

Archaeological monitoring of Erf 141664, Cape Town, bounded by Rutgers, Chapel and Stuckeris Streets

(HWC Reference No: HM/CAPE TOWN/
Erf 141664 Permit No. 2008/07/03)



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Brief

Archaeological monitoring for the mechanical excavation for a basement parking area on Erf 141664, Cape Town was requested in May 2008. The site is located in District 6, close to the Eastern Boulevard flyover (Figure 1).



Figure 1: The site (outlined in red) is situated on Chapel street and bounded by Rutgers Str on the eastern edge and Stuckeris Str on the west (Google Earth c2008).

Archaeological monitoring was requested on the recommendation of the Heritage Statement (Pistorius 2006) which accompanied the application to demolish the then existing building on the site. According to the Heritage Statement (Pistorius 2006), the core of the building was built between 1878 and 1900, but had been substantially altered. Following an ROD from Heritage Western Cape, this building was demolished in 2007 and the floor beds partially removed in May 2008.

Erf 141664, Cape Town is a consolidation of at least 8 erven which for the most part can be traced back to Block M, situated behind the Castle, which in turn could be traced back to land granted to Alexander Tennant in the early 1800s. The possibility therefore existed that there may be archaeological material predating the 1815 subdivision of the erven while the property still formed part of Tenant's farm land (Appendix 1).

Archaeological Monitoring

Archaeological monitoring of the site was started 4 October 2008. The site could be divided into three sections: Section C situated to the west of the demolished house; Section B being the portion on which the demolished house was situated and Section A being the remainder of the site (Figure 2).

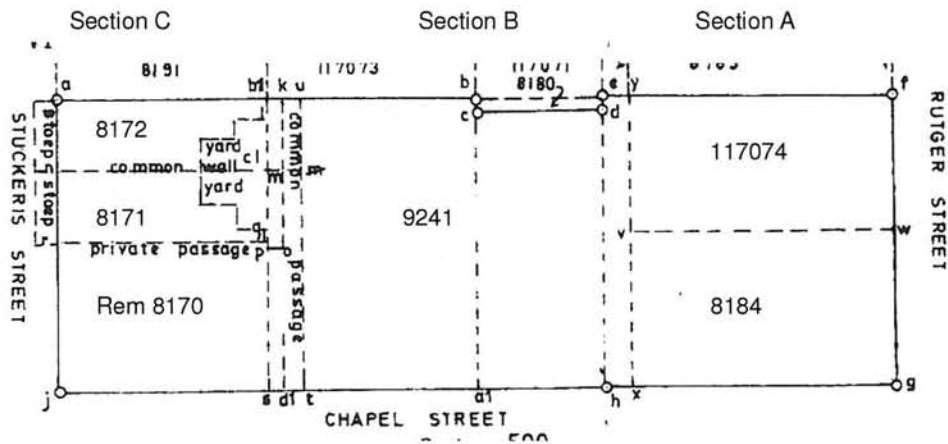


Figure 2: Detail from Survey Diagram No 8948/1987 showing the erven comprising Erf 141664. The survey diagram does not show the building footprint of the Essop's which was demolished in 2007.

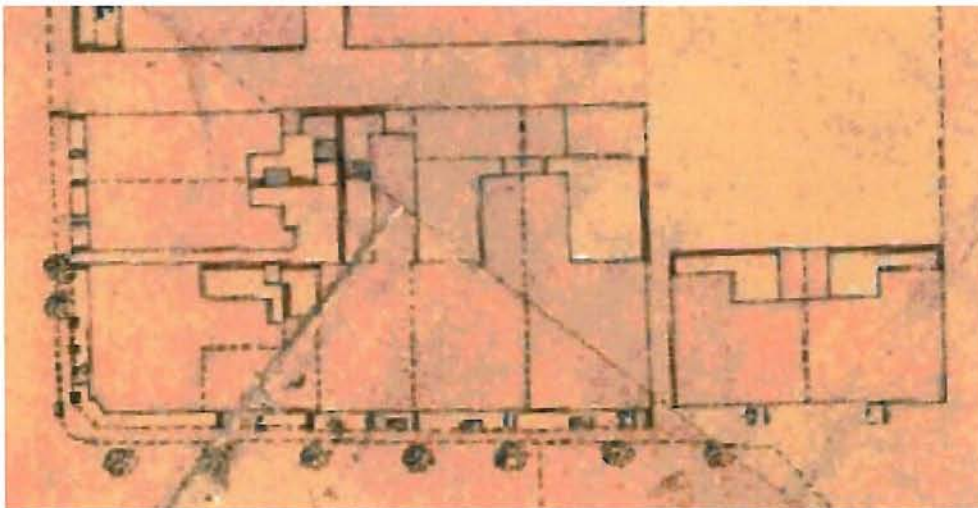


Figure 3: Detail from Thom's survey of Cape Town c1898 showing the structures corresponding to the earlier cadastral plan.

Section C



Figure 4: Section C

The mechanical excavation started in Section C on 4 August 2008. It was immediately apparent that the natural clay was very high and situated 250-300mm below the original ground level (indicated by a layer of tarmac) and the likelihood of finding intact archaeological material was low. Nothing of archaeological interest was found in this section.

The height of the *in situ* clays suggest that either the foundations of the buildings (demolished in the 1970s) were very shallow, or considerable re-landscaping had taken place after the demolitions, removing most of the foundations and top soil.

The level of the original road surface is visible in the middle right of the photograph. This road level relates to before the 1970s demolitions and forced removals from District 6.

Section B

Mechanical excavation in Section B was started 12 August 2008. In May 2008 the surface bed of a portion of the house was removed. Concentrations of slate (blue stone) could be seen on the surface of the ground indicating where older foundations were; these were somewhat disturbed due to the movement of the mechanical excavator over the site (Figure 5).

During the course of the monitoring a section of slate foundation was uncovered along Chapel Street, corresponding with the Essop building which was demolished in 2007 (Figure 6). The openings in the foundation correspond with the entrances in the modern stoep wall, suggesting that the basic structure of the building remained constant, at least in terms of the façade.

In addition to the remains of the foundations, evidence of a shallow ditch running underneath the building were uncovered. This ditch was filled with household refuse prior to the house being constructed. There was no evidence to suggest that the ditch was used over a long period of time as a place for rubbish disposal as all the artefacts reflect a similar time period.



Figure 5: View of the site before start of mechanical excavation and monitoring, looking towards the Eastern Boulevard flyover.

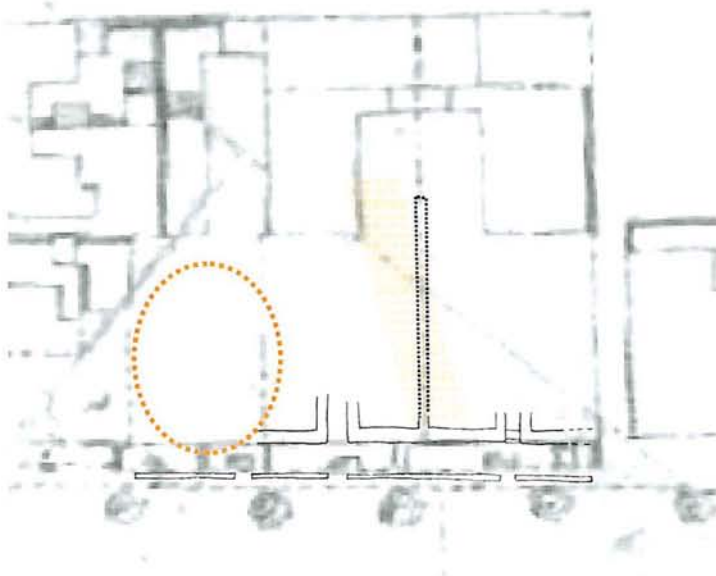


Figure 6: Overlay of exposed features onto Thom's survey c1898. The orange circle shows the area of surface bed removal in May 2008. The area shaded yellow indicates the approximate location of the filled ditch.

The walls flanking the door openings suggest that the houses were built with a central hallway with rooms flanking it on either side. This pattern is throughout Cape Town.



Figure 7: The foundation of the building was formed by slate rubble topped by a course of roughly dressed slate (Photograph on left). The image to the right shows the width of the walls and illustrated the construction method: roughly dressed blocks on the exterior, the interior of the wall filled by smaller chunks of rock, set in a clay/lime mortar.

Foundation thickness for the exterior wall is 530mm, while interior walls appear to vary between 430-500mm. The rubble foundation was approximately 500mm deep, although in the area of the ditch it was considerably deeper. Brick rubble immediately above the course of slate indicates that the walling was entirely of brick and unlike earlier buildings, not partially of stone.



Figure 8: The base of the wooden doorframe was still visible. These features were protected by the layer of cement which covered the area between the front of the house and the stoep wall.

Artefacts

The artefacts found on this site were predominantly found in the filled ditch. The soil fill in this ditch was coarse red sand which was very distinct from the surrounding natural clay. A selection is shown below:

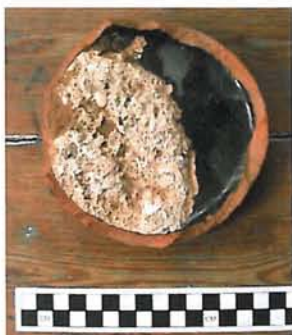


Figure 9: An earthenware pot in which some shell lime has dried. This shell lime predates the building and probably relates to the earlier buildings situated to the west of the site.



Figure 10: Bottle bases. The bottle on the top right is an Ohlssons Brewery bottle: Ohlssons was already well established at the Cape by 1879 (Saitowitz & Lastovica 1998).



Figure 11: Clay pipe stems.



Figure 11: Chamber pots



Figure 12: Stoneware commonly used for ink pots, boot black, gin etc. Top left is a vase.

The following images are of a selection of refined earthenwares which were typically manufactured in England and were commonly available at the Cape from the late 18th century onwards. There was only 1 small shard of Asian porcelain in the collection. The assemblage, although small, appears to be mostly early/mid 19th century; which would be consistent with the filling in of the ditch prior to the construction of the building as suggested by Pistorius (2006) 1878-1898.



Figure 13: Industrial slipwares



Figure 14: Hand painted



Figure 15: Blue transfer printed



Figure 16: Coloured transfer printed

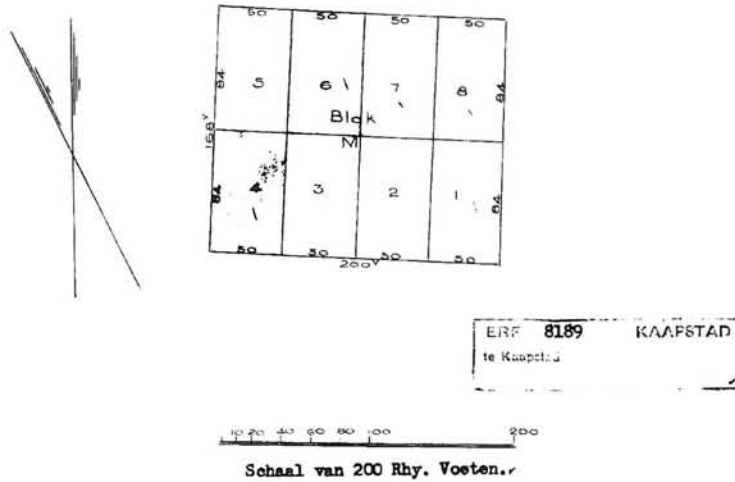
Section A

At the time that this report is being compiled, Section A has not yet been mechanically excavated. The surface has been scraped and it would appear as if the *in situ* clay is also situated very close to the surface as it was in Section C. As the archaeological potential in this section is estimated to be low, it was decided not to monitor this section any further.

Conclusion

The results of the archaeological monitoring of Erf 141664, Cape Town, confirmed that the structure that was demolished in 2007 was built towards the end of the 19th century. Of interest was the ditch which was predated the house and which was filled prior to the construction of the house. The absence of early artefactual material suggests that the ditch was not used for a long period of time to dispose of household refuse.

Appendix 1: Chapel Street, Erf 141664, Cape Town Comprising: Erven 8170, 8171, 1872, 8184, 117074, 9241 (comprising 8186 and 8187)



Bovenaande Figuur Inhoudende 233 quad. roeden & 48 quad. voeten is gelegen in de Tafel Valley B'Costen 't Kasteel synde Blok M van't Erven aan de Boedel van Wylan de Heer Tenant toebehoorende.

Strekende Noord naar Blok I.
Oost naar Blok L.
Zuid aan't geprojecteerd Straat &
West naar Blok N.

Gemeeten door den Landmeter J. F. Kirsten en volgens zyn Caarten deese geformeerd door my den 1 Sept: 1815.

(Sgd.) Jn^o Melvill.
A. G. Land.

Afskrif van kaart waarna verwys word
in T/A 16
gedateer: 6.10.1815 (Vol. 4)
A. Woodman
28.6.1962

Van 't Land
Eig. koerw.

ERF 8189
Kemp. K-3A

ERF 8189
Kemp. K-3A

JP/PS

Survey diagram No 37/1815 showing Block M, originally owned by Alexander Tennant and which forms the origin of the consolidated Erf 141664, Cape Town.

Erf 8170 Formerly Block M situated behind the Castle:

Erf No	Diagram	Deed	Date	Extent	From	To	Parent Erf
8170		138	16/10/1845	29 SR 24 SF	Joint Estate JG Muller	Abraham Pieter Herold	8189
8192		479	27/07/1859	5 SR 55 SF	A Taylor	Gous Johannes Ludeking	8071
8191		480	27/07/1859	11 SR 128 SF 72 SI	A Taylor	Jan Kryn Rutgas	8071
Rem 8170		1524	10/03/1917	11 SR 128 SF 72 SI	J Benischowitz	Max Fraiman	
Rem 8170		19457	8/12/1953	11 SR 128 SF 72 SI	Joint estate Max Fraiman	Several	
Rem 8170		6075	8/03/1971	11 SR 128 SF 72 SI	Expropriated	Community Development Board	

Erf 8189: Formerly piece of land Block M

Erf No	Diagram	Deed	Date	Extent	From	To	Parent Erf
8189	36/1815	16	6/10/1815	233 SR 480 SF	Est A Tennant	Johan George Muller & Godfried Conraad Muller	
8188		183	23/05/1845	58 SR 48 SF	JG Muller +1	James McCaffrey	
8170		138	16/10/1845	29 SR 24 SF	Joint Estate of JG Muller	Abraham Pieter Heroldt	
8182		158	25/11/1845	58 SR 48 SF	Joint Estate of JG Muller	Michiel Joseph Louw	
8174		66	5/11/1847	29 SR 24 SF	Joint Estate of JG Muller	Maxmilliam Shalwetter	
8190		50	7/01/1853	29 SR 24 SF	Joint Estate of JG Muller	Petrus Johannes Redelinghuis	
8185		51	7/01/1853	29 SR 24 SF	Joint Estate of JG Muller	Johan George Stadler	

Erf 8171: Formerly Lot C part of Erven 8191 & 8188:

Erf No	Diagram	Deed	Date	Extent	From	To	Parent Erf
8171		90	3/05/1979	5SR 117 AF 112 SI	Est JAH Wicht	Joseph Holberry	8191 + 8188
8171		3161	27/04/1934	5SR 117 AF 112 SI	G Sing	Bareyam Singh	

8171		3331	19/02/1948	5SR 117 AF 112 SI	B Singh	Flakey Hoosain	
8171		7531	23/03/1973	5SR 117 AF 112 SI	Expropriated	Community Development Board	

Erf 8172: Formerly a piece of land Lot D

Erf No	Diagram	Deed	Date	Extent	From	To	Parent Erf
8172	312/1879	92	3/02/1881	6SR 66 SF 72 SI	Est JAH Wicht	Herman Austofell Nicolas Smit	8191 + 8188
8172		4340	31/05/1897	6SR 66 SF 72 SI	JH Jerry	Maricia Marguerite Koopman	
8172		2175	1/04/1913	6SR 66 SF 72 SI	Est MM Koopman	Nathan Graber	
8172		17637	7/07/1965	6SR 66 SF 72 SI	Est Nathan Graber	Georgeou Investments Pty Ltd	
8172		15628	4/07/1972	6SR 66 SF 72 SI	Georgeou Investments Pty Ltd	Community Development Board	

Erf 8184: Formerly lost 3 & 4 Block M (comprising erven 3400 and 3469)

Erf No	Diagram	Deed	Date	Extent	From	To	Parent Erf
8184		301	23/04/1859	16 SF	Insolvent Estate PBB Louw	Adriaan Johannes Zeederburg	3400 + 3469
8184		10446	17/02/1930	16 SF	C Dawood	Adam Vista	
8184		4154	28/04/1937	16 SR	Assigned est Adam Vista	Henry Baker	
8184		9169	6/05/1968	16 SR	H Baker	¼ shares: Szloma Janouski Meyer Janouski Rachel Janouski Sarah Janouski	
8184		8624	20/04/1974	228 m ²	Expropriated	Community Development Board	

Erf 9241: Comprising erven 8186 & 8187

Erf 8186: Formerly Lot 2 behind the market Block M

Erf No	Diagram	Deed	Date	Extent	From	To	Parent Erf
8186	A.626/1859	366	23/02/1859	13 SR 48 SF	Insolvent Est PBB Louw	Jan Kryn Rutgers	8185 (ex 8189)
8186		3446	13/03/1946	13 SR 48 SF	Est MO Essop	Allie Mohammed Mandory & Essop Mohammed Omar	
8186		4574	2/04/1953	13 SR 48 SF	AMO Mandary	Essop Mohammed Omar	
8186		1477	24/01/1973	13 SR 48 SF	Expropriated	Community Development Board	

Erf 8187: Formerly part of Lot 7 situate Chapel Str

Erf No	Diagram	Deed	Date	Extent	From	To	Parent Erf
8187		227	13/08/1879	20 SR 17 SF 168 SI	Est late JAH Wicht	Jan Willem Steenstra	8188 (originally part of 8189)
8187		3446	13/03/1946	13 SR 48 SF	Est MO Essop	Allie Mohammed Mandory & Essop Mohammed Omar	
8187		4574	2/04/1953	13 SR 48 SF	AMO Mandary	Essop Mohammed Omar	
8187		1477	24/01/1973	13 SR 48 SF	Expropriated	Community Development Board	
8187		3446	13/03/1946	13 SR 48 SF	Est MO Essop	Allie Mohammed Mandory & Essop Mohammed Omar	

Sources

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