

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF DURBAN ART GALLERY (BEERHALL) CURRENT CONSERVATION CENTRE

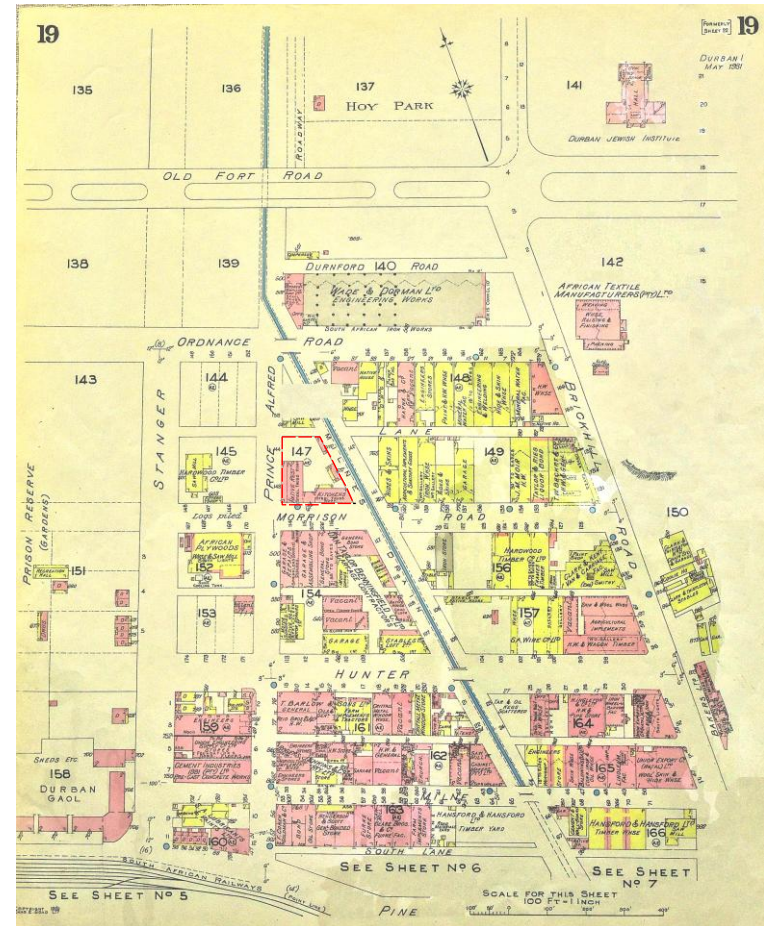
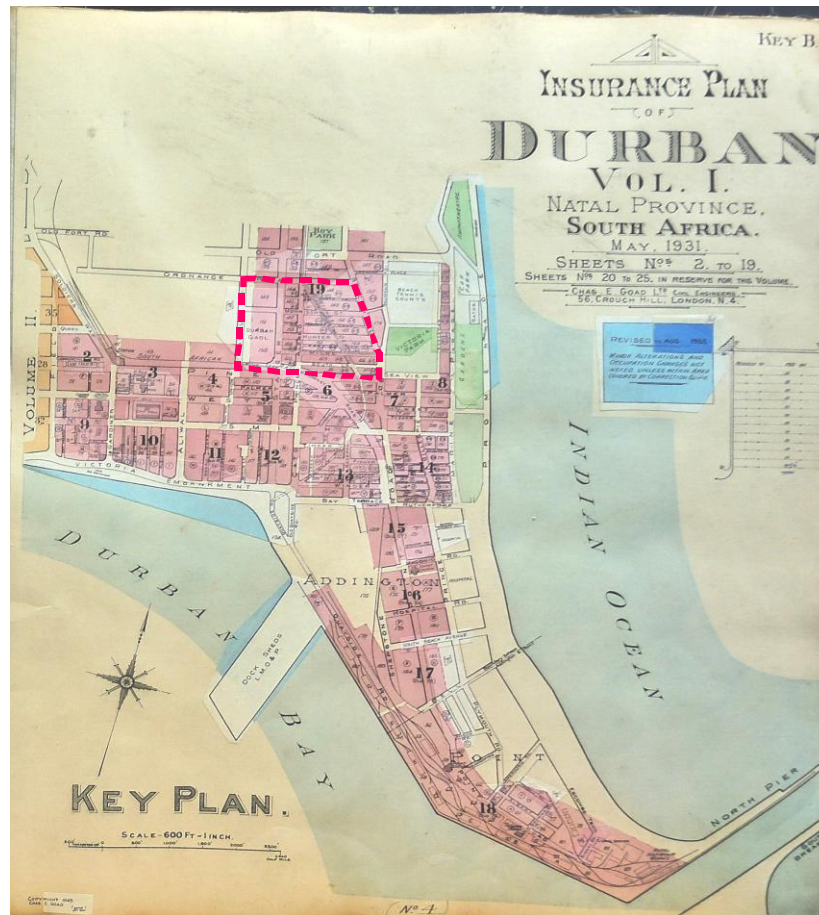
The Beer hall on 102 Florence Nzama st. was built in 1914 as a social gathering place for the black labour in the area where they gathered to eat and drink for years until segregation was abolished. The existing building as a municipal beerhall served this purpose until 1968, after which it was rented out to various commercial firms: the last tenant rented it as a panel beating shop until the lease expired on 31 December 1993. It was due to be demolished by the Durban City Council but at the eleventh hour, quick action by the Durban Art Gallery staff, who saw its potential as a conservation and storage area for works of art, prevented this drastic action. The Durban Museums' Conservation Centre, now known as the Technical Centre was officially opened on Thursday 18 May 1995 by Professor Brenda Gourley, Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Natal.

The city council in 1855 commissioned engineer, John Milne to install a drainage channel that would channel water out of the area to allow it to dry out and be usable. The Milne drain on the east side of the site, initially was an open channel but years later given a concrete cover to its entire length, which exist till today.

PHOTOGRAPHIC STUDY

HISTORIC PHOTOS AND MAPS 1931

GOAD MAPS OF 1931 SHOWING HISTORIC ACTIVITIES OF THE PRECINCT AROUND THE BEER HALL



PHOTOS OF BUILDING EXTERNALLY AND INTERNALLY FUNCTIONING AS A BEER HALL

