

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT OF PORTION 164 AND
REMAINDER OF PORTION 52 OF THE FARM TURFFONTEIN 100 IR,
JOHANNESBURG**

A Phase I report prepared for Seaton Thompson & Associates

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INTRODUCTION

Balwin Properties intends to develop a new residential complex on two portions (52 & 164) of the farm Turffontein 100 IR in the south of Johannesburg. In terms of Environmental and Heritage legislation, Seaton Thompson, the environmental coordinators, commissioned Archaeological Resources Management (ARM) to examine the project area for sites of archaeological and historical interest.

METHOD

One ARM staff examined the area on 28 August 2006. The entire area was surveyed on foot. Sites were recorded with a hand-held GPS instrument programmed for WGS 84. The 1 : 50 000 map 2628AC encompasses both portions of the project area (Figure 1).

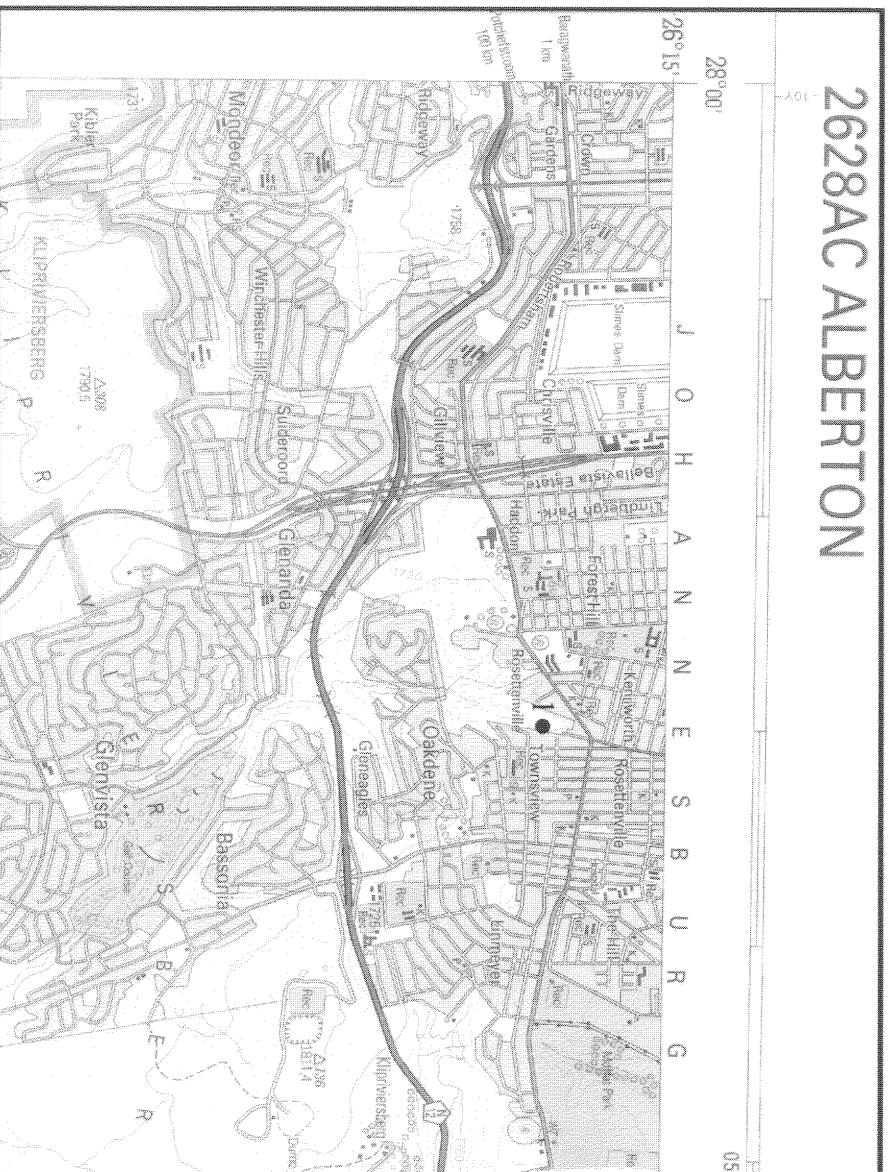


Figure 1. Historical site recorded in the survey.

Site significance was based on five main criteria: (1) primary versus secondary context; (2) amount of deposit; (3) number and variety of features; (4) uniqueness; and (5), potential to answer present research questions. Sites with no significance do not require mitigation, low to medium sites may require limited mitigation, high significance requires extensive mitigation, while outstanding sites should not be disturbed at all. Recognizable graves have high social value regardless of their archaeological significance.

RESULTS

Bare rock covers most of the smaller portion (52), while a large drainage system cuts through more exposed rock in the larger portion (164). The Witwatersrand conglomerate covers much of the area. Stone Age people did not use this resource to make implements, and ancient sites were therefore not found.

One building (**Site 1**: 26 15 25.2S 28 02 58.7E) standing inside the larger portion is probably over 60 years old. It includes a corrugated roof and large sandstone blocks (Figure 2). This building probably dates to when Turffontein was a working farm.



Figure 2. Site 1: old building.

Small cement floors were sometimes associated with whitewashed lettering, such as B.C.C.C. The lettering and floors marked various areas used by African churches. They were noted at the following locations:

26 15 37.4S 28 02 51.5E
26 15 38.8S 28 02 51.5E
26 15 40.4S 28 02 48.1E
26 15 42.2S 28 02 46.9E
26 15 45.1S 28 02 46.7E

In all cases the floors were broken and overgrown. Thus, the area has not been used for religious purposes for some time.

RECOMMENDATION

If the developer plans to damage or remove the old building at **Site 1**, they will need a permit from SAHRA. Depending on plans for Turffontein on file with the municipality, an architect may first need to record the building.

With this qualification, there are no archaeological or historical reasons why the development should not proceed.