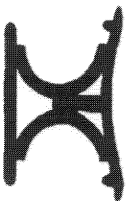
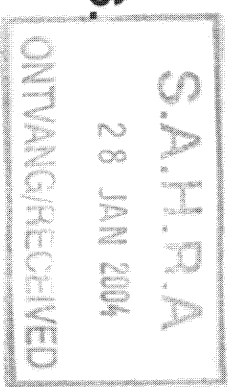


9/12/2012/13

HARTEBEESSPOORT 362 JR

CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCES

SCOPING REPORT



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JANUARY 2003

HARTEBEESSPOORT 362 JR
(Meyer Dwellings and Safari Nursery)

CULTURAL RESOURCES

SCOPING REPORT

1. DEFINITION

The broad generic term cultural heritage resources means any physical and spiritual property associated with past and present human use or occupation of the environment, cultural activities and history. The term includes sites, structures, places, natural features and material of paleontological, archaeological, historical, aesthetic, scientific, architectural, religious, symbolic or traditional importance to specific individuals or groups, traditional systems of cultural practice, belief or social interaction.

2. PHILOSOPHY

Conservation as practiced worldwide stems from a long history of over-exploitation made possible by Western technology and science. Conservation developed in reaction against over-exploitation of mainly natural and later cultural resources. Western technology became an enemy of nature. This discord leads to conflict between nature on the one hand and development on the other hand. In this sense development is a Western cultural expression. In the African context nature is culture. Places, animals, plants etc. have cultural meanings and value.

In this report African values as far as plants and animals are concerned, will be taken into consideration. The Western distinction between nature and culture is not made. Intangible heritage is far more important to African people than the tangible heritage, which is normally included within the Western concept of conservation. Stories about places, legends, beliefs and cultural processes are more important than objects or sites.

3. METHODOLOGY

All relevant maps, literature and other applicable documents were consulted. The site was visited on three occasions and thoroughly inspected. The appropriate structures and landscape features were photographed.

4. DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

The land inspected consists of Portions 49 and the Remainder of Portion 18.15 and 31 of the farm Hartebeespoort 362 JR. More than 60% of the area had been developed over an extended period of time. The main development took place in a valley between the ridge (Remainder of 15 and 18) and the top of the mountain (Portion 49) and at the foot of the hill adjacent to Lynnwood Road. The latter has been developed as Safari Nursery, shops and restaurants. In the valley is a beautiful residence designed by Norman Eaton. Plants are propagated at the Hilltop nursery.

5. RESULTS

5.1 Archaeological sites

No archaeological sites or artefacts could be found on the site.

5.2 Cultural significant plants

The two areas not disturbed by modern development have many plants utilised by African people either as food, raw material or medicine. These plants have cultural meaning and significance, such as:

- *Euclea undulata* (Guarri)
- *Leonotis leonurus* (Wild dagga)
- *Erythrina lysistemon* (Common coral tree)
- *Boophane disticha* (Bushman poison bulb)

Plants that bear edible fruit are:

- *Strychnos pungens* (Spine leaved monkey orange)
- *Englerophytum magalimontanum* (Transvaal milkplum)

Plants can be used in home industries as raw materials, e.g.

- *Canthium gilfillanii* (Velvet rock alder) (used to make walking sticks)
- *Xerophyta retinervis* (Monkey's tail) (used for rope and broom making)

5.2 Architectural/Historical

5.3.1 Historical

On the western boundary just south of the Hilltop nursery a small portion of the original old farm wall is still intact (see photograph 1). The rest of the wall has most

probably been used for building purposes. These stonewalls were quite common in the nineteenth century before barbed wire became readily available.

5.3.2 Greenwood house

At present the Meyer family occupies the house. The well-known architect Norman Eaton designed the house in 1950 for the Greenwood family who were the owners of the farm at that stage.

During the 1940's and 1950's Norman Eaton was regarded as one of South Africa's most modern architect. He worked mainly in the Transvaal. Although his designs were contemporary, they related to their South African setting.

In the choice and treatment of materials Eaton's work is characterized by emphases on the region, the landscape and the climate. His architecture is set apart from that of his contemporaries by its special association with the African milieu.

The Greenwood house is a good example of Norman Eaton's later work. The design evolved in direct response to the nature of the site. Having carried out a careful survey of the site and its trees, he suggested to his client that the house should have a flat roof with wide projecting eaves,

'far-flung and shaded in appearance to suit the site... something that fitted quietly into the site rather than in contrast to it'.

The executed design comprises an extensively glazed double-storey area to the west, which contains the living room, dining room, study and a rooftop terrace and loggia. To the south of this are situated the kitchen, laundry and storerooms, arranged in two curves converging on a double garage and enclosing a kitchen courtyard. To the east is a long bedroom wing. All rooms with the exception of the bathroom and those around the kitchen courtyard are north facing. Access to the study, rooftop terrace and loggia is by way of an external stairway and an internal spiral staircase, which also leads down to a small wine cellar.

Although new owners have modernized the house, the original design is to a large extent intact and worth preserving (see photograph 2 & 3).

The house lies in a magnificent large garden.

5.3.3 Greenwood village

To the south east of the house lies the Greenwood village, which was also designed by Eaton as servants' quarters. It accommodates twelve people, including ablution and cooking facilities.

It consists of several-thatched rondavels of various sizes and heights. These are laid out in an irregular circular plan and linked by a boundary wall with a single entrance to the west. The various elements form a central 'kraal' enclosure, with a large tree at its centre. Smaller trees within the enclosure were also preserved.

The sloping site outside the boundary wall was left untouched and this, together with the materials used, completed the desired integration of architecture and site. The huts and enclosing wall are of random rubble stonework, the material having been quarried on the site. The only other materials used are thatch and wood for doors, windows and roof timbers. A tower shaped rondavel on the eastern side which houses a stove and hot water tank, forms the focal point of the composition opposite the entrance. Rectangular chimneystacks and wall-openings contrast with the curves of the plan and hut forms. Two beehive-shaped forms of slightly smaller stones flank the entrance to the enclosure.

An African ambience is evoked by layout, forms and materials, reminiscent of Zimbabwe (see photograph 4 & 5).

6. RECOMMENDATION

The only structures worth preserving are the Greenwood house (presently occupied by the Meyer family) and the Greenwood village together with the large, beautiful garden. The house and village are good examples of Norman Eaton's later architectural designs and should be preserved.

7. REFERENCES

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3. Van Wyk, B.E., van Oudtshoorn B. & Gericke, N. 2000. *Medicinal Plants of South Africa.*
4. Van Wyk, B. & Van Wyk, P. 1997. *Field guide to trees of South Africa.*

PHOTOGRAPHS



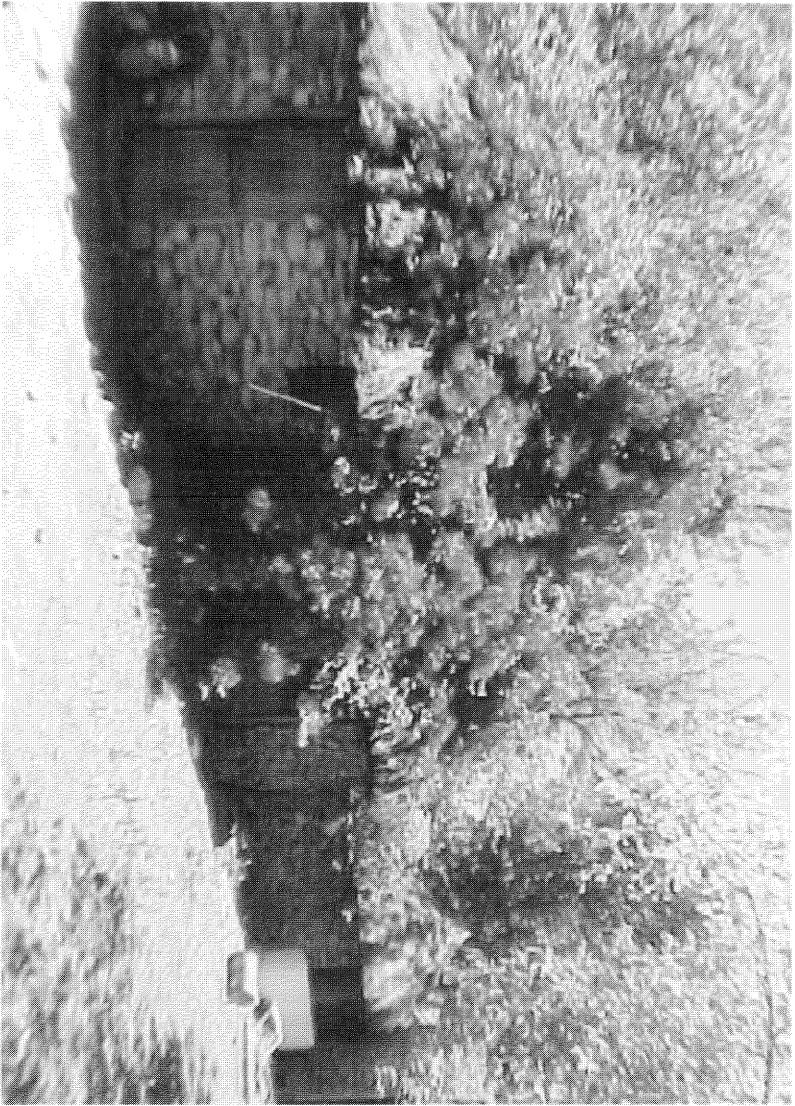
No. 1 Small portion of original farm wall still intact.



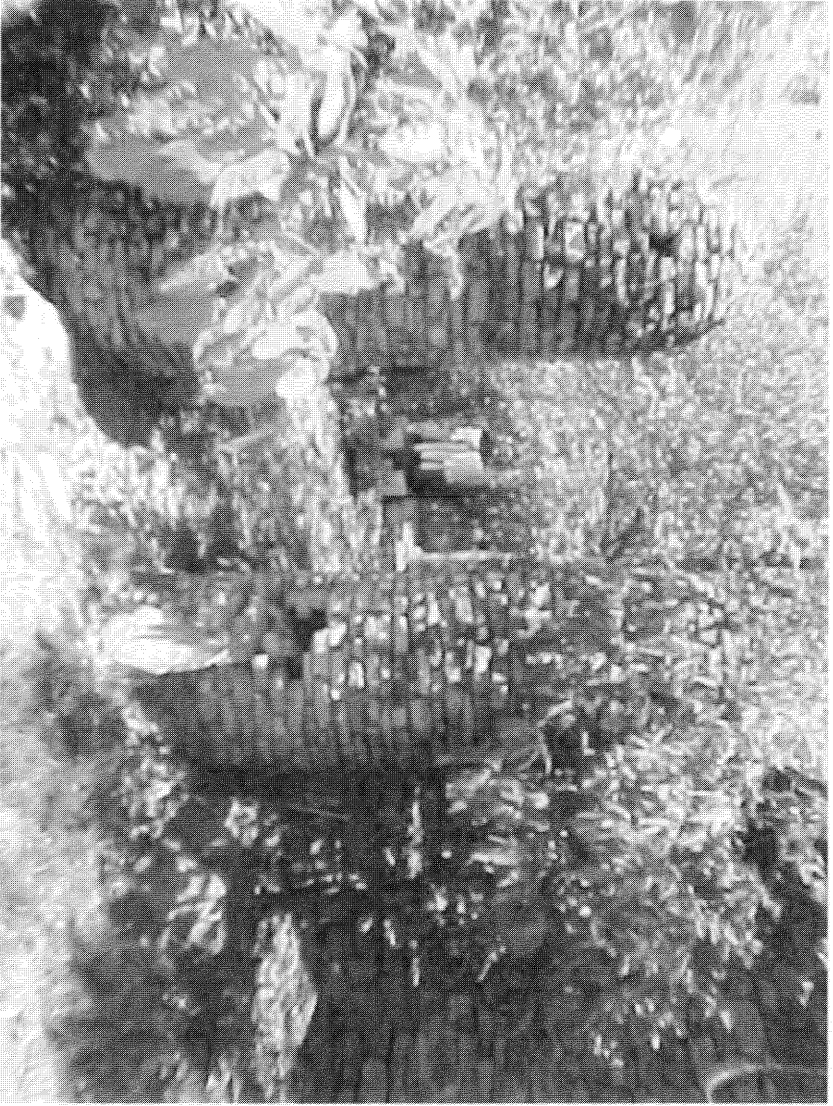
No. 2 Front view of the house designed by Norman Eaton for the Greenwood family.



No. 3 Southern entrance to the Greenwood house.



No. 4 Servants accommodation in the Greenwood village.



No. 5 The two conical towers at the entrance to the Greenwood Village.