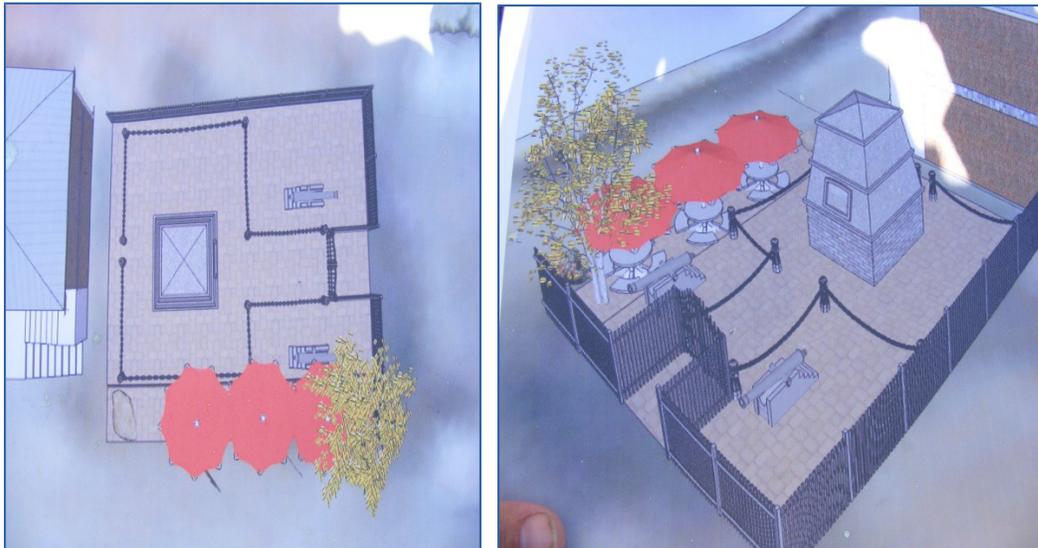


A second problem to consider is the value of the site and its use: by closing of, or fencing the site from the public, might be controversial – since it was erected for public access and enjoyment with public funds. A solution to this challenge is that the developer must obtain letters from interested and affected parties, supporting the fencing, e.g. The Griqua National Independent Church, the National Khoi-San Council and the East Griqua Land Museum for reasons such as the long term conservation of the sites and improved access control. With reference to the latter museum clubs can for instance explain that organized groups of tourists will still visit the site, but under supervision and with a key kept by the leader of the group (museum, NKC, IGC, etc).

The above-mentioned correspondence must accompany site plans, elevation plans drawn up by an accredited architect, employed by the developer, Mr. Meth. All applications must be done digitally via the SAHRIS data-basis and programme.

More recommendations: the broken fence and pedestals should be removed to the East Griqualand Museum for safe-keeping until the restoration can be completed as part of the permit application for the fencing.

***Developments proposed so far for Adam Kok III and Margaret Kok's memorial and grave.***





At present only the left side of the monument is fenced-off.



The site also contains an engraved rock with the initials of the Griqua, Andries Waterboer. To be kept within the fenced-off area.

General management duties to be carried out regularly:

Apply good access control

Mow the grass at least once in the winter and twice in the summer

Collect litter on a weekly basis

Apply environmentally friendly herbicide twice a year, it is preferable to use round-up rather than D24.

Under no circumstances may any advertisement board be attached to the fencing, permeability and the ability for the public to still view the memorial and graves through the fencing is of the utmost importance and it is illegal to attach any plaque to an area of heritage significance, without making an application to Amafa.

Establish a so-called “one-stop-shop” where the most essential services of the government are located, e.g. the Department of Works, the Police themselves as well as the Education Department.

### **5) Survey of Adam's Kok laager at Mount Currie**

#### **Background:**

#### **Historical and Cultural Significance:**

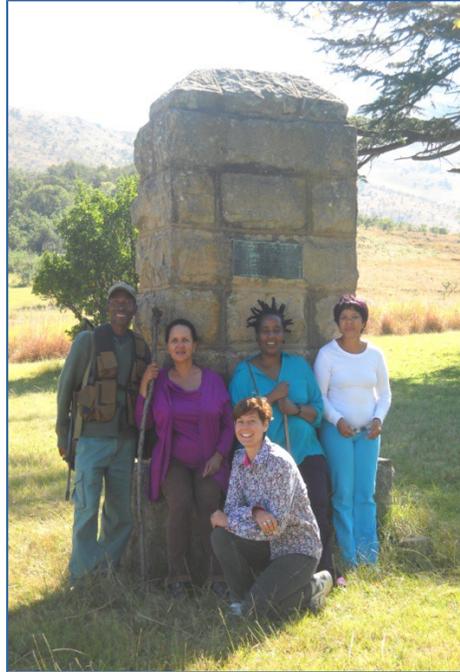
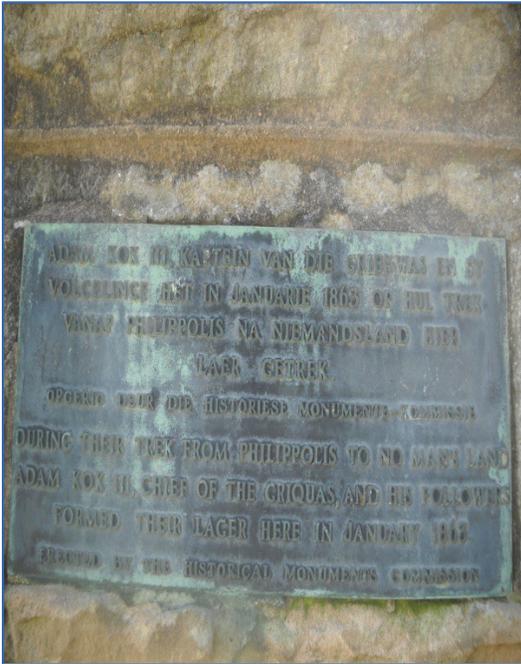
“The site of the Old Laager lies at the foot of Mount Currie, barely three kilometers north of Kokstad. Here the Griquoas outspanned after their epic trek over the Drakensberg from Philippolis.

In 1825 a group of Griquas under the leadership of Adam Kok II established themselves at Philippolis in the Transgariep and soon they laid claim to the whole area between the Modder River and the Orange River. However, they gradually sold their land to farmers, so that by 1860 their continued existence was threatened. Sir George Grey, the governor advised Adam Kok III to move to No Man's Land, east of the Drakensberg. Kok then sold the rest of the Griqua's land to the Orange Free State Republic and in 1861 set off on his trek over the Drakensberg. The trek consisted of 2 000 people, 20 000 head of live stock and 300 ox-wagons (Oberholster, J.J. 1972: 172).

On the 12<sup>th</sup> of May, 1863, the Griquas out spanned at the foot of Mount Currie and called the place “The Laager”. Each family built their own house of sods just where they outspanned. In the middle of the laager they built a long, narrow building, 24m by 63m with 2,5m high sod walls, unglazed windows and a thatched roof. This served variously as a church, a school, a council chamber and sometimes even as a kraal for goats. Round this structure was a fort, also of sods constructed for defensive purposes and it also consisted of loop holes. The three cannons which Adam Kok III had brought from the Cape, and which still can be seen at Kokstad, were mounted, one on each of the three bastions (Oberholster, J.J. 1972: 173).

The Griquas lived at and round the “Old Laager” for nearly 10 years. Meanwhile farms were allocated and they dispersed over the area. On the 14<sup>th</sup> of August, 1869, the Reverend William Dower arrived on a visit to the “Old Laager”. Adam Kok III insisted that he should come as a missionary to the Griqua People. Rev. Dower agreed on

condition that the laid out and built a proper town lower down the bend of the Umzintlava River. The process took long and only by the middle 1872 did they move to Kokstad (Oberholster, JJ 1972: 173).



The memorial to the “*Old Laager*”-site consists of a sandstone monument surrounded by three Pine trees (one new Pine tree needs to be planted at the one corner of the square). The area was planted with grass and is cut on a regular basis. The site functions as a

picnic area for school groups, boy scouts and cub groups as well as members of the Griqua community. A dustbin is also present.

Feature no: 1

Monument at Mount Currie (see photos above):

Elevation: 4741 ft

GPS co-ordinates: 29 Y-039551

SA X3376196

Feature no: 2

Grave? Not sure

Elevation: 4760 ft

GPS co-ordinates: 29 Y-039617

SA X3376141

The “grave” measures 3m by 1½m.



Feature no: 3

Pilgrimage site consisting of trees (white stinkwood) planted in a cross in 1972. The Griekwa National Independent Church (was the first church to be established in Kokstad in 1936) arranges a get-together here on an annual basis.

Management issues: The compiler of this report recommends that some of the trees which were accidentally burnt must be replanted to form a cross again.

The area also forms a square, containing lawn grass which must be cut at least once in the winter and twice in the summer. The area must also be kept free of litter and trees to be watered and trimmed, if and when necessary.

The “*Ou Hout*” must be removed from the area.



Feature no: 4

Settlement patterns just above the “Pilgrimage Area” consisting of the white “*stinkhout*” trees planted in a cross.

At present this site is covered and therefore protected from the public eye via a thick bush of vegetation and trees.



Photos from left to right: walls built of random rubble up to half a metre high. Photo right: the settlements are covered by a thick bush of thorn trees.

Recommendations: 1) Amafa personnel to visit the site again and measure the settlement to prepare for a sketched scale-plan of the archaeological footprint.

2) The above-mentioned can only be executed once the site has been burned.

3) Visitation must occur in the winter when the ground cover is low and archaeological features, such as the periphery wall can be identified much easier than in the summer.

4) Some of the features such as the memorial, the grave and boulders and random rubble packed in a single file, which could be part of the original periphery wall, are in the valley, located in a flat open space can be identified easily - the more extensive settlement patterns consisting of squares and circles, higher up in the foothills of the mountains are hidden by thick thorn trees. It is the recommendation of the compiler of this report to indeed keep this extensive sub-laager hidden and to not remove the tree cover, taken into consideration that the tree cover protects the “sub-laager” (or encampment) from being visible to people which might lead to guests trampling the site, using the boulders and collecting artifacts. Accordingly the research value and heritage value will be compromised. The site and its setting should be kept secret for possible future excavation.

5) Once both the archaeological features in the valley and those located on the foothills are measured, the lay-out of the settlement and features could be sketched according to scale and mapped.

6) The GPS co-ordinates and photos of the sub-laager higher up in the foothills must be kept confidential.

Bibliography:

Oberholster J.J. 1972 "*The Historical Monuments of South Africa*" The Rembrandt van Rijn Foundation for Culture: Cape Town