

# NATIONAL MONUMENTS COUNCIL

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**FILE NO.**

9/2/003/18.

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For previous correspondence  
see old file No.

2/K/GrA/4.

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9/2/003/18.

CORY LIBRARY FOR HISTORICAL RESEARCH  
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SOUTH AFRICA

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Please address all communications to  
the Cory Librarian

1 June 1993

Mr W Martin  
National Monuments Council  
P O Box 7888  
PRETORIA  
0001

Dear Mr Martin

Thank you for your kind letter of 10 May 1993.

I apologise for my delay in replying, but I have been on leave for two weeks. I am not sure if it was the much needed rest and recuperation or whether it is just having Ms Rowoldt back to advise me, but I have found out where the original of the painting is. Frances Somerset, the daughter of Henry Somerset, not the wife, who is listed under her married name of Frances Sutton in the catalogue of pictures in the Johannesburg Africana Museum, was the artist responsible. The original painting is in the Johannesburg Africana Museum on page 10a of the Fanny Sutton Album (no.56/809). The album also contains two pictures of Oatlands, but you cannot really see the house in either of them (pp.4a and 4b). I am sorry I did not find the picture on first looking through the catalogue, but I looked under Fish River rather than the name of the artist.

Please let us know if we can help you further.

Yours sincerely

(Miss) C M BLIGHT  
Assistant Cory Librarian

RECEIVED 4.6.93

ACQUISITION DEPARTMENT  
RHODES UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

4.6.93

RECORDING UNIT





MARCELLE WEINER  
LIBRARIAN

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DI VAN NIEROP : ART LIBRARIAN

BAINES AFRICAN COLLECTION

1848 sketchbook



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TELEPHONE (011) 646-6024/5/6 • FAX (011) 486-1651

17 June 1993

Mr William Martinson  
Architect  
National Monuments Council  
Box 7888  
0001 Pretoria

FAX: (012) 323-1675

Dear Mr Martinson

Many thanks for your kind note supplying me with Professor Radford's address. I look forward to having you do research in the Library.

Yours sincerely

*Marcelle Weiner*

M D WEINER (MRS)  
BRENTHURST LIBRARIAN

9/2/003/018

Mr W Martinson

18 June 1993

The Director  
South African National Museum of Military History  
PO Box 52090  
SAXONWOLD  
2132

Dear Sir

OATLANDS HOUSE, GRAHAMSTOWN

- 1 I am collaborating with Prof D Radford (Head: Department of Architecture - Louisiana Tech University) on an article on the architectural history of Oatlands House in Grahamstown.
- 2 The house was built on the Oatlands Estate in 1824 by Capt Henry Somerset (later Sir Henry) who was then the commandant of the Cape Corps. In 1827 Somerset was appointed commandant of Kaffraria and was put in charge of the Cape Mounted Riflemen. Lt Col Somerset left Grahamstown for India in 1852. In 1854 Oatlands House and a portion of the Estate was purchased by Walter Currie (later Sir Walter) who was then commandant of the Frontier Armed and Mounted Police (FMAP). He made Oatlands the FMAP "headquarters" presumably until his retirement from the FMAP in 1870. Currie died at Oatlands in 1872. From this short summary it is clear that Oatlands House and the Oatlands Estate were closely connected to the early activities of the armed forces in the Albany district of the Eastern Cape for almost 48 years.
- 3 We are trying to locate any pictorial or written description of Oatlands House but especially for the period during which Somerset (and later Currie) were in occupation. I would therefore be most grateful if you could let me know whether your museum has any such items in their collection. I would also appreciate it if you could suggest any other institutions, in SA or overseas, who might also be able to assist in this regard.
- 4 For your reference and to avoid duplication I include an abbreviated list of the reference sources we have located thus far:
  - 4.1 Schiffman Panorama, 1862, (Lithograph in the 1820 Settler Museum);

- 4.2 Wilson, Edward, "Reminiscences of a Frontier Armed and Mounted Police Officer in South Africa" 1866. (Description Pg 17);
- 4.3 Goldlonton R & Irving E, "Narrative of the Kaffir War" (Lithograph Pg 41);
- 4.4 Various sketches contained in two albums of sketches in the Africana Museum by SUTTON, Frances and HARKNESS, Annabella, dating from the 1840's and the 1860's respectively.
- 4.5 Fleming, Francis "Southern Africa - A Geography and Natural History" 1866 (woodcut Pg 95).

I look forward to your reply.

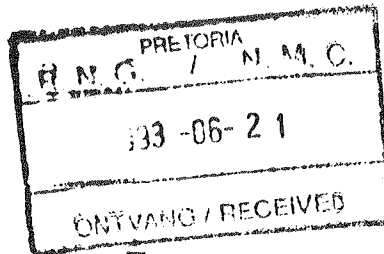
Yours faithfully

WILLIAM A. MARTINSON

ARCHITECT NORTH

WAM/aa

OATLANDS HOUSE 9/2/003/18



JUNE 10 1993.

DEAR WILLIE,

THANKS FOR THE AD - BY NOW YOU WILL KNOW MY INTENTIONS RE DUBSAN.

I ENCLOSE TWO MARKED UP PRINTS SHOWING THE FRUITS OF MY RUMINATIONS WITH REGARD TO THE OUTLINE OF OATLANDS ESTATE. THESE WERE PROMPTED BY THE ARTICLE FROM GACOT'S MAIL + THE SHANNON'S PLANS.

FIRSTLY I WANTED TO ESTABLISH THE REASONS FOR ALL THE POINTS ON THE 1820 GRANT. FROM C TO N (COPY B) THESE APPEAR TO BE SELF APPARENT - PROMINENT POINTS OF LAND ON A STRAIN BED. WHAT WASN'T SO CLEAR WERE THE TWO LONG SIDES TO THE EAST + WEST, HOWEVER PRODUCING THE TWO LINES UNTIL THEY INTERSECTED MADE FOR A POINT OF ORIGIN<sup>(COPY A)</sup> IN THE HIGH STREET QUITE LOGICAL IF YOU THINK OF A THEODOLITE + A CLEAR RANGE OF VISION. SOMEONE OBVIOUSLY WANTED THE WILLOW OF THE Y-SHAPED VALLEY.

THEN I THOUGHT TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM WITH RETICE. OBVIOUSLY HE WANTED A GRANT ON THE SPUR FOR HIS WINDMILL. I ASSUME IT WAS ORIGINALLY A RECTANGLE LIKE HIS ADJACENT WATER MILL GRANT. JUST AS OBVIOUSLY SOMEONE WANTED AN APPROPRIATE FRONTAGE. THIS I THINK WAS AS I SHOW ON COPY A. THE COMPROMISE WAS TO BEND THE ORIGINAL LINE (C.B. ON COPY B) TO THAT WHICH BOTH CHOPPED OFF A BIT OF RETICE'S LINE + SOME OF SOMEONE'S FRONTAGE. RETICE STILL GOT HIS WINDMILL POINTS 1 + 2 (COPY A) AND PROJECTIONS OF THE STREET.

ALL THE OTHER INFORMATION ON 'B' IS SELF EXPLANATORY I ENCLOSE A NEW TWO PART OUTLINE + A ROUGH CHRONOLOGY  
REGARDS,  
DENNIS



## OATLANDS.

REVISED OUTLINE - TWO ARTICLES. NOW.

INTRODUCTION. TWO/THERE PARAGRAPHS OUTLINING PURPOSE + METHOD.

1/ A HISTORY OF THE ESTATE + ITS BUILDINGS.

A FIRST GRANT - SIZE + TYPE OF ESTATE - / ~~GARDEN~~ INCL SUBURBS.

B/ ORIGINAL COTTAGE.

C/ SECOND HOUSE (1823-52) + SUBSEQUENT HISTORY INCL ALTERATIONS.

D/ GARDEN LAYOUT + ANCILLARY BUILDINGS.

2/ THE SECOND HOUSE IN DETAIL.

A ORIGINAL PLAN + ELEVATIONAL TREATMENT.

B/ INTERNAL FEATURES + NOTES ON FURNISHINGS.

C/ THE HOUSE'S ORIGIN + ITS INFLUENCES.

BOTH ABOUT 3,000 WORDS.

ILLUSTRATIONS.

1/ SHAWDON'S PLAN C. 1824.

2/ SHAWDON'S LAYOUT C. 1880.?

3/ PHOTOS OF PRESENT HOUSE.

4/ GARDEN LAYOUT. STABLES/ COTTAGES/ BARN.

1/ RECONSTRUCTED PLANS + AXONOMETRIC.

2/ PHOTOS OF DETAILS - 2/3 ?

3/ PHOTO OF MARINO'S VILLA

OATLANDS ~~LAND~~ ESTATE.

1820 H. S. BOUGHT EAF 52

1820 21 AUGUST 296 MORGEN. SURVEYORS PLAN.

26 SEPT. DIED OF GRANT 296 MORGEN = 625 ACRES.

NO ADDITIONAL GRANT. OVERLAP WITH P. RETIEF.  
FIRST HOUSE.

[WITHIN LIMITS OF GRADING LAND OF G'TOWN.

1823/4 2ND HOUSE.

1/2 MILE NOT 2 MILES AS PER LETTER.

1850. BOUGHT BY FRED CALISE + W.R. THOMPSON.

57 MORGEN + 208 ROOFS.

1854. ~~600~~ 112 PLOTS - 99 SOLD FEB - JUNE. —

75' WIDTH.  
STARTING TO WITHIN.

53 MORGEN.

500 1862 VIEW. - (+ 30 HOUSES)

8 MAY. 291 MORGEN + 547 ROOFS TO WALTER CURRIE, \$2050.

1860. CURRIE PARK - PRINCE ALFARO'S OAK.

1874. TRIANGULAR BLOCK GRANTED.

1878. RAILWAY LAND.

1880. 6 NOV. ESTATE OF SIR W. CURRIE TO WILLIAM WILFRED PROPER 297 MORGEN \$6,250

1886. UPPER PORTION Laid OUT.

1891. GOVIE.

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1886. UPPER PORTION Laid OUT.

1891. GOWIE.

9/2/003/018

Mr W Martinson

23 June 1993

The President  
Royal Geographic Society  
No. 1 Kensington Gore  
London  
SW7 2AT  
GREAT BRITAIN

Dear Sir

OATLANDS HOUSE, GRAHAMSTOWN, ALBANY DISTRICT, SOUTH AFRICA

- 1 I was provided with your address by the British Consul in Johannesburg.
- 2 I am an architect in the employ of the National Monuments Council. I am at present researching the architectural history and development of Oatlands House, built by Capt H Somerset (later Sir Henry) in 1824 on the Oatlands Estate. Somerset sold Oatlands in 1852 and the house was then occupied by Walter Currie (later Sir Walter) between 1854 and 1872.
- 3 One of the few illustrations I have managed to locate of Oatlands (pre 1900) is an engraving used as an illustration in the book "SOUTHERN AFRICA - A Geography and Natural History" by the Rev. Francis Fleming F R G S, published in 1856. (copies of title page and engraving attached). Oatlands is the large house partially shown on the extreme right hand side of the engraving.
- 4 Rev Fleming notes in the Preface that "The Engravings and Vignettes have been executed from original drawings taken on the spot, and most of them selected from portfolios of the Author and his brother (who, whilst with his regiment, was also many years resident in that country). A few of them have been furnished by others." It would be most useful to us if the original drawings could be located, primarily in the hope that the whole of Oatlands House was depicted. If your Society by any chance holds the Fleming papers and drawings, or if you are aware of the institution which does, I would be most grateful if you could inform me accordingly.

5 It would also be much appreciated if you can suggest any other likely sources for contemporary illustrations and descriptions of the house and estate.

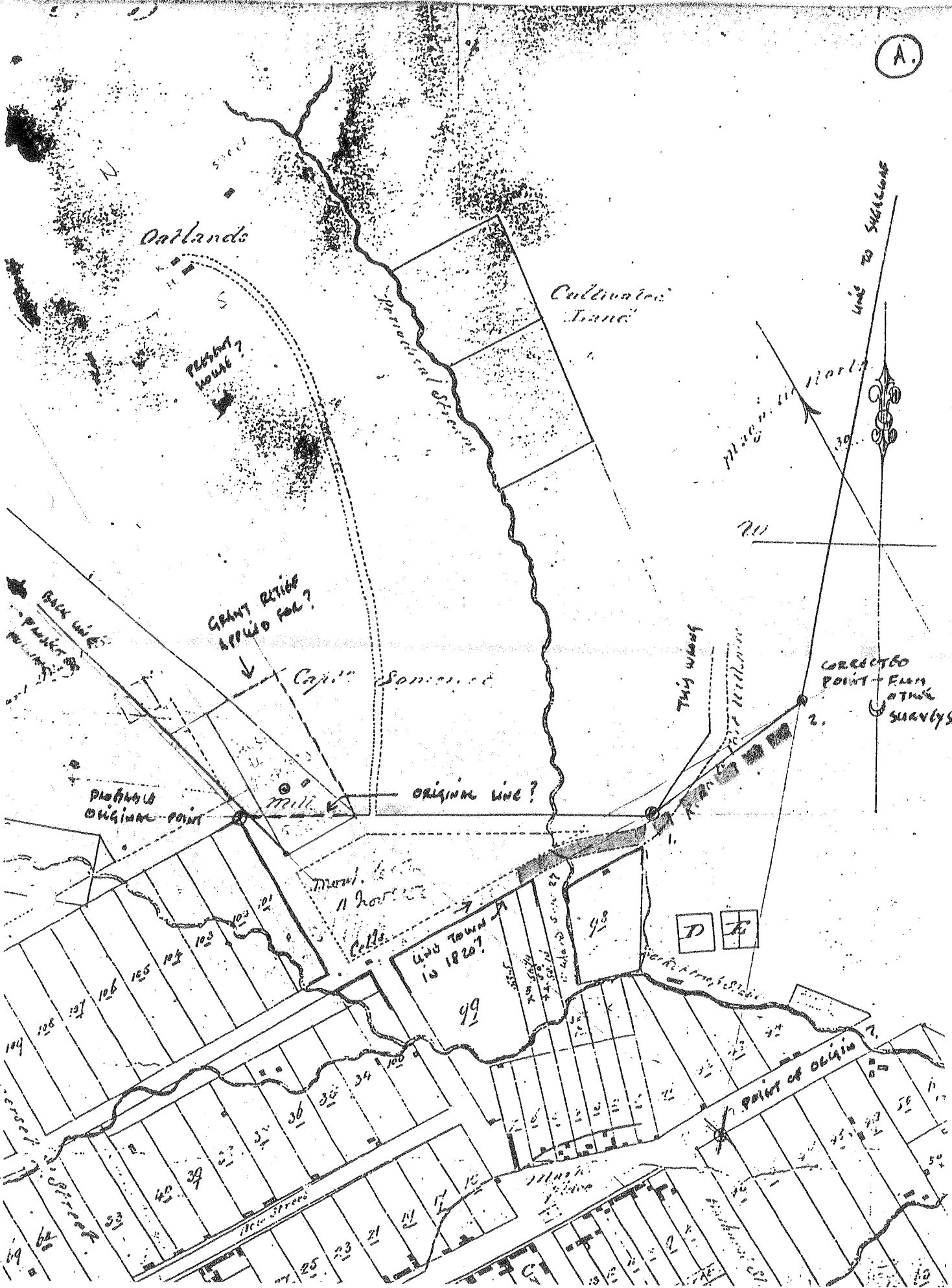
I look forward to your reply.

WILLIAM A. MARTINSON

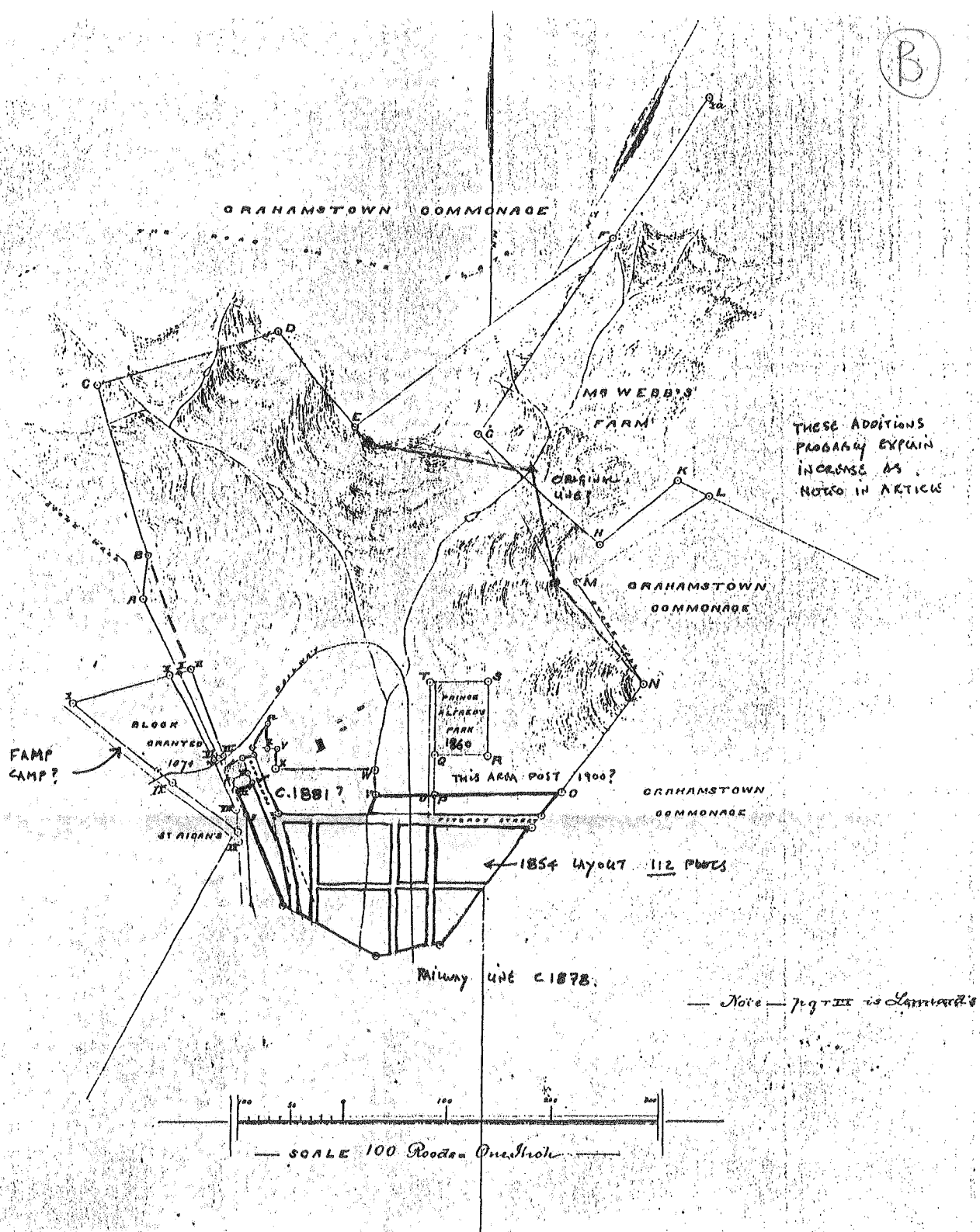
William A Martinson  
ARCHITECT NORTH

WAM/aa

A.



(B)



# GENERAL PLAN

of the

OUTLANDS ESTATE according to the Resurvey  
 agreed upon by the TOWN COUNCIL of GRAHAMSTOWN and  
 the owner Mr W. W. Paddon

Grahamstown,  
 Feb 1886.

9/2/003/018

Mr W Martinson

23 June 1993

The President  
Royal Geographic Society  
No. 1 Kensington Gore  
London  
SW7 2AT  
GREAT BRITAIN

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I look forward to your reply.

WILLIAM A. MARTINSON

William A Martinson  
ARCHITECT NORTH

WAM/aa

# SOUTHERN AFRICA.

## Geography and Natural History

OF THE  
COUNTRY, COLONIES, AND INHABITANTS

*From the Cape of Good Hope to Angola.*

TOGETHER WITH  
NOTICES OF THEIR ORIGINS, MANNERS, HABITS, CUSTOMS, TRADITIONS, SUPERSTITIONS, RELIGIOUS USAGE, LANGUAGES, PAST AND PRESENT CONDITIONS, MANUFACTURES, WEAPONS, &c., &c., &c.

BY THE  
REV. FRANCIS FLEMING, M.A., F.R.G.S.,

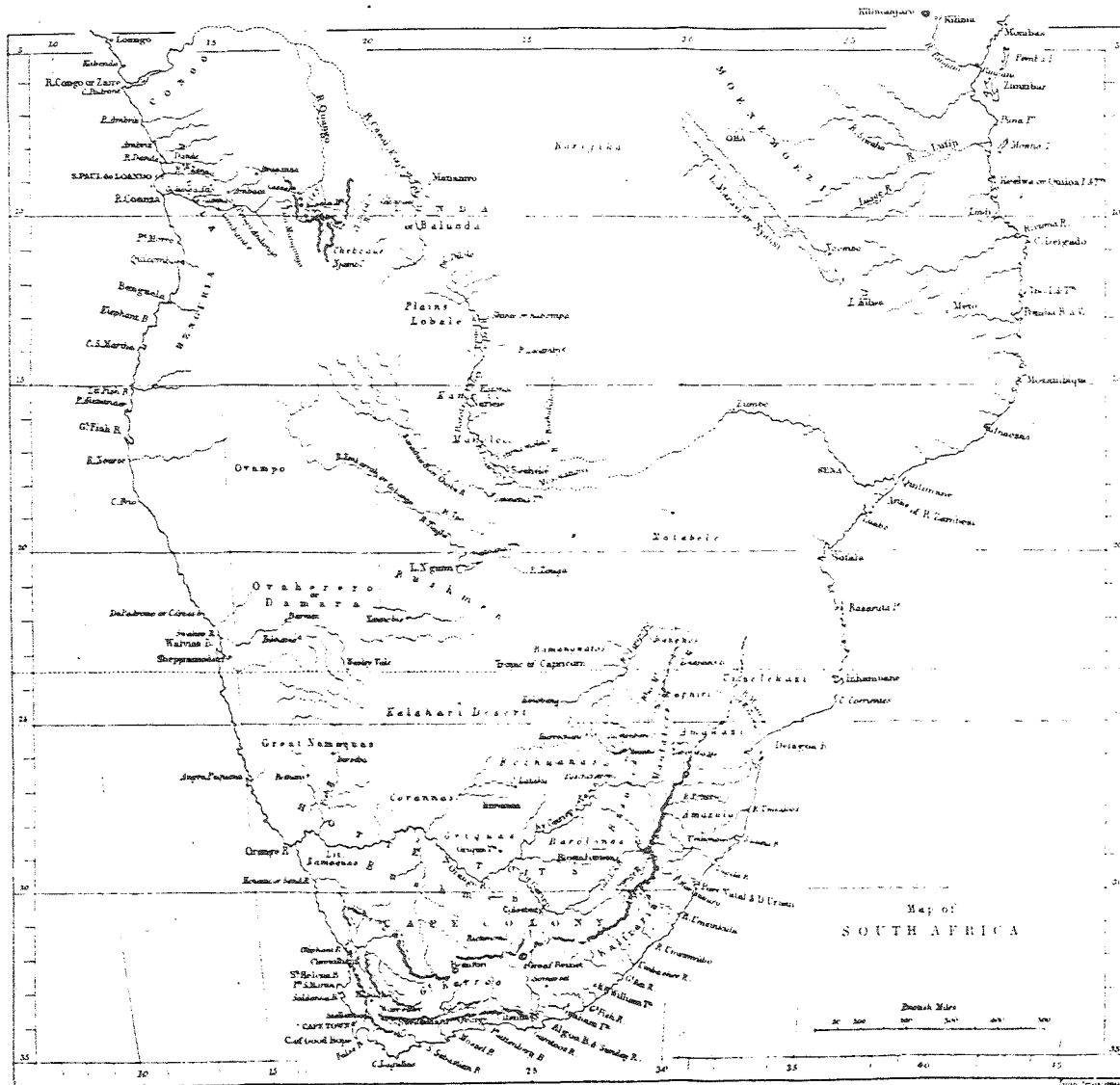
*Author of "Kaffraria."*

LONDON:  
ARTHUR HALL, VIRTUE, AND CO.;

NORWICH: THOMAS PRIEST.

MDCCLVL

1856





VIEW OF GRAHAM'S TOWN, FROM THE GRONDS OF OUTLANDS.

Page 95.

The town itself is a pleasing and cheerful spot, situated on the declivity of a small hill, which is surrounded with others of greater elevation. The streets are wide and airy, and the houses surrounded with gardens, which are well watered, and abounding in fruit trees. There is a *freshness*, consequently, engendered about the place, which is not to be seen in other parts of the Colony.

Graham's Town is now a rising and rapidly increasing place. It contains upwards of 1000 houses; and its population exceeds 5000 persons, of which about 1000 are coloured. It possesses two churches, a grammar school, a library, two banks, a court-house, and large barracks, in which, at present, the head quarters of two regiments are stationed. Amongst its inhabitants, are numbered two bishops, one of the English, and one of the Roman Catholic Church. It is likewise the site of a nunnery, as well as of various imposing edifices, used as dissenting places of worship. The shops are decidedly better here, than in any part of the Colony, not even Cape Town excepted. And, as a general rule, there appears to be more unanimity and public spirit prevailing in this community, than elsewhere. The town is governed by a municipality; who endeavour, to the best of their ability, to improve and extend its importance.

9/2/003/018

Mr W Martinson

23 June 1993

Cory Librarian  
Cory Library for Historical Research  
Rhodes University Library  
PO Box 184  
GRAHAMSTOWN  
6140

) Att: Miss C M Blight

Dear Miss Blight

OATLANDS HOUSE, 10 CAROLINE CLOSE, GRAHAMSTOWN

- 1 I apologise for once again contacting your Library with a request for assistance with our research into Oatlands House.
- 2 The NAREM database has an entry for a photograph held in the Cory Library, reference PIC/M409 and titled "GRAHAM'S TOWN FROM OATLANDS" showing houses and business premises, surrounding hills and people standing in the foreground; 1900; 14 x 22 cm. I would much appreciate a photocopy of this photograph. Should Oatlands House be visible I will then be in a position to order an enlargement at a later stage.
- 3 The Grahamstown Street Map of 1863 prepared by R S Hogger held in the Cory Library shows the lower portion of Oatlands Estate which is annotated as "Walter Currie's Estate". I would again much appreciate it if you could provide a photostat copy - a reduction from the original would be perfectly adequate. I do have a copy of "Grahamstown in Early Photographs" which includes the Street Map on the end papers, but unfortunately the outer edges have been omitted.
- 4 Please let me know the costs of the above two items and I will forward a postal order for the amount. I look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely

Walter Currie's Estate

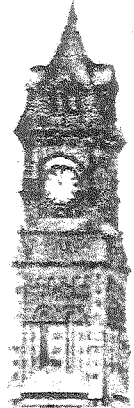
ARCHITECT NORTH

WAM/aa

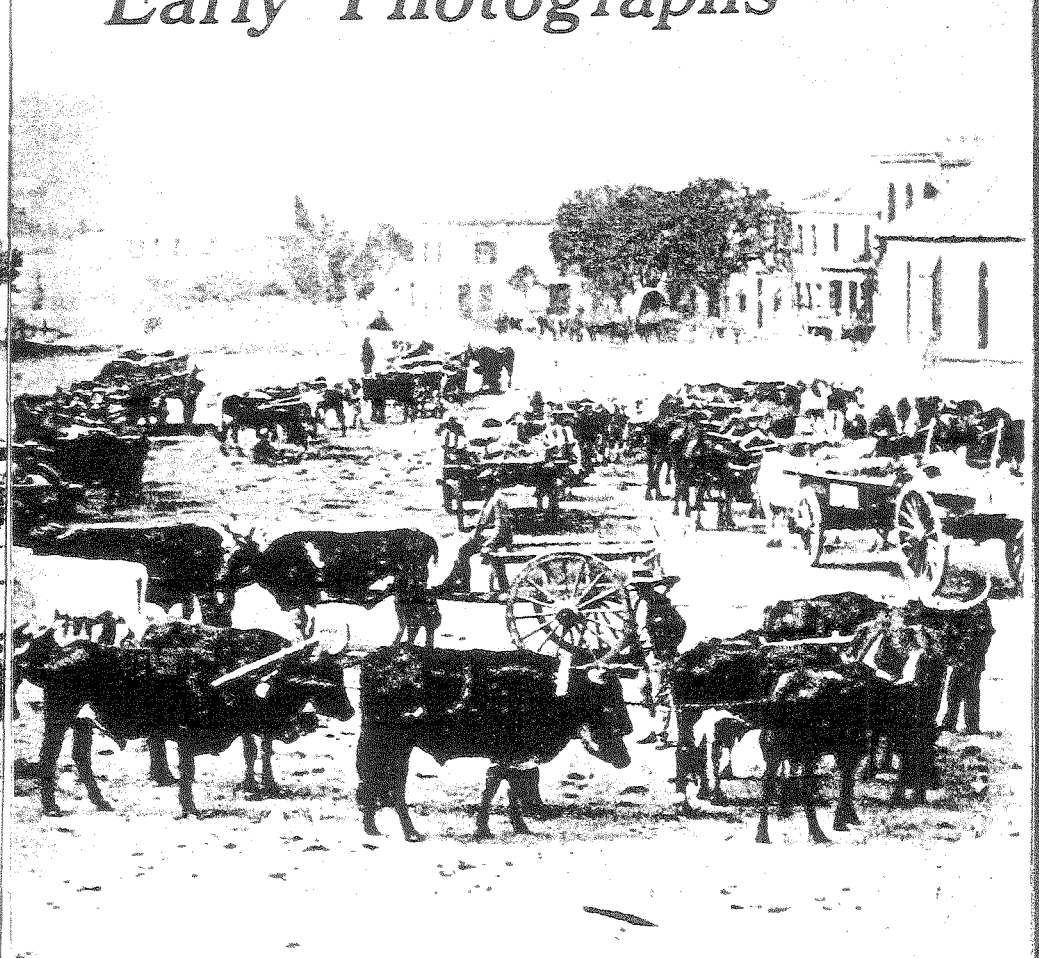
SOUTH AFRICAN YESTERDAYS NUMBER 4



DAVID PHILIP, PUBLISHER, CAPE TOWN, 1974



*Frank van der Riet*  
*Grahamstown in*  
*Early Photographs*

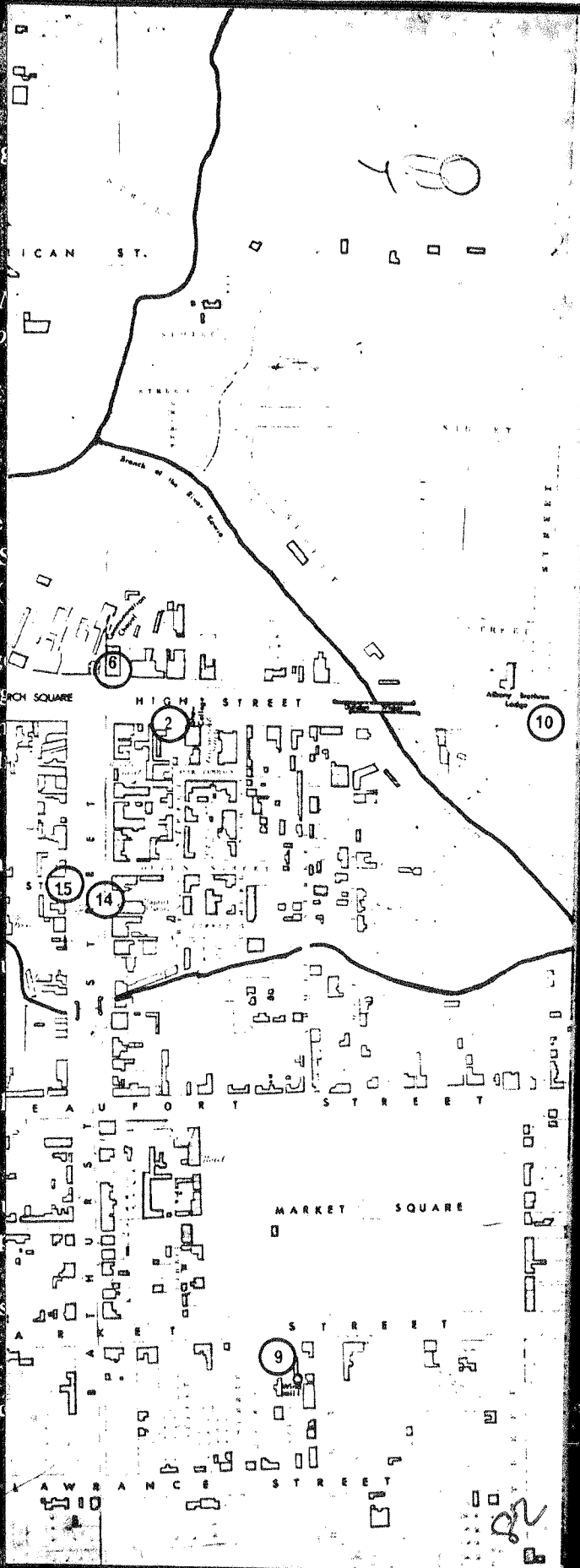


**STREET MAP OF  
ISSUED IN 1863**

Prepared by R. S. Hogg

**KEY TO THE PRINCIPAL BUILDINGS**  
*in approximate order of*

- 1 Commissariat Store
- 2 Shaw College (i.e. 'S')
- 3 'Thursford House' (residence)
- 4 St. Andrew's College
- 5 Cathedral (St. George)
- 6 Commemoration Church
- 7 Pieter Retief's Windmill
- 8 Cathedral Grammar School
- 9 Gradwell's Mill
- 10 Albany Brethren Hall
- 11 Blaine's Building
- 12 Hayton's Building
- 13 Eastern Districts Court
- 14 Baptist Church
- 15 Union Chapel
- 16 Birkenruth's Mill
- 17 St. Patrick's Pro-Cathedral
- 18 Trinity Presbyterian Church
- 19 'Huntley House'
- 20 Ebenezer Baptist Church
- 21 Albany General Hospital
- 22 Drostdy
- 23 Provost (Military Prison)
- 24 Military Hospital
- 25 Government House (Residence)
- 26 Ordnance Offices and



P.S. HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT NATAL ETC.

REKANS,  
Dimitris.

DO THE FIRST TWO SECTIONS (SEE MY REVISED OUTLINE) AND I WILL SEND YOU MY THOUGHTS ON THAT. THESE WHEN YOU CAN TURN INTO YOUR DRAFT. IN THIS WAY THE TWO ARTICLES WILL BE SOME STYLISTIC CONCISE. BY THIS WAY I SUPPOSE IT WOULD BE EASIER TO CHECK WITH THE BOARD OF CURRICULUM WITHIN THE WAY WOULD ACCEPT A TWO PART ARTICLE. ONCE WE HAVE A FAIR DRAFT OF BOTH THEN WE CAN REFINISH + FINISH PART ONE + SUBMIT.

I HAVE FOR JAMAICA IN A DAY BUT LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR NEXT INSTALLMENT IN THE NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE.

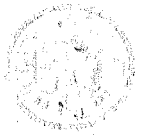
WITH REGARD TO THE SECOND ARTICLE I THINK THAT YOU SHOULD AND GOOD COPIES OF THE 1862 PANAMA + A SECTION SECTION. YOUR STATES RECONSTRUCTION (I HAVE HANDS UP A COPY OF YOUR DRAWING) AS EXAMS THE ILLUSTRATIONS, MOST I WILL DO BUT WE WILL NEED CAN DO THE CHARACTER MANUALLY AS I WILL HAVE THE DRAFT PUT ON DISK. THAT THIS INFORMATION SHOULD GO INTO THE SECOND ARTICLE. YOU WILL GET I HAVE CHANGED THE CONTENTS A LITTLE OMITTING ILLUSTRATIONS + SOME OF THEM WILL HAVE TO BE QUITE LARGE. WORDS IS THE MOST A JOURNAL WILL TAKE ESPECIALLY WITH TAKE ABOUT A PAGE MORE BUT I HAVE FOUND THAT ABOUT 3,000 IT CERTAINLY NEEDS ALL THE NTS PICKING OUT OF IT. IT GIVE PUGH DRAFT - OF PART ONE. PLEASE FEEL FREE TO ASK + ADD - HEREWITH A COPY OF THE WORK DRAFT - A VERY

PLEASE WRITE,

JUNE 15

• DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE •

LOUISIANA TECH UNIVERSITY DONTWANG / RECEIVED
83-05-28
PRETORIA / N.M.C.



ATLANDS 9/2/003/018





9/2/003/018

Mr W Martinson

29 June 1993

The Duke of Beaufort  
Badminton  
AVON  
GL9 1DB  
GREAT BRITAIN

Dear Duke of Beaufort

**OATLANDS HOUSE, GRAHAMSTOWN, SOUTH AFRICA**

- 1 I was provided with your address by Mrs Silvia Birrel, owner of the Oatlands Stables, now converted into a private house.
- 2 I am an architect employed by the National Monuments Council of South Africa and am researching the architectural history and development of Oatlands House, which was built in Grahamstown in 1824 by Capt H Somerset. This field of research was suggested by Prof Dennis Radford, Head of the Department of Architecture at Louisiana Tech University (formerly Head of the Department of Architecture at Wits University in Johannesburg). He has proposed that we write a joint article on Oatlands, which in his opinion is one of the most important houses in Grahamstown.
- 3 When Oatlands was offered for sale by auction in 1852 it was described as a "splendid mansion ... by far the most commodious in character of any House in the Eastern division". It was probably the first *cottage-orné* and the first verandah-house in Grahamstown.
- 4 Notwithstanding its architectural and historical importance Oatlands has only been mentioned in passing in Lewcock's definitive book "Early 19th Century Architecture in South Africa". It is Prof Radford's intention to redress this imbalance by publishing two articles on Oatlands House and the Estate.
- 5 The House and the Estate have undergone a number of changes over the last 169 years. It is our intention to try and establish the original layout of the Estate, and the plans, elevational treatment and 3-D massing of the house and stables, as built (and probably added to) by Capt Somerset. For this we are fortunate to have a measured ground-plan (dated 1966). Another excellent source of information has been the sketches made by Frances (Fanny) Sutton (née Somerset) in c.1840. The original Sutton sketches are held in the Africana Museum in Johannesburg (copies attached).
- 6 I would be most grateful if you could let me know whether a Somerset archives exists which holds manuscripts, correspondence, diaries, sketches etc relating to the 34 years during which the Somersets lived in Grahamstown. I am particularly interested in the following aspects:

- the background to the acquisition of the Oatlands Estate in 1820 and the reasons for this choice of ground;
- a description (and sketches) of the first Oatlands Cottage, built of wattle-and-daub in November 1820 and destroyed by great storms in October 1823;
- a description (and sketches) of the Oatlands House, outbuildings and Stables built in 1824, a schedule of the accommodation and an indication of the numbers of servants employed;
- the choice of the sites for the various buildings on the Estate;
- information relating to the layout of the Estate and the landscaping and planting in the immediate vicinity of the House;
- the source of building materials eg doors, windows, fireplace surrounds etc;
- a description of any alterations and additions to the buildings which might have taken place over time.

7 In the book *Hawk's Eye* by D E Rivett-Carnac (1966), it is stated on pg 30 that "Henry Somerset called his Estate Oatland's Park after the Manor House acquired by Henry VIII in 1537 as one of the Royal residences". I would be grateful if you could suggest who would be able to provide more information on Oatlands House at the Hampton Court Estate. I would particularly like to obtain a plan of the house and a site plan of the Estate.

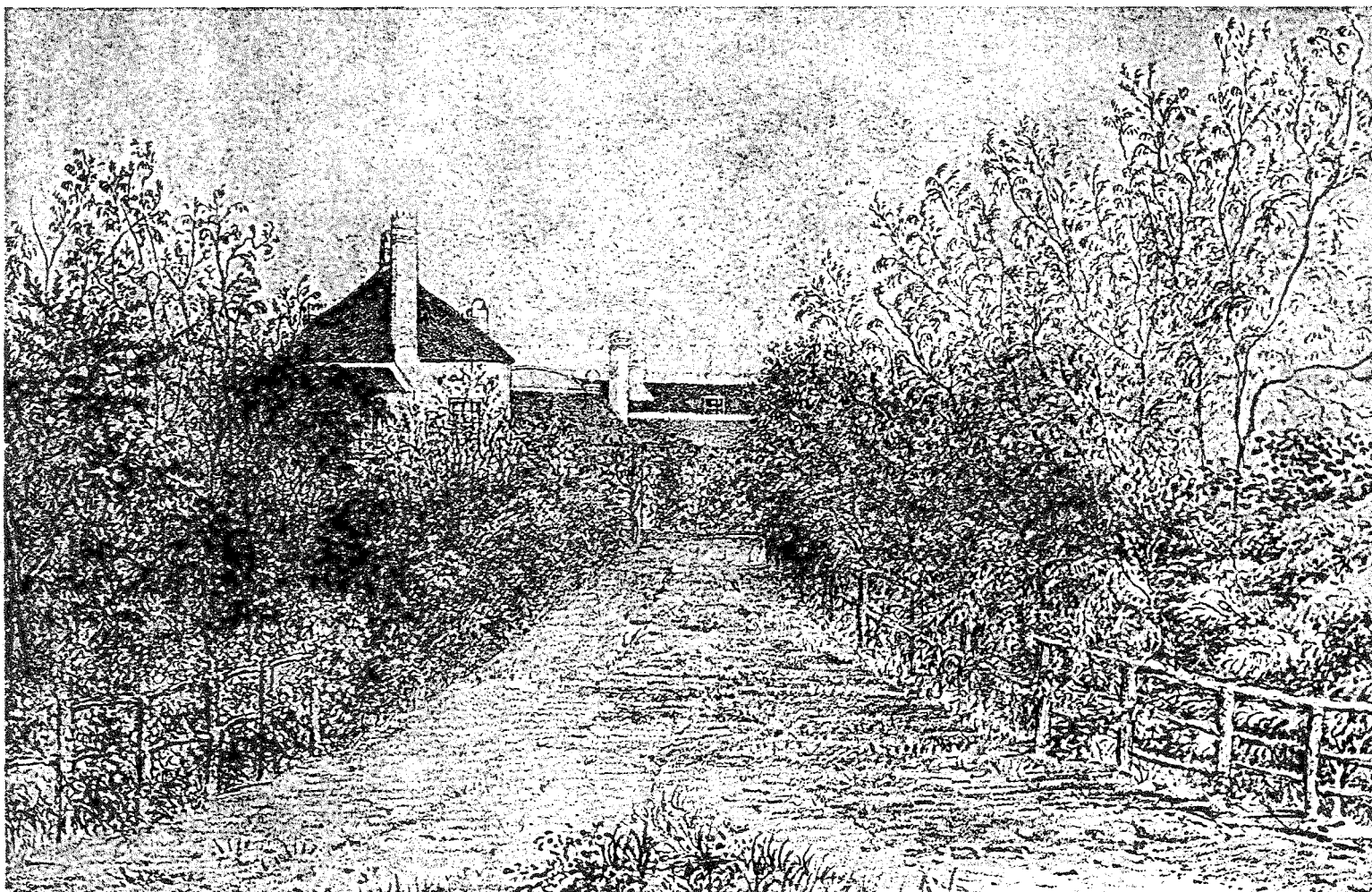
8 My final request concerns the common feature of the ground plans of Marine Villa and Newlands House (built by Lord Charles Somerset in Cape Town) and Oatlands House in Grahamstown. All three houses have three reception rooms forming the front wing of the house with a more private wing to the rear. I would be most interested to know whether Badminton has a similar set of three large interleading rooms, which might have been the precedent for the three South African houses. If a ground plan and estate plan of Badminton are available I would much appreciate a copy.

) I look forward to your reply.

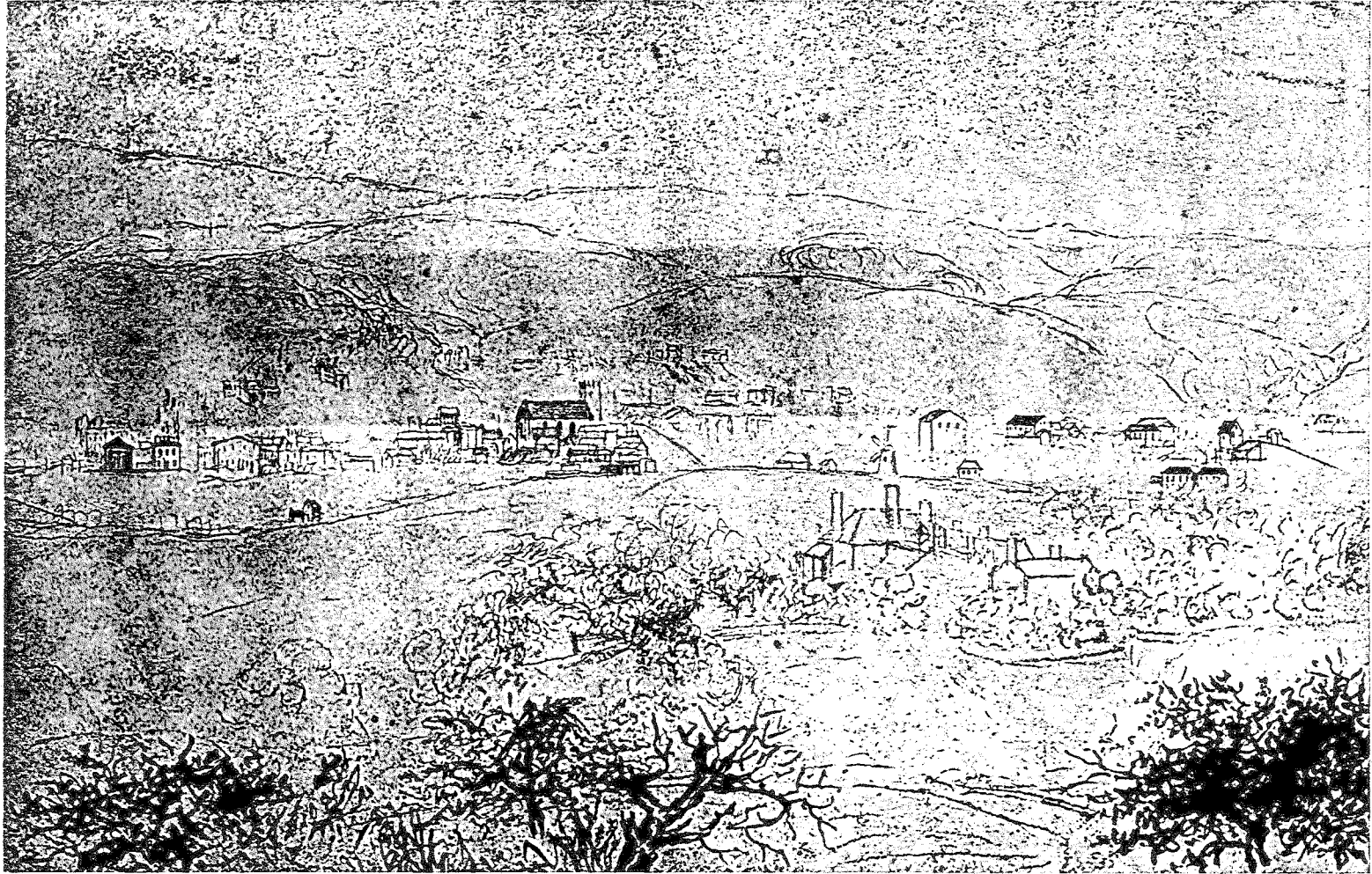
Yours faithfully

*William A Martinson Esq.*  
William A Martinson Esq.  
ARCHITECT NORTH

WAM/aa



Pencil drawing (prob. by Fanny Sutton) "Oatlands Grahamstown" Africana Museum 5162 [4b]

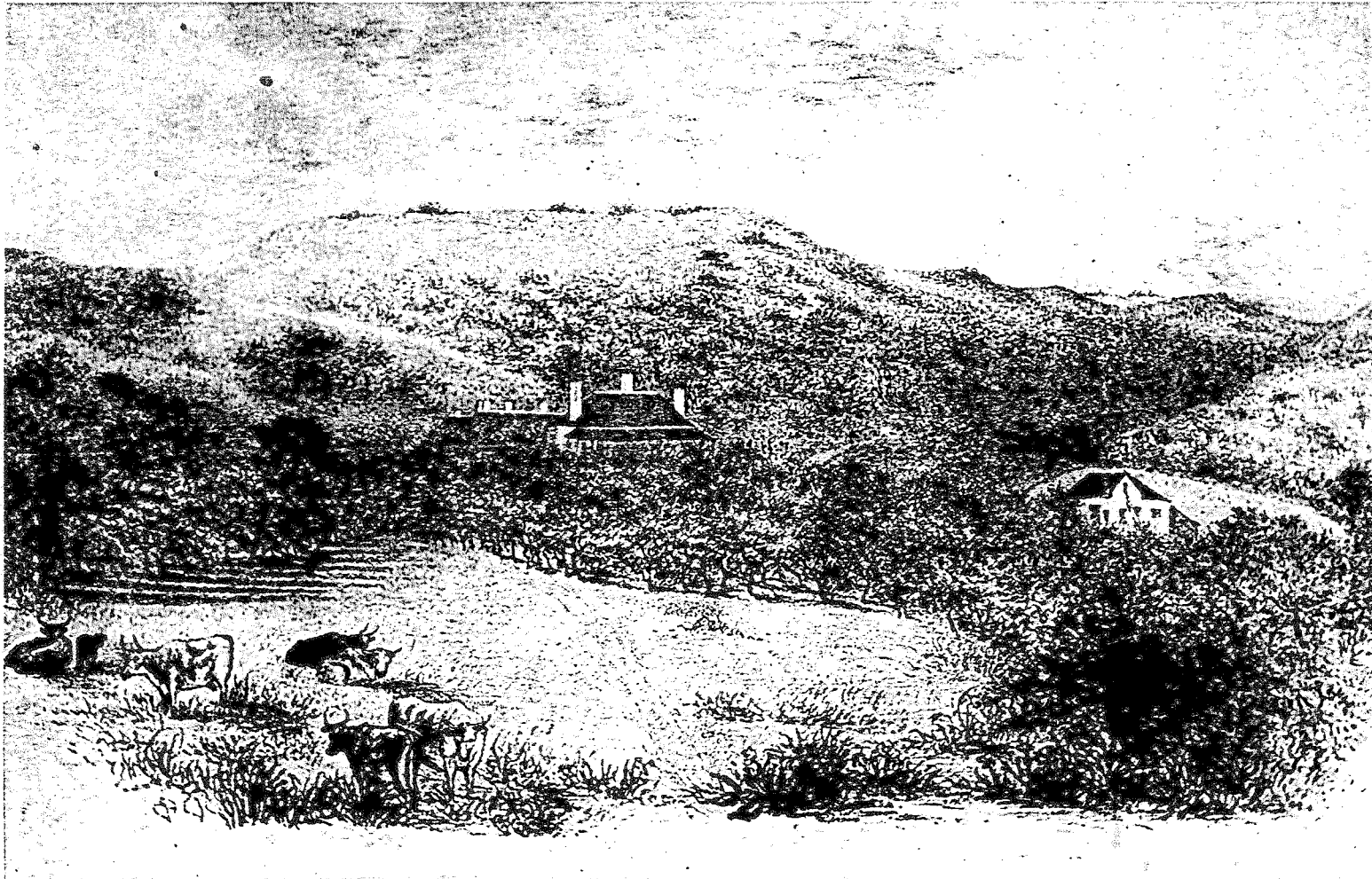


Pencil drawing (prob by Fanny Sutton) "Grahamstown from the hill behind Oatlands  
which is in the right foreground" c 1849  
Africana Museum S160 [3]

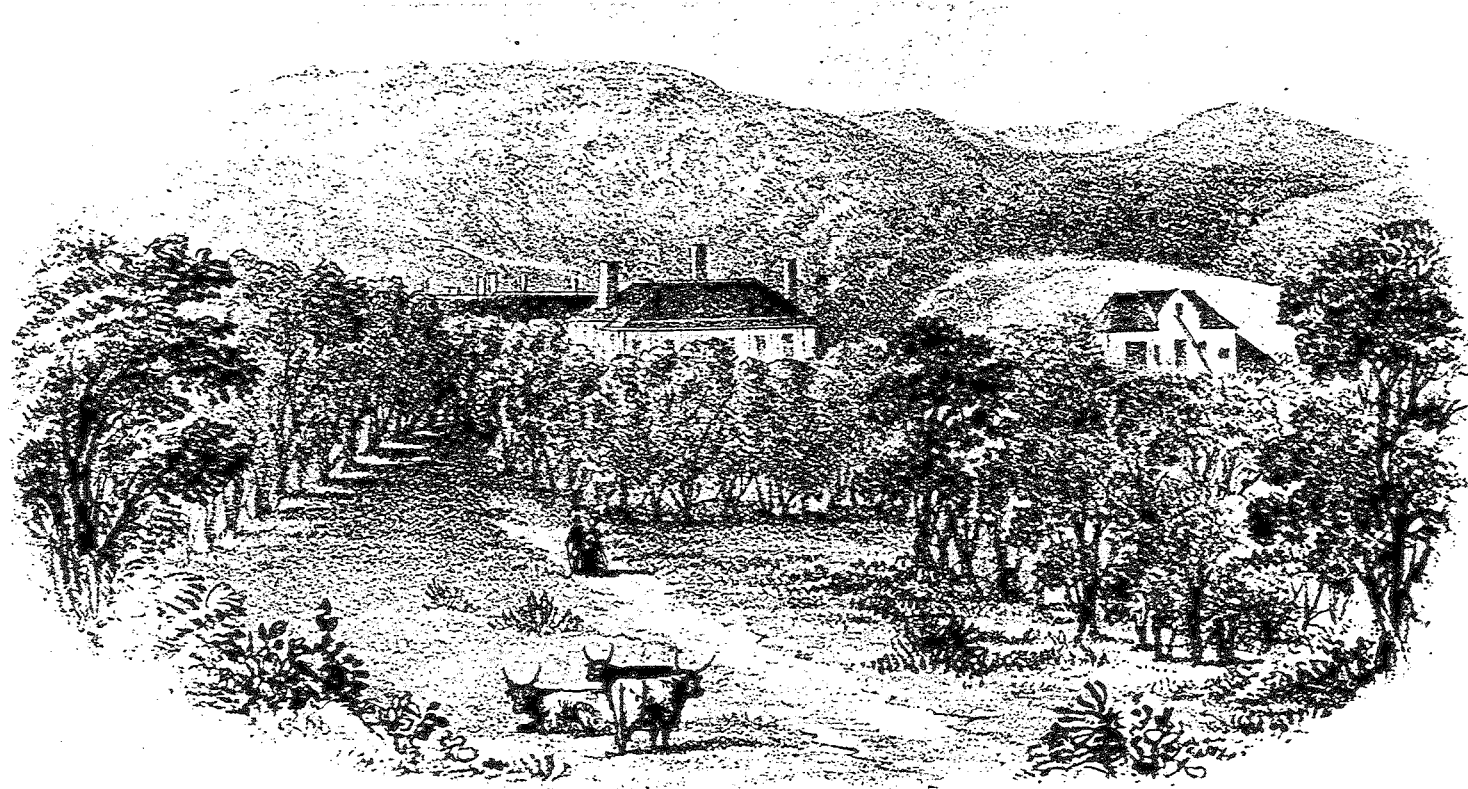


Pencil drawing "Oatlands"

Africana Museum



Pencil drawing by Fanny Sutton "Oatlands, Grahamstown" c 1840 Africana Museum S161 [4a]



OATLANDS

*The Residence of Colonel Somerset, Commandant of the Eastern Province of the Colony of  
the Cape of Good Hope.*

From (opp pg 41) "Narrative of the Kaffir War of 1850 -51-52" Grahamstown 1852

30.6.1993

OATLANDS HOUSE

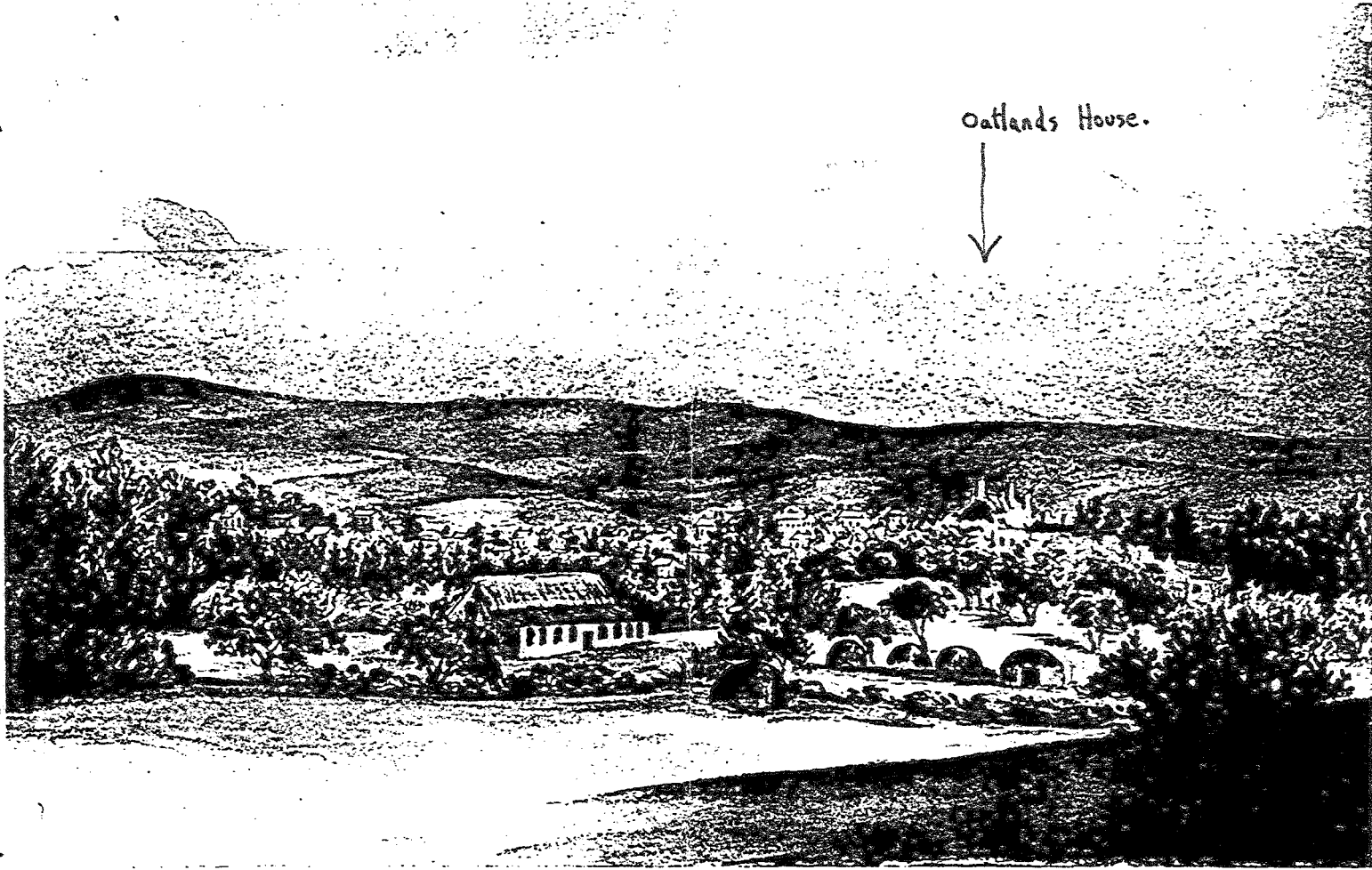
Brian, the building in the foreground is either the existing stables or is possibly the FMAP (Frontier Mounted & Armed Police) Headquarters - in the latter case this might then survive as a building up near MIVES & TEMPLETON streets. I would appreciate your comments. Thanks William.

9/2/003/018

Frontier Mounted & Armed Police

MIVES & TEMPLETON streets

Thanks William.



Oatlands House.



↑ ?

Grahamstown from Oatlands Park, the seat of Sir Walter Currie.

↑ stables ?

Nov 1866.  
Nov 1866.

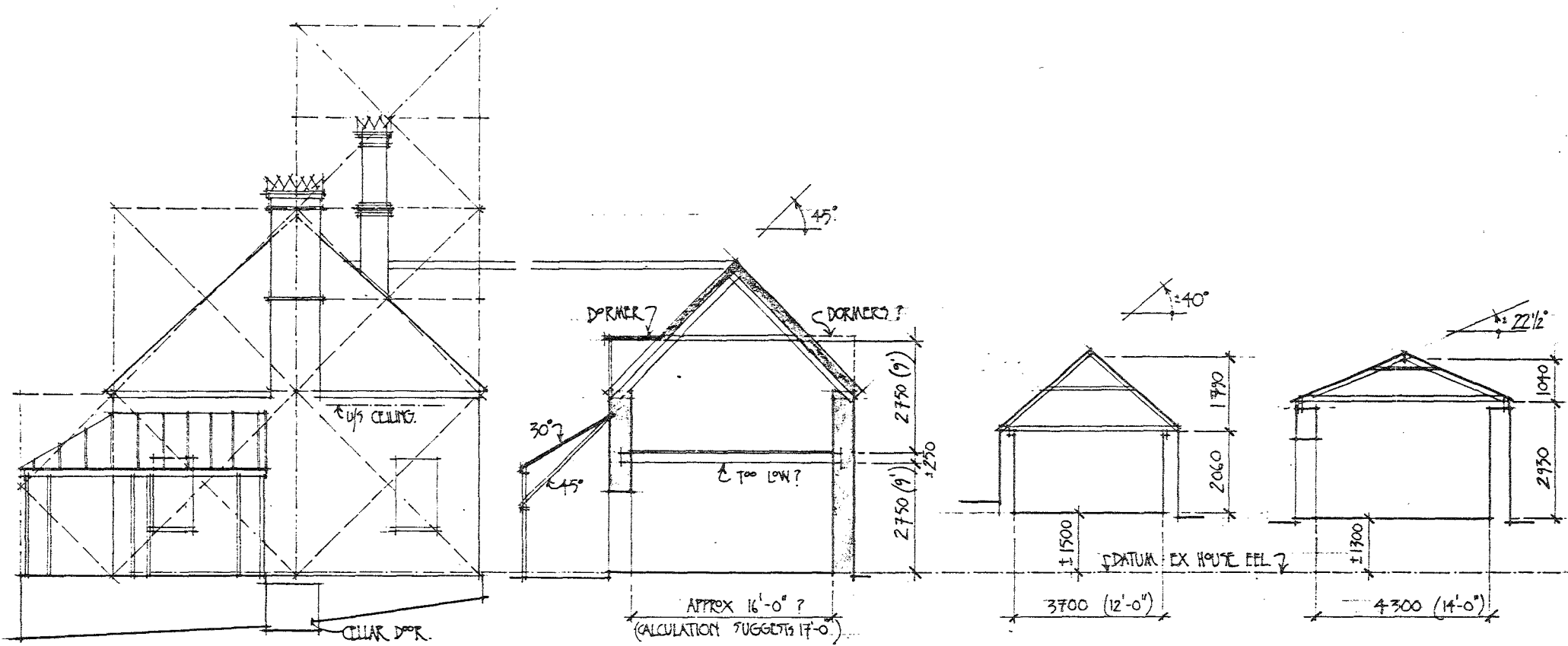
from Africana Museum H83 [86] 49/129 pg 88.  
Sketch by Mrs Annabella Harriette Harkness

9/2/003/018

N. M. C. - R. N. S.  
RECEIVED / ONTVANG  
11 2 JUL 1993  
REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE: EASTERN CAPE  
STOEKVEERTENVOORZIGER: OOS-KAAP





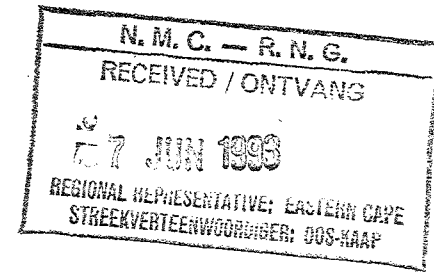
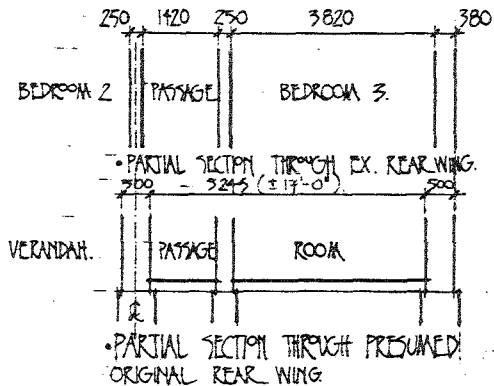


• PROPOSED RECONSTRUCTION OF SIDE ELEVATION. 1:100

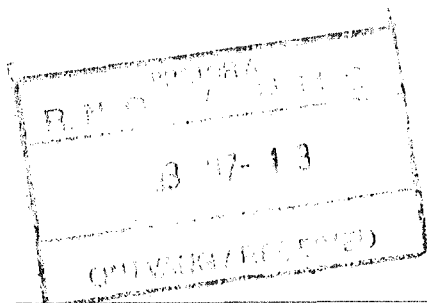
• EXPLORATORY SECTION THROUGH ORIGINAL REAR WING. 1:100

• SECTION THROUGH BLDG. 1:100 • SECTION THROUGH KITCHEN. 1:100

Brian 28.5.1993  
 I would be most grateful if you could visit Oatlands to verify whether the side chimney is in fact on the centre-line of the side facade as I have suggested.  
 Regards,  
 William



9/2/003/18



9/2/003/018 OATLANDS HOUSE

## SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL MUSEUM OF MILITARY HISTORY

DIRECTOR: MAJ GEN P. PRETORIUS, SD. SM.

P.O. BOX 52090, SAXONWOLD, TRANSVAAL 2132, TEL. 646-5513, FAX: 646-5256

Kindly address all correspondence to the Director

MUS 408/3/1

BPW/nv

2 July 1993

Mr W Martinson  
National Monuments Council  
P O Box 7888  
PRETORIA  
0001

Dear Mr Martinson,

OATLANDS HOUSE, GRAHAMSTOWN

There is a reference to the circumstances surrounding the granting of land, the Oatlands Estate, to Captain Henry Somerset on page 324 of volume II of G E Cory's The Rise of South Africa (Cape Town, Struik, 1965)

There are a number of references to Oatlands in Hawk's Eye, Dorothy E Rivett-Carnac's biography of Sir Henry Somerset, published by Howard Timmins, 1966. The illustration is a reproduction of the lithograph in Godlonton & Irving's Narrative of the Kaffir War:

The accounts we have of the Frontier Armed and Mounted Police and the Cape Mounted Riflemen do not mention Oatlands.

Possibly the Cory Library in Grahamstown will be able to provide additional information or the Albany Museum.

Yours sincerely

PHILIP PRETORIUS  
DIRECTOR

13.7.93

9/2/003/018

Mr W Martinson

5 July 1993

Prof D Radford  
Head: Department of Architecture  
Louisiana Tech University  
PO Box 3175, TS  
Ruston  
LOUISIANA 71272-0001  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Dear Dennis

OATLANDS HOUSE, 10 CAROLINE CLOSE, GRAHAMSTOWN

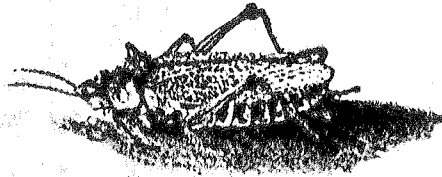
- 1 Thank you for your letters of 6 June, 10 June and 15 June 1993.
- 2 I tried to contact Robert de Jong, of the NASKO Museum, who is on the Editorial Committee of the SAJ of CH. I will let you know of his response to the two proposed articles in due course.
- 3 I attach a photostat copy of the 1863 map from "Grahamstown in Old Photographs". It omits the top margin and I have written to the Cory Library requesting a complete copy, which I will forward in due course.
- 4 I have not yet located a view of the elusive rear wing of the house but I am awaiting a reply from the S A National Museum of Military History in this regard.
- 5 I searched through all of the Grahamstown pictures at the J P L but only found a view by Mrs A H Harkness titled "Grahamstown from Oatlands Park, the seat of Sir Walter Currie Nov. 1866". The building in the foreground is either the slightly modified stables or possibly the FMAP HQ - in the latter case the building on the right hand-side would be the stables. The various bee-hive huts are of interest - apparently at some stage a proclamation was made in Kaffraria forbidding their construction within a certain distance from a military camp. Presumably these must be houses of the black servants eg stable-boys and herd-boys. The elevation of the 8 windows and centralised door would conform reasonably well with the plan dimensions of the rear wall of the stable lean-to.
- 6 A Baines sketch (dd 1848) in the JPL's Somerset file and which forms part of the Oppenheimer collection will be followed up in due course with a visit to Brenthust - it is possibly a view of one of the cottages. I have made contact with the Librarian and she has said I would be most welcome to inspect the original. She will probably be contacting you at some stage with regard to Villa Arcadia.

- 7 The JPL has several photographs of Oatlands in Simonstown and two different photographs of the ruined White House (c 1955). I will post copies of the White House photographs in due course.
- 8 With regard to your marked up General Plan (Feb 1886) I query only your suggestion that the triangular block granted 1874 was the FMAP camp, Wilson's description (1866) gives the impression that the "Headquarters" were closely allied to the Stables. It would be interesting to find out whether the stone wall between M & N (on the General Plan) still survives.
- 9 I am awaiting a response from the Royal Geographic Society in London with regard to the whereabouts of the Rev Francis Fleming's original portfolio of drawings.
- 10 The Cory Library has a photograph PIC/M409 which I only recently located on the NAREM database titled "GRAHAMSTOWN FROM OATLANDS" (1900). I have requested a photocopy and am hopeful the House might be visible.
- 11 I have read through your rough draft of Part One and return it together with my initial comments. I presume you have received my proposed reconstruction of the plan of the Stables - this drawing was made prior to seeing the Harkness drawing.
- 12 I have found at the Strange Library the publication "Narrative of the Kaffir War of 1850-51-52" printed by Godlonton & White. This was a monthly series in 12 parts and of interest is the note to subscribers that "It being difficult to procure suitable Illustrations in this Colony, arrangements have been made for their execution in England, from Sketches sent home expressly for this work". The "OATLANDS" illustration opposite pg 41 is almost certainly copied from Fanny Sutton's sketch S161 (4a). Except for the addition of two people, the omission of some of the cattle and some rearranging of the hills in the background the composition is almost identical. The "Oatlands" illustration did not appear in the London edition (see extract from Mendelsohn). The note regarding the theft of two cattle from the Oatlands Stables during this "Kaffir" war might be worth mentioning in one of the articles.
- 13 I also found at the Strange Library the publication "Memorials of the British Settlers ... 1844" printed by R Godlonton. It might be worthwhile (in one of the articles) to elaborate on the 1820 Settler 25th anniversary celebration held in the grounds of Oatland Park, which is described in detail in this booklet.
- 14 I have just posted a letter to the Duke of Beaufort asking the whereabouts of the Somerset family correspondence etc, etc. Hopefully I will get a favourable response.
- 15 I will get a draft together of the second article in due course and forward it to you for your comments. I trust your trip to Jamaica was worthwhile.

Yours sincerely

ARCHITECT NORTH

WAM/aa



H36

**HARDING, JAMES DUFFIELD (1798-1863)**

English landscape painter and lithographer, was also a successful teacher of art. His books on drawing were used by Bowler, who taught on the Harding system. Harding did not visit South Africa or paint pictures of South Africa. An example of his work is included in the Africana Museum because of his influence on Bowler and particularly on Bowler's pupils.

**H35 Lake Como 1848**

No inscription.  
Water-colour. 6½ x 9. Unsigned.  
Prof. Kreitner. No. 47/196.

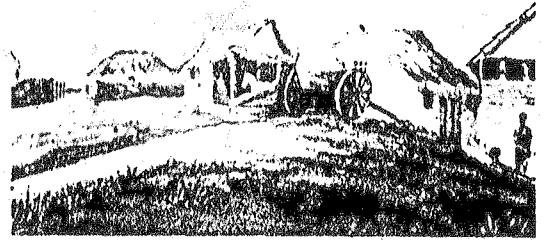
The name "J. D. Harding" is written on the mount below the picture. On the backing to the frame is written (by Miss H. G. Oliver) "Lake Como 1848 (Ruskin-Harding then in Como—Pair to this in Manchester Gallery)".

**HARKNESS, Mrs. ANNABELLA HARRIETTE  
(née James)**

Annabella Harriette James, daughter of the Rev. Henry James, married Captain J. Granville Harkness on 2 June 1864 at St. Helen's Church, the parish church of Ore, Sussex, where both her mother and his mother had been married. It is assumed that her husband was her cousin because she wrote of a picture in their house in Grahamstown: "Over mantel piece, Oil painting of Valebrook, painted by A. H. James for her cousin J. G. H., being by him in all his quarters." She was in the Eastern Cape with her husband from about September 1864 until about May 1867. Not much is known about her after her return to England, other than what can be gathered from the sketches of English scenes in her album. She was still living in 1912 because she writes that the picture of Valebrook was "given to Mrs. Barker about 1912."

John Granville Harkness, after serving for many years with the 55th Regiment of Foot, transferred to the 5th Regt. with the rank of Captain in 1857. He was promoted Major in 1877; in 1885-6 he commanded the 2/5th, became Major-General in 1886 and died in that rank at Ivy House, Ore, Sussex, on 22 June 1900 in his 70th year. The 2nd Batt. 5th Regiment arrived in South Africa in April 1863, and according to *A history of the Northumberland Fusiliers, by H. M. Walker* (Murray, 1919), was at East London in the spring of 1864, moved to King William's Town and a year later (13 October 1865) to Grahamstown. Theal says the Battalion left the Cape in March 1867, but Mrs. Harkness was still there after that date. See H87, H88, H90 and H91, all bearing dates in April and May 1867. Walker says that the Battalion arrived at Dover 9 July 1867.

The album, "Sketches of South Africa", contains 57 sketches in South Africa and 21 sketches in England. There should be 27 sketches in England but six leaves with six sketches had been removed from the album before it was acquired by the Africana Museum.



H37



H38

Among the South African sketches are copies signed with her monogram, of prints from books: four from *Lucas's Pen and Pencil Reminiscences of a Campaign in South Africa* (Day & Son, 1861) and eleven from T. W. Bowler's *The Kafir Wars* (Day & Son 1865) there is also a sketch of Wynberg copied from a sketch by Lady Douglas. Some of the English scenes, one at least of which is Italian, are also copies. There are 41 South African sketches by Mrs. Harkness.

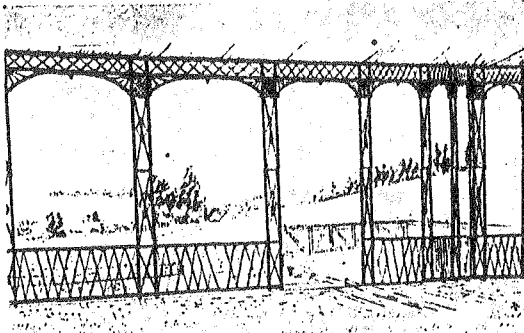
In the "Index", which is a list of contents, every picture that is a copy is so recorded, and the original sketches are named and dated, and the places and dates invariably coincide with the rather sparse itinerary of the Regiment, which can be deduced from Walker's regimental history.

Some of the earlier sketches in England are initialed A. H. J., a few immediately after her marriage A. H. H., but the majority are signed with a monogram which I make out to be A. H. It may be A. H. H. Two sketches are signed A. E. H. H. This is a very satisfactory album, presenting no problems of authenticity. The sketches can be accepted as the work of Mrs. Harkness. Sketches in England have been omitted from this catalogue.

**H36-92 "Sketches in South Africa". Cover title "Sketches of South Africa".**

17 x 13. On end-paper is written "Annabella Harriette Harkness"—"Index, Page 2. 57 Sketches in South Africa. 28 Sketches in England. Notices of some S. African Sketches. Page 2." At page 2 there are sewn in "Index to Sketches in South Africa"—this is a contents list—and [Notices of some South African Sketches]—this consists of abstracts of W. R. Thomson's descriptions of the scenes depicted by Bowler in *The Kafir Wars*, for the eleven she copied. The numbers in brackets are the page numbers of the Album. Acquired from Maggs Bros. 49/129.

98



H79



H82



H80



H83



H81



H84

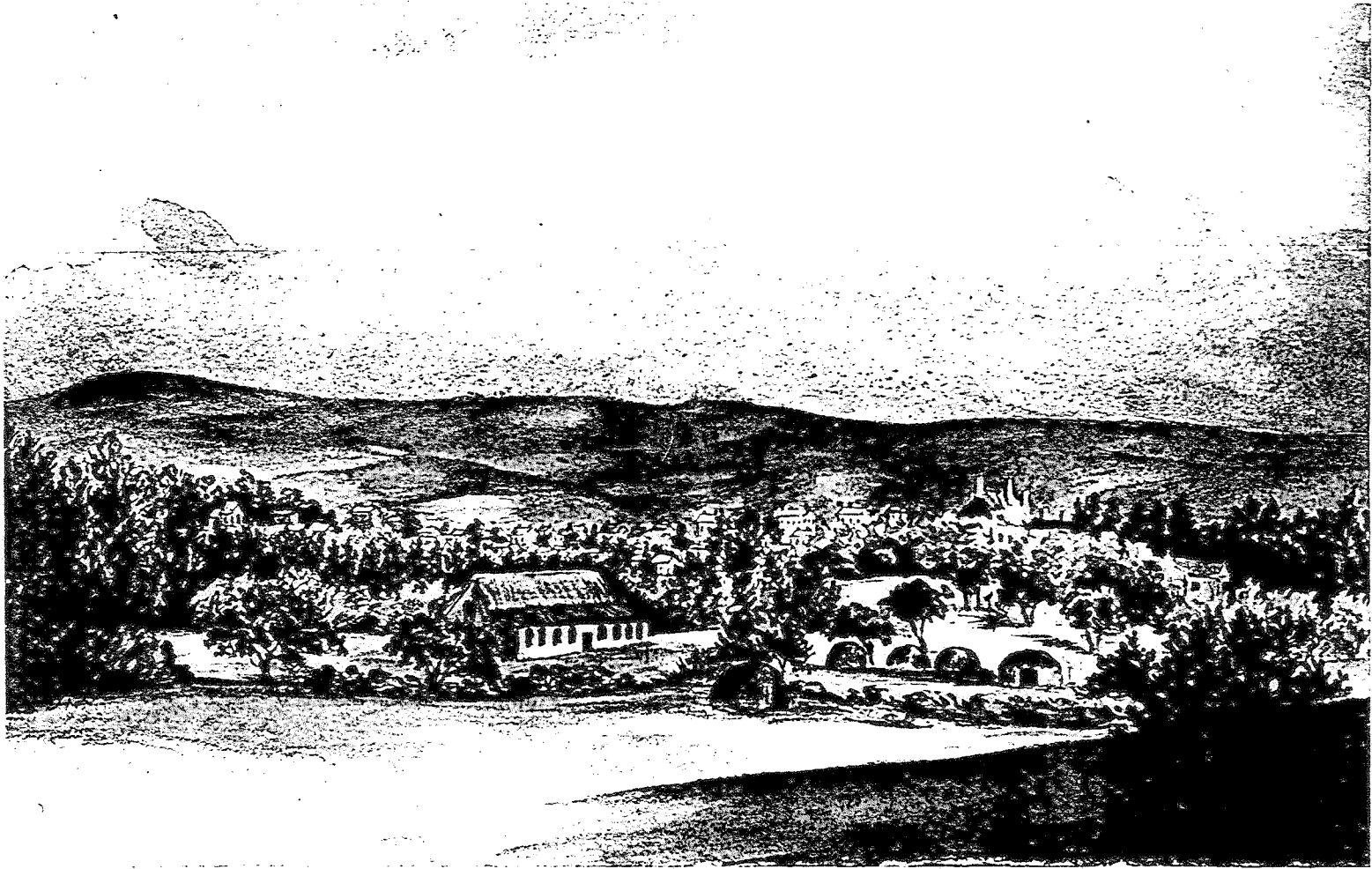
**H80 [80] Howison's Poort, Grahamstown 1866**  
 Inscription on mount: "Howison's Poort near Graham's Town, looking towards Kariega. 19 Novr 1866."  
 Water-colour. 7 x 10. Signed with monogram "A.H."

**H81 [82] Howison's Poort, looking towards Grahamstown 1866**  
 Inscription on mount: "Howison's Poort, looking towards Grahamstown. 19 Novr 1866."  
 Water-colour. 7 x 10. Signed with monogram "A.H."

**H82 [84] Police Station and Bridge in Howison's Poort 1866**  
 Inscription on mount: "Police Station and Bridge in Howison's Poort. 19 Novr 1866."  
 Water-colour. 5 x 7. Signed with monogram "A.H."

**H83 [86] Grahamstown from Oatlands Park 1866**  
 Inscription on mount: "Grahamstown from Oatlands Park, the seat of Sir Walter Currie, Novr 1866."  
 Water-colour. 6½ x 10. Signed with monogram "A.H."

**H84 [88] Grahamstown from above the Kowie Road 1867**  
 Inscription on mount: "Grahamstown from above the Kowie Road. 1867."  
 Water-colour. 6½ x 9½. Unsigned.



*Grahamstown from Oatlands Park, the seat of Sir Walter Currie.*

*Novr 1866.*

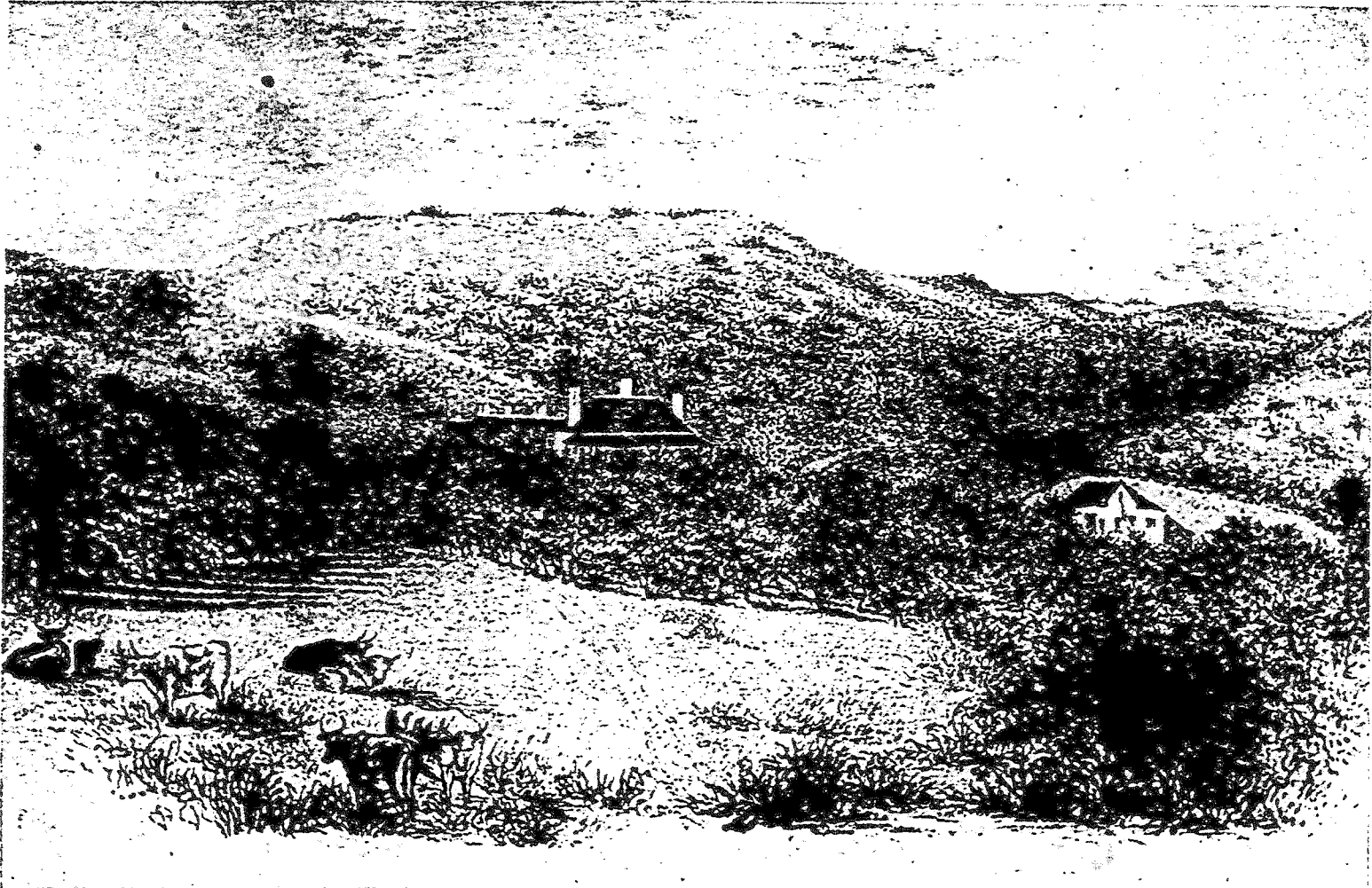
↑  
Stables ?



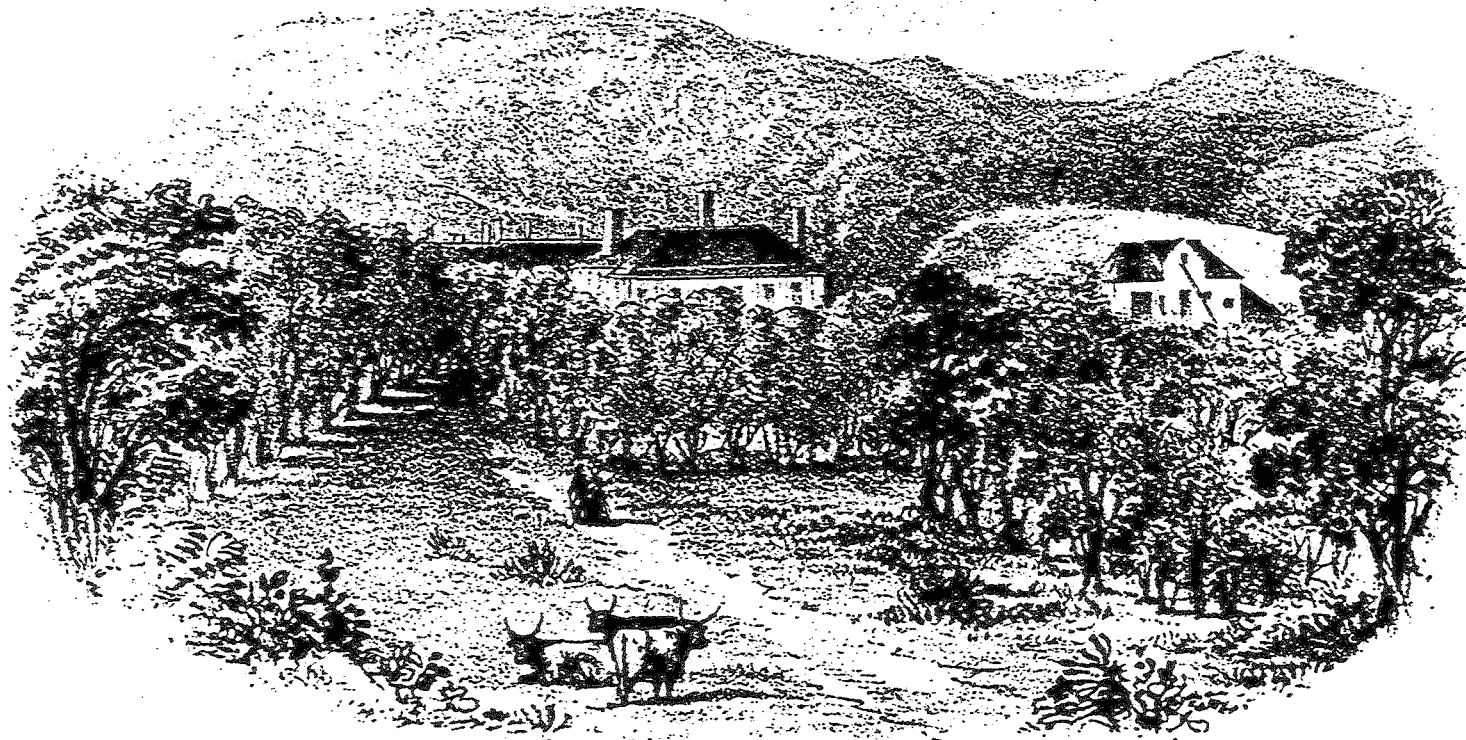
920 Somerset, Henry.



Baines, T 1848 from sketchbook owned by H. Oppenheimer (from A.M. @ JPL.)



Pencil drawing by Fanny Sutton "Oatlands, Grahamstown" c. 1840 Africana Museum 5161 [4a]



OATLANDS

*The Residence of Colonel Somerset, Commandant of the Eastern Provinces of the Colony of  
the Cape of Good Hope.*

opp pg 41 in 'Narrative of the Kaffir War of 1850-51-52' Grahamstown, 1852.



The Storming of Fort Armstrong by the Combined Military & Burgher Forces.

G57

G57 p.255 "The Storming of Fort Armstrong by the Combined Military & Burgher Forces."  
 "T. Baines, del." "G. Parr, lith."  
 London: Pelham Richardson, 23, Cornhill, 1852."  
 Lithograph 112 x 190

G58 Grahamstown ed., p.1 "High Street, Graham's Town From the East."  
 "J. Ramage Edinr"  
 Lithograph Vignette 90 x 152

G59 Grahamstown ed. p.41 "Oatlands The Residence of Colonel Sommerset (sic), Commandant of the Eastern Province of the Colony of the Cape of Good Hope."  
 Lithograph Vignette 93 x 153

G60 Grahamstown ed. p.129 "Distant View of Graham's Town From the South West"  
 "J. Ramage Edinr"  
 Lithograph Vignette 85 x 158  
 Missing from JPL second copy.

G61 Grahamstown ed. p.181 "View of Bathurst From the Southern Entrance"  
 "J. Ramage Edinr"  
 Lithograph 108 x 158  
 Based on a painting by Thomas Baines, AM 63/2346

G62 Grahamstown ed. p.261 "Port Francis, Kowie Mouth"  
 "J. Ramage Edinr"  
 Lithograph 102 x 154  
 Based on a painting by Thomas Baines, AM 1121

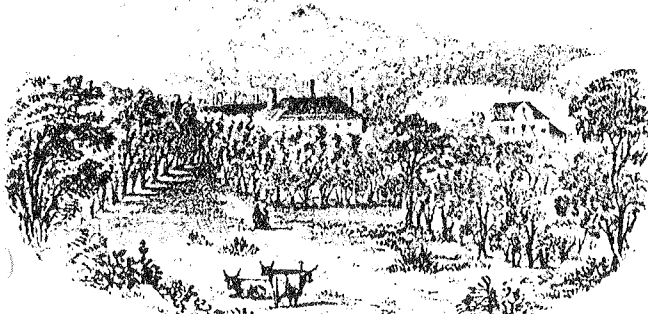
G63 Grahamstown ed. p.309 "Distant view of Port Elizabeth"  
 Lithograph Vignette 93 x 154



HIGH STREET, GRAHAM'S TOWN  
 From the East

H. B. J. S.

G58



OATLANDS

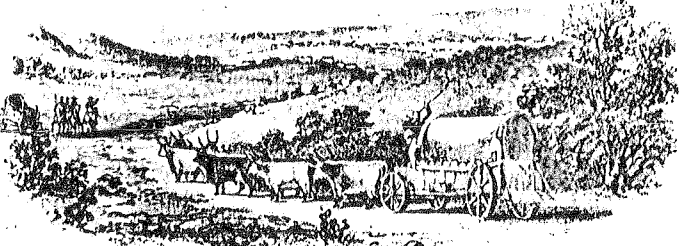
The Residence of Colonel Sommerset Commandant of the Eastern Province of the Colony of the Cape of Good Hope

G59



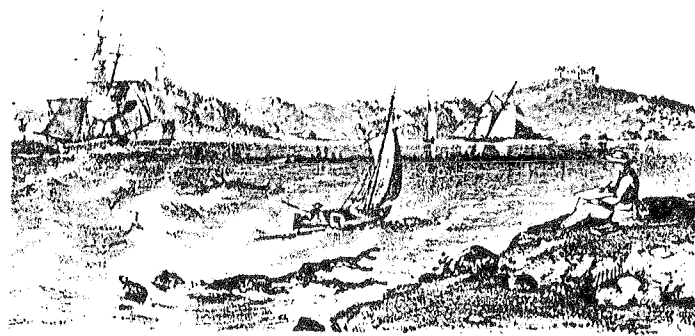
VIEW OF BATHURST

G61



DISTANT VIEW OF GRAHAM'S TOWN  
 From the Southwest

G60



PORT FRANCIS KOWIE MOUTH

G62

9/2/003/018

Mr W Martinson

7 July 1993

Chief: Cape Archives Depot  
State Archives Service  
Private Bag X9025  
CAPE TOWN  
8000

Dear Sir

OATLANDS HOUSE AND ESTATE, 10 CAROLINE CLOSE, GRAHAMSTOWN

- 1 I am collaborating with Prof Dennis Radford (Head of the Dept of Architecture at Louisiana Tech University) on an article on Oatlands House and Estate, built by Capt H Somerset in 1824.
- 2 While consulting the computer retrieval system on database RSAE for references to the House and Estate, I noted the following three items held at the Cape Archives Depot.

Source	Vol	Reference	Description
LND	1/801	L13945	Lots 78 & 79 Oatlands Road Transfer from J Currie to Municipality (1901)
CO	4068	180	Memorials received F Carlisle and D W Lucas requesting grant of piece of land adjacent to Oatlands (1853)
KAB	Leica Collec- tion	Photo L 1544	View of Oatlands - negative only (1853)

- 3 I assume the negative in the Leica Collection is of Oatlands in Grahamstown - it might be of Oatlands in Simonstown or Somerset West.

4 I would be most grateful if you could let me know whether copies of these three items can be provided, and if so, how much this would cost.

I look forward to your reply.

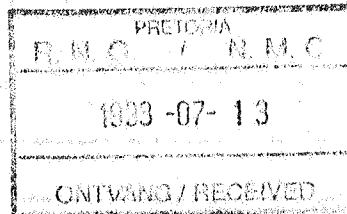
Yours faithfully

WILLIAM A. MATTHEWS

ARCHITECT NORTH

WAM/aa

9/2/003/18 OATLANDS HOUSE



DEAR WILLIE,

IN REPLY TO YOUR LAST TWO LETTERS I HAVE THE FOLLOWING REMARKS:-

STABLES: YOU HAVE MY PLAN BUT YOURS LOOKS JUST AS GOOD EXCEPT FOR THE CORN BINS - THESE WOULD HAVE BEEN ABOVE. TAR PAPER FOR THE CHAN-TOS SOUND O.K. THE OFFICERS QUARTERS PROBABLY DID HAVE ZINC - POST RETIRE STILL WAS THIS FORM OF ROOFING.

SERVICE WING: THE ANTEROOM + BATHROOM WING SOUNDS FINE. THE PROPOSED 'AWKWARD' PLACING OF THE <sup>EXISTING</sup> PRESENT BUILDING IS WHY I SUGGESTED MY STRANGE BUNGALOW VERANDAH FRONT WING. I DON'T THINK THAT IT WAS EVER DOUBLE STORED.

THE CHANGED ROW OF TREES IS A PART OF THE ORIGINAL DRIVEWAY I THINK - HOWEVER HOWAI ST IS NOT ALONG ON THE LINE OF THE DRIVEWAY - SEE MY MARKS UP PRINT SENT TO YOU 2 WEEKS AGO + THE ONE ENCLOSED.

THE ALIGNMENT OF THE FRONT OF THE HOUSE + STABLES IS SIGNIFICANT I BELIEVE + IN LINE WITH THE 'PICTURES' - <sup>OF THE OLD</sup> 'QUE' INTENTIONS OR SOMEBODY. HOWEVER I THINK THE LAYOUT, ACROSS THE CONTOURS + ITS VIEW DOWN THE VALLEY MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL. BUT THIS YOU WILL HAVE HEARD BY NOW IN MY DRAFT.

THE TRIP TO JAMAICA WAS INTERESTING. HOT + HUMID. THE ISLAND WAS BEAUTIFUL + STILL IS (IN PARTS) BUT 2 1/2 MILLION PEOPLE IN AN AREA 140 x 30 MILES IS A BIT MUCH ESPECIALLY ONE SO MOUNTAINOUS. 'TRANSKI IN THE TROPICS' DESCRIBES IT BEST. THE RESTAURANT WAS SO-SO, SOME INFORMATION BUT NOT QUITE ENOUGH.

TO HELP ME THAT MUCH. FURTHER RESEARCH WOULD REQUIRE A GREAT DEAL OF FIELD WORK

WITH REGARD TO THE THIRD PART OF THE SECOND ARTICLE + ASSUMING YOU ARE IN AGREEMENT THAT YOU WILL WRITE IT, HERE ARE SOME OF MY THOUGHTS:

FIRSTLY THE MOST OBVIOUS PROTOTYPES ARE NEWLANDS HOUSE + MARINE VILLA, BUT BOTH WERE ADDITIONS + ALTERATIONS HOWEVER SUBSTANTIAL. NEWLANDS HOUSE IS THE LESSER OF THE TWO INFLUENCES FOR ALTHOUGH IT <sup>HAD</sup> A 3 ROOM SEQUENCE + IT ~~DOES~~ DID HAVE A WALK AROUND VERANDAH, <sup>IT WAS STILL</sup> A VERY FORMAL + USED THE NEW MANGROVE AS A <sup>SYMMETRICAL</sup> FORMAL APPROACH FACADE. BY 1823 TOO, THE FLAT ROOFS ETC WERE GIVING TROUBLE, SO FORMALLY + TECHNICALLY THERE ARE SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES, + LESSONS TO BE LEARNED (BUT NOT COMPLETELY AVOIDED E.G. FLAT ROOF OVER GUEST ROOM).

MARINE VILLA IS MORE CLOSELY RELATED + WAS BUILT AT THE SAME TIME. HOWEVER PERHAPS WHAT IS MORE IMPORTANT IS THE DESIGN FOR THE HOUSE (SHE (BENCOCK) + NOT THE ACTUAL HOUSE. AGAIN THE DIFFERENCES ARE SIGNIFICANT. ORTLANDS IS MUCH MORE SOPHISTICATED, THE FRONT BLOCK IS <sup>OF A</sup> MUCH BETTER DESIGN THAN THAT OF MARINE VILLA, THE VERANDAH IS DIFFERENT AS WELL. ONLY TO BOTH IS INFORMAL + TO THE SIDE. ORTLANDS IS ALSO LESS EXTENSIVE THAN MARINE VILLA.

WHO WAS THE ARCHITECT? NOT JONES I THINK. HE HAD THE TECHNICAL SKILLS + PROBABLY ABILITY - FAIRLY LIMITED - TO GET THE DESIGN TO STAND UP. I THINK THAT PAPA SOMERSET WAS THE DRIVING FORCE. IF I REMEMBER RIGHTLY HE WAS COMMANDING OFFICER OF THE BRIGHTON REGIMENT DURING THE RE-



(CIBIS)

CONSTRUCTION OF THE PRINCE REGENT'S PAVILION + WAS A CRONY  
 OF 'PRIMITIVE' HOUSES HE WOULD HAVE UNDERSTOOD THE NEW  
 TASTE - EVEN IF HAPPENED - THEREFORE A COTTAGE ORNAMENT  
 WOULD HAVE BEEN JUST UP HIS STREET. IT WOULD FIT  
 WITH THE NOTION OF WILD UNSPOILT NATURE - OR THE  
 'PRIMITIVE' ETC ETC. YOU COULD LOOK AT WIFE FOR  
 PATTERN BOOKS OF CIBIS - PARWORTH, GANDY ETC,  
 AS THESE MIGHT EVEN BE AN ACTUAL MODEL / ORIGIN  
 THE ROYAL LODGE AT WINDSOR, ALTHOUGH RICHER THAN  
 OATLANDS, HAD, IN ITS ORIGINAL QUOTE, A STEEPY PITCHED  
 THATCHED ROOF. THE WORK OF NASH IS AN OBVIOUS  
 INFLUENCE. SO WE HAVE THE TRIO OF JONES / SOMERSET  
 SE + SOMERSET JNR AS COURT / MINISTER / TERRACED ADVISOR.  
 IN DIFFERENT COMBINATIONS.

THE SOPHISTICATION OF THE FRONT BLOCK IS COMPELLING  
 AND IN CONTRAST TO THE FAMILIAR (+ NOT UNATTRACTIVE)  
 BACK WING - WHAT WE KNOW OF IT. THE EXTENSIVE USE  
 OF THE VERANDAH IS UNUSUAL IF NOT UNIQUE IN THE  
 EASTERN PROVINCE OF THE TIME. THE CONTRAST WITH  
 THE PRINCE BLOCKS OF THE 'SETTLER' ARCHITECTURE IS  
 INSTRUCTIVE. EVEN SELWYN CASTLE LOOKS A LITTLE PASTE  
 BOARD IN COMPARISON

WHAT IS OR WAS THE INFLUENCE ON C.P. ARCHITECTURE?  
 SUPERFICIALLY VERY LITTLE. I CAN'T THINK OF ANY CONTEMPORARY  
 BUILDINGS WHICH <sup>DIABOLICALLY</sup> DEMONSTRATE THE INFLUENCE OF OATLANDS.  
 POSSIBLY THE HOUSE WAS TOO PROXIOUS + TOO FASHIONABLE.  
 ON THE OTHER HAND IT COULD BE ARGUED THAT IT WAS THE  
 EARLIEST VERANDAH HOUSE IN THE REGION + ALMOST CERTAINLY PIONEERED  
 THIS ELEMENT IN <sup>THE LOCAL</sup> DOMESTIC ARCHITECTURE, REGARDS, DOWN'S. wh



9/2/003/018

Mr W Martinson

13 July 1993

The Art Librarian  
The Brenthurst Library  
PO Box 87184  
HOUGHTON  
2041

Att: Mrs D van Nierop

Dear Mrs van Nierop

OATLANDS HOUSE AND ESTATE, GRAHAMSTOWN

- 1 Miss Hanneljie du Preez and the writer would like to thank you for allowing us to do research in the Brenthurst Library on Thursday 8 July 1993.
- 2 While my scrutiny of Volume 12 through to Volume 19 of MS 49 "*The Baines African Collection*" revealed no sketches of Oatlands, I am hopeful that an examination in due course, of the other Volumes might unearth something of interest.

Yours faithfully

William A Martinson  
ARCHITECT NORTH

WAM/aa

OATLANDS.

9/2/003/018

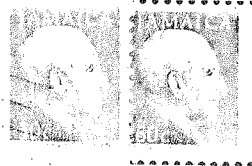
D.F.



● View of the Castle  
- Trident, Portland

JAMAICA  
*Ray Chen*

*Periwinkle*



20 JAMS

DEAR WILLIE,  
HOPE YOU HAVE  
RECEIVED 'OATLANDS PT ONE'  
I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO  
GOING OUT INTO THE ISLAND  
THIS WEEK.

REYARDS,  
DENNIS.

WILLIAM MARTINSON  
P.O. BOX 7888  
FACTORIA. 0001  
SOUTH AFRICA

THE CASTLE - Erected in 1979 on a headland in the bay of Puerto Escondido, it was built as a private residence for a German baroness.

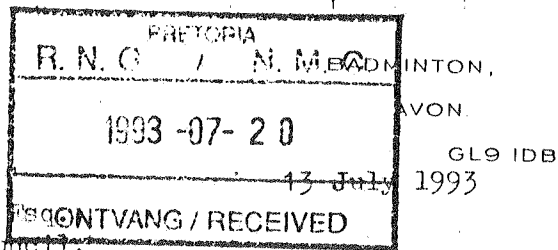
PC - 100

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RECEIVED 19.7.93

OATLANDS 9/2/003/018.

TELEPHONE, No.  
BADMINTON 346  
SECRETARY.  
BADMINTON 202



William A. Martinson, Secretary,  
National Monuments Council,  
P.O. Box 7888,  
Pretoria 0002,  
South Africa

Dear Mr Martinson,

Thank you for your letter of 29 June. There are no letters or papers relating to Henry Somerset in the archives at Badminton except for the correspondence of Lord Charles Somerset with his brother the 6th Duke. These throw some light on the circumstances which led Henry Somerset to settle in Grahamstown. Following a serious Kaffir invasion in 1819, in April Henry Somerset was sent with a troop of cavalry to defend the province. Following the birth of their first child in May 1819, his wife followed him there, and Lord Charles Somerset wrote to the Duke on 22 July, 'She has now joined him at the Frontier, where he has bought a cottage in Graham's Town'. Later that year he visited the frontier himself and stayed with the couple in Grahamstown, remarking in a letter of 6 November how pleased he was at 'Mrs Somerset's contentment in her little cottage'

Henry Somerset proved to be a capable officer and soon made himself indispensable to his father in the Kaffir wars in that area, so that he became commandant of Simonstown and Grahamstown in 1821, and commandant of Kaffraria in 1825.

His Grace's secretary has written to the Historical Manuscripts Commission which will be contacting you about Oatlands Park, but she understands that they are unable to help you with information about Henry Somerset's acquisition of the estate or the building of Oatlands House in Grahamstown. The only other source of information I can think of is Rhodes House Library, Oxford, which may, perhaps, be able to help.

I enclose a photocopy of a ground plan of Badminton House c. 1930; the layout of the main rooms is the same as the early 19th century. Also enclosed is a photocopy of the Badminton Park area from an Ordnance Survey map c. 1920.

Yours sincerely,

*M. E. Richards (Mrs)*

Archivist

9/2/003/18

Mr W  
Martinson

21 July 1993

The Duke of Beaufort  
Badminton  
AVON  
GL9 1DB  
GREAT BRITAIN

Att: Mrs M E Richards - The Archivist

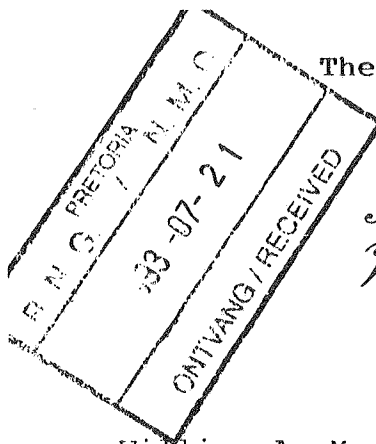
Dear Mrs Richards

OATLANDS HOUSE, GRAHAMSTOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

- 1 Thank you for your letter of 13 July 1993 with the accompanying photostat copies of the plans of Badminton House and Estate. Your prompt response was much appreciated.
- 2 I am looking forward to receiving the reply from the Historical Manuscripts Commission and would like to thank His Grace's secretary for contacting them on my behalf. I will be contacting the Rhodes House Library in due course.

Yours sincerely

W A Martinson Esq  
ARCHITECT NORTH



OATLANDS 9/2/003/018

The Rt.Hon.The Earl Jellicoe  
KBE, DSO, MC, FRS, PC

*Tidcombe Manor  
Nr. Marlborough  
Wiltshire SN8 3LL  
Telephone 026 489 225*

9 July, 1993

William A. Martinson,  
Architect North,  
National Monuments Council,  
First Floor, Nederlandsche Bank Building,  
8 Church Square,  
PRETORIA 0002  
South Africa.

*Dear Mr Martinson.*

Oatlands House, Grahamstown, Albany District,  
South Africa.

Thank you for your letter of 23 June which  
I have recently received.

I am looking into your queries with my colleagues  
in the Royal Geographical Society and will  
write again as soon as I receive their comments.

*With my best wishes.*

JELlicoe

President  
Royal Geographical Society

*Yours Sincerely*

*George Jellicoe*



9/2/003/018

Mr W Martinson

22 July 1993

The Rt. Hon. The Earl Jellicoe  
KBE, DSO, MC, FRS, PC  
Tidcombe Manor  
Nr. Marlborough  
Wiltshire SN8 3SL  
GREAT BRITAIN

My Lord

OATLANDS HOUSE, GRAHAMSTOWN, ALBANY DISTRICT, SOUTH AFRICA.

Thank you for your letter of 9 July which arrived here yesterday.

In the course of my research I have located a book of sketches by Fanny Sutton (née Somerset) held in the Africana Museum in Johannesburg. This sketchbook includes various views of the house and stables circa 1840 (copies attached) which provide a more detailed impression of Oatlands House. I hope they might be of assistance to you in answering my queries.

Yours most sincerely

William A Martinson

WAM/...

OATLANDS HOUSE. 9/2/003/018.

RECEIVED 22.7.93.

DEAR WILLIE,

12 July '93

THE PHOTOGRAPHS YOU PUT IN SEA MAIL FINALLY ARRIVED TODAY. THE MAKING VILLA ARTICLES + THAT ON HOWLANDS HOUSE ARE BOTH INTERESTING BUT ONLY HELP US MAKENAWAY. THE SHORT BIOGRAPHY ON LORD CHARLES IS GOOD IF ONLY TO GIVE US THE CHARACTER OF THE MAN + HIS BACKGROUND. HE WAS I AM SURE THE DESIGNER OF 'OATLANDS'. AS AN EXAMPLE OF THIS I AM SURE WE KNOW 'ROYAL LODGE', WINDSOR IN ITS THATCHED STATE. I HAVE NEVER SEEN A PLAN OF IT.

BY THE WAY I FOUND A COPY OF LONDON ON MICROFILM HERE + ALTHOUGH I COULD NOT FIND ANY OBVIOUS 'MOODS' DESIGN XVI - A COTTAGE VILLA ON P 890 HAS A SIMILAR AIR TO OATLANDS. WHILE I ALSO REMEMBER IT THERE IS QUITE A GOOD BOOK ON REGENCY ARCHITECTURE AT WILES BY DONALD PILCHER. THERE ARE ALTHOUGH FEW BOOKS ON THIS PERIOD I HAVE FOUND.

ASSUMING WE ARE GOING TO PLACE THE ARTICLES IN THE S.A. JOURNAL OF CULTURAL HISTORY, I THINK A PARAGRAPH OR TWO DISTINGUISHING GEORGIAN FROM REGENCY WOULD BE USEFUL. IT WOULD UNDERWRITE THE IMPORTANCE + NOVELTY OF OATLANDS TO PEOPLE WHO DON'T HAVE A COMPREHENSIVE BACKGROUND IN BRIT. HISTORY. WITHOUT BEING TOO PATRONISING.

I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO RECEIVING YOUR COMMENTS ON MY ROUGH DRAFT AS WELL AS GETTING SIGHT OF YOUR FIRST DRAFT OF PART TWO ASSUMING YOU ARE IN AGREEMENT + HAVE THE TIME.

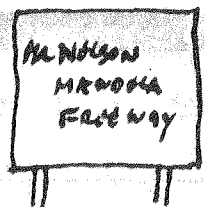
AS A FORM OF INTERLUDE I HAVE TIME TO PUT

SOME OF THE BUILDINGS I FOUND IN JAMAICA ON PAPER MOST OF THESE ARE RECONSTRUCTIONS PERHAPS A LITTLE FANCIFUL AT TIMES BUT IT IS SOOTHING TO DO DRAWINGS RATHER THAN SHUFFLE PAPER ALL THE TIME.

HOW ARE THINGS AT THE N.M.C.? ARE YOU ARRANGING FOR THIS LITTLE BLUE PLAQUE WITH 'NELSON MANDELA SLEPT HERE' TO BE MADE + PUT UP ON SOME LARGE WALLS IN THE NORTHERN SUBURBS.

BY THE WAY WHILE I WAS IN JAMAICA I HAD THE PRIVILEGE WHICH YOU NO DOUBT WILL SOON HAVE OF TRAVELLING ON THE NELSON MANDELA FREEWAY JUST OUTSIDE OF KINGSTON. THE POT HOLES WERE SOMETHING BLUE. ONE AMUSING THING WAS THE HIGHWAY SIGN, ORIGINALLY IT READ 'NELSON MANDELA FREEWAY' BUT SOMESBODY IN AUTHORITY OBVIOUSLY THOUGHT THAT CONFUSION WITH THE GREAT ADMIRAL MIGHT ARISE - HE WAS IN THE WEST INDIES FOR A WHILE. PERHAPS THE THOUGHT THAT ANYONE WOULD THINK IT WAS THE NELSON + MANDELA FREEWAY SO AN UNDERLING WAS INSTRUCTED TO ADD MR SO NOW IT READS AS FOLLOWS -

JUST LIKE THIS.



PERHAPS THIS IS A MARVELLOUS NEW DEFINITION OF WHAT IT IS TO BE THING WOULD.

WITH THAT GREAT THOUGHT I WISH YOU

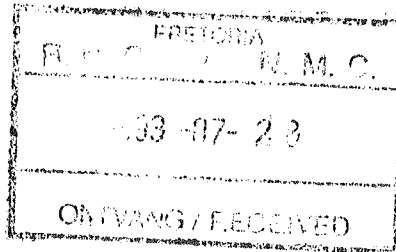
REGARDS,

DENNIS.



THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON HISTORICAL MANUSCRIPTS  
 QUALITY HOUSE, QUALITY COURT  
 CHANCERY LANE, LONDON WC2A 1HP

Telephone 071-242 1198  
 Fax 071-831 3550  
 15 July 1993



Dear Mr Martinson

The Duke of Beaufort's secretary has forwarded your letter here for reply. The National Register of Archives, maintained by this Commission, acts as a central collection point for information concerning manuscripts relating to British history. I regret to say, however, that the NRA has no note of papers of the Somerset family, other than those at Badminton, for the period when members of the family were living in South Africa.

Surveys and building accounts (late 18th century) for Oatlands House, Surrey, may be found (ref: NeA) among the papers of the Pelham-Clinton-Hope family, Dukes of Newcastle, now in the Manuscripts Department, Nottingham University Library, Hallward Library, University Park, Nottingham NG7 2RD. The papers of the Hughes family of Oatlands, Surrey, which are held at Surrey Record Office, Guildford Muniment Room, Castle Arch, Guildford GU1 3SX, may contain relevant material: the staff there should be able to give you further information and advice. You may also wish to consult JW Lindus Forge, Oatlands Palace (Walton & Weybridge Local History Society, Paper I, Walton on Thames 1970).

You might, in addition, find it useful to contact the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments, Fortress House, 23 Savile Row, London W1X 2JQ, and the British Architectural Library, 66 Portland Place, London Q1N 4AD.

I hope this is of some help in your research.

Yours sincerely

GH MANDELBROTE  
 Curatorial Officer

WA Martinson Esq  
 National Monuments Council  
 First Floor  
 Nederlandsche Bank Building  
 8 Church Square  
 Pretoria D002  
 South Africa

OATLANDS. 9/2/003/018



ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY  
KENSINGTON GORE · LONDON SW7 2AR

Telephone 071-589 5466

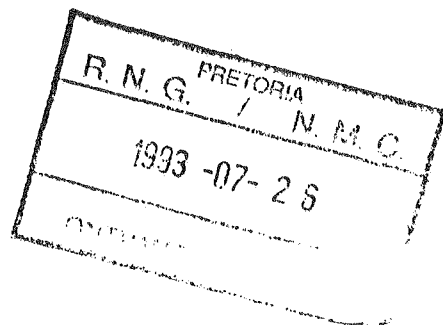
Fax 071-584 4447

President The Rt. Hon. the EARL JELICOE, KBE, DSO, MC, FRG, PC

Director and Secretary DR JOHN HEMMING

14 July 1993

William A Martinson Esq  
Architect North  
National Monuments Council  
First Floor, Nederlandsche Bank Building  
8 Church Square  
PRETORIA 0002  
South Africa



*Dear Mr Martinson.*

OATLANDS HOUSE, GRAHAMSTOWN, ALBANY DISTRICT, SOUTH AFRICA

Thank you for your letter of 23 June 1993 which I have recently received.

I am looking into your queries with my colleagues in the Royal Geographical Society and will write again as soon as I have received their comments.

*With my best wishes.*

JELICOE

President  
Royal Geographical Society

*John Hemming*

*George Selman*

Corporate Patrons



9/2/003/018

Mr W Martinson

3 August 1993

Mr G H Mandelbrote  
Curatorial Officer  
The Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts  
Quality House Quality Court  
Chancery Lane  
London WC2A 1 HP  
GREAT BRITAIN

Dear Mr Mandelbrote

**OATLANDS HOUSE, GRAHAMSTOWN, SOUTH AFRICA**

Thank you for your letter of 15 July 1993 which I have recently received. Your prompt and detailed response was much appreciated. I will be contacting the various sources you suggested in due course, with regard to the possible influence of Oatlands (in Surrey) on the design of Henry Somerset's Oatlands House in Grahamstown.

Yours sincerely

Mr W A Martinson  
ARCHITECT NORTH

OATLANDS 9/2/003/018

24 July '93

PLANNING / M.A.C.
1993-08-04
ONTARIO / RECEIVED

DEAR WILLIE,

THIS IS TO KEEP YOU UP-TO-DATE. THE TEXT HAS BEEN REVISED + REFERENCED. IT IS NOW BEING TYPED. I HAVE ALSO COMPLETED DRAWING OUT THE DIAGRAMS ETC THEY ARE ALL COMPLETE EXCEPT FOR THE ENCLOSED ONE, THAT WHICH DEALS WITH THE ESTATE'S LAYOUT 1845. AS YOU WILL SEE IT IS A LITTLE 'THING'. I HAVE CONSULTED ALL THE MATERIAL + PUT IN ALL I COULD FIND (PULL A LITTLE MORE) BUT AS IT STANDS IT LOOKS A BIT 'BARE BONES' HOWEVER I DON'T WANT TO GET TOO CASUAL. YOU WILL SEE THAT I ADDED THE LOTTAKE A' LA BAINEY - THE POSITION IS DERIVED FROM HIS SKETCH ESPECIALLY THE FRAGMENT OF THE HOUSE IN THE L.H. IF YOU WANT TO ADD / CORRECT AN RESIGN FEEE FEEE TO DO SO.

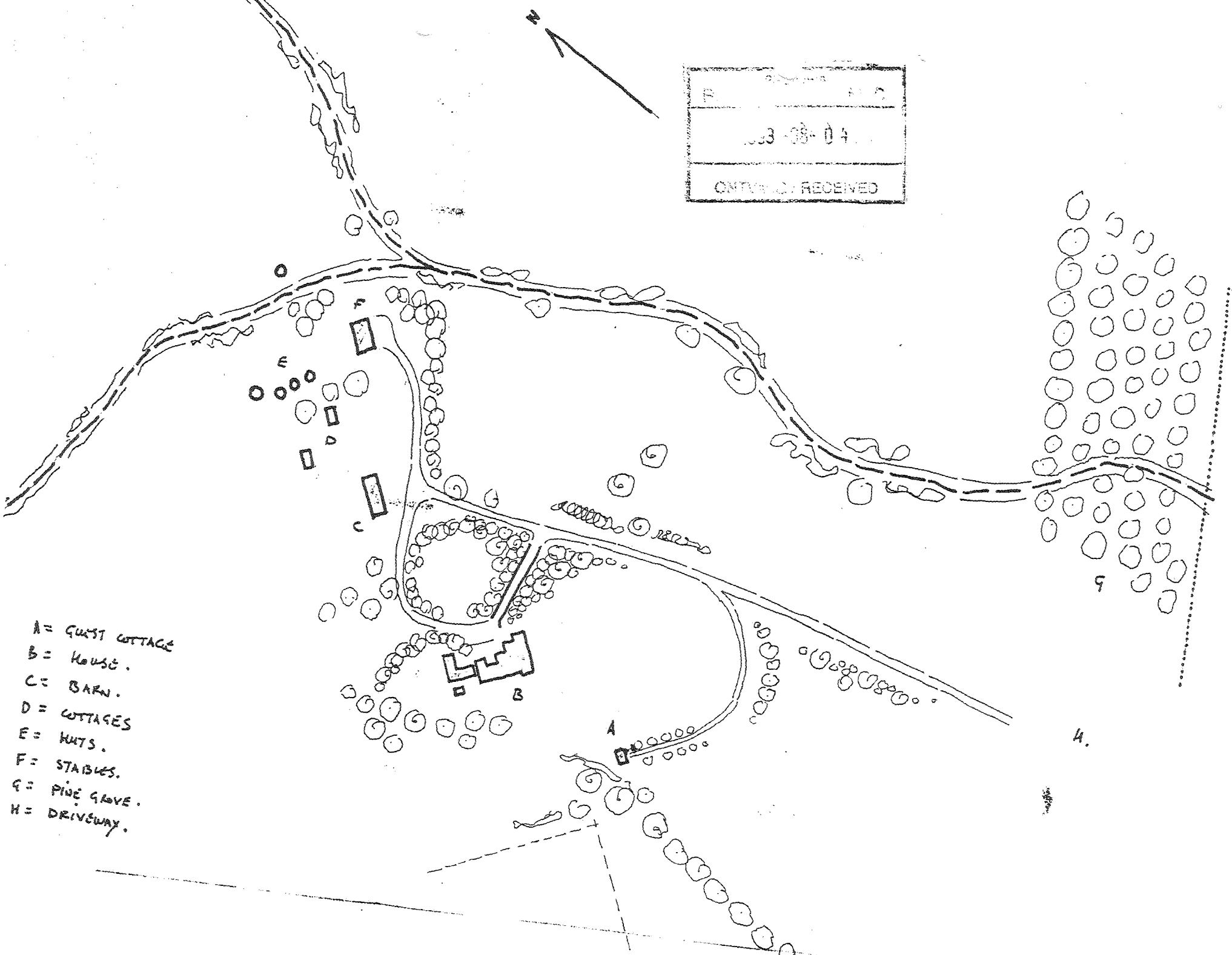
DO YOU HAVE GOOD COPIES OF THE SCHIFFMAN PANORAMA, THE BAINEY SKETCH + THE SUTTON SKETCH - THE ONE SHOWING THE BARN, STABLES ETC.? WE WILL MAKE A4 SIZE COPIES TO SUBMIT WITH THE TEXT. I WILL SEND YOU EVERYTHING ELSE, THIS SHOULD BE IN ABOUT TWO WEEKS.

MY ABSENCE OF DUTY is PRIMARILY DUE TO THE SLOW PACE OF SUMMER HERE WHICH MEANS THAT MY DUTIES ARE LIGHT AT THE MOMENT. TOWARDS THE END OF AUGUST THIS WILL CHANGE. HOPEFULLY YOU WILL HAVE FOUND SOME TIME TO WORK ON THE DRAFT OF PART TWO WHICH I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING. HAS PRO FINISHED HIS A + T MONOGRAPH YET? TELL HER I WOULD LIKE A COPY + A LETTER IT IS VERY HOT HERE AT THE MOMENT.

REGARDS,

DENNIS.

7  
193-08-04  
ONTARIO RECEIVED



- A = GUEST COTTAGE
- B = HOUSE.
- C = BARN.
- D = COTTAGES
- E = HUTS.
- F = STABLES.
- G = PINE GROVE.
- H = DRIVEWAY.

4.



9/2/003/018

C16/4/3/1

Mr W Martinson

5 August 1993

Chief: Cape Archives Depot  
State Archives Service  
Private Bag X9025  
CAPE TOWN  
8000

Att: T Skidmore

Dear Sir

OATLANDS HOUSE & ESTATE, GRAHAMSTOWN

- 1 Thank you for your letter of 27 July 1993, which was received today.
- 2 Please find a personal cheque attached for the amount of R20.85, being payment for copies of the three items listed below:

Source	Vol	Reference	Description	Amount
LND	1/801	L13945	Lots 78 & 79 Oatlands Road Transfer from J Currie to Municipality (1901)	R 0.75
CO	4068	180	Memorials received F Carlisle and D W Lucas requesting grant of piece of land adjacent to Oat- lands (1853) (Microfilm negatives)	R15.60
KAB	Leica Collection	Photo L 1544	View of Oatlands - (1853) 152 x 203 mm	R 4.50
			TOTAL	<u>R20.85</u>

3 I would be most grateful if the LND and CO items would be posted on receipt of payment to avoid the two month wait for the printing of the KAB photograph.

Yours faithfully

WAM .

ARCHITECT NORTH

WAM/aa



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19-51-05-02

09.08.1993

WITS UNIVERSITY, BRAAMFONTEIN

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STATE ARCHIVES SERVICE - CAPE TOWN

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Amount  
Bedrag

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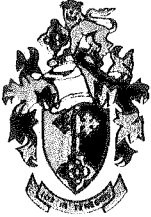
CENTS ONLY

R20 ~~00~~ 85

WILLIAM A MARTINSON

W Martinson

⑈0168 ⑆195105⑆ 1951 065786⑈04



9/2/003/18.

**DEPARTEMENT VAN NASIONALE OPVOEDING**  
**DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL EDUCATION**

**STAATSARGIEFDIENS**  
**STATE ARCHIVES SERVICE**

Navrae  
Enquiries:

T Skidmore

Verw.  
Ref.

C16/4/3/1



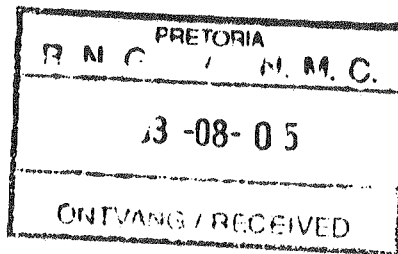
462-4050 Faks  
Fax

Privaatsak }  
Private Bag } x

9025  
CAPE TOWN  
8000

1993 -07-27

Mr W Martinson  
National Monuments Council  
P O Box 7888  
PRETORIA  
0001



Dear Mr Martinson

I write in reply to your enquiry of 7 July regarding copies of documents pertaining to Oatlands House and Estate, Grahamstown.

Xerox copies of the documents belonging to the archives of the Department of Lands (ref LND 1/801, no L13945) will be supplied to you at a cost of R0-75.

Owing to the poor physical condition of the documents, the Colonial Office Archives (CO), has been withdrawn from photocopying. However, this office supplies microfilm negatives at a cost of R1-30 per negative. Thus, should you require negatives of the memorials received (ref CO 4068, no 180) the total cost would be R15-60.

With regard to the negative belonging to the Leica Collection (L1544) the description does not specify which of the Oatlands Estates is being viewed.

This office supplies photographic prints according to the following sizes and prices:

152 x 203mm	=	R4-50
203 x 254mm	=	R5-50
240 x 305mm	=	R6-50
305 x 406mm	=	R10-50

Payment must be made in advance by a cheque or postal order made out to the Chief, Cape Archives Depot. I may add that the minimum waiting period for photographic prints is 8 weeks.

2/...

I trust you will find the information provided of value and look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours faithfully

*Alb van Wyk*  
A CHIEF: CAPE ARCHIVES DEPOT

CATLANDS.

9/2/003/018



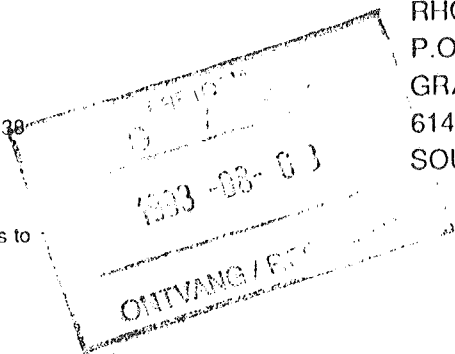
CORY LIBRARY FOR HISTORICAL RESEARCH  
RHODES UNIVERSITY LIBRARY  
P.O. BOX 184  
GRAHAMSTOWN  
6140  
SOUTH AFRICA

TELEPHONE (0461) 22023 EXT 438

TELEX 244211

TELEFAX (0461) 23487

Please address all communications to  
the Cory Librarian



7 July 1993

Mr W Martinson  
National Monuments Council  
P.O. Box 7888  
Pretoria  
0001

Dear Mr Martinson

Thank you for your letter of 23 June 1993.

I had seen PIC/M 409 before, but did not tell you about it as I did not think it would be of any use to you. I enclose a photocopy for you to see.

The Grahamstown Street Map of 1863 by R. S. Hogger was quite problematical to photocopy. We have a rolled version, which would have been impossible to photocopy, and another version which consists of 12 sheets. I have photocopied these for you. Each sheet required 2 sheets of A3 with some overlap, so I hope will be able to piece it together.

I will enclose a VAT invoice for the cost of these photocopies. Please make your cheque or postal order payable to Rhodes University and on receipt of your payment, the copies will be dispatched to you.

Please let us know if we can help you further. There is no need to apologise.

Yours sincerely

(Miss) C. M. Blight  
Assistant Cory Librarian

# TAX INVOICE

**RHODES UNIVERSITY**  
 V.A.T. No. 4880105657  
 P.O. Box 94  
 Grahamstown  
 6140



To: MR W Martinson  
National Monuments Council  
P.O. Box 7888  
Pretoria  
ccol

Tel: 0461 - 2 2023  
 Telefax: 0461 - 2 5049

Date: 26.7.93

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1865  
 — 1-5  
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OATLANDS 9/2/003/018

AUG 5 1993.

DEAR WILLIE,

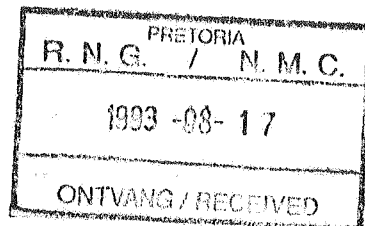
HERE WITH THE REVISED DRAFT WHICH IS PRESENTABLE ENOUGH FOR SUBMISSION ELL. WE CAN ALWAYS INCORPORATE ANY OF OUR OWN REVISIONS WHEN IT IS BACK FROM THE REFEREE. I ALSO INCLUDE COPIES OF MY DRAWINGS. YOU WILL HAVE BETTER ONES OF THE OTHER ILLUSTRATIONS. IF YOU WANT TOO YOU COULD MAKE A COUPLE OF COPIES + SEND IT OFF TO THE CULTURAL HISTORY PEOPLE BUT I STILL THINK THAT IT WILL BE BETTER TO HAVE BOTH ARTICLES REVISIONED TOGETHER.

YOU WILL NOTICE THAT I HAVE PUT MY NAME FIRST ON THIS ONE AS I WROTE IT. YOU SHOULD DO THE SAME ON THE SECOND. I.E. PUT YOUR NAME FIRST. I DON'T KNOW IF THIS IS STANDARD PRACTICE BUT IT SEEMS TO MAKE SENSE.

OTHERWISE I HAVE LITTLE NEWS + I AM WHILING AWAY MY SUMMER. NEXT MONTH THOUGH IT WILL BE DIFFERENT.

REGARDS,

Dennis.





OATLANDS, GRAHAMSTOWN; A SHORT HISTORY OF THE ESTATE  
DENNIS RADFORD & WILLIAM MARTINSON

Summary:

*The contribution of the Somerset family to the history of the Cape is well documented as are the notorious building campaigns of Lord Charles while he was Governor (1814 - 1826); these latter by Ronald Lewcock in his definitive study of early nineteenth century architecture in South Africa. Nevertheless, Oatlands in Grahamstown has received scant mention.*

*As will be shown in this, the first of a two part article Oatlands Estate was in its concept and realization something probably unique in the early history of the eastern province. An English gentleman's park planned on picturesque principles. Its subsequent history, that of a series of suburban developments on the land while not unique, does illustrate quite graphically the process of early growth in South African towns. This has been little studied in any detail. The major developments of and changes to the estate are given here in chronological sequence and are supported by appropriate illustrations.*

Introduction:

This article is the first of two which will deal in some detail with Oatlands Park in Grahamstown. Oatlands was first laid out by then Captain Somerset in 1820 and it was he who built the present house much of which remains. It subsequently (1854) became the residence of Sir Walter Currie.

As will be shown here though, it is not only an important building historically but also architecturally, for example, it was for a long time the largest house in the eastern province. The first article will give the history of the estate proper, of the various changes that took place and of its layout plus the estate buildings while the second will concentrate on the house itself, its history, its derivation and influences.

A great deal of this information has not been published before, some of which is based on an extensive study of the existing house. Surprisingly for such an important building it is not dealt with by Ronald Lewcock in his well known study, 'Early Nineteenth Century Architecture in South Africa'.<sup>1</sup> What the study has also done is to bring into sharper focus the contribution of the Somersets to the earlier architecture of the Cape.

---

<sup>1</sup> R. B. Lewcock, 'Early Nineteenth Architecture in South Africa', Cape Town, 1963.

### A CHRONOLOGICAL ACCOUNT OF THE ESTATE.

In 1819, Captain Somerset had been appointed acting Deputy - landrost of the District of Albany and in this capacity had assisted the 1820 settlers on to their land or locations as they were then called.<sup>2</sup>

In 1820, he had been granted Erf 51 in the fledgling town of Grahamstown. This is the second last Erf on the left hand side of Huntley Street as you go from hill to Somerset St. It is now part of the grounds of Victoria Girls School. He appears to have quickly disposed of this, buying Erf 8 on the south-east corner of Church Square and Bathurst St.<sup>3</sup> Here he built a house and large stone walled stable. All this he later sold for L526-a large sum then. A map of C1824 shows an L shaped building on site set back from the street unlike most of the other buildings in the town. Was the front space a garden?

Later in the same year, Somerset had a large tract of land to the north of the town surveyed. The copy of the surveyor's plan survives and is dated 21 August and the land surveyed totals 296 morgen. The deed of grant<sup>4</sup> is dated 26th of September and is also for 296 morgen (625 acres). Although it is often mentioned that his father, Lord Charles, granted an additional 178 morgen in 1822, there is no sign that this actually took place.

The name Oatland's Park was given to the estate and it appears that this name was derived from the country residence of the Duke of York, Commander-in-Chief of the British Army.<sup>5</sup> The Somersets were fond of this name as Henry used it again at Simonstown and his father also at his estate near what is now Somerset West.

By November the first house, built of wattle and daub, was complete and the young family moved in. This house was the one which collapsed in the storms of October, 1823. If an early map is any guide the accommodation consisted of a rectangular cottage with a kitchen building behind and a stables at a discreet distance. The cottage must be been fairly large in size if not substance as the Somersets were able to entertain several house guests at one time.<sup>6</sup> 'They live in very good style' was a contemporary comment. The Somersets left Grahamstown in March 1821 and only returned in October 1823.

---

<sup>2</sup> D.E. Rivett-Carnac, 'Hawk's Eye', Capetown, 1966. Most of the biographical information is derived from this life of Henry Somerset.

<sup>3</sup> D.E. Rivett-Carnac, 'Hawk's Eye', Cape Town, 1966, p. 26 & 33. This information differs slightly from that provided by T.M. in the article quoted in 4 below.

<sup>4</sup> Grocotts Mail, August 15, 1945, 'Old Grahamstown - The Story of Oatlands', by T.M.

<sup>5</sup> D. Picton-Symour, 'Historical Buildings in South Africa', Cape Town, 1989), p. 115.

<sup>6</sup> D.E. Rivett-Carnac, 'Hawk's Eye', Cape Town, 1966, p. 36.

To revert back to the size and shape of the original estate, some important points need to be made. The first of these is that Somerset chose the site quite carefully. What seems to have been paramount was that the land area had to be large well watered and self contained. By that it is meant that it had as far as possible to resemble an English Estate. It was not to be a simple farm although some farming took place - for example the Somersets had cattle, raised horses and cultivated fields. Nevertheless the house and its immediate surroundings were mainly ornamental. Somerset chose what is basically a large Y-shaped valley close to and with a view of the infant town. Virtually all the points on the original survey are points on the surrounding hills or a stream bed (see points D to N on figure 1) the only arbitrary points seem to be the sides N & O and C & B. However when these two lines are produced they intersect at a point in or to the side of High Street. It is pretty certain that this must have been the point of origin of the survey, the position of the theodolite. It is surely not coincidental that this point is very close to Somerset's then house on Erf 8. To explain the two lines which truncate this triangle we should again refer to the layout of the town as it almost certainly existed then. This is also marked on figure one. It will be noted that an existing road, that to Fort Wilshire, ran north from the town at this point. Both these factors explain the cutting back of the apex of the triangle. The guiding lines are shown. Perhaps the most interesting modification is the small triangle of land granted to Piet Retief for his windmill. The form of this must be the result of a compromise between Retief and Somerset - something which irked the good Captain.<sup>7</sup> Retief almost certainly originally claimed a rectangular portion similar to that shown in figure one.<sup>8</sup> This is very like his claim for a water mill site nearby.<sup>9</sup> The spur of the hill was obviously a good natural site for a windmill. Somerset had also wanted the complete frontage to provide a good access; the projection of the line of the back leg (C-B) confirms this. So what resulted is the existing strange looking shape which can be seen today in situ by looking at the back walls of the south side of the lower part of Oatlands Road.

A final point about the original granting of the land; it would appear that Somerset misled the acting Governor, Sir Rufane Donkin about the distance that the plot was situated from the town centre. He stated that it was two miles away while it is actually only a half mile. Normally such government grants were not made from the town's grazing land or commonage so close in.<sup>10</sup>

In late 1823 work on a new house was started, the original wattle and daub cottage having been so badly damaged by heavy rains that it had to be demolished. This building is the nucleus of the present building although much changed later as we shall see elsewhere.

<sup>7</sup> D.E. Rivett Carnac, 'Hawk's Eye', Cape Town 1966, p. 33.

<sup>8</sup> Map of C1824. Reproduced in R.B. Lewcock, 'Early Nineteenth Century Architecture in South Africa', Cape Town, 1963, p.

<sup>9</sup> Map of C1824. Reproduced in R.B. Lewcock, 'Early Nineteenth Century Architecture in South Africa', Cape Town, 1963, p.

<sup>10</sup> Grocotts Mail, August 15, 1946, 'Old Grahamstown - The Story of Oatlands' by T.M.

During the thirty years that Somerset owned the estate these appear to be the major developments. In July of 1850 now general Somerset had been appointed to a command in Bombay and had offered the estate for sale. As it was a difficult time there was little likelihood of an easy sale. However a group of farmers bought the estate and allowed the family to stay until their final departure in August 1852.

It is not certain whether the purchase of the estate was an entirely altruistic gesture as in 1854 plots in the lower part of the land were offered for sale, it having been divided into 112 plots.<sup>11</sup> Ninety-nine of these were sold between February and June. This area totalled 53 morgen. This layout is shown in Figure two and, as can be seen, consisted of a continuation of the grid layout of the town. Fitzroy Street marked the new boundary of the estate proper and was purposely made 22.5 metres (75') wide rather than that of the 15 metres (50') of the other streets. It still seems unusually wide. Family names such as Henri, Charles, Frances and Caroline (now Park) were used for the new streets. An interesting exception to the grid layout is Oatlands Road which appears to have been set out at the original entry point to the estate and run up (with a couple of slight bends) roughly parallel to the boundary of the estate. Original plot widths appear to have been 22.5 metres (75') which is the same as on Westhill.<sup>12</sup>

There is some doubt as to whether these plots were actually sold in 1854.<sup>13</sup> That this is so is confirmed by a glance at the foreground in an 1862 view of Grahamstown.<sup>14</sup> Here the street layout is clearly seen as are a number of houses (figure 3) approximately 30 houses can be counted and most, about 20, are fairly small, just what is known as Settler cottages. This argues for a large number of owners in modest circumstances. There were some larger, two storied dwellings. Most of these buildings survive.

In May of 1854, Walter Currie bought the remainder of the estate (241 morgen and 547 roods) for L2050. He then used it both as his place of residence and as the headquarters for the newly formed (1855) Frontier Mounted and Armed Police.<sup>15</sup> Initially the quarters for the police were very makeshift but by 1865 substantial brick buildings had been erected.<sup>16</sup> Possibly these survive at No. 1 St. Aidan's Avenue. This portion, a strange triangular piece of ground was added to the estate in 1874 (figure 4).

<sup>11</sup> Crocotts Mail, August 15, 1946, 'Old Grahamstown - The Story of Oatlands', by T.M.

<sup>12</sup> Map of C1824, reproduced in R.B. Lewcock, 'Early Nineteenth Century Architecture in South Africa', Cape Town, 1963, p.

<sup>13</sup> Crocotts Mail, August 15, 1946, 'Old Grahamstown - The Story of Oatlands', by T.M.

<sup>14</sup> Reproduction of original on Fly leaf, R & B Reynolds, 'Grahamstown from Cottage to Villa', Cape Town, 1972.

<sup>15</sup> Crocotts Mail, August 15, 1946, 'Old Grahamstown - The Story of Oatlands', by T.M.

<sup>16</sup> E. Wilson, 'Reminiscences of a Frontier Armed and Mounted Police Officer in South Africa', Grahamstown, 1866, p. 18.

As elsewhere at the Cape, the visit of Prince Alfred to Grahamstown in 1860 left its share of mementos. On the Oatlands estate, this took the form of an oak planted by the young prince. Known from henceforth as Prince Alfred's oak it formed the centre piece of a large park called Currie Park which was donated by Sir Walter to the City (see figure 4) access was provided by an extension of Caroline Street.<sup>17</sup> Possibly this is when its name was changed to Park. The rectangular Park still survives. In 1878 a long U-shaped strip of land was expropriated for the newly planned railway line. This line, from Port Elizabeth and which still exists, worked its way gently down the valley into Grahamstown mostly following the line of the contours. The line cuts round the top of the estate quite close to the house and effectively cut it off from the large upper part of the land. It was also brought in through the new suburb an layout between Park and Frances Streets.

On the 6th of November, 1880, the land in the estate of Sir Walter Currie, he had died in 1872, was bought by William Wilford Paddon for L6,250. It was now a total of 297 morgen.<sup>18</sup> A later (1886) survey shows the reasons for this mysterious increase, first there is the grant of 1874, then more land was added to the north (see figure 4). In the early 1880's Paddon must have laid out and sold plots in the area above Fitzroy Street now bounded by Florence Street. Henry Street was lengthened as was the top end of Oatlands Street.

In 1891 the estate was bought by William and Charles Gowie who it appears substantially altered the house and used the grounds as a nursery. The estate now totalled 230 morgen and 48 roods. The Govies continued to use the estate and it remained in the family's possession until 1965. They must have laid out building plots in the area around Currie Park c1900 and a few on the upper side of Florence Street but no major developments appear to have taken place again until the remains of the estate was divided up and sold in 1966.<sup>19</sup> In that year the area above the railway line was developed as a residential area known as Somerset Heights and a school was laid out. Inside of the line most of the remaining land was also divided up, mostly into playing fields for St. Andrews and Graeme Colleges (figure 5). A small area around the house was reserved and the existing stables were placed on a separate lot with road access. A small residential development to the south set out around a street now called Glennie close and took place in the late 1960's. The house itself now remains on a small lot completely surrounded by these later developments.

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<sup>17</sup> Crocotts Mail, August 15, 1946, 'Old Grahamstown - The Story of Oatlands', by T.M.

<sup>18</sup> Crocotts Mail, August 15, 1946, 'Old Grahamstown - The Story of Oatlands', by T.M.

<sup>19</sup> Diagram in National Monuments Council File, Grahamstown

## The Layout of the Estate

As mentioned previously, the first 'cottage' appears to have been positioned well up the valley near the junction of the two streams. As far as can be ascertained it was set slightly lower down but further up the valley than the present house.<sup>20</sup> The rains which continued to the demise of the cottage probably persuaded Somerset to reposition in the new house where it is now.<sup>21</sup> As it is now situated (figure 6), the house faces south-east looking down the valley and towards the town. The view over the estate and the distant prospect of the small town on its own ridge were obviously the major factors in the positioning of the house. Orientation was not an overriding influence although the major rooms in the front do let in morning light and the original verandas were on the north side.

The original entrance was where Oatlands Road begins now and the driveway, over a kilometer in length, ran more or less parallel to the stream and thus gently up the contours. Interestingly the drive never came up to the face of the building as was general but skirted it at a distance and then cut back to the main entrance on the north side. This informal approach is consistent with the picturesque intentions of the house itself. Where the driveway branched another loop went off right to the stables and a third went direct from house to stables thus forming a large island which was thickly planted with trees and suburbs. The upper reaches of the driveway were originally fenced with waist high wooden fences.<sup>22</sup> After the 1854 subdivision the driveway was shortened considerably and it seems to have been bent slightly so as to come closer to the junction of Fitzroy and Henri Streets. It was further truncated in the early 1880's.

Contemporary descriptions are lavish in their praise for the dense ornamental planting on the estate. There were also extensive lawns which were the settings for large public gatherings such as the 1844 settler celebrations. Part of a contemporary account of these festivities is worth quoting here. It runs as follows: "From the high ground on the east of the park and which commanded a good view of the scene, the coup-d'oeil was of the most charming description - the sequestered nook seeming as it were to realize the happy valley of Rasselas, or one of those arcadian scenes which are rather the offspring of a practical imagination than the sober reality of actual life."<sup>23</sup> Sketches show that the planting was mostly around the house and that it was very informal in its style being obviously based on that of the English picturesque garden. The lower portion of the estate was well treed if the 1862 view is to be believed, although some of this appears to be more formal in its layout. It is possible that these are rows set out in the new streets however the trees appear to be too large for less than 10 years of growth. An early map shows cultivated fields by the river.

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<sup>20</sup> Map of 1824, reproduced in R.B. Lewcock, 'Early Nineteenth Century Architecture in South Africa', Cape Town, 1965, p.

<sup>21</sup> From present 1:2500 Map. City Engineer's Department - Grahamstown.

<sup>22</sup> See Sketch S161. Africana Library. Johannesburg Public Library.

<sup>23</sup> R. Godlonton, 'Memorials of the British Settlers', Grahamstown, 1844, p. 36.

Buildings on the Estate

Being part farm and part family seat Oatlands possessed a number of separate buildings essential to its functioning. Those existing during the time of Somerset are best seen in one of Fanny Sutton's (his daughter) sketches (figure 7). Almost certainly drawn in the early 1840's it shows a scattering of buildings to the north of the house and closer to the stream. A large barn-like building constructed of wattle and daub and Thatched is visible as are a pair of small cottages probably constructed of the same material.<sup>24</sup> Thomas Baines, sketched a different one on the estate C1848. It is also illustrated here (figure 8). Furthest away are the stables and coach house which is the only building to survive although in a much altered form, it is now a small house.

What is illustrated here (figure 9) is a set of drawings which reconstruct its appearance during the 1840's. As has been mentioned elsewhere by one of the authors,<sup>25</sup> This is probably one of the first ornamental coach house and stables in South Africa. It almost certainly dates from the time of the second house (1823) if not slightly earlier. The functions of the various rooms is conjectural but based on common practice.

During Sir Walter Currie's time there existed the police barracks although these at first were just small wattle and daub huts.<sup>26</sup> Later a substantial barracks was built about five hundred yards from the house.<sup>27</sup> Their possible survival is mentioned above. All the buildings from the era of the Gowies nurseries seem to have been situated immediately south of the house and were demolished in the late 1960's.

Conclusion

Given the growth of Grahamstown over the last 170 years it is no surprise that the original estate has for all practical purposes ceased to exist. This growth is coupled with the land's closeness to the city centre. One can only speculate how much more of the original fabric might have survived if it really was the two miles from the centre as was claimed by Somerset.

The process of this change, which was the almost complete suburbanization of the park between 1854 and 1966 is fairly typical of the smaller South African city.<sup>28</sup> The only

<sup>24</sup> R. B. Lewcock, 'Early Nineteenth Century Architecture in S.A.', Cape Town, 1963, p. 314, for a discussion of this material.

<sup>25</sup> D. Radford, 'The Carriage House and Stables in South African domestic Architecture' in S.A. Journal of Cultural History. 1991, Vol. 5 (4).

<sup>26</sup> E. Wilson, 'Reminiscences of a Frontier Armed and Mounted Police Officer in South Africa', Grahamstown, 1866, p. 18.

<sup>27</sup> E. Wilson, 'Reminiscences of a Frontier and Mounted Police Officer in South Africa', Grahamstown, 1866, p. 18.

<sup>28</sup> D. Radford, 'The early suburbs of Grahamstown: an outline of their development', S.A. Journal of Cultural History, 1992. Vol. 6 (3).

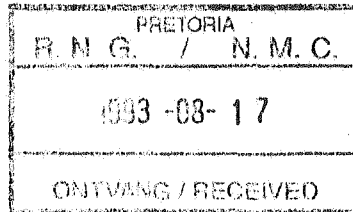
exception appears to be a larger proportion of land than usual devoted to school grounds but then the city is renowned as an educational centre. The other exception is the almost complete lack of any commercial or religious buildings on the former estate.

While it really was an estate, that is prior to 1880, we have seen that it was vigorously developed as a park and a picturesque English landscape park at that. The natural situation, the planting and even the architecture were designed to work in harmony to produce an idyllic, seemingly 'natural' rustic effect. Subsequent owners did not depart from this. As a house and estate Oatlands was probably both precocious and unique in the eastern province but not in contemporary England. The house itself, its history and who were its designers will be the subject of the second article.



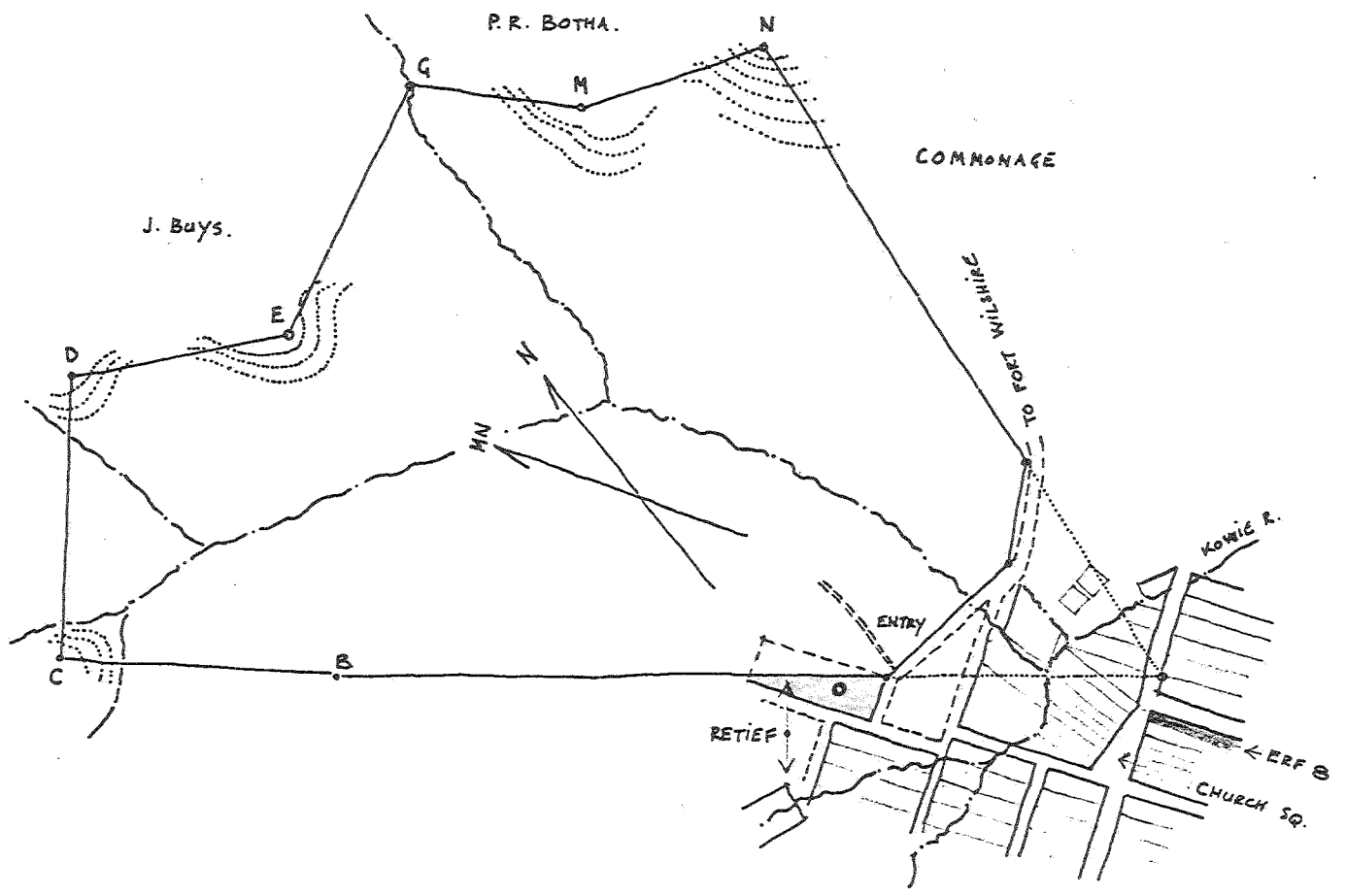
CAPTIONS FOR ILLUSTRATIONS

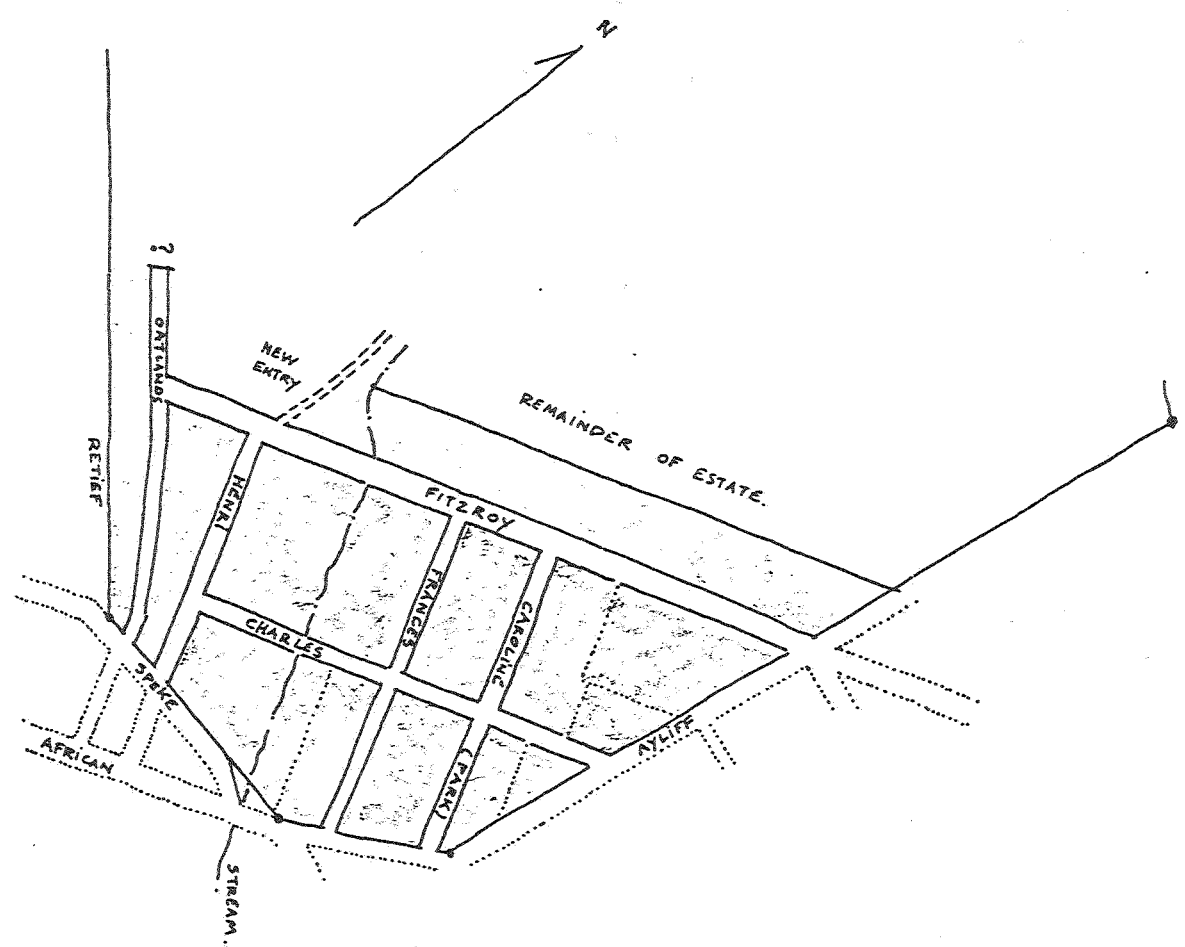
- Figure One: Diagram of the 1820 grant including some of the surrounding town layout. (The authors).
- Figure Two: Diagram of the first subdivision C1854. (The authors).
- Figure Three: Part of the Schiffman (1862) Panorama (Albany Museum).
- Figure Four: Diagram of C1886 showing Currie Park (1860), railway line (C1878) extra grants and upper subdivision (C1881). (The authors).
- Figure Five: Post 1900 changes around house. (The authors).
- Figure Six: The estate layout C1845. A reconstruction (the authors).
- Figure Seven: Sketch of estate from the south C1845 by Fanny Sutton. (Africana Museum. J.P.L.)
- Figure Eight: Sketch of a cottage on the estate C1848 by Baines. (Oppenheimer Library).
- Figure Nine: A reconstruction of the carriage house and stables (W. Martinson).

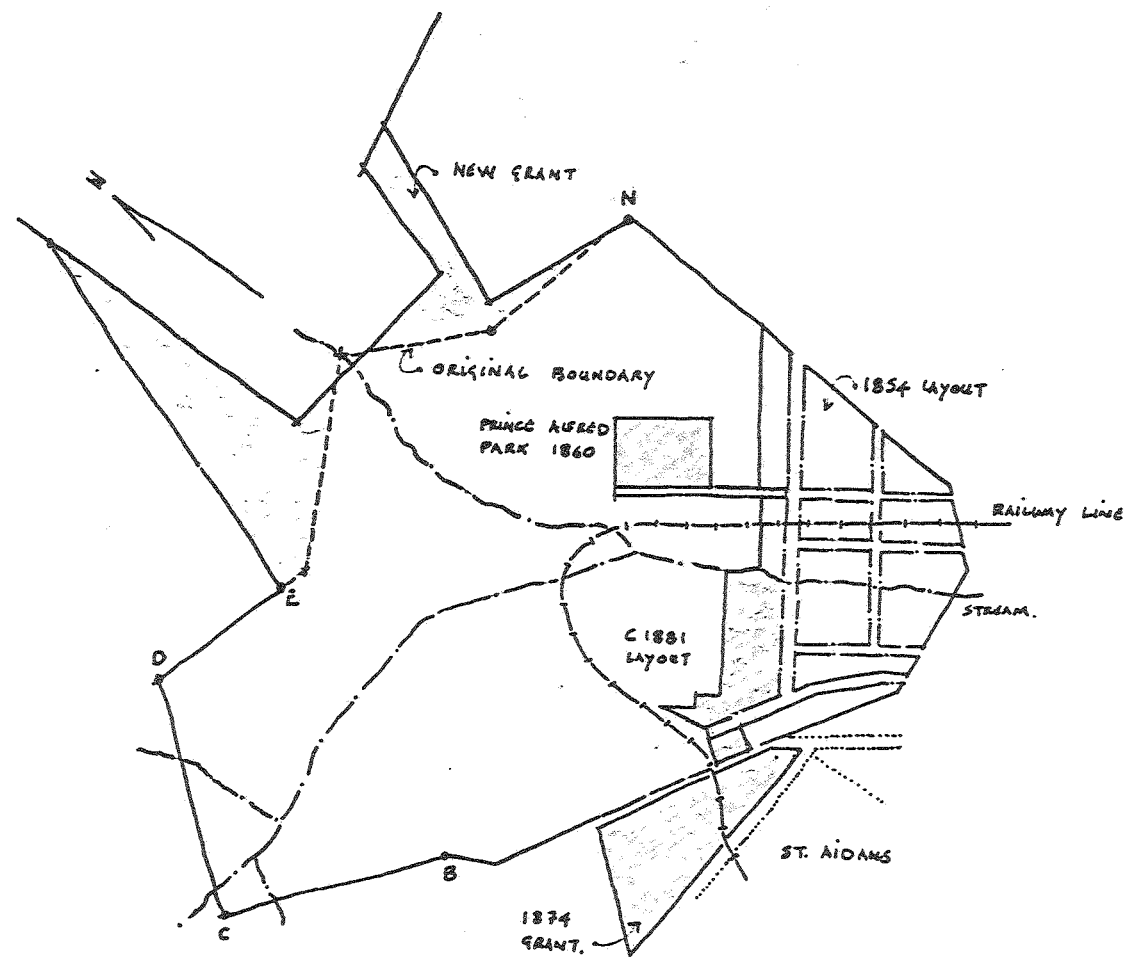


Illustrations for Oatlands - part one

- ✓ (Dr.) Figure One: Original (1820) grant plus surrounding layout.
- ✓ (Dr.) Figure Two: Subdivision ca 1854.
- Figure Three: Part of 1862 Panorama.
- ✓ (Dr.) Figure Four: 1886 map showing park (1860), Railway Line (1878), extra grants and upper portion (c1881).
- ✓ (Dr.) Figure Five: Post 1900 changes around house.
- ✓ (Dr.) Figure Six: Estate layout C1840. A reconstruction.
- Figure Seven: Sutton sketch (from S.E. showing stables, etc.)
- Figure Eight: Cottage on the estate - Baines.
- (WM) Figure Nine: Stable and Carriage house.







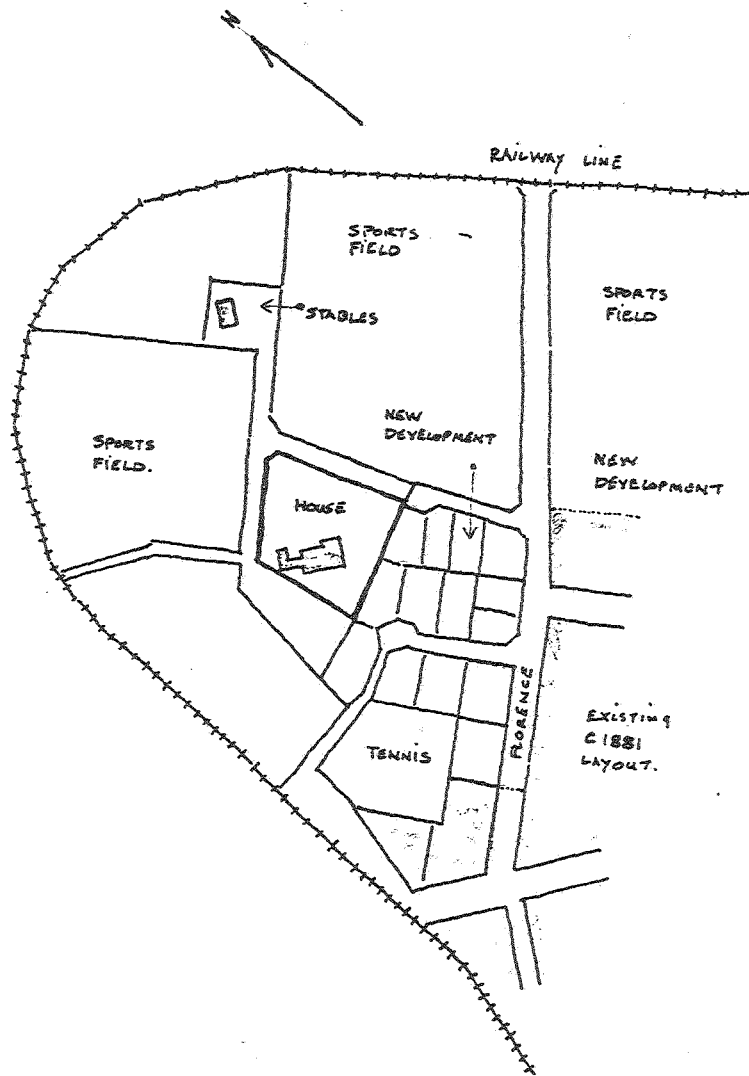
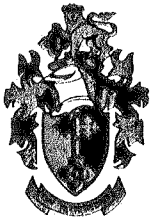


Fig six.



- A = GUEST COTTAGE.
- B = HOUSE.
- C = BARN.
- D = COTTAGES.
- E = STABLE
- P = DRIVEWAY
- Q = PINE TREE GROVE.

OATLANDS 9/2/003/18.



DEPARTEMENT VAN NASIONALE OPVOEDING  
DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL EDUCATION

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STATE ARCHIVES SERVICE

Navrae  
Enquiries:

T Skidmore

Verw.  
Ref.

C16/4/3/1



462-4050 Faks  
Fax

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Private Bag } x

9025  
CAPE TOWN  
8000

1993 -08-27

Mr W Martinson  
National Monuments Council  
P O Box 7888  
PRETORIA  
0001

Dear Mr Martinson

In reply to your order of 5 August I herewith enclose the xerox copies pertaining to Oatlands Estate, Grahamstown (LND 1/801, ref L13945).

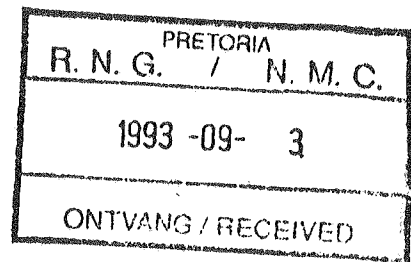
During the process of copying the documents, it was found that the volume consisted of an additional 22 pages, the reference number L13946 having been deleted and changed to L13945.

Should you, therefore, require copies of these pages an additional R3-30 must be sent.

With regard to the microfilm negatives and photograph ordered, the minimum waiting period is 6 and 8 weeks respectively.

Yours faithfully

*A.E. van Wyk*  
ACHIEF: CAPE ARCHIVES DEPOT





ATLANDS

9/2/ 003/018.

Ref.: C16/4/3/2/

Cape Archives Depot  
Private Bag x9025  
CAPE TOWN  
8000

1993-09-23

MR W MARTINSON  
National Monuments Council  
PO Box 7888  
Pretoria  
0001

Dear Mr. Martinson

In reply to your enquiry/order of 1993-08-30 please  
find enclosed the photographic print (L1544) and  
twelve microfilm negatives as ordered.

Yours faithfully

SN Coetzer

CHIEF: CAPE ARCHIVES DEPOT

PRETORIA R. N. G. / N. M. C.
1993-09-29
ONTVANG / RECEIVED

OATLANDS.

9/2/003/018

PRETORIA	
R. N. G.	/ N. M. C.
993 -10- 06	
ONTVANG / RECEIVED	

28 SEP 1993

Dear Willie,

MANY THANKS FOR THE ABURHAW + TABERY PAMPHLET. I THINK IT BEARS ALL THE MARKS OF VERY THOROUGH RESEARCH, IN FACT I AM AMAZED AT HOW MUCH DETAIL YOU HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ASSEMBLE ABOUT TWO OBVIOUSLY OBSCURE MEN. THE PAMPHLET IS ALSO WELL WRITTEN + ILLUSTRATED. OVERALL IT REFLECTS VERY WELL ON YOU + LEIGH + IS A GOOD ADDITION TO THE SERIES.

SOME OF THE THINGS THAT INTEREST ME ARE THE CRIPHLAND WEST SHAWY, THE WOOLLS - SIMPSON HOUSE + WHETHER YOU THINK A + T WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CARBONATE GARDEN LAYOUT FOR THE VIEW - IT IS SHOWN BEST ON THE 1922 AGRIC SURVEY. ALSO DO YOU THINK THAT THE CAST-IRON ON HAZELDENE HALL IS PIRATED <sup>FROM</sup> McFARLANE DESIGNS BUT MADE IN AUSTRALIA?

I ENCLOSE A ~~THREE~~ TRACING I HAVE MADE FROM THE 1863 OF THE THEN CIVIL COMMISSIONERS HOUSE. IT SEEMS TO BE THE MOST INTERESTING OF THE GARDEN LAYOUTS SHOWN. VIZ THE DRIVEWAY + INFORMAL FLOWAL BEDS ETC. I INTEND TO ADD IT (COMPLETE) TO THE ILLUSTRATIONS + MODIFY THE TEXT TO INCLUDE SOME COMMENTS. WHAT DO YOU THINK? HOW IS YOUR TEXT BEING COMING ON.

FINALLY I HAVE ACCEPTED THE DURBAN JOB WITH A COUPLE OF CONDITIONS. I HAVE YET TO HEAR WHETHER THESE ARE ACCEPTABLE TO THEM.

PLEASE GIVE MY LOVE TO MAM BIRD + ASKING HER THAT I WOULD LIKE A COPY OF THE NORTHWARD'S LODGE DRAWINGS

REGARDS,  
Dennis.

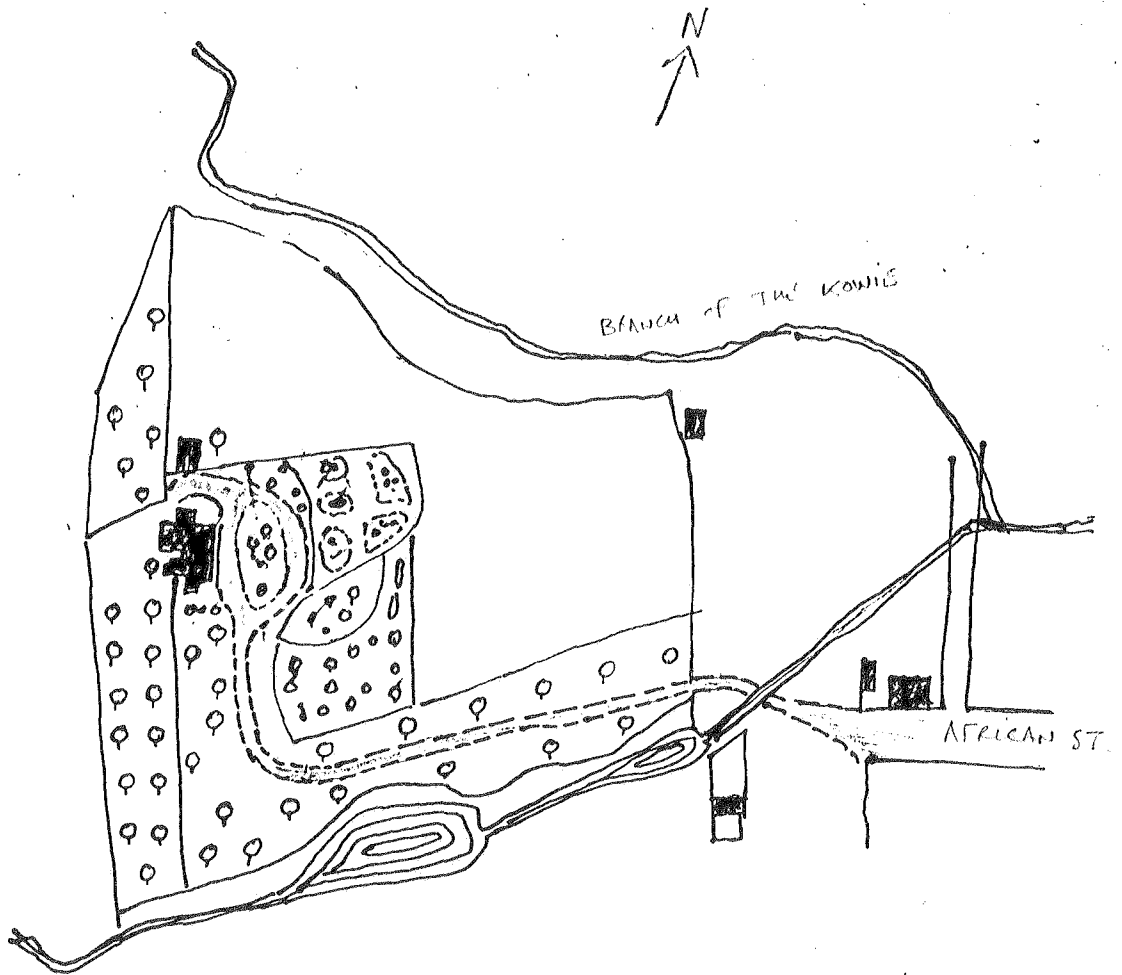


Fig. 1

1863 - R. GRAHAM C.C.  
MAP.

9/2/003/018

C16/4/3/1

Mr. W. Martinson

06 October 1993

Chief : Cape Archives Depot  
State Archives Service  
Private Bag X9025  
CAPE TOWN  
8000

Att: T. Skidmore

Dear Sir

**OATLANDS HOUSE & ESTATE, GRAHAMSTOWN**

Thank you for the copies of the documents relating to Oatlands House; the microfilm negatives and photographic prints were received in good order. The additional 22 pages are not required at this stage.

With reference to your letter dated 1993-07-27, the Leica Collection negative (L1544) is a view of Oatlands Estate in Grahamstown. You might like to add to your catalogue description that the view is contained in the "*Narrative of the Kaffir War of 1850-51-52*" by Godlonton and Irving (Grahamstown, 1852) as an illustration opposite page 41.

Yours faithfully

**WAM.**

ARCHITECT NORTH

WAM/bs

OATLANDS.

9/2/003/018

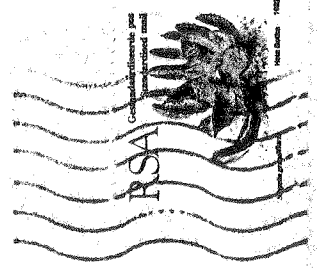
Cory Library  
P.O. Box 154  
Grantham  
6140  
1 October 1993



PUBLISHED BY GRANGE BOOKS IN ASSOCIATION WITH ROYLE

1993-10-08

6140



Dear Mr. Martinson

My uncle has recently started to research his family tree with my assistance. He believes that his ancestors, the Passmore, lived at Oatlands during the 1870s. I have my doubts about this and think it is more likely that the reference is to the suburb than the house, but wondered if you could perhaps shed some light on the question.

Mr W Martinson  
National Monuments Commission

P.O. Box 7888

Pretoria

0002

PRETORIA
R. N. G. / N. M. C.
1993 -10- 08
ONTVANG / RECEIVED

Yours sincerely  
DAYMER BAY, POLZEATH, CORNWALL  
from a painting by Hubert Squires

(Miss) Cecily M. Blight



Copyright © Royle 1992

OATLANDS 9/2/003/018.



ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY  
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President The Rt. Hon. the EARL JELICOE, KBE, DSO, MC, FRS, PC

Director and Secretary DR JOHN HEMMING

Mr William A Martinson,  
National Monuments Council,  
Nederlansche Bank Building,  
8 Church Square,  
Pretoria 0002,  
South Africa.

8 October 1993

Dear Mr Martinson,

In answer to your letters to our President, the Society's  
archivist has sent me the enclosed memo about the few  
papers of Rev. F Fleming that we hold.

She also suggests two places that you might try in your  
search for information about Oatlands House, Grahamstown.  
I hope that this is some help to you.

Yours sincerely,

Dr John Hemming,  
Director and Secretary

PRETORIA R. N. G. / N. M. C.
1993 -10- 15
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c.c. President

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MEMORANDUM

OATLANDS 9/2/003/018.

From	ARCHIVIST	To	DIRECTOR'S P.A.
------	-----------	----	-----------------

REF.	SUBJECT	DATE
Martinson, W. 23 June	Oatlands House Grahamstown S.Africa	7/10/93

We have some of the Rev. F. Fleming's papers here, as follows:

1. Fleming, Rev F. Correspondence Block 1851-60 (8 letters, 1853 & 55).
2. Journal Mss. South Central & East Africa, 1856 ("A short account of a Journey across the rivers of British Kafraria"; Published Proceedings Vol. [4]. approx 4pp holo. foolscap, with 7 watercolours of fossils found. (Sketches not published).

This is all.

He might try RIBA ([Royal] Institute of British Architects) 66 Portland Place London; or Cumbria County Record Office, which holds the Fleming family Mss. of Rydal Hall - I don't know whether its the same family). The address is Kendal, Cumbria LA9 4RQ

Paula.



9/2/003/018

Mr. W. Martinson

18 October 1993

)  
The Director  
Royal Geographical Society  
Kensington Gore  
London SW7 2AR  
GREAT BRITAIN

Dear Mr. Hemming

OATLANDS HOUSE, GRAHAMSTOWN, ALBANY DISTRICT, SOUTH AFRICA

Thank you for your letter dated 8 October 1993, responding to my letters to your President. I will be corresponding in due course with the two sources suggested by the Society's archivist. Thank you for your assistance with my research.

Yours sincerely

WILLIAM A. MARTINSON

William A. Martinson  
ARCHITECT NORTH

) WAM/bs

10/4





OATLANDS. 9/2/003/018  
DEPARTEMENT VAN NASIONALE OPVOEDING  
DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL EDUCATION

STAATSARGIEFDIENS  
STATE ARCHIVES SERVICE

Navrae  
Enquiries:

T Skidmore

Verw.  
Ref.

C16/4/2/1



462-4050 Faks  
Fax

Privaatsak }  
Private Bag } x

9025  
CAPE TOWN  
8000

1993 -10-15

Mr W Martinson  
National Monuments Council  
P O Box 7888  
PRETORIA  
0001

Dear Mr Martinson

I write in reply to your letter received on 11 October regarding additional information pertaining to the Leica negative of Oatlands Estate, Grahamstown.

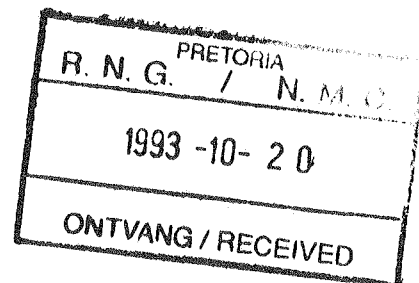
The relevant particulars have been added to the description of the negative (L1544) and in time will be made available on the computer retrieval system.

Your interest in this regard is much appreciated.

Yours faithfully

*SD Coetzer*

CHIEF: CAPE ARCHIVES DEPOT



148

9/2/003/018

27 October 1993

The Royal Commission on Historical Monuments  
Fortress House  
23 Saville Row  
London W1X 2JQ  
GREAT BRITAIN

Dear Sir

OATLANDS HOUSE, GRAHAMSTOWN, ALBANY DISTRICT, SOUTH AFRICA

1. I was provided with your address by the Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts.
2. I am an architect employed by the National Monuments Council of South Africa and am researching the architectural history and development of Oatlands house. This house was built in Grahamstown in 1824 by Capt H. Somerset. The design was probably suggested by his father, Lord Charles Somerset (second son of the 5th Duke of Beaufort) who was then the Governor, stationed in Cape Town.
3. This field of architectural research was suggested by Prof Dennis Radford, Head of the Department of Architecture at Louisiana Tech University (formerly Head of the Department of Architecture at Wits University in Johannesburg). He has proposed that we write a joint article on Oatlands, which in his opinion is one of the most important houses in Grahamstown.
4. When Oatlands was offered for sale by auction in 1852 it was described as a "splendid mansion .... by far the most commodious in character of any House in the Eastern division". It was probably the first *cottage-orné* and the first verandah-house in Grahamstown. Notwithstanding its architectural and historical importance Oatlands has only been mentioned in passing in Lewcock's definitive book "Early 19th Century Architecture in South Africa".
5. The House and the Estate have undergone a number of changes over the last 169 years. It is our intention to try and establish the original layout of the Estate, as well as the plans, elevational treatment and 3-D massing of the house and stables, as built (and probably added to) by Capt Somerset. For this we are fortunate to have a measured ground-plan (dated 1966). Another useful source of information has been the sketches made by Frances (Fanny) Sutton (née Somerset) in c. 1840. The original Sutton sketches are held in the Africana Museum in Johannesburg. (Copies attached)
6. A note on our file states that : "The Estate was named Oatlands by Capt

Somerset, after Oatlands a country residence of the Duke of York, commander in chief of the British Military Forces and brother of the Prince Regent. Oatlands was added to the Hampton Court Estate by Henry VIII in 1537 as one of the Royal Residences". I would therefore be most grateful if you could provide any plans, elevations or 3-dimensional drawings of Oatlands as it was c. 1800 to 1820. A plan of the Oatlands Estate at this time would also be appreciated. This information will hopefully confirm the origins of the ground plan and Estate layout of Oatlands in Grahamstown.

I look forward to your reply.

Yours faithfully

WILLIAM A. MARTINSON

William A. Martinson Esq  
Architect North

WAM/bs

147

9/2/003/18 ; 9/2/018/003

27 October 1993

The Art Librarian  
The Brenthurst Library  
P.O. Box 87184  
HOUGHTON  
2041

Dear Mrs. Van Nierop

OATLANDS HOUSE AND ESTATE, GRAHAMSTOWN AND GRANITE LODGE, CAPE TOWN

Our telephone conversation earlier today refers.

As discussed Miss H. du Preez and I would like to visit the Brenthurst Library on Friday 12 November 1993.

Miss. du Preez would particularly like to consult the collection of early Cape Town Street directories. I would like to continue my scrutiny of the "Baines African Collection" in particular Vols 7,22,23,24 and 28, as well as the 1848 sketchbook. Miss du Preez has mentioned that she would again be willing to assist with the identification of any pictorial Africana relating to the Cape.

Thank you for your assistance in this regard.

Yours sincerely

WILLIAM A. MARTINSON

William A. Martinson  
Architect North

WAM/bs

148

OATLANDS 9/2/003/018

LOUISIANA TECH UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE

Date: 11 OCT 1993.

To:

From:

DEAR WILLIE,  
THIS IS NOT TO BOMBARD  
YOU BUT I CAME ACROSS THE ENCLOSED  
IN A EXHIBITION CATALOGUE I HAVE.  
THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO PROVIDE  
SOME BACKGROUND.

THIS ARCHIVEY SENT  
→

I HAVE REVISED + ADDED TO MY  
DRAFT PRINCIPALLY BY ADDING THE  
ILLUSTRATION + SOME TEXT - COMPARISONS  
ETC. IT WILL BE RE-TYPED SOON +  
THEN I WILL SEND YOU A COPY.

I AM STILL WAITING TO HEAR  
WHEN THE VISITING TEAM WILL BE HERE -  
IT COULD BE AS LATE AS APRIL - BEFORE  
FINANCISING ARRANGEMENTS.

HOPE YOU ARE WELL,

PRETORIA
R. N. G. / N. M. C.
1993-10-27
ONTVANG / RECEIVED

REGARDS,

D. SMITH

## 16 THE CALVERLEY ESTATE

In 1828 John Ward of Holwood commissioned Decimus Burton to provide a layout and designs for a new estate to be developed on land he owned near the Old Spa of Tunbridge Wells.

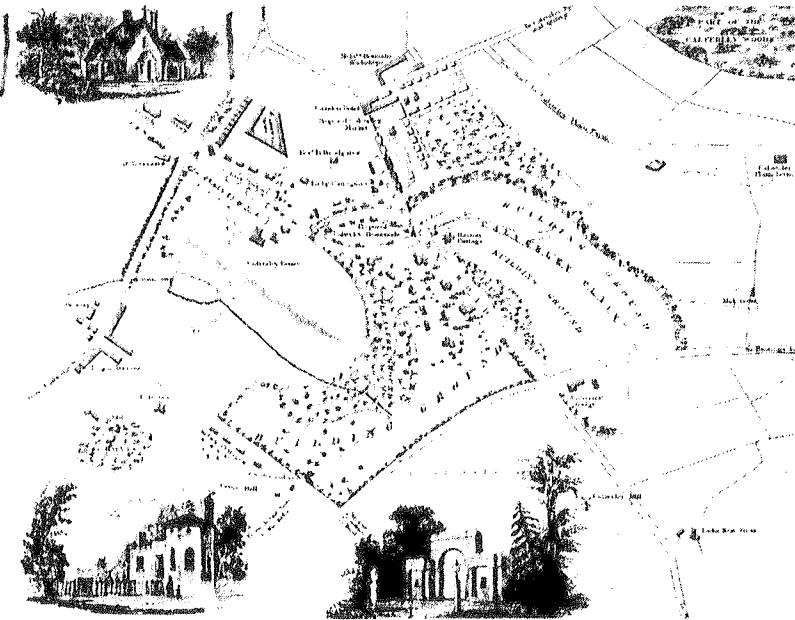
Originally the plan was to involve James Burton in the project, but at this time he was heavily committed with his own plans for the development of the new town of St Leonards.

The land at Tunbridge Wells was part of a parcel of farming land 900 acres in all, of which 56 was to be developed, purchased by Ward in 1825.

The area to be developed adjoined the site of Holy Trinity which had been built by Decimus Burton the previous year, and which provided a focal point for the design. The area also included several existing large houses, the principal being Calverley House, the frequent residence of the Duchess of Kent and her young daughter Princess Victoria, which later was extended by Burton to form the Calverley Hotel.

Burton's plan was for a complete town, including as well as large terrace and semi-detached houses, smaller cottages and shops with living accommodation to house the service population necessary for the life of the community, as was an inn and market hall. The principal features of the estate were, however, the Crescent and the Park with its series of detached villas.

The scheme was built by the Pimlico builders, Joseph Bramah and Son, who



set up site yards and quarries for the local stone that provided the principal building material.

The development of the Park probably extended into the 1840s, Burton himself probably having little involvement in the design of the later stages.

Much of Burton's original scheme has been demolished. Calverley Terrace and Parade have given way to the present

Town Hall, and the market building and inn have been replaced by shop and office development.

## 22 BEULAH SPA

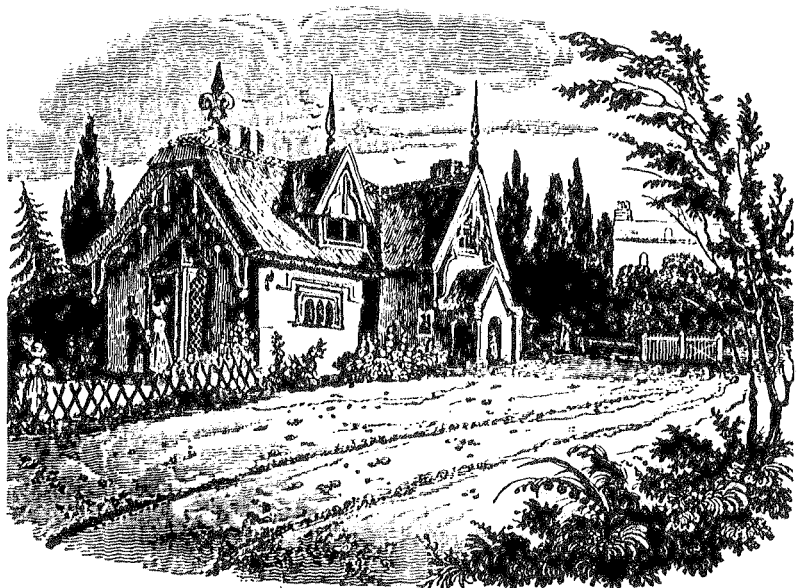
While the heydays of the spa were past for the fashionable 18th-century centres such as Tunbridge Wells by 1828, an attempt was made to establish a spa near London in order to provide Londoners with a day excursion to rural surroundings.

The site chosen was in South London near a small established spa on Streatham Common occupying attractive wooded countryside, on a hill 390 feet above sea level adjoining the village of Norwood. Here a small saline spring was discovered, the waters of which were pronounced by Dr Hume George Weatherhead in a pamphlet published in 1832 as of a similar type but superior to the Cheltenham waters.

The Spa was the idea of John Davidson Smith; Decimus Burton being appointed architect provided a design in the picturesque garden manner similar to that of the Zoological Gardens.

The Spa was described in *The Mirror* of 14 April 1832: 'The visitor first approaches the lodge said to be in the best taste of ornate rusticity with the characteristic varieties of gable, dripstone, portico, bay window and embellished chimney.' The lodge still survives but in a much altered state; the original design resembled closely that of Burton's Farnborough Lodge on the Calverley Estate.

From the lodge the visitor descended a winding path to reach a small glade containing one of Burton's most curious designs: a circular thatched building resembling an Indian wigwam housing a



spring, from whence the waters were dispensed from a crystal pump with a silver tap.

Other attractions in the garden included an octagonal reading-room, a bandstand, and an archery ground as well as lawns, pastures and woodland walk complete with rustic bridge and steps. The Spa opened to the public in August 1831 and immediately became popular, a special coach running from Charing Cross. By the early 1840s, however, the Spa

began to decline and finally closed in 1855, being unable to compete with the Crystal Palace, Paxton's building being erected on nearby Sydenham Hill. A park and lodge and gate piers remain today, the only shadow of the Spa in the woods.

## 38 THE ARCHITECT'S OWN HOUSE

The greatest test of an architect's true style is perhaps the house he builds for himself. Decimus Burton was brought up in the house Mabledon, which his father built at Quarry Hill near Tonbridge. This was in the castellated Gothic style by J F Parkinson in 1804, using local sandstone and incorporating parts of the demolished nearby Peshurst Place. James Burton later sold Mabledon to the banker, John Deacon, who employed Decimus to considerably extend the accommodation in 1829. The house was further extended later in the century: Decimus's additions being in the style of the original house, it is difficult to identify the various stages of building.

In addition to his country house, James Burton occupied various London properties associated with his developments during the 1810s before he moved to The Holme in 1818.

The first address given by Decimus Burton on his Royal Academy submissions are those of his father - Crescent Place, Tavistock Square in 1817, and Marylebone (Regents) Park (presumably The Holme) in 1818-22. When he commenced practice in 1823, he set up his office in Carlton Chambers, a block in Lower Regent Street built by his father as part of Nash's overall design.

In 1827 he acquired the lease of a plot of land in Spring Gardens (Numbers 10 to 14) adjoining the newly formed Trafalgar Square, which he developed to provide an office and town house for

himself. Three separate units were combined behind a five bay facade, the four storey elevation being rusticated with arched openings, the upper storeys with surrounds to the windows showing the increasing Italianate influence. The principal room of Burton's house was, however, in the Grecian style with decorative frieze and fittings. The buildings subsequently became offices of the L.C.C and have now been demolished.

Decimus Burton lived a bachelor life and therefore had no need to build himself a large country house as his father had done. However, he is recorded as leasing properties associated with his major developments at Tunbridge Wells, where he built ~~Baston Cottage~~ presumably for his own occupation, and Fleetwood which he occupied during, and for some time after, building operations. At St Leonards, which had become the home of several of his relations, he built himself a bachelor cottage - The Cottage, Maze Hill - in the *cottage ornée* style he favoured for Baston Cottage, surely proof of his serious interest in the genre. Here he spent much of his later years of practice and subsequent retirement. He did not, however, as has been suggested, retire to St Leonards: his subsequent years were spent in his London house at 1 Gloucester Houses, Hyde Park.



Baston Cottage C 1928.

152



OATLANDS 9/2/003/018

NOV 15 1993

DEAR WILHELM,

HEREWITH THE REVISED TEXT ETC OF PART ONE. IT SHOULD BE GOOD ENOUGH TO BE SENT IN FOR CONSIDERATION + REFERENCING ETC. I ASSUME YOUR SILENCE HAS MEANT THAT YOU ARE BUSILY ENGAGED IN YOUR DRAFT OF PART TWO + AM PUTTING THE FINISHING TOUCHES TO THE STABLES RECONSTRUCTION DRAWINGS. I AM GOING TO ATTEMPT TO PUSH YOU A BIT AS I KNOW HOW LONG THESE JOURNALS TAKE. EVEN IF THEY WERE TO RECEIVE OUR PRODUCTIONS NOW I DOUBT WHETHER WE WILL SEE THE FIRST ONE IN PRINT BEFORE THIS TIME NEXT YEAR. SO CAN I URGE YOU ON THIS POINT. HAVE YOU TURNED UP ANYTHING NEW OR USEFUL?

MY PLANS STILL REMAIN A LITTLE VAGUE + WILL DO SO UNTIL THE ACCREDITATION VISIT DATE IS FINALISED. A BIT FRUSTRATING BUT I MUST HOLD TO AN OBLIGATION UNOSWYKAW.

HOW IS FLO? - EVERYONE IN S.A SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN STRUCK WITH PARALYSIS OF THE WRITING HAND RECENTLY + EXCEPT FOR FAMILY I GET VIRTUALLY NOTHING.

STAY WELL,

REGARDS,

DAVID.

RECEIVED 10.12.1993

NATIONAL MONUMENTS COUNCIL

ARCHITECT NORTH

INTERNAL MEMORANDUM

---

TO: Regional Manager : Eastern Cape  
FROM: Architect North  
REF: 9/2/003/018 DATE: 1993-11-18  
RE: PAINTWORK ON EXTERNAL DOORS AT OATLANDS HOUSE, GRAHAMSTOWN

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1. Our recent telephone conversation refers.
2. Please find attached a few copies of a specification provided to the National Monuments Council by the CSIR titled "RECOMMENDED TREATMENT OF DETERIORATED PAINTWORK".
3. In the case of Oatlands House where the front doors have been stripped, but have nevertheless been protected by the verandah, it will almost certainly NOT be necessary to use PCP or CCA to treat the wood. Once the timber has been sanded down and all the varnish (if any) removed, it can be coated with the boiled linseed oil & mineral turps mixture and then painted as described.
4. I hope this information is of some use to you.

William A. Martinson

WAM/bs

OATLANDS HOUSE, 9/2/003/018



Dear William Martinson

Thank you for asking for information from the National Monuments Record.  
We are currently looking into your request and will respond ~~by~~ after  
30 November (I am on leave until 29 November)

If you would like any further information, please telephone

071-973-3091

on

PRETORIA P. N. G. / N. M. C.
'993 -11- 30
ONTVANG / RECEIVED

Signed Lizbeth Gale Date 19-11-93

9/2/003/18

Mr. W. Martinson

20 December 1993

Prof. D. Radford  
Head : Department of Architecture  
Louisiana Tech University  
P.O. Box 3175, TS  
Ruston  
LOUISIANA 71272-0001  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Dear Dennis

OATLANDS HOUSE, 10 CAROLINE CLOSE, GRAHAMSTOWN

1. Thank you for your letters of 01 July, 12 July, 18 July, 24 July, 5 August (with first typed draft), 28 September, 11 October (with Decimus Burton extracts) and last but not least 15 November 1993. My humble apologies for not responding sooner!
2. I'm afraid my draft of Part 2 is not yet complete and neither is the drawing of the stables. I will be redirecting some energy towards Oatlands now that builder's holidays are upon us. I have been kept busy supervising the restoration of a graveyard at KOPPIES, O.F.S. and preparing contract documents for the restoration of the 16 metre tall stone chimney at Eersteling near Potgietersrust. I do however attach some photocopies from your latest draft with some minor proof-reading corrections.
3. I recently visited the Brenthurst Library for a second time and finally located the elusive Baines sketch in a volume titled "Thomas Baines Original Sketch Book Vol. 3", dated 1848 Catalogue No Art 49/3/26. I'm afraid there is nothing on the original sketch to confirm the Africana Museum's statement that the subject was on Somerset estate. I would suggest that we delete this reference from the text. I saw no other sketches of Oatlands. The only other larger holding of Baines sketches is the Africana Museum and they are unfortunately closed until the middle of next year. As a result of this temporary closure we will probably have to use my original photostat of the Sutton sketch. I will ask Brian Jackson to take a black and white photograph of the Schiffman panorama.
4. I have written to the National Monuments Record of the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments, requesting copies of plans and 3.D drawings of Oatlands

at the Hampton Court Estate c1820. Hopefully this line of enquiry will establish another possible precedent for Oatlands in Grahamstown.

Regards

*WAM*

ARCHITECT NORTH

WAM/bs

OATLANDS HOUSE 9/2/003/018



W A Martinson Esq  
National Monuments Council  
First floor  
Nederlandsche Bank Building  
8 Church Square  
Pretoria 0002  
South Africa

Your reference

Our reference

Date

3 December 1993

Dear Mr Martinson

Thank you for your enquiry about Oatlands House.

Oatlands Park in Walton and Weybridge, Surrey, was designed by Henry Holland, built in 1794 for the Duke of York, and it is now converted to a hotel. I have looked through our collections and I am afraid that I have not been able to find very much, but I have photocopied various things that I hope will interest you.

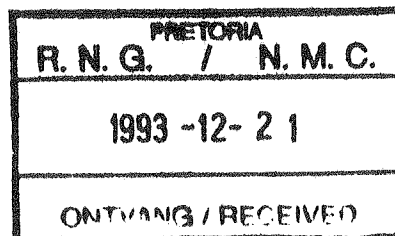
We have only one photograph of the house, but we have a larger coverage (exterior and interior photographs) of the grotto, which was demolished in 1948-9. If you would like photocopies of these please let me know. We have only the one set of measured drawings and that is of the grotto and I have copied it for you. The full postal address of the hotel is on the photocopy of the aerial view of the house and it would be worth contacting them to see if they have any old plans, or whether they know where the plans were deposited. You could also contact the local record offices and libraries, the addresses of which I have copied for you.

I hope that this information will help you and I am sorry that we do not have any proper reports or plans on the house. If I can be of further assistance, please let me know.

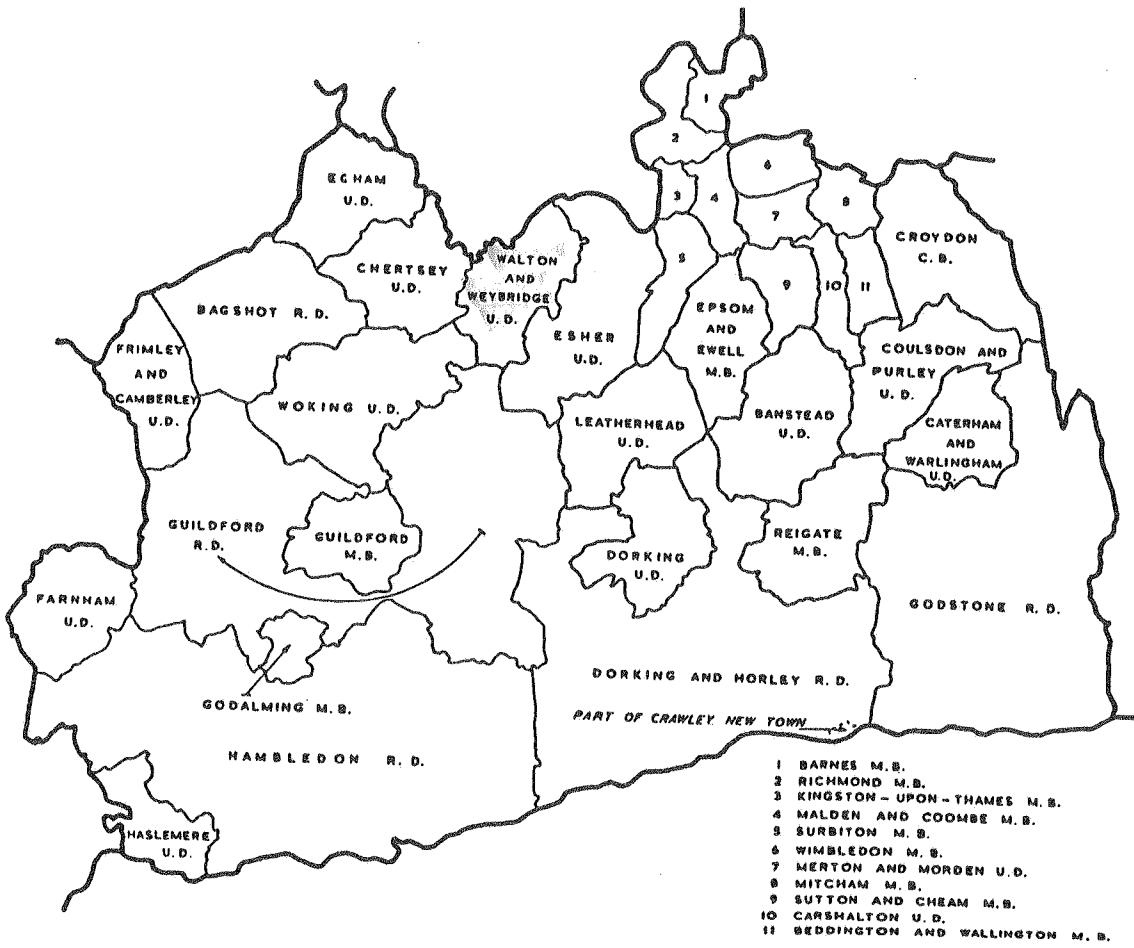
Yours sincerely

*Lizbeth Gale*

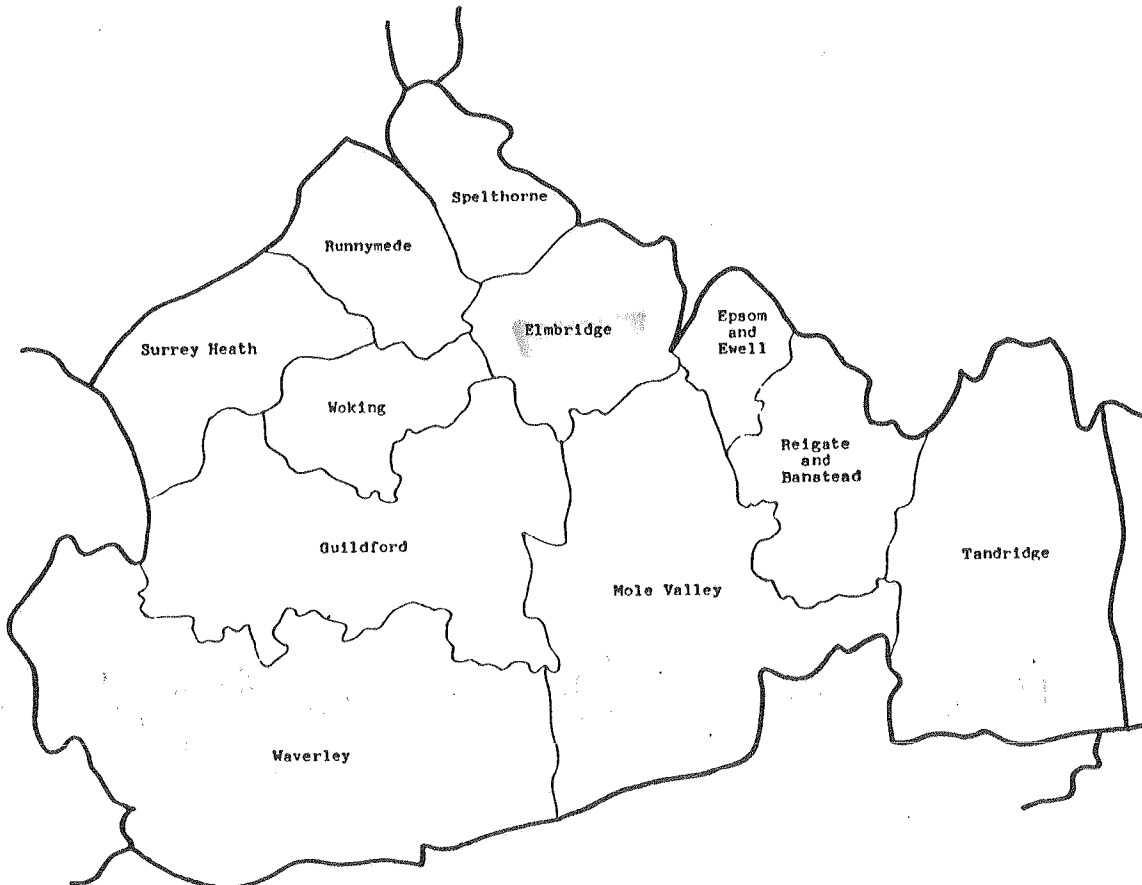
Lizbeth Gale  
National Buildings Record



SURREY: old county



SURREY: new county



Listed building information

TQ 06SE

BOROUGH OF ELMBRIDGE

NORTH AVENUE  
(east side)  
Whiteley Village

4/264

Lamp post, 50 yards  
south of North Lodge

GV

II

Lamp post. Circa 1912. Cast iron. Square four legged base with diagonally framed basket top carrying four legged tapering standard. Lantern with decorative finial carried on doubled scroll-work, S-curve arm.

TQ 06SE

BOROUGH OF ELMBRIDGE

OATLANDS AVENUE

Weybridge

4/265

Church of St. Mary

II

Church. 1862 by Messrs Francis. Rubblestone, coursed on the tower with plain tiled rppfs. Nave and aisle, apsed chancel to the east with chapel to south, and tower to north west attached to west end of church by a short corridor, vestry addition to south east. 3 gables to west end, buttressed nave with 2-light deep tracery windows. Square 3 stage tower with turret to north east corner open to ground floor with pointed arch over opening and depressed crocketed ogee relieving arch above. 2 stone dressed, 2-light bell openings in ogee surrounds to each face of top stage, battlements with angle gargoyles above.

Interior: 5 bay nave arcade on compound piers of quatrefoil section, timber scissor braced roof. Mosaic apse with tiled chancel floor, marble dado panelling below.

Fittings: early C20 pews and screen. Stone arched, arcaded pulpit, octagonal font.

TQ 06NE

BOROUGH OF ELMBRIDGE

OATLANDS DRIVE

Weybridge

1/266

24.10.74.

GV

Oatlands Park Hotel

Grade II

House, now hotel. Original house of 1794 by Henry Holland for Duke of York, reconstructed in 1827 for Edward "Golden Ball" Hughes and remodelled, with west wing added in 1856 by T.H. Whyatt, when converted into hotel. Italianate style. Yellow stock brick rendered dressings with hipped slate roofs, bracketed eaves and panelled brick stacks. 3 storeys, 4 balustraded angle tower on south west corner. 2 bow windows rising through 2 storeys on south front of tower. Hip roofed belvedere loggia to top with triple arch arcade on north and south sides, 4 arches on east and west. Main front: 9 bay sash windowed range to left with rendered string course over first floor, geometric pattern frieze over ground floor and rendered window surrounds to ground floor, keystones breaking into the frieze. Similar 4 bay block to right of centre with further 4 bay block breaking forward to right. Ballroom extension: 2 storeys and attic in Mansard roof projecting forward at the east end (right). Recessed 3 bay entrance block to centre of main front under lead square ogee domed roof, behind triple arched loggia with paired Roman Ionic columns on pedestals, bracketed entablature. Triple glazed doors behind under traceried fanlights. West front: (Left hand return front) 2 square bays to ground floor, "Venetian" style surround to double half-glazed doors with Doric pilasters. C20 additions to left.



*Works for the Duke of York*

1792, whereby the occupants agreed to convey their respective residences to each other within six months. Early in 1793 the Melbournes were installed in Whitehall, where they remained until the first Viscount's death in 1828, after which the property was sold to Lord Dover, whose name became attached to the house.

Meanwhile, the Duke of York had moved into the Piccadilly House, which had been built by Chambers in 1770. Holland does not appear to have done much to it at this point, beyond tidying it up for the Duke and Duchess, who resided here when in London during the next eight years. By the end of this time not only was the house mortgaged to Thomas Coutts, the banker, but the Duke had incurred heavy debts in other directions. It was probably for this reason that he decided to dispose of the property, and rumours that it was to be used for a development scheme became current. Holland's interest in such matters suggests that he was behind this, and a hint of its nature is given in Malton's *Picturesque Tour of London*, where a caption to a view of Uxbridge House states that 'it is in contemplation to open a communication into Piccadilly, by pulling down York House and building a street of handsome houses on the site of the gardens, in a direct line with Saville-row.' This idea, however, came to nothing, and it was a very different type of development which materialised two years later, as outlined in Chapter XIV.

Holland's work for the Duke of York included the rebuilding of Oatlands, near Weybridge, after it had been damaged by fire on June 7th, 1794, during the Duke's absence in Flanders. He had already been consulted about finishing the temple in the grounds, according to Farington,<sup>1</sup> who had been there on a sketching expedition in the preceding October. Farington also commented on the fire, and the composure of the Duchess, who was residing there at the time, and 'seemed more anxious abt. her animals than abt. the House.' The rebuilding apparently took shape in a piecemeal way, with some rooms continuing to be available for occupation by the Duke and Duchess. The Rev Owen Manning, whose authoritative *History and Antiquities of the County of Surrey* was published posthumously in 1809, confirms that for the new work 'Mr Holland was the Architect'. The Duke wished it to be in the Gothic style, which had been used for the earlier house. Holland, whose experience of designing in Gothic was limited, seems to have consulted the antiquarian draughtsman, John Carter, who had been known to his family for many years, and who had made drawings for them on occasion in the past. Delineations of the new house are few, but three watercolours of the garden front painted by C. Brauns in 1810 are at Windsor, and show this façade as an irregular composition with a central block of three bays and two storeys, with buttressed extremities, and an oriel window over a buttressed entrance. East of this are an assortment of gabled and turretted buildings, and on the west, a small tower and a single storey wing. All have castellations, and most of the windows have drip-stones. The material is stone, or ashlar over brick.

<sup>1</sup> *Diary*, Vol. 1.

15c  
hi-  
ad  
th,

from Henry Holland His Life and Architecture  
by Dorothy Stroud  
pub. by Country Life Ltd. London, 1966

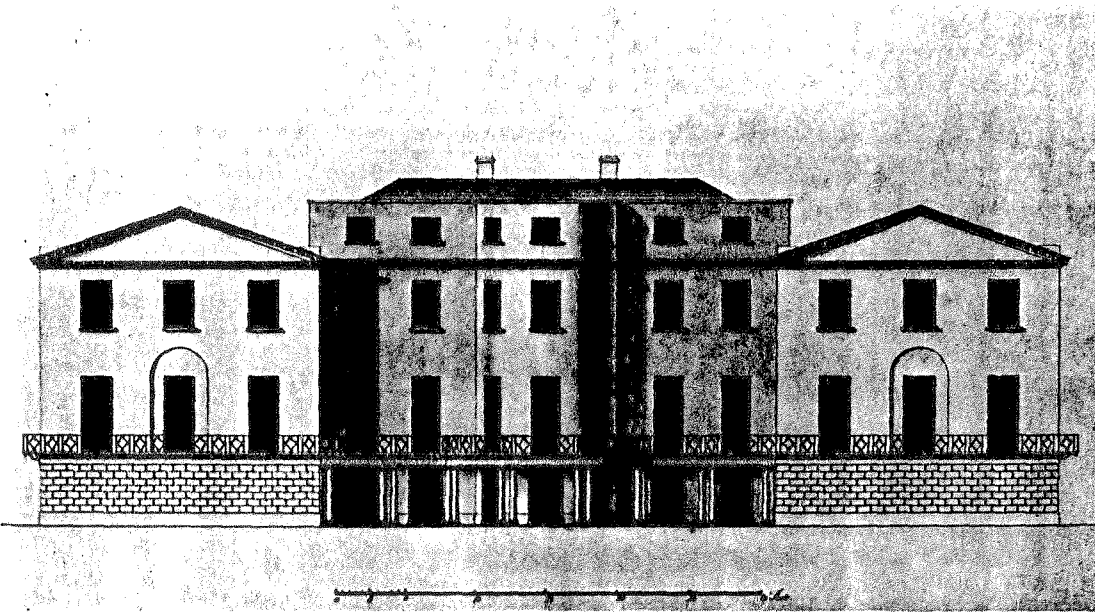
*Henry Holland*

While Carter could rightly claim to have assisted in the work, he took to himself the whole credit for the new house in the dedication to the Duke of York which prefaces his *Ancient Architecture* of England, Part I. This went to press, very conveniently for him, ten days after Holland's death in June, 1806, so that any such claim was likely to pass unrefuted, but H. B. Hodson, in his contributions to the *Builder* in 1855, states that the latter 'did a great deal of work for the Duke of York at Oatlands . . . of which I had many and still retain some drawings'.





70. The garden front of Oatlands as rebuilt by Holland. From a watercolour of 1810 by C. Brauns at Windsor Castle.



71. Holland's proposal for the enlargement of Kempshot House, 1795. An elevation at Windsor Castle.

Oatlands Park Hotel  
146 Oatlands Drive  
Weybridge Surrey  
KT13 9HD  
Telephone 0932-47242

from a  
postcard.



OATLANDS HOUSE 9/2/003/018

RECEIVED 19.1.94 2 JAN '94

DEAR WILLIE,

HAPPY NEW YEAR. I HOPE YOU HAD AN ENJOYABLE XMAS ETC.

I RECENTLY RECEIVED A BOOK WHICH CONTAINED A SERIES OF VIEWS OF THE ROYAL PAVILION AT BRIGHTON. AS SOME OF THEM CONTAIN IDEAS RELEVANT TO OATLANDS I THOUGHT I WOULD SEND YOU PHOTOSTATS & MY REMARKS.

A) THE GARDEN LAYOUT - THIS HAS SOME SIMILARITIES TO THAT OF OATLANDS. HOWEVER I WONDER WHETHER THERE WERE ANY GATE LUGGES?

B) THE ENTRY HALL OF THE PAVILION C1802 IS THE OBVIOUS MODEL FOR HOWLANDS. THIS COULD POSSIBLY BE A SMART MOTIF IN ITSELF?

C) THE DUKE OF YORK APPARENTLY HAD A SUITE AT THE PAVILION.

D) PERHAPS IT IS TOO FANCIFUL BUT I BELIEVE THAT THE FORM OF THE FRONT PORTION OF OATLANDS IS A REPRODUCTION OF THE MAIN DESIGN MOTIF OF THE PAVILION EG.



THE 'MINARETS' WERE OFTEN CHIMNEYS

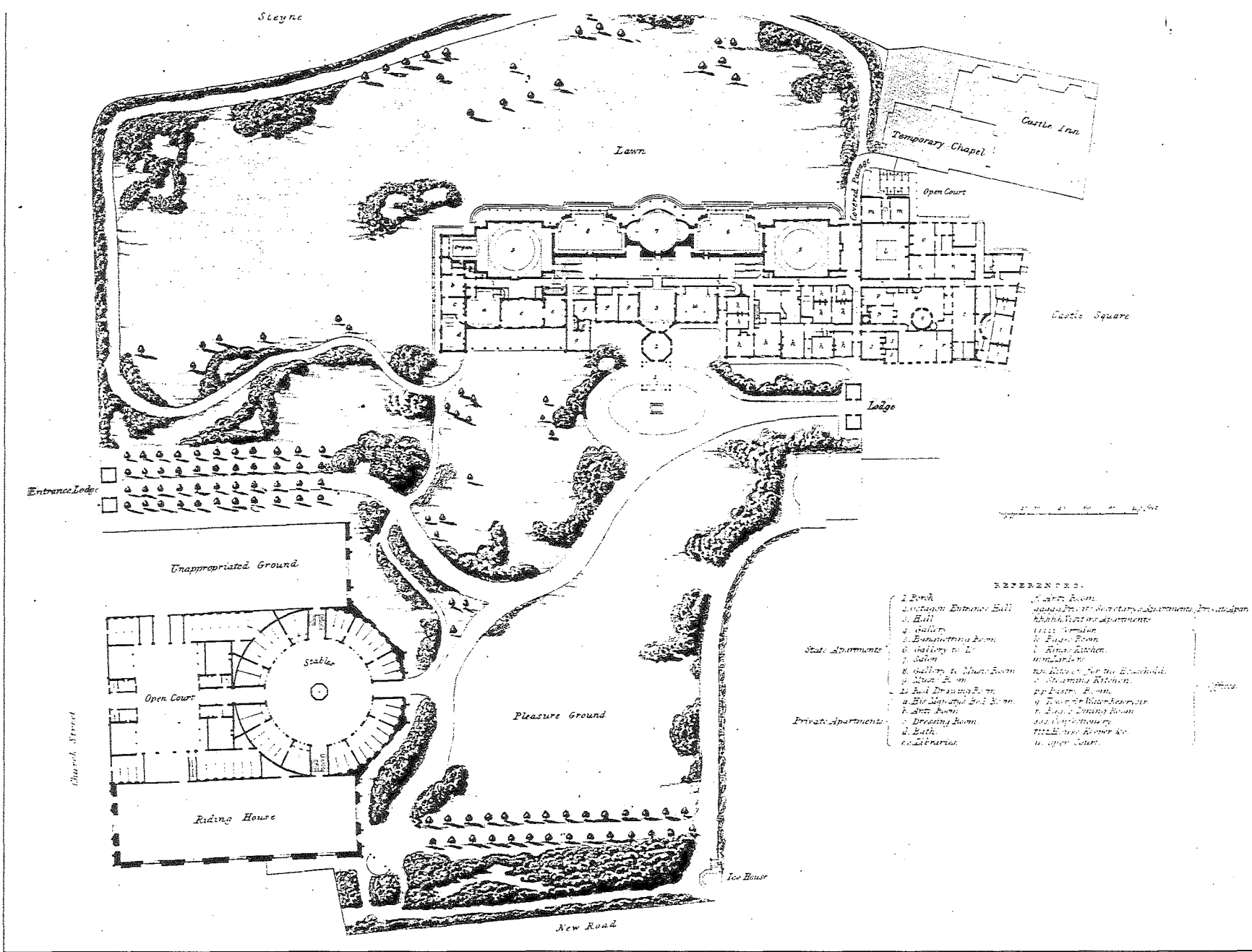
THIS WOULD EXPLAIN THE RATHER 'MONUMENTAL' QUALITY WHICH IS AT ODDS WITH THE PICTURESQUE COTTAGE ORCHARD FEELING OF THE REST OF THE BUILDING. WHAT DO YOU THINK?

HOPE TO HEAR FROM YOU SOON.

REGARDS,

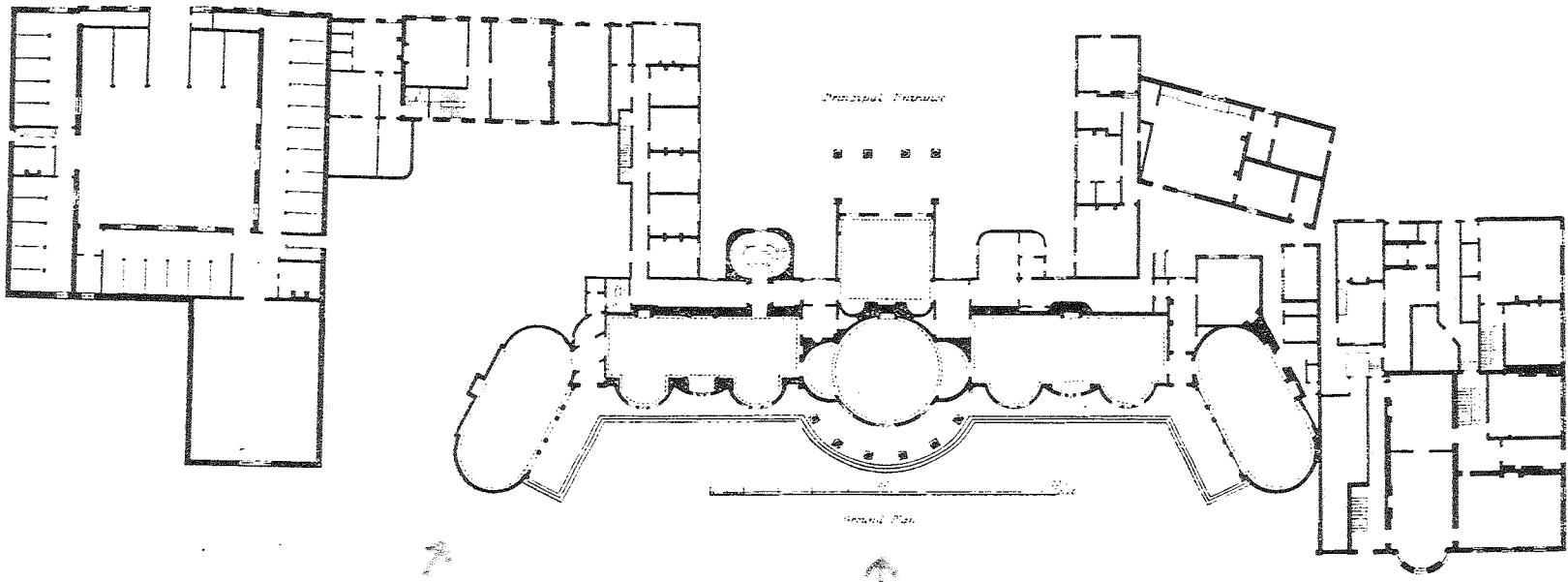
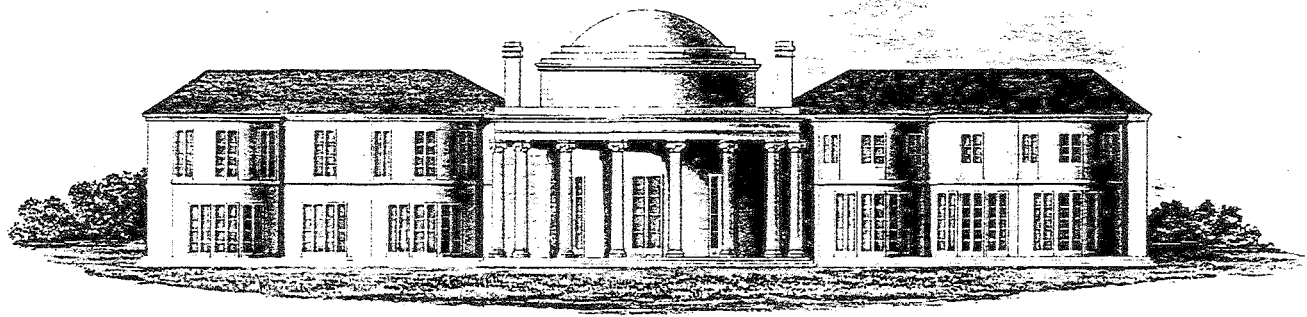
DENNIS.

P.S. RECEIVED YOUR LETTER TODAY - SORRY TO HEAR ABOUT THEM. THE DELAY - I DON'T MIND ARCHITECTURE S.A. WHY DON'T YOU SPEAK TO

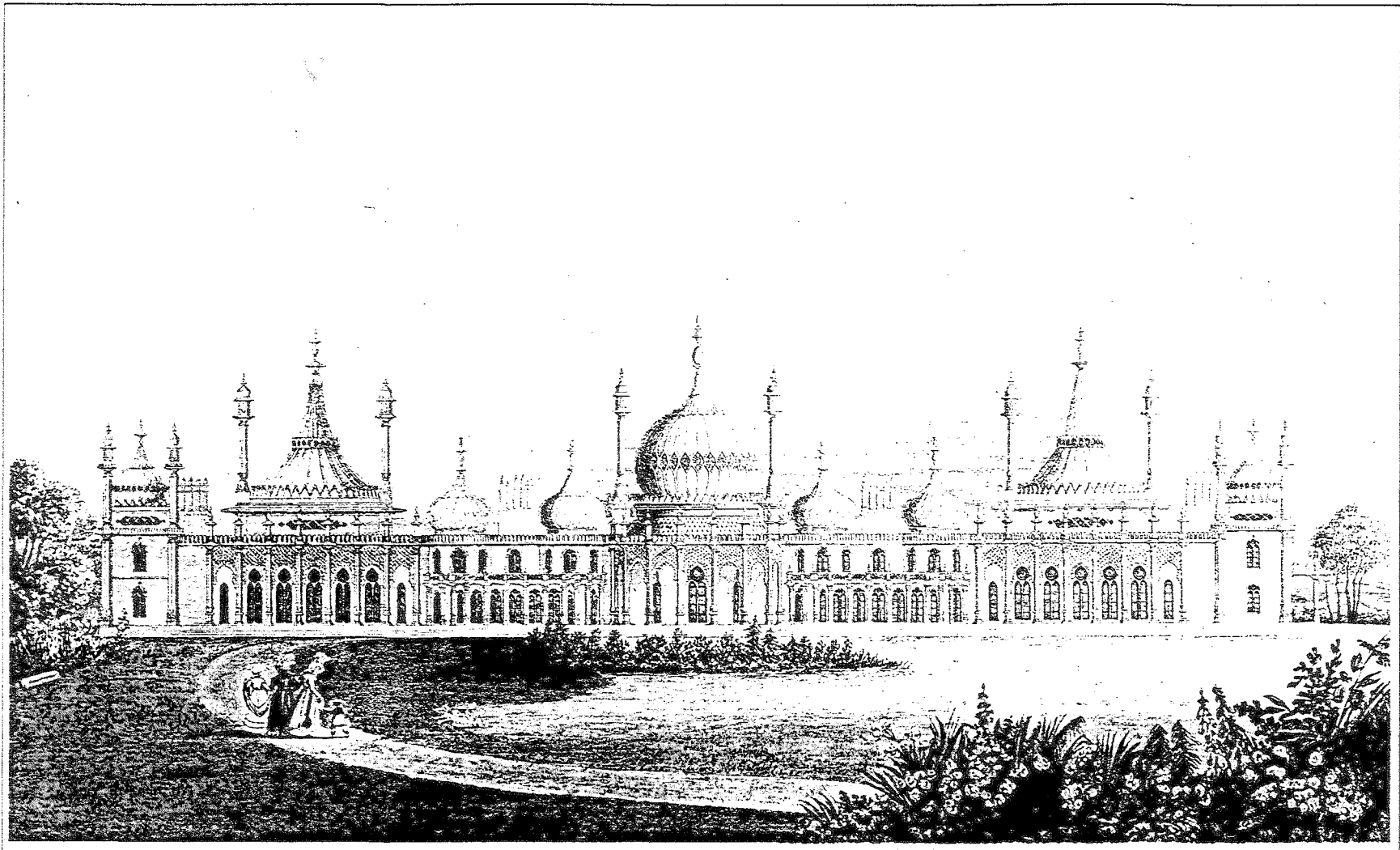


- REFERENCES.
- |                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| 1. Porch                   | 15. Coat Room                                     |
| 2. Octagon Entrance Hall   | 16. Private Secretary's Apartments, Dressing Room |
| 3. Hall                    | 17. Private Apartments                            |
| 4. Gallery                 | 18. Chapel  |
| 5. Entertainment Room      | 19. East Room                                     |
| 6. Gallery to L.           | 20. Royal Kitchen                                 |
| 7. Salon                   | 21. Library                                       |
| 8. Gallery to Music Room   | 22. Kitchen for the Household                     |
| 9. Music Room              | 23. Scullery Kitchen                              |
| 10. Ball Drawing Room      | 24. Pastry Room                                   |
| 11. Billiard and Pool Room | 25. Tobacco Room                                  |
| 12. East Room              | 26. East Drawing Room                             |
| 13. Dressing Room          | 27. Vestibule                                     |
| 14. Bath                   | 28. Bed Room                                      |
| 15. Library                | 29. Open Court                                    |

GROUND PLAN OF THE ROYAL PAVILION



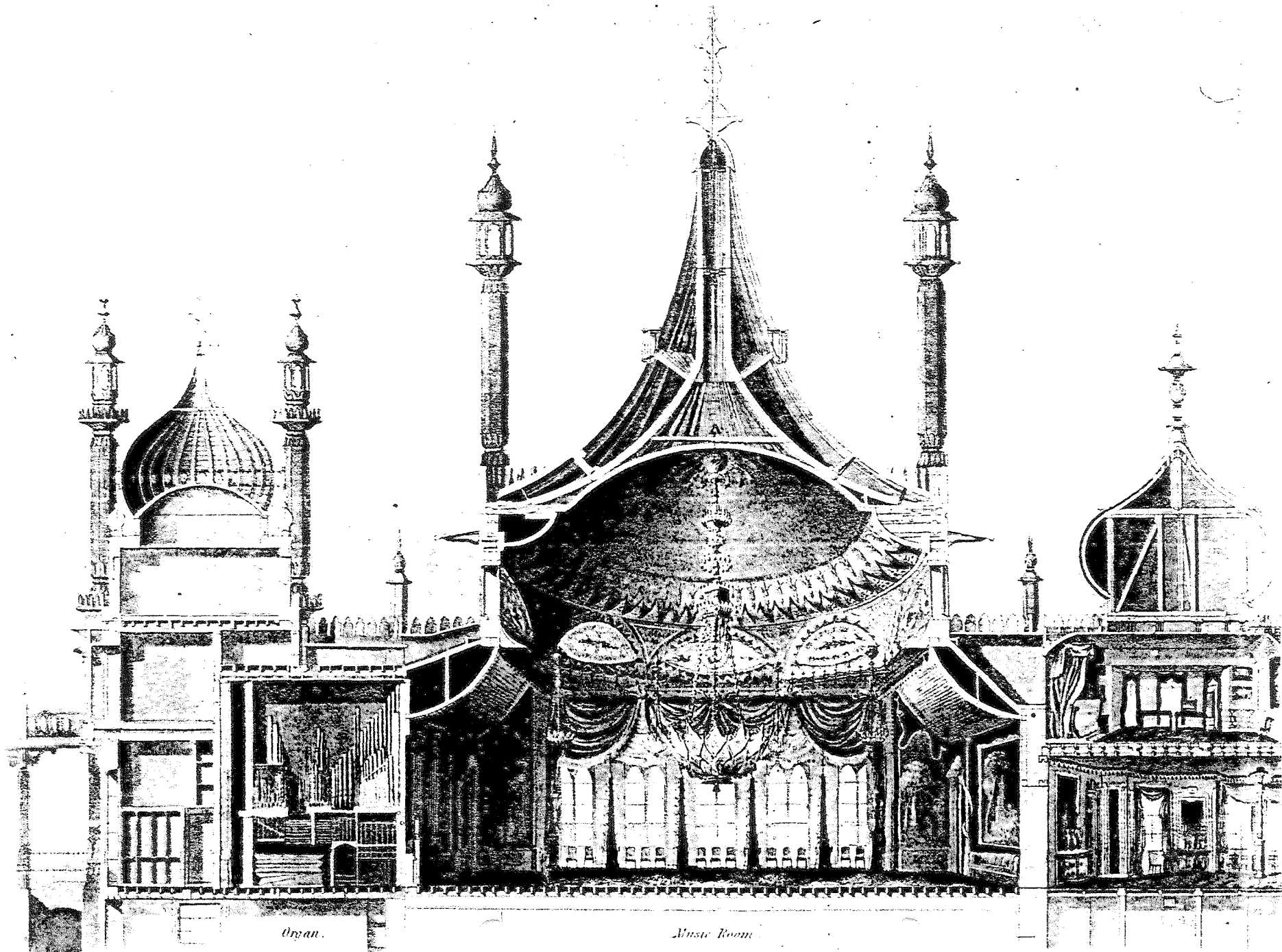
THE STEINE FRONT PREVIOUS TO ALTERATIONS



GEOMETRICAL VIEW OF THE STEINE FRONT

251





*Organ.*

*Music Room.*

OATLANDS 9/2/003/018

31 JAN '94

DEAR WILLIE,

I ASSUME FROM YOUR SILENCE THAT YOU ARE  
BOUQUING AWAY AT THE SECOND PART OF OUR JOINT  
ARTICLE(S). DID YOU FIND ANYTHING OF USE IN THE  
STUFF I SENT TO YOU ABOUT A MONTH AGO? ALSO  
HAS ANYTHING ARRIVED FROM BRITAIN? MY OWN FEELING  
IS THAT I WOULD BE SURPRISED IF ANYTHING OF  
DIRECT RELEVANCE SURFACES. ALL I CAN REALLY SEE  
BEING LACKING IS A SKETCH OR PHOTO OF THE REAL  
WING WHICH WOULD FILL IN THE GAPS. IF, AFTER  
ALL YOUR SEARCHES NOTHING CAN BE FOUND THEN  
I WOULD SAY THAT WE SHOULD JUST COMPLETE  
THE RECONSTRUCTION AS BEST WE CAN.

WITH REGARDS TO AMMUTUCTION S.A. I HAVE HAD  
SECOND THOUGHTS + WOULD STILL LIKE TO PROCEED  
WITH SUBMITTING IT - THE ARTICLE - TO THE JOURNAL  
OF CULTURAL HISTORY. MY FEELINGS ARE BASED ON  
SOME POOR EXPERIENCES WITH AMMUTUCTION S.A. + MANY  
MORE POSITIVE ONES WITH THE JOURNAL. SO, UNLESS  
AMM S.A. IS REALLY KEEN, THAT'S HOW I WOULD  
LIKE TO TACKLE IT. WHAT DO YOU THINK?

I CAN'T REMEMBER WHETHER I TOLD YOU THAT  
I WILL BE BACK ON THE 1ST JUNE. I CAN'T SEE  
MYSELF AS BEING ABLE TO DISTANGUE MY AFFAIRS  
BEFORE THEN. THIS IS AT THE END OF THE ACADEMIC  
YEAR HERE SO THAT IS ALSO AN IMPORTANT  
CONSIDERATION.

HOW ARE THINGS AT THE N.M.C.? DO YOU CALL  
EACH OTHER COMRADES YET?

REGARDS,  
DENNIS.

9/2/003/018

Mr. W. Martinson

06 January 1994

) Lizbeth Gale  
National Buildings Record  
Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England  
Fortress house  
23 Saville Row  
London W1X 2JQ  
GREAT BRITAIN

Dear Miss Gale

OATLANDS HOUSE, GRAHAMSTOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

Thank you for your letter of 3 December 1993, which was recently received. Your prompt and detailed response was most interesting and much appreciated. I will be contacting the Oatlands Park Hotel as a starting point in my quest for plans of the house c 1800. If I am successful I will forward copies of the plans for your own records.

) The grotto must have been an extraordinary building - I have not found any evidence to suggest that the Oatlands Estate in Grahamstown had any such follies.

Yours sincerely

WILLIAM A. MARTINSON

William A. Martinson  
Architect North

WAM/bs

9/2/003/018

Mr. W. Martinson

6 January 1994

The Manager  
Oatlands Park Hotel  
146 Oatlands Drive  
Weybridge  
Surrey KT13 9HB  
GREAT BRITAIN

Dear Sir

**OATLANDS HOUSE & ESTATE, GRAHAMSTOWN, SOUTH AFRICA**

1. I was provided with your address by the National Buildings Record of the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England.
2. I am an architect employed by the National Monuments Council of South Africa and am researching the architectural history and development of Oatlands House, built in Grahamstown in 1824 by Capt. H. Somerset. The design was probably suggested by his father, Lord Charles Somerset (second son of the 5th Duke of Beaufort) who was then the Governor, stationed in Cape Town.
3. When Oatlands was offered for sale by auction in 1852 it was described as a "splendid mansion..... by far the most commodious in character of any House in the Eastern division". It was probably the first *cottage-ornè* and the first verandah-house in Grahamstown. Notwithstanding its architectural and historical importance Oatlands has only been mentioned in passing in Lewcock's definitive book "Early 19th Century Architecture in South Africa".
4. The House and the Estate have undergone a number of changes over the last 170 years. It is my intention to try and establish the original layout of the Estate, as well as the plans, elevational treatment and 3-D massing of the house and stables, as built (and probably added to) by Capt. Somerset.
5. A note on our file states that : "The Estate was name Oatlands by Capt. Somerset, after **Oatlands** a country residence of the Duke of York, commander in chief of the British Military Forces and brother of the Prince Regent. **Oatlands** was added to the Hampton Court Estate by Henry VIII in 1537 as one of the Royal Residences". I would therefore be most grateful if you could

**Close**

*Continued in Volume .....*