



COBUS DREYER

Pr. Archaeologist/Heritage Specialist

**P.O. Box 12910
BRANDHOF 9324
Bloemfontein
dreyerj@telkomsa.net**

**Tel: 051-444 1187
Fax: 051-444 4395
Cell: 083 357 7982**

28 AUGUST 2007

FIRST PHASE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED LIGHT INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENTS AT PLOT 38 KWAGGAFONTEIN, BLOEMFONTEIN

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Light industrial developments are planned at Plot 38, Kwaggafontein, Bloemfontein. The property lies to the south west of the N8 (R48) main road to Petrusburg.

A residential house, which could be older than sixty years, is located on a portion of the land.

No other archaeological and cultural remains occurred on the surface.

I recommend that the planning of the developments may proceed, provided that the Permits Committee of the Free State Provincial Heritage Resources Agency (PHRA) and the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA), investigate the matter, issue a permit, and make recommendations on the preservation or alteration of the building.

INTRODUCTION AND DESCRIPTION

INVESTIGATION

Manie van Wyk from Spatial Solutions Incorporated Environmental Consultants, Bloemfontein, accompanied me during a site visit on 17 August 2007.

The land was investigated on foot and the outer limits of the planned developments were plotted by GPS (Map 3) and recorded on camera.

The area was examined for possible archaeological and historical material and to establish the potential impact on any cultural material that might be found. The

Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) is done in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA), (25 of 1999) and under the Environmental Conservation Act, (73 of 1989).

LOCALITY

Plot 38 Kwaggafontein is located to the west of the N8 (R48) main road from Bloemfontein to Petrusburg (Map 1). The land borders on to Eland Avenue to the east. Light industrial developments are planned on the site.

The area was used as scattered residential stands and had also been operated as agricultural holdings mostly used for grazing and plough lands.

The following GPS coordinates (Cape scale) were taken (2926AA):

A	29°07'37"S 026°09'13"E	Altitude 1416m (Fig.1).
B	29°07'32"S 026°09'11"E	Altitude 1422m (Fig.2)
C	29°07'35"S 026°09'04"E	Altitude 1415m (Fig.3).
D	29°07'40"S 026°09'06"E	Altitude 1416m (Fig.4).
Borehole 1	29°07'38"S 026°09'10"E	Altitude 1415m (Fig.5).
Borehole 2	29°07'38"S 026°09'09"E	Altitude 1416m (Fig.5).

RESULTS

The investigation at Plot 38 Kwaggafontein did not produce any material of cultural or archaeological importance on the surface. The whole stand around the house had been levelled and all trees and vegetation removed (Figs.3,4&6)

The old house appeared to be of significance and needed investigation. The building seems to be in a fair state (Figs.8&9), but clearly needs maintenance (Fig.13).

The previous owners occupied the house since 2001.

An old sketch plan of the house (Fig.11) was found underneath several layers of floor covering. The house plan was drawn on the reverse side of a train time schedule (Fig.15) dating from 1926 (Fig.16).

The house has a staircase (Fig.17) to the first level and there are several fireplaces (18&19).

Mr N.S.T. van der Walt, a retired architect, grew up and lived in Bloemfontein for many years. He recalls that in 1928, when he attended a school nearby, a certain Mr Harris, an engineer at the South African Railways, used to live in this specific house.

No other archaeological and cultural remains occurred on the surface.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The placing of a light industrial development at Plot 38 Kwaggafontein will have no impact on any cultural and archaeological remains on the soil surface.

The area was used for residential and agricultural purposes and had been managed as grazing fields and as plough lands.

Recently a serious cleaning operation took place when a large number of trees were bulldozed and removed.

RECOMMENDATIONS

There are no obvious reasons to delay the commencement of further planning and development at Plot 38, Kwaggafontein and I recommend that the planning and developments may proceed.

However, the old house is older than sixty years and I recommend that before any alteration or destruction of the old double-storey house is done, the necessary permit should be obtained from the Free State Provincial Heritage Resources Agency (PHRA) and that the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) should also be involved.

MITIGATION

Concerning the areas for the proposed extensions, mitigation measures will be required in the case of the old house.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I thank Manie van Wyk from Spatial Solutions Environmental Consultants, Bloemfontein, for accompanying me to the site. I also owe gratitude to Mr NST van der Walt, retired architect of Bloemfontein, for sharing his memories with me.

SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY:

DEACON, J. 1992. Archaeology for Planners, Developers and Local Authorities. Cape Town: National Monuments Council.

DREYER, J. 1996. Introduction to Free State Iron Age Archaeology. In: Guide to archaeological sites in the Free State and Lesotho. Southern African Association of Archaeologists (SA3), 14th Biennial Conference, Bloemfontein, Post-conference tour 5-8 July 1996. Bloemfontein: National Museum.

DREYER, J. 2000. Mountains and Rivers of the Free State - Manual for field research / Berge en Riviere van die Vrystaat – Handleiding vir veldnavorsing. Bloemfontein: University of the Free State, Department of Anthropology, Occasional Paper No. 2.

HAASBROEK, J. 1987. Die rol van Cornelis Hermanus Wessels in die Oranje-Vrystaat 1885-1924. Bloemfontein: National Museum, Memoirs No.23.

HUMPHREYS, A.J.B. 1986. Searching for the past. Cape Town: David Philip.

MAGGS, T.M. 1976. Iron Age Communities of the Southern Highveld. Pietermaritzburg: Natal Museum.

PISTORIUS, J.C.C. 1994. Eskom Archaeological Site Identification Guide. Johannesburg: Eskom.

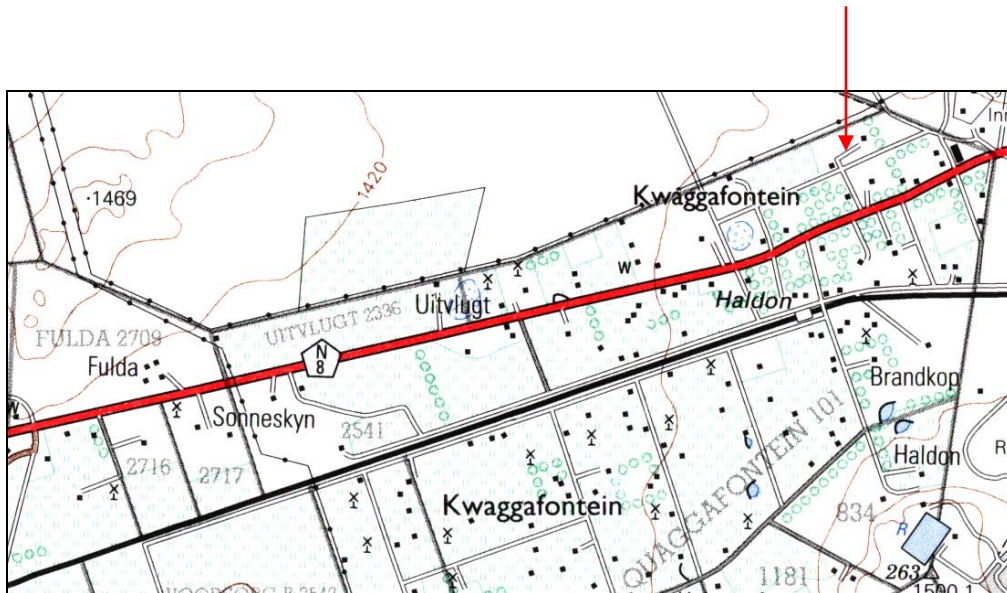
SCHOEMAN, K. 1980. Bloemfontein – die ontstaan van 'n stad. Kaapstad: Human & Rousseau.

SURVEYOR-GENERAL O.F.S. 1973. Index of Orange Free State Farms. Bloemfontein.

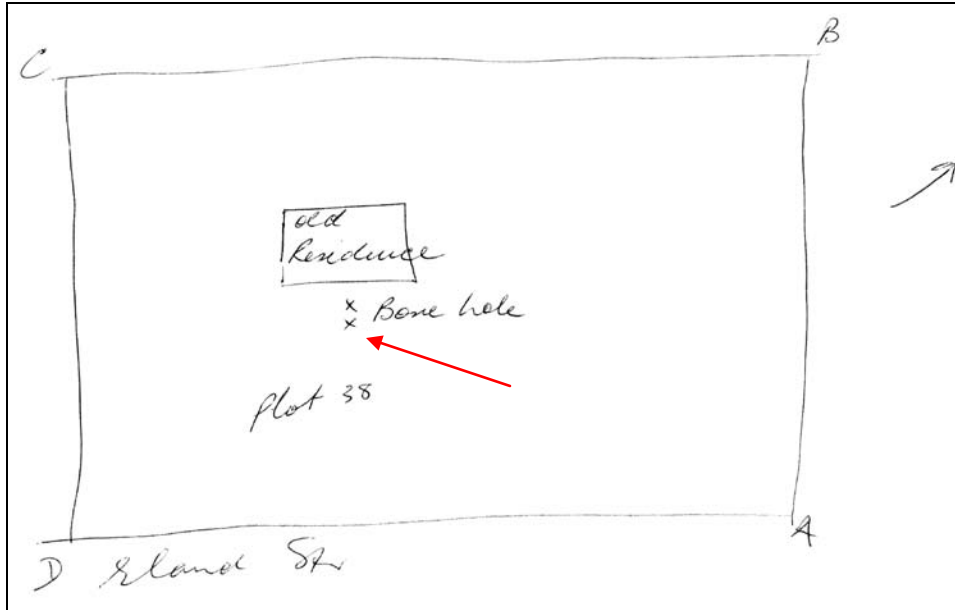
LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS



Map 1 The locality of Plot 38 south west of Bloemfontein along the N8 (R48) to Petrusburg.



Map 2 Locality of Plot 38 Kwaggafontein near the N8 (R48) main road to Petrusburg (2926AA).



Map 3 Locality of Points A–D and the residence and bore holes at Plot 38 Kwaggafontein, Bloemfontein.



Fig.1 Point A at Plot 38 Kwaggafontein facing west from Eland Avenue.



Fig.2 Point A at Plot 38 Kwaggafontein facing south along Eland Avenue.



Fig.3 Point B at Plot 38 Kwaggafontein. The land surface had already been disturbed



Fig.4 View across Plot 38 Kwaggafontein from Point B.



Fig.5 Point C at Plot 38 Kwaggafontein facing north (towards Point B).



Fig.6 View from Point D facing along Eland Avenue towards Point A.



Fig.7 The bore holes at Plot 38 Kwaggafontein, Bloemfontein.



Fig.8 Rear view of the old residence at Plot 38 Kwaggafontein dating from about 1926.



Fig.9 Front view of the old house as seen from the east.



Fig.10 Detail of main entrance.

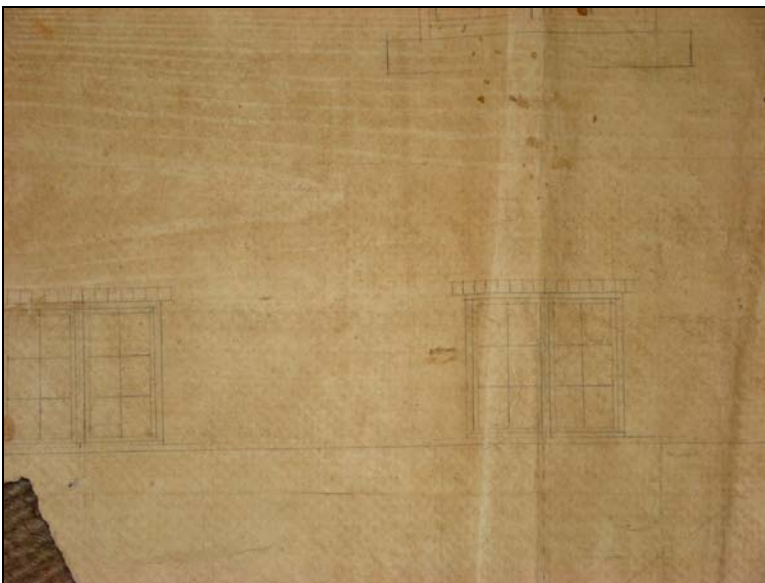


Fig.11 Faint detail of the house plan. Note the imprint of the floorboards on the paper.

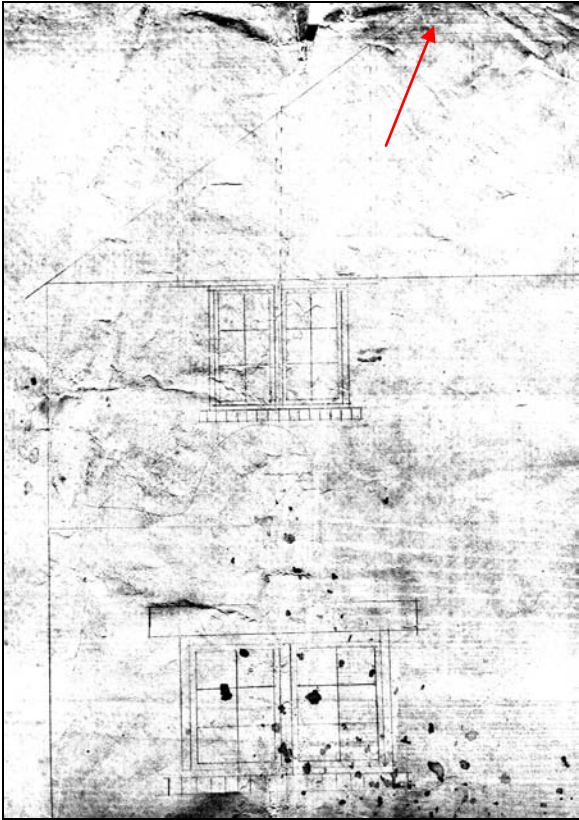


Fig.12 Detail of the top and lower windows and the ridge of the roof indicated by red arrow.

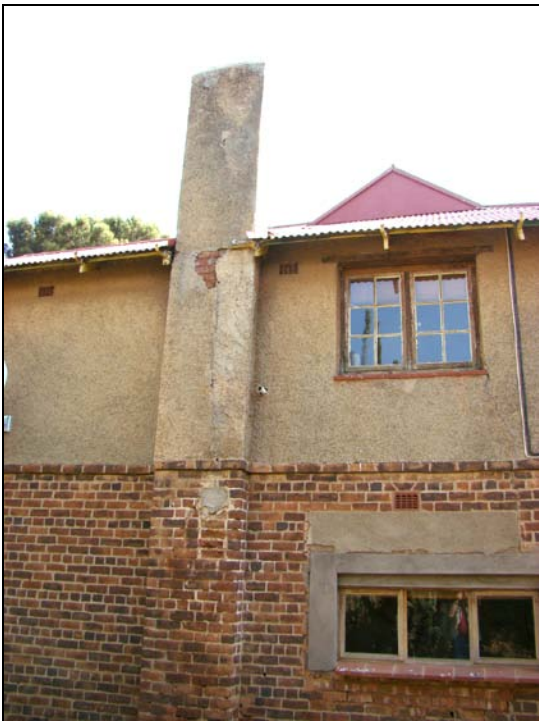


Fig.13 North view showing the lower and second storey windows and the ridge of the roof.



Fig.14 Lower window on east side had been replaced previously.

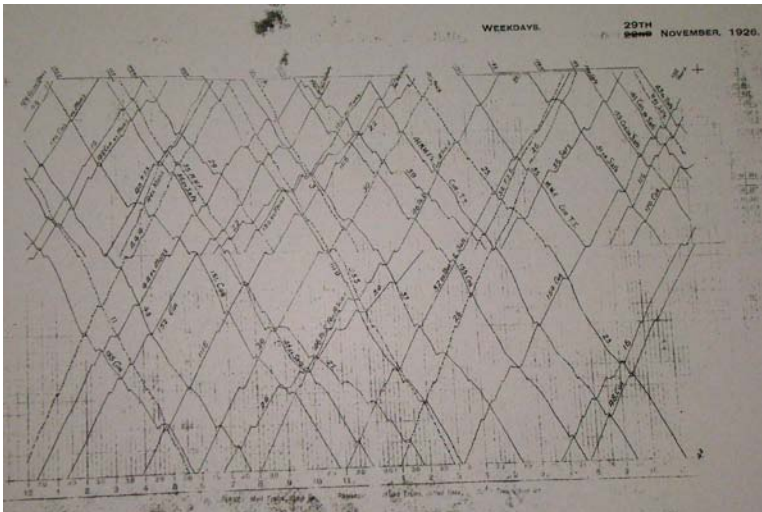


Fig.15 Old train time schedule used to draw the house plan.

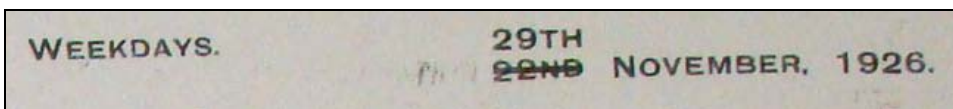


Fig.16 Date on the train timetable used to draw the house plan.



Fig.17 Staircase leading to the first floor.



Fig.18 Fire place in the lounge.



Fig.19 Fire place in the dining room.



Fig.20 Service opening between the dining room and kitchen.