



AFRICAN HERITAGE CONSULTANTS CC

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**CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCES IMPACT
ASSESSMENT OF THE FARM
ZUIKERBOSCHFONTEIN 151 IQ AND
PORTION 10 (PORTION OF PORTION 8) OF THE
FARM STEENEKOPPIE 153 IQ
MAGALIESBURG**

NOVEMBER 2005

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1. DEFINITION

The broad generic term *Cultural Heritage Resources* refers to 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 palaeontological, 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. PROTECTED SITES IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL HERITAGE ACT, Act. NO. 25 OF 1999

The following are the most important sites and objects protected by the National Heritage Act:

- a. Structures or parts of structures older than 60 years
- b. Archaeological sites and objects
- c. Palaeontological sites
- d. Meteorites
- e. Ship wrecks
- f. Burial grounds
- g. Graves of victims of conflict
- h. Public monuments and memorials
- i. Structures, places and objects protected through the publication of notices in the Gazette and Provincial Gazette
- j. Any other places or object which are considered to be of interest or of historical or cultural significance
- k. Geological sites of scientific or cultural importance
- l. Sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa
- m. Objects to which oral traditions are attached
- n. Sites of cultural significance or other value to a community or pattern of South African history

3. METHODOLOGY

All relevant maps and documents on the site were studied. The site was visited and visually inspected on foot.

4. RESULTS

This area is one of the first settlement areas of white farmers after the Great Trek. It also includes Blaauwbank gold mine, which is the oldest working goldmine in Gauteng.

The following heritage sites were found on the farms:

4.1 Old farmstead

The remains of an old farmstead were found at S26° 00' 18.6" and E27° 30' 49.2". The farmstead most probably dates to the 1960 - 1980s and consists of the ruins of houses, stables, silos, pigsty's and cattle kraal. All the roofs have disappeared and only walls and foundations are left (see photograph 1) (Site 1 on map).

4.2 Farm workers houses

The remains of farm workers houses were found at the following locations:

Site 2 S26° 00' 23.8" and E27° 30' 20.8" Two settlements ± 1980s.

Site 7 S26° 00' 14.8" and E27° 31' 34.5" This ruin of a farm workers home dates to ± 1940s (see photograph 2).

Site 9 S26° 00' 13.6 and E27° 31' 31.2" This is a relatively new ruin ± 1980s.

Site 10 S26° 00' 12.2" and E17° 31' 17.3" On this site are three sets of ruins dating most probably to the 1980s.

Site 11 S26° 00' 16.7" and E27° 31' 23.7" This site consists of the ruins of a number of houses and a large cattle kraal (see photograph 3) ± 1870/80.

Site 12 S26° 00' 23.1" and E 27° 31' 20.3" Modern ruin ± 1990.

Site 13 S26° 00' 25.6" and E27° 31' 20.4" Remains of an old mud brick building (see photographs 4) dating to probably the 1950s.

Site 17 S26° 00' 27.4" and E27° 31' 25.6" remains of mud brick house ± 1950s.

4.3 Cemeteries

Cemeteries were found at the following locations:

Site 6 S26° 00' 14.2" and E27° 31' 40.9" This cemetery is near the old Magaliesburg Hotel/boarding house. The oldest grave dates to 1866. In total there are seventeen graves (see photograph 5).

Site 8 This is the cemetery of Black farm worker's. The oldest grave dates to 1950. In total there are twenty-four graves in the cemetery (see photograph 6).

Site 20 This cemetery has twenty-two farm workers graves. The oldest dated grave dates to 1950 (see photograph 7).

4.4 Farm School

The remains of an old farm school is situated at S26° 00' 15.8" and E27° 32' 09.3". Squatters presently occupy the site. Most of the remaining school buildings were built in the 1970 – 1980s. Only one original building has remained which dates to ± 1940. The building has been partially rebuild and originally might have been a teacher's house (see photographs 8 & 9).

4.5 Cattle kraal (site 5 on map)

At S26° 00' 17.5" and E27° 31' 49.9" a very large cattle kraal is present. The walls were built of slate stone. The kraal measures about 40 X 40 metre. This kraal forms part of the original farm settlement, which later became a hotel/boarding house (see photograph 10).

4.6 Magaliesburg Hotel/Boarding house (site 6 on map)

The hotel/boarding house complex is situated at S26° 00' 14.2" and E27° 31' 40.9".

James and Sahra Jennings bought the farm that is situated near the present town of Magaliesburg in 1863. The Jennings had eleven children (six boys and five girls). The house was barn-shaped and adopted for a large family. The floors were originally of mud and smeared with cow dung. A water furrow and dam supplied water for household and gardening purposes.

In 1874 a deposit of alluvial gold was discovered at Blaauwbank. It became famed in the early gold rush days of the Transvaal and many tried their luck with James Jennings permission at the enterprise. The alluvial gold soon ran out, but a quartz reef with visible gold was discovered on the farm. A company called Nil Desperandum Co-operative Quartz Mining Company was established to work the gold reef, being the first company to have carried out systematic gold exploration in South Africa.

The large farmhouse was later transformed into a hotel/boarding house for miners and travellers. Today only the walls of the old building are still standing (see photographs 11, 12 & 13).

4.7 Ruin of mine house (site 18 on map)

Near the Blaauwbank goldmine the remains of an old house were found at S26° 00' 49.9" and E27° 31' 42.2". This old house was built with lightly burned bricks and

most probably was the house of one of the miners. Only one wall and the foundations remain (see photograph 14).

4.8 Quarries and prospecting trenches

Small quarries and prospecting trenches were found at the following locations:

Site 14 Quarry – Slate S26° 00' 29.9" and S27° 31' 19.2"

Site 15 Quarry – Slate S26° 00' 31.9" and E27° 31' 14.7"

Site 16 Quarry and shaft. Gold? S26° 00' 27.4" and E27° 31' 05.2"
(see photograph 15)

4.9. Blaauwbank goldmine (site 19)

S26° 00' 59.7" and E27° 31' 55.8". The Blaauwbank goldmine, which was established in 1876, is the oldest working mine in the Witwatersrand gold mining area. One of the original shafts is open to visitors while the rest of the mine is still worked. The reduction works are also still in operation. The machinery represents an era long gone by. This mine is a wonderful example of early mining (see photographs 16 & 17).

Unfortunately a modern tented camp area and a new building and conference centre were build right next to the historic gold mine (see photograph 18)

5. CONCLUSION

The proposed development area has a large number of heritage sites. The three cemeteries are important and should be protected. The oldest farm workers house ruins as well as the hotel/boarding-house and the old house at the farm school are important and should be fully documented as well as the cattle kraal. The Blaauwbank gold mine is the oldest working gold mine in the Witwatersrand and as such is of historic and industrial importance and needs protection.

All the above-mentioned sites and structures are older than 60 years and may not be demolished without prior approval of the National Heritage Resources Agency. In this regard you are reverred to article 34(1) of Act 25 of 1999, which reads as follows: "No person may alter or demolish any structure or part of a structure which is older that 60 years without a permit issued by the relevant provincial heritage resources authority".

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

- i. The three cemeteries be properly recorded and fenced in to protect them from further deterioration or destruction.
- ii. All structures older than sixty years be fully documented before an application for demolishing is applied for.
- iii. The Blaauwbank gold mine needs special protection. A heritage management and development plan be compiled for the mining area and that at least the tent camp be moved out of the historic area.

7. REFERENCES

1. National Heritage Resources Act No. 25 of 1999.
2. William Robin Walton, Supplied information on Jennings family history and Blaauwbank gold mine.
3. Jennings family history, Unpublished manuscript.

PHOTOGRAPHS



No. 1 Remains of farmhouse



No. 2 Remains of one of the oldest farm workers houses



No. 3 Large cattle kraal near on of the farm workers houses



No. 4 Remains of an old mud brick far workers house



No. 5 Cemetery of the Jennings family



No. 6 Farm workers cemetery near the river



No. 7 Farm workers cemetery in the north western corner of the property



No. 8 School teachers house



No. 9 Remains of the school building



No. 10 Large cattle kraal near the hotel/boardinghouse



No. 11 Gabled entrance to the hotel/boarding-house



No. 12 Remains of hotel/boarding-house on the eastern side of the road



No. 13 Remains of one of the outbuildings



No. 14 Remains of mine workers house



No. 15 One of the quarries with shaft



No. 16 Entrance to the historic Blaauwbank gold mine



No. 17 The reduction works of the Blaauwbank gold mine



No. 18 Tented camp and modern conference facility next to the historic Blaauwbank gold mine