

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED CAPE FLATS FREEWAY EXTENSION

Prepared for
Cape Flats Consortium
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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

An archaeological/heritage assessment of an area of land that has been set aside for the extension of the Cape Flats Freeway has been undertaken to determine if any constraints will be placed on the route as a result of this material being present. While no archaeological or palaeontological sites have been observed, a dwelling located on farm 789 (Frylinck's Poort) is obviously of some vintage. While it is not possible to determine the precise age without further study, it is unlikely that this would pose a major impediment for the road alignment if mitigation is carried out. Any borrow pits or leveling of dunes in the area set aside for the road alignment should be monitored for the presence of deeply buried archaeological or palaeontological sites.

2. INTRODUCTION

The Archaeology Contracts Office at The University of Cape Town was asked by the Cape Flats Consortium to complete an archaeological/heritage assessment of the area proposed for the Cape Flats Freeway Extension. This assessment along with other specialist studies would assist with the choice of a road alignment that would minimise the impacts on both the natural and man-made environments. An envelope of land has been identified for the proposed extension and it is this which has been assessed rather than a pre-determined route. The location of the assessed area is presented in Figure 1.

2.1 List of terms used

Archaeology - The study of remains directly related to human activity.

Late Stone Age - The period from approximately 20 000 years up to and including the initial part of the colonial period. Indigenous inhabitants of the area used characteristic stone tools and heavily utilised marine resources for food.

Palaeontology - The study of ancient remains (bones, shells) often fossilised, not related to human activity.

2.2 Methodology

The land envelope has been investigated by in a number of ways. An initial familiarisation was made by driving along all public routes and in this way deciding on target areas which would need more detailed assessment. These target areas were then visited and covered on foot. Sites of interest that were located were marked on aerial photographs supplied by the client. In addition, an archival study was made to determine the general history of the area and to identify aspects which could have heritage significance. Numerous buildings present in the surveyed area date to the 20th century. These have been assessed in terms of the likelihood of their having any heritage significance beyond the fact that they are protected by the 50 year clause of the National Monuments Act of 1969 (as amended).

2.3 Limitations

There were no serious limitations to the study beyond the fact that possible very deeply buried sites could not be identified. Areas where dunes have been flattened have however not given any indication that sites of this nature would be numerous.

3. RESULTS

3.1 Archival study

3.1.1 General background

Philippi was named after Dr Philip Faure, the first minister of the Wynberg parish of the Dutch Reformed Church. Before the Philippi area was settled by German immigrants after 1877, the Flats (as the area was then known) had been sold twice and given as loan farms

twice. Each time it had reverted to Crown land soon after (Blumer 1959:16) implying that farming attempts had failed. The Minister of Crown Lands in the 1870's, John X. Merriman, believed that one could stabilise the ever-shifting sands of the Flats by planting trees and shrubs as windbreaks. His attempts to convince local farmers on the western side of the Flats to plant such windbreaks were to no avail (Blumer 1959:16).

Merriman eventually resolved his attempts to establish farming on the Cape Flats by settling immigrant farmers in these marginal areas. On 16 August 1876, Merriman concluded an agreement with Wilhelm Berg, the local representative of a shipping company called Godeffroy and Son, in terms of which German settlers would be transported to East London, Worcester, Paarl and the Cape Flats (Blumer 1959:16). The first settlers, who arrived in 1877, were actually en route to the Eastern Cape but were settled in Philippi due to the outbreak of the Frontier Wars (Blumer 1959:23). During the course of June and July 1883 another 26 families arrived in Philippi from Germany (Blumer 1959:23). The settlers came from all over Germany (SESA 1973) and were predominantly poor farmers, day labourers, wood-workers and craftsmen (Blumer 1959:32).

The immigrants settled in Manenberg (Claremont Flats), Wynberg Flats (Ottery and Philippi) and the Dunes (Blumer 1959:16). Immigrants were issued with a tent and fourteen days' rations (Blumer 1959:17). The intention was that the immigrants were to raise cattle and sell butter, potatoes and other vegetables. They very soon discovered that the sandy soils of the Cape Flats was not suitable for cattle farming. This left many of the immigrants in a state of poverty with the result that they were forced to cut and sell fire wood. Despite these hardships, many of the settlers persisted with small scale farming (SESA 1973).

The immigrants planted willows (wilgerbome) and later Port Jackson as to serve as windbreaks between fields and to bind the sand (Blumer 1959:17). By 1883 the farming activities in the area were successful enough to be mentioned in the *Cape of Good Hope General Directory, 1883* (Blumer 1959:20). The settlement eventually grew to become an important market garden area providing the inhabitants of Cape Town with a variety of vegetables.

3.1.2 Erf history of the study area

The earliest map of the area which could be located is housed in the Cape Archives (LND 1/468). This showed similar information to the Cape Archive map of c.1901 (Figure 2) and its contemporary lodged with the City Council (Figure 3). The last two are both noting sheets. The first is a copy of a map dated 13/1/1896 which was redrawn in the Public Works Department on 27/5/1896. On all three, the area is divided into a number of Quitrent farms. The homestead complex on the Vaderlandsche Rietvlei farm, and the Varkensvlei Forest Reserve are indicated on all three maps.

A Surveyor General's map of 1959 (Figure 4) shows the homestead complex at Vaderlandsche Rietvlei but not the Varkensvlei Forest Reserve. It also shows a building on the farm Frylinck's Poort (farm 789). Some farming activity is indicated along Olieboom Road, which on the earlier maps is indicated as being part of the Varkensvlei Forest Reserve. An aerial survey photograph of 1970 (Figure 5) shows that large tracts of land in the study were not developed at this time but consisted of vegetated undulating dunes. Encroachment of farming activities into the area referred to as the Varkensvlei Forest Reserve in earlier maps is clearly visible along Olieboom Road. By 1994, a 1:50 000 map of the area shows that agricultural activities have encroached into the area previously referred to as the Varkensvlei Forest Reserve in a strip along Olieboom Road. At present only a fraction of the original forest reserve has remained unaltered.

3.1.2.1 Varkensvlei Forest Reserve

The land marked as Lots 43 and 44 on the 1896 and 1901 maps are marked as "reserved by Govt Letter LI733/6846 of 21 April 1893". This was done in order to prevent it from falling into private hands (CA 1/468). The proclamation (which consists of a handwritten and almost illegible letter) was issued in an attempt to prevent overgrazing and the resultant inundation of Olieboom Road with sand carried by the prevailing south easterly winds. This involved a large portion of land being handed over to the Forestry Department for management. At first applications by farmers to use the land for grazing were turned down on account that this would exacerbate the drift sands, however, a Mr Smit was given permission lease lot 42 for raising cattle on condition that he took measures to bring the sand under control on lots 43 and 44. It is known that the Government still had an interest in the area in 1921 as lot 41 was transferred from private hands to the Union of South Africa (DO 20/12 1920). In 1949 other portions of the reserve were granted to the Government of the Union of South Africa (D/T 77/1949 para. III), after which it was quickly encroached on by farming activities as indicated by the 1959 map of the area.

In the 1990s land was transferred from the state into private hands. Lots 42, 43 and 44 were renamed Farm 778 with each lot becoming a portion of the new farm. Portions 2 (lot 43) and 3 (lot 44) were incorporated into other farms and renamed Farms 1448 and 1449 respectively, while Portion 1 is now known as Farm 778. All three are now in private ownership. The transfers for Farm 1448 and 1449 are dated 1996. The current owner bought Farm 778 in 1992 (ownership details are included as Appendix 1). The archival study has not been able to produce any documentary evidence that the forest reserve has been officially de-proclaimed but it is expected that this took place in effect when the reserve was granted to the Union of South Africa in 1949. What is clear is that the land was never seriously intended for use as conservation area but only as a barrier to formation of drift sands. In recent years the extent of the reserve has been substantially eroded by subdivision and development of new farm land implying that its status as a forest reserve is no longer operational.

3.1.2.2 House on Farm 789 (Frylinck's Poort)

Frylinck's Poort is the farm noted on the 1901 noting sheet as Lot 7. It was granted to Johan Frederick Dreyer on 16 November 1895. No buildings are shown on either the 1896 and 1901 maps or the deed diagram of 1895 (Figure 6). A later deed diagram for the subdivision of the farm, which is dated 1959 (Figure 7) shows a building in the position of the thatched building presently on the site. The appearance of this structure indicates that it is probably over 50 years old. Although the building has the outward appearance of age, the joinery and brickwork are fairly recent, possibly post-dating 1940. Indications are that although the building is technically protected by the National Monuments Act, it is not conservation-worthy. It is possible that associated middens and bottle dumps, which pre-date the existing structures, may exist in the vicinity. These are of archaeological interest.

3.1.2.3 Vaderlandsche Rietvlei homestead complex

This complex is shown on the 1896, 1901, 1959 and 1994 maps.

According to the 1901 noting sheet held by City Council, the farm was first granted to Jan Frederick Kirsten and V.A. Schoonberg (also spelt Schonberg on the 1896 map) as a Quitrent farm on 15 October 1813 (CQ 1 61 fo 80). There is, however, no record of CQ 1 61 in the farm registers held by the Deeds Office. A detailed map of the area thought to have been compiled in about 1900 (CA H2/23) shows that two structures were present on Faderlandsche Rietvallei in the position of the existing farm house. What is also evident is that most of the farm, which was one of the largest in the district, consisted of a large marshland with patches of open water. This has subsequently been drained to the extent that there is little evidence of its past existence.

The existing house lies just outside the study area which means that it won't be directly impacted. As it is possible that the presence of a large road nearby may have a negative impact of the sense of place or ambience of the site, the National Monuments Council was consulted in this regard. Although the dwelling house is considered conservation worthy, the road envelope as it stands at present is considered to be an adequate distance from the building.

3.2 Archaeological assessment

We have not identified any prehistoric archaeological or palaeontological sites in this survey. Factors which have led to the paucity of sites of this nature are probably related to i) marshy conditions which prevailed during pre-colonial times not providing suitable habitation sites for the indigenous inhabitants of the area; ii) the location of the area is far removed from the coastline which was a major source of food (shellfish, marine animals) and occupation was therefore likely to be closer to the coast at least during the Late Stone Age.

Sites of Heritage value identified	Potential impacts	Suggested mitigation	Significance without mitigation	Significance with mitigation
House: Frylinck's Poort	demolition	recording, excavation	Protected but moderate	low

Table 1: Summary of possible impacts

The use of the area during the colonial period for agricultural purposes has been described in the archival study. Areas of interest have been identified at Vaderlandsche Rietvlei and Frylinck's Poort farms. The former, lying just outside the envelope is not directly threatened but nevertheless should be borne in mind in the event of any changes to the boundary of the envelope. The building at Frylinck's Poort, which lies just inside the envelope and consists of a single dwelling with pitched thatch roof dating to the 20th century, is not considered conservation worthy. The location of this building which is shown on Figure 8, may contain buried historical middens associated with the earlier part of the farms history.

Existing impacts in the envelope are the result of agriculture and township development. The need for level ground for cultivation has led to an extensive ongoing process dune leveling and infilling of wetlands. Where this has taken place there is very little chance of any archaeological material being preserved. This is most noticed between Vanguard Drive and Strandfontein Road. The narrow road reserve existing between Prince George Drive and

Strandfontein Road has also been subjected to leveling and infill. No likelihood exists of finding any sites here.

4. EVALUATION

There are no structures within the envelope that are considered conservation worthy although buried historical material may be found associated with older farms in the area such as Frylinck's Poort.

All buildings older than 50 years are protected by the National Monuments Act and as such are protected. Those which are immediately identifiable, have been marked on the accompanying base map of the area. Demolition and/or alteration requires a permit from this body. It is unlikely, even though there is this statutory restriction, that any of the other existing buildings that were observed would be considered worthy of conservation and permits would be issued for demolition if this was necessary.

5. CONCLUSIONS

No archaeological sites were observed. In terms of historical material, a single house on the farm Frylinck's Poort is built in the vernacular style but not considered conservation-worthy. It is possible that localised garbage disposal areas related to the house could exist. Such dumps could contain interesting aspects of the material culture of the time. The house itself is one of the few remaining original vernacular buildings in the area. While it is possible that archaeological sites may lie deeply buried beneath the aeolian sands, it is not possible to predict where these may occur and if in fact there are any. We know that fossil material is found at some sand mines on the Cape flats e.g. the Anglo Alpha mine near Zandvliet.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

1) The house that has been identified at Frylinck's Poort is the only site of significance which may be disturbed. If the building itself, or the immediate precinct is to be impacted, then more detailed investigation, including detailed recording of the structure and excavation would be necessary.

2) Some buildings on Vaderlandsche Rietvlei farm are part of the original complex dating to the first part of the 19th century. While not lying in the envelope, and thus not subject to direct impact, it is suggested that road alignments are placed as far from the *werf* as possible to avoid visual impact and any loss of sense of place. The National Monuments Council, is satisfied that the location of the envelope as it is at present will not result in significant negative impacts and will not take issue on this matter.

3) Deeply buried palaeontological or archaeological sites may exist in the area but locations are impossible to predict. If any borrow pits are to be opened, or dunes bulldozed within the envelope, some monitoring of these operations by an archaeologist should take place.

6.1 Findings contributing to decision on the road routing

If possible the house at Frylinck's Poort (farm 789) and the immediate precinct (approx 50m radius) should be avoided. Route should be placed as far as possible from the houses at Vaderlandsche Rietvlei.

6.2 Further studies required prior to construction

If the *werf* precinct at Frylinck's Poort is to be impacted then it should be subjected to more detailed study.

6.3 Findings to input into EMP

Any major leveling of dunes or excavation of borrow pits in the envelope should be monitored by an archaeologist to determine if there are any deeply buried archaeological or palaeontological sites.

7. REFERENCES

Bloomer, W.J. 1959. Fuenf und siebzig Jahre Planzgarten im Duenensand: Philippi-Vlakte am Kap. Metropolitan Press, Wynberg.

Standard Encyclopedia of Southern Africa (SESA) 1973 Nasou Ltd, Cape Town, vol. 8: 520

Appendix 1

Recent ownership details
Farms 778,1448,1449

NAG3DIER

AKTE REGISTRASIESTELSEL - KAAPSTAD

DATUM : 1997-08-08

TYD : 08.17.22

DRSP05A EIENDOMSBESONDERHEDE VIR
REG AFD CAPE RD
PLAAS NR 0000778
GEDEELTE 0001
REG AFD

PROVINSIE WESTERN CAPE

VORIGE BESKRYWING
DIAGRAM NR T63557/1995
GROOTTE 15,5548HA
UITKLARING DC CAPE
VORIGE GROOTTE
PLAASNAAM FARM 778

ENDOSSEMENTE/INTERDIKTE/PREP	BEDRAG	MIKROFILM	MMDD
K773/1995S		1995 0767 0942	0828

EIENAAR

VOLLE NAAM EN AANDEEL	KOOPDATUM	BEDRAG	ID	TITEL NR.	MMDD	MIKROFILM
OHLHOFF BERNARDT ERNST	921031	R124438	5101205020002	T63557/1995	0828	1995 0767 0905
OHLHOFF ESTHER LOUISE	921031	R124438	5405090088002	T63557/1995	0828	1995 0767 0905

* * * EINDE VAN VERSLAG * *

NAG3DIER

AKTE REGISTRASIESTELSEL - KAAPSTAD

DATUM : 1997-08-08

TYD : 08.20.07

DRSP05A EIENDOMSBESONDERHEDE VIR
REG AFD CAPE RD
PLAAS NR 0001449
GEDEELTE 0000
REG AFD

PROVINSIE WESTERN CAPE

VORIGE BESKRYWING
DIAGRAM NR T91438/1996
GROOTTE 22,0525HA
UITKLARING DC CAPE
VORIGE GROOTTE
PLAASNAAM FARM 1449

ENDOSSEMENTE/INTERDIKTE/PREP	BEDRAG	MIKROFILM	MMDD
FROM-778/3,779/10		0000 0000 0000	1125
K964/1994S		1994 0798 3835	1125

EIENAAR

VOLLE NAAM EN AANDEEL	KOOPDATUM	BEDRAG	ID	TITEL NR.	MMDD	MIKROFILM
KOHN GERHARD WERNHARDT			5406265109003	T91438/1996	1125	1996 0951 1300
		R CCT				

* * * EINDE VAN VERSLAG * *

NAG3DIER

AKTE REGISTRASIESTELSEL - KAAPSTAD

DATUM : 1997-08-08

TYD : 08.19.54

DRSP05A EIENDOMSBESONDERHEDE VIR
REG AFD CAPE RD
PLAAS NR 0001448
GEDEELTE 0000
REG AFD

PROVINSIE WESTERN CAPE

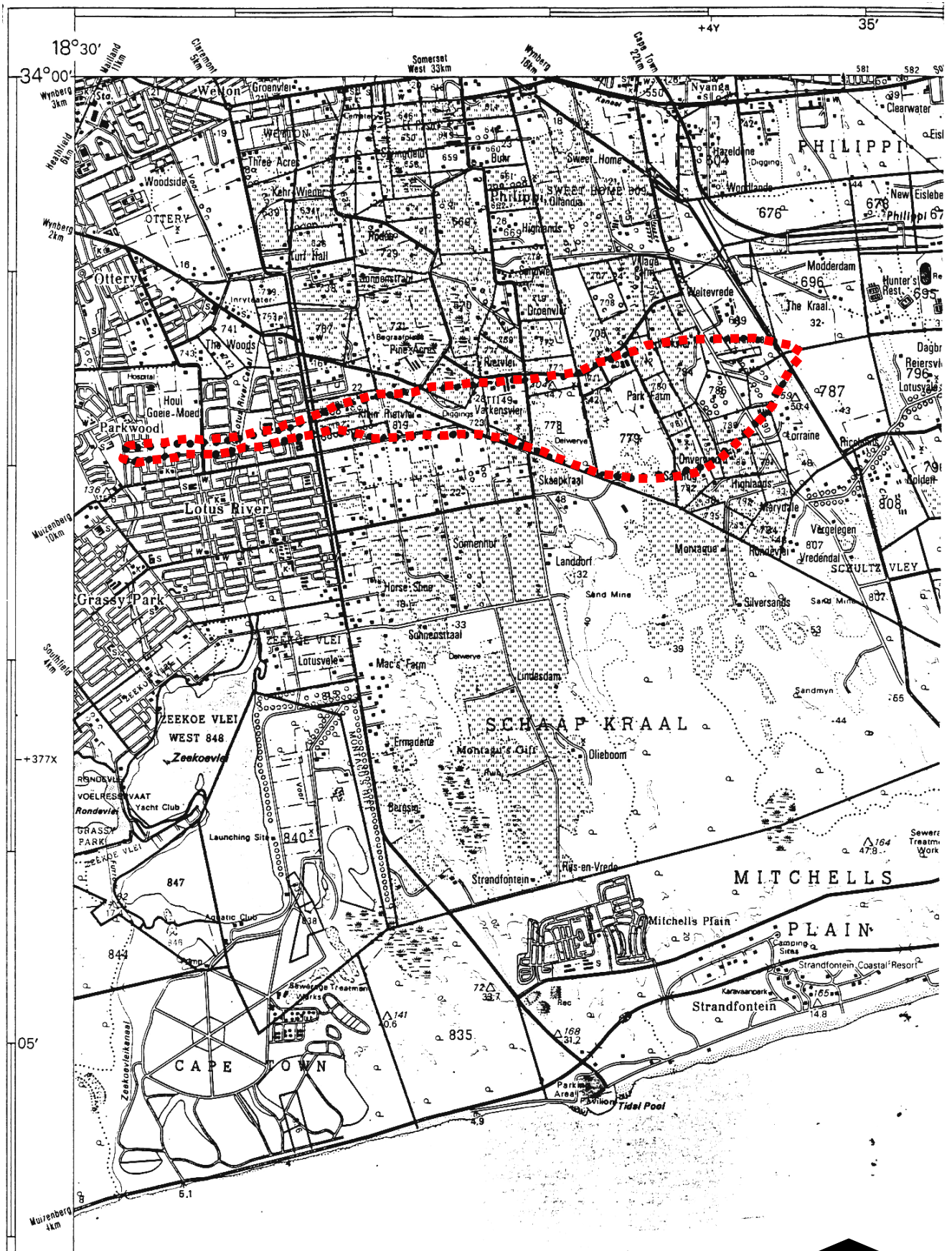
VORIGE BESKRYWING
DIAGRAM NR T91436/1996
GROOTTE 26,1186HA
UITKLARING DC CAPE
VORIGE GROOTTE
PLAASNAAM FARM 1448

ENDOSSEMENTE/INTERDIKTE/PREP	BEDRAG	MIKROFILM	MMDD
B79393/1996 ABSA BANK	R250000	1996 0951 1262 1125	0000 0000 0000 1125
FROM-778/2,779/9			

EIENAAR

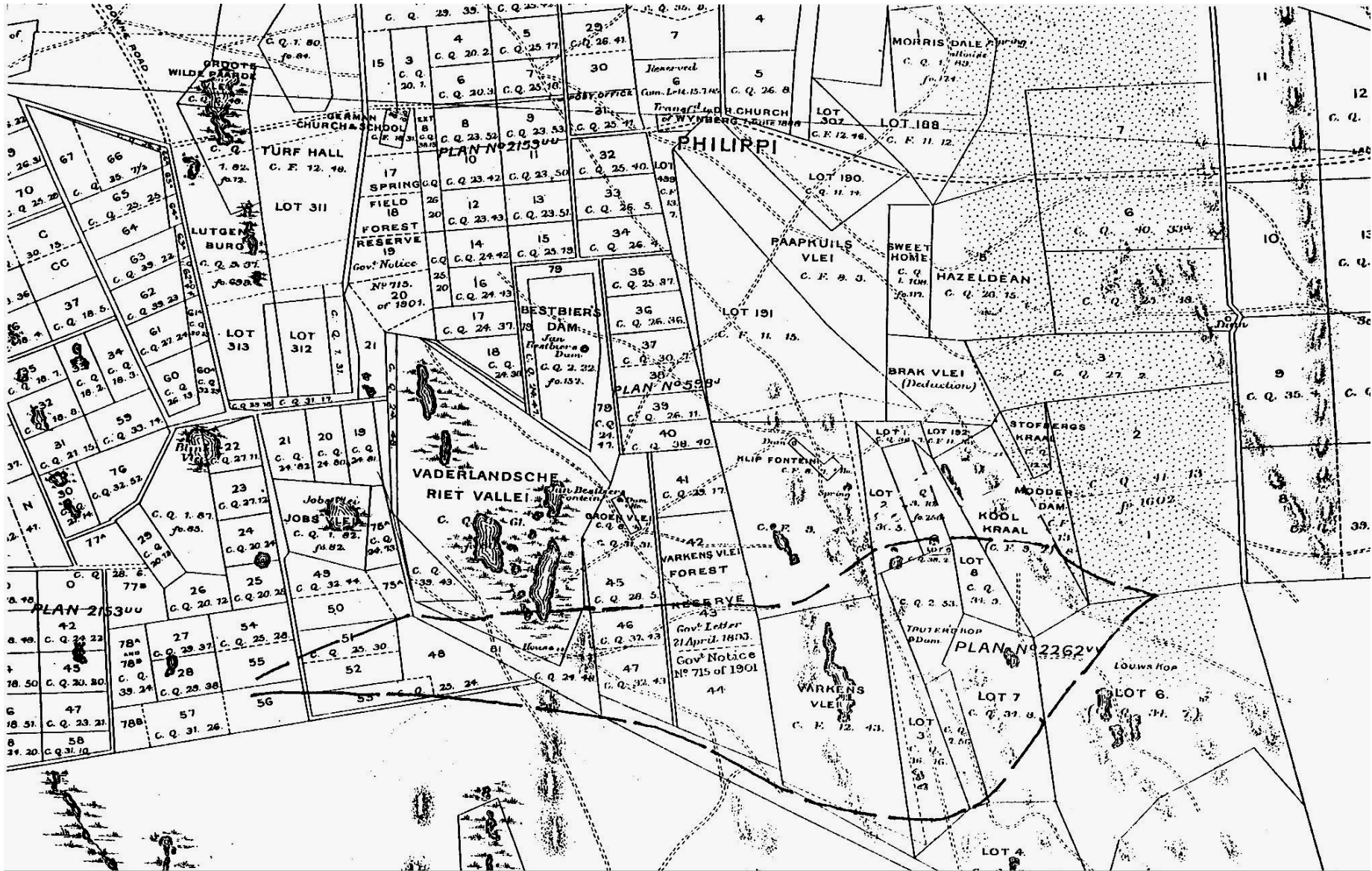
VOLLE NAAM EN AANDEEL	KOOPDATUM	BEDRAG	ID	TITEL NR.	MMDD	MIKROFILM
TERBLANCHE JOHANNES JACOBUS				T91436/1996	1125	1996 0951 1251
		R CCT				
TERBLANCHE ADA CHRISTINA				T91436/1996	1125	1996 0951 1251
		R CCT				

* * * EINDE VAN VERSLAG * *



1 3418 BA Mitchells Plain

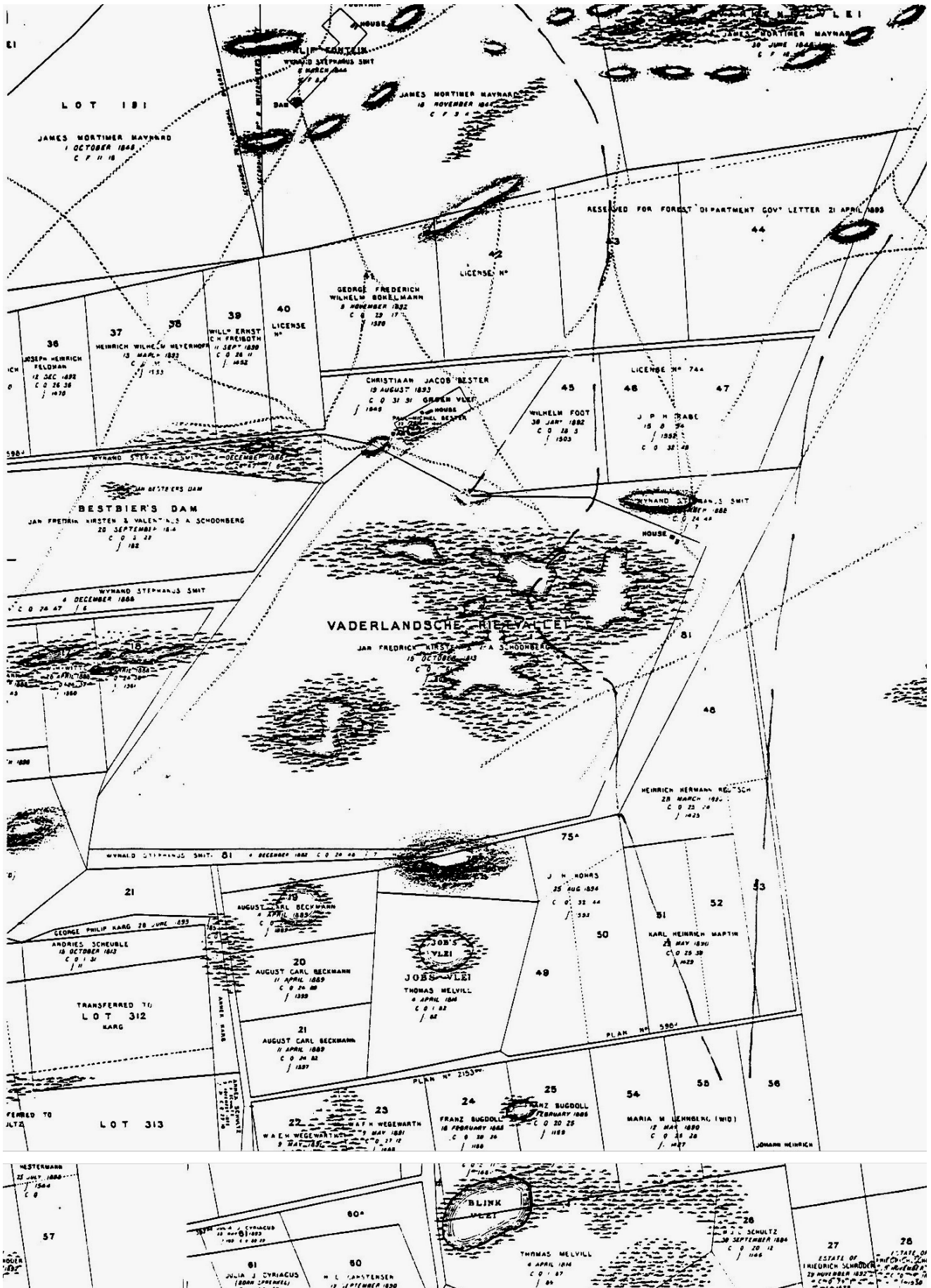




2

C1901: Cape Archives

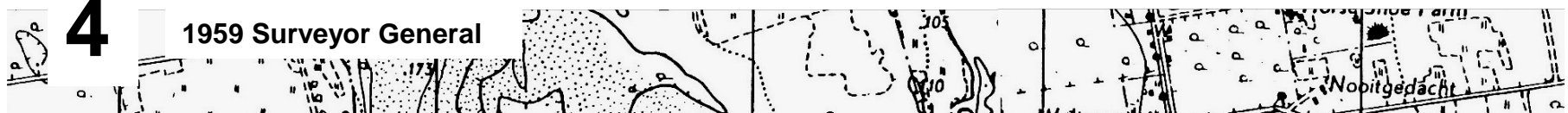
SCARP
KRAAL
C. Q. 11, 34





4

1959 Surveyor General

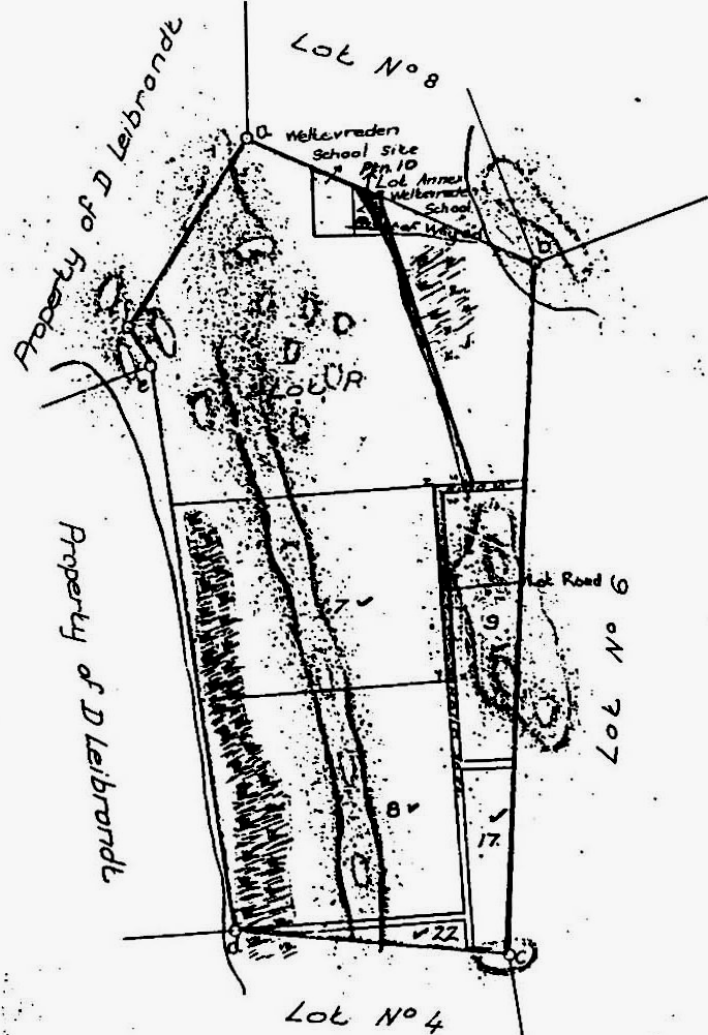




5 1970 Aerial photo

Road Information: FRYLINCK'S POORT
 created. With Plan. Cont. of 7th. 12. 1859
 File S. 15521 68
H. J. van der Meer
 Surveyor-General.
 Date: 6-2-1960

T.N.



N.B.
 The Beacons were pointed out to Field-cornet
 W. S. Smit.

Copied from diagram relating
 to Title Deed No. G.O. 34-8
 dated 16.11.1895
M. J.
 for Surveyor-General
8.7.1959

Sheet AH-2Aa
 X.3

For list of
 deductions see
 book of diagram

SIDES Cape Feet	ANGLES OF DIRECTION	SYSTEM Lo. 17° CO-ORDINATES	
		Y	X
	Constant	100,000.0	11,700,000.0
AB	1254.7 254.25° 0	A 27163.7	43368.4
BC	30.4 335.08° 0	B 25755.3	63051.3
CD	370.2 330.31° 10	C 25742.5	63078.9
DE	450.2 327.17° 0	D 25700.3	63401.2
EF	1417.4 74.30° 0	E 25517.2	63780.1
FA	820.0 159.59° 0	F 26883.2	64158.9

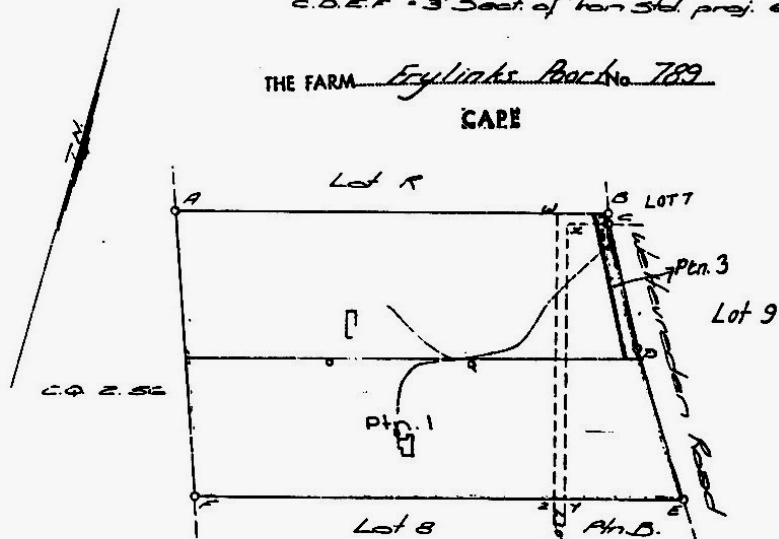
S. G. No. **7983/59**

Approved

J. H. Hagan
Surveyor-General.
26-1-1960

Description of Reasons:

AB = Iron Corner Fence Post.
C.D.E.F. = 3' Sect. of Iron Std. Proj. 6:



1. Figure A.w.s.f. represents Lot 7 of Subdivided Crown Lot 7. Vide Diagram 474/1897 annexed to D/T. 1897.43.3554
2. Figure w.B.C.z.y.z. represents Lot Road, a ptn. of Crown Lot N° 7. Vide Diagram 7982/1959 annexed to D/T. 1960. 11156
3. Figure x.c.D.E.y. represents Portion A of Lot 7 of Crown Lots Nos. 6 & 7. Vide Diagram 1217/48 annexed to D/T. 1948.338.1228

Scale 1: 5000

The Figure ABCDEF

represents 12.5883 Morgen of land being
The Farm Frylincks Poort
comprising the above components
situate in the

Division of Cape

Province of Cape of Good Hope.

Surveyed in Aug. - Sept. 1959 by me

J. H. Hagan
Land Surveyor.

This diagram is annexed to
C.C.T. 11158/1960

The original diagrams are
No. annexed to
as quoted above

S.G. File No. 15521.

S. R. No. E. 1781/SI.

AH-2AA/X3

Registrar of Deeds

VIR NOTERING VAN SERWITTOUT SIEN KEERBY.
FOR SERVITUDE NOTING SEE BACK OF DIAGRAM.

FOR LIST OF DEDUCTIONS SEE BACK OF DIAGRAM.
VIR AFTEKKINGS SIEN KEERBY.

