



2011-10-12

THE MANAGER: BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND LANDSCAPES  
THE MANAGER: ARCHAEOLOGY, PALAEOLOGY AND METEORITES  
SOUTH AFRICAN HERITAGE RESOURCES AGENCY [SAHRA]  
111 Harrington Street  
Cape Town  
8001

Attention: Ms Sonja Warnich-Stemmett and Collette Scheermayer

**ROBBEN ISLAND MUSEUM: CONVERSION OF OLD POWER STATION AS  
REPOSITORY FOR ARTEFACTS.**

I thank you for our discussions on 29 September 2011.

In our desk top study certain features are indicated on maps and architectural drawings. These features are no longer visible. The particular feature that is of most concern and would be impacted on with conversion of the Old Power Station is the under ground remains of the cooling pond that served the Power Station from 1941 to ca 1967. Please refer to copy of architects drawing Fig.2.

On an ortho photo from April 2010, a green square of vegetation is clearly visible in the position where the cooling pond is expected to be. Please refer to Fig. 1.

The sub surface remains do not qualify as archaeological in the legal definition of the National Heritage Resources Act [NHRA], 25 of 1999. A permit for excavation would not be appropriate in terms of section 35 of the NHRA.

Our application would be in terms of section 27 of the NHRA for the alterations to the built environment on a National Heritage [Grade I] site. Section 27 also, however, includes excavation.

In terms of section 48 of the NHRA, SAHRA, may prescribe the manner in which an application is made for a permit in terms of section 27.

We request that you advise us on the following:

1. The process to be followed to combine the permit application in terms of section 27 of the NHRA for alteration and a first phase excavation of the cooling pond. We are of the opinion that a first phase excavation should be done prior to any work being carried out.
2. The minimum standards for excavation and qualifications of the excavator.
3. Any other requirements.



Fig. 1. Ortho photo April 2010 showing green square of vegetation.

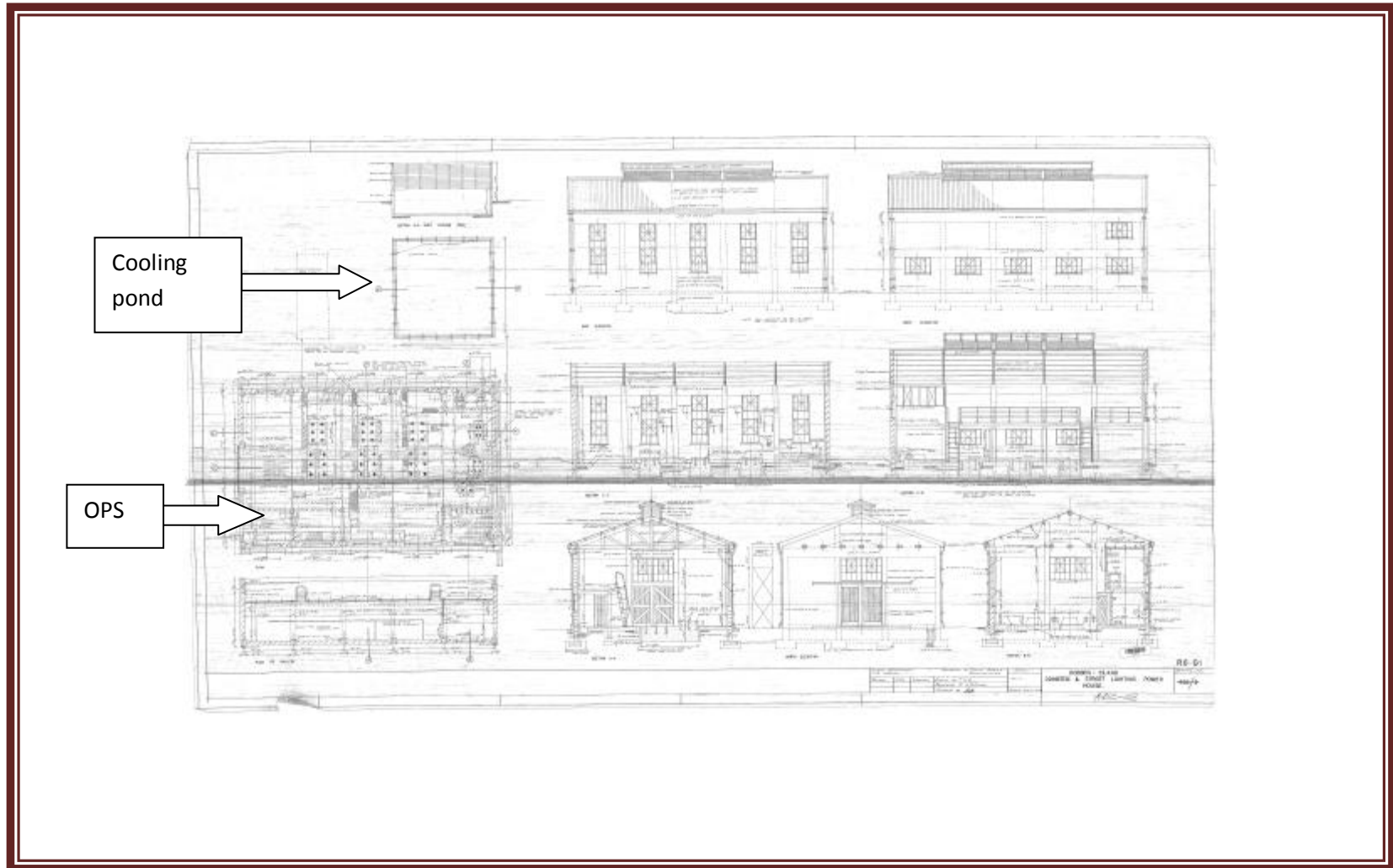


Fig. 2. Architects drawing ca 1963.