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AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED
UPGRADING OF THE R45, FRANSCHOEK.

Prepared for Knight, Hall, Hendry and Associates.

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INTRODUCTION.

I have been asked to investigate the possible impact of the proposed upgrading of the R45 in Franschoek on the pre-colonial and historical archaeology. The archaeological and historical input includes:

1. A general description of the archaeological and historical significance of the area.
2. Identification and mapping of any archaeological or historical sites along the proposed routes.
3. Comment on the significance of the historical and pre-colonial archaeology along the proposed routes.
4. Comment on the effect of upgrading on the archaeology along the proposed routes.
5. Recommendation of mitigating measures that should be introduced to minimise the impact of the construction activities on the historical and pre-colonial archaeology along the proposed routes.

A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF FRANSCHOEK.

HISTORY

Franschoek is one of a number of towns established in the western Cape around the middle of the 19th century, on farmland which had been occupied for considerably longer.

The origins of white settlement of the Franschoek Valley date back to 1688 when French Huguenot émigrés fled from France to escape religious persecution. Granted land by the Governor of the Cape, Simon van der Stel, these émigrés settled in the valley then called Oliphantshoek. As the farms in the valley became more established the settlers changed the name to Franschoek.

From an historical archaeology perspective, the historical architecture of the town, its layout, buildings and farms, are of significance.

The town's first erven were laid out in 1845, on land which had become part of the farm La Cotte. This land was situated to the north of the church, between Huguenot and Dirkie Uys Streets. The church, built in 1847 with its 'werf' (yard) and graveyard, formed the core of the new town. To the south-east of this early focus of the town was an extensive uitspan area, connected also to the "Kats Pad" built in 1819 over the mountains enclosing the valley on that side. A second wave of subdivisions took place in 1860, on La Cotte, and also on land forming part of the farm Labriere.

Most of the early development in Franschoek occurred along Dirkie Uys, Huguenot and Wilhelmina streets, and the land to the east and west of these boundaries remained vacant, or was used for agricultural purposes. Several of the surviving buildings on Huguenot Street date from c.1855-60 and are the earliest remaining

buildings in the town. The next oldest area is that around Berg Street.

The town was developed as a linear town, a simple grid layout was used to organise the geometry of the roads and erven. Agricultural land was maintained on the western and eastern edges of the town. These same patterns were adhered to in the next expansion to the town in 1926.

Most of the first dwellings to be built in Franschoek seem to have been one of two types. Some were "thatched barn" houses, the main features were typical "Cape Georgian" doors, windows and plaster mouldings. The rest were single thatched cottages. Most of Franschoek's surviving buildings of historical interest are domestic buildings of this kind.

The farm Boekenhoutskloof is one of the oldest in the Franschoek valley, dating back to the early 1700's.

Archaeological excavations around the homestead uncovered pieces of 18th and 19th century Chinese and English porcelain. One piece of Chinese ware found has on it a Kylin dragon motif, popular around the 1750's.

Interesting architectural features of the homestead are an unusual split level stoep and unplastered, dry stone terrace walls. As a pioneering homestead rather than the more grand Cape Dutch manor house, the layout of the 'werf' differs from that of other farms in the district. The kraal for example is at the side of the house, where the farmer could keep an eye on his livestock, and not at the back as is the case with patrician farms. The house construction also reflects the customs and traditions of the era. Up to window sill height the walls are made of a stone and clay mixture. From there to roof height the stone is replaced with a straw and clay mixture.

ARCHAEOLOGY

Information on the pre-colonial archaeology of the Franschoek valley is scarce. There are some historical references to Khoi herders driving their cattle and sheep from the Klein Drakenstein into Oliphantshoek to seek out water and pastures.

Some Acheulian Early Stone Age (ESA) artefacts, including quartzite choppers, handaxes and cleavers, have been found in erosion gulleys behind the Pamona Homestead close to the Simondium Station. Handaxes and chopping tools have also been found at Bienne Donne close to Simondian. In the Franschoek valley itself the Boekenhoutskloof excavations uncovered some ESA artefacts. It is thought that some cave shelters are to be found in the mountains behind the homestead. Farmers in the valley have also collected artefacts on their farms, and tools have been turned up during ploughing. These artefacts are very likely to have been of an ESA origin.

Undoubtedly there are more sites to be found in Franschoek and the mountains surrounding the town. Numerous ESA surface sites occur in Stellenbosch and collections have also been made in the Paarl region. There is no reason to doubt that research in the Franschoek would locate more sites.

SURVEY AND RESULTS.

The method followed for this type of investigation is a foot-survey of the proposed routes. The area surveyed is the R45 from the junction of the R310 to just beyond the junction of R303 opposite the Jim Fouché picnic site. Ten alternate alignments have been proposed for the upgrading of the R45 and the survey covers these alignments

RESULTS

It is only close to the present R45 road alignment that some archaeological/historical evidence was noted. This would include 'sites' along the proposed A, B and C alignments close to the Dwars River, and on the present alignment close to the farm Klein Waterval. No other sites of either archaeological or historical interest were located.

1. The C alignment follows the present R45 road where it converges with the A and B alignment and this may impact on a small cottage called Dwars River Cottage. This cottage occurs on farm 1179 owned by Amfarms.

Research potential: none.

2. Also on farm 1179 close to the bridge where the Dwars River flows are the standing remains of a clinic. A date on the clinic reads 1937. This is not an early structure and is not considered to be historically significant. The cottage will not be affected by the upgrading.

Research potential: none.

3. A small "coloured" cemetery close to the Drakenstein Games Club, very close to the existing alignment. The cemetery has been in use probably since the early 1960's when the Group Areas Act came into being. It is still being used today.

Research potential: none.

4. The site of what appears to be the original standing walls enclosing the southern portion of the farm Klein Waterval (Farm No. 1172). This structure is very close to the existing alignment. The wall tapers from being quite thick (1.5 foot thick) at the western extent to about 1 foot thick at the eastern extent. The wall is made of sun

dried clay bricks and coated with dressed white plaster. The thicker part of the wall has been reinforced with modern bricks. The house itself retains some of its original features (most notably its Victorian facade) and was probably L-shaped in its original form. However later modern additions to it have reduced its architectural integrity.

Research potential: none.

ARCHIVAL RESEARCH: FARMS NO 1179 AND 1272.

These two farms have been researched following the standard Deeds Office Procedures. Both farms originate in the late 17th and early 18th centuries, and have been transferred in various forms over the last 250-350 years.

Farm no 1179 is part of the consolidated land forming Boschendal (formerly Bossendaal) and is owned by AMFARMS, previously known as Rhodes Fruit Farms.

Farm no 1272 is called Klein Waterval and currently consists of part of Bellingham (formerly Bellegaan/Bellinkamp/Bellinchamp). It is owned by the farming concern Klein Waterval Boerdery and Klein Waterval Landgoed (BPK).

The following two books have been used for cross referencing:

De Bosdari, C. 1964. Cape Dutch Houses and farms. A. A. Balkema: Cape Town.

Fransen, H and Cook, M. 1965. The old houses of the Cape. A. A. Balkema: Cape Town.

Farm no. 1179

The Deeds Office Register refers to this farm as "now called the farm Bossendaal". This has been written over the Farm 1179's previous name "Champagne".

Farm names

The following extracts have been taken from De Bosdari and Fransen and Cook in an attempt to match names.

Champagne

"On this and on the adjoining farms, Labori and Burgundy, there settled in 1694 three brothers De Villiers, Abraham, Jacob and Pierre. Abraham left no sons. Jacob and Pierre were therefore the founders of the De Villiers family". De Bosdari: p. 83.

"This farm was granted to Abraham De Villiers in 1711, though he had occupied the farm since 1694. It was occupied in 1752 by Daniel Jacobs...and in 1789 by Jacob Stephanus Malan. The present homestead was built either by Jacobs or by Malan; there can be no certainty until more evidence is available, but Malan seems the more likely builder, c.1790". Fransen and Cook: p. 118.

Boschendal

"Boschendal was settled in 1685 by Jean Le Long...". De Bosdari: p. 78-79.

"This farm originated as two grants, viz (1) a nameless piece of land, to the Huguenot de Lanoy (or De la Noy) in 1690, and (2) another piece of land called Boschendal, next to it, to the Huguenot Jean Le Long in 1713. Both farms were sixty morgen in size. After Le Long's death, in 1715, Abraham de Villiers, yet another Huguenot, bought Boschendal, he had already acquired the other part. From that time they have been one farm".

Fransen and Cook are the authors who seem to understand the connection between Farm no 1179 and Boschendal. But they refer to a "nameless piece of land" that was granted to de Lanoy in 1690.

The first reference to the farm "Champagne" is made in 1860, and continues to the sale of these farms to C. J. Rhodes in 1897. the "nameless piece of land" is definitely "Champagne" as land size and deed references all correlate.

However, I am not convinced that the farms referred to as "Champagne" in De Bosdari and Fransen and Cook are in fact the same "Champagne" that we are dealing with. The only connection between 1179 and the "Champagne" of De Bosdari and Fransen and Cook is the name De Villiers. But it is clear that the name De Villiers owned much land in the Drakenstein District.

Therefore I suspect that 1179 was a nameless piece of land that was called "Champagne" by 1860, but that has not lasted as "Champagne" to the present. It has always, according to the deeds records, been attached in some way to Boschendal.

Farm no. 1272

The Deeds Office Register refers to this farm as "Klein Waterval". As the entries are relatively new, the initial impression is that Klein Waterval is quite a recent consolidation.

Klein Waterval was originally made of portion 2 of a farm called Jericho (there is no mention of this farm in either De Bosdari or Fransen and Cook, but it is named on

the Noting Sheet (No. B1 - 7CAA)), and the remainder of portion 1 of Bellinchamp.

Bellinchamp is mentioned in both De Bosdari and Fransen and Cook.

"Bellingham was granted in 1695 to a van Vuuren, under the name Bellegam or Bellinkamp. The house was perhaps built by Jacobs de Villiers". De Bosdari: p. 81.

"This farm was granted in 1695 to Gerrit van Vurren; he is recorded as having come from the Netherlands..."

One of the many earlier forms of the farm's name was Bellegam...

In 1759 Bellingham...was acquired by Jacob de Villiers the third, a grandson of the first Jacob de Villiers, and in 1795 it passed to his son Jacob de Villiers the fourth. In 1801 Jacob Peter Roux became owner, and in 1810 Johannes van Niekerk...". Fransen and Cook: p. 120.

There are thus two farms that need to be looked at in order to understand Klein Waterval, ie. Jericho and Bellingham.

Jericho

This farm was originally a Stellenbosch Quitrent (Vol 6 (8)) granted on 15/12/1822, being a total extent of 271 Morgen and 291 Square Rood, to Albertus Petrus Bernadus van Niekerk. A portion was sold on 25/1/1860 measuring 5 Morgen 512 Square Rood to form part of farm 1272.

Bellingham

Bellingham was originally granted in 1695 to Gerrit van Vuuren (Old Stellenbosch Freehold 1-419).

Albertus Petrus Bernadus van Niekerk bought a portion of Bellinchamp (Transfer 152) on 18/9/1818 measuring 11 Morgen 400 Square Rood (referred to as Portion 1).

Five Morgen 248 Square Rood of Portion 1 was sold by J. J. A. Marais to P. G. Marais in Transfer 235 of 26/1/1854. It is the remaining 6 Morgen 152 Square Rood that is the Bellinchamp portion forming Klein Waterval. This portion then goes through the Marais family to Scholtz in 1874.

There is a small subtraction in 1947 (63176 square feet). The rest of the farm is sold to B.D. Potgieter in 1970.

This is the last transaction in the Deeds Register.

THE EFFECT OF UPGRADING ON THE R45.

Upgrading of the R45 will impact on the above 'sites'. However, from an archaeological point of view the dwellings and features described above are not considered sufficiently historically significant to advise on their conservation. Sites 2 and 4, the Dwars River cottage and the wall bordering Klein Waterval, are of some historical interest but are not considered significant. Consequently the proposed upgrading of the R45 will not impact significantly on any valuable archaeological remains.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

Although some sites of historical interest will be impacted by the proposed upgrading of the R45, they are not considered to be worth mitigating for their conservation.