

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION OF PORTIONS OF THE CALEDON HOT SPRINGS SITE

Prepared for

TCI Projects

May 2000



Prepared by

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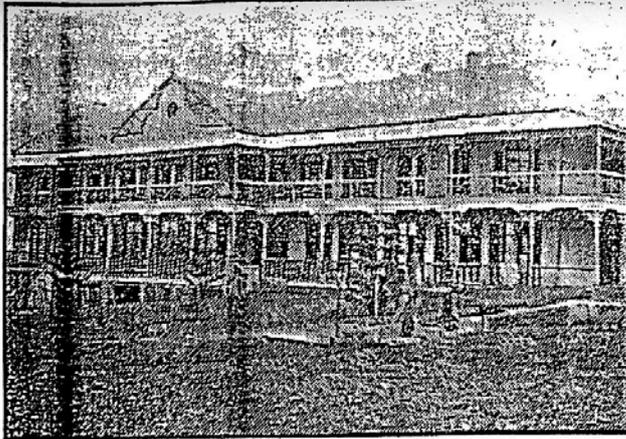


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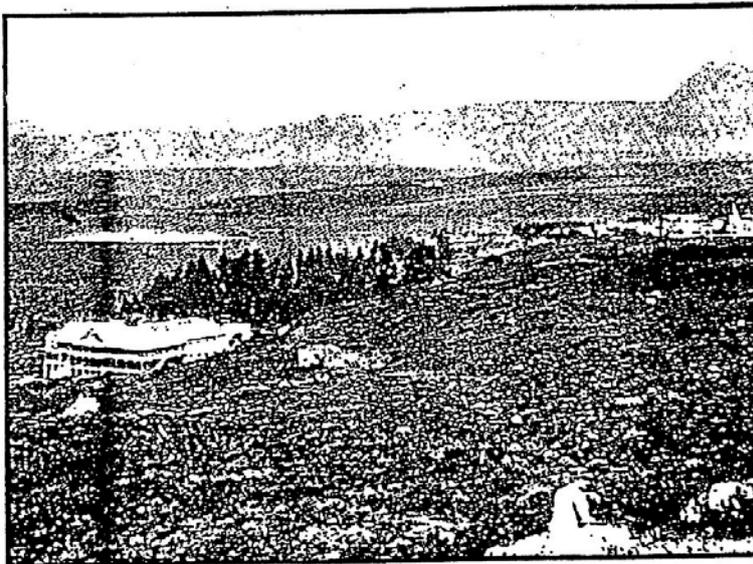


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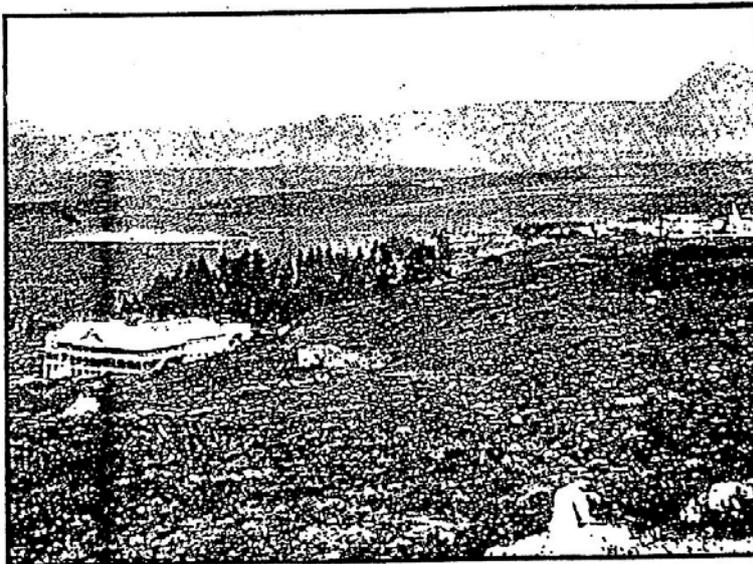


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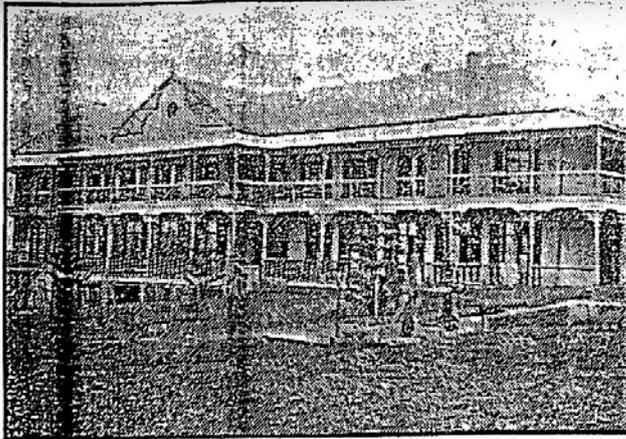


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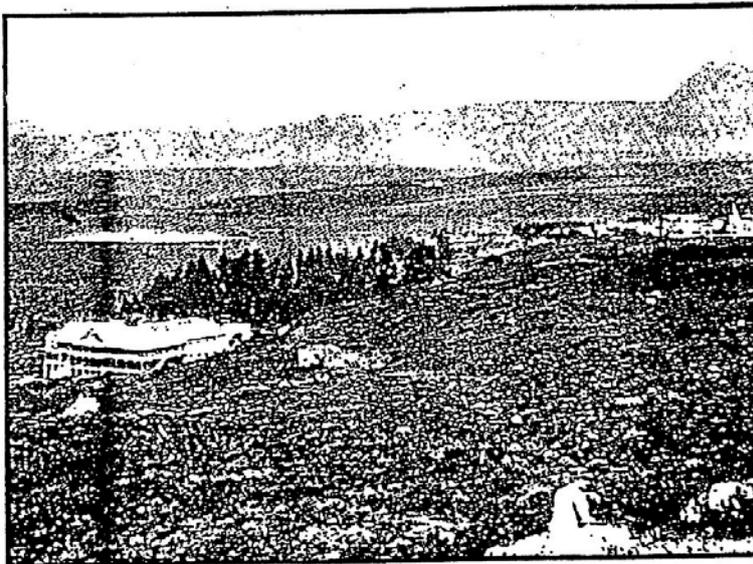


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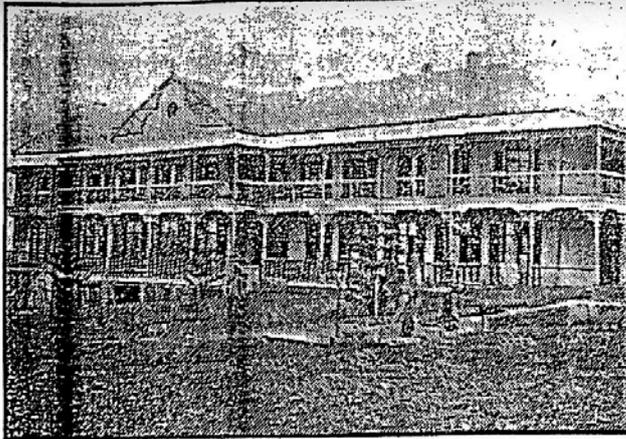


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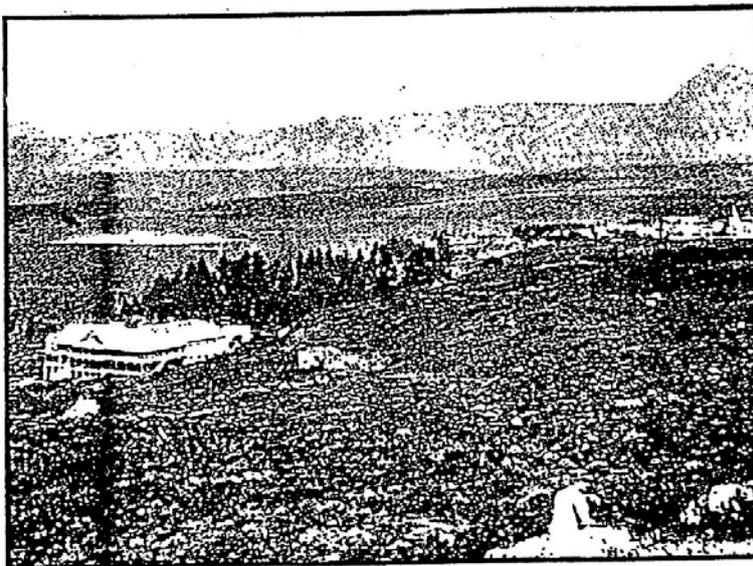


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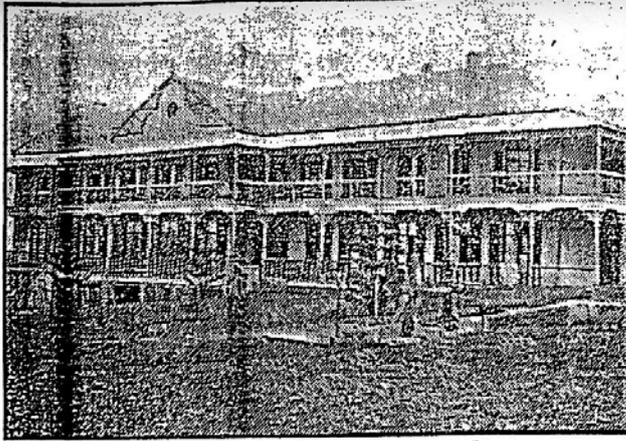


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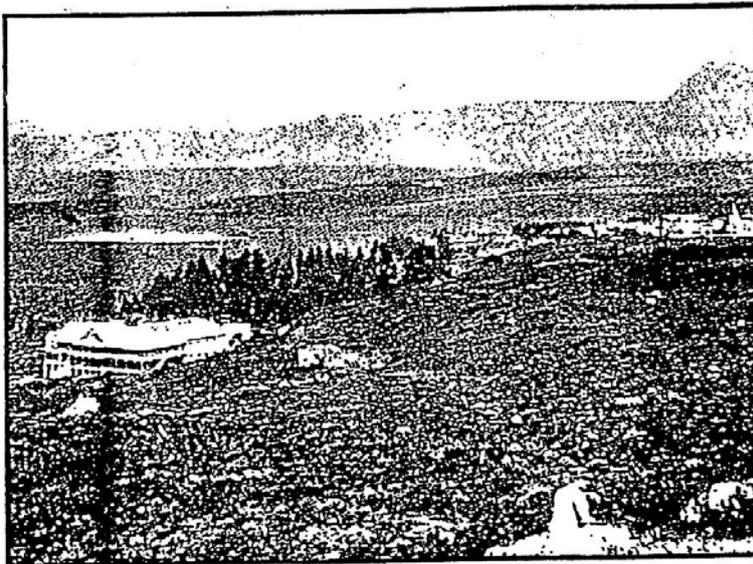


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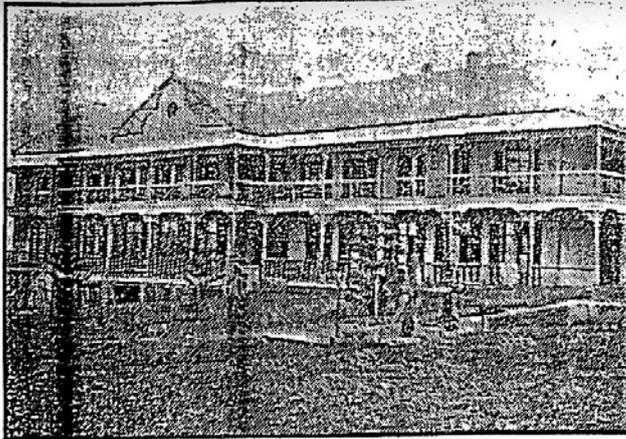


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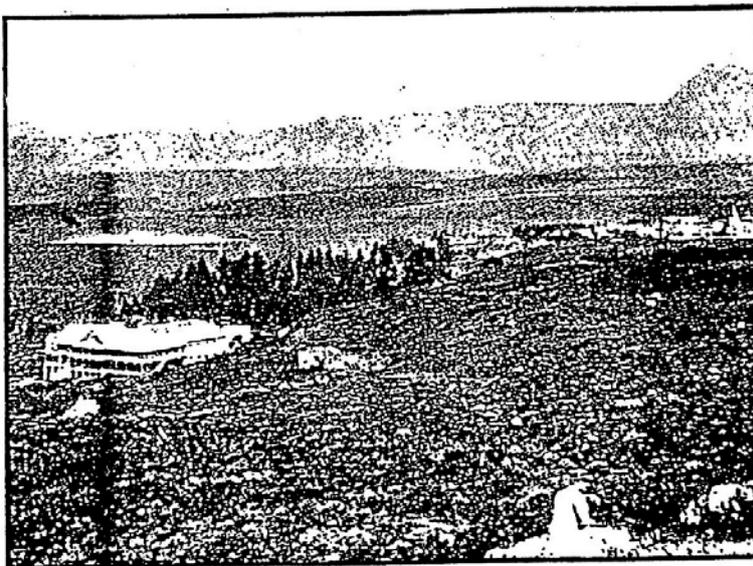


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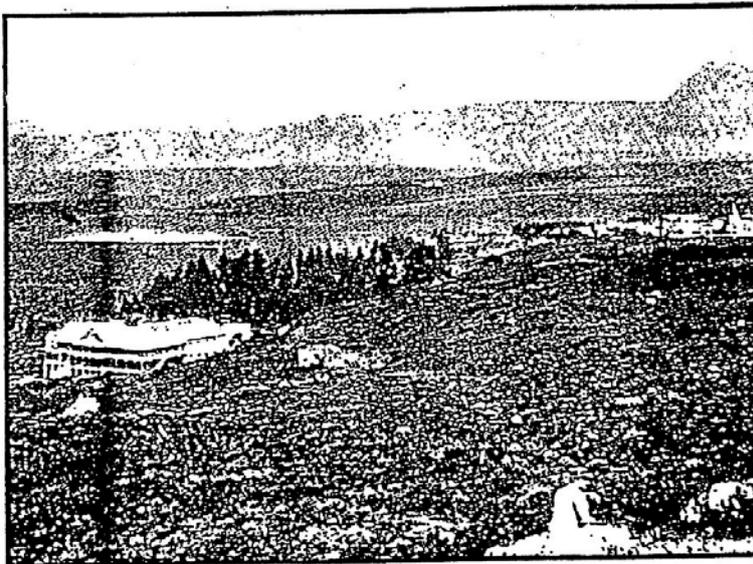


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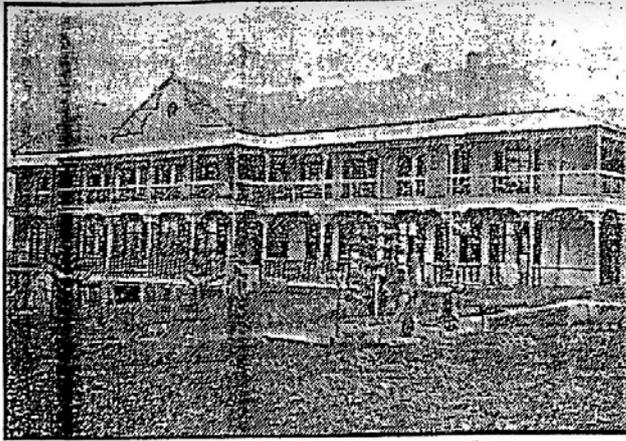


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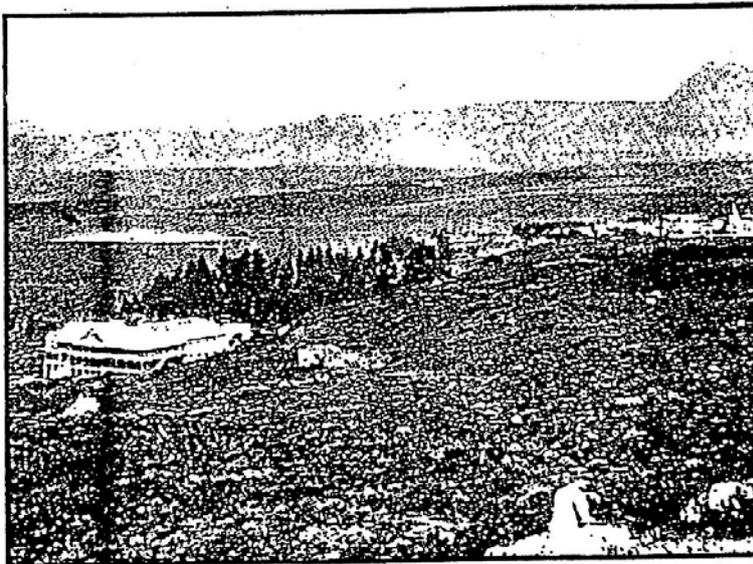


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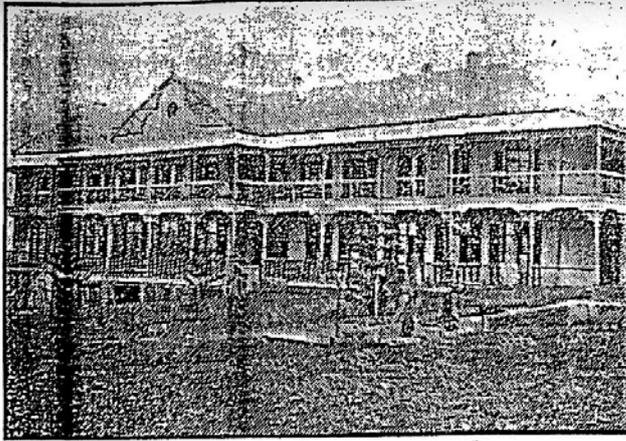


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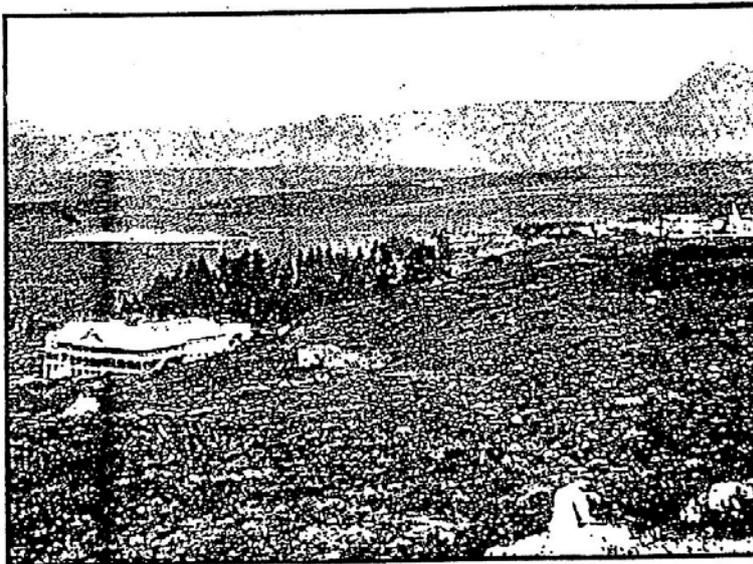


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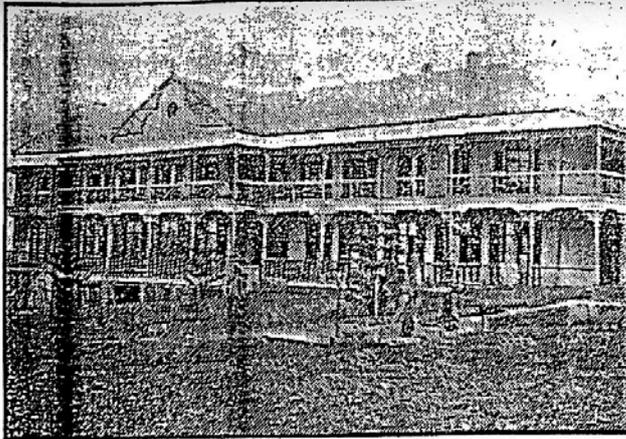


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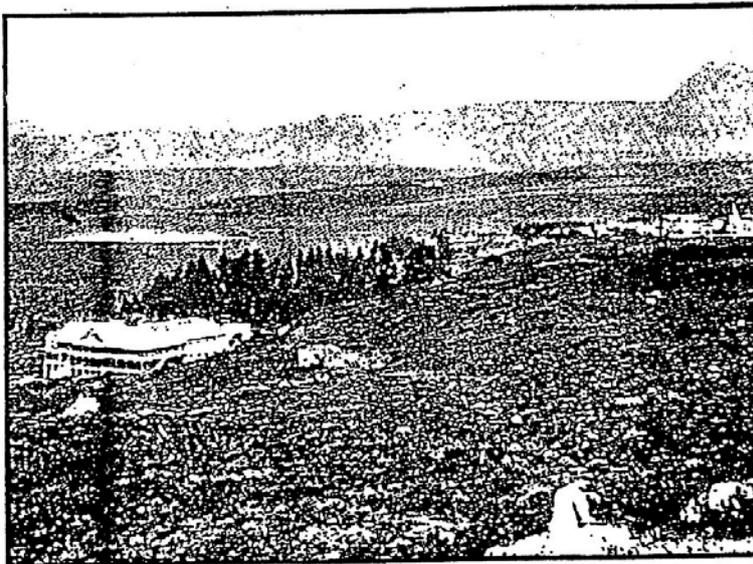


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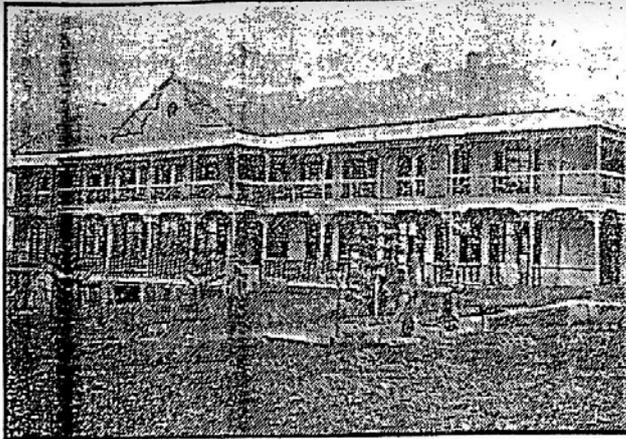


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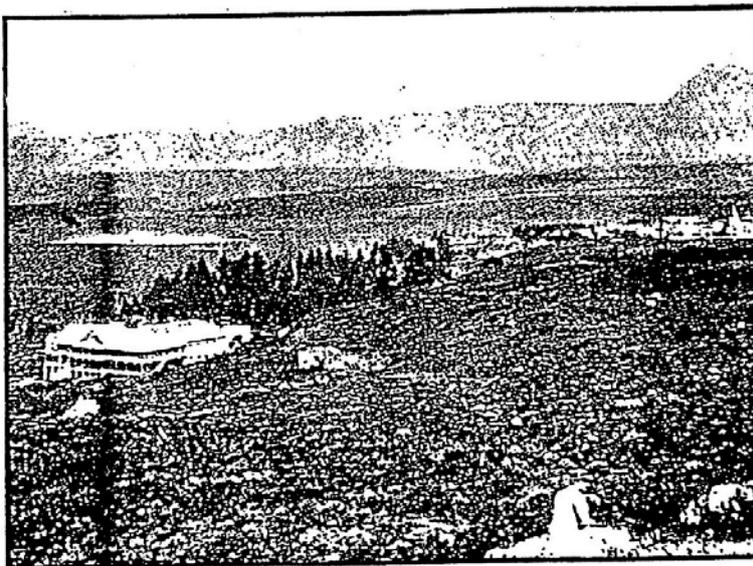


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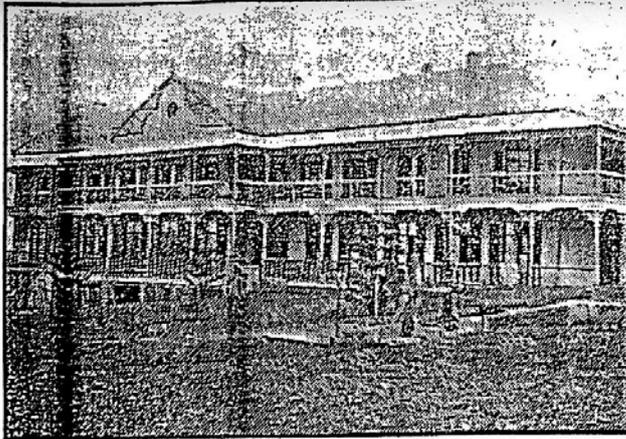


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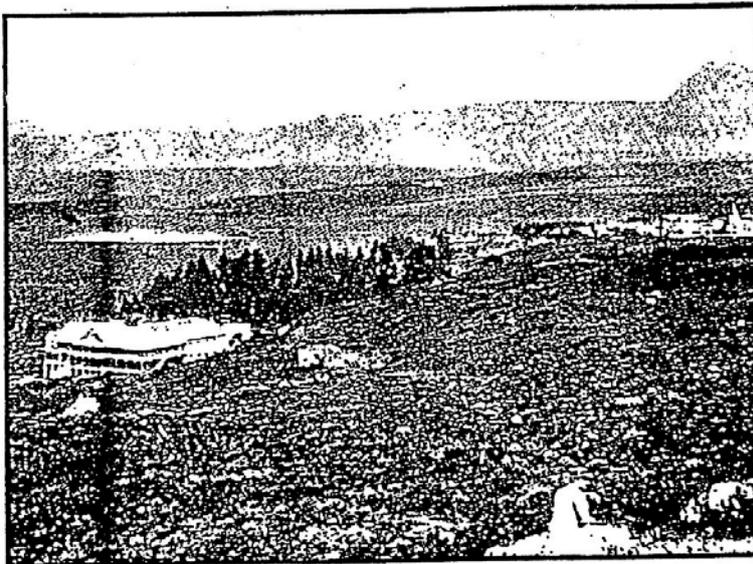


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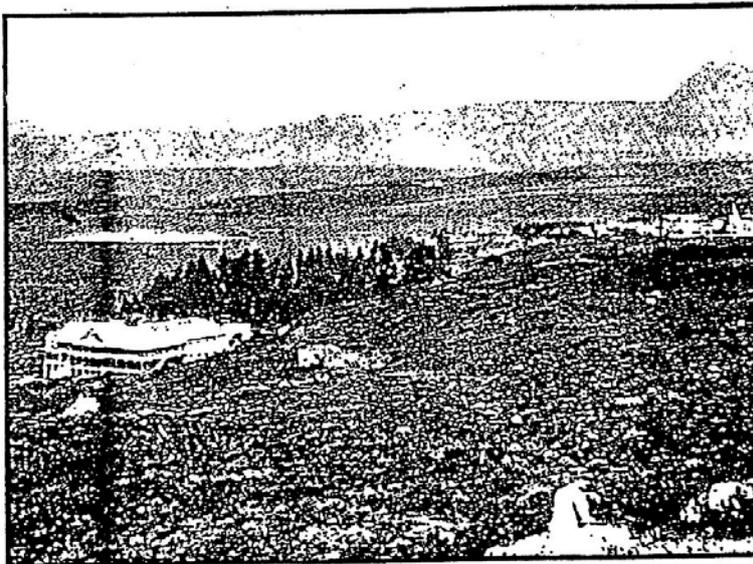


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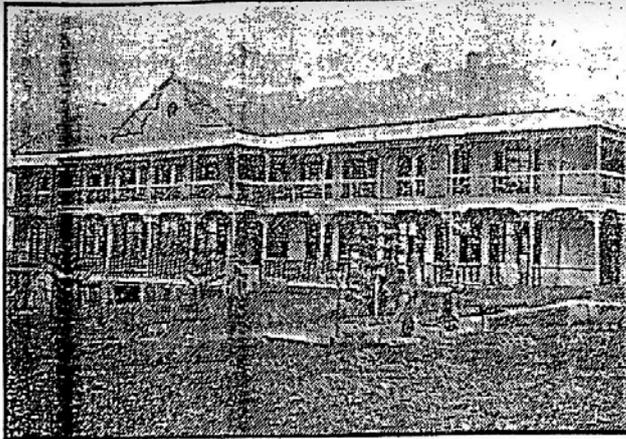


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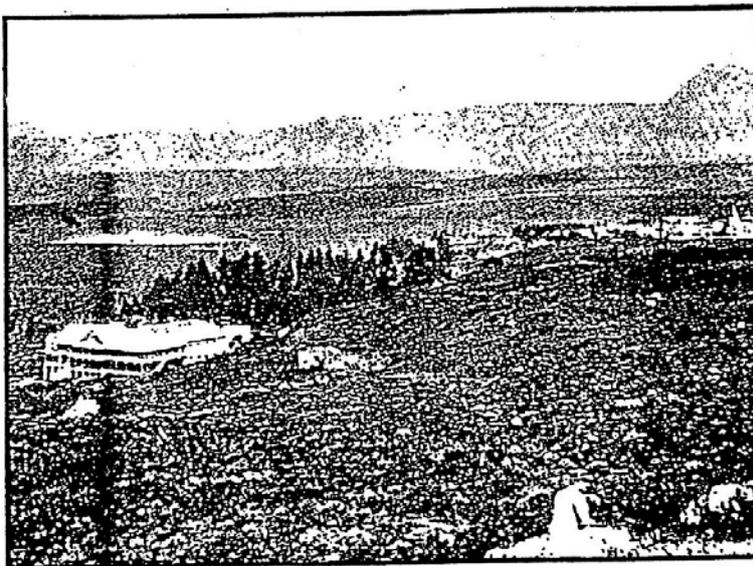


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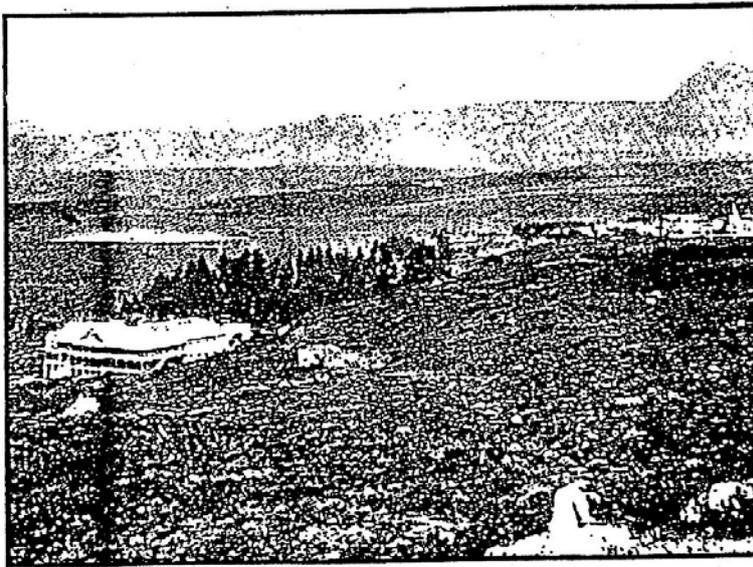


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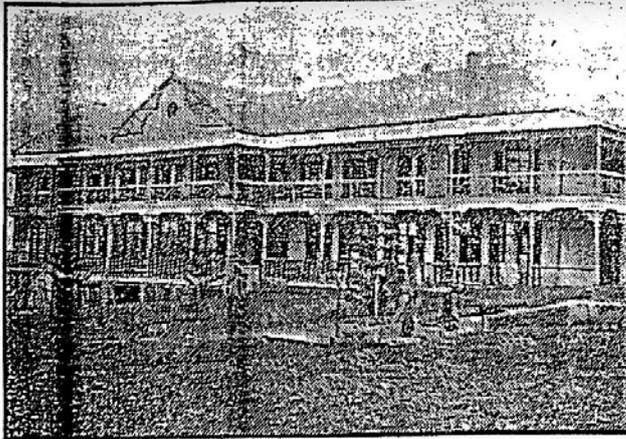


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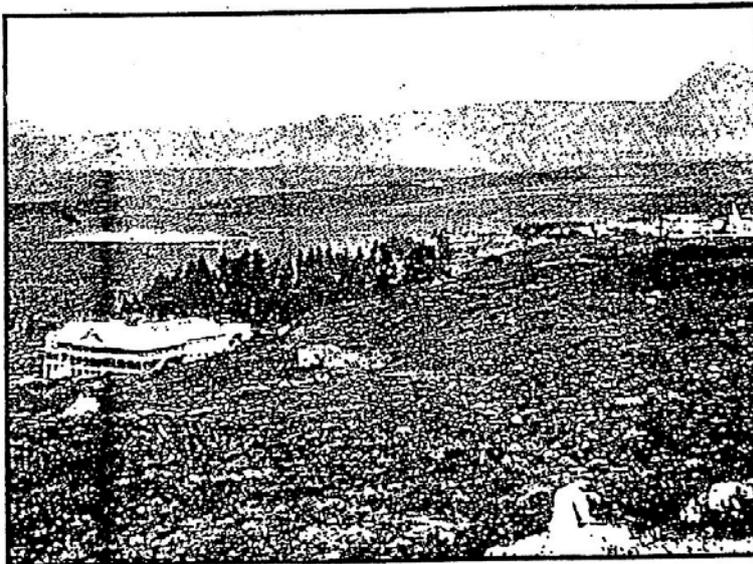


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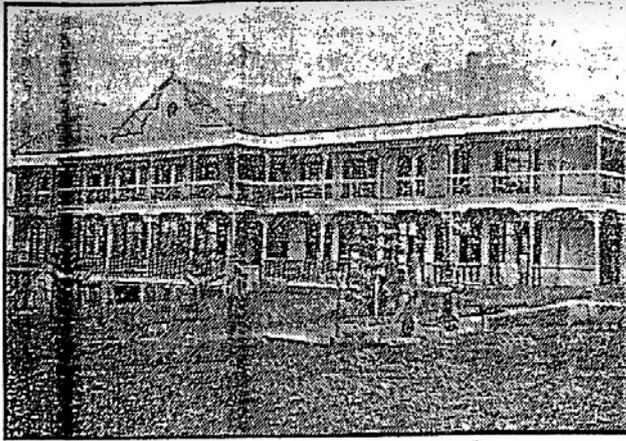


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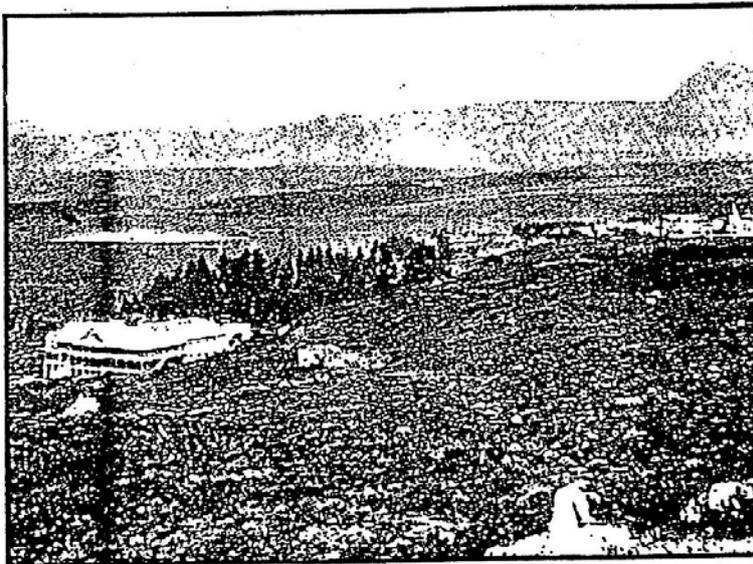


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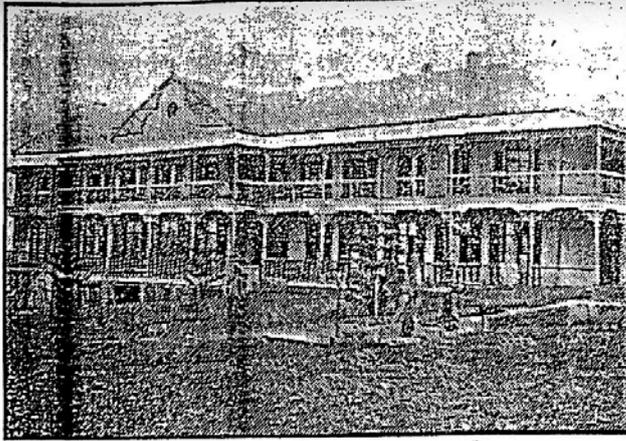


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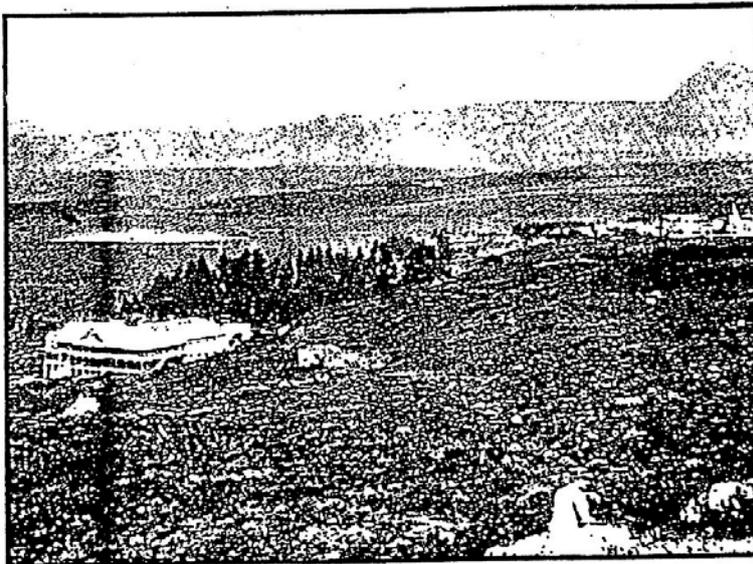


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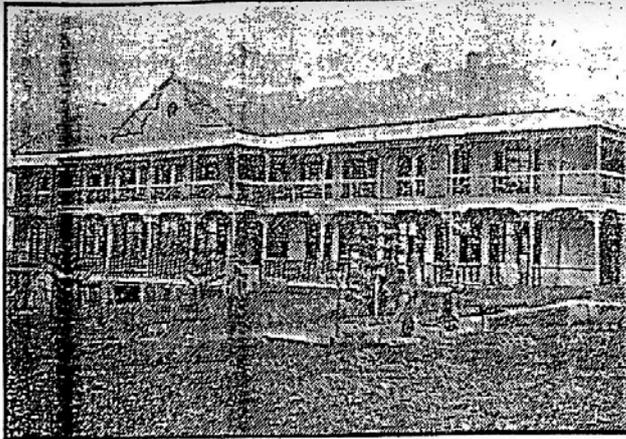


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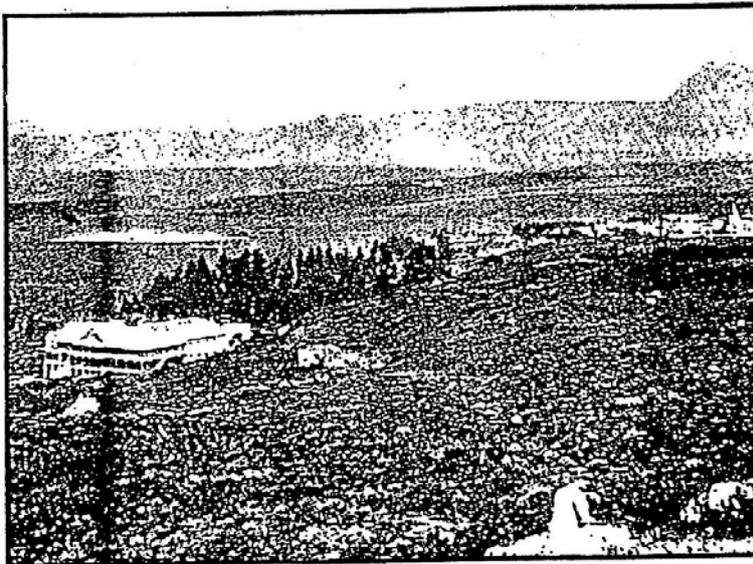


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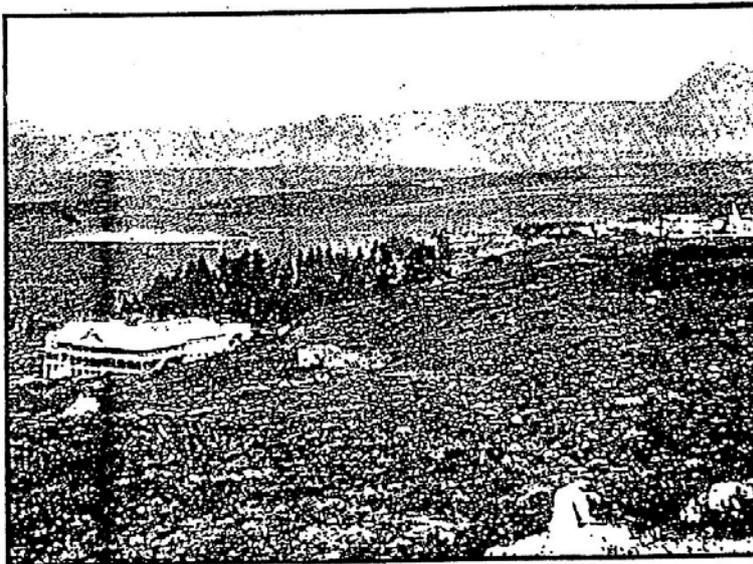


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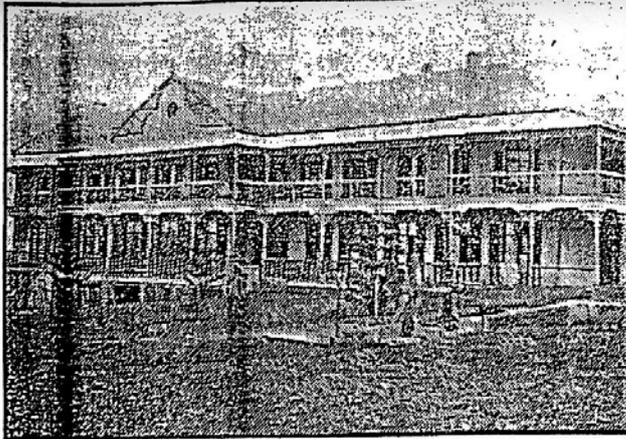


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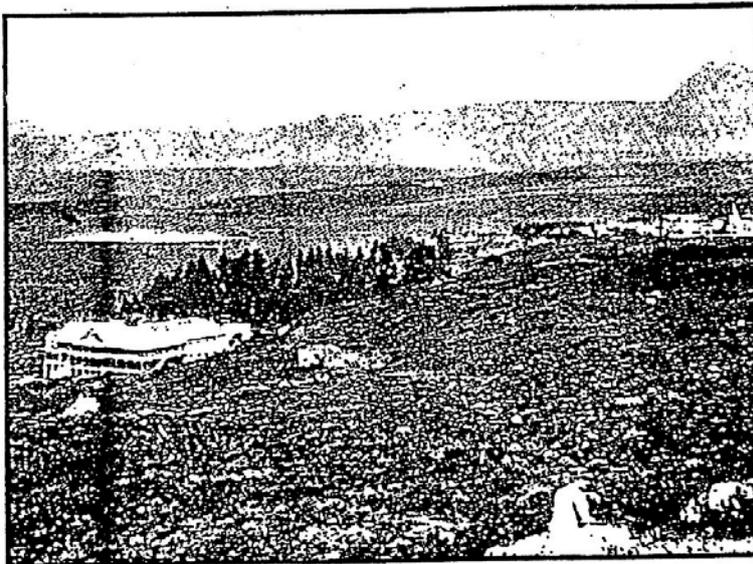


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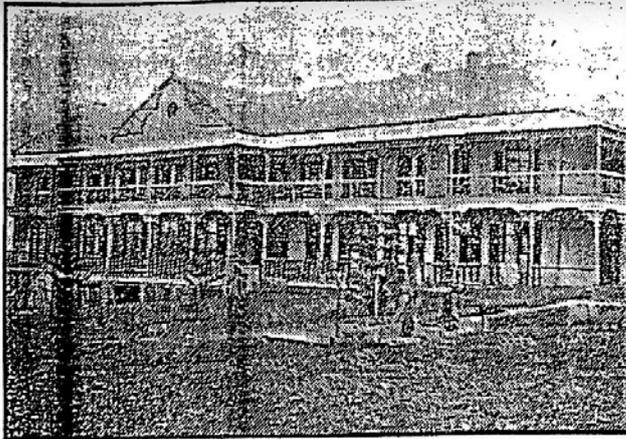


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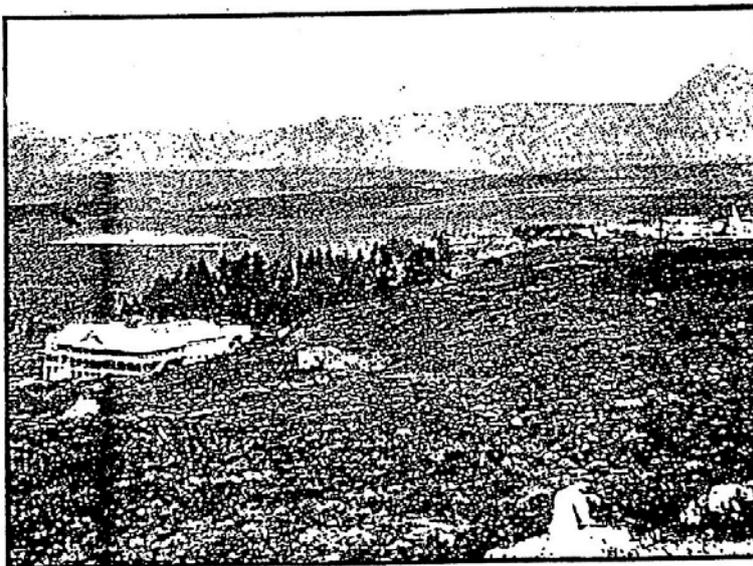


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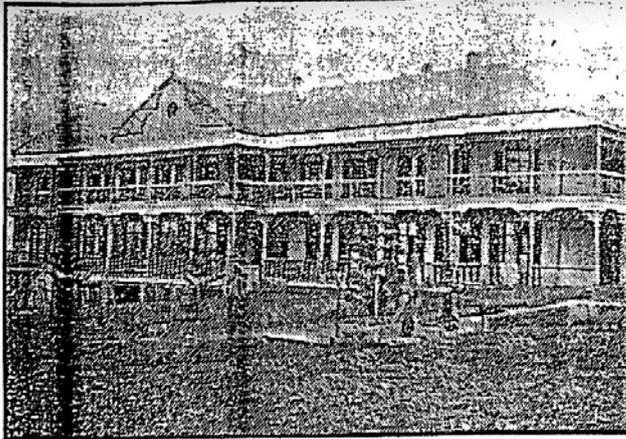


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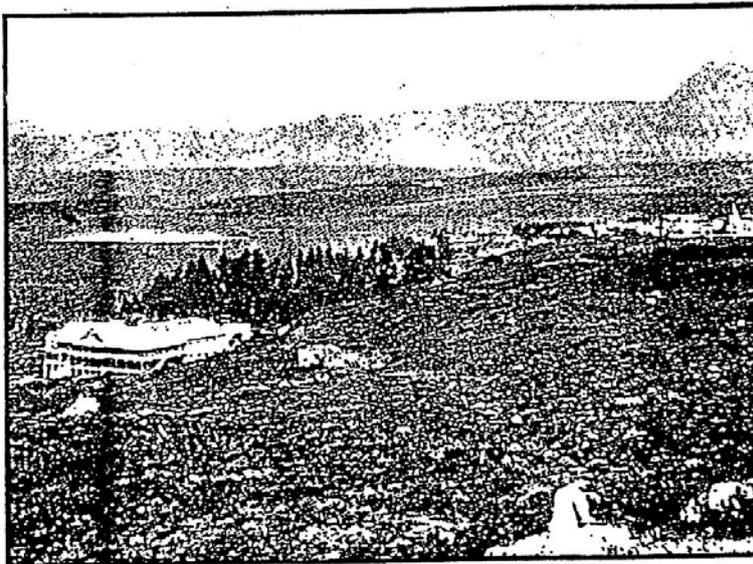


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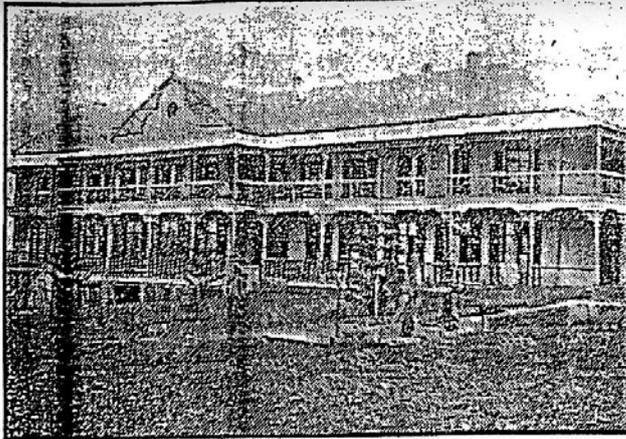


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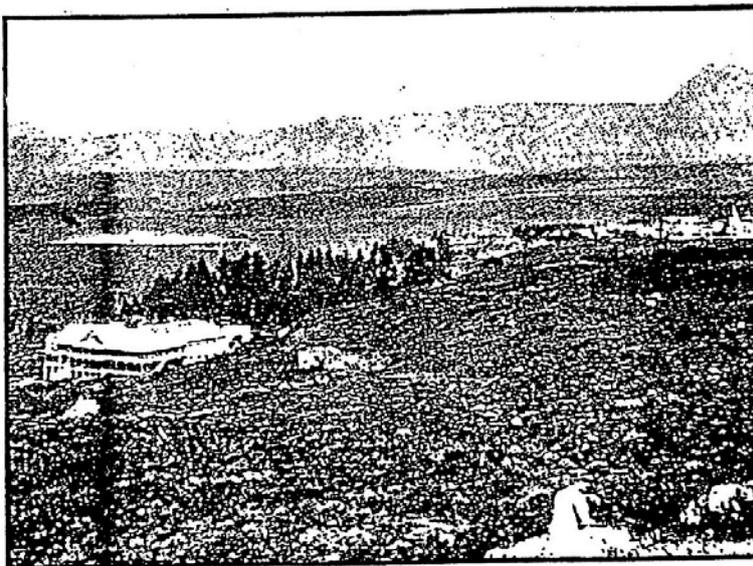


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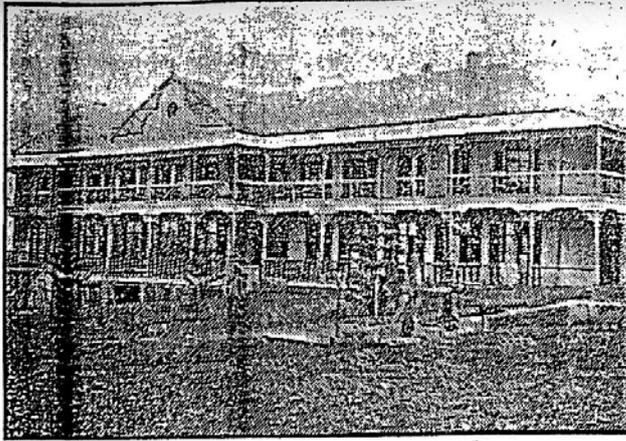


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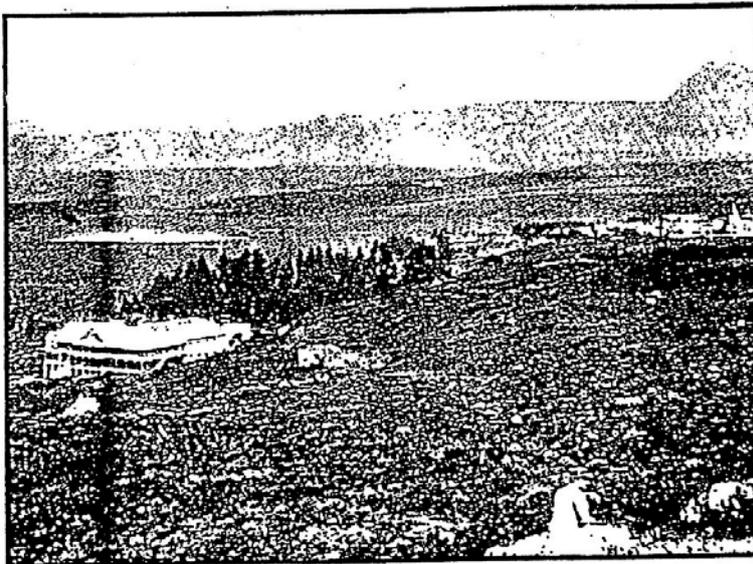


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5.3.4 The New Sanatoriums and Baths: 19/20

A complete revolution occurred at the Baths in 1897, the Diocesan Trustees of the glebe of Morkel's Sanatorium by auction for £7 000 to Messrs J.G. Walsh and J. G. Walsh. The meagre accommodations was immediately replaced by a new building designed by architect Anthony H. de Witt, was built in front of this Victorian 3-storey Sanatorium. The new buildings which have become stately landmarks by 1996 are nowhere to be seen by early 1900 (FIG.30, 31).

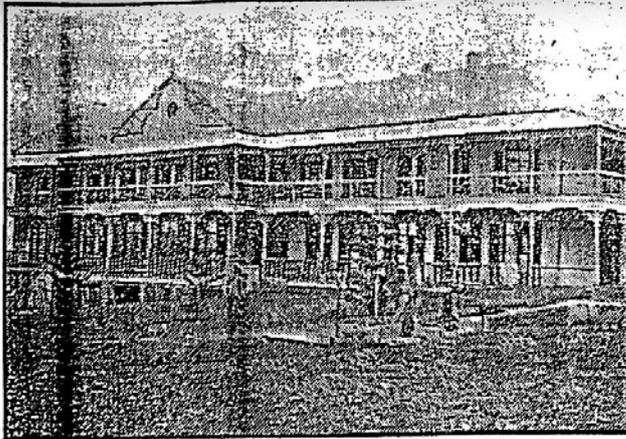


FIG.30 An early photograph of the East Wing Sanatorium built in 1897. The Norfolk pines were only about 2 m high. Note some kind of construction in the right foreground, approximately where the pit is now situated (Edwards 1979:5).

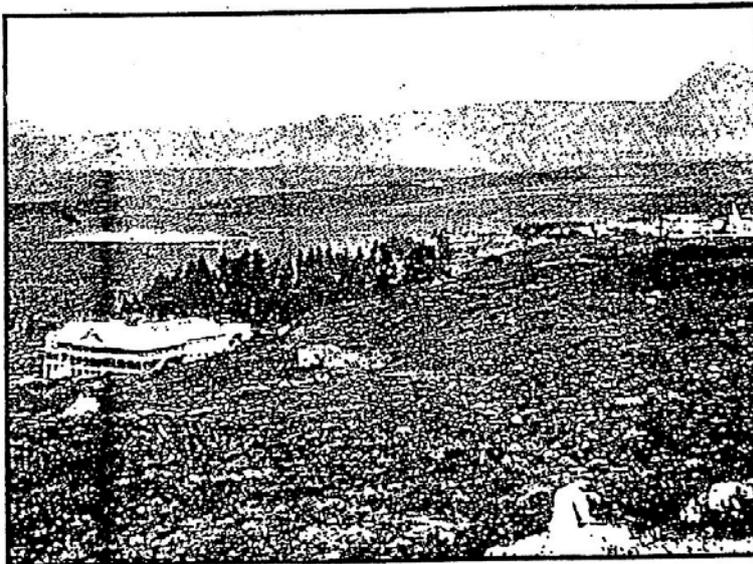


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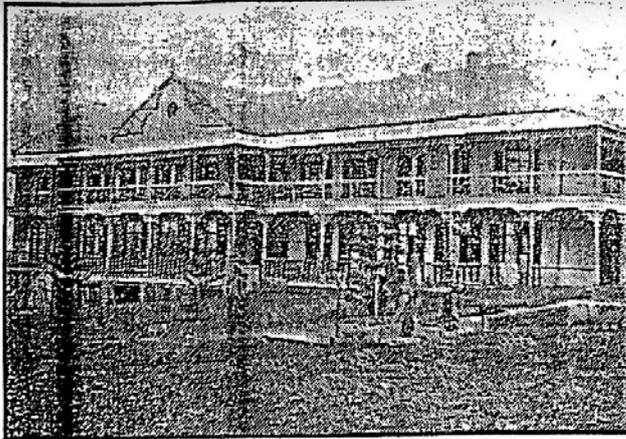


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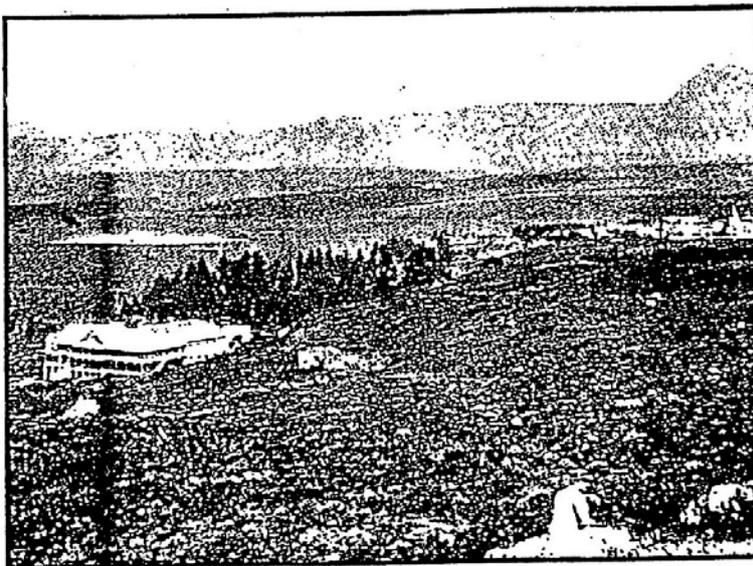


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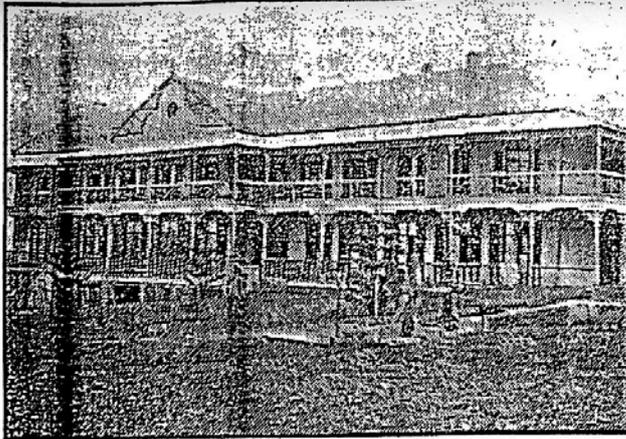


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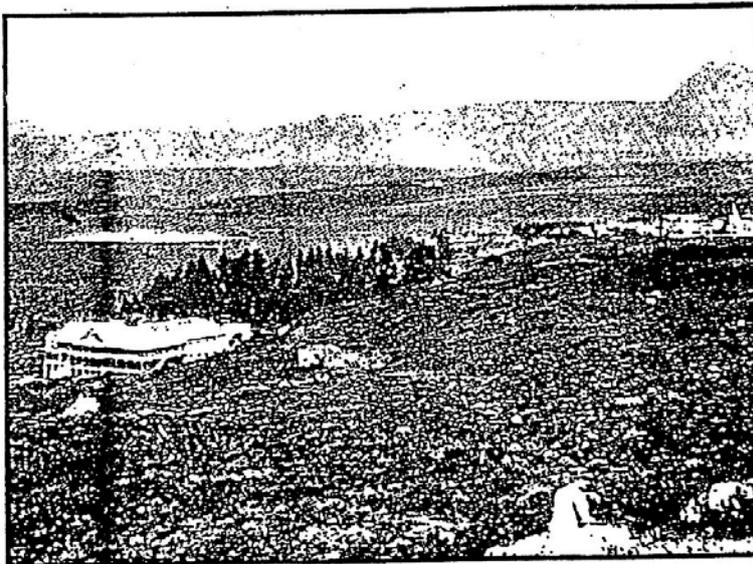


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1. INTRODUCTION

This study was undertaken as part of the planning process for the establishment of the Caledon Spa and Casino. Although fieldwork was undertaken early in 1999, the client, Ladbrooke Holdings, withdrew from the project with the result that a final report has been delayed until now when the project is coming back on line under a new group.

The site encompasses a large area of land on the outskirts of the town of Caledon (Figure 1). Numerous historical structures and features are found on the site which is well known for the hot springs and public bathing facilities, and more recently, for the Overberger Hotel that was constructed on the site (and that narrowly escaped demolition when the casino bid fell through). Most of the historic remains can be linked in some way or other to the presence and supply of, hot mineral water.

Mr. H. Vos, from the Research Center for Historical Archaeology at the Stellenbosch Museum, had previously been involved with the site, having undertaken a cursory examination of it in 1987¹, and a Phase 1 historical-archaeological study of the same in 1996². He was working on the 1999 study but was injured in a car accident and requested that the Archaeology Contracts Office (ACO) be appointed to continue the work. The ACO study involved both Phase 1 (initial investigation) and Phase 2 (more detailed examinations) of certain features. In his 1996 report, Vos included a fairly detailed background history of the site which is included as Appendix 1³. A brief summary of the history is presented in Section 2.

Archival and photographic material related to the study is presented at the end of the report. Additional images can be found in Vos's historical background. Where indicated on archival photographs, CM refers to material in the Caledon Museum.

2. BRIEF HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- **Pre-1652:** It is clear that when the first colonists entered the area c1669, Khoekhoen herders were grazing herds of sheep and cattle around the springs. The use of the springs by the indigenous population probably extended back many thousands of years before this as San people are sure to have hunted the wild game that would have visited this permanent, mineral-rich, water source;
- **1669-1710:** Following the first forays by the colonists into the area, more and more use was made of the area, particularly by governor Willem Adriaan van der Stel. He prevented access by others during his tenure and it was not until after his dismissal that colonists moved into the area. The hot springs are mentioned by in the accounts of numerous traveler's and explorers who passed through the area;
- **1710:** Ferdinand Appel was granted land around the spring on which to erect a guesthouse for visitors;

¹ Vos H.N. 1987. Inspeksie van die Warmbad perseel, Caledon. Unpublished report prepared for Mrs. M. Brand, Caledon Museum. Stellenbosch Museum.

² Vos H.N. 1996. The warmbaths of Caledon: an historical-archaeological phase 1 survey. Unpublished report prepared for The Planning Partnership. Research Center for Historical Archaeology, Stellenbosch Museum.

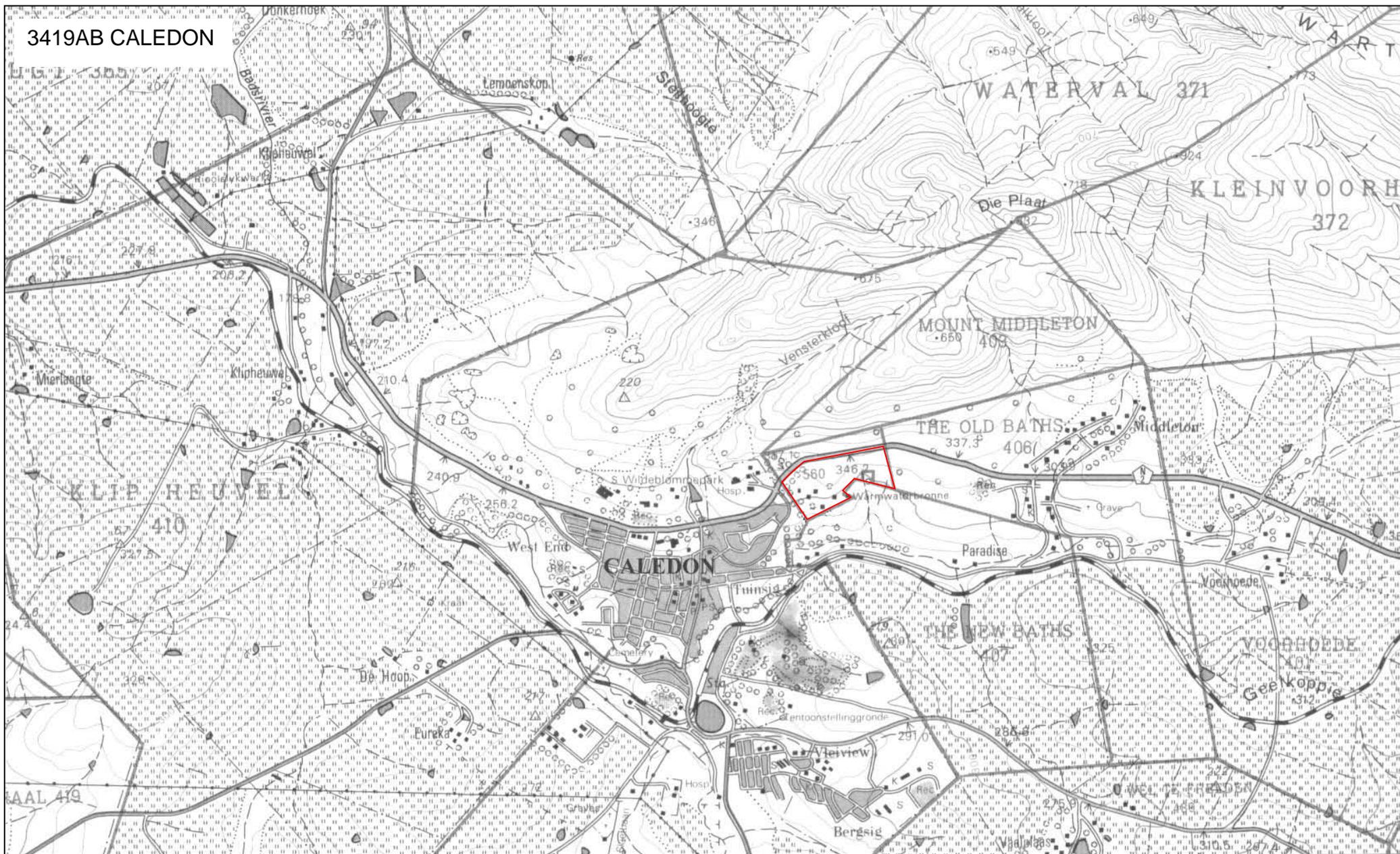
³We do not necessarily agree with all of Vos's interpretations of the archival documents but this does not detract from the overall events.

- **c1740-1790:** The VOC guesthouse was erected alongside a wagon road, which at that time, formed the main route to Swellendam. The mineral water baths that served the guesthouse were apparently still some distance away and were reached by walking down a path although paintings show some small structures close by which may also have been small baths;
- **1793-1800:** The VOC guest house was upgraded but appears to still have been rather ramshackle;
- **1805-1820:** Dr. Jan Frederik Hässner, a doctor previously in service to the VOC, took over the running of the facility and built a new, much larger guesthouse which included mineral water baths on the premises. This was not on the site of the older guesthouse and, as will be seen from later sections of this report, we have speculated that it was located in the vicinity of the existing Duminy Center. He also constructed a number of buildings where he and his family lived;
- **1817:** Hässner's wife died and was buried on the site in a grave now covered by a pyramid-shaped monument. Hässner went into decline after her death and left soon afterwards. He died 3 years later in Paarl;
- **1820-1850:** The guesthouse reverted back to government control and continued to be used;
- **1850-1897:** The land, and buildings thereon, was granted to the Holy Trinity Church. During this time the old VOC guesthouse and bathhouses fell into disrepair. The "new" guesthouse was probably demolished c1865 to make way for the erection of two small Victorian sanatoria (but there is the possibility that some of that structure is preserved within some of the later sanatorium buildings which remain on site);
- **1897-1904:** The land was acquired by Messrs. J.G. and W.J. Walsh who upgraded the older sanatoria and added two large wings on the east and south sides. The east wing was completed in 1897, and the south in 1904. The upgraded sanatorium proved so popular that the brothers formed a controlling company, Caledon Baths Ltd;
- **1946:** The sanatorium buildings were destroyed by a fire believed by some to have been the result of arson ;
- **1961:** The site was expropriated by Caledon Municipality for use as a caravan site and picnic spot;
- **1989:** De Overberger Hotel consortium developed the site;

3. METHOD

The initial project managers divided the entire site into blocks of 50x50 meters. The initial archaeological task consisted of physically inspecting each of the blocks within a defined area (the development zone), to determine if there were any archaeological or historical remains visible, and to designate on a base map in the site office, which blocks could be cleared mechanically and which would require manual intervention. This task was fairly straightforward, but some limitations were experienced as a result of very dense stands of alien vegetation. Generally though, this task was completed satisfactorily.

The second task required more detailed studies of certain features on the site to be undertaken. These included a study of a sunken feature (presumed to be a bath) near the Norfolk pines, as well as a study of the slope above the Duminy Centre and main parking area, where it was believed at that time, that the "new" guest house of 1806 was located. The latter task was necessary as a result of a proposal to construct an amphitheater in this position. Both of these features were investigated using conventional archaeological excavation methods.



1

Site Location



4. OBSERVATIONS

A plan of the site showing existing buildings and features, as well as the imposed block grid is shown in Figure 2. Also shown on this plan are the various features and areas of importance on the site which will be discussed below. Areas are defined as places where it is believed that there may be remains where none are visible at present, or where there are numerous features of low individual significance included. I have rated the importance of each of the features and made a recommendation of action along with the description of each of the features. The two sets of features that have been investigated in detail, namely those on the slope above the Duminy Building (Upper terrace), and the reservoir and furrow close to the Norfolk pines, are discussed in Section 5.

4.1 The VOC guesthouse precinct (Features 1a-1c)

This area contains the old VOC guesthouse (**1a**) and related structures, namely, a kraal (**1b**) and a stable (**1c**). No surface traces of the kraal or stable were noted but the positions are interpolated from a drawing made by H.J. Klein in 1799 (see Vos 1996:33-34). This area, along with the associated old wagon road running close by (2c-2d), is perhaps the most important part of the historic precinct in terms of age and potential archaeological content. In the past, the VOC precinct was impacted by manganese mining but most of the base of the guesthouse seems to have survived and foundations and indications of a stoep are still visible.

Importance: High

Recommendation: This complex is unique. The extent of the VOC precinct should be established on site and demarcated on plans to avoid any further impacts to the area. No development of this area should occur.

4.2 The Old Cape wagon road (Features 2a-2d)

(2a-2b) Very little of this section of the old Cape road actually survives but its route can be detected by tree alignments and occasional patches of surfacing. Hennie Vos (Stellenbosch Museum) agrees that this section is not of great value and could be sacrificed if necessary on condition that there is an undertaking to conserve portions of the road near the VOC guesthouse (2c-2d). The gateposts (19) should be preserved to mark the point at which the road entered the property in the past.

(2b) This section of the road is better preserved although it has been extensively used as an access route to the modern reservoirs. If portions of this can be preserved then good and well, otherwise the same opinion expressed above in point 1 regarding this section of the route would apply.

(2c-2d) The old Cape wagon road is well preserved in this area and in parts, ruts cut into the ferruginous substrate by the wagon wheels has been preserved. The gateposts that mark the boundary line (20), the stone lined embankment on the southern side of the road near the gateposts, and the VOC buildings represent a significant historical feature, or complex of features. The road in this area should be considered as extremely sensitive.

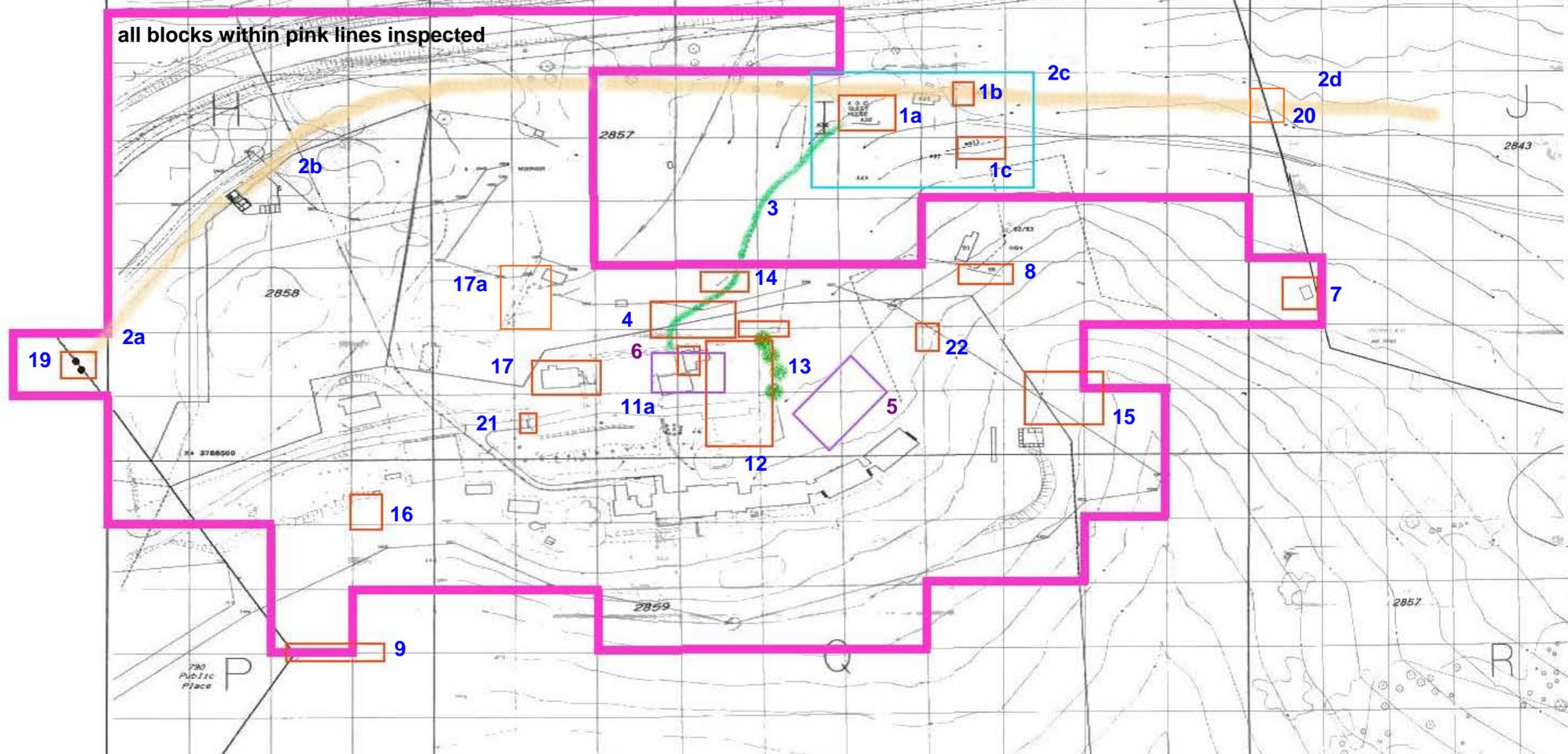
- 1a. VOC guesthouse
- 1b. VOC kraal?
- 1c. VOC stable?
- 2a-2d. Old Cape Road
- 3. Historic pathway
- 4. Upper terrace historic precinct

- 5. Hässner buildings?
- 6. Duminy precinct
- 7. Graveyard
- 8, 9. Old boundary wall
- 10. 19thc reservoir and channel
- 11a. Early Victorian sanatorium

- 11b. Duminy building – bath house
- 12. Later Victorian sanatorium
- 13. Historic Norfolk pines and Fig
- 14. Stone platform
- 15. Sanatorium rubbish dump
- 16. 19thc dump?

- 17. Existing hot bath
- 17a. Cooling tower for baths
- 18. Area containing water supply features
- 19,20,21. Gate posts
- 22. Reservoir

all blocks within pink lines inspected



No vehicles should be permitted beyond the turnoff to the proposed haul road, as heavy vehicular traffic will damage the surface. Care should be taken that where the haul road comes close to the wagon road, that vehicles do not inadvertently stray onto it (the haul road may not be part of the latest planning).

Importance: Sections 2a, 2b Low; Sections 2c, 2d High

Recommendation: The portions of the road in the vicinity of the VOC precinct are well preserved and must be conserved. Barricades should be erected to prevent vehicular access to the sensitive sections.

4.3 4.3 Historic path (Feature 3)

The pathway, though modified, is believed to be the route that was used to access Hässner's guesthouse, and whatever older baths were on the site prior to that, from the VOC guesthouse. As such, it is an integral feature linking portions of the historic precinct. Towards the VOC guesthouse the path has been impacted, probably by the manganese mining.

Importance: Medium-High

Recommendation: The pathway should be conserved.

4.4 Upper terrace (Area 4)

This is an important area from an historical point of view and is discussed in detail in Section 5. On the slope above the Duminy Center is a complex of 18th and 19th century features including retaining walls, a pathway, a water furrow, steps, iron and ceramic pipes, several square concrete receptacles (which probably served a number of functions, e.g. to allow changes in direction of the rigid iron or ceramic water pipes, to serve as points where flow could be split into different pipes, to act as breather points, and permit cleaning if they became blocked). The remains of columns that carried elevated hot water pipes to supply tanks on the upper storey of the bathhouse can also be seen here. Apart from the pathway (3), the surviving structures are clearly the remnants of the hot mineral water supply infrastructure that served the large bathhouse in the east wing of the Victorian sanatorium. Encaustic floor tiling patterns and the style of some wall tiles still present in the Duminy building, are clearly visible in photographs of the interior of the old Victorian sanatorium bathrooms, and suggest that the Duminy building is a surviving part of the sanatorium bathhouse.

Below a square concrete structure immediately upslope of the Duminy building, excavations revealed the presence of a brick floor and foundations, suggesting the presence of an 18th century building or some other construction (path?) here in the past. There is not enough of this structure remaining to positively identify it, but it may date from the VOC period or be related to Hässner's buildings.

Traces of steps are preserved on the cut embankment immediately behind the Duminy building. These do not seem to conform to the present building configuration, and perhaps predates the Duminy building or at least modifications thereof. The embankment itself may

date back to Hässner's time, possibly marking the extent of landscaping that was necessary to erect the fairly substantial building that we see in some of the early drawings.

The features mentioned above should be retained and incorporated into the interpretive aspects of the historical precinct. The pathway, though modified, is believed to be the route used by guests staying at the old VOC guesthouse, to access either earlier baths at this location, or Hässner's bathhouse, and as such is an important feature of the historic precinct.

Importance: Medium-High

Recommendation: All the features mentioned above are parts of the historical precinct. As a group they are an important part of the historical precinct. They should be conserved.

4.5 Hässner farm buildings (Area 5)

Hässner's farm buildings appear to have stood in this vicinity. It is unknown if the more recent landscaping and construction of the south wing of the Victorian sanatorium and more recently, the Overberger Hotel, impacted the site. A photograph taken c1900 shows farm buildings still standing in this location.

Importance: Medium-High

Recommendation: The area should be tested archaeologically for traces of structural components and dumps before any construction occurs at this location or reasonable vicinity thereof.

4.6 "New" bath house (Area 6)

I believe that the guesthouse, built by Hässner in 1806, originally stood in this area. Small test excavations conducted in the vicinity have shown that traces of archaeological material dating to the first half of the 19th century are present. The embankment behind the Duminy building may date back to this early time and indicate some early landscaping and terracing of the area to facilitate the erection of Hässner's guesthouse. Little or no parts of the original building may however remain as a result of the erection and demolition of the later Victorian sanatoria but portions could perhaps be incorporated within later Victorian buildings.

It is my feeling looking at the configuration of what we believe to be the 1865 sanatorium (11a), and the Duminy building, that perhaps the two might have at one stage been linked, and the wing at the back might have served as the bathhouse portion of Hässner's building. It is further tempting to suggest that perhaps these two buildings are sited immediately over the remains of Hässner's 1806 guesthouse. Drawings of that building suggest that it was fairly substantial, and it is difficult to believe that over a period of only 50 years, that it had completely disappeared. It was very common during the 18th and 19th centuries to reuse foundations and earlier fabric, and I think we may find this to be the case here as well.

Importance: High

Recommendation: If the Duminy Building, or any area within 30 meters of it is to be disturbed, additional investigations will need to take place to determine if traces of the old 1806 bathhouse, or any artefactual material related to it, still survive.

4.7 Graveyard (Feature 7)

The Hässner graveyard (and more recently also used as the site of a kramat).

Importance: High

Recommendation: The graveyard should not be impacted.

4.8 Old clay boundary walls (Feature 8, 9)

(8) A line of ferricrete blocks may represent the base of an old boundary wall (which would have been made of clay).

(9) Traces of the old clay boundary wall, both base and upper portion, are preserved here. The area lies outside of the encroachment boundary but nevertheless should be highlighted to prevent damage by earthmoving equipment.

Importance: Medium-High

Recommendation: These are the last traces of the old boundary wall and as such both should be conserved if possible. The portion of wall at (9) has suffered from water erosion and will disappear eventually if not properly conserved.

4.9 Reservoir and furrow (Feature 10)

While the reservoir was originally believed to be a bath, excavations have determined that it is in fact a 19th century reservoir. A more detailed discussion of the features is presented in Section 5. The reservoir and associated channel probably served to trap runoff from the slope in an attempt to prevent waterlogging of the grounds in the vicinity of the east wing of the Victorian sanatorium. Early photographs suggest that a pump or a hoist may have been mounted on a cover placed over the feature, and a wind pump can also be seen on some photographs to the one side. It is unclear as to why gravity feed was not used to lead water away, perhaps leaving a slight uneasiness that perhaps this feature had another (earlier?) function that can no longer be deduced. We have however in the course of our investigation, seen no evidence to suggest that the feature predated the Victorian sanatoria.

Importance: Medium-High

Recommendation: The features should be conserved as part of the historical precinct.

4.10 Early Victorian sanatoria (Features 11a, 11b)

(11a) Built in approximately 1865, portions of this building may still be preserved within the existing highly modified building on the site at present. It is possible too that portions of the earlier guesthouse may also be contained therein.

(11b) Looking at photographs of the rear of the east wing of the Victorian sanatorium (12), a large two-storey bathhouse is observed extending west from the one end of the wing. This bathhouse drew its water via the complex of pipes and features on the slope above (4). The collapsed columns immediately above the embankment carried a pipe that ran to the second floor of the bathhouse. A photograph of one of the bathrooms in this block shows encaustic tiling detail very similar, if not the same, as those preserved within the Duminy building today. This suggests that the Duminy building once formed a part of that bathhouse.

Importance: High

Recommendation: See point 4.6

4.11 Later Victorian sanatorium east and south wings (Area 12)

The east wing was completed in 1897 and lay adjacent to the three Norfolk pines. By 1904, a larger “L” shaped south wing had been added. Traces of foundations can still be seen on the surface near the pines. The Duminy Building may represent a surviving portion of the bathhouse of the sanatorium.

Importance: Low-Medium

Recommendation: The area alongside the Norfolk pines does contain traces of structural fabric of the east wing. However we do have photographs of this building while it was still in existence and do not consider the remains to be of major significance. Sections contained within and around the Duminy building are however considered to be very significant.

4.12 Historic trees (Feature 13)

A row of Norfolk pines was planted alongside the east wing of the Victorian sanatorium at the turn of the century. These trees appear as mere saplings in early photographs, but have far outlasted the buildings next to which they were planted. They serve as excellent reference points in locating the old buildings. The large Ficus, while not visible on the photos, must have been planted at about this time as well.

Importance: High

Recommendation: These are part of the historic landscape and serve as good reference points in locating the older sanatoria. These should be conserved.

4.13 Stone platform (Feature 14)

A stone platform lies adjacent to the pathway (3). The precise nature of this structure is uncertain but its method of building suggests that it predates many of the other features on the upper slopes.

Importance: Medium-High

Recommendation: This should be investigated more fully if it is decided to develop the historic precinct. It should be considered as sensitive until then.

4.14 Dumps - 19th century (Features 15, 16)

(15) Substantial amounts of late 19th century ceramics and bottle glass that are seen on the surface suggest that dumps are located in the vicinity. These can probably be traced to the various sanatoria and indeed some ceramic pieces bear a crest with the wording: "The Caledon Baths Ltd., Caledon." These dumps appear to be on the edge of the encroachment boundary but may well extend inwards. Souvenir hunters who have undertaken illegal digging here in the past have removed bottles and other items.

(16) Some surface traces of 19th century ceramics and bottles have been detected here. Some archaeological testing should occur here if any landscaping or earthmoving will impact it. The area should be considered moderately sensitive.

Importance: Medium-Low

Recommendation: No earthworks should occur in these areas until they have been tested archaeologically. Excavations of the dumps could provide good artefactual collections for museum displays in an interpretive center.

4.15 Victorian bath and water-cooling tower (Features 17, 17a)

It is probably not necessary for me to highlight building (17) as important. The Victorian bath along with its cooling tower is, I believe, going to be restored and will continue to serve as a public bath. The features on the slope above should be seen as an integral part of the bath precinct.

Importance: High

Recommendation: During restoration, the integrity of the historic baths should be preserved.

4.16 Upper terrace (Area 18)

The slope above the Victorian baths is littered with pipes and cement features related to the piping of water from the springs to the lower part of the site.

Importance: Low-Medium

Recommendation: As a group, the features are significant in terms of the historical, and existing supply of water to the baths. These should be left undisturbed if they do not impede any development.

4.17 Gate posts (Features 19, 20, 21)

(19) Two gateposts built on either side of the Old Cape Road where it crossed the boundary. While these may be in the original positions, their fabric (revealed by removing sections of plaster), shows that they are of relatively recent manufacture (this century).

(20) Another set of gateposts (virtually identical to those at (19)) built on the opposite boundary and marking the position of the Old Cape Road. Plaster removal also suggests that these have been rebuilt in the 20th century. A line of ferruginous rocks below the road suggest that there may have been a wall here, but it is possible that these rocks could have served as retaining where the surface of the wagon track is slightly elevated above the prevailing level of the downslope.

(21) This is a set of gateposts lying on either side the access route centered on the old Victorian sanatorium. They have been somewhat altered and probably bear little resemblance to the original ones. The northerly one contains some original structural fabric but both have been re-plastered.

Importance: Low-Medium

Recommendation: The gateposts themselves are structurally fairly modern and as such are not highly significant. The gateposts marking the positions where the Old Cape Road crossed the boundary line probably indicate where the original gate stood and adds to their significance. The gateposts on the Victorian access may be slightly less important but nevertheless is a link to earlier property configurations. These gate positions could all serve as interpretive points if the historical precinct is developed.

4.18 Dam/reservoir (Feature 22)

This feature lies in the streambed. No detailed investigation has been made and thus it is difficult to determine if it is indeed the wall of a reservoir.

Importance: Low

Recommendation: This is not considered to be of great significance. If not disturbed there is no need to explore it further.

5. DETAILED OBSERVATIONS

5.1 Features on the Upper Terrace

The features that have been investigated are shown in Figure 3. While similar concrete structures are found widely scattered all over the upper slope, our investigation focussed on a more limited area which it was believed may be impacted by the construction of an amphitheater that was planned at the time. This will apparently no longer be built and thus immediate potential impacts have been removed. The various features will be discussed using the numbering on Figure 3 and follow what we believe to be the order of oldest to most recent features.

5.1.1 Feature 1: 18th century (?) remains

The small area containing the remains that has been preserved makes it difficult to make any unequivocal assessment of what is represented by these remains. Two possible options can be considered based on the archaeological information. The first is that we are looking at the remains of part of a building, and the second possibility is that we are looking at part of an old path.

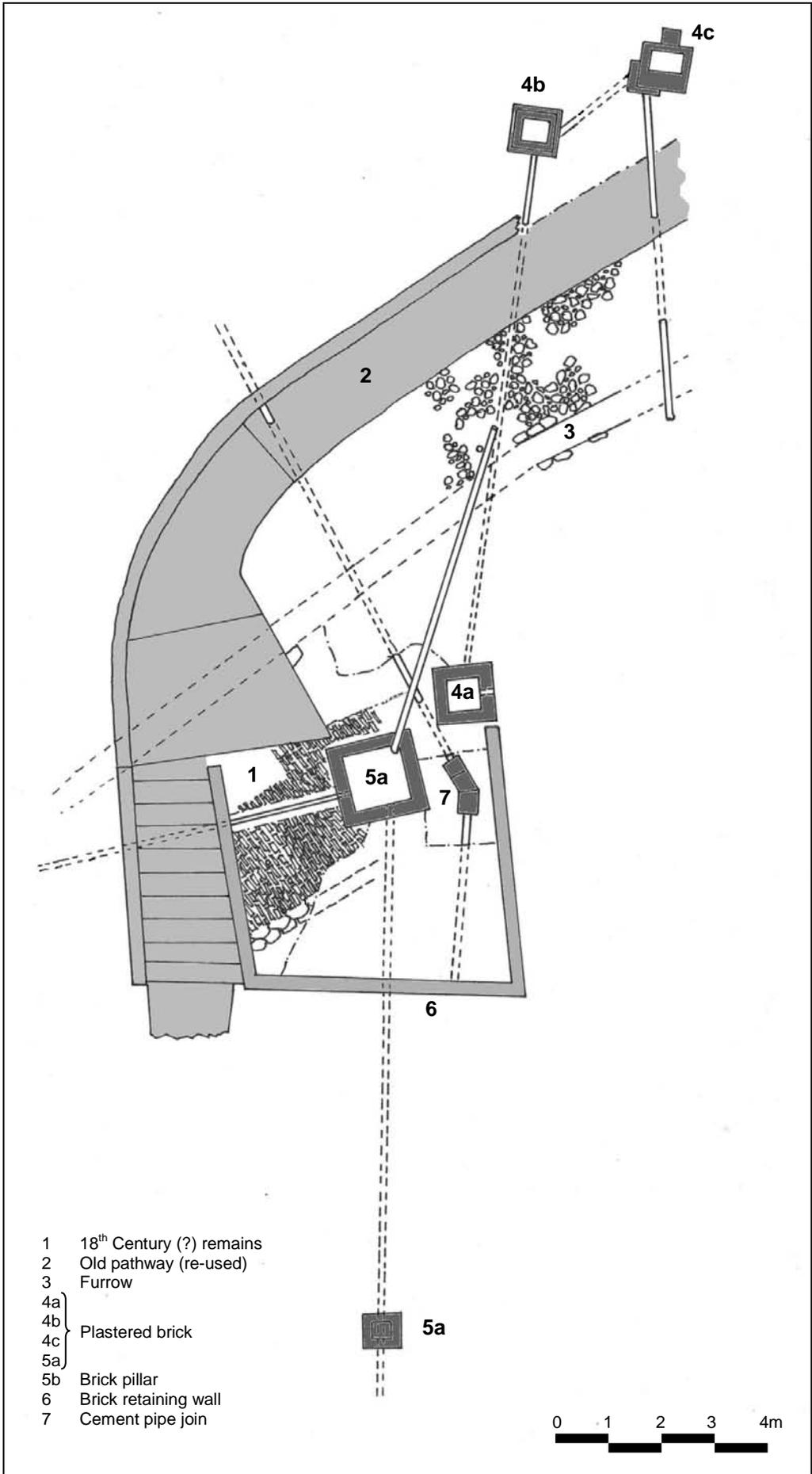
The remains themselves consist of a patch of well-worn brick paving, bounded on the one edge by a retaining wall built from ferricrete rocks. The bricks are held in place by mortar grouting which does not appear to contain traces of burned shell. Traces of lime mortar (commonly used during the 18th century) is however found in the gaps between the rocks of ferricrete retaining wall. Apart from the retaining wall, no other walls or foundations thereof were noted. The 19th century features (particularly 5a) cut through the paving. No more of this early structure has survived beyond what was co-incidentally preserved within the 19th century retaining walls (6). The remains lie at an angle to the present slope and suggests perhaps that at the time that these were put in place that the slope was somewhat different to that of today.

5.1.2 Feature 2: Old Pathway

At present the portion of the path in this vicinity is surfaced with cement (2a), but this gives way to a plain earth path just beyond the area of investigation. We believe that this represents 19th century re-use of the original path that led downslope from the VOC precinct. The upper edge of the path where it cuts into the slope, is protected by a low retaining wall consisting of plastered ferricrete. A set of cement steps marks the end of the path (2b) and there are traces of cement below the steps which suggest that the cement path may have continued down toward the Duminy Building.

5.1.3 Feature 3: Furrow

This feature is clearly a water furrow. A small portion has been formalised by plastering the base and edging with rocks. Most of the rest of this feature consists simply of a ditch cut into the ground. It runs parallel to the path and where the path angles down toward the Duminy building, the furrow passes beneath it by way of a circular conduit. Virtually no surface trace of the furrow is preserved beyond where it passes beneath the path but



3

Features on the Upper Terrace



digging reveals that it did indeed once continue on downslope. It is unclear whether this carried hot water and if it represents re-use of furrows that are alluded to in some of the 18th century accounts.

5.1.4 Feature 4a,b,c, 5a,b, 7: Plastered brick receptacles and related items

There are a number of these features present all over the hillside. They all lie above ground and are related to the movement of hot spring water down to the various 19th century sanatoria. They appear primarily to have been points where water could be led off in different directions and allowed changes in angle of the cast iron and ceramic pipes. Examples of both types of pipes are preserved within the investigation area. They probably also assisted with cleaning of blocked pipes, acted as breather points and facilitated replacement of broken pipe sections.

The receptacles 4a, 4b and 4c seem to form part of a set and possibly predate 5a. While the remaining visible outlet from 4a is to the side, water may once have been led downslope. The water exit points in feature 5a are still clearly visible and while the destination of the water flowing out the side pipe is unknown, the water going downslope was destined for the header tanks of the Victorian bathhouse via an elevated iron pipe supported by a brick pillar (now collapsed - 5b).

Another means of joining and changing the angle of iron pipes is represented by feature 7. This is a carefully shaped cement casing surrounding the junction. It would appear (despite the fact that it is presently buried) that this was originally exposed on the surface.

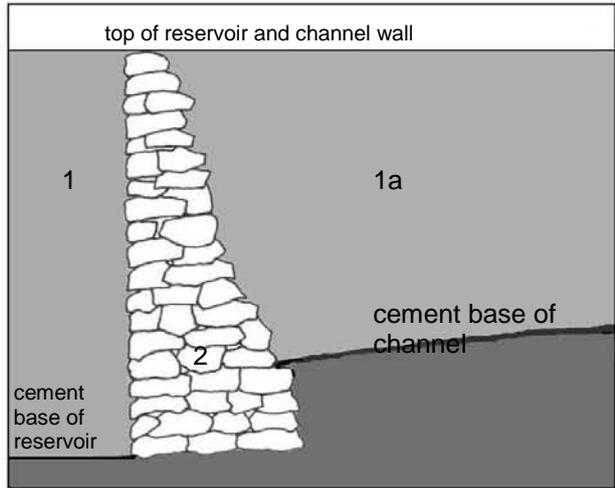
The profusion of pipes and features so widely scattered on the upper slopes would seem to suggest that perhaps water was being tapped from several spring sources, or perhaps that the eyes moved from time to time necessitating modification of the supply system.

5.1.5 Feature 6: Brick retaining wall

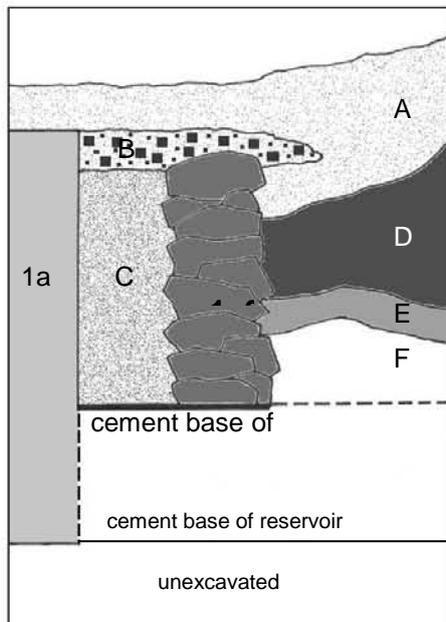
Clearly built during the 20th century, this feature has often been mistaken for a reservoir probably because of the iron pipes protruding from the front wall. It was however never intended for that purpose. Firstly, only three walls are present, there is no discernible base, and the inner surfaces of the walls are unplastered below present ground level. We believe that the retaining walls were built to prevent features 5a and 7, from slipping downslope. Any slippage or movement of features into which iron or ceramic pipes were set, would have led to cracks or breakage. Constant and uninterrupted supply to the very popular sanatorium may have necessitated these modifications.

5.2 Reservoir and channel

It has been believed for some time that this feature represented the remains of a bath. While there are some aspects of the structure that could not be answered without a much more extensive excavations being done (unwarranted as it was not directly threatened at the time), it seems clear that the current configuration relates to its use at the end of the 19th century as a reservoir for the collection of seepage from the upper terrace and water from a nearby windpump. A plan of the feature is shown in Figure 4. The trunk of the nearest Norfolk Pine is also shown.



Section XY

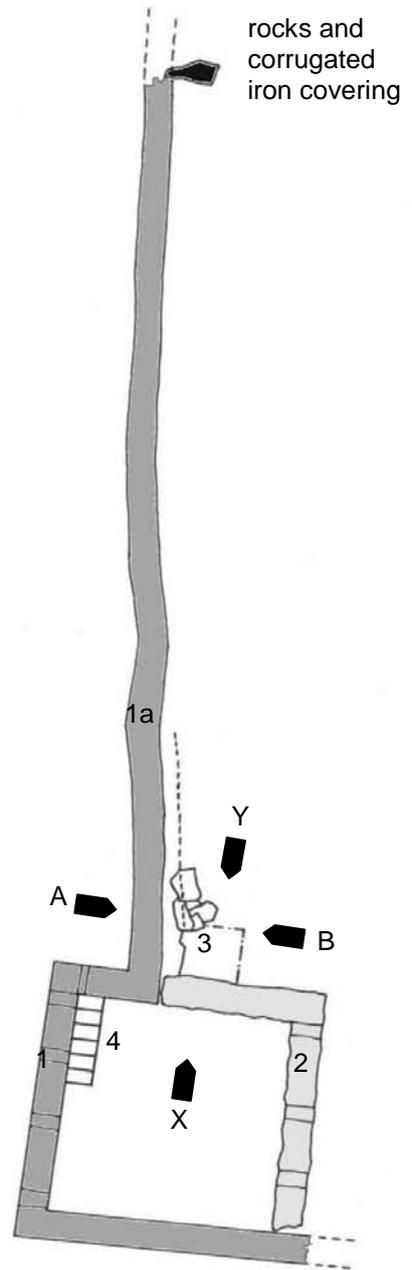


Section AB

0 1 2m

- A loose grey/black surface material
- B fine brown with rubble
- C loose sandy fill
- D black clayey material
- E light grey
- F white soil

- 1 formal plastered reservoir walls with beam slots
- 1a formal plastered channel wall
- 2 roughly finished reservoir wall with beam



0 1 2 3 4m

4

19th Century Reservoir and Channel



Feature 1,1a: Formal plastered reservoir and channel walls

One set of walls forming what could be termed the outer edge of the feature, consists of well constructed and plastered walls. A long, not completely straight section of wall (1a), runs toward the Duminy building and probably formed a barrier to seepage during the period when the Victorian Sanatoria was in use. This is in turn connected to a semi-rectangular set of walls (1) one of which continues into the upper terrace. These were probably the first walls to be built and the alignment suggests that they did not originally form a reservoir.

Beam slots were cut into the tops of the walls of features 1 and 2 as indicated on Figure 4. These were probably added so that a platform could be constructed over the feature when it had been modified to create a reservoir.

5.2.2 Feature 2,3: “Informal” reservoir and channel walls

The walls labeled as 2, are not in the same style as those labeled 1. They are built with rounded ferricrete rocks and although they are held together with cement, the surfaces are unplastered and irregular. They do not lock into the earlier set of walls. The addition of these walls seems to have been intended to form a “square” reservoir with an irregular plastered base. There are no visible inlets.

Excavations along the long wall 1a, revealed that a channel was formed, directing flow to the east, by the addition of a parallel, dry packed, irregular stone wall. Details of the channel structure are shown in Figure 3, sections AB and XY. Although completely filled with soil when excavated, the channel had originally been protected by a covering of large rock slabs, and later an additional covering of corrugated iron sheets was put in place. When the walls at 2 were added, flow of water from the channel would have been blocked. The dry packing of the wall at 3 could have been an attempt to allow groundwater to permeate through from the terrace into the channel.

There are no visible outlets from the reservoir. This is a little puzzling as we would have expected that gravity feed would have been logical in getting rid of seepage. Photographs of the east wing of the sanatorium do however show a windpump immediately north of the reservoir with a discharge pipe leading into what we believe to be the reservoir. Another photo shows some form of device mounted on a platform over the reservoir. While the detail is not adequate to see precisely what this device is, it is possible that it is a hand operated windlass such as might be mounted over a well.

6. CONCLUSIONS

The presence of the hot water springs was the prime motivating factor in determining the location of the many features discussed in this report. All evidence suggests that the springs have always been located on the upper slopes of the mountain, and because of the difficulties in building on the steep slopes, it would appear that building complexes were located on the lower, more manageable areas lower down. This meant however that hot mineral water had to be led in various ways down to the various bathhouses. This was probably done in open furrows in the earlier period, and in a variety of pipes during the later 19th century. Many of the pipes and features relating to the later period are still to be seen littering the slopes below the N2 roadway.

The earliest buildings that are confirmed on the site are those built by the VOC as a guesthouse with access to hot baths adjacent to the main wagon route to Swellendam. From this point on, all subsequent buildings are related to the mineral water springs in some way.

The site that will soon see the development of a casino in the old hotel buildings, has a long history. Some of the historical features such as the VOC guesthouse and Old Cape Road are as a complex, unique in South Africa. Despite the fact that the buildings erected by the VOC have almost disappeared, these provide a valuable archaeological research opportunity. The various other primary buildings dating to the 19th century are not as well preserved although in some instances (i.e. Hässner's guesthouse) we believe that more excavation may reveal additional structural details.

The opportunity exists to utilise the presence of the historical features to add an additional component to the casino development. An interpretive center, or better still a series of paths traversing the historical precinct could be developed. Signage at each of the features could by way of text, maps and photographs detail the history of each of the features.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations with regards to the features discussed in this report have been indicated in Section 4 of this report. If any of these will be impacted through any development or related activity, some intervention will be necessary by a heritage resource specialist. Permission will also be required from SAHRA (South African Heritage Resources Agency) in terms of the new legislation (South African Heritage Resources Act of 1999) before any alteration may occur to any area or feature highlighted in this report.

8. ARCHAEOLOGICAL TEAM

Report
Fieldwork

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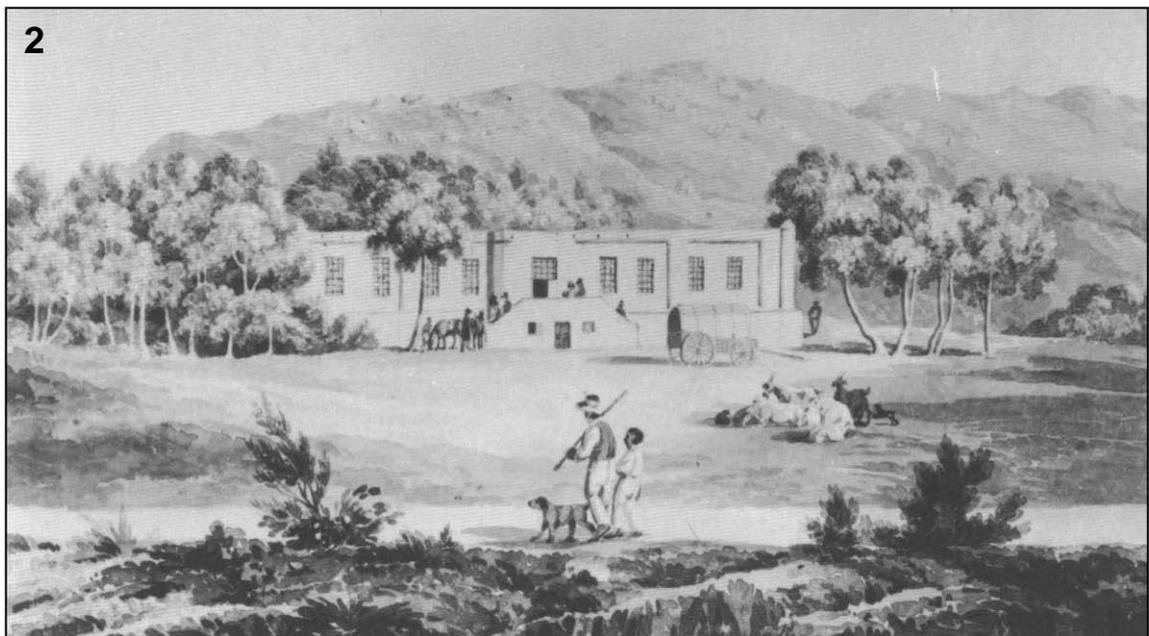
9. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank Tizzie Mangiagalli at the Caledon Museum who allowed us to view archival material in the collections.

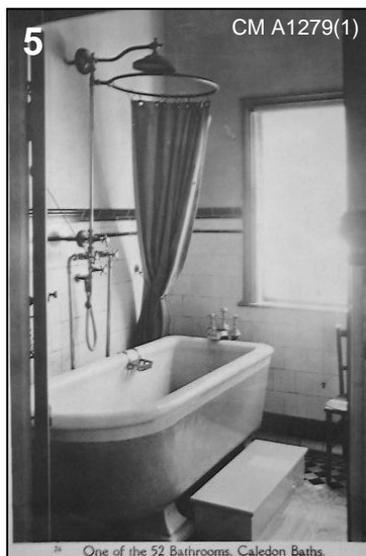
PHOTOGRAPHS



A painting showing several buildings. From left to right, Hässner's farm buildings, Hässner's guesthouse and on the upper slopes, the VOC guesthouse. *From: The Cape Sketchbooks of Sir Charles D'Oyly 1832-1833. Depicting Cape Town, the countryside and neighboring villages. 1968. A.A. Balkema, Cape Town. Page 83*



Hässner's guesthouse seen from the front. *From: The Cape Sketchbooks of Sir Charles D'Oyly 1832-1833. Depicting Cape Town, the countryside and neighboring villages. 1968. A.A. Balkema, Cape Town. Page 85*



One of the 52 Bathrooms. Caledon Baths.

Two photographs of the Victorian sanatorium east wing which was completed in 1897. The upper photograph is taken from a similar perspective as the painting shown in plate 1. Farm buildings are still present at this time. Visible in both of the photos is the double storeyed bathhouse at the rear of the east wing. Many of the features and pipes on the upper terrace were probably part of the system to supply hot spring water to this bathhouse. At left is a post card showing one of the bathrooms in this building. Note the tiling pattern on the wall above the bath. Similar tiling is still visible in the Duminy Building.



Photographs showing both wings of the Victorian sanatorium. The east wing of 1897 at right, and the newer south wing, which was added in 1904, to the left.





The sanatorium east wing. Visible on the slope behind is a structure that could be where the stone platform (feature 14 on the site map) stands today.



The front of the east wing. In the foreground at right is a windpump with a discharge pipe leading into what may be the reservoir (feature 10 on the site map). The presence of piles of building materials may indicate that the reservoir was being constructed at this time.

10



Another view showing the windpump in front of the east wing.

11

CM (no ref)



The three Norfolk pines in circa 1900. In the foreground is a feature that is probably the reservoir. In this photograph it would appear that there is a cover on which is mounted some form of device, possibly a hand operated hoist for lifting buckets of water.



Features on the upper terrace.
 Numbers in italics refer to





The 19th century reservoir and channel. Numbers in italics refer to

The graveyard, Feature 7 on Figure 2 and a set of gates. Feature 19



APPENDIX

4.2 THE EARLY OVERBERG: 17TH CENTURY

Basically two Khoikhoi (*men of men*) (Prins 1979:80) clans maintained various kraals in the Overberg, viz. the Chainouquas and the Hessequas (*men of the bushes*), of which the latter grazed their cattle at the springs (Ibid.:12). Boontjieskraal and Knofloeks Kraal ("Garlic kraal") (Burchell 1953:68, 69) are two of the more familiar names. At the latter, *Knuffeloogs Coraal* a site known since 1689, six huts were observed in 1710 (Prins 1979:21). During summer the herders travelled over the mountains into the Hottentots Holland basin via the old Gantouw or Candouw pass, early on known as the *Elandspad* or *Elandskloofpas*. European farmers like Henning Hüsing of Welmoed were already grazing these lands by the late 1670s. Competition with the Khoikhoi (Vos 1995:6-11) drove them back over the mountains (FIG.5). The name Overberg or *over't bergh* means the land east of the Hottentots Holland mountains (Prins 1979:7-8). By 1811 *Overbergsch* referred to the land as a whole, as well as its people and produce (Burchell 1953:65).

Corporal Hieronymus Cruse was probably the first colonist to cross the Kloof as early as 1669 to barter animals on the hoof from the nomadic herders (Burrows 1994:5-6). In 1686 Lieut. Oloff Bergh passed the *Zwarteberg*, but strangely did not mention the springs (Ibid.:173). They may have seen the springs, for the mist created by the hot springs hung like a vapour over the hillock, though only in winter (Daniell 1897:14). By 1695 the existence of both the warm and cold springs at the *Zwarteberg* were well known (Booyens 1981:14). So much so, that a Dutch atlas by H. de Leth of 1700 depicts a Bath River in this vicinity (Edwards 1979:18).

4.3 THE FIRST GRAZIERS AND APPEL: EARLY-18TH CENTURY

During the avaricious governorship of Willem A. van der Stel (1699-1707), no freeburgher was allowed over the Hottentots Holland mountains since he claimed it all as grazing for his vast flocks. He kept about 18 stock posts (Burrows 1994:7), of which Warmwaters Kraal was probably an old Khoi-kraal. Valentyn (1726) enumerates these posts (Serton, et al 1971:202) and Kolbe mentions that this kraal was about an hour from the warm springs proper (Ibid.:202, 58n). Warmwaters Kraal is probably the same as the later Warmebad farm. In November 1707 Willem's *knegt* Jan Hartogh led a bartering expedition into the Overberg. Many captains of kraals are named, i.e. Koopman, De Witte Kaptein, Mago, Wittebooy, Jantje, Bygaga, Wildschut, Hansbroer, Waterschaap, Haas, Platneus, etc. (Prins 1979:21). Although these names were given by the Dutch, they should not necessarily be forgotten. Hartogh's party washed at the warmbaths, which were called by the Khoi *Disportcamma*, which should properly be rendered *Disporecamma*, the suffix *camma* meaning water or river (Prins 1979:23; Booyens 1981:14-15).

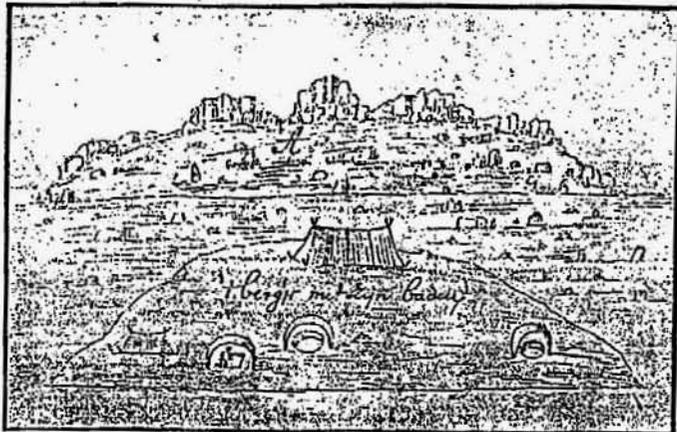


FIG.6 In 1710 Commissioner Cnoll and his party visited the *Bad* and gave us the earliest depiction of it. Note the pitched tents and the square and circular pits, screened with a covering of hurdles. The area is rocky and treeless (Botha 1924: 67-69).

After Willem's dismissal the Overberg was gradually colonised by freeburghers who dispossessed the indigenous tribes. Loan-place tenure (*leningsplase*) was the order of the day, while the farmers bartered or raided cattle, which they supplied to the Company (Burrows 1994:7-8). It was Peter Kolbe, the scientist and historian, who claims that he himself popularised the healing powers of the warmbaths after his visit of 1708 (Booyens 1981:15).

Ferdinand Appel (1665-1717) was a prosperous farmer, owning both the Stellenbosch farms Geduld (1699) and Vergenoegd (1700) (Van der Byl 1963:67A, 67), which were both, not surprisingly, situated close to the Overberg road. He was a *heemraad* at Stellenbosch and a chief supporter of Van der Heyden and Adam Tas in their resistance to the corrupt practices of Willem van der Stel. Appel must have been well aware of the hot springs, having obtained grazing rights in September 1707 near Botriver (originally Botterrivier) and on March 1st, 1709 "aan't warm water" (Prins 1979:23, 26). Two of the farms in the Overberg, viz. Appels Kraal and Appels Bosch were also his (Burrows 1994:8, 9). Having an intimate knowledge of the Overberg, he accompanied persons seeking relief from pain and disease to the springs. In January/February 1710 he led Commissioner Cnoll and his company to the warm springs, where five others already camped. Everyone stayed in tents (FIG.6). Below the springs each dug himself a hole in the stony soil, and bathed in it for about 15 minutes. Afterwards they perspired profusely in the tent or in a "tabernacle" of reeds erected over the bath (Booyens 1981:15-17).

Appel saw the possibility of financial gain from this enterprise and requested permission to obtain this land on 17th February (Böeseken 1962:135):

Door den burger en landbouwer Ferdinandus Appel voorgegeven zijnde, dat hij wel geneegen en begeerig was, om aan 't warme bad, geleege omtrent 14 uren over 't gebergte van Hottentots Holland, een hujsje en verdre accomodatien te laten maken, tot gerief der menschen die zig nu en dan om haar gezondheid te soeken, daar na toe souden willen begeeven; welke hij daar dan onder betaling soude tracteeren; Soo is goed gevonden hem, Appel, bij geleegeheid zijn versoek daar omtrent eens op te doen geven, om onse gedagten daarop nader te laten gaan.²⁴

This request was granted on March 10, 1710 (ibid.:148):

Ook is geresolveert den burger en landbouwer Ferdinandus Appel op zijn voorstel in de resolutie van den 17n Februarij jongstleeden vermeld, en nader versoek bij request gedaan, een stukje van twaalf morgen lands in eigendom te geeven over 't gebergte van Hottentots Holland, bij en omtrent het daar zijnde warme bad, ten einde aldaar tot gerief der menschen, zig daar heen willende begeeven, een hujsje op te slaan en een moesthuijn te maken; 't geen veel nuttigheid voor 't gemeen in der tijt geoordeeld werd te sullen weesen, mits dat hij Appel van geen Hottentots 't een of 't ander sal vermogen te ruijlen als met voorgaande permissie van den Heer Gouverneur.

Note the following: first the official name *warme bad* (warmbath), the erection of a house for visitors, a garden (*moesthuijn*) and no bartering with Hottentots (which they did anyway).

In December of the same year Junior Merchant and Storekeeper Willem van Putten with inter alia the Stellenbosch preacher Henricus Beck and his wife, visited the site (FIG.7). Generally, the servants dug with spades holes of three to four feet deep for bathing. To promote perspiration, wine or brandy were to be taken, including tea or coffee made from the well-waters, which tasted like metal. There are detailed descriptions of the bathing clothes they wore, the food (like milk) obtained, the animals encountered (buck, hare, birds), the pots and *calbasse* supplied by the Hottentots and the tobacco and smoking pipes, which were also used in bartering (Botha 1924:72-90; Booyens 1981:18-22). Kolbe (c.1710) mentions a gigantic hole of about 10 m deep as well as numerous other holes dug over the years (Ibid.:21).

By 1710 Appel had built a house about 15 minutes walk from the springs. It was most probably in the vicinity of Church Street, the old Warmebad. Kolbe (from 1705-1712 at the Cape) refers to it as a *aansienlyk huisje* (Booyens 1981:21). At that time it could have been a rectangular building of about three rooms (one a kitchen) possibly with an *afdak* (lean-to) at the back (Vos 1993:191-3). It was probably built of mud with stone foundations and similar in shape to Schreuderhuis (1709) at Stellenbosch. Appel provided the bare essentials for rent, viz. a bed as well as pots, pans, and basins, probably of iron or earthenware (such articles can be traced archaeologically). Evidence exists that he spent a great deal of his time on this farm with a number of his labourers. Was Apple a sickly person himself? At the age of 42 he could not fulfil his official duties at Stellenbosch and died at the age of about 47 (Prins 1979:27).

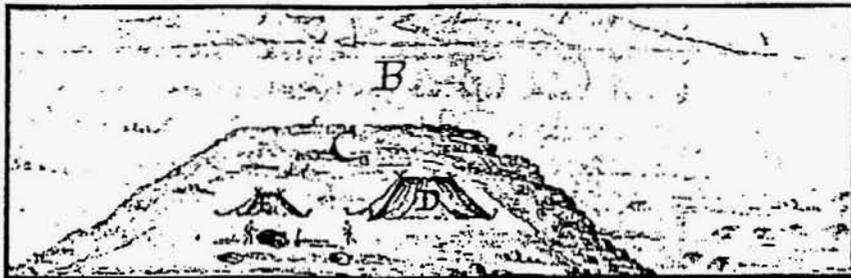


FIG.7 Willem van Putten's party also camped at the *Bronbult*. The hot spring was at C. Note again the bathing pits lower down (Cape Archives, reproduced in Burrows 1994:81) (Botha 1924:75, 76).

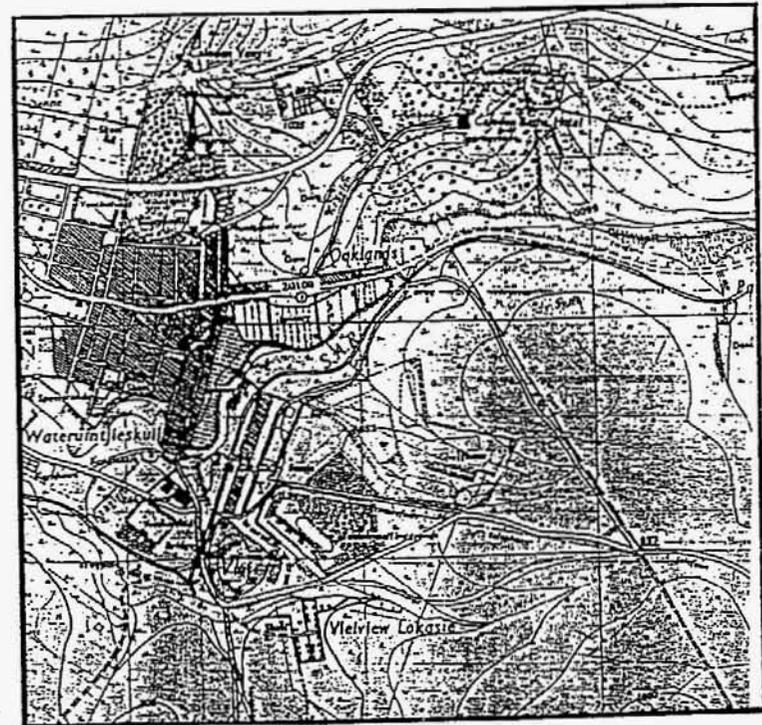


FIG.9.1 When Appel's grant is compared with a 20th century plan, it follows a remarkably similar route to the roadway towards the lower part of town (Caledon Museum, dated March 1946).

The original grant of 1710 was supposed to be for 12 morgen, but after Appel's death in 1717 it was altered to include 13 morgen 546 roeden (Ibid.:26) (FIG.8). On this diagram two springs are apparently indicated as two small circles to the east. A narrow strip of land leads southwest from the springs, approximately along the same old road indicated on a map of 1946 (FIG.9.1). At about Mill Street it bends to the south to end as a large trapezium. I believe this southern portion to be part of the farm Warmebad, and by projection includes the environs of Church Street (Mrs. Brand first brought this to my attention). According to Sleigh (1993:542) the farm was about 7.4 km from the bath.

As a knowledgeable farmer, Appel had built his home above the flood plain of the Bads River. He probably also erected a small dwelling for guests nearby, about 15 minutes walk from the springs. He did not build a guesthouse at the springs on the hill itself, and therefore the appellation "Appel's House" is incorrect for the old ruins.

When governor P. Noodt was carried in a chair to the baths in 1727, a hut of straw (*strooihut*) was erected for him (Sleigh 1993:543). And J. Rhenius still stayed in a tent in November 1739 at the baths (Ibid.:544). Indications are therefore that the stone and clay building of the government was erected after this date.

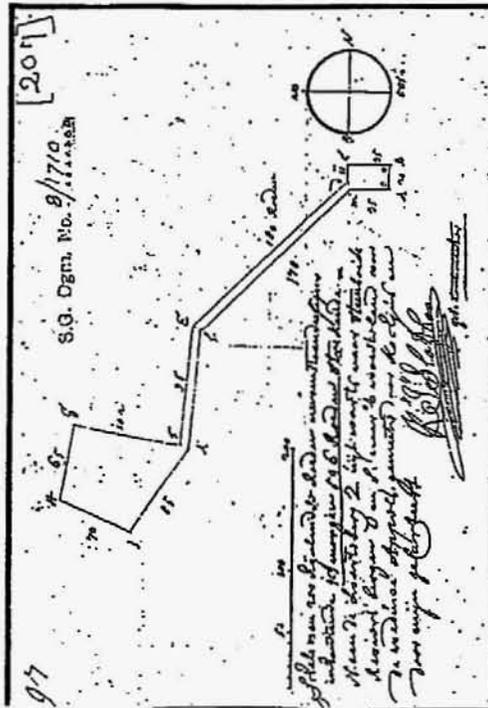


FIG.8 The Appel grant of 10 March 1710 includes two springs, while a strip of track (about 18 m wide) connects them with the large farm of Warmebad in the south. This later became the town of Caledon (Cape Archives, copy in Caledon Museum).

4.4 THE OLD VOC BATHS: 18TH CENTURY

4.4.1 Erection of guesthouse c.1740

It is uncertain when the Stellenbosch College of Landdrost and Heemraden took over the *Bronbult* - probably not too long after Appel's death. The traveller O.F. Mentzel, who stayed at the Cape from 1733-1741, mentions that the hill was under their supervision this time, and was supplied with few amenities (Marais et al 1944:50-51):

In these mountains there is a warm spring highly thought of by the inhabitants of Africa: also recommended by the hospital doctors to the officials of the Company - in certain cases and prescribed for treatment. The results have been very satisfactory, but it is a pity that the Government does not provide better accommodation for the bathers. Lately a solid building has indeed been erected there, consisting of a vestibule, two large rooms, a kitchen and a small room for the use of the caretaker. This building, however, is generally too small for the many visitors who come there in summer. Those who arrive too late to find a place in the two rooms, have to make themselves at home in the vestibule or on the ground or camp in a tent. A doctor is needed to instruct patients in the correct use of the spring, and also to provide them with proper medicaments. The building which is situated on the slope of a mountain suffers much damage from the penetrating water and one room in particular is very damp and musty. Every patient has to have his name entered in a book kept for that purpose. From this book it appears that every year up to 200 patients stay there. The bath is about 100 yards from the dwelling-house. It is about 4 fathoms long and $1\frac{1}{2}$ fathoms broad: two sides are sunk into the ground, the other two being walled. The water is run into it through a gable by means of furrows, and has an outlet from the bath. The bathers stand up to their necks in the water but they cannot, until they get used to it, stay in longer than eight or ten minutes because they might faint. For this reason, nobody bathes alone for one would then be entirely without help and might easily collapse and drown. After using the water, the bathers lie down to perspire, this process being aided by drinking some of the warm water. Usually a person bathes twice daily, some even thrice. Two other nearby springs are provided with huts only and roofed with brushwood; these are intended for slaves and Hottentots. The water in the springs contains no sulphur, but only ferrous and vitriolic matter and deposits ochre when flowing away. Hardly fifty yards below the warm springs, there is a cold spring whose water is of a very fine flavour. The worst of all is that the patients, if they do not bring their own servants, obtain very poor service or none at all; besides, they have nothing to eat except what they bring with them, or fetch from the neighbouring farms to cook for themselves. The soil around the warm spring would be fertile enough for the planting of some greens and vegetables, for the surrounding herbs and shrubs thrive well and grow very sturdily and luxuriantly; only nobody takes care of it.

Mentzel recounts that a substantial building was erected, which consisted of a hall, two large rooms (on either side), a kitchen and a small room for the caretaker (see also Booyens 1981:23; Prins 1983:178-9). This was probably a completely new structure and we presume that it represents the ruins just below the *Caapse wagenweg*. From here on it will be referred to as the government's VOC Guesthouse.

The bath proper was situated 100 yards (91 m) down the hill, and was a long rectangular construction (about 7.0 m x 3.5 m) built-up on two sides (with stone), whereas the other sides were merely dug into the stony mountain. Hot water was canalised by means of furrows through the one gable, and filled the bath to a depth of about 1.7 m (Booyens 1981:24). I presume this bathhouse to have been in the vicinity of the features marked (A.40-42) (see FIG.3). According to the interpretation of Prins (1983:179) the bath was 91 metres down the road and measured 7.5 m x 2.8 m.

By 1734 the *Zwarte Berg boven het Warme Water* also served as a signal post, with a knight of Michiel Otto as the first signalman (Prins 1979:133; Muller 1992:219). Rifles or fires were initially used, as a cannon was too burdensome to haul over the mountain. According to Sleight (1993:543) the fifth cannon in a series was stationed here by 1734. Later signalmen included Piek, Radyn, Malan, Heyneman, Janssens, Delport, Van der Poel and Marais (Prins 1979:134-8; Muller 1992:236).

4.4.2 Report of the 1770s

About forty years after Mentzel, the botanist and doctor Karl Thunberg recounts in 1772 that the baths are primarily fed by two sources. An open canal takes the water "into a boarded hut, where there are a few steps on which the patient may sit as deep in the water as he chuses (sic)." He continues that the "Company has caused a brick house to be built here," and that the rooms (2) are "parted-off by means of sail-cloth into many small cabins," though most live as in times gone by in their own tents and ox-wagons (Thunberg 1975:110).

In 1775 the Swedish traveller Anders Sparrman, aged 28, gives us the most comprehensive description of the structures (Forbes & Rudner 1977:148-176). He describes the government guesthouse as being built of stone, consisting of "a hall, two large chambers, a kitchen and a little chamber, all with earthen floors" (ibid.:148). The *post-holder* or overseer occupied the small chamber, probably only big enough to accommodate a *katel* (bedstead). Overcrowding led to guests sleeping in the hall, or the loft, which means that the building had proper beams and a ceiling (but no clay *brandsolder*; Vos 1993:210).

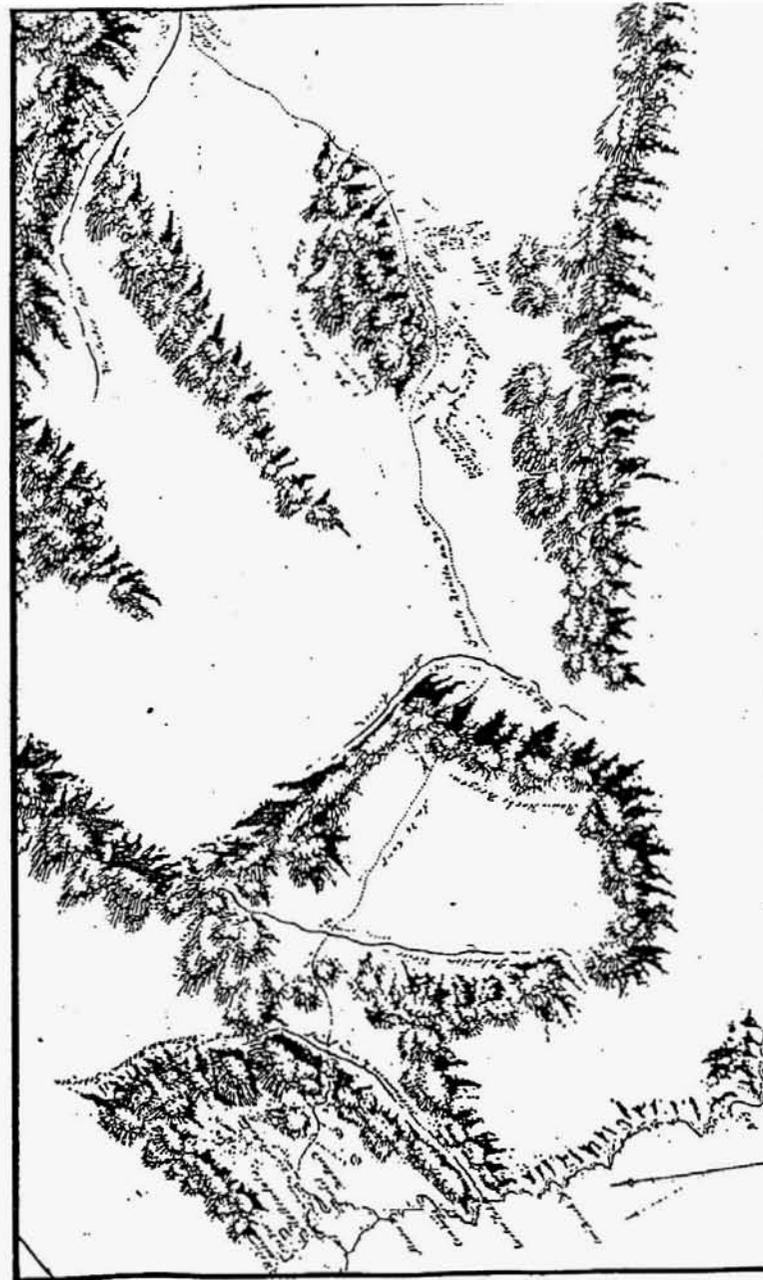


FIG.9.2 A map of 1788, with additional details up to 1814, was drawn up by surveyor Wernich. Note how the main route passes south of the Swartberg. Two roads bypass the VOC Guesthouse (C.A., copy in Caledon Museum).

He gives a detailed description of the bathhouse or *Yzer Baad*, about a 100 paces lower down. It is quoted in full (Forbes & Rudner 1977:148-149):

At the distance of about a hundred paces from the dwelling-house, is the bathing-house. This is a cottage, two sides of which are for the greater part under ground, and into which the light enters only by a few small peepholes. The length of this cottage is from three and a half to four fathoms," and its breadth a fathom and a half. At one end of it there is a cistern or pit, a fathom and a half square, and two feet deep. The warm water is brought a little way under ground from its source, till it comes out from above into one of the gables of the house, where it afterwards runs through an open channel one fathom in length, from which it comes pouring down into the cistern in a stream an inch thick. By this contrivance, indeed, the expence of stone and brick-work is saved, but then probably an opportunity is given to the most subtle and efficacious particles to evaporate.

Note this structure measures about 7.2m x 3.6m, built with endgables, a water canal (in lime) with no windows except ventilation holes, a 9 ft square pit and 2 ft deep. This description is very similar to the one Mentzel gave 40 years previously, except that people now sat in the shallow bath, instead of standing in it. Nearby two hovels enclosing a pit each, served as baths for the slaves and Hottentots. Two open wells are in disuse, though one has the strongest spring and is quite close to the main building (Ibid.:150).

He mentions an outcrop of ironbearing tufa (his "lava"), 15-20 paces above the bathing-house, which could be a landmark. A portion of the road bisects the outcrop, causing a blackish powder to form (Ibid.:157, 158). Herbs and shrubs were numerous, including irises (edible *uytjes*) (Ibid., op. cit.). A little hut of hurdles stood near the bath, inhabited by a *Hottentot bastard*, his wife and his daughter (Ibid.:160, 176). The gardens were enclosed but nonetheless damaged by porcupines (Ibid.:161).

Sparrman alludes to persons dying from drowning after going off in a swoon (Ibid.:149), and also mentions a slave who succumbed to a disease. According to the practice of separate amenities at the Baths, coloureds would have been buried separately from the colonists. This has an important implication for subsequent events.

From about 1777 to 1783 Eglidius Hartwig was stationed here as *posthouer* by the government (Sleigh 1993:546). Note that the southern route passing the Baths were the main route to Swellendam (FIG.9.2).

Kaartje van De Situatie van het Waarme-Bad, gelegen Over Berg aan De Caap De Goede Hoop, ~ 1788



Over de Landt Waarnich 1788

FIG.10 The government's outpost at Waarme-Bad, was properly surveyed by J.W. Wernich in 1788. See text on next page for interpretation.

4.4.3 Late-18th century

Towards the end of the 18th century we have at least two accurate drawings of the old government baths, the first done by surveyer Wernich in 1788 (FIG.10). Just below the old Cape road lay the old VOC Guesthouse, with slight protrusions (lean-to's?) on the west and north of the T-shaped building. This generally agrees with the old ruins. Rectangular kraals and stables are shown towards the east, of which portions of enclosing walls were found on site. Two roads diverge from the guesthouse. One leads to the gardens, watered by a spring, where vegetables and fruit would have been cultivated for the visitors. The other road leads to the main bathhouse. This road, though much overgrown, was identified through some old pines flanking its upper part. A bathhouse lower down served the slaves and free-blacks. A few other hot springs are identified.

As the VOC was on the verge of bankruptcy, the Baths were already rented out in 1793 (Booyens 1981:27). Two years later the bathhouse was described as a "slight and miserable shed", while the water ran primarily in an open canal (Ibid.:28). A certain Jan B. Nigrini was appointed caretaker of the bath, without pay, but his carelessness soon produced unfavourable reports (Prins 1983:180). He was appointed by the early 1790s, but led such a debauched life that he was probably sacked by 1797 (Sleigh 1993:547, 548).

There is evidence that other buildings by private owners were also erected at the Baths or near it. Councillor O. de Wet was given permission to build a house for his family at the Bath in 1791, whilst burghers H. de Wet and C. Brand asked for the same privilege in 1792. To assist the poor, a widow C. le Sueur offered to erect a building at her own cost at the Baths in 1794 (Ibid.:547-548).

1788 WERNICH PLAN:

1. *Groote Roette na d. Caap*, confirming it as the main highway. Further on it becomes the Cape ox wagon road.
2. *Uyt deesen Berg of hoogte vloeid 't warm water.*
3. At the *brambult* a stream of warm water is cut by the road. Is this approximately the course to the present swimming pool?
4. Old road to the farm *Warmebad*.
5. Two springs or pits for *warmwater*.
6. The main rectangular Bath for the colonists, with walls and a roof.
7. *Den Bad voor Slaverin* - a covered(?) slave bath.
8. Path leading to the VOC Guesthouse. Note the trees lining it.
9. Signs of a large dam with at least two streams leading from it.
10. The VOC Guesthouse of c.1740, called 't *Woonhuijs*.
11. The stables (roofed over?) and open kraal.
12. Two small structures which could be dwellings or bathhouses.
13. A cold spring which watered the vegetable gardens.
14. A road linking the gardens with the Guesthouse.



FIG.11 Probably the most remarkable drawing of the Old Baths was made by H.J. Klein in 1799 (Fehr Collection, Rust & Vreugd, Cape Town). The letters represent:

- a The Bathhouse
- b The Old Bath
- c Cemetery
- d The New Bath
- e The Bath for Slaves
- f Stables
- g The passage to Swellendam
- h The passage to Cape Town
- i The black Mountains

Major alterations were undertaken at the Guesthouse in 1793. Wood was brought from Zoetemelks Vallei, and building materials included 60 glass panes (for two double casements), which were for additional windows. White lead, red paint, linseed-oil for woodwork and whitewash for the walls were also brought (Ibid.:547).

In a fine drawing done by the artist Klein in 1799 we are given a detailed look at the old Baths with all its associated structures and natural features at the close of the 18th century (FIG.11). (Incidentally, I drew attention to this drawing in my letter of 21-3-1988 to Mrs. Brand). Structures include a guesthouse (whose T-shape is betrayed by a chimney) with typical half windows in the hall and with two double casements in each of the comparatively large side rooms. Steps lead up to a stoep, with small pillars and a railing, indicating a substantial difference in height. A lean-to of some kind to the east has an entrance on the stoep. A gable door confirms the presence of a loft where people also slept. The kitchen would have been at the back. A rectangular structure and a tall pole may have served as a drinking trough for animals or was it a baboon perch? A stable and a fenced kraal are reminiscent of earlier ones depicted in 1788. Another stable/coach house/smithy/dwelling is also indicated (F1).

Is Klein correct in his identification of the bathhouses B, D & E? The old rectangular bathhouse (B) is practically windowless. Could it be feature A.51? Keeping in mind Wernich's plan (FIG.10), can it be the old Christian slave bathhouse? It directly faces a cemetery (C), where coffins are partially exposed. Building D is indicated as the New Bath (the one for Europeans), with another crude bath for slaves and Hottentots (E). A more detailed survey of the area would certainly cast more light on these problems.

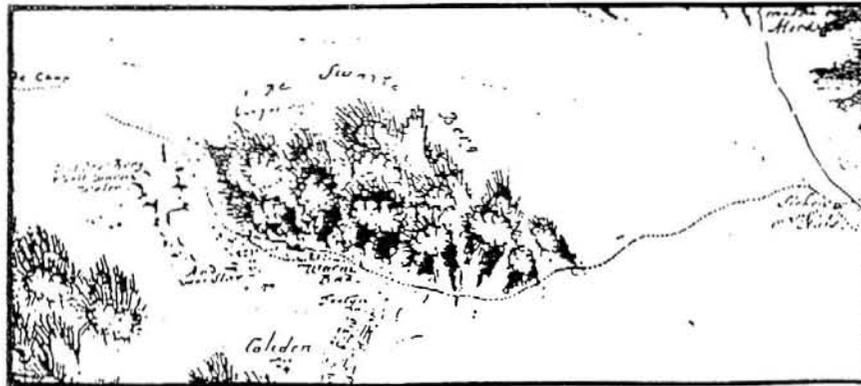


FIG.9.3 Enlargement of Wernich map of >1788 (FIG.9.2). Note the T-shaped VOC Guesthouse, bath for slaves, garden and Caledon buildings.



FIG.11.1 Close-up of the VOC Guesthouse soon after its renovations (1793). Smoke billowing from the hearth chimney, indicates that the kitchen was located at the back. Note that the stoep is only half the width of the dwelling. Prior to 1793 the facade probably had only one double casement on either side of the voorhuis. On the right a lean-to appears to have been added.

FIG.11.2 Klein identified "e" as the bath for slaves with a *balie* or something similar at the top of the roof. Was the building made of wattle and daub? Building "d" certainly served as a bathhouse, as it had an enddoor.



4.5 THE FARM WARMEBAD

4.5.1 Early-18th century

Directly southwest of the old VOC baths lay a very old farm, Warmebad, where Appel erected certain buildings. Some time after Appel's death in 1717 the government took control of the property, so that by c.1730 it was in charge of the northern and eastern portions. It appears that the southern portion of the Warmebad was earlier given in private freehold (see Burrows 1994:8, 9). A farmhouse down here was mentioned as early as the 1730s, and noted as a lodge for visitors from then on. Not having been to the Deeds Office, I presume that the southern or lower part of Appel's freehold represents the farm Warmebad. It had rights to the old springs from the beginning, leading afterwards to great disputes.

4.5.2 Late-18th century

After a personal report by the landdrost of Stellenbosch in 1796 (Booyens 1981:29), the Baths were soon afterwards, on October 13 1796, leased by Martin Wolferum, a retired Commissioner of Civil Services and Marriages. He had bought the farm Warmebad next to the Old Baths in 1794 for 6000 rixdollars (Prins 1983:181, etc). Wolferum was a keen entrepreneur and by January 1795 had obtained permission to erect a bathhouse (completed in 1797) on his own farm. Where this bathhouse was, is unknown. It was probably on or near the *Bronbult*. No guests were to use it without permission of the government, since its own bath should receive priority. Wolferum could supply meals and lodgings against payment on his farm. Ultimately, this became the site of the town of Caledon. After his appointment in October 1796 as the government caretaker, he agreed to keep the government Guesthouse and bath in good repair, free of charge (Booyens 1981:29; Prins 1983:182).

But what was it like to stay at the Baths? We find a vivid description in the diary of Mrs. Johanna Duminy during October 1797 (Franken 1938:131-138). Her whole family lodged at a house with a kitchen, for she prepared huge amounts of food for them and others. Her indisposed husband liked to hunt, a favourite pastime from the earliest years. He brought in buck and wild fowls, while duck's eggs and tortoises were also consumed. Much food was also brought from afar (Booyens 1981:29-32).

Wolferum entertained many visitors, *inter alia* the famous lady Anne Barnard in 1798. After the Barnards stayed over on his farm in the valley, they were transported by oxwagon to the warmbaths on Thursday, May 10th. Because so much is romanticised about this spirited lady, her full account is given (Robinson 1993:326):

Having expressed a wish to see the Baths, Mr. Wolfram took us in the Waggon, the ascent is high, and the Stone of the mountain so full of iron that there is 70 lib (lbs.?) in 100. The government House consists of three or four rooms which could be divided so as to contain a dozen or two of Invalids, but there are bare walls only at present. An old Woman kept the House and a young one left the room as we entered it, she seemed to have been crying and Mr. Wolfram told us a Major Edwards lately gone home had married her *privately*, and that she had recently heard of his having married again in his own Country which made her take on greatly. I believe Major Edwards has *not* married again, but I fancy Major Edwards was married *before*, and has reckoned this only an Union in *Africa*.

The Bath water is introduced in its own Stream into a small House where there is the bathing place. I put my hand in it and could just hold it there, it is reckoned hot enough to boil an egg but I do not think it is so.³⁴ Mynheer Wolfram mentioned a melancholy accident of a Hottentot boy who had been cured of some ailment and had asked leave to go in by *himself* for the last time, he was so well, that he was permitted, they supposed he had fainted in the bath, but it was not used for some days, no one missed him and on opening it to clear the water they found his Body boiled to rags as he said, but I could not quite believe him. The water is so strongly impregnated with Iron as to dye any thing pale yellow that is washed three or four times in it; I took a Specimen of it in a Calabash, the only bottle that resists the Jolting of the waggon. I have a little plan of making them very useful. In the Kitchen I admired a very picturesque groupe, a Hottentot woman in her Ornaments, a Boor, little Charles, and different Slaves of different Countries all collected together, but the Boors figure supinely smoking his pipe, first looking at the Hottentot he was accustomed to see, and the English woman he had never seen before, would have been in itself a picture.

Note that she never actually bathed herself. She reiterates that the old government house with its four rooms could be subdivided (with linen) to accommodate several people. Also note how the kitchen served as a gathering place for all races and creeds.

By 1798 Wolferum decided to sell his farm Warmebad to Meyer for the princely sum of 35 000 guilders (Prins 1983:182). He moved to Stellenbosch where he started a famous boarding house in Church Street, at what is now known as D'Ouwe Werf (Smuts 1979:214; Van Huyssteen & Meiring 1979:52). The new owner of the farm, militiaman Frans Meyer, spent more time on grain cultivation, horse and cattle breeding, than maintaining the baths, as per his agreement. He also kept a vineyard and either sold the grapes to the sick or used it for distilling brandy (Prins 1983:182-3, 508).

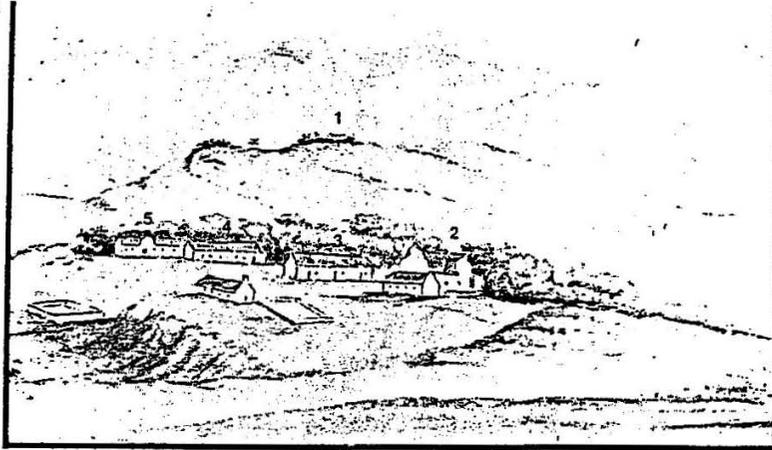
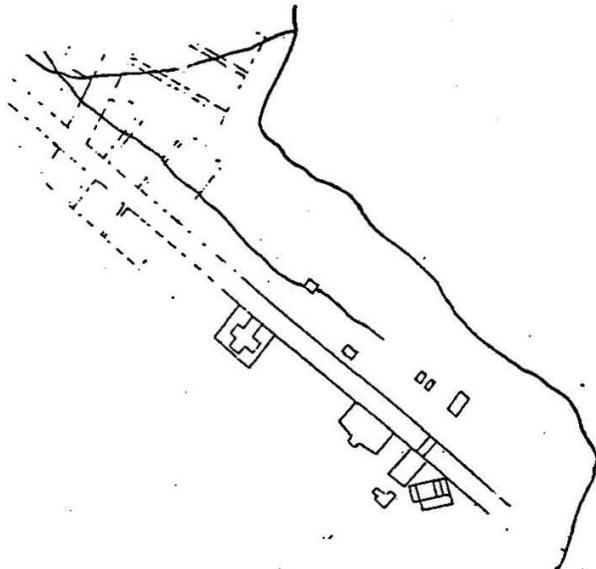


FIG.12.1 Rademan's farm Warmebad was depicted on 12-10-1802 by Ross (Burrows 1994: frontispiece). The view is towards the northeast with the VOC Guesthouse at the top (1). Trees line the Bads River behind the six buildings and two kraals. Note the gabled dwelling, which is the main homestead. Buildings 3, 4 or 5 could probably represent the Kemp outbuildings in Church Street.

FIG.12.2 Compare with a close-up of the 1812 projected plan of Caledon. It is quite difficult to match the building with the plan (see also FIG.64).



4.5.3 Early-19th century

During Meyer's caretaking little improvement was made to the Old Baths, and in about 1801 he sold it to P.J. Rademan, somewhat of a lazy scoundrel, always game for a fast buck (or rixdollar!). Like the previous owners, he also offered lodging to visitors on his farm, but this facility was seldom utilised during his time. When Dr. Hässner bought and built the New Baths immediately south of the Old Baths, the trouble began. By accident the surveyor Wernich included the western springs, grazing area and the Warmebad bathhouse in Hässner's land, although it in fact belonged to Rademan (Burrows 1994:84). This dispute was only settled in 1809 when the well-known surveyor Louis Michael Thibault with other officials inspected the site and found Rademan's claims to be valid. A beacon was shown 8 roods or 96 feet within the farm boundary that included Wolferum's bathhouse. The latter was found to be old and dilapidated, as was most buildings on Rademan's farm (Prins 1979:42-45).

All these disputes came to a head because the Cape government wanted to buy Rademan's farm Warmebad for 30 000 guilders in order to establish a town, the Klein Zwartberg, on it together with church, Drostdy and official homes. For this purpose the dilapidated buildings of Rademan were described in a report of December 1810 (Wilson 1984:20-4) as follows:

1. "A small dwelling house in a ruinous state containing two rooms almost unfit for occupation, a small hall and a kitchen".
- 2,3. Behind the house were two buildings, each 40x16 ft (12.2 mx4.9 m), and each divided into 8 apartments. Of these, two were used as barns and the other rooms rented to visitors to the baths.
4. Nearby was an old mill.
5. To the right of the house was a stable
6. And a small wine cellar.
7. On the opposite side of the Bads River was a granary in a reasonable state.
8. There were also vast orchards, grainfields, vegetable gardens and vineyards. A brandy still in copper had to stay on the farm.

A saddlemaker, who rented a room from Rademan (buildings 2 or 3?), was permitted to stay on (Prins 1983:50, 51).

On 21 December 1810 the farm Warmebad became the official property of the colonial government, with Hässner as temporary custodian. A drawing of the farm Warmebad was made in October 1802 by Ross (FIG.12.1), detailing the long buildings, kraals and main house of Rademan (Burrows 1994: Frontispiece). Comparison is made to the c.1812 plan of the later Caledon (FIG.12.2).

4.6 ESTABLISHMENT OF CALEDON: EARLY-19TH CENTURY

4.6.1 Existing buildings

From the core of the Warmebad buildings, the town Kleine Zwarteberg developed, to be called Caledon only in 1813.

1. The wine cellar was converted into a temporary church, and this structure is believed still to exist in Church Street. It forms part of Mrs. Kemp's property, and it has been much altered and modernised. The first service was held on 12-3-1811, and in July 1811 the first nagmaal drew 102 wagons and carts, the church filled to overflowing. This building was used as a church until 1813, when the new *Kruiskerk* was completed (Prins 1983:53, 58, 61).
2. The dilapidated dwelling was altered and renovated for the new parson, Michiel Christiaan Vos. Repairs to the above two buildings were extensive, costing 3000 rixdollars (Ibid.:60). The parsonage was unfortunately destroyed by fire in 1818, and perhaps ultimately demolished (Wilson 1984:24).
3. The nearby grain store was given three new interior walls to convert it into a dwelling, consisting of a sitting room, bedrooms and a kitchen for the clerk (Wilson 1984:24).
4. The "Oude kafhok over het rivier" was repaired and a lean-to added for two horses, for the use of the sexton (Ibid.). The location of this building is unknown, though there is speculation that it could be the old house at Paradise.

4.6.2 New buildings

A number of new buildings were also to be erected in the newly created Church Street. In 1812 Burssinne surveyed the area and projected the new church and 17 plots unto a map (Wilson 1984:25; in her Appendix 1, 195 she incorrectly attributes it to Voorman) (FIG.13.). Note that the "elbow" formation of Mill Street was not implemented, when compared to the 1823 plan (Ibid.:196) (FIG.14). The houses of the Landdrost (1812) and doctor (1815) were uninhabitable by 1823 and were therefore sold, and presumably demolished (Ibid.:24, 25).

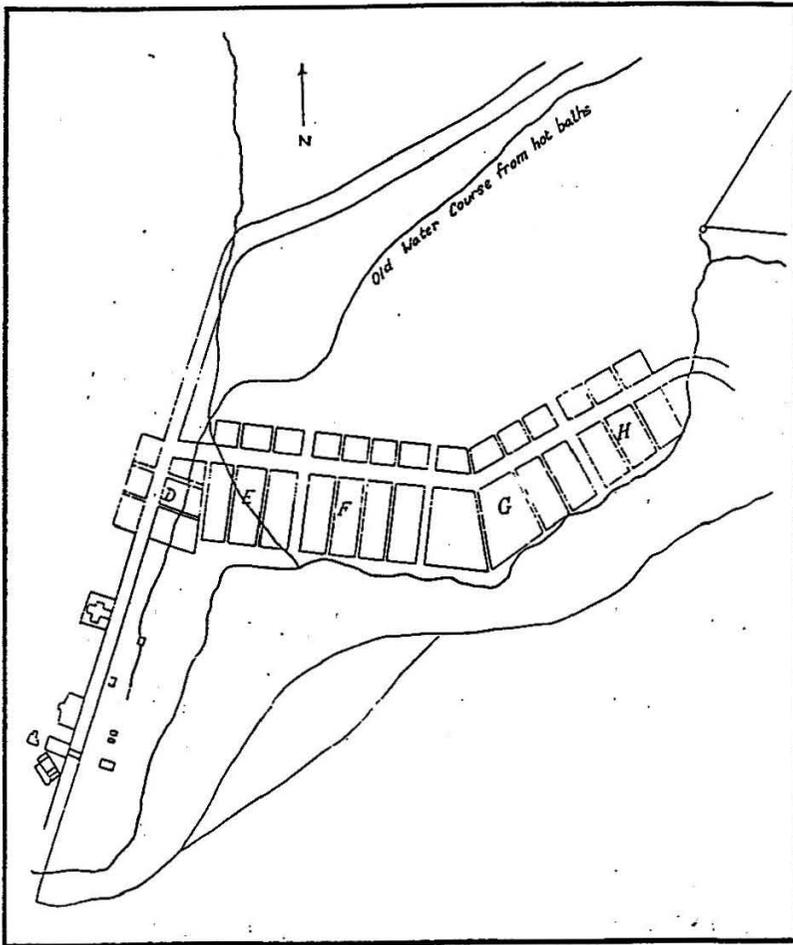


FIG.13 In c.1812 Buissonne surveyed a projected plan of Klein Zwarteberg onto the Warmebad buildings and environs. The position of the Church (1) is certain, and building 2 probably represents a bathhouse or mill, fed with run-off water from the hot baths (Wilson 1984:25, Appendix 1:195).

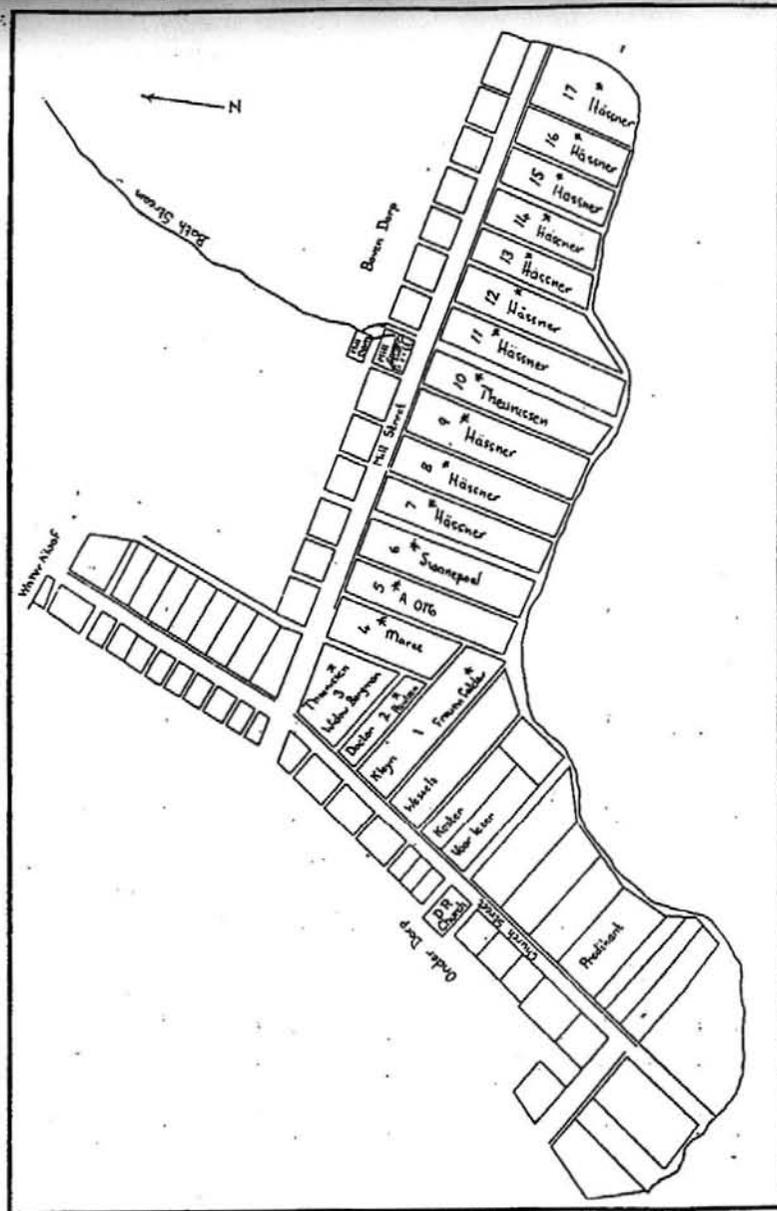


FIG.14 A plan of c.1823, where Mill Street is straightened and the plots enlarged. 17 Plots run right up against the Bads River. The names of the original buyers have

5 THE OLD AND NEW BATHS: 1800 - 1990

5.1 THE OLD BATHS: EARLY-19TH CENTURY (PRE-HÄSSNER)

Prior to Hässner's coming, the Old Baths continued in their ramshackled way. The owners of Warmebad, who were supposed to oversee the Old Baths, were more interested in their own affairs and pocket.

In 1801 a certain Robert Semple affirms how an open furrow fed the warm water into a small building with one room. It was divided in two by means of a low wall, with a one metre deep cistern, 1.5 m square, at the far end. By means of a plug the bath could be filled or emptied. A bed or *katel* was provided, over which a buffalo hide was stretched and nailed (Booyens 1981:33; Burrows 1994:84).

A few years later in 1803 a German adventurer Friedrich von Bouchenroeder reported that the government VOC Guesthouse was completely inadequate, but it could house at least a dozen visitors. Household utilities were still not provided, though the new owner of the adjacent Warmebad farm (Rademan) continued the tradition of lodging guests and supplying them with victuals. Nonetheless his services were rarely made use of, primarily because of the distance involved. Friedrich mentions that the bath was a mere 30-40 paces (previous visitors mention about 100 paces) from the government house, which was not generally supported due to its inconvenient situation (Ibid.:33-34).

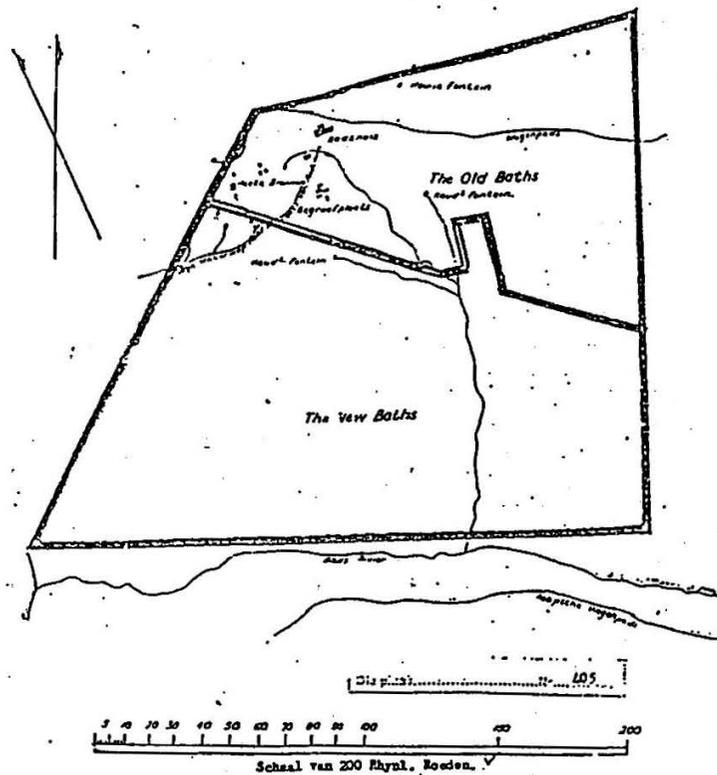
In 1803 Heinrich Lichtenstein found the government Guesthouse decrepit, household utensils rare, and the beds in a poor condition (Prins 1989:183). The bathhouse consisted of two chambers with a bath, with *sofas* to recline on (Booyens 1981:34-5).

5.2 THE NEW BATHS: THE HÄSSNER-PERIOD 1805-1820

5.2.1 Dr. J.F. Hässner

A new era was introduced with the coming of Dr. Jan Frederik Hässner, born in 1764. He was a medical doctor who hailed from Breslau in Germany, and came to the Cape in 1785 in the service of the DEI Company. After serving in the Company Hospital, he moved to Paarl in 1786 and in 1791 became District Surgeon at Graaf-Reinet, but in 1795 returned to Paarl (Pretorius 1992:45-48).

After a visit to the Baths in 1804, he was so shocked by its condition that he wrote a full memorandum to the government. In it he outlined how the Baths should be maintained and expanded with new facilities (Booyens 1981:35). The VOC Guesthouse was cold and clammy, and leaked in winter. Overcrowding was common, with up to 20 persons in a room, divided by sailcloth. No toilet (*secret*)



Afdeling van Caledon.

Bovenstaande Figuur is gelegen onder 't Stellenbosch District syde over 't Rottantota Hollands

Gebeyte sander Zwarts Berg geleegene Eenden met een Terrajin Lands ter

Gezeeten door wy

(Get.) J. V. Wernich.

nr. 96/1805. ✓

FIG.15.1 In 1805 Dr. Hässner obtained a large grant of land (the New Baths) immediately south of the Old Baths, over which he had the caretakership till 1820. Note the acute triangle on the far left. Along the northeast side an old clay wall was built which is marked in red (Surveyed by J.W. Wernich, 1805, 55 m 20r², Deeds Office no 96/1805, copy in Caledon Museum).

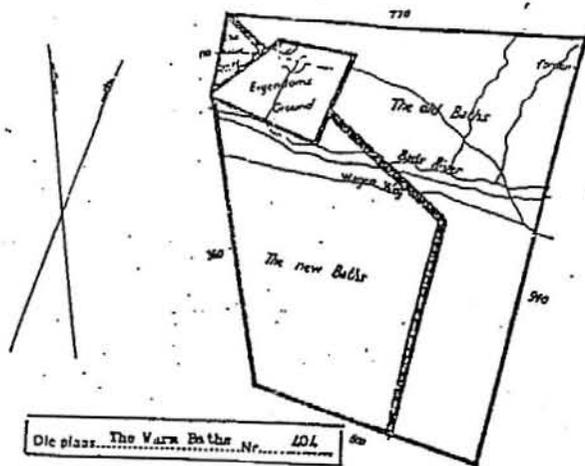
was available. The slaves had only holes for baths and slept in the open (Prins 1983:183-4).

After much negotiation, Hässner was granted the old lands, springs, VOC Guesthouse, and bathhouse from the government in 1805, together with an additional 47 hectares of land. Numerous conditions were imposed (Booyens 1981:35-6; Prins 1983:186-7) (FIG.15.1).

Hässner saw that the old Guesthouse was just too far away. On 25 October 1805 the first stone of the New Guesthouse was laid during ceremony (Bosman 1943:110). It had to be completed in 18 months. Numerous other constructions were also planned, viz. a separate morgue, a walled graveyard, stables, fodder rooms and quarters for servants (Prins 1983:186). In 1806 war broke out at the Cape and his wagon, oxen and four slaves were commandeered as a result. Consequently he was impoverished and asked for assistance from the government (Sleigh 1993:548-9). Most of the projected constructions were completed by 1811 (Booyens 1981:36). A vast organisation of caring for the sick, the maintenance of buildings, and agricultural activities required a team of 40 slaves (Pretorius 1992:52). During this period Hässner's daughter (16 years old) married Major McNeil in 1808, while Hässner's wife Jacoba had a son the next year (Ibid.:45-46).

This hectic building programme was very tiring and Hässner was rather indisposed at 46 years of age. In 1810 he tried to sell his farm and the Baths, but permission was withheld by the government until such time as he could find a medical replacement (Prins 1983:188-9). Again in 1813 he petitioned for a refund of expenses incurred for buildings that he had erected, but apparently without success (Booyens 1981:36). He brought about 10 plots in the newly laid out Caledon village and on 4-11-1814 received an additional grant of 1067 morgen (Edwards 1979:62) (FIG.15.2). Also compare this to more recent maps of Caledon (FIG.15.3, 15.4)

A short summary of the New Guesthouse and graveyards follows.



Afdeling Caledon.

Bovenstaande Figuur groot 1067 Morgen & 439 quad. Rooden is galegen in het District van Zvullanden en aldair naeds Kleins Zwarte Berg.

Gemaekt en gecarteerd door

H. F. Schutte.

gewonen Landmeter.

grecopieerd door

(Get.) Jn^r Melvill.

Govt. Gen. Land^r

Nr. 373/1814.

Afskryf van kaart waarna verwyte word
 is... G.R. ... Nr. Dval. Q. 1-6
 gedateer... 1.11.1814.
 17.1.1966

vir afrekening
 van kassie.

KW/73

FIG.15.2 An equally important map of 1814 shows both the old grant of 1805 and the new grant of 1067 morgen 439r². Note the name Bads River (Surveyed by H.F. Schutte; Deeds Office no 373/1814, copy in Caledon Museum).

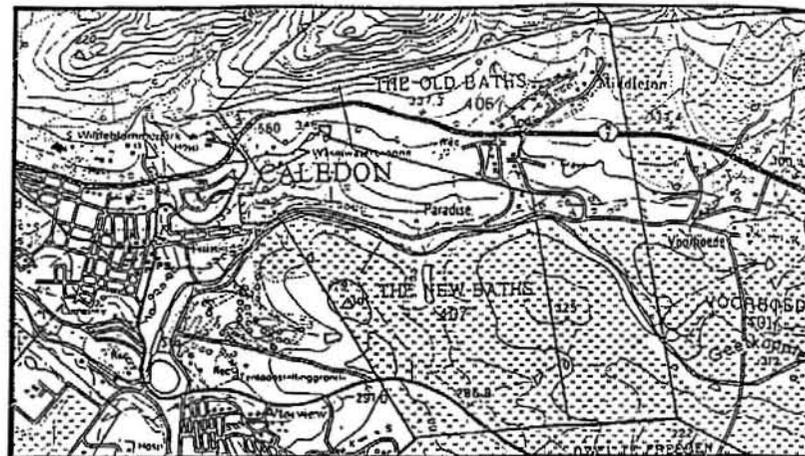


FIG.15.3 A recent map still displays these general boundaries (Surveyor General, Mowbray, c.1960).

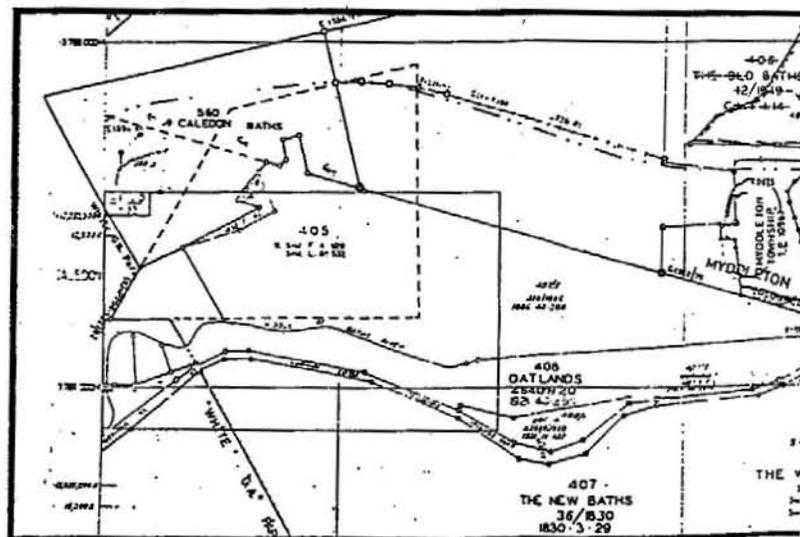


FIG.15.4 The old boundaries are also shown on this map of c.1980 (Municipality of Caledon).

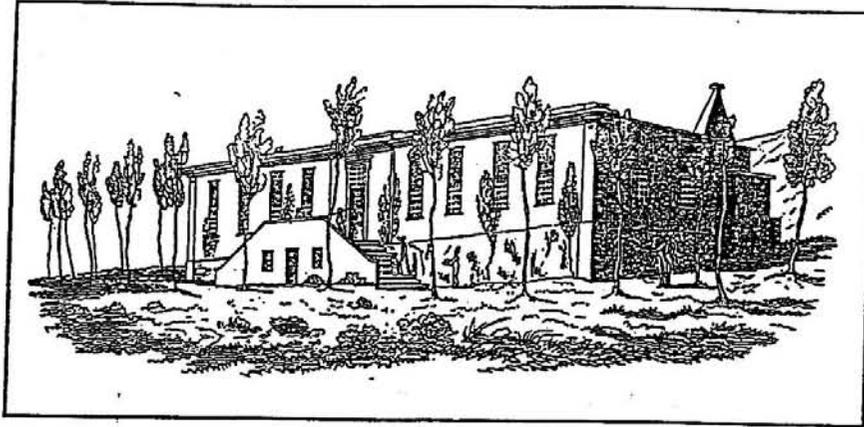
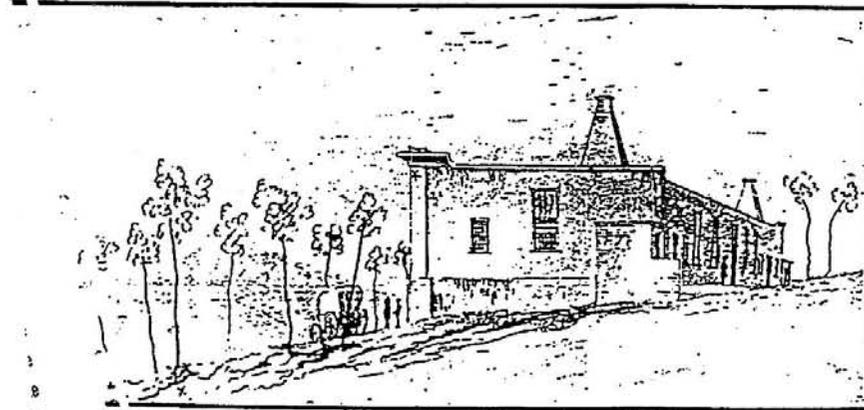


FIG.16 The well-known drawing of the New Guesthouse, by W. Burchell in 1811. Note the high plinth, built up with rough stone. An avenue of poplars line the front (Burchell 1968:4).



the little known drawing by Burchell depicts the side and back with the Toren in the background. It appears that the four baths (with double windows) were originally part of the building, while the single sashes (or windows) were present rooms. We know that the baths were later transferred to a building at the back, which was later connected to the building by means of a passage. Note the two chimney stacks for the kitchens. Moreover, on either side of the building were two secretes or toilets (copy in Stellenbosch Museum).

5.5.2 The New Guesthouse and baths

This building was the most impressive and is well recorded. According to a drawing submitted by Hässner in March 1805, it was quite substantial. It measured 212 x 26 ft (64.7 x 7.9 m) and included a hall, a long passage and 14 rooms, each to be furnished with a bed, table and two chairs. It also incorporated a separate room and bath for the governor, a dining hall of 40 x 18 ft (12.2 m x 5.5 m), four kitchens and a room for the governor's servants. The four (separate) bathrooms at the back were supplied with hot water (one with cold water) by means of a built and covered canal. An annexe (61.5 x 24 ft or 18.7 x 7.3 m) included three rooms, a kitchen and a passage for use by sailors and soldiers (Prins 1983:184-5). The original land grants together with these plans are vital for a correct interpretation of the site.

By now the widowed Captain Duminy visited the Baths regularly. In February 1808 his account for 88 days (nearly three months!) included meat, bread, milk, offal, fat, vinegar, cabbage, butter, wine, and candles for lighting (Pretorius 1992:52). A rather unhealthy diet, which might account for the overweight burghers, who died relatively young. In November 1810 he again visited the Baths, first booking in at the old VOC Guesthouse and afterwards at Hässner's new lodge. Here the rooms were numbered, for he mentioned "a room no 6" (Franken 1938:169, 173).

In April 1811 William Burchell made a few important sketches (FIG.16, 17) of the Baths, and gave us this commentary: "The Bath-house came in view, and had a very pretty effect, being a white, regular flat-roofed building, pleasantly situated in an elevated part of the southern slope of the mountain (He incorrectly refers to its erection date as 1797). The Bath-house stands close under the small, flat hill ... and the water is conducted down to it by a covered channel... It consists only of a ground-floor, divided length-wise by a gallery which opens towards the front into eight small rooms; and, towards the back, into four baths, together with a kitchen and servants' rooms at each end" (Burchell 1953:69, 71). He alludes to the "original baths, which ... are merely a few small huts on the eastern side of the springs" (frequented by) boors, slaves or Hottentots" (Ibid.:72).

Caretakers of the bath were appointed by Hässner and the government from at least 1811 onwards (Prins 1983:189). A new set of very interesting regulations were issued by the government for the baths in 1813. No. 13 stipulates that the damaging of doors and windows, as well as inscriptions on these, are strictly prohibited. Because very little control was exercised over the hundreds of annual visitors, vandalism and theft must have been a major factor in the upkeep of the buildings with these limited amenities (Booyens 1981:39). For example, in a report of 1824 it was found that 36 panes of the old government house and 31 panes of Hässner's bathhouse were broken (Ibid.:41).



FIG.18.1 M.J. Klein's drawing of 1799 depicts at least six coffins, all exposed to the elements. It was probably a discouraging sight for the crippled and sick! (William Fehr Collection, Rust & Vreugd).

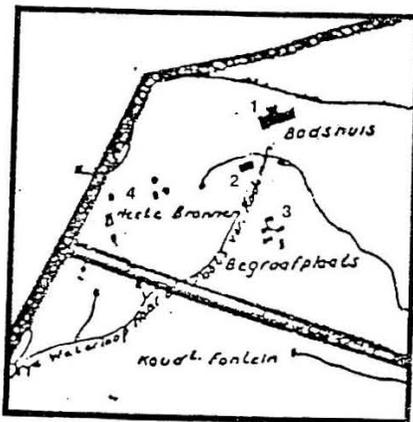


FIG.18.2 In 1805 this graveyard was clearly portrayed by Wernich, though the graves/coffins are disproportionately large (Deeds Office, copy in Caledon Museum).

- Key: 1. VOC Guesthouse
 2. Main bath
 3. Graveyard
 4. Hot springs

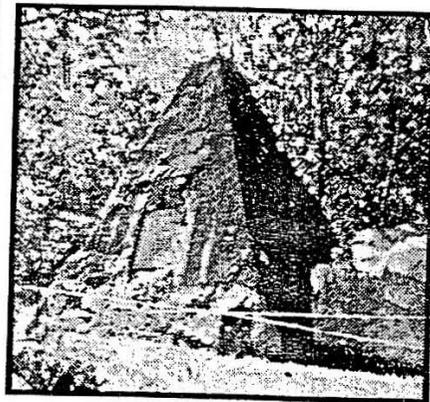


FIG.18.3 In 1979 the tomb was already in bad condition (Edwards 1979:25).

5.2.3 The graveyards at the Baths

Prof. Bun Booyens (1981:37), who has visited practically all the hot springs in the country, points out that many of the sick never returned, but were buried in graveyards which are found at all such places. Early deaths here were that of C. Gerlach, substitute landdrost of Swellendam in 1767 and a slave Rajjaeka of Madagascar in 1770 (Sleigh 1993:543). Travellers mention how visitors drowned (1775, Forbes 1975:149), or died of their diseases, e.g. a slave in 1775 (Ibid.:153). A case of suicide is recorded in 1810 when a slave of Mr. Eksteen of Swellendam hung himself in the (old) bath, after an illness of 6 months. He was subsequently buried at the baths (Franken 1938:173). Settled families west of the Overberg who lost a loved one, preferred to take their dead along with them. In 1825 a Rousseau (of Blaauwklippen or Zorgvliet) took back his deceased wife by wagon (Bosman 1943:111).

For those who died in earlier times, there must have been a graveyard. Our earliest clue is in the 1799-drawing by Klein (FIG.18.1). The graveyard adjoins one of the small bathhouses, with the coffins (or slabs) clearly visible. They were probably buried in rather shallow graves because of the stony soil. In the Wernich diagram of 1805 (FIG.18.2) a graveyard (*begraafplaats*) is indicated in approximately the same position, containing five graves.

During my brief excursion to the mountain, I could not locate this cemetery. Depending on the position of the bathhouses, it may have been destroyed by the activities of the National Manganese Mines in 1983. Towards the east of the Baths lies a graveyard, the work of Hässner, who in 1805 wrote of his intention to create such a facility. It was probably completed by 1810, and situated here because of the depth of black soil. Deaths were not uncommon and some Europeans were probably buried here soon afterwards. Due to the social customs of the time, it is highly unlikely that any one of another colour would have been interred here.

Today this site is well-known because of the unique pyramid tomb of Hässner's first wife. In 1979 it was in a sad state of repair, which was also the case with an adjacent, unidentified grave, rectangular, with rounded shoulders at about one metre above the ground (Edwards 1979:25) (FIG.18.3). When I visited the site in June 1987 these two graves were fenced in, overgrown (Vos 1987:8) and the site virtually forgotten. Though Hässner had bought numerous plots in Mill Sreet, Caledon in 1812, he probably continued to stay on his farm. Sadly, his wife died at age 48 while giving birth to twin sons on 14-2-1817 (Pretorius 1992:46). Prior to this another child had also died. These three children and his wife were entombed within this pyramid with the following inscription on black slate:



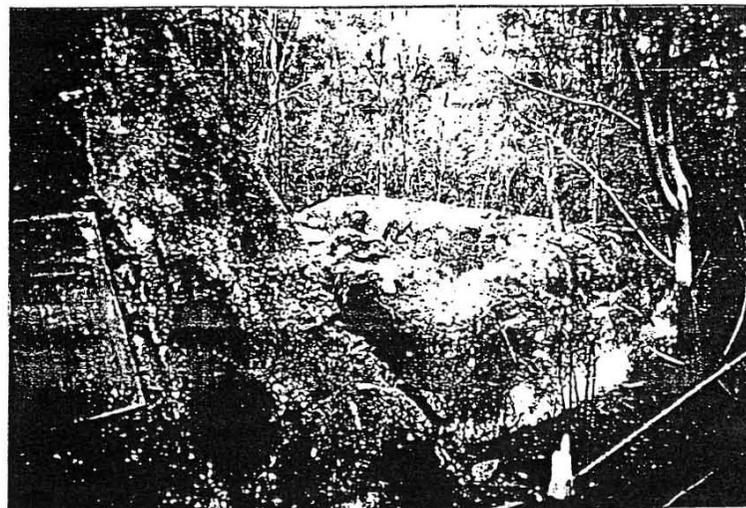
5. On a drizzly day in June 1987 we visited the site. Ianlie Pool tries to decipher the text on the pyramid tomb. Note that it was built with large ferruginous stone.

Hier rust met een Enig geboren en Een tweelings Soontjen Jacoba Elisabet Akkerman Huys Vrouw van Johan Federik Hassner gebooren den 26 Juny 1768 en Overleeden den 14 February 1817.

Now follows a "macabre" story, related by Edwards (1979:28):

Dr Hassner was completely distraught at the death of his beloved wife, and he would enter the tomb and open the coffins to gaze upon the embalmed bodies of his wife and sons. His friends, who feared for his sanity if he continued with this dreadful practice, had the tomb tricked and plastered up so that he no longer could enter. This whole sad event obviously affected Hassner's interest and initiative, for the baths house and buildings slowly became neglected and dilapidated.

The veracity of this tale is rather suspect, for Hässner in that same year (1817) married Martha Maria du Toit, a widow of Joseph le Riche, and from this union two daughters were born. Hässner lived for another three years and spent the last three months of his life in Paarl, where he died on 29-8-1820 (Pretorius 1992:46-47).



6. Southwards lies the rectangular grave, built of similar coarse stone. Note the thick walls and rounded shoulders (1987).

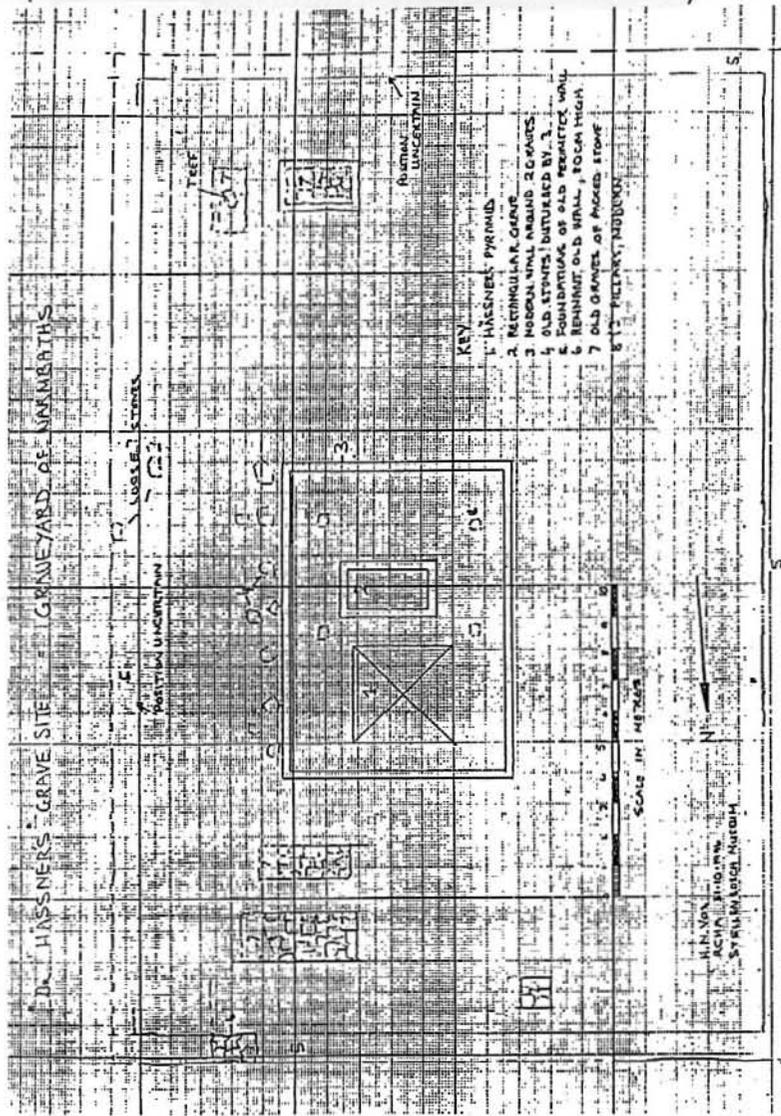


FIG.19 In October 1996 the following approximate drawing was made of the Warmbath's graveyard, measuring about 30 x 15 m. Apart from the two central graves a further 4-5 others were also discernable.

My recent investigations confirmed the existence of an old wall, now demolished, around the graveyard where 4-5 additional graves were easily identified near ground level (FIG.19). A portion of the old boundary wall still exists on the northern side. Unfortunately, a low wall was recently (1988/89) erected around the central pyramid tomb and the rectangular grave, and brightly white-washed! The pyramid was once white-washed, for Teenstra, who lodged at the New Baths (Bosman 1943:115), reports that he could see the white "grafnaald" out of the window of the long passage. A little to the north was situated another monument ("gedenkteken") to a woman (an effort should be made to locate this grave). The simple, built-up grave to the south has been rebuilt, the inner portion filled with soil, vases added and a green cloth draped over the mound. Four pillars, intended to support a roof, maintain a lonely vigil over the grave.

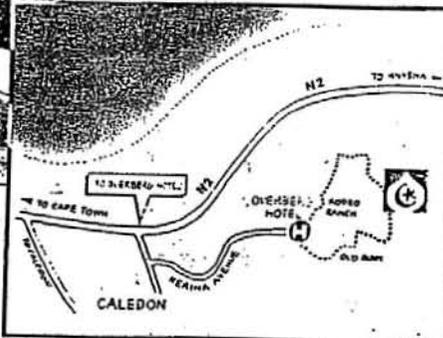
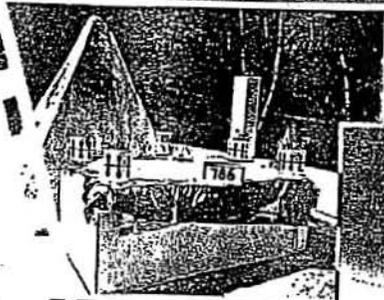
According to Mrs. M. Brand (pers. com. 8-11-1996), she in her capacity as curator of the Caledon Museum, with some friends in 1988 restored the dilapidated pyramid tomb with clays mixed according to old recipes. Not long afterwards she came across a Muslim man who demolished the grave next to the tomb completely. She mentioned that the black stones were typical of those of the mountain. He had the grave rebuilt in modern materials to its present form, including the boundary walls. I finally traced the name of the gentleman, a certain Mr. Hadje Benson (1988 address: Apollo Crescent, Woodlands, Mitchells Plain; via Mr. Koegelenberg, Caledon Municipality, 28-11-1996).



7. Northeast of the Häsner tomb, two rectangular graves at ground level were easily recognisable. Note the new (>1988) wall with baluster endings.

22 Sayed Abdul Kader

Caledon also has a Kramat. The man buried in this grave is Sayed Abdul Kader. The grave according to legend is mysteriously protected. During severe floods in this area, it was always this site which was never under water. The location of the bridge on the Caledon Road, adjacent to the grave, is said to have been forced upon the local authority. They tried to cut the road through the grave, but to no avail. After several attempts they had no option but to build the bridge.



If after main Caledon sign
Overberg Hotel. Directions
available at Hotel reception.

1 Kramat as identified in *Kramats of the Western Cape* (Jaffer 1996:58).

I have been informed (Nov. 1996) by Dr. Achmat Davids of Cape Town that the rectangular grave has been consecrated as a Muslim burial and holy shrine, but on what grounds is uncertain. Dr. Davids has done the historical research for the recent publication "Guide to the kramats of the Western Cape", in which the kramat of Caledon is also mentioned. The full text is given (Jaffer 1996:58) (FIG.20).

A few terms need explanation. According to the glossary in the booklet mentioned above (Ibid.:62-63) *Kramat* is a "name commonly used in the Cape for a tomb of a saint". *Sayed* is reckoned as a "descendant of the Holy Prophet Muhammed". The (green) "cotton sheet placed over a grave of a saint" is known as *chadar* or *ghllaf*. A full description of the death and burial of a Muslim man at the Cape is given by Du Plessis (1972:17-9). He also mentions green is the colour of the Prophet.

In order to understand the grave ceremony and the term *sajjid*, excerpts are given from the "Dictionary of Islam" (Hughes 1988:150, 556):

GRAVE. Arabic *qabr* (قبر); Heb.

קבר. The graves of Muhammadans are so dug as to allow the body to lie with its face towards Makkah; consequently in India they are dug from north to south. It is usual to dig a grave the depth equal to the height of the breast of a middle-sized man, and to make a recess at the bottom, which is called *lakh*, in which the body is placed. The body having been placed in this recess, it is closed with unburnt bricks, and the grave is filled with earth and a mound raised over it.

The Traditions of Muhammad, as well as the works of Muslim doctors, all teach that a dead body is conscious of pain, and therefore great care is taken to prevent any pressure upon the body.

'Amir relates that his father Sa'id ibn Abi Waqqas said on his death-bed, "Make a *lakh* for me towards Makkah, and put unburnt bricks upon my grave, as was done in the case of the Prophet" (*Sahih al-Muslim*, p. 211).

Safiy al-Tammār relates that he "saw the Prophet's grave, and the top of it was like a camel's back." (*Sahih al-Bukhari*)

Ibn 'Abbās says "a red cloth was placed upon the Prophet's grave." (*Mishkat*, book v. o. vi.)

Jābir says "the Prophet prohibited building with mortar on graves, and also placing inscriptions upon them." (*Mishkat*, book v. o. vi.) But notwithstanding this tradition (which is acted upon by the Wahhābīs), masonry tombs are most common in all parts of Islam, and form some of the most striking specimens of Muhammadan architecture. [TOMBS.]

SAYYID (سَيِّد). A term used for the descendants of Muhammad from his daughter Fātimah by 'Alī. The word only occurs twice in the Qur'an—in Sūrah iii. 81, where it is used for John Baptist; and in Sūrah xii. 25, where it stands for the husband of Zaliḥhah. According to the *Majma' al-Bihar*, p. 151. It means "lord, king, exalted, saint, merciful, meek, husband," &c.

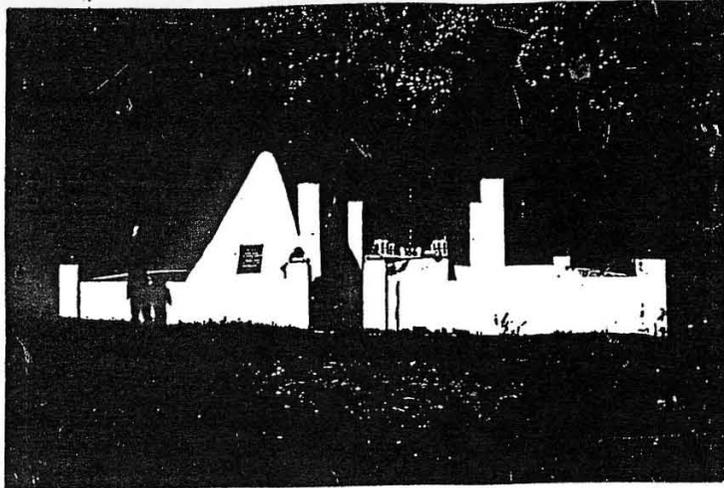
There are two branches of Sayyids—those descended from al-Ḥasan and those descended from al-Ḥusain (both the sons of 'Alī.)

These descendants of Muhammad are prayed for at every period of the daily prayers (PRAYERS), and they are held in all Muhammadan countries in the highest respect, however poor or degraded their position may be.

The term Sayyid is also given as a name to persons who are not descended from Muhammad, e.g. Sayyid Shāh, Sayyid Amin, &c., although it is a mere assumption. In addition to the term *Sayyid*, the term *Bādsāh*, *Shāh*, *Mīr*, and *Sharīf*, are applied to those descended from Bibi Fātimah.

The author of the *Aḥlāq-i-Jalālī* estimated in his day the descendants of Muhammad to be not less than 200,000.

Note that the term *sajjid* generally refers to a person of high status or rank. This is borne out by the chapter "Etiquette of visiting a Mazaar or Kramat" (Jaffer 1996:12-13), where it seems that only the *Auliya* or *Wali* (friends of Allah) are honoured with a shrine or tomb as a holy saint. Returning to the Caledon grave, it is uncertain where the name Abdul Kader originates. The story concerning him is certainly a legend -- the Rade River lies about 60 metres lower than the graveyard. Flooding to such an height would thus be an impossibility.



8. A view of the newly erected cemetery wall, the rebuilt "Muslim" grave with four pillars which were to have held a roof coping.



9. A close-up photo of the slate inscription on the tomb. It has been painted black and the carved lettering painted white.

According to the brochure given out by the Overberger Hotel, the gravesite is identified as follows: "Kramat is the muslim name for martyr [incorrect]. This person (name unknown) landed in Mossel Bay from India and on his way to Cape Town, ended up in Caledon. He became the personal servant of Mrs. Hassner". This statement needs to be corroborated by primary reference material. If so, it is highly probable that the grave would rather be that of a slave woman.

Immediately after Edwards' account of the "Hässner graveyard", she continues (1979:25): *Also near the hot baths are some Malay graves, which serve as a place of pilgrimage, but not much is known about them.*

This assertion is important for it shows that there was another distinct "graveyard", completely separate from that of Hässner's. It is possible that some confusion has arisen over the distinction between these two graveyards.

When the Dutch Reformed Church in Caledon was built in 1812, most of the people would have been buried around it, as was the practice in the Cape. When the church was demolished around 1951, many of the people were reburied in the town churchyard.

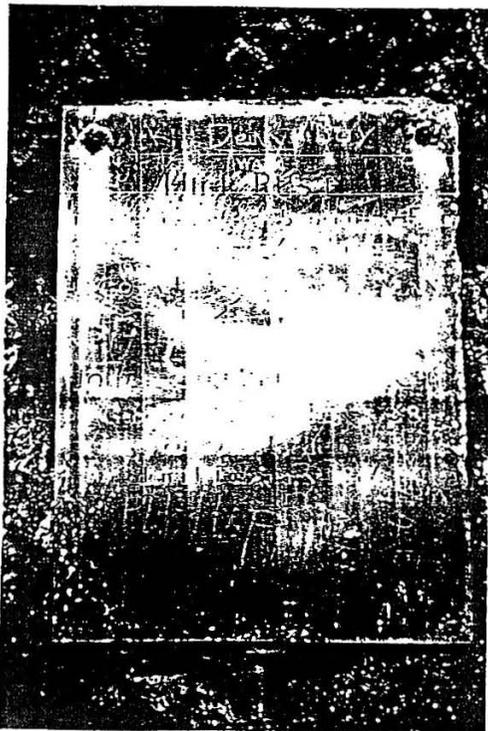
At the baths, separate bathing and lodging amenities were provided for coloureds and colonists. This was in keeping with the social and political contexts of the time. It should be borne in mind that by this time (c.1810-20) most people of the Muslim faith (primarily Indians or Malays) were generally slaves. Slaves were only emancipated in 1834. It is therefore highly improbable, but not impossible, that any coloured or slave would have been buried in the Warmbaths graveyard. Many farmers owned slaves since farming was labour intensive. Hässner was no different... In about 1810 he had employed one free Khoi servant as well as 18 slaves (Wilson 1984:14).

According to Mr. Mangiagalli (pers. com. 7-11-1996) there was in the *onderdorp*, up to a few years ago, a church cemetery, or a *slawekerkhof* as it was called in the vernacular. Here a number of Malays were buried, and a tombstone of c.1900 with an Arabic inscription survives. Unfortunately much of this site was destroyed by development during the early 1990s. Mr. Z. Cupido of Caledon (pers. com. 8-11-1996) has collected some information on this-issue. He informed me that in the whole Overberg there are between 30-40 Muslim families, some of whom visit the Hässner site at irregular intervals. Visitors from other provinces have also enquired about the position of the site.

Obviously this particular "Muslim" grave has been given a prominent status above those of the rest of the graveyard. Generally the Muslim community regards such graves as "powerful symbols of our forefathers' commitment to Islam, despite their

humble origins as slaves" (Jaffer 1996:21). If this is indeed a Muslim grave, then the status of this grave within the old graveyard should be re-negotiated. Historically and structurally the "new" boundary wall with Muslim emblems is inappropriate, giving the false impression that these are the only two graves and that the tomb of Hässner forms part of a kramat.

It would be my recommendation that the simple old graveyard wall be reconstructed, to emphasise that there is a larger context of mortuary remains. A cursory examination of the eastern (back) wall indicated that the ferruginous stones, similar to those of the other graves, have been disturbed. It might be that the foundations of the new wall were dug through earlier graves, or that the stones may be those demolished from the earlier standing grave. Careful investigation (excavations) will certainly bring other graves to light. The new boundary wall, as well as the four new pillars should therefore be demolished. The elaboration of the earlier simple grave should be reconsidered in the above context.



10. In 1987 we found the slate slab defaced with unsightly graffiti.

5.3 POST-HÄSSNER PERIOD TO PRESENT

5.3.1 Inspection reports and Brink

After Hässner left in 1820, the Old Baths reverted back to the government, namely the Orphan Chamber, Cape Town. They were leased conditionally to tenants like E. George and Thomas Kastelein (Wilson 1992:3). Inspection reports by officials were regularly kept. In 1820 a report described the following: a dwelling (probably the old guest house) with two separate toilets, an outbuilding, a menagerie (equal to a small zoo), a kraal for pigs and sheep, a slave room, a bath for Christian coloureds, a bath for slaves, a kraal built of stones and the large new bathhouse (Hässner's). The lessee had to provide well-furnished rooms, a billiard table, and have adequate provisions of Cape and European wines served with elegant meals (Booyens 1981:40-41). By 1824 all buildings required a whitewash.

It should be borne in mind that most of the landless Khoi were never slaves and retreated to missionary stations like Genadendal and Elim. Others worked for farmers and were absorbed as free labourers. In 1822 there were 107 slaves in the village with 84 free Khoi. In that same year a group of slaves and Khoi held an uproarious gathering at the hot baths for which they received corporal punishment by field cornet Kleyn (at this time about three thieving slave bands, 18, 22 and 33 strong, operated in the Hangklip area) (Wilson 1984:13, 43, 79).

In 1823 officer J.B.N. Theunissen gave the following description of the New Bathhouse:

De aarde van den berg is zeer hard, zwartachtig, vochtig op de oppervlakte en bij voortdurend zeer aanlevend. Op sommige plaatsen klinkt het even, als of men over een gewelfginge. In de helling van den zoo evengemelden heuvel staat een gebouw, van omtrent 120 of 130 voet lang en 25 of 30 voet breed. Evenwijdig aan het front is een gang, welke de breedte in tweeën deelt, en aan welks beide zijden de logeerkamers zich bevinden, die met betrekking tot hare ruimte en inrigting den naam van lokken verdienen zouden, bijaldien een schuifraam en het ledikant dezelve niet tot de slechtste soort van kamers deden behooren. Op het midden van den langen gang is een andere, welke het huis in twee gelijke deelen scheidt. Eerstgemelde wordt aan deszelfs beide einden door een schuifraam verlicht. De verdeeling en de slechte inrigting van het gebouw, de weinige en dan nog slechte meubels, waarmede het versierd is, doen hetzelve niet als een vrolijk en aangenaam badhuis

voorkomen, zoo als men die in Europa vindt, maar geven het al het droevige en afzigtelijke van een tuclhuis. Deze eigenschappen zouden wel kunnen te weeg brengen, dat de lijder, in weerwil van hetgene hij door den heilzamen invloed der baden zoude winnen, tot eene droefgeestigheid overloeg, waarvan hem misschien geene baden ter wereld meer konden genezen. Een gebrek, dat ook nog al van belang is, komt door den stand der badkamers achter het gebouw, zoo dat de lijder verplicht is door de opene lucht te gaan. Ledikanten of rustbanken worden er in de badkamers niet gevonden. Het groote gebouw is zeer vochtig door de natuurlijke gesteldheid van den grond, die van den hoogen kant bijna tegen de vensters komt. De uitdamping des mineraalwaters geeft eene aanhoudend dampige luchtgesteldheid, waar van de waterdeelen door den kalk zoo gretig worden opgeslurpt, en die, zich meer en meer met den kalk vereenigende, een soort van salpeterkorst doen ontstaan.

The bathhouse had a length of 38 m by 8 m wide with very small cubicles (*hokken*) on either side of a long passage, bisected in the middle with another passage. The baths at the back were separate from the building with no covered connection. As we shall see, this was rectified by 1825. Everything was dank and dark, and the whole place had more the appearance of a *tuchthuis* (penitentiary) (see also Booyens 1981:42-43).

One of the most interesting and accurate reports is that of a Dutch farmer and writer, Marten Douwe Teenstra, who at age 29 years visited the Baths in April/May 1825 (Bosman 1943:xlii-xv). First the Old Bathhouses on the mountain (Ibid.:119-120):

Het bovenbad, ook het oude bad genaamd, ligt hooger bij den *Zwarte Berg* op; het bad is een vierkante van hout gemaakte bak, van boven met den grond gelijk; ook zijn de trappen van hout gemaakt, gelijk ook eene kleine pomp, waardoor het water in de kuip of groeve stroomt. Hetzelve bevindt zich in een klein langwerpig vierkant gebouw, waarin men niets, dan 4 steenen wanden, en een' vloer van bergsteenen ziet, zoodat men eerst een' stoel, om te kunnen zitten, uit het naburig hierbij behoorende huis moet halen. Het badhuisje is hier zeer vuil en door de eeuwige uitwaseming der lekkende pomp zeer vochtig; in hetzelve is geene zoldering, men ziet dadelijk tegen het beschimmelde vol spinraggen zittende rieten dak omhoog; de spanten, die van populierhout zijn, vindt men hier zeer krom en oneffen. Op dezelve is, in plaats der bij ons gebruikt wordende latten, bamboesriet gebonden met riemen van beestenvellen, en het riet wordt met kabelgaren om de bamboesstokken vastgemaakt. Dit water is veel warmer, dan dat der benedenbaden;

Note the following: the main bathhouse was very dirty and moist, with numerous spiderwebs in the open rafters. All the walls were built of stone, as was the floor. Above the crooked poplar rafters bamboo slats were fastened with leather thongs, upon which the thatching reeds were sewn with yarn. In order to prevent leakage, the whole rectangular bath, was sunk flush with the floor and made of wood. The steps leading down, and a small pump or pipe delivering the water were also made of wood. He continues:

— Zeer nabij dit bad is het slavenbad, 10 à 15 passen hooger bij den berg op; het bad of de stoof is eene groote ronde kuip, in een klein hutje gemaakt; niet ver van hier is eene tweede steenen hut zoo groot als die van het Christenbad, alwaar de slaven hun verblijf houden.

About 15 paces higher up is the slave bath, which consists of a large barrel as bathing tub enclosed in a small shack (compare with Klein's drawing, building E, FIG.10). Nearby is another hut, built of stone, for the slaves. Teenstra used one of the baths as a footbath, and describes how difficult it was to reach it over uneven terrain, straggling through bushes and pools created by the run-off from the baths (Ibid.:120).

The old VOC Guesthouse was in a rather sorry state (Ibid.:120):

en het huis, waar de badgasten logeren, staat er zeker 50 à 60 passen af, hetwelk geene meubelen hoegenaamd, dan eenige oude stoelen en ruwe tafels bevat, zijnde de deuren, vensters, wanden, enz. met eene menigte namen en jaartallen ingesieden, welke zotheid men ook wel op onze Vaderlandsche torens, kapen, bruggen, enz. vindt. „*Nomina stultorum inveniuntur ubique locorum*,” zeggen de Latijnen, dat is: de namen der gekken vindt men op deuren en hekken.

About 60 paces from the old bath, the guesthouse was one large expanse of graffiti: all doors, windows and walls were engraved with names and dates of visitors! Nonetheless it still lodged Europeans (Ibid.:121). One gains the impression that the older, upper baths were used by all and sundry as they became progressively more dilapidated.

Teenstra also gives a vivid description of Hässner's New Guesthouse and baths (Ibid.:110, 111):

Het badhuis staat aan de zuid- of schaduwzijde van den *Zwarte Berg*, en is met veertien kamers, twee keukens (hier kombuizen genaamd) en eene provisiekamer voorzien. In de lengte is het met een' langen gang doorsneden, die hoog, donker en vochtig is, zijnde al het timmer- en metselwerk zeer ruw. Ook hier zoude men met den heer van *Rodenburgh*, die van het badhuis aan de *Olifants rivier* schrijft, kunnen zeggen, „dat alles te vergeefs om de verkwast gezocht heeft (*).” De kamers, die hoog onder verdieping zijn, hebben slechts één enkel half glasraam, en zijn holle sombere stoigaten. Van buiten is het huis beschilderd, alsof er hooge, groote gezigten in zijn, maar het licht komt slechts door een klein vierkant raam, dat nog geene Nederlandsche el in hoogte of breedte heeft, zijnde van buiten met een paar vensters voorzien. De akelige en bedompte kamers hebben een' aarden vloer, welke nu en dan met natten koemest geveegd en tevens geparfumeerd wordt, waardoor men den vloer digt en effen houdt. De weinige meubels zijn in alle kamers dezelfde, bestaande in een ledekant, twee stoelen en eene ruwe ongeverwde tafel; bovendien bekwaam ik ook nog, op herhaald verzoek, een koffertje, hier stelletje genaamd. De doodelijke stilte, die er in dit eenzaam en naar gebouw heerschte, de dikke, ruw besmetene en van onderen groen begroeiende muren, waarvan het omgeven was, deden mij mijn verblijf weldra als een fatsoenlijk gevangenhuis beschouwen.

Some interesting facts emerge. There were 14 rooms on either side of a long passage, with a kitchen at each end, as well as a storage room. All were thickly built in stone and roughly plastered, with green moss covering the damp walls. It was in dire need of a limewash. Though the building looked quite impressive with its tall "sash" windows in front, light only reached the small rooms at the back through windows of a 45-5 square

As the site became a burden, a portion of it was sold off by public auction in April 1827 to Johan G Brink, though the Old Bathhouse was kept for use by the poor (Wilson 1984:83; 1992:3). It included "the new large Bath House with the Baths attached, and detached dwelling house of Dr Hässner", including 391 morgen of agricultural land (Edwards 1979:6). As we have seen, two buildings stood below the New Bathhouse. During Brink's ownership (1827-40) a plan of 1830 shows these two buildings in line (FIG.21.3, 21.4). The New Guesthouse had incorporated by 1825 the separate bathhouse behind it, and is shown as a Latin cross. No other buildings or kraals are shown. During this period of stagnation the town (and Baths) were overrun by hordes of goats and cattle, while pigs polluted the water supply (Wilson 1984:47). After their emancipation in 1834 the former slaves became insolent and refused to take instructions, like Lena and Cobus, the two slaves of Brink. Cobus coveted the master's daughter of 14 years as wife (Ibid.:49).

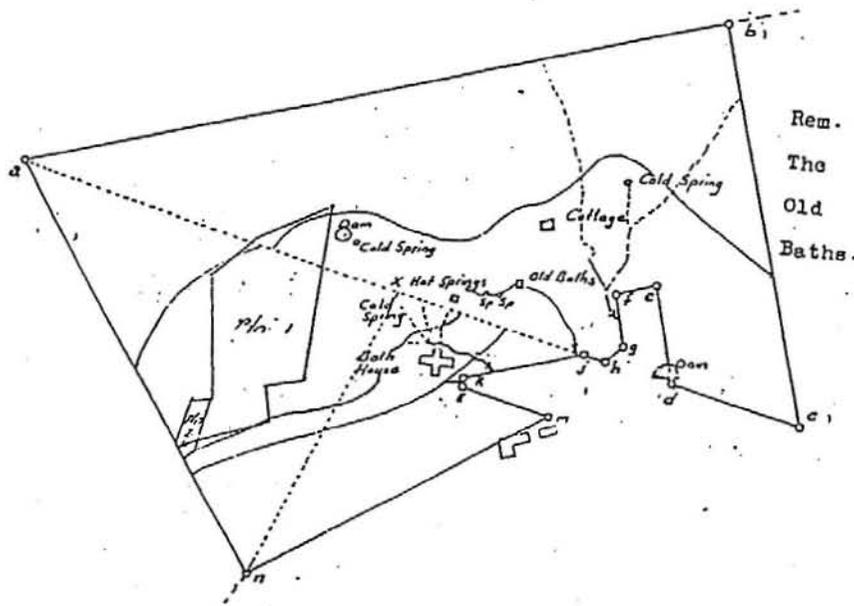


FIG.21.4 An enlarged view of the 1967 diagram (1830+1897). Note the position of the old dam (1), the cottage (2) and dam (3). They are



FIG.23 Another important sketch by D'Oyly dated 18-11-1832 shows the old VOC Guesthouse (1), two bathhouses (2), the New Guesthouse with its vaulted bathhouse against the back (3), the buildings of Hässner's old farm (4), Caledon in the distance (5) and the old Cape road (6) (Gordon-Brown 1968:85).

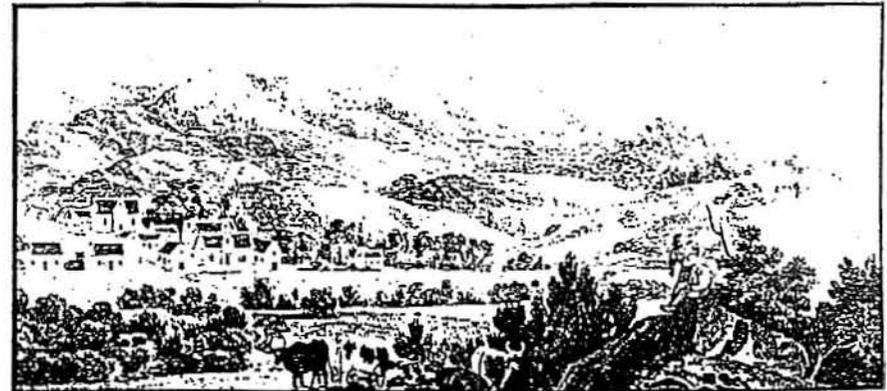


FIG.24 The village of Caledon with its neat buildings and two streets, as depicted by D'Oyly on 18-11-1832. Note the "Hot Baths in the distance" towards the right (Gordon-Brown 1968:84).

(1979:16) quotes her description of the "bath house", which is given in full from the original (Fairbridge 1927:66):

We got to Caledon at eleven, and drove to the place Dr. Shea recommended—an old country house of the Dutch governor, now inhabited by a ruined Indian indigo planter and his wife. She was ill and nothing ready, so I came to the Inn for the present, which I find is kept by an English ex-officer, Captain Davies, and a very nice lady-like wife, all very clean and neat. The old chateau is in a pretty spot; but do you remember the Schloss in the Neuer Munchausen? Well, it is that. A ruin;—windows half broken and boarded up, the handsome steps in front fallen in, and *all en suite*. The rooms I saw were large and airy; but mud floors, whitewashed walls, one chair, one stump bedstead, and *praeterea nihil*. It has a sort of wild, romantic look; I hear, too, it is wonderfully healthy, and not so bad as it looks. The long corridor is like the entrance to a great stable, or some such thing; earth floors and open to all winds. But you can't imagine it, however I may describe; it is so huge and strange and ruinous. Finding that the mistress of the house was ill, and nothing ready for our reception, I drove on to the inn.

It is not unlikely that this represents the old VOC Bathhouse. Surprisingly, she just makes one reference to the hot baths: "the water is all red from the ironstone, and there are hot chalybeate springs up the mountain which are very good for rheumatism" (Ibid.:69). She sums up the different population groups here: "the Coloured population is a sad spectacle, so drunken, hideous and sullen looking...I suppose blacks *up country* are what Dutch slavery made them - mere animals - cunning and sulky...there is one Malay tailor here, but he is obliged to be a Christian at Caledon (married to a *bastard* woman) ... the Germans work, while the Dutch dawdle and the English drink ... a poor little, very old Bosjeman crept up, and was jeered and bullied (Ibid.:68, 69; 71, 79, 81).

During the Church's ownership the old Guesthouse and bathhouses must have gradually collapsed through neglect, especially after the roofs fell into disrepair. They seem also to have been plundered for their building material such as beams, windows and stone. When we visited the site in 1987 a coloured family was still squatting there amidst the ruins.

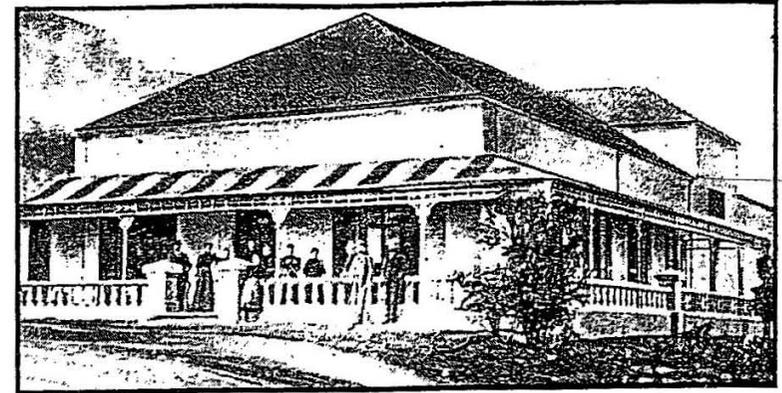


FIG.26 The simple design of the corrugated Victorian Sanatorium, with its charming two-tone verandah (Edwards 1979:20).

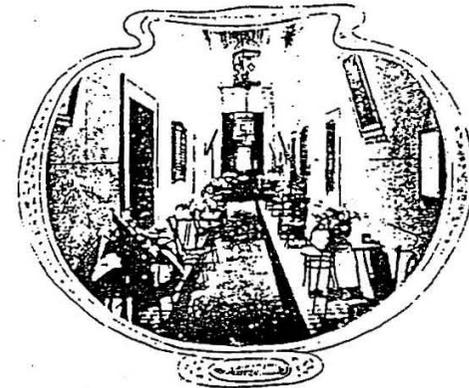


FIG.27 A depiction of the Victorian Sanatorium entrance hall (J.B.G. 1904:ii).

5.3.3 The New Baths: Private owners 1837-1897

Various private owners had the keep of the southern baths and land. Let Edwards again take up the story (1979:6): "In 1837 the Baths passed to one J.P. Needham, and in 1839 to Thomas David Richards, who subsequently went insolvent and the former proprietor bought back the property". Wilson (1984:107, 124; 1992:3) states that in 1842 George Miller owned the property for a year, after which J.S. Needham (retired Justice of the Peace) acquired it primarily for grazing purposes. From 1854 to 1863 a certain McKenzie did little for the dilapidated buildings.

A Dr. W. Morkel bought the New Baths (Hässner's flat-roofed building with 20 rooms) at an auction in 1863. It was probably he who erected the long Victorian building seen in early photographs (Edwards 1979:20) (FIG.26). Dr. Morkel misused the water rights to the chagrin of the Mill Street owners. In 1869 he watered his pumpkins with a stream and led other waters by means of a pipe under the foundations of his Bathhouse to waste in a field (Wilson 1984:124).

Just when were the New Bathhouse and annexe demolished? Indications are that it was situated just above the main parking area or close by. Mrs. Brand contends that the western wall of the swimming pool is of unusual thickness and may represent an old wall of the New Bathhouse. A thorough investigation would be needed to verify this statement.

It is my conviction that the New Bathhouse probably went to ruin as a result of neglect, dampness and the onslaught of the elements. Flat-roofed buildings are notorious for leakages and cave-ins. Note its sad state in 1825, 20 years after its erection (ch. 5.3.1). The baths behind it with their hot water seepage probably hastened the decay of the building. ~~After about 65-70 years this once proud building was demolished to make way for the Victorian structures of about 1863-1870.~~ Dr. Morkel's Sanatorium was provided with a low-pitched corrugated iron roof, and a similar verandah against the western wing. A verandah also stretched halfway along the south side (FIG.27).

When P.J. Bredenkamp bought the Baths and lands in 1878, he cut off the spring water from the townsfolk. This resulted in legal action that lasted a number of years (Wilson 1984:125-126).

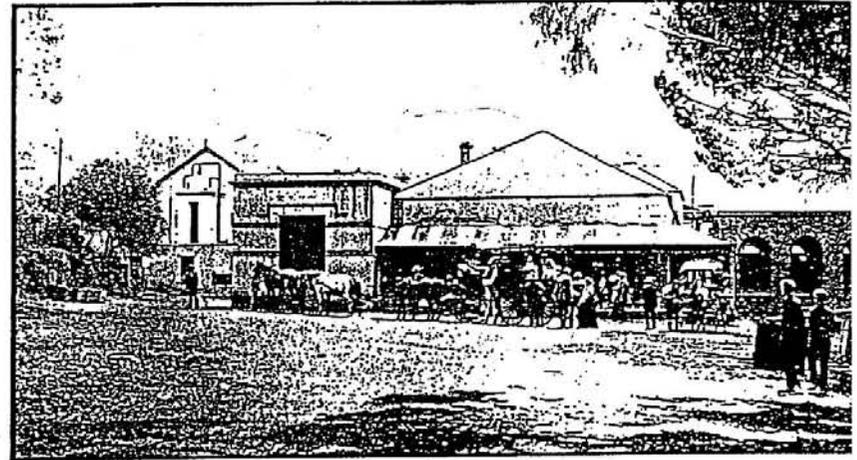


FIG.28 A flat-roofed building was erected at the back of the Old Sanatorium by the late-19th century. Note the "reservoir" atop the Duminy Conference Centre (J.B.G. 1904:against 18).

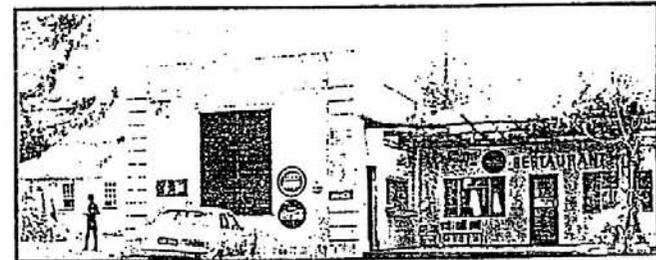


FIG.29 A more recent photograph shows how these buildings looked in the 1960s (Caledon Museum).

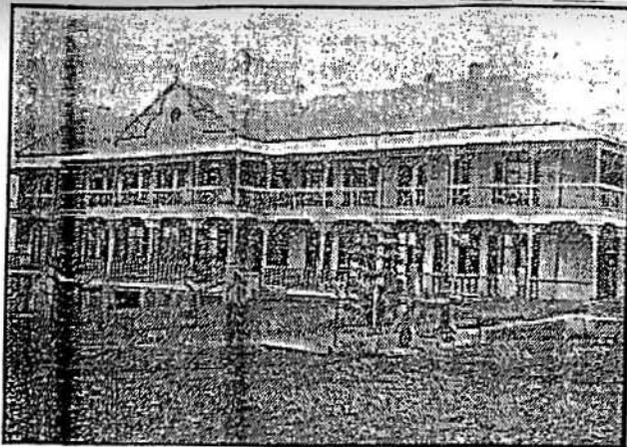


FIG.29 An early photograph of the East Wing Sanatorium built in 1892. The Norfolk pines were only about 2 m high. Note some kind of construction in the right foreground, approximately where the pit is now situated (Edwards 1979:5).

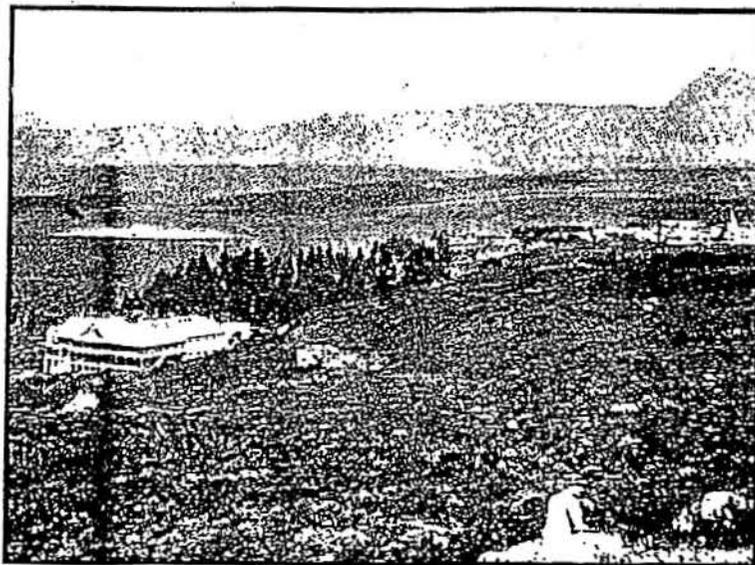


FIG.31 A photo of about 1900 shows the treeless *bronbult*, ruins, or a cottage above the East Wing, and a grove of bluegums at the entrance of the Baths (J.B.G. 1904:ii).

By c.1890 another rectangular building had been erected immediately north of Dr Morkel's Sanatorium, and more were added afterwards (FIG.28). By the 1960s the rectangular building had gained moulded pilasters and a parapet (FIG.29). The flat-roofed building had been altered into what is now known as the Duminy Conference Centre.

Prior to 1897 "the baths consisted of concrete holes some six feet square and three feet deep, sunk in the ground into which the bather descended by a flight of steps. These baths were supplied with water direct from the stream through a hole in the wall of the room, by removing a wooden plug admitting a three-inch stream of hot water, which soon filled the baths to overflowing" (Anonymous 1931:13; see also Edwards 1979:6).

The reference to concrete baths in this period is interesting. It seems that a cementlike plaster for waterproofing this site was developed quite early. Some of these baths and structures were encountered in my physical survey of the *bronbult*.

By means of "carefully closed earthenware-pipes", i.e. fully sealed, the hot spring waters were brought to the early Sanatorium baths. (Daniell 1897:14). Some of these pipes have been encountered on the hill, though broken and overgrown. Water from other springs were diverted by means of an open channel down to Caledon village (Ibid., op cit.). This rather large furrow is still clearly discernable near the western entrance, running amidst the bluegum trees.

5.3.4 The New Sanatoriums and Baths: 19/20th century

A complete revolution occurred at the Baths in the late-19th century. On April 24, 1897, the Diocesan Trustees of the glebe of Myddleton (> 1866) sold the Old Baths by auction for £7 000 to Messrs J.G. Walsh and W.J. Walsh (Edwards 1979:44). The meagre accommodations was immediately improved and a new East Wing, designed by architect Anthony H. de Witt, was erected (Ibid.:6; Daniell 1897:59). In front of this Victorian 3-storey Sanatorium three conifers were later planted, which have become stately landmarks by 1996. Note that the giant wild *ficus* was nowhere to be seen by early 1900 (FIG.30, 31).

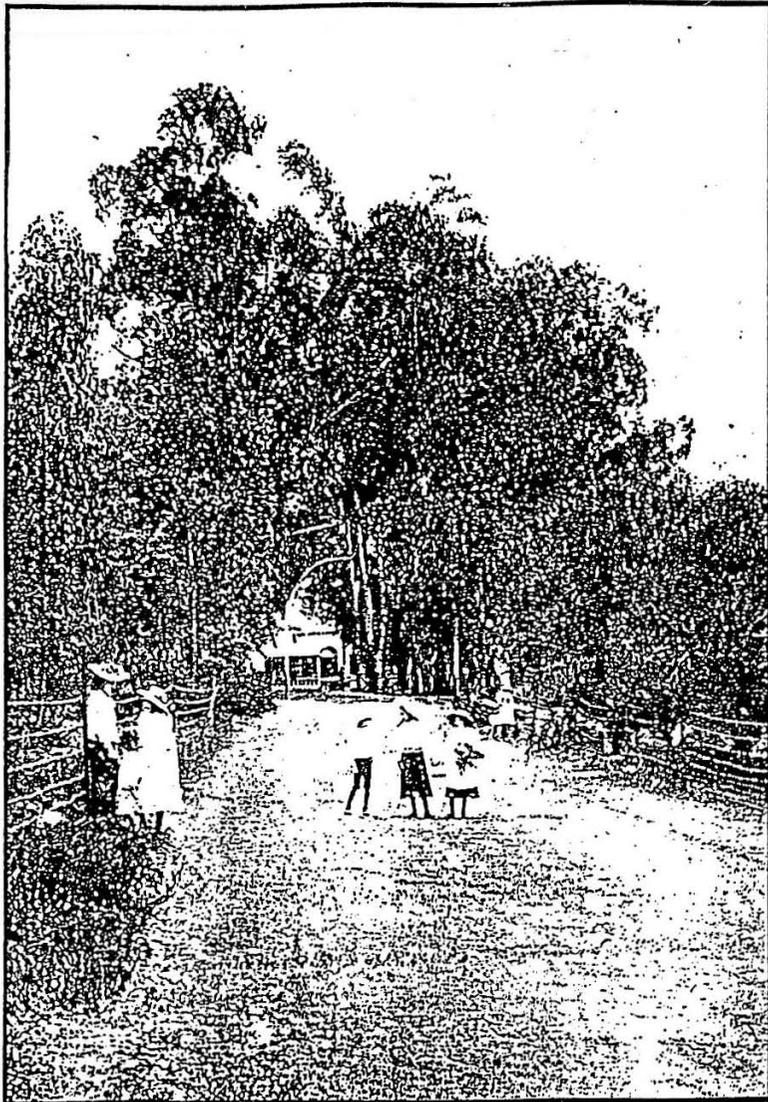
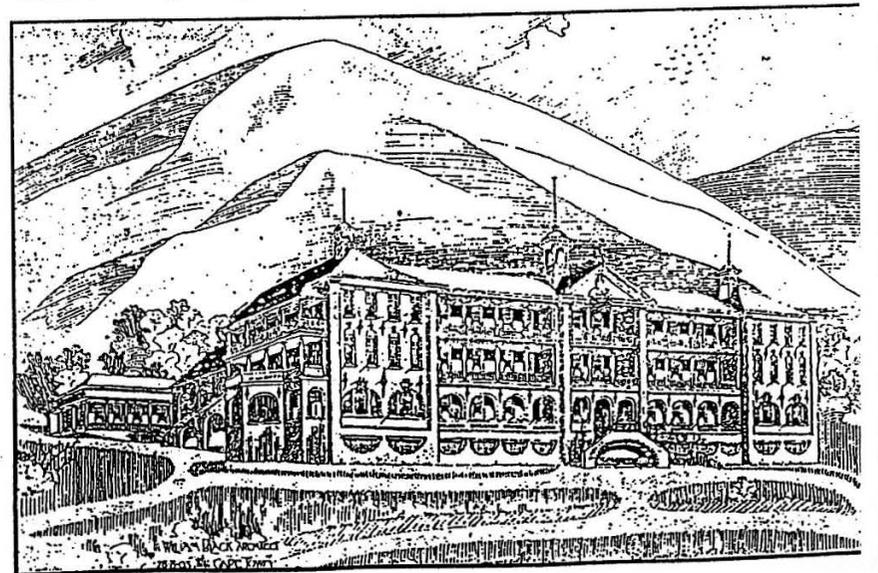


FIG.32 A nostalgic look at the avenue of bluegums leading to the entrance of the Old Victorian Sanatorium (J.B.G. 1904:26).

A detailed description of the new Sanatorium was provided prior to its completion in late 1897 (Daniell 1897:60-63). It was T-shaped in plan, the front facing north. This three-storeyed building, 50 ft tall, was over 200 feet long and 150 ft wide (height: 15.2 m; length: 61 m; width: 45.7 m). A "trinkhalle" or glazed kiosk was to be built over a cold spring, which was within five yards of the hot springs. Near the entrance, along the avenue of tall eucalyptus trees (Ibid.:60) (FIG.32), it was intended to build a swimming pool 80x40 ft (24.4 m x 12.2 m) with a sloping bottom (Ibid.:62). By 1904 this pool was still not built (JBG 1904:9). Today it is probably the most frequented and famous feature of the Baths. One may assume that it was built in c.1905. With no trace of Hässner's New Baths around, it seems unlikely that any part of the latter would have been incorporated into the pool's construction.

Since 1892 Caledon hosted a wild flower show, which later drew thousands of visitors, many who stayed at the Baths (Wilson 1992). With the coming of the railways in 1902, the Baths prospered, leading to the formation of a Company, the Caledon Baths Ltd. The South Wing, another four-storey building, (of which the basement was used for a laundry), was being built in 1902 and was finished by 1904. Architect W. Black was responsible for this magnificent Edwardian Sanatorium, replete with balconies and verandahs (FIG.33). It included a Grand Concert Dancing and Gymnasium Hall.



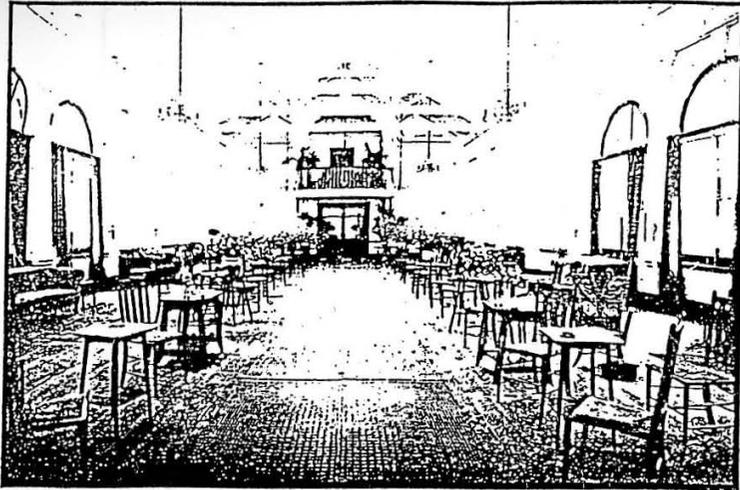


FIG.34 The Edwardian Concert Room of the South Wing (Playne 1910/11:113).



FIG.35 The Drawing Room in 1910 (Playne 1910/11:114).

two large dining rooms, an Entrance hall, and special rooms for Reading, Drawing, Writing and Billiards (2 tables) (JBG 1904:9) (FIG.34, 35, 36). Facilities for games included tennis, croquet, bowls and golf (Edwards 1979:6-8) (FIG.37, 38). Everyone remember the manageress of the Sanatorium, Mrs. C.M. Halls, a sister of the



FIG.36 The Drawing Room in 1904 (B.J.G. 1904:against 20).

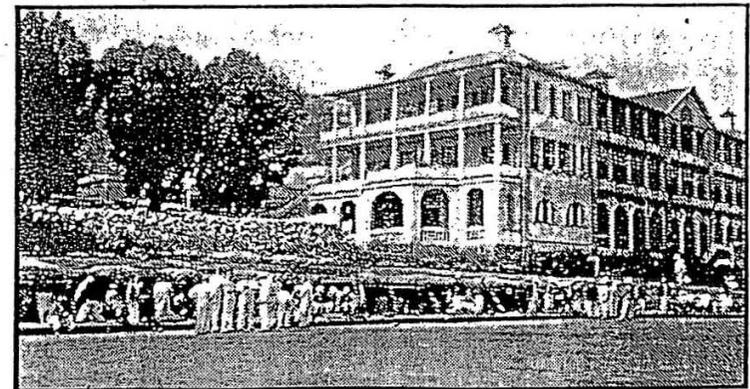


FIG.37 Bowls and other games were played on the lawns below the terraces (Edwards 1979:8).

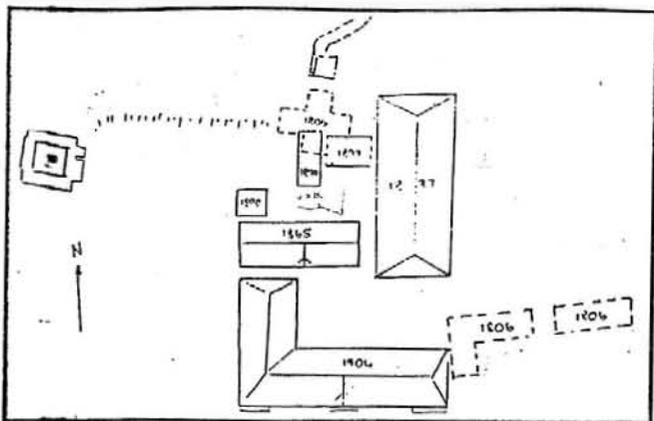


FIG.38 Rough sketch of what the layout of the buildings of the Sanatorium period looked like.

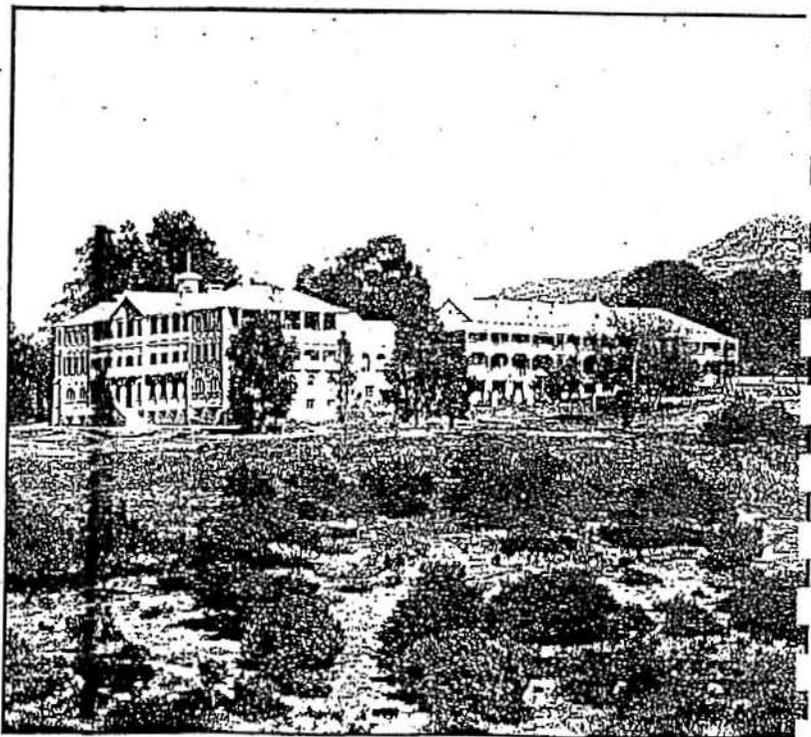


FIG.39 Lovely view of the New Sanatorium buildings, with animals roaming around the slopes of the valley. There are indications of ruins just east of the South Wing

Walsh brothers (JBG 1904:15). To the east of the Overberger Hotel are ruins which would have included the pigsties, milchcows and poultry (Edwards 1979:8). A stud of 25 horses with carriages and Cape carts were available (JBG 1904:16). De Witt mentions that the stables are "further back" from the Sanatorium between the trees, near the vegetable gardens (Daniell 1897:63) (FIG.39, 40).

Beverages and liquors at the Baths was a major activity from the earliest times and the wine list then was exceptional in its number of choices (FIG.41). It could serve as a major source of information for any bottles recovered through excavation.

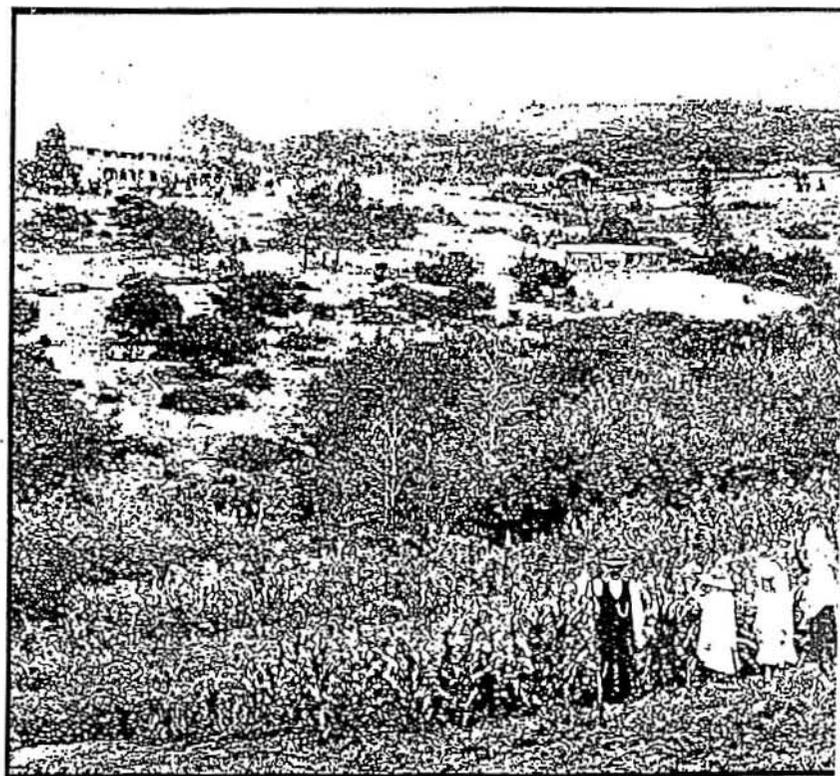


FIG.40 A few years later (c.1915-20) we are given a panoramic view which includes the eastern Kloof planted with tobacco, the Kloof itself, the pigsties/sheds and the Sanatoriums (J.B.G. 1904:iv).

-- The Caledon Baths, Ltd., WINE LIST. --

Category	Item	Price	Price
Whiskies.	Black & White	1/6	1/6
	Very Old Scotch	1/6	1/6
	Four Years Old Scotch	1/6	1/6
	Very Old Scotch	1/6	1/6
Ports.	Black & White	1/6	1/6
	Very Old Scotch	1/6	1/6
	Four Years Old Scotch	1/6	1/6
	Very Old Scotch	1/6	1/6
Wines.	Black & White	1/6	1/6
	Very Old Scotch	1/6	1/6
	Four Years Old Scotch	1/6	1/6
	Very Old Scotch	1/6	1/6
Claret.	Black & White	1/6	1/6
	Very Old Scotch	1/6	1/6
	Four Years Old Scotch	1/6	1/6
	Very Old Scotch	1/6	1/6
Burgundies.	Black & White	1/6	1/6
	Very Old Scotch	1/6	1/6
	Four Years Old Scotch	1/6	1/6
	Very Old Scotch	1/6	1/6
Champagne.	Black & White	1/6	1/6
	Very Old Scotch	1/6	1/6
	Four Years Old Scotch	1/6	1/6
	Very Old Scotch	1/6	1/6
Alas and Stout.	Black & White	1/6	1/6
	Very Old Scotch	1/6	1/6
	Four Years Old Scotch	1/6	1/6
	Very Old Scotch	1/6	1/6
German Beer.	Black & White	1/6	1/6
	Very Old Scotch	1/6	1/6
	Four Years Old Scotch	1/6	1/6
	Very Old Scotch	1/6	1/6
French Brandy.	Black & White	1/6	1/6
	Very Old Scotch	1/6	1/6
	Four Years Old Scotch	1/6	1/6
	Very Old Scotch	1/6	1/6
Cape Brandy.	Black & White	1/6	1/6
	Very Old Scotch	1/6	1/6
	Four Years Old Scotch	1/6	1/6
	Very Old Scotch	1/6	1/6
Scottish Whisky.	Black & White	1/6	1/6
	Very Old Scotch	1/6	1/6
	Four Years Old Scotch	1/6	1/6
	Very Old Scotch	1/6	1/6
Irish Whisky.	Black & White	1/6	1/6
	Very Old Scotch	1/6	1/6
	Four Years Old Scotch	1/6	1/6
	Very Old Scotch	1/6	1/6
Canadian Whisky.	Black & White	1/6	1/6
	Very Old Scotch	1/6	1/6
	Four Years Old Scotch	1/6	1/6
	Very Old Scotch	1/6	1/6
Holland Gin.	Black & White	1/6	1/6
	Very Old Scotch	1/6	1/6
	Four Years Old Scotch	1/6	1/6
	Very Old Scotch	1/6	1/6
London Gin.	Black & White	1/6	1/6
	Very Old Scotch	1/6	1/6
	Four Years Old Scotch	1/6	1/6
	Very Old Scotch	1/6	1/6
Rum.	Black & White	1/6	1/6
	Very Old Scotch	1/6	1/6
	Four Years Old Scotch	1/6	1/6
	Very Old Scotch	1/6	1/6
Vermouth.	Black & White	1/6	1/6
	Very Old Scotch	1/6	1/6
	Four Years Old Scotch	1/6	1/6
	Very Old Scotch	1/6	1/6
Mixed Waters.	Black & White	1/6	1/6
	Very Old Scotch	1/6	1/6
	Four Years Old Scotch	1/6	1/6
	Very Old Scotch	1/6	1/6
Lime Juice.	Black & White	1/6	1/6
	Very Old Scotch	1/6	1/6
	Four Years Old Scotch	1/6	1/6
	Very Old Scotch	1/6	1/6
Lemon Squash.	Black & White	1/6	1/6
	Very Old Scotch	1/6	1/6
	Four Years Old Scotch	1/6	1/6
	Very Old Scotch	1/6	1/6
Liqueurs.	Black & White	1/6	1/6
	Very Old Scotch	1/6	1/6
	Four Years Old Scotch	1/6	1/6
	Very Old Scotch	1/6	1/6

FIG.41 An exceptionally large variety of alcoholic drinks and beverages were obtainable at the Sanatorium (B.J.G. 1904:14).

Very early on 5 June 1946 the Sanatorium buildings and baths were destroyed by fire (arson was suspected, but never proved). Let the Caledon Venster (7-6-1946) take up the story (typed copy in Caledon Museum):

Caledon was provided with some excitement in the early hours of Wednesday morning (5.6.1946) when the Baths Hotel was destroyed by fire. The spectacular blaze attracted the attention of farmers miles away and from about 3 a.m. in the morning and all day Wednesday a steady stream of sight-seers wended their way to the scene.

"The cause of the fire is unknown, though it appeared to have started near a fire place in the dance hall. A native night watchman discovered the fire at about 1.20 a.m. and called the assistant manager, Mr J. Cohen, who gave the alarm and guests were hurried out of bed. There were 29 guests in the hotel at the time and we believe they were able to salvage most of their belongings. They were given shelter at other local hotels.

"The flames spread rapidly through the buildings, which contained, apart from dance hall, dining-room, lounges, bars, massage room and other apartments, about 120 bedrooms. Efforts to halt the flames with fire extinguishers and buckets of water were useless for a strong north-west wind fed the flames and soon the entire hotel was ablaze. By eight o'clock in the morning only a corner of the building housing the massage department and the private warm water baths were standing intact; the rest of the hotel was burned out, only the shell remaining. Many of the walls collapsed, and the brickwork continued to crumble throughout the day.

Mr. Wessels of Oatlands (pers. com. 1996) still remembers that as a young lad, he drove with his father by cart to the blazing Sanatorium. Afterwards the smouldering ruins were demolished and the rubble moved eastwards into the valley by tractors. According to Mrs. Brand there was, as was to be expected, much looting of objects and materials. Except for the swimming pool and a few other buildings, nothing survived this conflagration. The Caledon Municipality expropriated the site in 1961 from a Simon Davis (owner since 1956) and kept it as a picnic and caravan spot (Deeds Office, copy in Caledon Museum).

In 1983 a company, National Manganese Mining, were given the right to excavate the manganese. Extraction of minerals were predicted already in 1811 by Burchell (1953:71). Much damage was caused by them, and a deep wide trench is still visible. Unfortunately, this activity may have occurred in the general position of the old graveyard and bathhouses.

More recently, in about 1989, the De Overberger Hotel consortium developed the property. Some of the open areas and a few small modern buildings were destroyed in the process. This new development has focussed the attention on the Caledon Spa and recreational facilities for tourists.

5.4 SUMMARY

The Swartberg springs are a unique natural and cultural feature in the South African landscape. It was inhabited from the earliest times, but in its recent history was primarily exploited for its grazing, first by the Khoi and afterwards by the colonists. Lauded for its medical properties, the springs soon became the most famous attraction of the Overberg.

During the greater part of the 18th century it was under government control and functioned in symbiosis with the owners of the farm Warmebad lower down. The VOC Guesthouse of c.1730 was conveniently situated next to the Cape wagon road and was visited by all and sundry from near and far. It appears that for most of the time a rather motley and unruly crowd frequented the site, with vagrancy and thieving a common occurrence. Amenities were afforded for all race groups through separate bath facilities, but with mixed living quarters. After 70 years many of these neglected buildings were in a dismal state. When the medical practitioner Dr. Hässner took charge, a new building programme was introduced which revolutionized the site. His new Guesthouse and baths, ancillary buildings and graveyard all complemented the Old Baths, but after his departure in 1820 the Swartberg buildings and related features gradually deteriorated.

Considering the fate of these and other buildings at the *bronbult*, a pattern appears to emerge. Within a few years after structures were erected, they became dilapidated and fell into disrepair. A number of factors may have contributed to this. For much of the time this area was economically depressed and poverty was rampant. Repairs to roofs and whitewashing of walls were neglected, allowing rainwater to penetrate interiors. Another aspect concerned the lack of industry amongst the inhabitants of this area during the 18th or 19th century. There were, of course, exceptions. Construction methods also played a major role in the destruction of buildings. It has been mentioned that piled mud walls, raw bricks, or low-fired bricks were commonly used, with low foundations of stone also prevalent. Plastering with mud instead of lime also contributed to water damage.

It is therefore not surprising that within 70 years the Bath buildings had either decayed, or been demolished or replaced with a new generation of structures. By the 1870s a mid-Victorian Sanatorium with outbuildings arose, which mushroomed into the late-Victorian, many-storeyed Sanatoriums. For the first time, medicine and recreation were combined into a lucrative business. As has been proven worldwide, large financial outlays alter the landscape irrevocably and most of the older features fell prey to the developments. Due to commercial considerations and comfort, most alterations were at the foot of the mountain, and therefore some of the upper features were fortunately spared. Both the Old and New Sanatoriums were gutted

within 70 years after construction commenced. Much environmental and cultural damage was caused to the upper mountain by the manganese mining venture. A new lease of life was given to the springs with the erection of the Overberger Hotel, which appears to have destroyed very little of the historic features of the place.