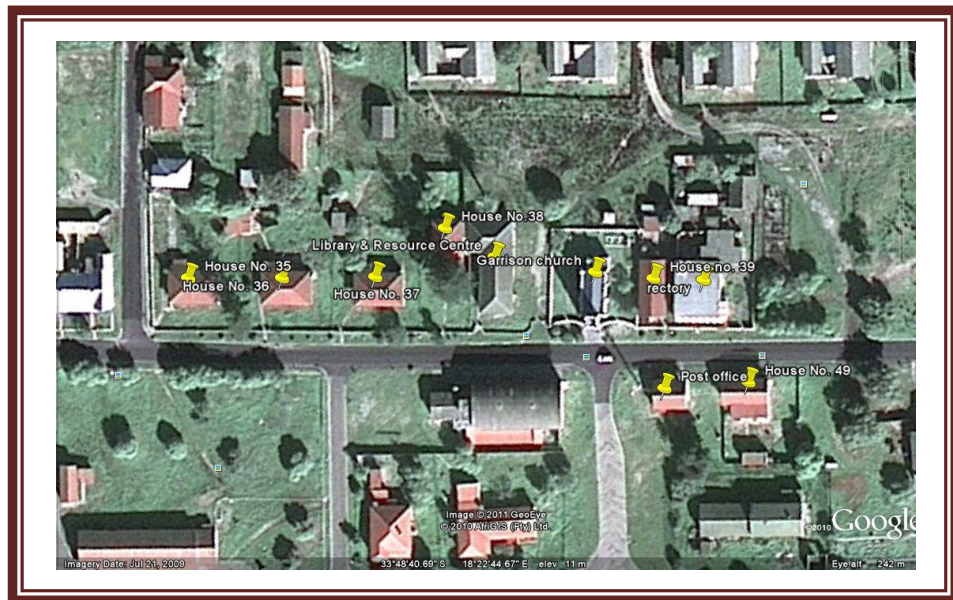


HERITAGE STATEMENT OLD ANGLICAN PARSONAGE/ RECTORY NUMBER 40 CHURCH STREET; ROBBEN ISLAND

1. INTRODUCTION

The heritage statement was commissioned to supplement the permit application to SAHRA in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act, 25 of 1999. A very short time frame has not allowed for the in depth and thorough research required for the Rectory.

2. LOCATION



3. SITE PLAN



4. FLOOR PLAN

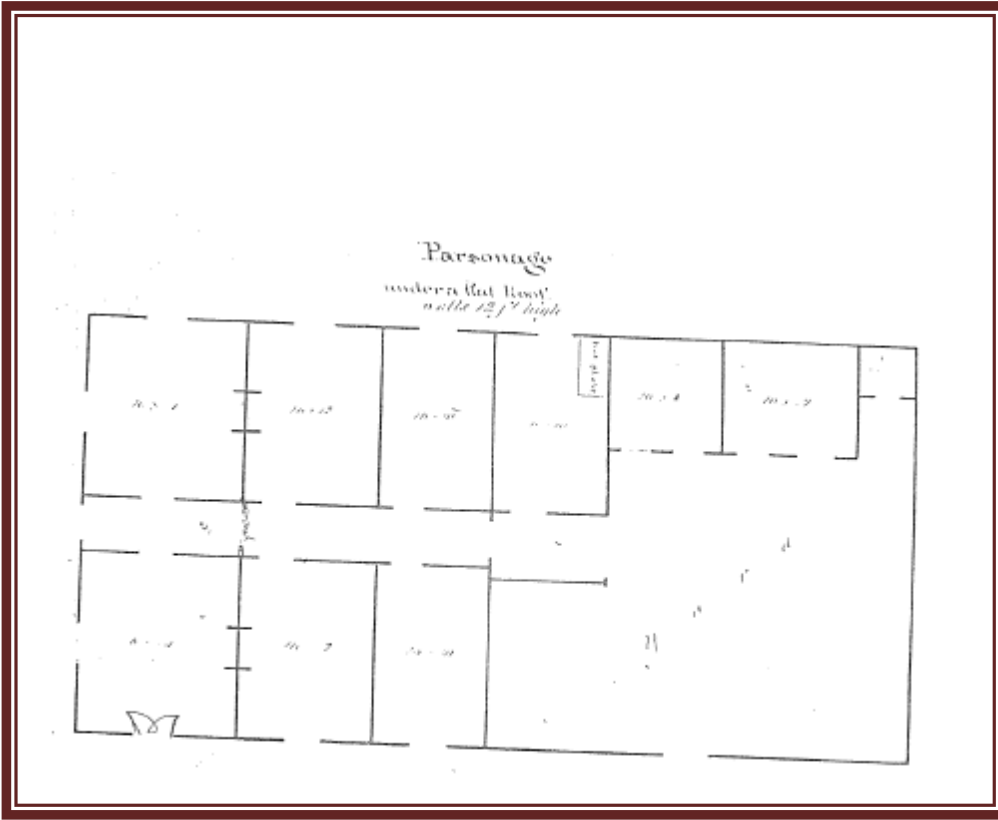


Fig. 4.1. Floor plan ca.1840.

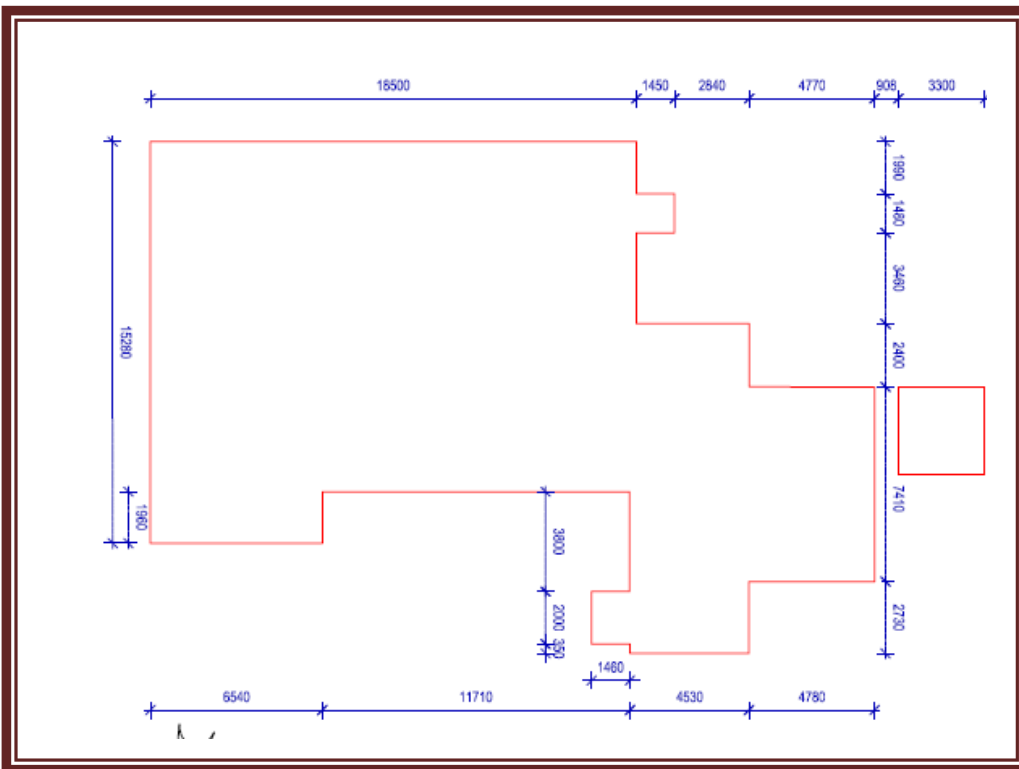


Fig. 4.2. Floor plan ca. January 2011 showing later additions and asbestos tool shed.

5. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE AND VALUE

Only two buildings still extant on the island date from 1841, making the Rectory and the Church the oldest surviving from that era. The next oldest building is the Chief Medical Superintendents house dated ca1846.

The Rectory housed the resident Anglican Chaplain until the late 1930's.

6. EXPANDED STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE AND VALUE

6.1. AESTHETIC

No research was conducted on the setting and visual appeal of the building.

6.2. ARCHITECTURAL

6.2.1. EXTERIOR

The original 1841 core is still easily recognized and visible in most places. In 1866 the rectory is shown as a plain square with four chimneys. The chimneys are no longer above the roofline. The typical Georgian parapet is still discernable on the eastern face. Two small windows high up were equidistant from one another and framed the door. The roofline was flat. During the prison period the roofline was raised by approximately half a metre.

By 1890 the building exterior had been Victorianised with a typical concave corrugated iron verandah added on the eastern face, portion on the SE corner and a portion on the NE corner. The NE corner was removed ca 1963 when permission was granted for its removal by the Historical Monuments Commission. The paint scheme appears to have been candy striped with alternating red and white sheets. By 1983 the asbestos cladding was coloured a uniform brown. During the late 1990s the candy stripes were reintroduced.

The balustrades and verandah supports were made from wood. The original beams still appear to be intact although the supports were replaced by metal poles, presumably sometime during the prison period. The original corrugated iron was replaced with asbestos sheeting. The verandah was also partly glazed in ca 1983.

The door is still the original Victorian 'cross and open book' with a fanlight. It appears that it may originally have been green from paint scrapings inspected during January 2011.

The annexe at the back on the NW corner appears to have been built partly from the original outbuildings and the yard wall shown on the 1841 floor plan. More research is required. The annexe was built after ca 1972 but more research is required for confirmation.

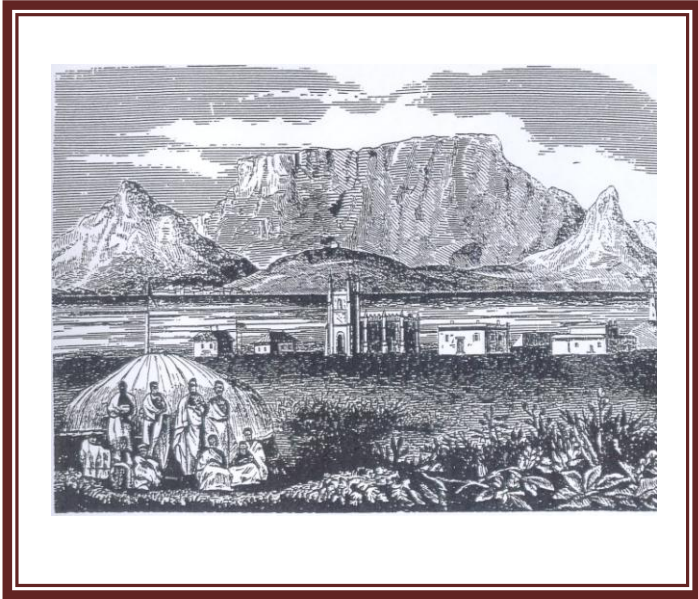


Fig. 6.1. Ca 1866

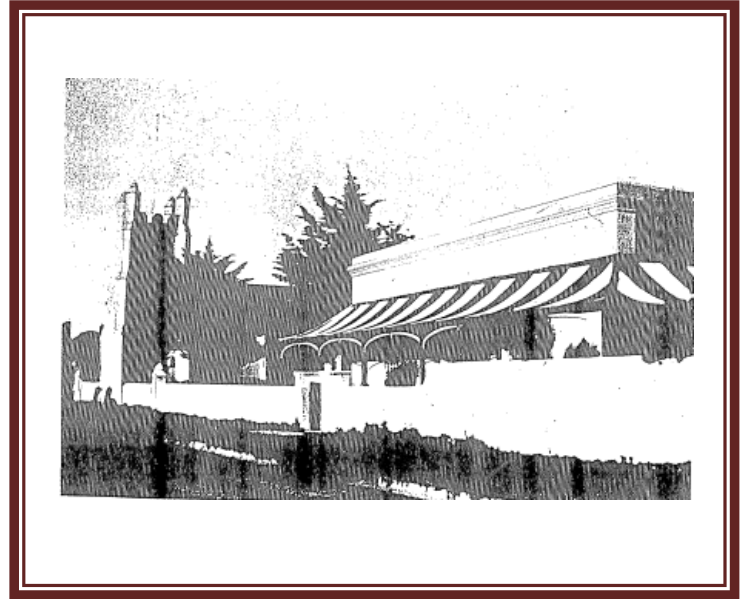


Fig.6.2. Victorian façade ca 1895.



Fig.6.3. Front face ca 1983.

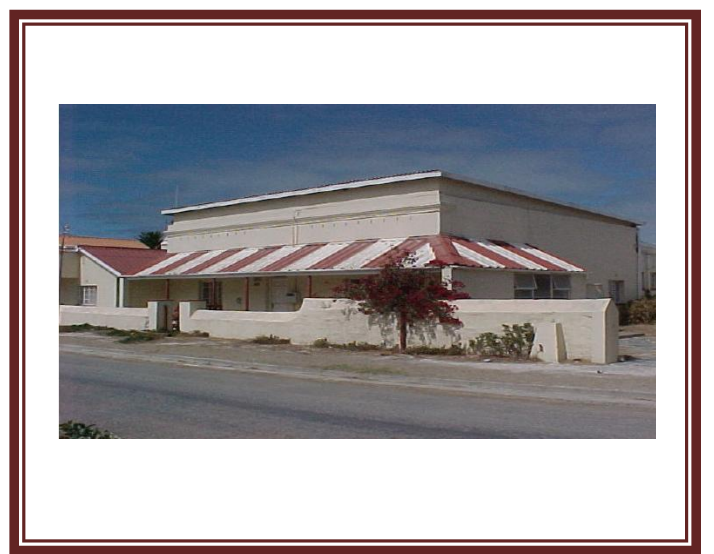


Fig.6.4. NE face ca 2001.



Fig.6.5. and 6.6. Taken January 2011.



Fig.6.7. Annexe ca 2001



Fig.6.8. annexe ca 2011

The window frames were replaced with steel during the prison period.

6.2.2. INTERIOR

The interior appears to have been given a facelift during the late Victorian era. The fireplaces are covered up presently, the floors are Oregon pine and still have their original moulded Victorian motifs. The interior was revamped in ca 2001 and the Victorian elements were highlighted as a theme.



Fig.6.9. Front door



Fig.6.10. Moulded ceiling



Fig.6.11. Window



Fig.6.12. Wood floors and rising damp

6.2.3. ASSOCIATED LANDSCAPE

Outbuildings

By 1894 the yard wall had been removed and outbuildings consisted of servants quarters and the buttery and creamery. By the late 1980's the asbestos clad tool shed was erected close to the walls of the annexe.

A store built during the 1940's forms part of the perimeter wall on the NW corner.



Fig. 6.13. WWII store.



Fig. 6.14. Asbestos tool shed

Perimeter Walls

The perimeter walls were not built in 1866 but are certainly evident from ca 1877.

Garden

No garden features can be seen ca 1866, but again by 1877 the perimeter walls define the garden.

Other features

A braai was also built during the 1980's. An asbestos water tank stands on a clay brick plinth, with some of the bricks in a bad state of decay.



Fig.6.15. Brick braai.



Fig.6.16. Asbestos water tank

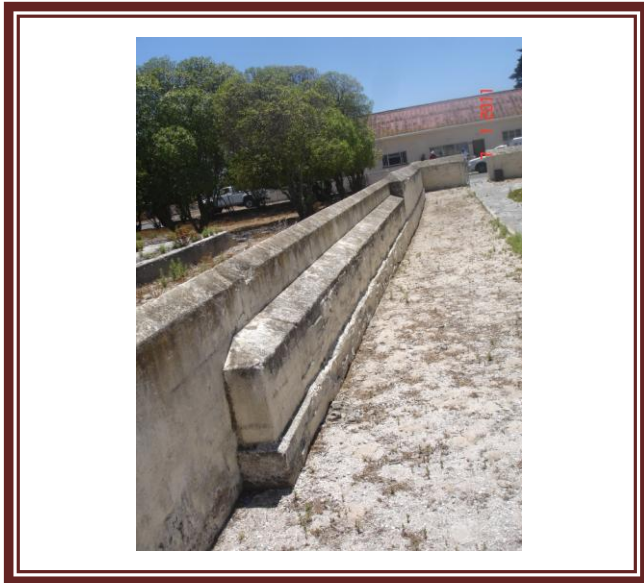


Fig. 6.16a. North boundary wall



Fig. 6.16b. NE corner boundary wall

6.2. HISTORICAL

Work on the parsonage only appears to have started some time after the church was completed and inaugurated in October 1841. Limited time has not allowed for more in depth research on the occupants of the Parsonage. More research is required. In 1963 the Historical Monuments Commission gave permission for parts of the verandah to be demolished to make way for House No. 39 Church Street. The prisons authorities assessment provided for two warden families to be housed in the Rectory grounds. The buttery and creamery and the Catholic Chapel adjacent and on the North side of the perimeter wall was demolished at the same time, although the Manitok hedge of the Chapel is still intact. During WWII the building housed the military police. In ca 1983 its use was as listed as a museum and by 1993 it was a shop. In the late 1990's RIM

converter it to use as conferencing facilities.

Fig.6.17.

Streetscape ca. 1944.

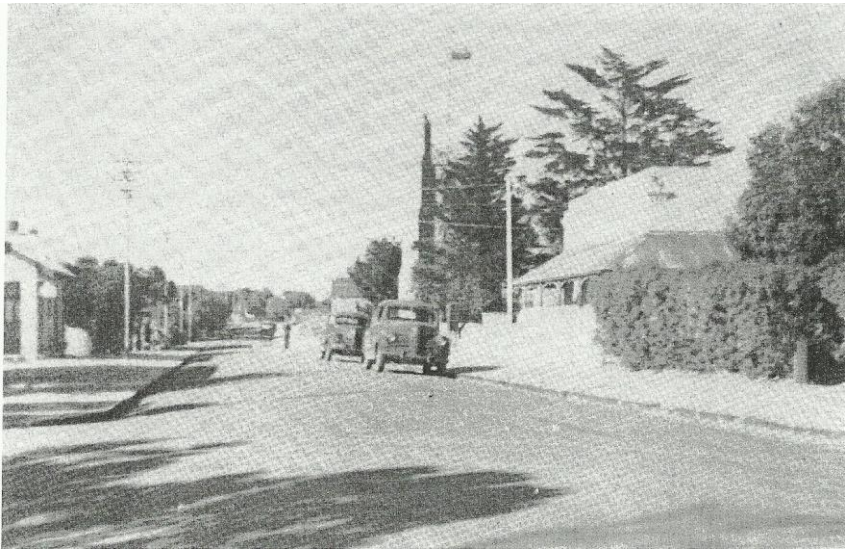


Fig. 6.18. View from Church tower looking north.

7. PROPOSED CONSERVATION POLICIES

Appropriate minimal intervention. [do as much as is necessary and as little as possible]

Appropriate and sustainable alternate use strategy. [‘use it or lose it’]

Appropriate, effective, efficient and sustainable maintenance.

Use of appropriate construction materials, paint and cladding to fit historic fabric.

Appropriate interpretation and presentation within the associated landscape.

8. PRESENT STATE OF CONSERVATION

Reasonable although modern additions are cracking away from the original structure. The front door was poorly renovated using masonry filler and matt acrylic paint, which is flaking. The boundary wall needs repair in certain places. The water tank plinth bricks need attention. One metal window frame is badly rusted and needs to be replaced. The tin roof is in good condition. The verandah and annexe asbestos roofing requires attention.

9. CONSERVATION CHALLENGES

9.1. THREATS

Weather and weathering.

Normal Robben Island patterns of wind, temperature fluctuation and rain may do damage.

Plants

A bougainvillea was planted sometime in the late 1990’s between the boundary wall and the front of the verandah. This creeper may cause damage to the boundary wall with its root system and if not kept in check may adversely affect the verandah.

Animals

No animal activity was noted.

Fire

There is no immediate threat from veldt fires. Fires from human activity inside and outside, especially the braai, need to be monitored.

Humans

There is no immediate threat from visitors as the building is not open to the public. Vandalism and theft requires the normal monitoring. The biggest threat to the historic fabric is poor or no maintenance by either DPW or RIM.

Pollution

Carbon dioxide from vehicle emissions may pose a threat, especially because of the high lime content of materials used.

6.2. OPPORTUNITIES

Opportunities have not been identified.

Tourism

Education

Research

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1. Repairs and renovation to be carried out as per the conservation architects specifications.

10.2. The verandah supports should be painted white and not red. This would refocus attention on the building itself, enhance the aesthetics and would be historically based on the colours pre 1994.

10.3. Research has also indicated that the perimeter walls were white and the building walls were a cream or off white colour. It would be in line with the RIM conservation principles to consider going back to these colours.

10.4. SAHRA must monitor the implementation of the Maintenance Management Pla.

10.5. Although the building was intended to be used for conferencing facilities this rarely happens and an alternative use strategy must be put in place.

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