



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**

7 February 2008

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE
ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL
DEVELOPMENTS AT NAMAHADI (FRANKFORT), FREE STATE**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Residential developments are planned at Namahadi (Frankfort), Free State. The area of development lies adjacent to the existing township of Namahadi.

No archaeological or any cultural remains were found at the site.

The only subject of concern is a grave yard containing three graves which will be affected by the developments. I recommend that a serious effort should be undertaken to trace the relatives of the deceased to ascertain if they would agree to the exhumation and reburial of their next off kin.

If the matter about the grave yard is handled satisfactorily I recommend that the proposed developments and planning of the site may proceed.

INTRODUCTION AND DESCRIPTION

INVESTIGATION

The site for the proposed residential developments at Namahadi (Frankfort) was visited on 6 February 2008. Dr Francois Retief from LMV Environmental Consultants, Kroonstad accompanied me to the site.

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

The proposed residential developments are planned adjacent to the township of Namahadi, Frankfort, Free State (Map 1). The placing of the residential developments at Namahadi is indicated on Map 2. The proposed area lies on the town lands of Frankfort to the north of Namahadi.

The region is grass covered and is part of the general grazing fields for the stock from the township.

The following GPS coordinates (Cape scale) were taken (2728AD & Surveyor-General 1973):

- A 27°14'50"S. 028°30'47"E Altitude 1573m (Figs.1&2).
B 27°14'57"S. 028°30'06"E Altitude 1563m (Fig.3).
GRAVE YARD 27°14'58"S. 028°30'07"E Altitude 1559m (Fig.4).

RESULTS

FINDS

The planned developments will extend the township of Namahadi, at Frankfort, Free State.

The area covers grazing land which could have been old plough fields earlier.

No archaeological remains were found at the site.

Cultural remains occur in the form of a grave yard (Fig.4) containing three graves (Figs.5-7) and an old farm yard (Figs.8-10) on the outskirts of the proposed township developments.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

No indication of any archaeological material was found on the surface in the proposed area.

The residential developments at Namahadi, Frankfort, will have an impact on the graveyard on the outskirts of the planned township developments.

RECOMMENDATIONS

I recommend that the further planning and development of the site may proceed, providing that the graveyard should be protected. Some of the grave stones have already been damaged and there is the risk that the graves could be totally destroyed.

MITIGATION

Concerning the area for the proposed developments, mitigation measures will be required in the case of the grave yard.

I recommend that it should be considered to move the graves. My own enquiries in Frankfort to trace the descendants or relatives of the people who have been buried here have been without any results so far.

I recommend that a serious effort should be undertaken to trace the relatives of the deceased to ascertain if they would agree to the exhumation and reburial of their next off kin. The family should be interviewed about the possibility of the removal of the graves.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I thank Dr Francois Retief from LMV Environmental Consultants, Kroonstad who accompanied me to the site.

I also owe gratitude to Me Lelia Etsebeth and Mr Norman Thompson of Frankfort for assistance to trace the relatives of the deceased people.

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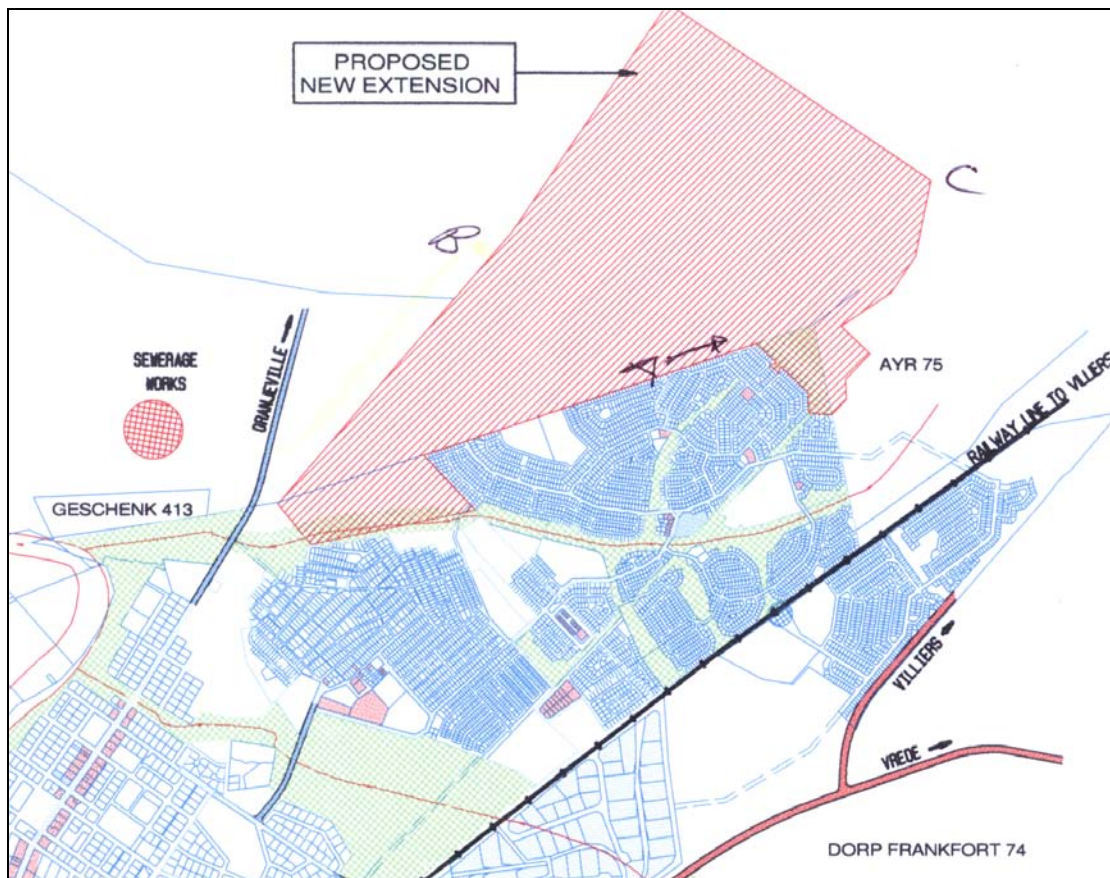
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LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS:



Map 1 Frankfort in relation to Petrus Steyn, Tweeling, Heilbron and Villiers.



Map 2 Placing of the residential developments at Namahadi (Frankfort).



Fig.1 View from Point A along the outskirts of the existing township of Namahadi.



Fig.2 Point A facing east.



Fig.3 View from point B facing west across the area of development.



Fig.4 The graveyard on the western periphery of the proposed site.



Fig.5 The grave of Frans Johann Smidt *26.12.1910 †15.8.1911 and his little brother Johannes Jacobus Smidt *9.6.1917 †25.11.1919.



Fig.6 The grave of Gerhardus Smidt *31.3.1880 †2.9.1938.



Fig.7 The grave of Mathilda Buys nee Smidt born Odendaal *4.5.1888 †15.2.1957.



Fig.8 Old farm house on the farm Paisley 73 outside Frankfort.



Fig.9 Eastern view of the old farm house on Paisley 73 outside Frankfort.



Fig.10 Stock kraal at the farm Paisley 73, Frankfort.