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SUBMISSION TO THE NATIONAL MONUMENTS COUNCIL : 4/5 NOVEMBER 1991

HORSEMILL, GROOT KAREEBOSFONTEIN FARM, CARNARVON DISTRICT

Farm No: Remainder of Kareebosfontein no 484, Carnarvon district

Owner : Mr G Vermeulen, Groot Kareebosfontein, CARNARVON, 7060



BACKGROUND

Historical

The farm Groot Kareebosfontein was first surveyed in 1838. It is one of the original farms in the Carnarvon area.

The horsemill on the farm was built in the first half of the 19th century for the purpose of grinding wheat for the farmers in the area. It is likely that there is a link between the name of the owners (Vermeulen) who have been in the area over four generations, and the mill itself.

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The owner's grandfather (deceased) verbally communicated his memories of a skirmish on Groot Kareebosfontein during the Anglo-Boer War. The rare mill may have had an influence on the location of the skirmish.

The adjacent farm Blaauwkrantz, another original farm in the district was the home of the family of A G Visser (Poet), who visited the farm from time to time.

ARCHITECTURAL/AESTHETIC

The horsemill itself is of the cog-and-lantern drive type, similar in design to those at Karbonaatjes Kraal, Hex River in the Worcester district.

The horsemill has a lantern pinion. The great horse wheel is fitted with wooden teeth which engage the lantern, which, in turn, drives the millstones.

Groot Kareebosfontein's horsemill is still in working order and is housed in a simple rectangular whitewashed building with simple Cape-style end gables.

CONSERVATION POTENTIAL

The owner of the property has taken special care to ensure that the mill is conserved. The mill and its housing are in good condition. The owner is in favour of the declaration of the mill as a national monument.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The horsemill at Groot Kareebosfontein is an excellent example of an intact cog-and-lantern drive mill. It is a rare survivor of its type which is still in a working condition.

RECOMMENDATION BY THE N CAPE REGIONAL COMMITTEE : 15 AUGUST 1991

That the horsemill, its housing and one metre of surrounding land be declared a national monument.

SOURCES

1. Walton, J., Water-Mills, Windmills and Horse-Mills of South Africa, C Struik Publishers, Cape Town, 1974
2. Verbal Information by J G Coetzee, Attorney, Carnarvon

COMPILED BY: Russell Brann
Regional Representative : Northern Cape

7 October 1991