

**PHASE 1 HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT ON PORTIONS OF FARMS
BOEKENHOUT FONTEIN, ASSEGAAI BUSH AND BIRCHWOOD PARK
FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF GAME LODGES AND RESORTS TO BE
INCORPORATED INTO THE GREATER LALIBELA NATURE RESERVE,
EASTERN CAPE**

[Remainder of Portion 3 (Boekenhout Fontein West) of the farm Boekenhout Fontein No. 297, Portion 6 (Portion of Portion 1) of the farm Assegaai Bush No. 296, Remainder of Portion 1 (Assegaai Bush West) of the Farm Assegaai Bush No. 296, Portion 8 of Farm Assegaai Bush No 296, Portion 3 (a Portion of Portion 1) of the Farm Assegaai Bush No. 296, Portion 5 (Portion of Portion 1) of the Farm Assegaai Bush No. 296 and Portion 5 (a Portion of Portion 2) of the Farm Birchwood Park No 480].

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

According to the Environmental Impact Assessment, compiled by CEN Integrated Environmental Management Unit, a total of 66 dwelling units and a hotel are planned for portions of newly acquired farms to be incorporated into the Greater Lalibela Nature Reserve and Lifestyle Development. The development will be known as the “Lalibela Wildlife Estate”.

Portions of the farms Assegaai Bush, Boekenhoutfontein West and Birchwood Park in the Eastern Cape have been purchased for the “Lalibela Wildlife Estate”. Two nodes of development, comprising a total of 66 private dwellings and a hotel, will be constructed on Portions of Assegaai Bush and Boekenhoutfontein West.

A Heritage Impact Assessment was undertaken of the two areas of development, namely Portions 1 & 6 of 296 (Assegaai Bush) and Portion 3 of 297 (Boekenhoutfontein West). Only those areas identified for development, were surveyed. One stone artefact (of indeterminate age) was discovered on one of the plots on Assegaai Bush. It is recommended that development of the residential plots may proceed without mitigation. However, development should cease immediately if any archaeological or historical material is uncovered (see list provided below) during development and an archaeologist should be alerted.

The development of a hotel complex on the site which presently contains the historic Assegaai Bush farmhouse, will impact significantly on the heritage of the area. The farm of Assegaai Bush is linked to important events and personalities of Eastern Cape history such as: the wreck of the Grosvenor, visits by early travellers such as Barrow and Lichtenstein, and the final Place of Parting of the 1820 Settlers. Assegaai Bush should be graded as a Grade 2 (Provincial) heritage site.

The historic farmhouse is older than 60 years and is protected under provisions of the National Heritage Resources Act of 1999. A permit will be required to restore or demolish the buildings on the site. It is recommended that an architect familiar with the restoration of historic buildings is consulted with regard the possible restoration of the house. If the developer follows the route of restoration, then an historical archaeologist needs to be present during the restoration process in order to record the fabric of the original building and to monitor the recovery of any buried features or artefacts. Further, it is recommended that a complete record (mapping and photographic) be undertaken of the farmhouse and outbuildings. These records should be stored in an archival repository.

If SAHRA approves the demolition of the building, then an historical archaeological investigation should be undertaken before and during the demolition process to ensure that important historical material (such as buried features and artefacts) is recovered.

Finally, a further 6 unit are planned for Portion 5 of 296 (Birchwood Park) but I did not survey this area as it appears that plans for the development of this land is still ongoing. An HIA will have to be undertaken of Portion 5 of 296 should plans be further developed in future.

INTRODUCTION

The proposed development, “Lalibela Wildlife Estate”, will cover 2,300 hectares of bushveld adjacent to the Lalibela Private Game Reserve (7,500 hectares). Portions of the farms Assegaai Bush, Boekenhoutfontein West and Birchwood Park (situated between Port Elizabeth and Grahamstown), which are currently zoned for agricultural use, will be incorporated into the Estate (Figure 1a). Assegaai Bush farm can be found on the 1:50 000 map sheets: 3326 AC Alicedale and 3326 AD Salem (Figure 1b), while Boekenhoutfontein West is located on map sheet: 3326 AC Alicedale.

There are two main nodes (Figure 2) of residential development; the first being Portions 1 & 6 of 296 (Assegaai Bush); while the second is Portion 3 of 297 (Boekenhoutfontein West) and these developments spans two drainage basins (Figure 3 & 4).

Access to the development will be from two existing roads: the MR476 (Alicedale to Grahamstown) and the DR1996 (Sidbury to the N2). Both these roads run in an East-West direction.

The development on the estate will involve the purchase of a limited number of plots, where buyers can build houses of up 500 square metres. Each plot has been selected based on the view and to ensure privacy from the other homes in the development. The number of plots will be limited to 66 in order to ensure the low-density nature of the development. The EIA proposes that the dwelling units be zoned to “Rural dwelling units”, which is described as self-contained units with a single kitchen, living accommodation and dwelling for a single family, together with outbuildings, not exceeding 500m² in size at one location and 1000m² at another.

The Lalibela Wildlife Estate will be stocked with non-dangerous game only so that residents are free to ramble alone in a common area of 700 hectares on the property.

It is intended to construct a “Hotel” (Fig. 3b) on the remainder of Portion 1 of the Farm Assegaai Bush No. 296 and this is defined as “a single building or harmoniously designed buildings clustered together to provide holiday accommodation in a unique natural environment. The type of design, scale of the hotel and maximum height of 2 storeys shall be informed by the suitability of the site to ensure minimum impact on sensitive natural environments and the visual impact of the proposed structure on the environment/setting. The hotel could include the following ancillary uses: shops, offices, conference facilities, spa, swimming pool, restaurant and bar”. The location of the Hotel is sited on the present location of the derelict Assegaai Bush farmhouse and outbuildings.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Dr L Webley was requested to undertake a Heritage Impact Assessment of the proposed construction of the 66 dwelling units and a hotel on portions of the Farms Assegaai Bush, Boekenhoutfontein West and Birchwood Park in terms of Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act No 25 of 1999. The brief was to determine if

any archaeological or historical sites would be negatively impacted by the development.

NATIONAL HERITAGE RESOURCES ACT No 25 OF 1999

Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act of 1999 clearly stipulates that any person constructing a road or similar linear developments exceeding 300m in length or developing an area exceeding 5000 m² in extent is required to notify the responsible heritage resources authority or SAHRA. SAHRA will in turn advise whether an impact assessment report is needed before development can take place. Section 34 stipulates that no person may alter or demolish any structure or part of a structure, which is older than 60 years without a permit issued by the relevant provincial heritage resources authority.

With regard burial grounds and graves, Section 36 (3) of the Act stipulates that no person may, without a permit issued by the relevant heritage authority or SAHRA, (a) destroy, damage or exhume the grave of the victim of conflict; (b) destroy, damage or exhume any grave or burial ground older than 60 years which is situated outside a formal cemetery administered by a local authority.

In terms of the Act all archaeological objects, palaeontological material and meteorites are the property of the State. Any person who discovers any of these materials in the course of development must immediately inform the responsible heritage resources authority. No person may, without a permit issued by the responsible heritage authority destroy, damage, excavate, alter, deface or disturb any archaeological sites and material, palaeontological sites and meteorites.

These aspects of the National Heritage Resources Act of 1999 need to be consulted when considering the proposed development of 66 dwelling units on various portions of the farms listed above. NHRA (1999) defines the word “development” to include “any change to the natural or existing condition or topography of land”.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND TO THE AREA

A number of scatters of Middle Stone Age and Early Stone Age scatters have been found on the banks of the Bushman’s River (to the south of Assegaai Bush) by Binneman and Webley in 1993. A number of stone cairns have been reported from the banks of the Bushman’s River, and some were excavated by amateur archaeologists in the 1930s. They contained human remains.

A number of rock shelters contains archaeological deposit dating to the Holocene period have been recorded in the area during the last 100 years. For example, there are sites such as Roodekrantz, Spitskop, Stanhope, Welcome Woods, etc which were excavated by amateur archaeologists in the 1920s and 1930s. Welcome Woods, to the west of Assegaai Bush, was excavated by the previous Director of the Albany Museum, Dr John Hewitt, in 1938. There are apparently three small shelters in this valley to the west of the Assegaai Bush valley. These shelters contain rock art and were recently viewed by Dr J Binneman. Spitskop is especially important as a large number of human remains were excavated by Hewitt and Stapleton from this small shelter in 1921, while an important painted stone was recovered from Roodekrantz. A

rock shelter with paintings and archaeological deposit was recorded at Carl's Rust (to the east of Boekenhoutfontein).

Unfortunately very little information can be derived from these excavations as no excavation reports were kept. The Albany Museum contains a number of small collections of artefactual material (and human remains) from these sites. However, the fact that numerous small rock shelters, some with paintings, have been recorded from the area indicates the importance of ensuring that no archaeological sites are affected by the development.

In 1993, during a survey on Shamwari Game Reserve, to the south of Lalibela, the remains of an historical house were found close to the Bushman's River, at a crossing known as Rautenbach's Drift. The foundations of an inn, dating to the period of the arrival of the 1820 Settlers, was located and recorded.

Wagon tracks of the original wagon route from Port Elizabeth to Grahamstown, were recorded by Webley and Nel on the farm Rochester (adjoining Assegaai Bush) in 1993.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF THE PROPERTY

A great deal of information is available on the farm Assegaai Bush as it was a particularly significant outspan on the main route from Port Elizabeth to Grahamstown during the 18th and 19th centuries. Much of this information was collected by the well-known Eastern Cape naturalist, Dr Jack Skead and the unpublished material is housed at the Albany Museum. A brief summary is presented below.

The name Assegaai Bush is taken from the tree Assegaai (*Curtisia dentata*) which grows in the neighbourhood and was used in wagon-making in historical times. Dr Jack Skead visited the farm in 1980 in search of the "Hangbush" which he found at the edge of the forest patch. Skead noted, while he was undertaking his research on the farm that it is difficult to determine the borders of the original Assegaai Bush and it seems that farms Proctorsfontein, Sydney's Hope, Latham and Rochester would also have formed part of the original Assegaai Bush.

Situated as it is on the main wagon road from Port Elizabeth to Grahamstown (Figure 1a), wagons travelling from Sidbury would have outspanned in the open valley at the Hangbush. Although Assegaai Bush is most famous for being the place where the 1820 Settlers were allocated their farms before they parted company in different directions, it is also mentioned from earliest times by early explorers and travellers (see Appendix 1). A large number of important 18th and 19th century South African travellers visited Assegaai Bush and it safe to say that there would have been some type of dwelling there before 1820. A well known local historian (Gledhill) has called Assegaai Bush the "**Piccadilly Circus of Albany**" because it was on the fork of roads going to the north and east.

The very earliest reference to the area dates to 1780, when there was an account that the burger Lucas van Rensburg reported that "some of the Kafir Captains and their people had placed themselves on this side of the Fish River at the Assagaibosch, as

well as upon the mountain behind, and the burgers in the area were requested to lead a commando against them”. The land was at this time contested territory.

In 1783 and 1790, two expeditions in search of the survivors of the wreck of the **Grosvenor** (which sank off the coast of Port St John’s in 1782), met at Assegaai Bush before setting off east. When the search expedition of 1783 arrived at Assegaajen Bosch, they found three English survivors from the ship (namely Lewis, Hubberly and Feancon).

The earliest occupation (as listed in the title deeds) is dated 29 April 1785, when it was registered to a Jan Frederik Potgieter. In 1818 it was granted in perpetual quitrent to Johannes Potgieter.

Various important 19th century travellers and explorers have recorded visiting Assegaai Bush. In 1797, **John Barrow**, Colonial Secretary at the Cape, travelled through the Eastern Cape and he arrived at Assegaibosch (he calls it Haasegaibosch River) and he also comments on the fact that there were no other white farmers to the east, showing how the country had been abandoned because of the movement into the area by the Xhosa.

Moodie mentions that in 1806 Col Collins met up with a party of Xhosa under “Gweeshee, the eldest son of Zlambe (Ndlambe)... He told us that part of his father’s people was moving to Assagay Bosch for a short time to change pasturage and to hunt”. This suggests that Chief Ndlambe who had a kraal at Alexandria, was using this area for temporary grazing.

The Xhosa incursions into this area resulted in Cradock ordering a network of thirty fortified posts (also called guard, patrol or observation posts) to be constructed in two lines, a first and a second line. The post at Assegaibosch formed part of the second line. In 1813 Campbell wrote of “Assegaai Bush near to which was a fort and a “boor’s” house”. The *Annals of the Grahamstown Historical Society* (1974) talk of the “foundations of a fort which may be seen on Mr VO Rippon’s farm dating to 1812”. This is confirmed in Coetzee’s book on the *Forts of the Eastern Cape*.

In 1820 Assegaai Bush became the dispersal point for most of the parties of Settlers travelling to their locations. Colonel Cuyler, Landdrost of Uitenhage, gave the following instruction to the surveyor, Knobel, dated 24 June 1820: “Say that the wagons with the Settlers now at the Bay may probably march on the 4th of July, Tuesday to Swartkops River; 5th July, Wednesday to Sondags River; 6th July, Thursday, to Rautenbach’s Drift; 7th July, Friday to Assegaij Bosch. Here Mr Knobel will be pleased to meet them and give further instructions to the respective parties being placed on their proper lands”. We can imagine the site with Settlers, Boers, their wagons and more than 1600 oxen. Assegaai Bosch was the place of parting. Those going to the coast took the lower road, while those destined for Grahamstown and beyond followed the main road (Figure 5).

The site is today marked by a 2 metre quartzite monolith, marking the “**Place of Parting**” of the **1820 Settlers**. A copy of Knobel’s map of 1820 showing the lands allocated to the Settlers is found in the Cory Library at Rhodes University.

In 1825 the Potgieter family sold the farm to Joseph Latham, an 1820 Settler. According to Skead, Joseph Latham seems to have been granted the eastern part of Assegaibosch in a later sub-division. Latham's Farm was granted in perpetual quitrent to Joseph Latham in 1843. In 1835, the express post from Uitenhage to Grahamstown used to overnight at Assegai Bosch. On 8 December 1837 Joseph Latham sold the farm to John McKenny and in 1845 McKenny sold to Robert Langley. Unfortunately, little is known of the owners of Assegai Bush after this date.

An oral interview was undertaken with Mrs Veronica Ball, now 78, who is related to the Rippon family. She recalled visiting Assegai Bush as a child. She was of the opinion that the farm passed into the Rippon family around 1880, when it was purchased by Cuthbert Rippon. Subsequent generations of Rippons, including John, Arthur and Valentine Rippon lived on the property.

The house was beautifully furnished, with a bedroom to the left of the entrance with a walk in cupboard. There was also a dining room in the front of the house. Most of the bedrooms ran from the big central room. The kitchen was at the back. After Mr Basil Scheepers moved into the house, he removed most of the flooring and windows. With regard the outbuildings in the garden, Mrs Ball related that they were used by John Rippon who had a shop. The shed was used for shearing and had yellow wood beams, also removed by Mr Scheepers.

The old farmhouse was not longer being occupied in 1978, the farmer living in a modern house a little higher up the hill to the south. After Mr Valentine Rippon died the farm was inherited by his son Ian. According to an article in the Grocott's Mail of 20 January 1987, the old farmhouse is of great historical value. There are overgrown trenches in the garden and one of the members of the Rippon family remember playing in the trenches and finding British soldier's buttons.

Mrs Ball recalled the trenches, which she said ran from the Monument at right angles to the road, down through the orchard. The orchard has now completely obliterated any remains of the trenches. Mrs Ball said that the Rippon family were all buried in the cemetery at the Anglican Church in Sidbury and she was not aware of a graveyard on the property.

One theory is that the homestead may have been used for officer's quarters. There is some speculation about the central part of the building being occupied by the British military and the South African architect Lewcock is of the opinion that the building was a re-conditioned Boer dwelling.

According to Skead's unpublished records, Boekenhoutfontein West (Portion 3 of 297) is part of the original farm of Boekenhoutfontein which was first granted to Petrus de Wit in 1833. Joseph Wilmot sold the western section of Boekenhoutfontein in 1907 to Hester Clarke and it was renamed Hatfield.

RESULTS OF THE SURVEY

The area was visited on 18 April 2007 together with Mr B Meikal of Lalibela. We travelled along the DR1996, stopping at the Monument to the Settlers. We then entered the property and followed the farm road past the farmhouse. The area to the

north of the farm road is completely covered with an orchard of peach trees. These are to be removed for development. The orchard is planted up close to the old farmhouse and there is little uncultivated land visible. We visited the following portions:

Portion 6 of 296
Portion 1 of 296

Plots 6-29 to 6-33 as well as 6-27, 6-26, 6-22 and 6-21 are located in the base of a valley, which may have a small river in the past. No archaeological remains were discovered. Plots 6-2 to 6-7 are located on disturbed lands next to the dam. Plots 1-1 to 1-3 as well as 6-1 are located in the present orchard and it is not anticipated that any *in situ* archaeological material will be located here. We visited plots 6-10 to 6-13 as these are located on a small ridge overlooking the dam and it would have favourable area in the past (before the dam). However, no archaeological remains were discovered.

At this stage no developments are planned for Portions 3 of 296, Portion 5 of 296 and Portion 8 of 296 and these areas were not visited (see Figure 2). An HIA will have to be done in future if developments are planned for this area.

The development on Portion 3 of 297 (Boekenhoutfontein West) is reached by approaching the area via the MR476. We visited plots 3-8 to 3-10, overlooking a shallow valley. Plots 3-1 to 3-7 are located along the valley floor and it is not anticipated that any remains will be found here. This section of the farm Boekenhoutfontein was cut from the main farm and sold in 1907 and it does not contain any dwellings and has only been used for grazing in the past.

We did not visit Birchwood Park and no development is planned for this area at present. An HIA will have to be done at a future date if developments are planned.

The Assegaai River winds through the farm and it is possible that there may be rock shelters in the valley. However, none were visible from any of the localities identified for development. If there are any such sites, they are not threatened by the development. The nature of the development (luxury units in a game reserve setting) means that the owners, who will only spend a few months of the year at Lalibela, are unlikely to explore the valleys and to pose a threat to possible rock shelters. No hiking trails or cycle paths area planned.

Site 1

This comprises a single, silcrete flaked core at plot 6-24 (Portion 6 of 296) overlooking the present dam, below a recently constructed wooden bungalow

S 33°23'23,0"
E 26°14'34,1"

Site 2

Location of the memorial erected by Mr T Bowker to the memory of the Place of Parting of the 1820 Settlers.

S 33°24'03,1"
E 26°15'23,7"

This memorial stone was erected in the 1960s and it is located, near the gate of the Assegaai Bush farm, but just outside the fence on the verge of the road. Figure 6 (A Google Map) shows the locality clearly. The National Heritage Resources Act does protect memorial stones but this is not at present in danger of being destroyed.

Site 3

This is the farmhouse of Assegaai Bush. It is located about 100m from the gate of the DR1996 road, the roof being visible from the road. No GPS reading was taken but the locality of the farmhouse is easily taken from the (Figure 6). The house comprises a derelict ruin (it still has a roof but many of the floors, doors and windows have been removed). Associated with the farmhouse is a number of outbuildings. It is possible that these outbuildings may pre-date the house itself (see photos). A shed, attached to the outbuildings, appears to be made of roughly packed stone without mortar. Remnants of a stone wall project at right angles from two sides of these outbuildings. They may originally have encircled the house but this is difficult to determine. The house is overgrown on three sides by dense vegetation and the surrounding ground is covered in long grass.

No cemeteries were located during the brief visit to the farm. In an interview with Mrs Ball, I was informed that the Rippon family used the cemetery at the Anglican Church in Sidbury and they were therefore not likely to have been buried on the farm. However, we do not know where the occupants of Assegaai Bush, prior to the Rippens, would have been buried. It is possible that the original Boer settlers (Potgieter) may have been buried on the farm.

SOURCES OF RISK AND IMPACT IDENTIFICATION

The highest number of rock shelters (some with rock art and archaeological deposit) on farms in the vicinity of the planned development, occurs in small kloofs and valleys. It is possible that the Assegaai River valley may contain such rock shelters, but they are not likely to be impacted by the luxurious type of development planned for the area. The risk to potential rock shelters is therefore low. Scatters of Early and Middle Stone Age artefacts have been found along banks the Bushman's River but none were observed along the Assegaai River valley in this survey. Similarly, stone cairns, some containing human remains, have been found along the Bushman's River. It seems that the development of the 66 dwelling units on the land identified in the EIA report will not have a significant impact on the archaeological heritage of the area. My degree of confidence with regard this is high.

The construction of the hotel, on the locality of the historic Assegaai Bush farmhouse, is likely to have a negative impact as this site is highly significant. It is likely that the present farmhouse (or even its outbuildings) is located on the original foundations of the earlier structures relating to the occupation of the farm by the Potgieter family, before the arrival of the 1820 Settlers. This makes this farmhouse of great interest to historians and historical archaeologists as it has the potential to inform us on a period of history of which we have very little information. The probability that important remains will be destroyed if bull-dozing of the site takes place without mitigation, is

likely to be high. Mitigation of this area during restoration or demolition is therefore essential.

ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE AND POSSIBLE MITIGATION

Although technically speaking, an archaeological site can comprise a single stone artifact, no clear **archaeological sites** (in terms of any grouping of material) was found on portion 1 of 296, portion 3 of 296, portion 6 of 296 or portion 3 of 297 and therefore no mitigation is needed for the construction of the 66 dwelling units (as specified in the Environmental Assessment by CEN Integrated Environmental Management Unit) on these portions of land.

In view of the number of small rock shelters with rock art on the surrounding farms, it is possible that rock shelters may be located in the Assegaai River valley. However, if these exist, they will not be affected by the development.

However, the proposal to develop a Hotel on the location of the historical farmhouse on portion 1 of 296 will have a significant impact on the built environment. The farmhouse comprises the main dwelling, some outbuildings, a shed and some stone walling. It is clearly possible that the ruins of more stone structures are hidden by the dense vegetation. Do these buildings date to the original settlement of the farm in the late 18th century or during the 19th century?

The historical records all point to the fact that the farm Assegaai Bush played an important role in the history of this area. The 19th century accounts do not, unfortunately, describe the nature, or locality, of the earliest buildings on the farm. They may have been located in this same area, but equally, they may have been located elsewhere. Nevertheless, it is clearly possible that the present buildings are of **high significance**.

The determination of the history of the present structures can only be undertaken by an architect with the knowledge of 19th century buildings styles. It is therefore important that an assessment of the structure be undertaken by an historical architect who will be able to determine whether the building can be restored. If the building cannot be restored because of structural defects, then a full pictorial survey should be undertaken before demolition. A permit from the Eastern Cape Provincial Heritage Resources Agency will be required for restoration or demolition.

If restoration of the farmhouse is undertaken, then an historical archaeologist should be employed to monitor the process, so that the fabric of the original building can be recorded and buried features and artefacts be recovered and recorded. If permission is granted for the farmhouse to be destroyed, and the building of the hotel is approved on the land, it is important that an historical archaeologist be present. The development of the area will result in considerable earth-moving and landscaping of the terrain. If there are any buried structures (such as the ruins of earlier structures or even the fort of 1813) then they are likely to be destroyed. It is important to remember that archaeological and historical sites are non-renewable. Once destroyed, they cannot be returned to their original state. For this reason every effort must be made to monitor the site during earth-moving development. If any remains are discovered, the development must stop so that an archaeologist can investigate.

RECOMMENDATIONS PRIOR TO DEVELOPMENT

(a) With regard the development of dwelling units on the 66 plots identified in Figure 3 and 4, it is recommended that construction may go ahead.

However, the development of the Hotel complex on the same area as the location of the Assegaai Bush farmhouse is likely to impact significantly on the historic farmhouse which is associated with many important aspects of Eastern Cape history, (see history section).

(b) It is recommended that an architect with experience in restoring old buildings be contracted to examine the farmhouse with a view to determining whether the house can be restored. This information will be required in order to apply for the permit from SAHRA to either restore or demolish the building.

(c) Prior to restoration or demolition, a detailed survey (including drawings and photographs) should be undertaken of the farmhouse and adjoining structures. This is important for archival records.

RECOMMENDATIONS DURING THE CONSTRUCTION PHASE

Whether the farmhouse is restored or demolished, an historical archaeologist will need to be present to record aspects of the building style and materials. It is important for an archaeologist to be present during any earth-moving around the buildings as it is likely that buried features and artefactual remains will be uncovered, and these may throw further light on the history of the farmhouse and its contribution to Eastern Cape history.

APPENDIX 1: TIME LINE OF HISTORICAL REFERENCES TO ASSEGAAI BUSH

- 1775 (9 February): Sparrman refers to “Hassagai Bosch”
- 1776: the Governor, Hendrik Swellengrebel outspanned at Assegaai Bush
- 1779: Koeman refers to “Assagays”
- 1783 (14 January): Kirby records that the searchers looking for the survivors from the wreck of the Grosvenor, “arrived at Assegaajen Bosch”
- 1785: “de Assgaay Bos”
- 1785: Map by Koeman shows “Assegij Bosch”
- 1789: Map by Frederici shows “Assagaye Bos”
- 1789: Assegaai Bosch farm in “de Hassegaybosch Rivier”
- 1790: map showing “Hassegaaje Wood”
- 1797: Barrow travelled past the “Hassagaibosch river”.
- 1803: Lichtenstein visits “Hassagai Wood”
- 1809: Moodie uses “Assagay Bosch”
- 1813: Sir John Cradock visits the farm
- 1818: Portion of the Loan farm granted to Johannes Potgieter’s son
- 1825 (9 September): Potgieter sold the farm to Joseph Latham
- 1835: the explorer Alexander visited Assegaai Bush
- 1837: Purchased by John McKenny
- 1838: Backhouse visits
- 1849: Owned by a Mr Langley

1852: Thomas Berrington was farming there.

1863: Harris visits and records that the ground was covered in frost and the river frozen over

REFERENCES

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Annals of the Grahamstown Historical Society Volume 1.

Pretorius, D.J.J. 1956. In the Land of the Settlers. Grocott & Sherry: Grahamstown

Moodie, D. 1960. The Record.

Grocott's Mail January 20, 1987: "Settler's Parting" home is now a derelict shell.

Oral interview with Mrs Veronica Ball on 23 April 2007.



Figure 1 a: The location of Assegaai Bush between Port Elizabeth and Grahamstown.

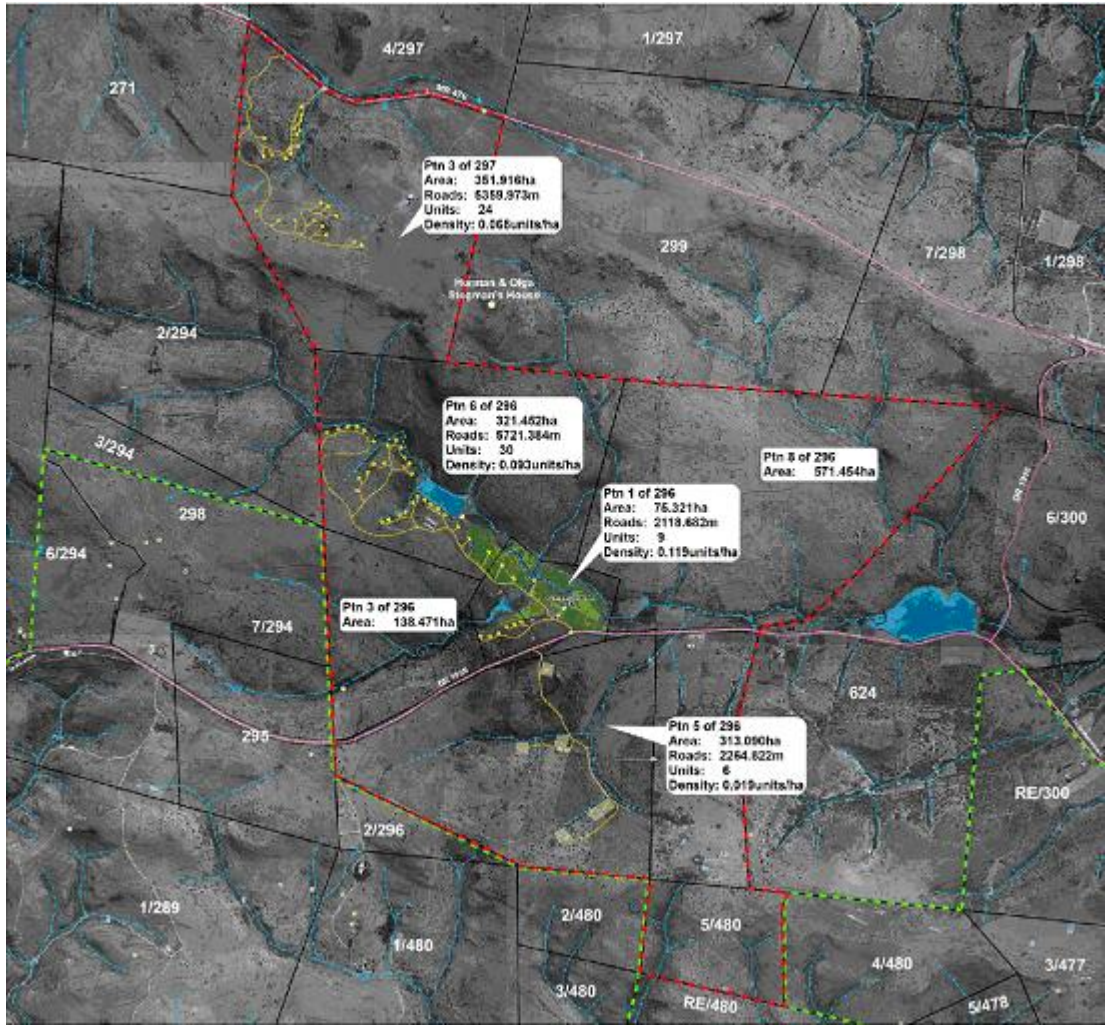


Figure 2: The location of the development areas



Figure 3a: The location of plots on Assegaai Bush



Figure 3b: The location of plots and the Hotel on Assegaai Bush

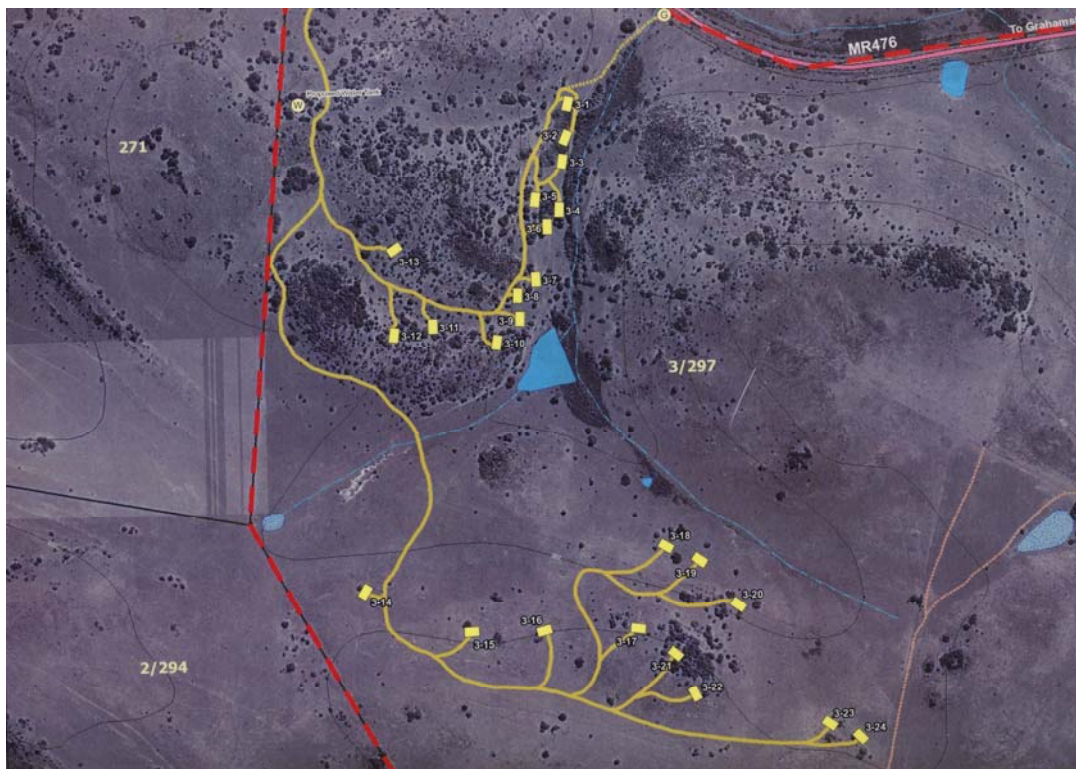


Figure 4: The location of plots on Boekenhoutfontein West

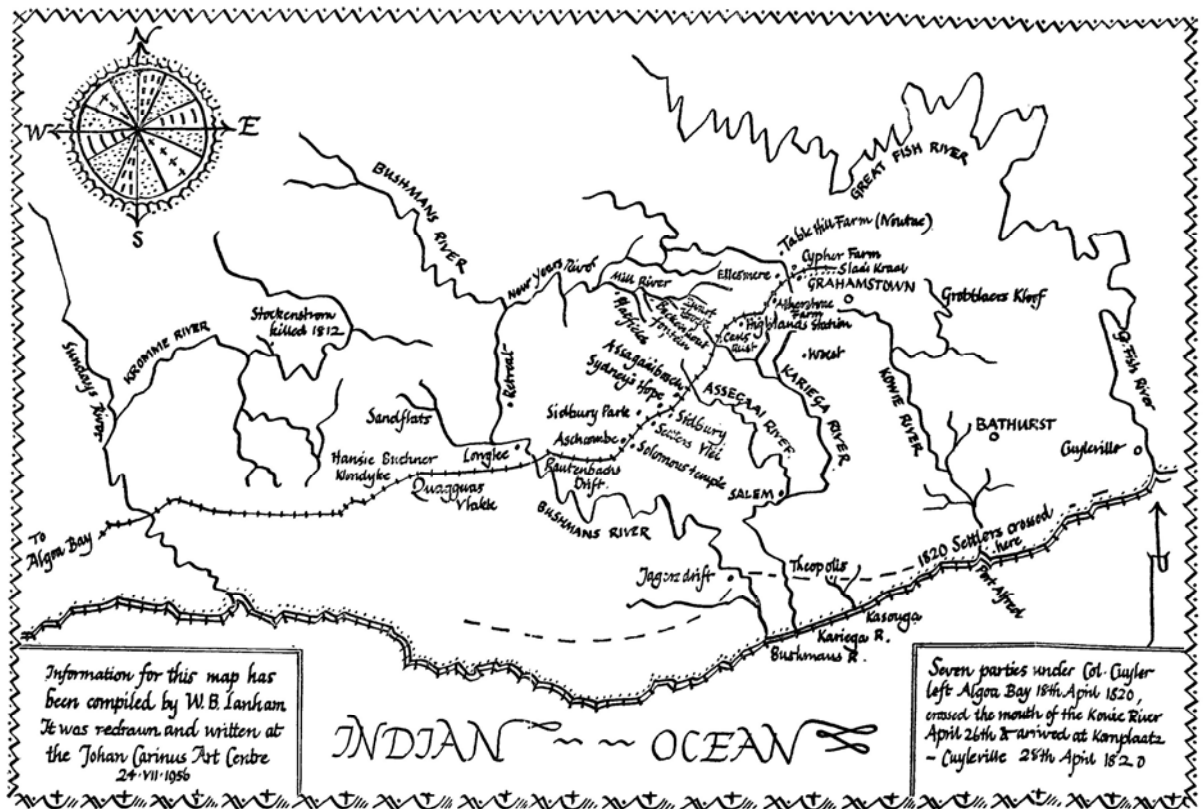


Figure 5: Map showing the Settler routes.

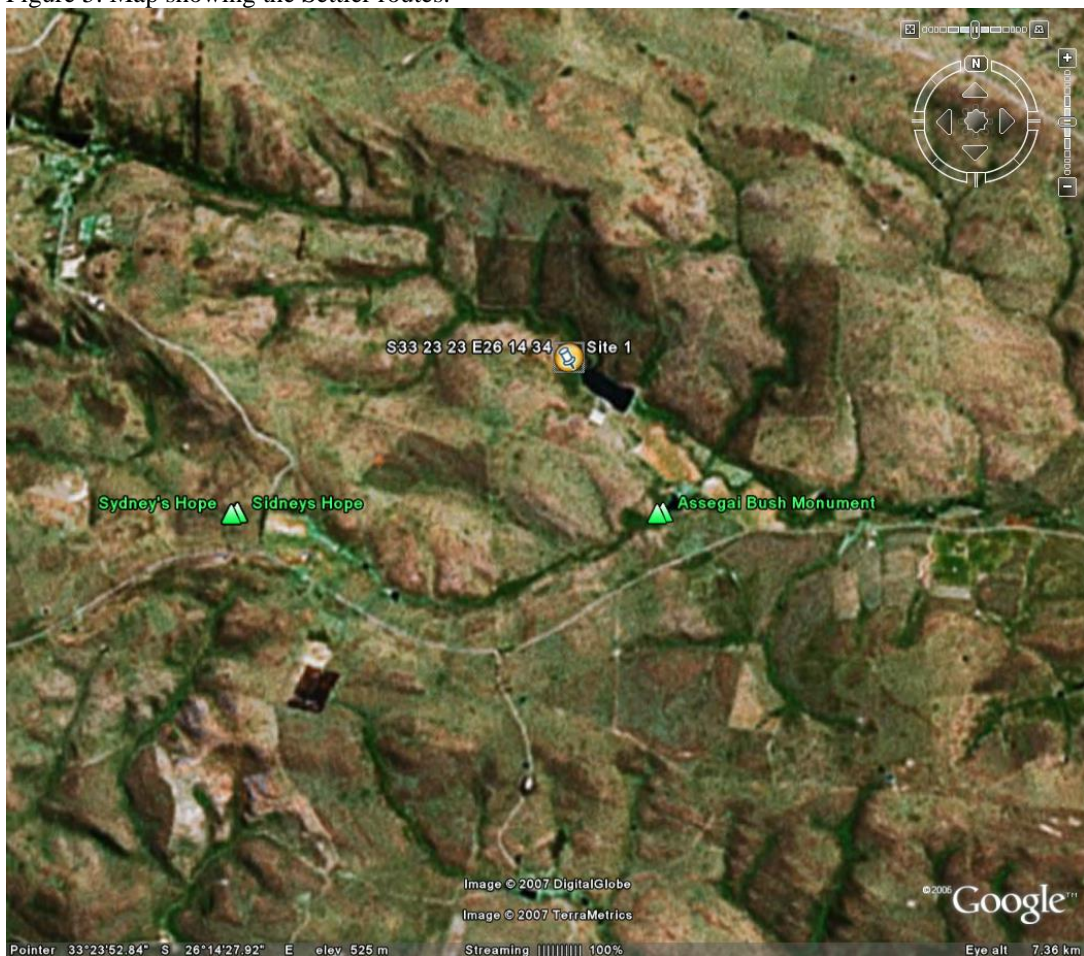


Figure 6: Google Map showing the location of the Assegai Bush Monument



The outside of the Assegai Bush farmhouse circa 1987 (Grocott's)

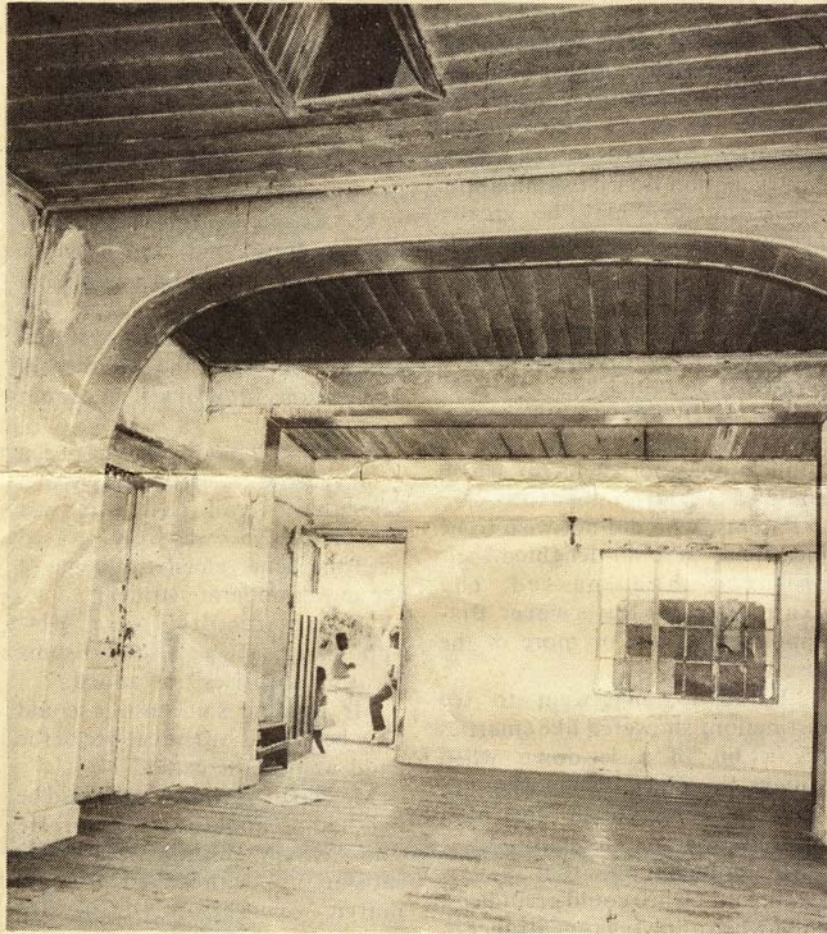


The outside of the farmhouse in 2007

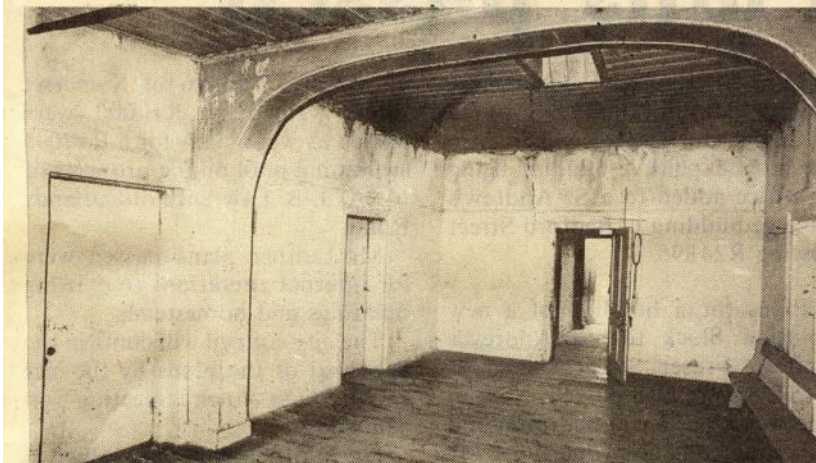


The outbuildings and shed in 2007

The homestead at Assegai Bush near Sevenfountains was probably standing when the 1820 Settlers came to the Place of Parting, before the parties split. R. Lewcock (Early Cape Architecture) states that



The pictures (above and below) show two views of the interior of Assegai Bush, thought to be a pre-1820 reconditioned boer dwelling and once the lovely homestead of generations of the Rippon family.



The inside of the farmhouse showing the unusual central room



Memorial stone to the Settlers



Stone artefact found during the survey.