

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION OF THE CAFE ROYAL BUILDING, CHURCH STREET CAPE TOWN

Prepared for

Syfrets Ltd

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Prepared by

The Archaeology Contracts Office

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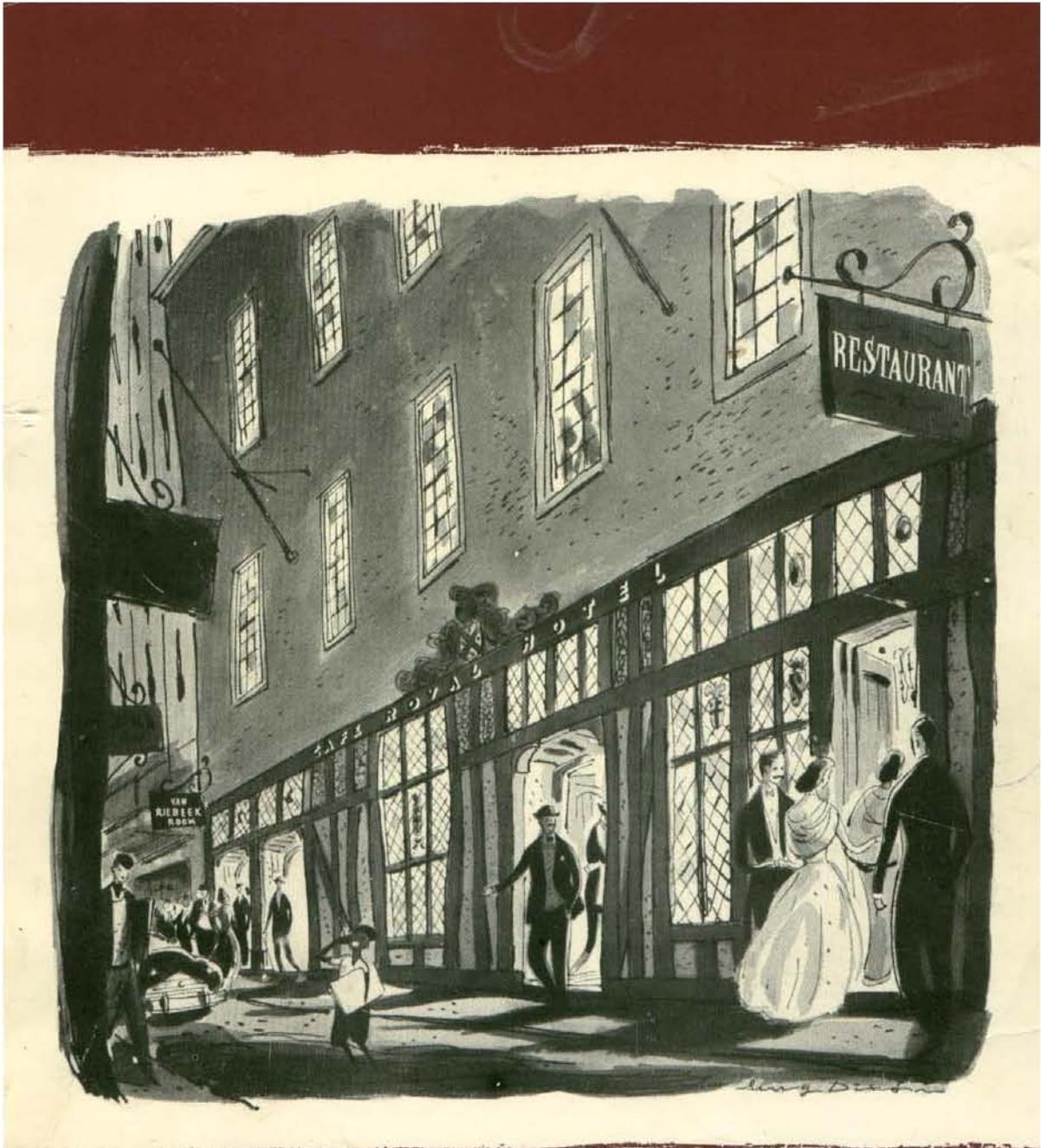
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Café Royal

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Archaeology Contracts Office (ACO) of the University of Cape Town was commissioned by KMH Architects on behalf of their client, Syfrets Ltd to undertake an archaeological and historical assessment of the building known as the Cafe Royal, Church Street, Cape Town prior to its demolition. The study revealed that the first dwelling was built on the site in the early 18th century. By the mid-late 19th century, a Town House and Pakhuis existed on the site. These were modified in the late 19th century when the building was converted to an hotel. Associated archaeological finds include an early 18th century kitchen midden and original fabric within the building. Recommendations are made with a view to conserving some of the fabric *in situ*.

1. THE BRIEF

The Archaeology Contracts Office (ACO) of the University of Cape Town was commissioned by KMH architects of behalf of their client, Syfrets Ltd to undertake an archaeological assessment of the building known as the Cafe Royal, Church Street, Cape Town. The ACO agreed to undertake:

1. Archival and deeds research to establish a detailed history of the site.
2. A physical examination and analysis of the standing structure and fabric to determine the building sequence.
3. Search for wall paintings where original fabric still exists.
4. Photographic recording of relevant features, joinery, wall paintings.
5. Sub-surface excavations to test for archaeological deposits.
6. If archaeological deposits do exist, the removal of such deposits and the follow up work that is required. This involves washing, sorting and curation.
7. The compilation of a report on the findings which will be submitted to the client and the National Monuments Council.

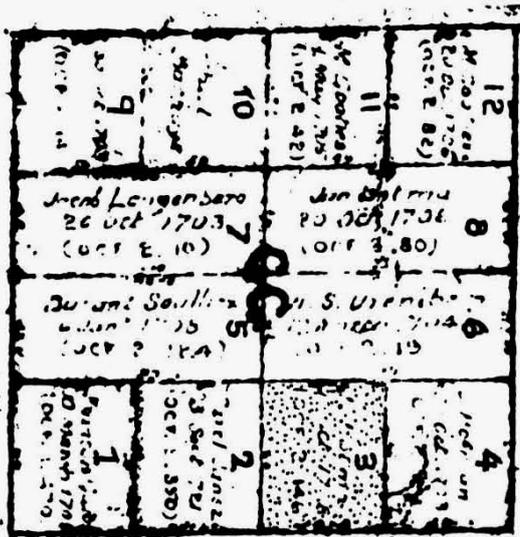
2. INTRODUCTION

John Rennie described the Cafe Royal building as having ground and 2 floors, 5 bay windows (per floor). The ground floor is pseudo-tudor (1950) with half-timbering and plasterwork, including leaded glazing, teak doors with strap hinges (Plate 1). The upper floors have leaded glazed sashed windows and a plain parapet on top (Plate 2). He notes the possibility that there may be early fabric within the structure as the surveys of Snow (see Figure 1 for Snow 1862) and Thom (1895) show a similar site layout to that which exists today¹. This preliminary study conducted in 1977, provided an early warning that the Cafe Royal may be a site of significance and worthy of investigation before it is demolished.

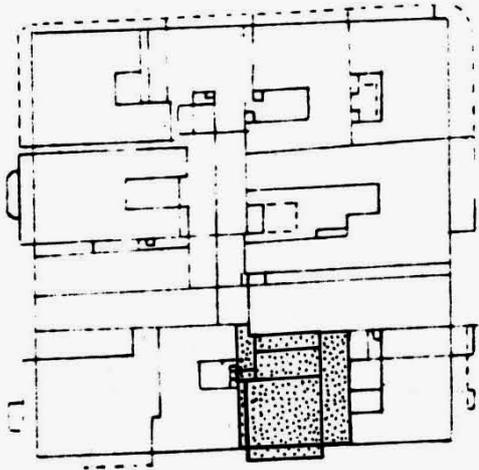
Although it is desirable that significant buildings should be conserved to enhance the historic texture of the city, practical and economic considerations can warrant demolition of early structures in the context of urban renewal. When this happens, architectural and historical information can be lost and archaeological deposits which are associated with early buildings in Cape Town can be destroyed. These archaeological deposits provide valuable information about the daily lives of early colonists, the details of which have never been adequately recorded in the written histories. The best way to mitigate this loss of information is to ensure that in the event of demolition being necessary, the building, its history and archaeological potential should be investigated before machinery moves onto site.

The following pages contain the findings of such a study conducted on the Cafe Royal building (*erven 3639 and 3642*), Church Street, Cape Town. This report is divided into two

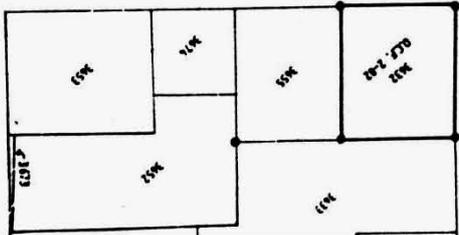
¹ Rennie, J. 1978-1984. The buildings of central Cape Town. Cape Town: Cape Provincial Institute of Architects.



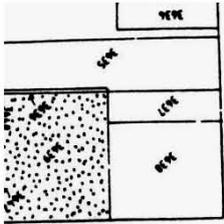
Lots granted in block GG in the early 18th century



Block GG as it appears in the Snow municipal survey of 1862

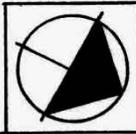


Erven in Block GG according to today's noting sheets

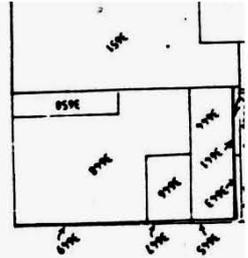


BURGSTRAT

1



I. GEORGES STRAT



major portions. The first of these (section 3) is an historical summary based on documentary sources, archival and deeds office research. It traces the history of the building from the granting of the *Lot* until the twentieth century by presenting a chronology of events. We have attempted where possible to identify the persons who either owned or lived on the site and placed them in the context of the history of the Cape. The other major portion (section 4) of the report is devoted to documenting the physical characteristics and below ground archaeology of the building, the chronology of the various building phases and associated finds. Amalgamation of the two sources of information takes place in the concluding section. Plates are presented at the end of this report along with diagrams of the site showing the positions from which photographs were taken.

3. SITE HISTORY

3.1 Background

The earliest VOC (Dutch East India Company) period dwellings in Cape are thought to have taken the form of simple houses with up to three or more rooms. Enlargement of these houses was achieved by simply adding extra rooms onto either end of the building. These dwelling would have been made of unfired clay bricks or stone or a combination of both. The roofs would have been thatch and probably had some form of *solder* or attic space.² Unfortunately no dwelling houses of this period have survived in Cape Town although remains of similar types of structures have been excavated by archaeologists at Valkenburg, and at Paradise in Newlands forest. Thatch roof houses were no longer built in Cape Town after 1750 as the increasingly crowded urban conditions created a serious fire hazard. Instead, a characteristic form of architecture emerged involving single or double storied buildings with almost flat tile or brickwork roofs. A number of buildings of this type still exist in Cape Town. Some have been restored, but many have been altered beyond immediate recognition.

Although the layout and form of the Cafe Royal is consistent with that of the flat roofed *Town Houses* characteristic of the late 18th and early 19th century, the documentary records indicate that this particular *Lot* was inhabited from the beginning of the 18th century indicating the possibility that the site may contain parts of very early structures and associated archaeological material.

3.2 Chronology

This section of the report places the Cafe Royal within the context of the history of the Cape. General observations are italicised while specific references to the site under investigation are in standard print.

0000 The Cape was populated by San hunter gatherers who lived in small groups and resided in rock shelters or temporary shelters on open sites. They lived by collecting shellfish, wild plants and the hunting and snaring of animals. They made stone and wooden artefacts, shared a complex spiritual belief system, the physical manifestations of which are the rock paintings encountered today in the Cape Fold Belt mountains of the Western Cape.

² Fransen, H. and Cook, M.A. 1980. The Old buildings of the Cape. Cape Town: Balkema

- 0200 *The first Khoi Khoi (Hottentot herding people) are thought to have entered the Cape via the west coast and Namibia. They brought with them the art of making coarse earthenware pottery and herded goats, fat-tailed sheep and later, cattle. The arrival of the Khoi Khoi caused economic and social upheaval with the introduction of a new economy, belief system and physical demands on the land. It appears that the San hunter gatherers were marginalised to the karoo and the Cape Folded belt mountains where they existed until the arrival of Europeans.*
- 1495 *Portuguese navigators were the first Europeans to make a landfall at the Cape. Thereafter, ships on route to the East used to stop at the Cape to collect fresh water, exchange mail and barter beef from the Khoi Khoi.*
- 1652 *The Dutch East India company established a refreshment station at the Cape under Commander Jan van Riebeeck. The intention was to farm vegetables and barter cattle for ship replenishment. Within a few years the Cape took on the appearance of a small colony with Free Burghers being permitted to farm for profit. A small mud Fort was built to protect the settlement.*
- 1666 *The Castle was built under governor Simon van der Stel. Settlement in Table Valley grew to become a small town with a planned street layout. The town had a highly cosmopolitan character with slaves being imported from the east. VOC officials themselves came from both the east Indies and various parts of Europe.*
- 1708 *Lot 3 in the Block GG (Figure 1) in Cape Town was granted to the Free Burgher Jan Botma. This plot of land was situated close to the Company gardens. Another significant building in the area was the large Company hospital on the top portion of what is now St Georges street. The extent of Jan Botma's property was 20 sq rds and 70 sq ft³. It is not known whether a house existed on the site at this time but Jan Botma owned the property for a number of years and passed it on to his widow after his death. The Botma's were a Free Burgher family of some stature. At the time of Jan Botma's death he owned land and house and slaves in Schotsekloof, a further property in Cape Town, as well as a cattle posts at Riebeeckskasteel and at Sonquasdeurdrif at Drakenstein⁴.*
- 1707-8 *It was during this period that an enquiry was launched into the affairs of Governor Willem Adriaan van der Stel by the VOC. He was found guilty of corruption and relieved of his post.*
- 1721 *The property next door to Lot 3 was granted to the "free black" person, Carel Jans van Bengal. Free blacks were often emancipated slaves of eastern origin who held legitimate positions within the VOC. An inventory made after the death of Carel Jans van Bengal (1741) exists in the archives.⁵ This is particularly interesting because it describes his home and his possessions at the time of his death. He owned items of gold, silver and porcelain as well as three slaves. The layout of the house is typical of the early vernacular "Cape Dutch" architecture. Indicated are a voorhuis (front room), kamer te linkerhand (room on the left), kamer te regterhand (room on the right), kombuis (kitchen) and agterplaats (backyard). The house had a*

³ Deeds Office Old Cape Freeholds 11 146/1708

⁴ Cape Archives MOOC 8/4 121 2.5.1724

⁵ Cape Archives MOOC 8/6.74 14 & 15 June 1741

solder (attic space) which means that it probably had a pitched thatched roof. It is very likely that Jan Botma's house on Lot 3 was similar.

- 1724 Jan Botma's widow, Styntjie Christoffels de Bruyn, transferred the property to her son, Jan Botma (junior). It would appear that the Botma's increased the size of their property on Church Street by purchasing a portion of *Lot 6*. The extent of the property now consisted 38 sq. rds and 52 sq feet.⁶
- 1724 The portion of *Lot 6* purchased by the Botma's was transferred to Hendrik Frappe.
- 1747 The sequence of events between 1724 and 1747 is not clear as there is a break in the transfer deeds records. By 1747 *Lot 3* was owned by Pieter Sohiers who also possessed *Lot 4* and *Lot 6* in Block GG⁷. He sold the property to Jan Hendrik Hop. A. Malan⁸ writes "Hop had been born in Hanover in 1685, came to the Cape and practised as a smith between 1711 and 1713. He became a Burgher in 1714 and went on to become a member of the Burgher Council, Orphan Chamber and Captain of the Burgher Watch. He married Hilleetje Verschuur (widow Pieper) in 1715. By the time of Hilleetje's death in 1772⁹, by then a great-grandmother aged about 88, an inventory showed that their own residential house which was in Block KK, Greenmarket square, was well established". Jan Hendrik Hop was the father of Anna Margaretha Hop, who owned a prosperous farm called Elsenburg near Stellenbosch. After being widowed she married Martin Melk (builder of the Martin Melk House in Strand Street). Martin Melk developed the Elsenburg Estate and built the Heerehuis in 1763¹⁰ (which has just been restored).
- 1760 When Jan Hendrik Hop died, his widow, Hilleetje Verschuur sold *Lot 3* and a portion of *Lot 6* to Johann Nicolaas Schott¹¹. The total extent of the property at this time was 45 sq rds, 15 sq feet and 72 sq inches. The Schott family were "well to do" *Burghers* who owned the Farm "Bergvliet" on the Cape Peninsula. They also owned *Lot 12* (with a house) on block GG¹². They did not live on *Lot 3* but like many of the citizens of the Cape, were property speculators. Johan Nicolaas Schott unconsolidated the property and sold *Lot 3* on the same day to Orloff Martini Bergh¹³. A house is indicated as having been on the property at that time.
- 1760 *The social structure of the various groups of Khoi Khoi herders of the Cape finally broke up after three major smallpox epidemics had ravaged the Cape in the 18th century.*
- 1765 Oloff Martini Bergh owned the property for five years and then sold it to Hendrik Oostwald Eksteen. Oloff Martini Bergh later became the deputy Landrost of

⁶ Deeds Office T1604 8 August 1724

⁷ Cape Archives MOOC 8/6 126 15 5 1747

⁸ Malan A. 1992. Households of the Cape. 1750-1850. Inventories and the archaeological record. Unpublished Phd dissertation. University of Cape Town.

⁹ Cape Archives MOOC 8/14.61

¹⁰ Archaeology Contracts Office 1995. Archaeological assessment of the Elsenburg Heerehuis.

¹¹ Deeds Office T3541 6 October 1760

¹² Cape Archives MOOC 8/6 126 15 5 1747.

¹³ Deeds Office T3541 6 October 1760

Tulbagh¹⁴. It is not known if he lived on the property, which is described as being 19 sq rds, 74 sq inches¹⁵ in extent.

- 1769 Eksteen sold the property to Johannes Van der Riet. The extent of the property being 19 sq rds, 74 sq inches¹⁶. Van der Riet was appointed First Surgeon of the at the Cape in 1761, became an elder in the Dutch Reformed Church and retired in 1780. His wife Maria, was the daughter of the surgeon (De St. Jan Bartholomeus) at the Company Hospital¹⁷. It is quite likely that Van der Riet resided on *Lot 3* as it was conveniently close to the hospital in St. Georges Street where he worked.
- 1787 Van der Riet's widow, Maria Bartels, sold the property, along with a portion of *Lot no 2* (next door) to Willem Stephanus van Ryneveld. The total extent of the land sold was 29 sq rds and 63 sq feet¹⁸. Van Ryneveld was a high official in the VOC, the Fiscal. He retained his position in government after the British take-over of 1795. He was appointed president of the High Court of Justice in 1809 but died three years later¹⁹.
- 1795 *The first British occupation of the Cape took place after the Dutch colonial forces surrendered following the Battle of Muizenberg. This marked a significant change in not only the trajectory of Cape politics but social issues as well.*
- 1799 Van Ryneveld sold *Lot 3* to Frans Walker together with 2 smaller pieces of land. A *Huis* and *Pakhuis* was present on *Lot 3*. A small portion of *Lot 2* (89 sq feet), for the purpose of the service passage, and another 133 sq feet from another unspecified *Lot*, were included in the sale. The total size of the property amounted to 21 sq rds and 30 sq feet and has remained at this size until the present day²⁰.
- 1802 Frans Walker sold the property to Johan Conraad Gie for 37 000 guilders²¹. Johan Conraad Gie from Zurich²², was also a member of the Burgher Council and one of the founders of the Freemasons Lodge "De Goede Hoop"²³. Gie's own home was in block KK on Greenmarket Square. He purchased this from Hillejtjie Verschuur, the widow of Hop. There is an extensive inventory in describing Gie's own home and its contents in great detail. An extract from previous research by A. Malan is included in Appendix B. This describes the interior of Gie's home along with his possessions.
- 1802 *The Cape came under the rule of the Batavian Republic.*
- 1806 *Second British occupation of the Cape took place after the Battle of Blaauberg. Government of the Batavian Republic ended.*

¹⁴ Theal, G.M. 1791. History of South Africa. Vol 3. London: Swan Sonnenschein & co.

¹⁵ Deeds Office T4074 25 November 1765

¹⁶ Deeds Office T4266 4 April 1769

¹⁷ Laidler, P.W. and Gelfand, M. 1971. South Africa, Its Medical History. Cape Town: Struik.

¹⁸ Deeds Office T6225 6 October 1755

¹⁹ Theal, G.M. 1791. History of South Africa. Vol 3. London: Swan Sonnenschein & co.

²⁰ Deeds Office T7785 15 December 1799

²¹ Deeds Office T76 19 March 1802

²² Deeds Office T4521 17 December 1772

²³ Malan A. 1992. Households of the Cape. 1750 - 1850. Inventories and the archaeological record. Unpublished Phd dissertation. University of Cape Town.

- 1809 Gie sold the property to Robert Stuart for 48 000 guilders²⁴.
- 1811 Robert Stuart sold the property to Henry Murray for 60 000 guilders²⁵.
- 1816 Henry Murray sold the property to Willem Anton J. Liesching for 60 000 guilders²⁶. Liesching was probably related to the family of that name who were medical practitioners and owned an apothecary business in Loop Street.
- 1825 Liesching sold the property to Roeland Witsen for 65 000 guilders²⁷.
- 1827 The property was transferred from the estate of Roeland Witsen to Carl Ferdinand Heinrich Ludwig. The property is described as being *Huis en Pakhuis*²⁸.
- 1841 Ludwig's widow, Alida Maria von Ludwig sold the property (consisting of house, store and premises marked as number 34) to Johannes Hermanus Redelinghuys for 1700 pounds sterling²⁹. Redelinghuys did not reside in the property which, at that time, was divided into two portions, a house and business area³⁰.
- 1860 No 9 Church Street was occupied by Alexander Tweedie, a carver and gilder. He hired part of the property from Redelinghuys³¹.
- 1862 No 9 Church Street was hired by widow G.A. de Wet³².
- 1871 No 9 Church Street was occupied by widow G.A. de Wet while no 10 was occupied by the law firm - Redelinghuys and Wessels Attorneys. At this time Redelinghuys himself seems to have resided in no 10a until his death in 1876³³.
- 1877 The property (described as being house, store and premises) was transferred from the estate of Redelinghuys to Martinus Laurentius Wessels³⁴ for the price of 1700 pounds sterling. He then hired the property to Miss C. Wahl who established a private boarding house.
- 1881 The first reference to the name Cafe Royal was made at this time when Robert Langlands took over the property and seems to have established it as an hotel. Two years prior to this Langlands had been the steward at the City Club in St Georges Street³⁵.
- 1883 Robert Langlands, who resided at no 9 church Street went insolvent. Among the papers relating to these events is an account from a carpenter (T.C. Tait) for alterations to the kitchen, dining room and the construction of a new billiard room

²⁴ Deeds Office T60 7 April 1809

²⁵ Deeds Office T25 15 February 1911

²⁶ Deeds Office T71 15 August 1816

²⁷ Deeds Office T11 14 January 1825

²⁸ Deeds Office T103 4 May 1827

²⁹ Deeds Office T46 15 January 1841

³⁰ Cape Archives MOOC 13/1/114/28

³¹ Cape Archives Assessment Rolls

³² Cape Archives Street Directories

³³ Cape Archives 3/ct 7/1/2/1/31 assessment role.

³⁴ Deeds Office T231 15 February 1877

³⁵ J. Blankenberg 1995. Unpublished report submitted to the ACO.

and bar. There are six pages of items and types of wood used in the alterations in existence³⁶. The Government Gazette of 19 June 1883 states "in the suit between J. Letterstedt and Company, plaintiff and R. Langland defendant: in execution of the judgement of the supreme court in the above suit, a sale will be held at the Cafe Royal on Saturday the 30th Day of June 1883 at 11 O'clock of the following, viz. 10 dining tables, 40 chairs, plateware, cutlery etc³⁷." It is quite likely that court action was for non payment of a liquor debt owed to Letterstedt's Breweries (J. Letterstedt's daughter, Lydia was responsible for the construction of the Josephine Mill in Newlands.)

1884 The Cafe Royal (known as no 9 and 11 Church Street) was taken over by John Dunn, hotel keeper. He resided on the premises at 9 Church Street

1898-1902 The Anglo-Boer war.

1902 An advertisement³⁸ in the Cape Times Christmas Annual "Cafe Royal - One Of The Oldest Established Houses in Cape Town - The most Up To Date dining Saloons in Town - Luncheons and Dinners a Speciality - Saloon, Oyster and American Bars - First class Cuisine and grills etc. - Billiard Room."

1920 Ohlssons Cape Breweries purchased the Cafe Royal and owned it for one day³⁹. It was then resold to Thomas Lawson with conditions of a liquor licence attached allowing the sale thereof⁴⁰. Besides brewing beer, Ohlssons invested heavily in the local hotel industry owning many such institutions in the Cape Town area. They were aggressive entrepreneurs in the property/hotel business and also established a water supply company for the municipalities of Woodstock-Claremont⁴¹.

1922 The property was sold to I. Stern.⁴² Plans for alterations to the Cafe Royal were passed on the 15 September 1922. Little detail is available except that provision was made for putting in a hearth on the first floor, providing a larger cover in the intercepting chamber and providing a fresh air outlet⁴³.

1937 The City Engineer reported⁴⁴ in reponse to plans to add more floors: "the rear external wall of the bar is not sound enough to take the weight of the two additional stories; the wall besides being out of plumb, is constructed mainly of soft bricks laid in clay mortar. Regulation 884 states that the walls of clay mortar shall not be more than one storey high. A concrete floor should be constructed on the first floor, supported on beams carried on piers against the existing wall, this would obviate the cutting into the walls.."

³⁶ Cape Archives MOIB 2/1673.44

³⁷ Cape Archives CCP 8/1/86.

³⁸ South African Library. Cape Times Christmas Annual 1902 Page 36.

³⁹ Deeds Office T8540 18 June 1920

⁴⁰ Deeds Office T8541 18 June 1921

⁴¹ Archaeology Contracts Office. 1992. Phase 1 Archaeological Investigation: Albion Springs Rondebosch. Unpublished report prepared for LTA developments.

⁴² Deeds Office T6552 3 August 1922

⁴³ Cape Archives 3/ct 4/2/1/3/836.b1847.

⁴⁴ Cape Archives 3/ct 4/2/1/3/836.b1847.

- 1951 Advertisement in the Cape Times Official Guide⁴⁵: "The Cafe Royal Hotel and Restaurant for Finest Charcoal Grills - The Van Riebeeck Coctail Lounge - Cosmopolitan Atmosphere - Where Everybody Meets - Bed and Breakfast Tariff - 21-23 Church Street - Open on Sundays - Table Reservations 28 924 Hotel 2 2873, 2 2874."
- 1983 The Cafe Royal is purchased by Syfrets⁴⁶.
- 1989 "Grand old Lady Under Threat" Article by G.Bowes-Taylor⁴⁷: "The foundations go back to the mid 18th century when some say it was used as a livery stable for Greenmarket Square" ... " late 1890s with red tile floors and white washed walls it became the historic meeting place for writers, legal men, parliamentarians and poets...the meeting place of the Press Club".
- 1990 The ground floor of the Cafe Royal was badly damaged by fire and the building ceased to operate as a pub and hotel⁴⁸.
- 1995 Andrea Weiss writes⁴⁹: "Among those who dined at the Cafe Royal were Statesmen Jan Smuts and General Hertzog. "
- 1995 Syfrets lodges an application to demolish the Cafe Royal with a view to upgrading the block.

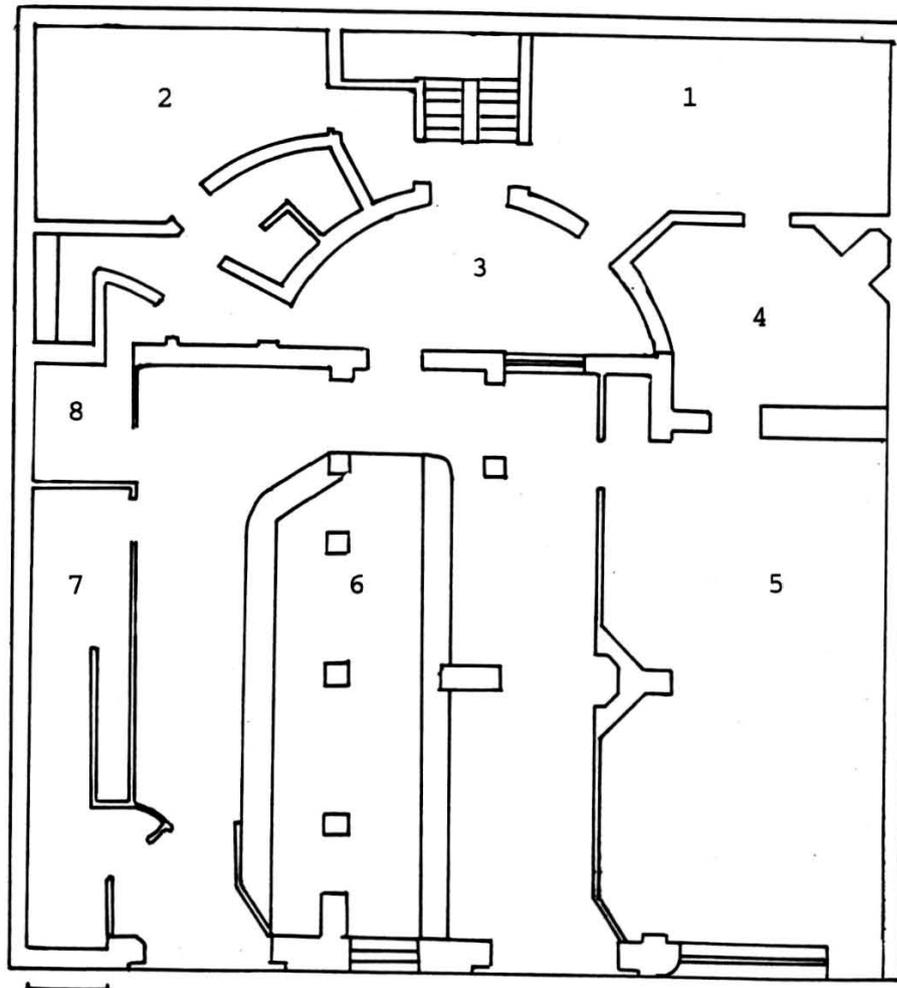
⁴⁵ South African Library PHA CT Church Street.

⁴⁶ The Argus Friday February 10 1995

⁴⁷ The Argus Weekend 4 March 1989

⁴⁸ The Argus Friday 10 February 1995

⁴⁹ The Argus Friday 10 February 1995

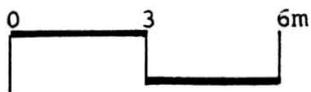


- 1 Kitchen and scullery
- 2 Stores
- 3 Courtyard
- 4 Grill room
- 5 Restaurant
- 6 Bar and bar counters
- 7 Store
- 8 Office

The ground floor of the Cafe Royal as it appears on a plan of 1937. This layout is very similar to that

(Albridge 1937)

of 1995 (after De



2

3.3 Discussion

The earliest available detailed plan of the Cafe Royal dates from 1906⁵⁰. Although the building had clearly undergone some modifications at this time, there is enough discernable information on the plan to support the archaeologically generated hypothesis that the Cafe Royal took the form of a *Town House* and *Pakhuis*. The records pertaining to the first half of the 18th century are extremely vague and it is not possible to establish when the first building was erected on the site using documentary evidence alone.

It is known that a house on existed on the site by 1760 but it is quite likely that it had been built much earlier as the property had already changed hands a number of times at this stage. It is unlikely that the structure took the form of a *Town House* as this type of building was restricted to the latter half of the 18th century. The 1906 plan of the Cafe Royal shows the portions of what would have been a symmetrical *Town House* built alongside a building which has been termed a "*Pakhuis*". First mention of the presence of a "*huis* and *Pakhuis*" was made in 1799, so it is likely that the *Town House* was built at some time before this. A clue to its date of construction lies in the period between 1769 and 1787 when Johannes van der Riet owned the property. He purchased a portion of *Lot 2* (St Georges Street side) and the size of the property was increased. There is a strong likelihood that the reason for his doing this was so that he could build a *Town House* and use the portion of *Lot 2* for the construction of an alley to give access to his back yard. The further implication of this is that the *Pakhuis* was already in existence along the north-west side of the *Lot* which necessitated the need to acquire a strip of land on the south-east side.

The archival information has shown that, during the 18th century, *Lot 3* was owned by a succession of notable *Burghers* of the Cape. In most instances they did not live on the property but purchased it and hired it out, which makes it difficult to establish who the actual occupants of the building were. It is possible that J. Van der Riet was the first owner to actually live on the site. The pattern changed during the 19th century when the property was used extensively for business purposes. It was first used as a boarding house in 1877 and became established as the Cafe Royal Hotel in 1881.

In terms of physical changes to the property, the documentary evidence indicates that a house was on the *Lot* by 1760. By 1800 a *Town House* and *Pakhuis* were on the *Lot*. There is a strong but indirect indication that the *Town House* was built between 1769 and 1799 by van der Riet. It is quite possible that the *Pakhuis* predates the building of the *Town House* and may be in part the original structure on the site.

⁵⁰ 1906 Plan of Alterations at Cafe Royal. C. Freeman. Architect (courtesy Syfrets).

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION

The above ground study of Cafe Royal involved examination of existing joinery, exposure of hidden joinery, searching for wall paintings, exposure of fabric by plaster removal. The purpose of this was to document relevant features and establish the building sequence of the different components of the structures on the site.

4.1 The Pakhuis

4.1.1 Above ground investigation, ground floor

4.1.1.1 Pakhuis (room 1) North West wall.

This particular part of the Cafe Royal (Figure 2) had been ravaged by fire resulting in extensive damage to furnishings and joinery (Plate 3). The north west wall had been paneled while the south east wall consisted of a paneled partition. The ceiling was Victorian matchwood with elaborate wooden cornice mouldings. Removal of the damaged paneling on the north west wall revealed a soft white cement plaster. This was removed along the entire length of the wall to expose the underlying fabric. The lower portion of the wall along the entire length of room 1 was built of carefully packed chunks of mostly undressed Malmesbury shale bonded with clay mortar (Plate 4). At a height of 1900 mm the wall was continued upwards with brickwork. These were fired but crudely moulded. The average size of the bricks was quite small (200x50x100mm) but with substantial variation within the sample (Plate 5). There was no evidence that any of the original shell lime plaster had survived, indicating that if any wall paintings existed these would have been destroyed during the Victorian era.

4.1.1.2 Ceiling.

A portion of the matchwood ceiling was removed and revealed the largely intact 18th century joists and floor boards of the first floor of the *Pakhuis* (Plate 6) There is evidence that a staircase had once led to the first floor but this had been boarded up with planks of imported pine (Plate 7) Although samples of wood were not submitted for laboratory examination, the boards had the appearance of yellow wood and the joists of teak. Several boards had been replaced by similar sized ones of pine.

4.1.1.3 South East Wall.

The north east wall of the *Pakhuis* (ground floor) had been demolished by 1906⁵¹. The fact that it existed was verified by examination of the fabric hidden by the matchwood ceiling and excavations under the floor of the *Pakhuis* which located the foundations. It is likely that this alteration was made in the 1880s to increase the ground floor bar area of the Cafe Royal. The wall was cut away and steel beams supported on piers were inserted to support the weight of the wall above on the first floor. Removal of the matchwood ceiling revealed that a strip of original walling existed between the top of the steel supports and first floor. The brickwork and bonding was very similar to the north west wall.

⁵¹ 1906 Plan of Alterations at the Cafe Royal. C. Freeman Architect (courtesy Syfrets).

4.1.1.4 Pakhuis: (room 2) Rear extension.

Plaster removal has shown that the rear of the *Pakhuis* was extended in a south westerly direction on at least two occasions during the 18th century (Figure 3). The bricks are crudely moulded, very variable in size but generally longer than those in room 1. It is of interest to note that the form of alteration that took place towards the rear of the *Pakhuis* is consistent with early vernacular building methods in operation in the Cape. This involved extending structures by adding rooms on to the ends as need for the expansion of the structure arose.

4.1.2 First Floor.

The south east wall has been demolished and rebuilt with modern standard brick. The north west wall is completely intact and built of 18th century brick (Plate 8). Unlike those of the ground floor, the bricks are more uniform in size, but nevertheless crude by modern standards. There is no evidence of any *frogs* on the bricks indicating that the walls predate British influence. An extension to the rear of the *Pakhuis* is demonstrated by a change to a longer brick towards the south west end. The entire facade of the building has been rebuilt with modern standard brick and portland cement. Plate 9 shows the point at which the modern facade has been attached. Figure 7 indicates the location of 18th century fabric on the first floor.

4.1.3 Second floor.

The entire second floor is modern and probably added in the 1930s. Extensive use has been made of cinder brick and portland cement. The use of cinder brick was probably an attempt to reduce the weight of the second floor in consideration of the relatively poor quality of the fabric of the ground floor.

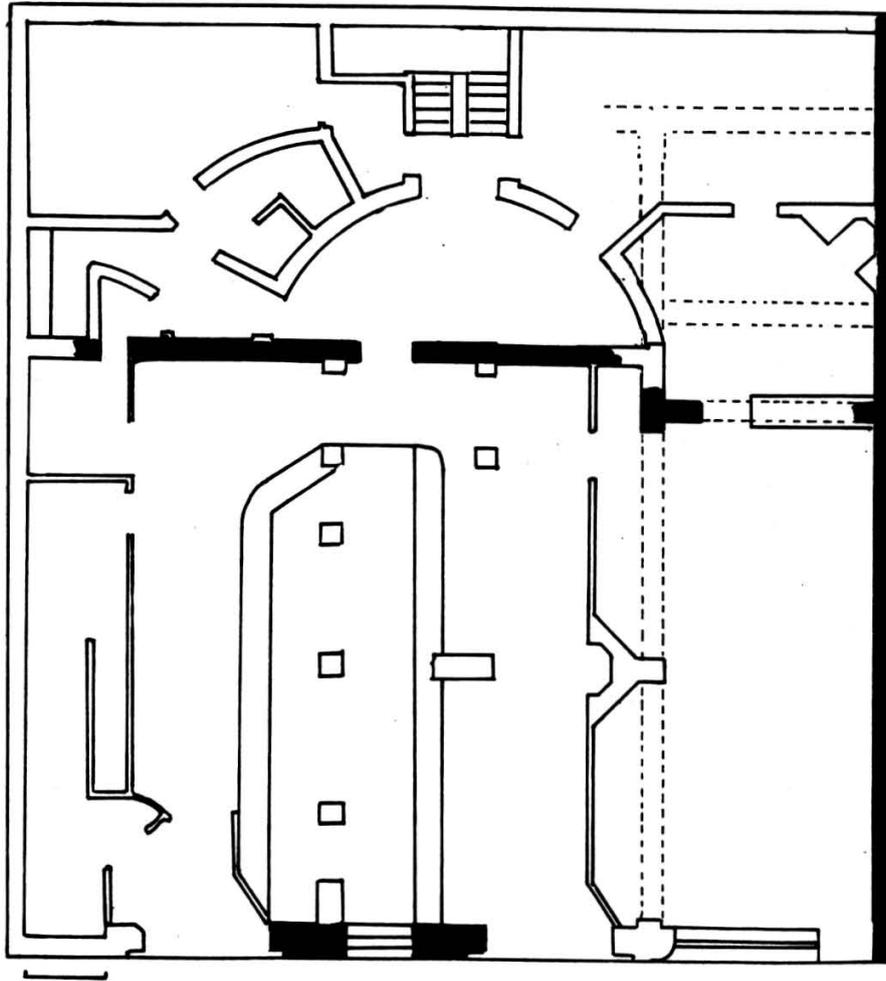
4.1.4 Excavations: The *Pakhuis*

Excavations were positioned within the *Pakhuis* to check for buried archaeological deposits and features. The location of the excavations are depicted on Figure 4.

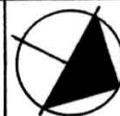
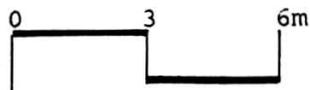
Excavation Room 1a (R1a) This excavation was positioned in the rear extension of the *Pakhuis* to check for archaeological deposits that may have predated the building of the additions. Four distinct stratigraphic units (Plate 10) and a cross wall foundation partitioning the rear of the *Pakhuis* (Plate 11) were noted. Figure 5 shows the location of the excavation within the *Pakhuis* and a section drawing showing the following stratigraphic sequence.

Below cement (BC). Under the cement floor lay a coarse rubble soil. It contained numerous bones of rats and some food bones (chicken, sheep, cow) as well as a number of artefacts relating to the late 19th/early 20th centuries. It is likely that this area once had a wooden floor and rodents had been dragging food scraps from the hotel kitchen underneath it.

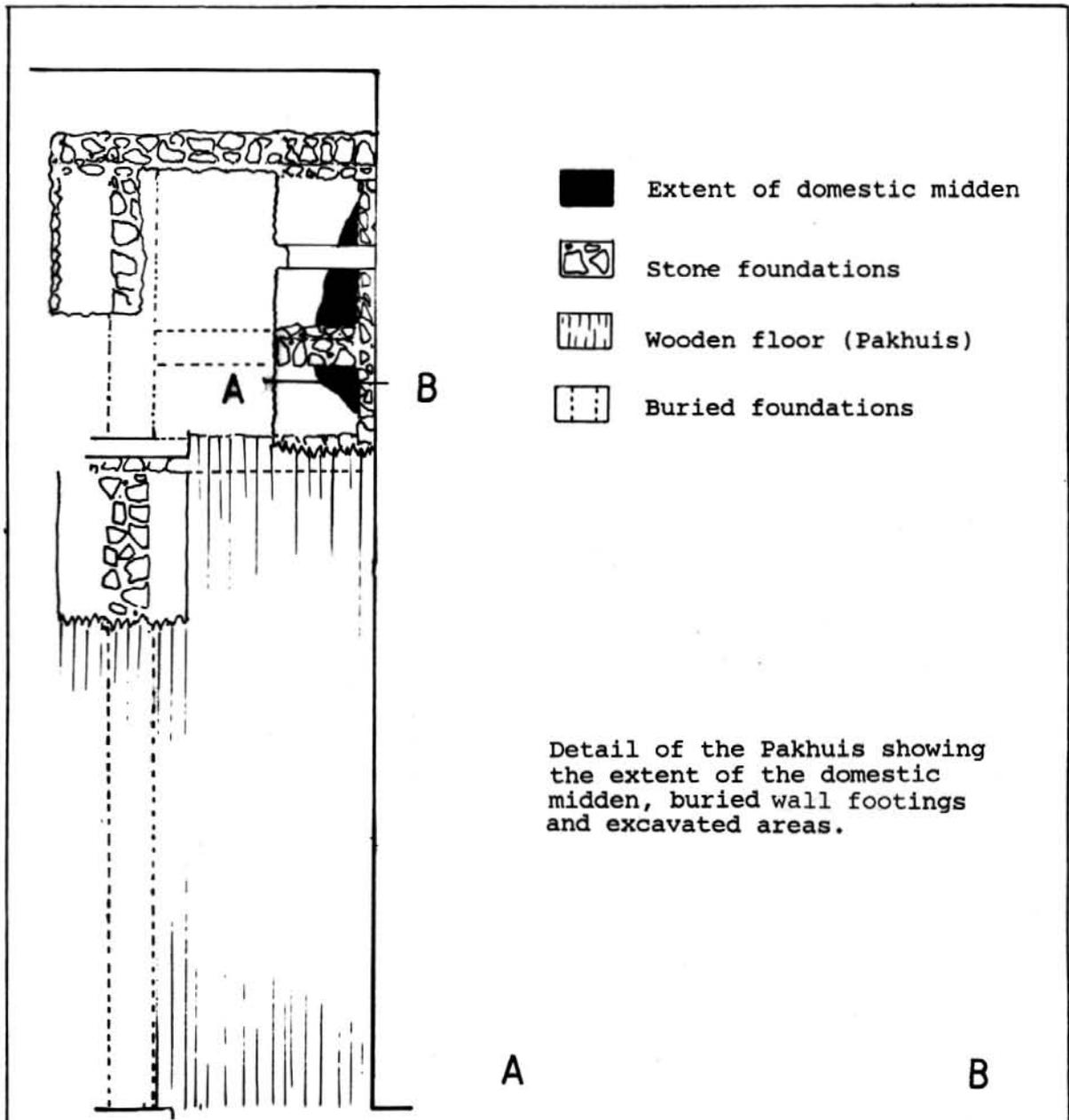
Smooth Brown Fill (SBF). This unit, which consists of a smooth clay-sand mix, contained small fragments of bricks, quantities of Dutch smoking pipe stems, some fragments of



- 18th century fabric (ground Floor)
- ⋯ Buried foundations under the Pakhuis



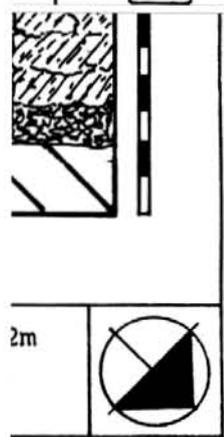
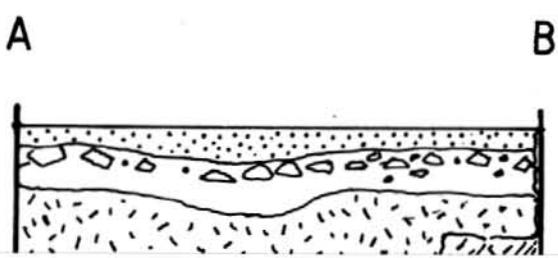
3



-  Extent of domestic midden
-  Stone foundations
-  Wooden floor (Pakhuis)
-  Buried foundations

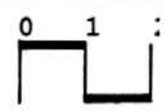
Detail of the Pakhuis showing the extent of the domestic midden, buried wall footings and excavated areas.

-  Cement surface
-  Below cement



-  Smooth brown fill
-  Charcoal flecked fill (domestic midden)
-  Sterile soils

5



oriental porcelain and fragments of bone. The material is too sparse to be described as a midden deposit but is almost certainly contained in a reworked soil. An analysis of the finds has shown that the smoking pipe stems (bore diameter measurement mode: 2.00mm) are characteristic of the early to mid 18th century.

Charcoal flecked fill (CFF). Charcoal began to appear in the lower deposits which is an indicator that dump material could be expected. Further excavation revealed the presence of a household midden that lay in a shallow basin extending under the northwest wall of the rear extension of the *Pakhuis* thus predating this portion of the building. It is quite possible that further midden material exists under Heritage House next door.

Although relatively small and fragmented, this household midden has unique qualities and was fairly rich in artefactual material. A detailed breakdown of the artefactual contents of this unit is contained in Appendix A. The deposits produced a measurable sample of Dutch pipe stems. A mode of 2.2mm for the internal bore measurements⁵² indicates that the midden accumulated in the early portion of the 18th century - i.e. pre 1720. Also present are a variety of metal artefacts, glass trade beads, silver pins, oriental porcelains, European stoneware and earthenware, European tin-glazed earthenware (Delft) as well as early glass. Food remains were present. These include the bones of wild and domestic animals, fish and shellfish. Unfortunately the material is highly fragmented as it has been compressed by both floor preparation and long human use of the area. Fortunately the information content of the midden is still readable and of high archaeological significance. The midden clearly relates to the first residential occupation of *Lot 3* and its neighbours and is certainly the oldest private residential midden excavated in Cape Town. Other sites that have produced similar material are the moat at the Castle and some of its older interior rooms⁵³.

Sterile Unit. The midden lay in a shallow basin on the basal clays that lie above the Malmesbury shales. The clays were tested to ensure that they were sterile. From this point onwards the geotechnical team continued the excavations and reached Malmesbury shale at a depth of about 1.8m below the present surface.

Excavation Room 1b (R1b) Removal of the wooden floor boards in the *Pakhuis* revealed a dense assemblage of bones, many of which were from rats (identified as *Rattus norvegicus*). It is clear that throughout the history of the Cafe Royal Hotel rodent activity had been prolific - raiding rubbish bins and the kitchen at night and dragging food into the aeration gap below the floorboards. The rodent accumulation was removed and sampled. Under this lay a brick dust and lime plaster surface which can be interpreted as an early floor level associated with the *Pakhuis*.

Excavation R2a. This involved the excavation of a trench running in a north west/south east direction across the rear of the *Pakhuis*. Very little artefactual material was discovered as a large shale foundation was located running across the rear of the *Pakhuis* at a depth of 30cm below surface. This foundation are the remains of the rear courtyard structures of the Cafe Royal which were demolished after 1906 (Plate 12). The excavation was extended forward to link up with R1a to check if any midden material existed towards the

⁵² Dutch clay smoking pipes can be dated by three factors. The first of these is the internal bore measurement which changes through time; the second is the bowl forms and the third is the maker's mark on the heel of the pipe. Pipes were mass produced, easily broken and discarded frequently (not unlike the way in which cigarettes are smoked today).

⁵³ Archaeology Contracts Office. 1989-91. Unpublished field notes and contracts reports.

rear of the structure. Although the stratigraphic sequence was similar, it was found that the midden material was highly restricted in its distribution (Figure 5).

Excavation R2b. A test excavation (Figure 4) was sunk to check for the junction of the South East and rear foundations of the *Pakhuis*. These were located at a depth of 200mm below surface with foundations extending to a depth 800mm below surface. Fragments of artefactual and faunal material were located throughout the sequence. All of these are characteristic of the Dutch period apart from the 19th and 20th century material which lay immediately below the cement.

The semi-circular courtyard of the existing building was not excavated because all the hotel services had been routed through this area. Priority was granted to areas that had been less disturbed.

4.1.5 Summary of findings - The *Pakhuis*

This is the most intact portion of the site with a complete side wall, original floor below the boards and a complete 18th century ceiling. The building began its life as a small single storied structure made of shale and bricks. Its precise date of construction is not known but the archaeological material can provide some indicators. Virtually all the archaeological material found below the extensions to the *Pakhuis* predate 1750. This means that the extensions to the *Pakhuis* were built after this time making it impossible for later material to be deposited. Furthermore, there is a fragmented domestic midden under the *Pakhuis* extension that dates to the early 18th century indicating the people were residing nearby. It is possible that the *Pakhuis* may have begun its life as a simple dwelling house.

4.2 The Town House

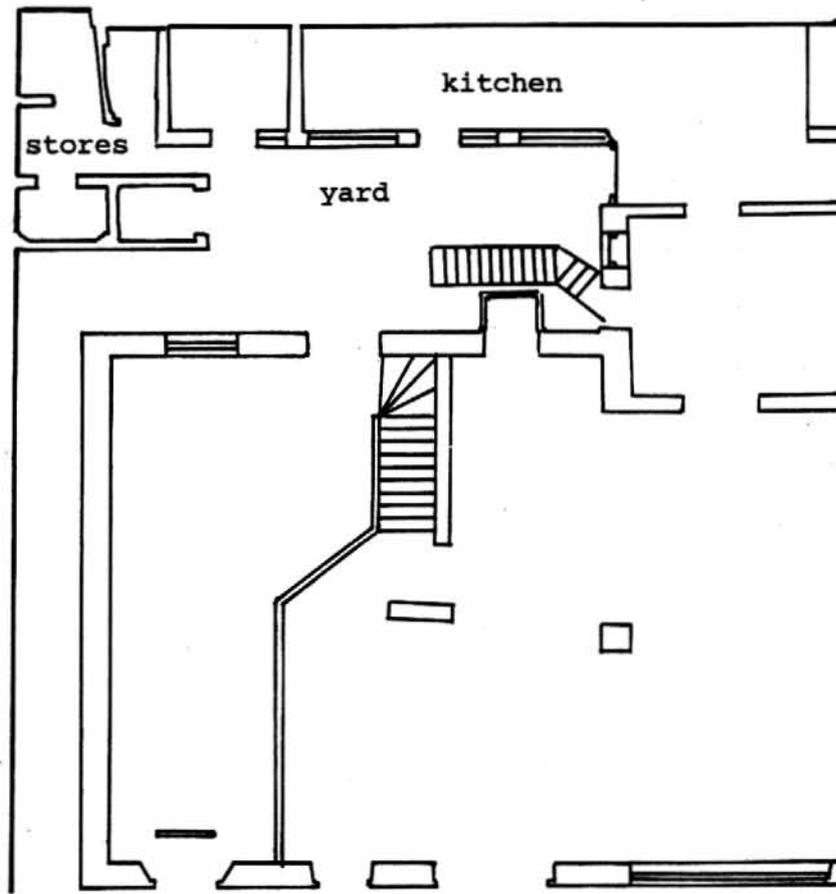
The alteration plan of 1906 shows the existence of a square symmetrical structure that shared its north west side wall with the *Pakhuis*. An alley ran along the south east side of the property (outside the south east side of the symmetrical structure) to a rear yard. Smaller buildings are shown to have existed along the rear of this area (Figure 6). This particular site layout is clearly shown on the Snow survey of 1862 (Figure 1) indicating that the arrangement of the site had remained relatively unchanged for at least 40 years before 1906. By 1906 the shared side wall (ground floor) between the *Pakhuis* and the *Town House* had been demolished and the interior of the bottom floor of the *Town House* had been opened up - no doubt to make way for a bar area. The question that remained to be answered was how much early fabric had survived the multitude of alterations that had taken place since 1906?

4.2.1 Above ground investigation

The location of early fabric is shown in Figures 3 and 7.

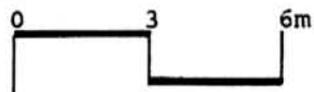
Plaster removal: rear courtyard.

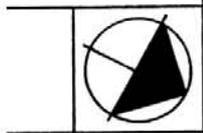
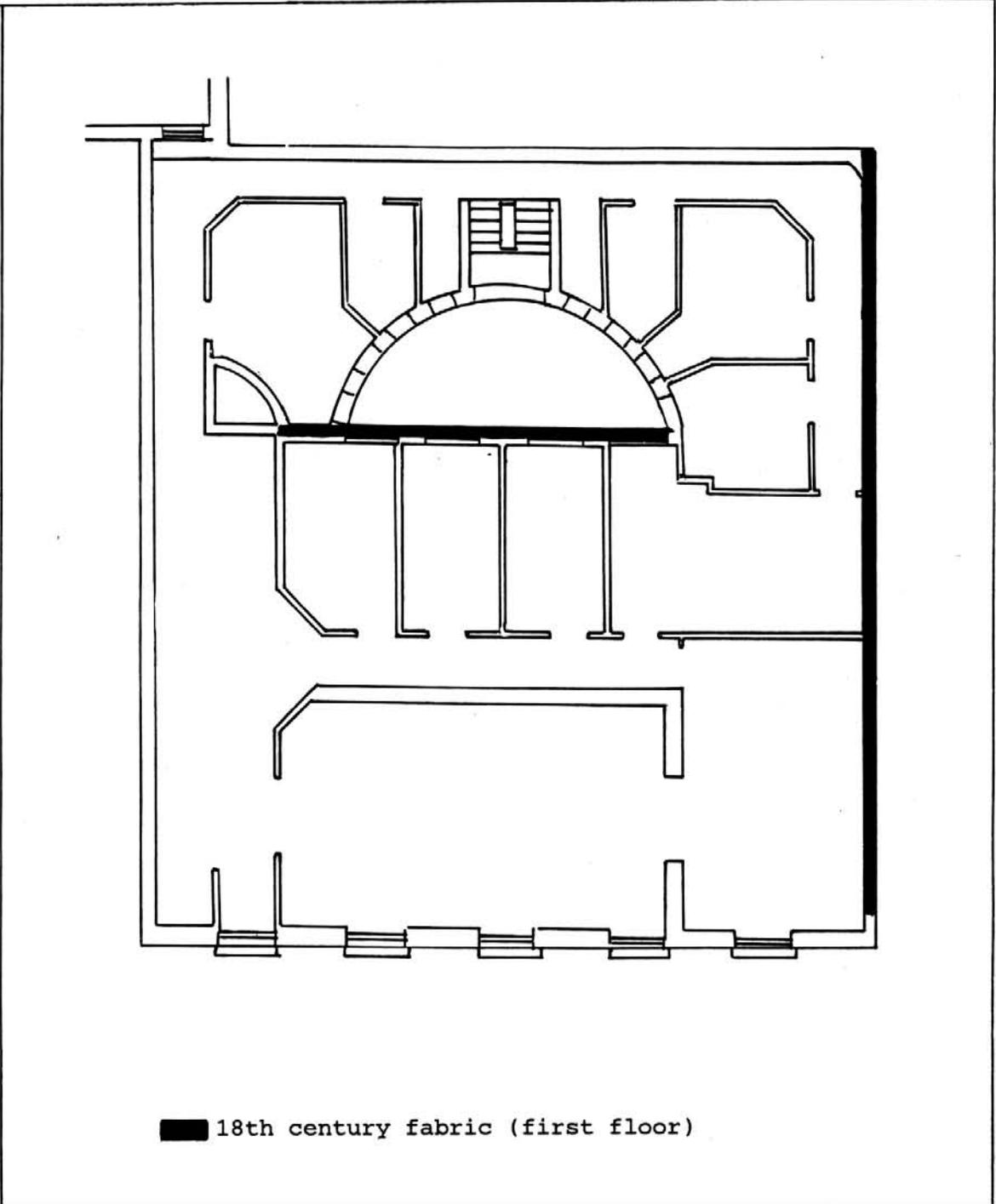
Examination of fabric showed that the rear wall (South West) had survived in part (Plate 13). There was evidence of at least two phases of early alteration in addition to the insertion of a modern door. A section of original fabric has remained. This consisted of shale stone foundation to height of 600mm above ground level. The bricks above this were



Ground floor plan of the cafe Royal
(after C. Freeman 1906)

6





small by modern standards measuring 200x110x50mm. They were bonded with clay mortar and the wall was plastered on both the exterior and interior with shell lime plaster.

The next phase of modification involved putting a central door with fanlight (Plate 14) in the center of the rear wall. Plaster sampling on the interior revealed that the door had been inserted into a modified Dutch period window architrave. The door itself is late 18th century suggesting that these were all early modifications.

Plaster removal: rear south west wall.

Plaster was removed along the length of the rear wall. The lintel over the central rear door was exposed as was the relieving arch above it (Plate 15). Two more lintels on either side of the door were located at a similar height (2850mm) above floor level. Modern openings exist under these giving access to the rear courtyard and the rear south wing of the Cafe Royal complex. It is likely that during the late 18th century the rear of the *Town House* was equipped with a central doorway with large sash windows on either side.

Plaster removal: side south east wall:

Plaster removal showed that this was modern. There is good evidence that an early wall did exist here as its join with the rear wall was located. The shale foundation (Plate 16) of the rear wall showed a ragged face at the point at which the side wall would have locked in.

Plaster removal: side passage and stair well:

The exterior wall is fairly modern and like the second floor, is built with cinder brick. The interior wall of the stairwell stands along the alignment of what would have been the exterior side wall of the *Town House*. It appears that when the second floor was added circa 1937, the building was extended over the side alley and this area now accommodates the staircase.

Plaster removal: front facade interior:

This area has been heavily altered with the addition of walls and windows. Plaster removal revealed the architrave of what would have been a central front door of the *Town House* (Plate 17). This had been walled up in the 20th century and converted to a window. As with the rear wall, the foundation was shale extending to a height of 600mm above the floor surface. Two sizes of brick (Plate 18) were used in the wall above (220x140x60mm, 200x110x50mm) which means that the brickmakers had two mould sizes, or the builders were simultaneously using batches of bricks from different suppliers.

The teak joinery on the outside of the building is fairly modern. The Snow survey of 1862 shows that a stoep existed along the front of the building but no trace of this is immediately obvious.

4.2.2 First Floor, second floor

Virtually the entire first floor (with the exception of the North West wall of the *Pakhuis*) has been rebuilt using modern materials and joinery. Original fabric exists in the rear wall but the inside of this has been reinforced with concrete. The entire second floor is modern.

4.2.3 Excavations

Interior: Town House.

A test excavation was positioned within the front room to check for interior wall foundations. It soon became apparent that the floor consisted of multiple layers of concrete and cinder brick more than 300mm thick and extremely difficult to break. It was then decided that it would be more productive to work on other parts of the site.

Excavation Room 3a (R3a).

A test excavation was opened in the southern-most room on the *Lot* which would have once been part of the backyard buildings. Although this area had been disturbed by the positioning of services, a sequence of interesting artefactual material was located.

Below cement: Immediately below the cement floor was a dense bottle dump. Although none of the bottles were complete, they represent a very tight assemblage dating to the late 19th century - the time when the Cafe Royal was first established as an Hotel. Trenches for laying sewage pipes had intersected the dump in places and caused some mixing of deposits.

Smooth Brown Fill: The deposits underlying the bottle dump were very similar in appearance to those on the north west side of the building. Archaeological material was contained within the fill but this was not dense enough to be described as a domestic midden. Oriental ceramics and European earthenware (currently under analysis) were found. The clay smoking pipe bores which have been analysed indicate that the material is later than that located on the north-west side of the site. A date relating to the third quarter of the 19th century is indicated. The implication of these finds is that outbuildings, which were demolished after 1906, were probably built at the same time as the *Town House*. The foundations of these structures (which are built of shale) still exist some 200mm below the existing floor surface.

4.2.4 Summary of findings - the *Town House*

Very few physical remains of the original structure exist today due to the history of multiple alterations which began in the 19th century.

The third floor of the structure is modern and built mainly of cinder block. It is likely that it was built after 1937 (see city engineers report). The Cafe Royal was extensively altered at this time.

Original fabric exists in the front portion of the structure but the facade has undergone extensive alteration.

The central back door of the structure still exists. The sash window on the right side has been converted into a modern door while a passage to the south wing goes through the area of the sash window on the left-hand side. The lintels still exist.

Both the archaeological material and the building sequence indicate that the *Pakhuis* predates the *Town House*. It is suspected that the *Town House* was built by Willem van der Riet shortly after 1769.

Foundations of the backyard structures exist at a depth of 200-300mm below the existing ground level. The material found under the floor of these structures dates to the latter half of the 18th century indicating that the backyard structures are roughly contemporary with the *Town House*.

Information from early plans, physical evidence and the fact that research has shown that buildings such as this were built according to a standard layout permits a tentative reconstruction of what the *Town House* may have looked like. The likely floor plan for the structure as it may have looked *circa* 1800 is depicted in Figure 8. It was a double-storied symmetrical structure with a front stoep. There was central front door with a sash window on either side and three windows on the top floor. Figure 9 presents a reconstruction of the front facade of the building *circa* 1800. If one were to walk into the building through the front door into the central passage or *voorhuis* there would be rooms on the left and right. The back portion of the house (*galdery*) had a central door leading into the yard. Each of the rear rooms had a sash window facing onto the rear yard. At the back of the property were some small buildings which would have housed slaves or stores in the 18th century. After the abolition of slavery it is quite possible that these became servants quarters or may have been hired out to lodgers during the housing crisis of the 1830s.

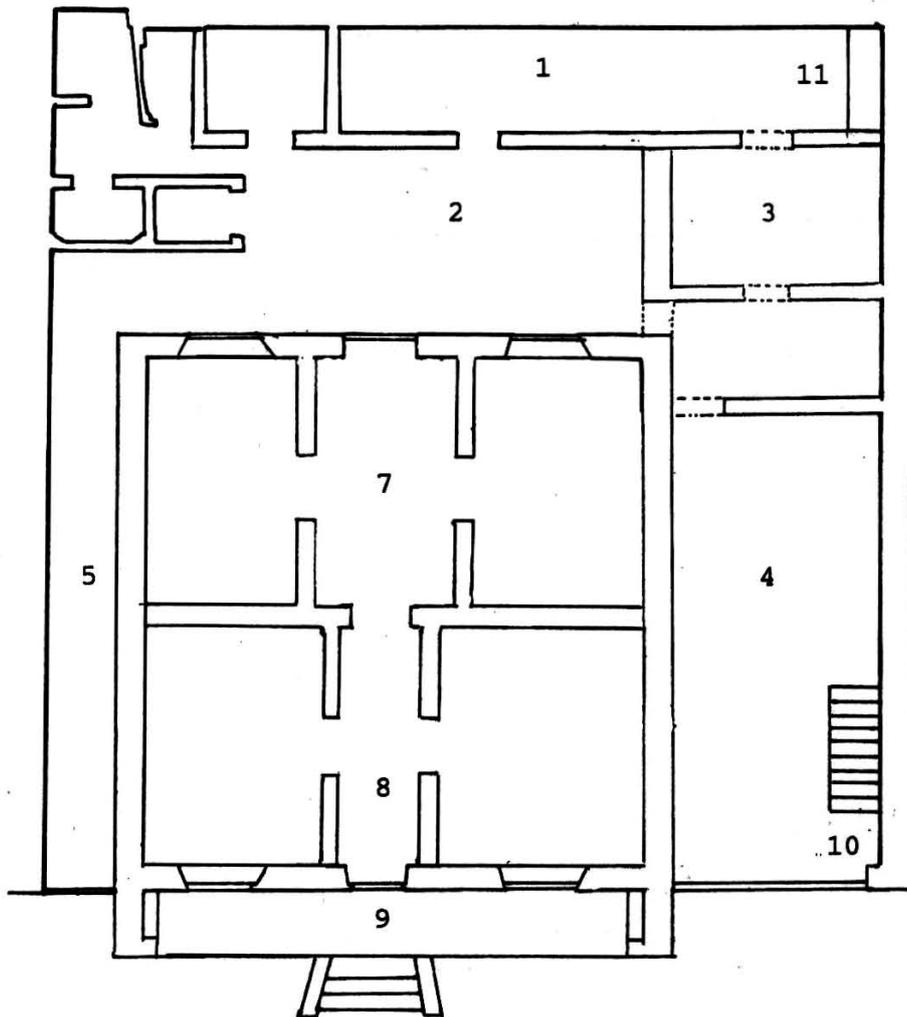
5. CONCLUSION

The Cafe Royal building has a very long history by South African standards. The property was granted in 1708 and judging by the archaeology of the site, was occupied soon after. During the Dutch period at the Cape the property was owned by a series of notable people, some wealthy *Free Burghers*, others involved in government. It is clear that most did not live on the property but were speculators who also hired out the premises. The pattern of occupation changed in the 19th century with owners working and living on the property. Towards the end of the century the building became a private boarding house and by 1881 was already established as the Cafe Royal Hotel. The Cafe Royal thereafter became a cherished "watering hole" and is fondly remembered by many Capetonians.

The archaeological investigations have shown that a *Pakhuis*, a *Town House* and an alley leading to a rear courtyard and backyard rooms existed on the site prior to its becoming a hotel. The complex was altered for accommodation purposes but was modified to its present layout in the 1930s. This involved fusing the complex, adding a storey and demolishing the courtyard structures. These were replaced with a semi-circular structure designed to bolster the rear of the building.

The below surface archaeological material shows evidence of an occupational sequence. The oldest material (a small domestic midden of the early 18th century) is associated with the vicinity of the *Pakhuis*. The extensions to the rear of the *Pakhuis* were built over this midden. Material found below the floor level here indicates that the extensions were an early addition (*circa* 1750) as no later material was deposited once the additions were erected. Material dating to the mid-late 18th century was found under what would have been the outhouses, indicating that they may be contemporary with the *Town House*.

It is quite possible that the standing stone wall associated with the *Pakhuis* is amongst the oldest remaining structures in central Cape Town. This particular study on the Cafe Royal is significant in that we have been able to assess the development of a private Table Valley property from the period of it first being granted to the present day. Furthermore, the

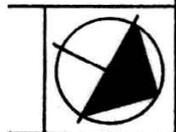


- 1 Backyard structure
- 2 Yard
- 3 Pakhuis rear extension
- 4 Pakhuis
- 5 Outside alley
- 6 Town house rear door (existing)
- 7 Galdery
- 8 Voorhuis
- 9 Stoep
- 10 Pakhuis stairs

- 10 Pakhuis stairs
- 11 Hearth

ave

Ground floor plan of the Cafe Royal as it may have appeared at the beginning of the 19th century.



8





The facade of the Cafe Royal as it may have appeared at the beginning of the 19th century.

9



midden material associated with the site is of importance because contained within it is evidence of the life styles, eating habits and material culture of Cape Towns inhabitants.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

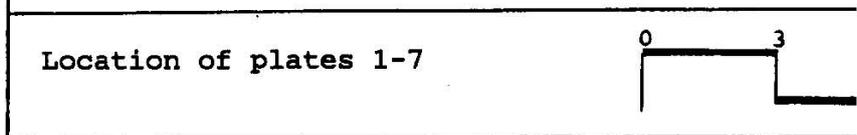
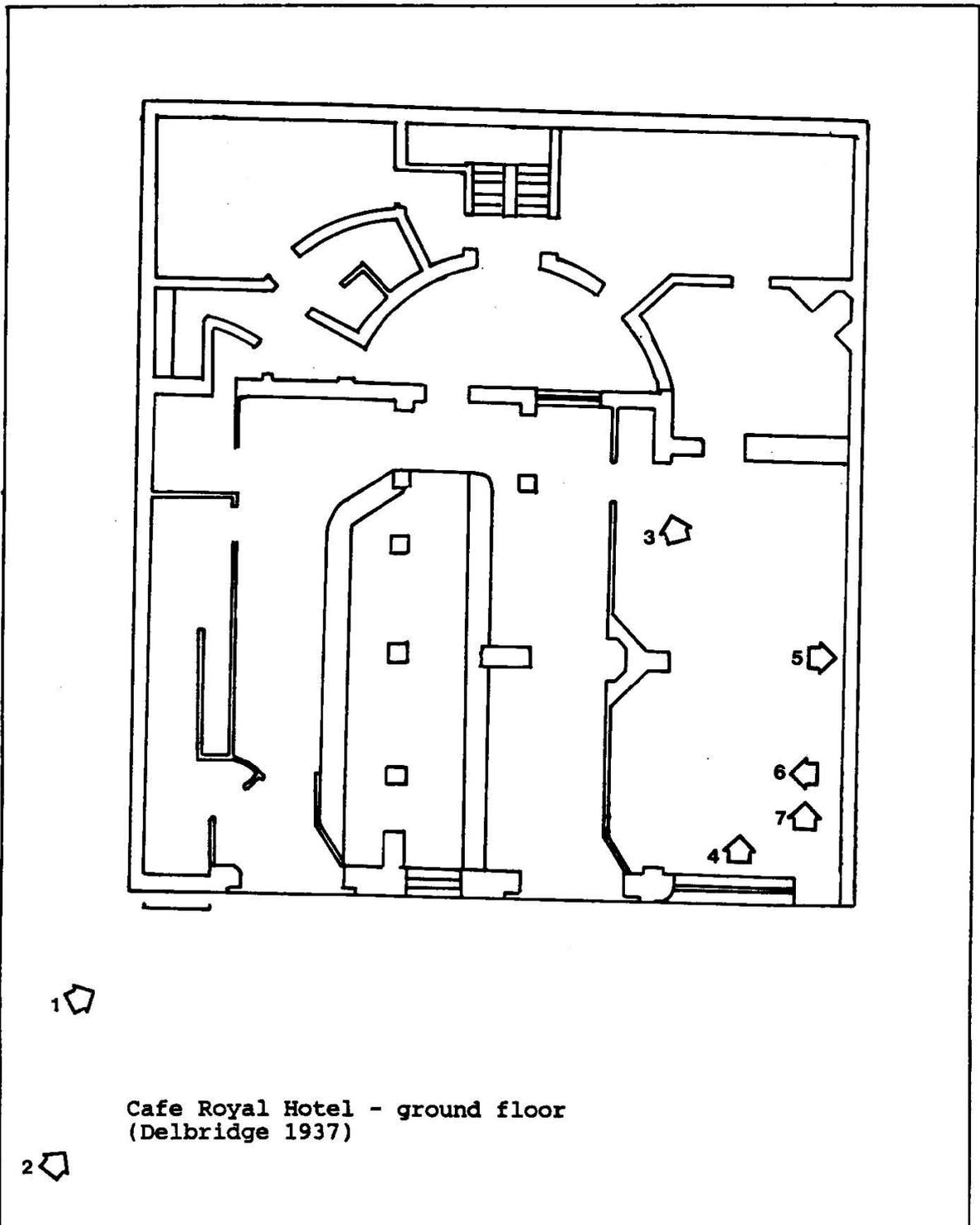
1. The most intact and well preserved portion of the site is the south west wall of the *Pakhuis* and associated joinery. There is also reason to believe that this structure predates the *Town House* and is the oldest part of the site.
2. The context of the site in terms of its proximity to central Cape Town where very little Dutch East India company material has survived, means that the existing fabric is an important cultural resource. With careful re-use, such fabric can add aesthetic value to the new development of the Cafe Royal building.
3. The tops of wall foundations uncovered in the excavations tend to be 200-300mm below the existing floor surface. If it is possible to leave these intact under the new structure, this should be done. It is therefore desirable that structures for supporting the new building should have as small a "footprint" as possible.
4. It is suggested that the south west wall of the *Pakhuis* should be retained in whole or in part as a feature within the new structure. It is also suggested that an attempt should be made to retain or re-use the joinery (yellow wood floorboards and teak joists) within the development. Besides being of substantial monetary value, these are historic artefacts and should not be discarded or removed from site of origin. In the case of re-use, the original use of the material must be acknowledged.
5. Other features that could be utilised/included within the development are some of the sub-surface foundations at the rear of the *Pakhuis*. These could be accompanied by a display and explanation of some of the archaeological material that was found in the vicinity. Preliminary indications are that the artefacts are among some of the oldest found on historic sites in the Cape and represent an important collection for archaeologists, historians and other interested persons. Information contained within this report (and from other sources) and selected artefactual material could form the basis of an on site display within the new building. Similar displays exist at the Cellars Country Hotel and the Offices of the National Monuments Council. (According to the NMC excavation permit issued to the ACO, artefactual material is to be curated at U.C.T. Provision can be made for permanent loan of material for display purposes).

7. PROFESSIONAL TEAM

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Analysis	Tim Hart Jean Grey Sonya Funke

We would like to thank Jane Klose, Antonia Malan, Yvonne Brink and Cedric Poggenpoel for their comments and observations.

PHOTOGRAPHS





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3



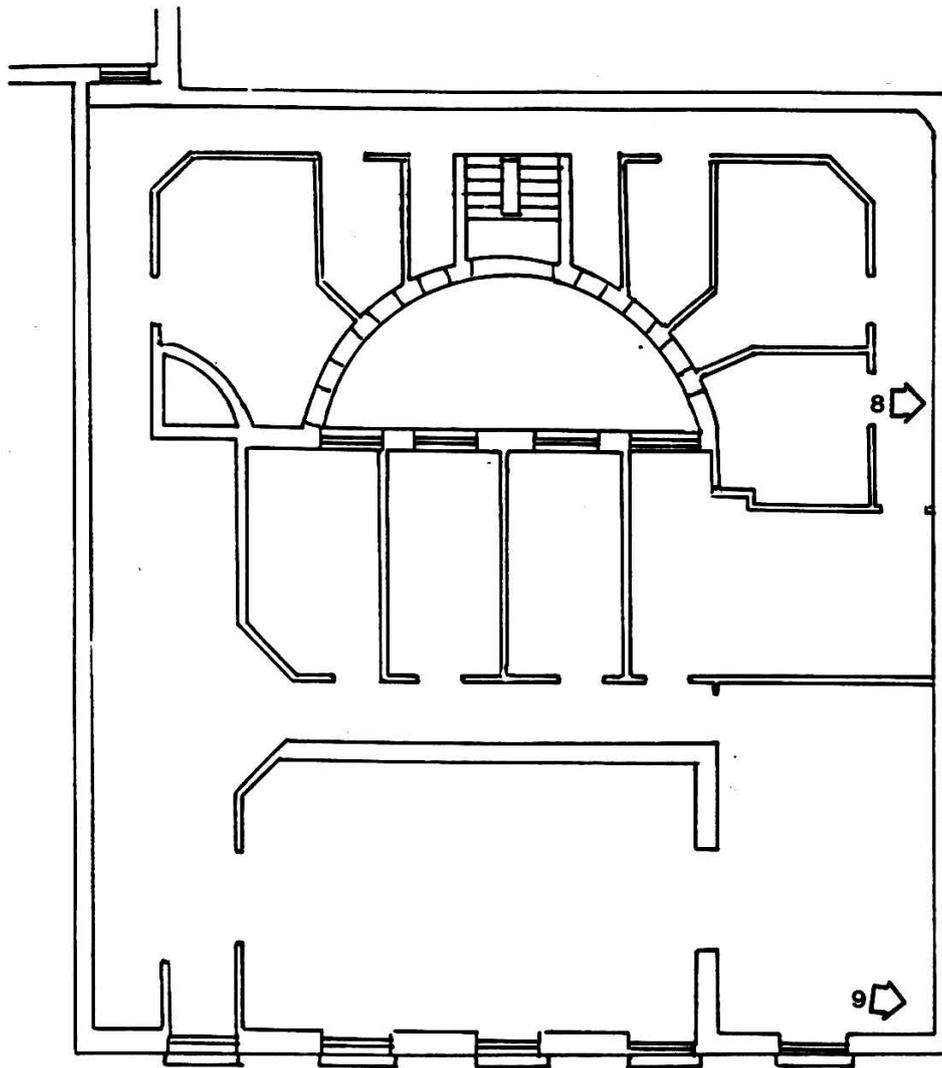
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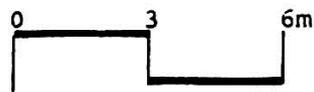


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Cafe Royal Hotel - first floor
(after Delbridge 1937)

Location of plates 8-9

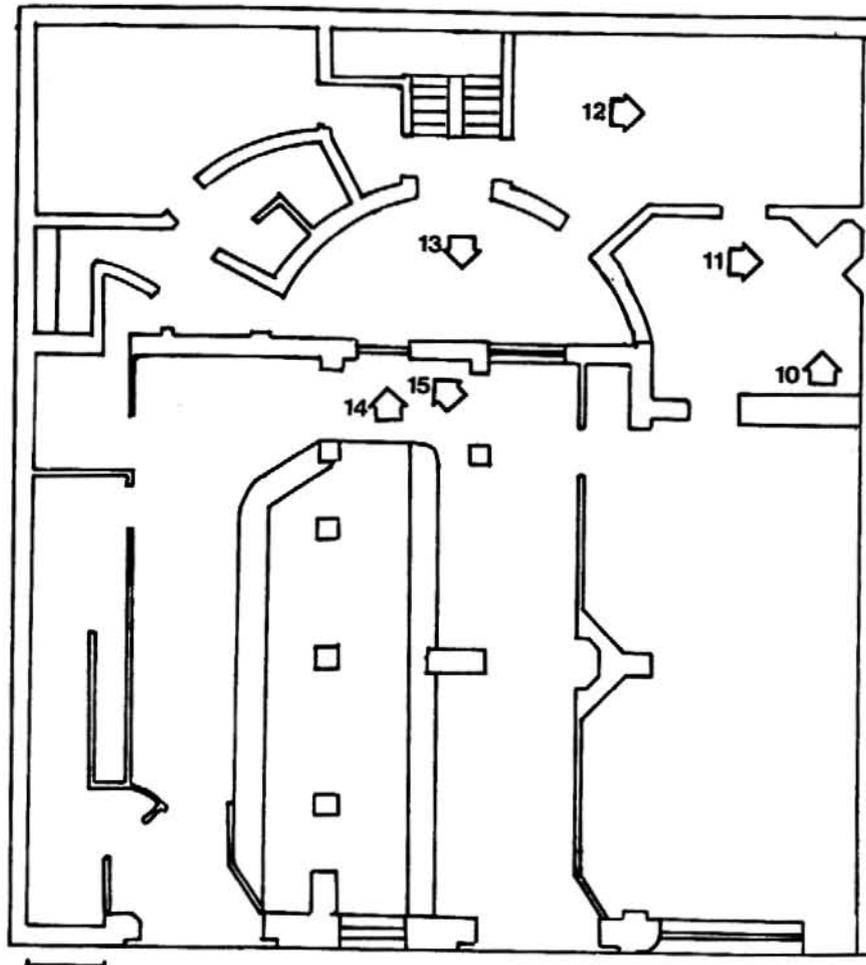




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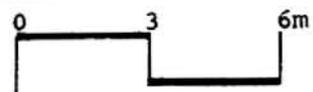


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Cafe Royal Hotel - ground floor
(Delbridge 1937)

Location of plates 10-15





10



11



12



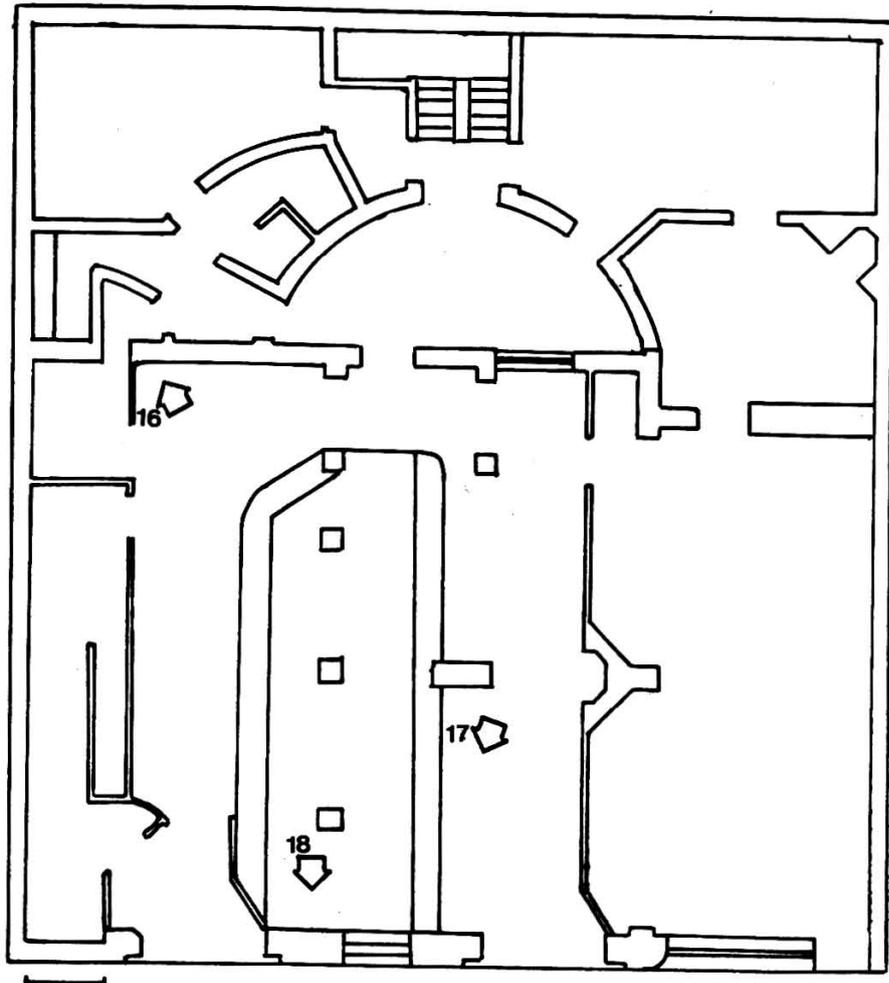
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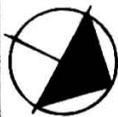
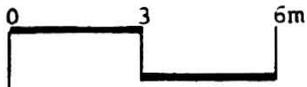
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15



Cafe Royal Hotel - ground floor
(Delbridge 1937)



Location of plates 16-18



16



17



18

APPENDIX A

Preliminary archaeological analysis of the Cafe Royal kitchen midden (unit CFF). A peculiar feature of this material was the fact that the artefactual component was highly fragmented compared with the bone which was in quite good condition. The indications of this are that two separate depositional processes were involved in the accumulation of the midden.

1. SMOKING PIPES

The analysis of the smoking pipes from the midden are indicative of an assemblage dating to the early 18th century. Bore measurement data is consistent with dates indicated by the heel marks⁵⁴.

Heel marks according to Duco:

R2a CFF

DV gekroond 1700/1705 - 1710/1715, 599.

AR gekroond

Muil gekroond 1675 -1827/1838, 237

"Jumping dog" Gekroond

3 gekroond 1695/1710 - 1800, 628a

PT gekroond 1710/1725 - 1842/1843, 453

R1a CFF

Man met de ster, reliefmerk 1690/1710 - 1781, 77

Drie lelies 1705 - 1846

GWV 1705/1709-1741, 605

IAN gekroond 1699-1840/1844 (vacant 1752 - 1788) vroege versie, 556a

KL gekroond 1700/1705 - 1710/1715, 395 or DV gekroond 1700/1705 - 1710/1715, 458.

HP monogram gekroond 1680/1710 - 1791.

Driemaster 1710/1725 -1734, 252b.

Drie ruiten ongekroond 1686 - 1839, 288b.

TP gekroond.

Stem bore analysis:

Pipe stem bores were measured by using the drill bit insertion method.

Drill bit intervals were at 0.2mm.

R2a CFF

1.8 n=11

2.0 n=41

2.2 n=62

2.4 n=10

⁵⁴ Duco, H.C. 1982 Merken van Goudse Pijpenmakers 1660-1940. Uitgeversmaatschappij De Tijdstroom Lochem/Poeringe.

R1a CFF

1.8 n=8
2.0 n=56
2.2 n=60
2.4 n=15

The results of both the bore and heelmark analysis support a date of pre 1725 for the midden.

2. CERAMICS

Ceramics from the kitchen midden are currently undergoing detailed analysis by Jean Grey as part of her honours degree program. She is being supervised by Dr A. Malan and Dr. J. Klose who are experts in the field of ceramics. The assemblage is extremely fragmentary but the initial analysis of the material shows that the following ceramic types are present.

European types:

Tin glazed earthenware (an early European attempt to imitate fine oriental porcelains).
Westerwald salt glazed stoneware
Coarse earthenware

Oriental types:

Underglaze blue and white porcelains - plates, dishes, bowls, tea bowls and tea and coffee ware including:
Enamelled ware (Imari)
Brown glaze
Provincial wares (Coarse porcelains and Kitchen Ch'ing)
Stone ware.

The most notable aspect of the assemblage is the dominance of the oriental ceramic forms. No European refined earthenwares are present except for tin glazed vessels. At the time the kitchen midden accumulated at the beginning of the 18th century, Europeans had not yet mastered the technology to produce porcelains. They depended largely on the trade with the east for these expensive and sought after products. It is not until the 1760s that Staffordshire potters began to mass produce fine cream and white bodied earthenware which fast displaced the porcelain trade with the east. By the late 18th century Staffordshire products were becoming common in Cape households⁵⁵.

⁵⁵ Klose and Malan, 1993. Ceramics of the South Western Cape 1650-1850. University of Cape Town: Historical Archaeology Research Group.

3. METAL

Fragments of highly corroded flat iron and nails (502 gms)

1 lead bird shot

1 large brass tack

36 whole and broken pins.

4. GLASS TRADE BEADS

6 white

4 brown/indeterminate

1 large ceramic.

Although glass beads were officially brought in as trade items for barter with the local inhabitants, archaeological investigations are showing that they were often used as decorative items by residents in Cape households.

5. GLASS

Assorted highly oxidised fragments (250gms) A preliminary examination has shown the following forms to be present:

Green case bottle glass (highly fragmented)

Clear glass (tumblers)

Clear decorative glass

Fragments of "Romer" drinking glasses typical of the 18th century.

Although bottle dumps are a common feature of the 19th century, it is very rare to find whole discarded bottles in the 18th century. Glass bottles were a scarce commodity at that time and were always reutilised as containers until they broke.

6. CHARCOAL

Charcoal (cooking fires) from the midden was collected but not analysed as this is a highly specialist task. The sample will be held as a reference collection for anyone who wishing to do research on the local 18th century flora in the vicinity of Cape Town. Charcoal fragments can be analysed to plant species level with suitable expertise and technology.

7. FOOD REMAINS

This consists of bone and eggshell. Plant remains were not preserved. The bones have been subject to preliminary analysis. Mammal and fish and some bird make up the bulk of the material.

Mammal:

Sheep are dominant with animals ranging from juvenile to adult.
Cow (small quantities).
Dassie (small quantities)
Wild bovid ((?) small quantities)

Bird:

Bones of wild birds. These were probably water birds hunted at the Salt River Estuary. Domestic chicken was not identified.

Eggshell:

Ostrich eggshell (50gms)

Fish:

The large quantities of fish bone indicate that this was an important component of the household's diet. Species identified are:

Harder
Hottentot
White Stumpnose
Steenbras

All these species are easily caught in estuarine conditions (Salt River) or from a line from the shore. Deeper water species such as snoek have not been identified in the assemblage indicating that the residents of *Lot 3* early in the 18th century did not obtain their fish from boat fishermen.

Shellfish:

Small quantities of shellfish remains were found (523 gms). Most of these fragments were covered in lime cement and may have been used in plaster. The exceptions were fragments of black mussel (*C. meridionalis*) which were relatively clean and may have been consumed.

Species present:

Choromytilus meridionalis
Aulacomya ater
Oxysteles tigrina
Burnupena sp

APPENDIX B

Contents of the house in Block K:K on Greenmarket Square.

The following pages, which are extracted from the Doctoral dissertation of Antonia Malan, contain a comparison of two inventories of owners of this property, Hilletjie Verschuur and Johan Coenraad Gie. Both these people owned and hired out the Cafe Royal building but lived in Block KK. The inventories taken upon their deaths (of their homes in Block KK, provide an excellent insight into lifestyles of the times.

The two inventories taken of this house were forty years apart - 1772 and 1817 - but very little physical alteration of the house occurred. Hilletjie Verschuur owned three male slaves and one female on her death whereas the Gie family owned eight men (including carpenters, tailors, labourers and a cook), six women (including washmaid and housemaid) and three children. Both women had a Lot of gold and silver jewellery. The contents of this fashionable property illustrated the changed pattern of material culture between the Cape colonial years at the height of the later 18th century period and the situation at the end of the transitional period (circa 1820), but within the constraints of a house layout built in mid-18th century.

The voorhuis in 1772 was an entrance lobby, containing pictures and tall clock alone, though the glass lamp shade (glase stulp) was a newly adopted item. In 1817 oil-cloth and a mat were on the floor. The two front rooms epitomised current fashionable interiors. They could be described as "drawing rooms" in 1817, but in 1772 they were typical principal voorkamers with curtained beds, cabinet, tables and chairs. The best room had white pull-up curtains in the windows, and white hangings on the bed, a cabinet was topped with porcelain and the pictures had gilt frames. The second room had red hangings and a cupboard topped with porcelain. By 1817 the beds and tall cupboards had been removed and the curtains were drawn across the windows. The best room was still hung in white but horsehair upholstery on the rustbank indicated that it was a "sofa" rather than traditional Cape rustbank. A set of twelve chairs with two matching chairs with arms were new items, as were six little tables (including a small billiard table), two marble-shelved corner cupboards with porcelain and ornaments, and a floor carpet.

The other front room in 1817 had chintz drawn curtains, the fabric probably now imported from Europe rather than the East, and a matching chintz covered sofa. Mahogany was introduced in the form of a tea table, there was a card table and buffet, and a piano completed the new look (the music sheets were catalogued). Interestingly, an earthen gorgolet was listed; this became a distinctive item in early 19th century drawing rooms of the Cape. What function it had in this formal context is not clear, as it was originally a form of water flask.

The galdery in 1772 had two brass chandeliers, porcelain tableware dishes and plates and three teapots on racks, as well as wall-cupboards with glassware inside. The tea equipment (keetel en confoor) were on a tea table. In 1817 the windows had chintz curtains, a carpet was underfoot and a corner cupboard with silver-plated ware replaced the wall-cupboard: but the tea equipment was still in this room.

The contents of the back rooms were changed from multipurpose to recognisably specialised functions between 1772 and 1817. The right-hand one in 1772 held a table, cupboard of brassware, wardrobe and kapstok, and a trap kastje (stair cupboard) containing bullets and shot. In 1817 this room had become a male-oriented sitting room with bureau, guns, microscope, bookshelf (the books were catalogued), barometer, and so on. The other back room was a sitting room in 1772 and 1817. The changes were from red plush chairs to horsehair and the addition of pictures to the gilt-framed mirrors on the walls.

Upstairs an opkamer in 1772 was furnished as informal sleeping room with pavillion bed, desk, money chest, armchair and bible, but was not listed at all in 1817. In 1772 a boven galdery was furnished as dining room with twenty-seven chairs, wall-cupboards and table but the other rooms were variably used as multipurpose bedrooms and store rooms except for one, more formally equipped with two curtained beds, ten chairs, a table, two armchairs and a rustbank. By 1817 the voorzolder (an area similarly found in other large house inventories) was listed as furnished with chairs, table, cabinet, corner cupboard and linen store.

By 1817 the other rooms became distinct bedrooms containing beds, chairs, cupboards and toilet equipment only. Stores had been relocated to three newly built pantries (dispens) downstairs. The best bedroom furniture in 1817 was lavish and expensive⁵⁶: chintz drawn curtains, gilt-framed mirror, ten pictures, toilet table with white cloth, rustbank with red plush cushions, mahogany commode, bidet, stinkwood bed, two Chinese chests, silver-trimmed cabinet for linen, wardrobe, chest of drawers with shelves for jewellery, money chest and hamper. This sort of upstairs, private, feminine luxury was unknown in the 1770s.

In 1772 the galdery downstairs and upstairs and the kitchen all contained household tablewares. In the kitchen two shelves held three pewter and four porcelain dishes, and two dozen porcelain plates in zoort. The 1817 household had three pantries full of tableware of all sorts (including white earthenware table service, japans nestjes, porcelain and glassware) so that food preparation activities had clearly been removed from the living rooms.

The porcelain by 1817 almost without exception consisted of teaware or pots and jars. The matching formal services were expensive. Two tea services (of unspecified ware but with gold rims) on their trays sold for Rd121 and Rd83 at auction and a table service (unspecified) went for Rd100: the purchasers were widow Cloete, Mr J. van Reenen and August Moller, the former both elite families and the latter a successful German immigrant butcher. Table plates were white earthenware (Staffordshire creamware). Glass bowls, pots and jars came into the record in 1817. Silver tableware in 1772 comprised cutlery, boxes, salts and a teapot; in 1817 there were trays, serving vessels such as sauce pots, and teaware (replacing porcelain) as well as much cutlery. Cutlery was diverse and special purpose. Sets, boxed in a foudraal, typically consisted of a dozen knives (with green, white or silver handles), desert and table forks, spoons and a ladle. Other special instruments included fish slices, butter knives, soup spoons, sauce spoons, salad forks, sugar spoons, tea strainers, tea spoons, preserve forks and marrow spoons.

⁵⁶ The silver trimmed cabinet was the most costly single item of furniture, sold for Rd252 at the subsequent auction (MOOC10/31.47-48). Of the downstairs furniture in the right-hand front room, a chintz-covered rustbank fetched Rd225 and the piano Rd212.