburg".

No definite terms of reference were prescribed, but the Committee was considered to be "in the best position to judge in what directions improvements and economies" could be effected.

Arising out of the Enquiry, the Committee recommended that the Government should assume control of the administration of the Hospital and that suitable amounts be budgeted to make up the difference between expenditure and fees collected.

• *Committee of Enquiry : 1911*

A small isolation ward, laundry buildings (with plant and sterilizer) and buildings providing quarters for the porter and for the native (sic) staff were also located in the Grounds.

By 1909 the laundry buildings and plant (with the exception of the sterilizer) were disused, the cost of up-keep having been found prohibitive for such limited use.

Outbuildings

Of the two Blocks for patients, one was double-storied for the reception of various classes of patients and the other single storied reserved for private patients.

Patients Accommodation

The Ground Floor of the Administration Block contained the Secretary's office, Boardroom, Waiting Room, Matron's Sitting Room, Matron's Bedroom, Cook's Bedroom, Sisters' Sitting Room, Nurses' Sitting Room, Dining Room and Dispensary. On the First Floor there were 19 bedrooms, accommodating 21 Nurses and Pupils.

Administration Building and Nursing Staff Accommodation:

The buildings were designed in a substantial Edwardian style, favoured at that time for institutional buildings, with a stone plinth, face brick dado up to door-head height and plastered walls above. The hipped corrugated iron roofs were articulated with louvred dormer ventilators and substantial face brick chimneys. Deep verandahs were supported at ground floor with square, banded, plastered columns and at First Floor with Ionic columns.

patients. Attached to the main building was a satisfactory and well-equipped Theatre.

The Nurse's Residence blocks (and in particular the two multi-storey blocks it is proposed to retain) are an interesting example of institutional Deco-Moderne architecture being a combination of red-brick circulation core with plastered linear wings, and a repetition of the curved projecting elements found in the Main block.

The main Leith block is strongly symmetrical with a deeply recessed north facing entrance court. The facades are a carefully proportioned and detailed combination of narrow yellow facebrick and plaster. Chipkin (1993) describes Leith's Queen Victoria Hospital as being associated with the architectural ideas propagated by Erich Mendelsohn. He comments that the projecting balconies 'produce rounded, hovering cantilevers which are magnificent at the street ends, creating a dramatic piece of modern townscape'.

The Leith buildings comprise the main block and the kitchen wing. The three multi-storey Nurses residences, the two single storey Staff Houses, the House of the Assistant Superintendent (of the nearby General Hospital) and the Medical Superintendent's House are all of a similar period but no details have been found confirming the architect or the exact date of construction.

Gordon Leith & Partners, a prominent Johannesburg practice, were appointed in 1939 to design new Hospital buildings but the Second World War intervened causing a substantial delay. The two granite foundation stones (one in English the other in Afrikaans) were therefore only laid on 10 May 1943 by Mrs. J J Pienaar, the wife of the Administrator of the Transvaal.

The Leith buildings comprise the main block and the kitchen wing. The three multi-storey Nurses residences, the two single storey Staff Houses, the House of the Assistant Superintendent (of the nearby General Hospital) and the Medical Superintendent's House are all of a similar period but no details have been found confirming the architect or the exact date of construction.

The Hospital Buildings : Existing

The Johannesburg Municipal Council agreed in August 1925 to transfer an additional three acres of land (in Miller Park, directly to the south of the existing Queen Victoria Maternity Hospital buildings) to the Union Government for the purposes of accommodating a Neurological Department and extending the hospital. The institution was by this date known as The Queen Victoria Branch of the Johannesburg Hospital.

The transfer of the three acres of ground duly took place in 1928. The restrictive servitude which had been present on Miller Park, namely that 'the said land shall ... for ever remain dedicated for the purpose of or incidental to the recreation and amusement of the inhabitants of the Municipality of Johannesburg' was removed.

Provision of Neurological Department: 1925

The two Staff Houses are fairly typical for the period, being raised on a dark blue face-brick plinth, with plastered walls, steel windows and beneath hipped corrugated iron roofs. Their site planning is of some interest both houses being approached up a single, shared, steeply sloping drive.

The Assistant Superintendent's House (possibly designed by Leith) was constructed of a dark blue engineering stock brick on a yellow facebrick plinth under a steeply pitched shingled roof with sprocketed eaves. The steel windows are set in substantial painted timber sub-frames. The plan of this double-storeyed house appears to make reference to the rounded forms of the main Block of the Hospital in the two rounded bays, one on the north and the other on the south elevation. The house has suffered under some inappropriate additions in the past.

The Medical Superintendent's House is another double storeyed house, this time with a yellow face brick plinth and dado up to window cill height with various exceptions breaking the plastered wall above, including a substantial facebrick chimney and paired verandah columns. The low pitched, hipped roof is clad in 'Roman' pattern clay roof tiles. A substantial stone wall on the street boundary forms a platform for the front garden.

The original 1907 hospital buildings were used as additional nurses' residences until their demolition circa 1965. Employees of the Gaung Department of Transport and Public Works now use the Hospital and Nurses Residence as residential accommodation.

(ii) Johannesburg Mortuary Site

• Origin

The Department of Public Works of the Zuid Afrikaanse Republiek (ZAR) prepared a drawing dated 3 March 1892 for a 'Lykenhuisje' (*Dutch for mortuary*) to be erected at the Johannesburg Prison. This appears to be the first record of a mortuary on this site

The ZAR mortuary comprised a small (26'7" x 12'4"), but substantial brick building with two separate rooms under double pitched corrugated iron roof. Each room was accessed through substantial double doors in the external wall; the first room was described as the 'Lykenkamer' with two 'slab' tables and the second as the 'Lyksschouwing' with a single 'slab' table.

No site plan has been located to precisely identify the location of the ZAR mortuary. However reference to the measured Site Plan of 1905 contained in Annexure 8.2 (v) supports the suggestion that the mortuary would have been best located equidistant between the White (sic) Gaol

An extract from a measured Site Plan of 1905, contained in Annexure 8.2 (v), indicates four separate buildings on the Mortuary site, which by

▪ *Mortuary Buildings as at 1905*

In June 1904, at a meeting of the Johannesburg City Council it was agreed to authorize the Medical Officer of Health to take over the running of the Johannesburg Mortuary.

• *The Johannesburg Medical Officer of Health: 1904*

As a consequence of the outbreak of Plague, the Rand Plague Committee was formed. One of their documented actions was the erection of an additional Mortuary (near the Fort), to receive the bodies of persons who had died of infectious diseases, the bodies of which it was not considered desirable to send to the General Mortuary. This additional mortuary was presumably of a temporary nature but the exact siting has not been established.

In 1904 an outbreak of Bubonic Plague occurred on the Witwatersrand. In Johannesburg, the affected area was fenced in and the Fire Brigade apparently burnt all the houses enclosed within the fence, in an attempt to control the infection. The deaths from plague totaled 74, which figure "included" eight Europeans (sic).

• *Outbreak of Bubonic Plague*

The Commissioner of Police, in motivating for a grant of seventy pounds to finance the purchase of the two horses pointed out that the Governor of the Prison had requested that the mortuary horses be removed forthwith.

In a memorandum to the Commissioner of Police in July 1903, the District Surgeon of Johannesburg, stationed at the Government Mortuary, recommended that an additional pair of horses be purchased for the mortuary van. He noted further that the "prison stables now used by the Mortuary Horses are not large enough" and recommended that "new stabling for 4 horses, a coach house and a boys (sic) room" be erected near the Mortuary as soon as possible.

• *Government Mortuary – Horses for Mortuary Van*

It is further suggested that the ZAR mortuary building would have formed the nucleus of what was to become variously known as the "Government Mortuary, Johannesburg", the "Johannesburg Mortuary" or the "General Mortuary".

and the Native (sic) Section i.e. to the north-west and south-west of each section respectively.

- reference to contemporary documentation and later Site Plans, are known to be the Mortuary Building, the Mortuary Superintendent's House, the Stables, and the African Assistant's Room.
- ***Survey of Fort & Gaol, Johannesburg in 1905***

The Estates Office of the Public Works Department compiled a measured drawing (dated 9 February 1905) for the purposes of valuing the buildings on the Gaol site and for quantifying the prisoner population.

The drawing describes the Mortuary as a 'Permanent Brick Building', with an assessed value of £1 005 and the Mortuary Superintendent's House as a 'Wood-and-iron Building, Brick-lined' with an assessed value of £722
 - ***Mortuary Commission – August 1906***

The Acting Lieutenant Governor of the Transvaal appointed a four-man Commission of Enquiry in 1906 to report on:

 - The alleged incorrect identification of a white (sic) corpse as a "coloured (sic) person"
 - The steps to be taken to give redress to the father of the person thus buried;
 - The submission of recommendations as to potential changes to the systems and staffing of the Government Mortuary to prevent this recurring.
 - ***Report on the Government Mortuary- August 1906***

The Chief District Surgeon prepared a written report for submission to the Mortuary Commission in which he described the existing facilities provided at the Government Mortuary:

"The present accommodation consists of a central Post Mortem room, with large chamber on the east side used for the disposal of Kaffir (sic) bodies, and on the West side, an inspection chamber and office, with an annex containing cupboards".
 - ***Proposed alterations to Government Mortuary : 1906***

The Chief District Surgeon proposed to the Commission that the existing buildings could be altered with the construction of two additional rooms to provide the following accommodation:

Similarly the clothes and rags of deceased persons had, until this date, been burnt in the open in the grounds of the mortuary with the smoke creating an ongoing nuisance, particularly for the Queen Victoria Hospital to the north

Up until this date there had been a total absence of any sort of system to preserve bodies. The Chief District Surgeon had threatened to certify the Curator's house and Mortuary as a danger to public health in warm weather following the delivery to the mortuary of the body of a black mine worker who very quickly reached an advanced state of decomposition.

Improvements and Additions : 1908

Arising from the above allegations a Mortuary Board was established in February 1907 for the purposes of controlling all mortuaries within the Witwatersrand. The Board comprised the following members :

- Chief Magistrate of Johannesburg
- Commissioner of Police
- District Medical Officer of Health for the Witwatersrand.

Establishment of the Witwatersrand Mortuary Board, 1907

In October 1906, a former member of staff of the Johannesburg Mortuary made allegations of serious irregularities at the mortuary to the Johannesburg "Critic". These allegations were apparently well founded and included the defiling of a Mozambican's corpse, the switching of corpses to other coffins, and the use of one of the mortuary assistants, by the mortuary superintendent, as his full-time kitchen worker.

Alleged Irregularities at the Government Mortuary

- A single Room to conduct all post mortems;
- A Cold storage chamber divided into Native (sic) and European (sic) divisions.
- Two European (sic) rooms, one for Christians and one for Jews, where the bodies are removed for the burial rites.
- A room where "native" (sic) bodies are removed for burial.
- A public office and a Doctors office.

The old mortuary building was by 1937 considered unhygienic, inadequate for the volume of bodies and with an inadequate cooling apparatus, which could only accommodate between 300 and 400 bodies per month. The adjacent mortuary stables also contributed to the unhygienic conditions.

Plans were duly prepared for a new police mortuary by C A Gilliers and W Molihson of the Public Works Department. The design of the new building had to allow the original building to remain in-situ and operational until completion of the new building.

The design formalised racial segregation in death by the creation of separate areas for the receipt of bodies at Lower Ground Floor, the creation of separate reception areas for the visiting public and the separate Viewing Rooms. The actual dissection of the cadavers was however integrated, with the exception of European (sic) women who were provided with a separate Post Mortem (PM) Room.

New Police Mortuary 1939

The building has a ground floor base of blue face brick with yellow brick quoining at window surrounds and building corners. The first floor facade was plastered and (unusually) the steel windows were placed flush with the external face of the wall – in keeping with the Modern Movement style current at that time. The building was capped with a hipped corrugated iron roof.

The pathologist's accommodation in the mortuary soon proved inadequate and plans were prepared for a new double storey, symmetrical building, officially known as the Forensic Medicine Institute construction of which was complete by 10 May 1937.

▪ *Forensic Medicine Institute 1935*

On 1 January 1934 a full-time State Pathologist was appointed who was provided with accommodation in the mortuary building. He was also appointed as Professor of Forensic Pathology at Wits University.

▪ *Appointment of State Pathologist 1934*

The Prime Minister of South Africa, Louis Botha, approved in March 1908, the expenditure of £1 020 in order to effect improvements and additions at the Mortuary in Johannesburg. These included the following:

- Alterations and additions to the existing building
- Refrigerator Plant
- Fence
- Destructor

This small detached house was originally constructed in close proximity to the Gaol to accommodate the Chief Warden. Single storeyed under a hipped corrugated iron roof, the house is built on a stone (now painted) plinth with plastered walls above. All original timber windows have

Chief Warden's House circa 1900

Symmetrical in both plan and elevation the yellow facebrick facades are capped with a significant over-sailing coping, on a raised parapet, which hides a simple mono-pitched corrugated iron roof. The East Fagade (with the recent removal of the adjacent Prison Wall) forms a significant facade to the open space created by the demolition of the Awaiting Trial block

A partially triple storeyed Police Married Quarters was constructed to the East of the Forensic Medicine Institute. The external facades and massing are very much a product of the ideas generated at the Weisenhof Siedlung exhibition held in Stuttgart in 1927. The architects are unknown but it would certainly have been designed in the office of the Public Works Department.

New Police Married Quarters circa 1939

The Department of Labour issued a Prohibition Notice in February 1999 in terms of the Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1993, prohibiting the Johannesburg Mortuary from continuing with their occupation and use of the building. Although the building was vacated this Notice has presumably been revoked (albeit temporarily) as the Mortuary is again fully functional. The mortuary handles on average 4000 bodies annually.

The building was competently designed, in the modern movement idiom, reminiscent of the well-known Casa Bedo by Douglas Cowin. The external walls are built in a yellow facebrick in an English Bond. The competent handling of facades, the careful manipulation of the over-sailing boxed eaves with the consistent level of internal and external ceilings flush with the window head, the concealed gutters, the gently sloping hipped slate roof, the careful handling of the level changes along the Joubert street facade, the brick detailing to the rounded chimney shaft and the unusual joinery details internally all contribute to a significant whole.

The original design decision to receive bodies at Lower Ground Floor and then raise these to the PM Rooms at Ground Floor (via a single lift) was probably influenced by the site constraints created by the temporary retention of the original building. This split in levels is probably one of the reasons the mortuary facility is now unable to cope with the substantially raised volume of PM's.