

**HISTORY OF THE FAIRVIEW GOLD MINE AND THE FARMS
BRAMBER 313 JU AND BRAMBER CENTRAL 348 JU, BARBERTON,
MPUMALANGA PROVINCE**

**By
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Past

Matters

'There is nothing new it has all just been
forgotten'

Marie Antoinette (1755–1793)

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1. INTRODUCTION

Past Matters has been contracted to write a report on the history of the farms Bramber 313 JU and Bramber Central 348 JU, as well as the Fairview Gold Mine in the Barberton area in Mpumalanga Province.

The following report will endeavour to give an account of the history of these properties and also a brief overview of the history of the area and district in which they are located. The report has been divided into several sections that will focus on the following aspects:

- General history of human settlement in the area
- The history of black and white interaction in the area
- The development of the farms and mine

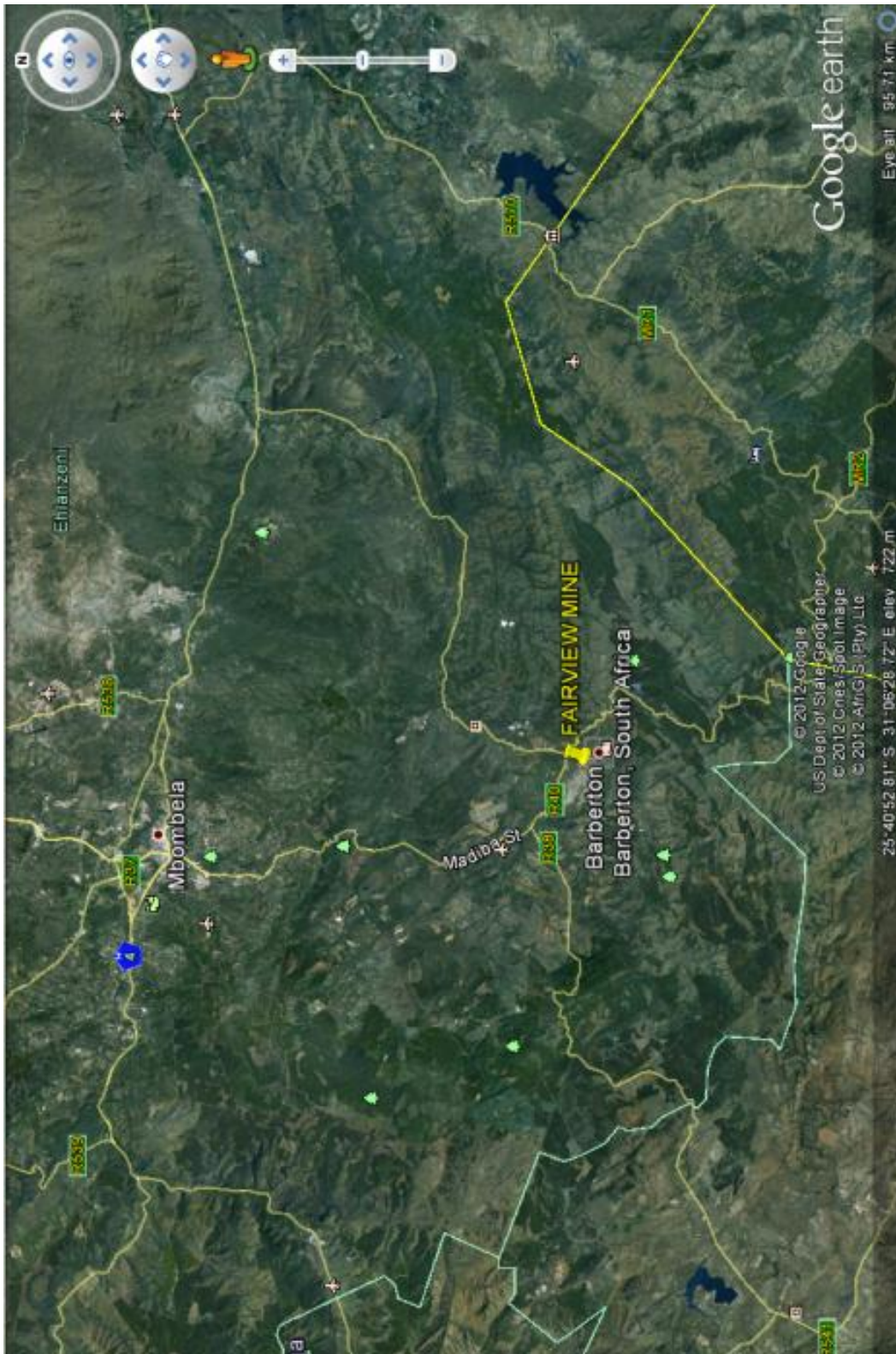
2. HISTORIOGRAPHY AND METHODOLOGY

It was necessary to use a range of sources in order to give an accurate account of the history of the area in which the properties are located. Sources included secondary source material, maps, online sources and archival documents. This report should not be regarded as all-inclusive, but rather as an introduction to the properties and area researched in this study.

Unfortunately, not all of the relevant sources could be retrieved by the personnel at the National Archives of South Africa. The following sources could not be found:

- National Archives of South Africa. 1952-1969. *SAB, CDB: 3/920 TAD9/48/10. Plaaslike bestuur. Onderverdeling van plaas. Barberton distrik, Bramber 168, Gedeelte 4, plaas Bramber 313 JU.*
- National Archives of South Africa. 1975-1984. *SAB, BAO: 3/3983 A12/2/6/B10/41. Voorsiening. Instandhouding. Geriewe op spesifieke myne en bedrywe. Behuising. Fairview Myn. Barberton.*

3. MAPS OF THE AREA UNDER INVESTIGATION

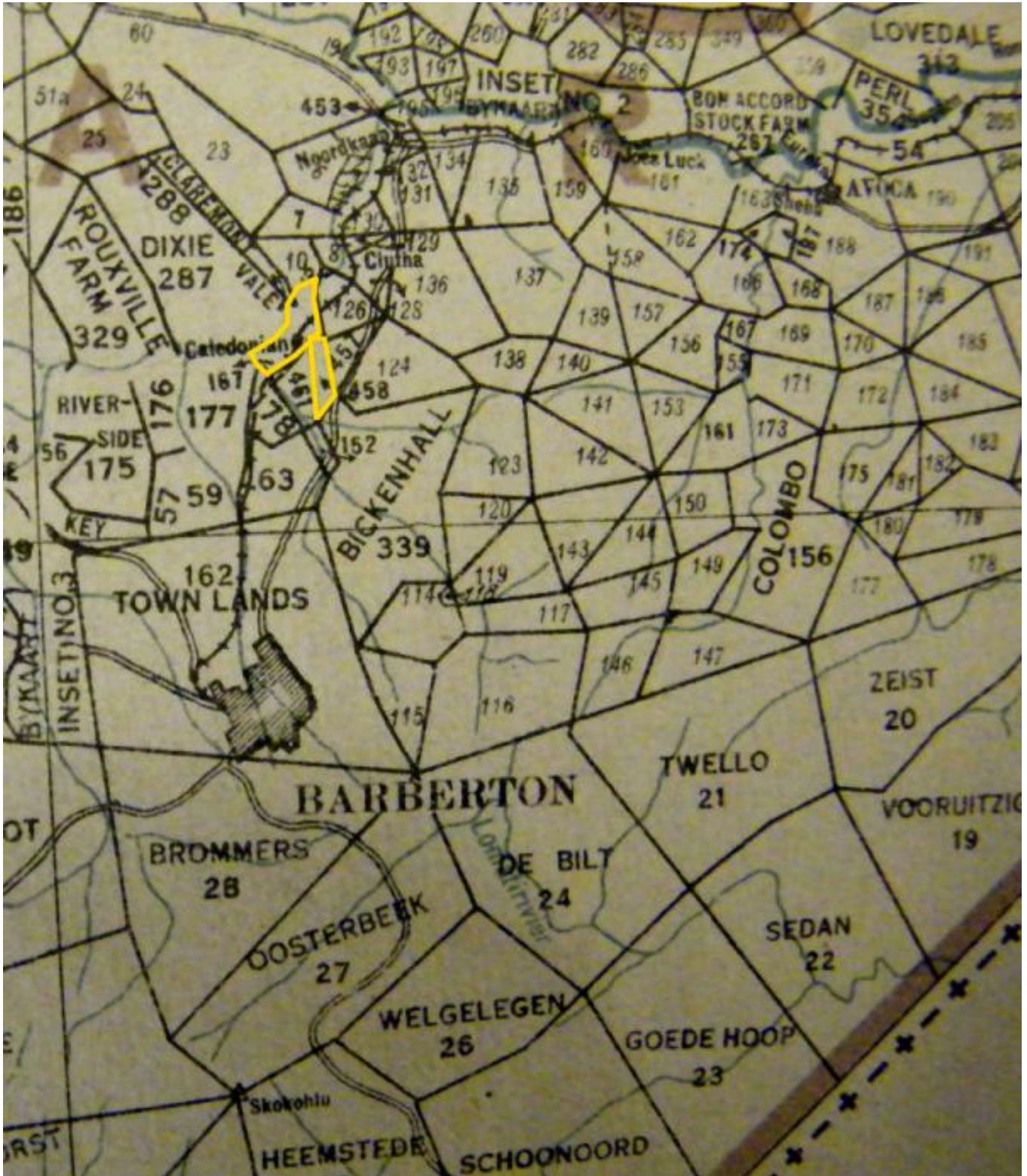


Map 1: Google Earth image showing the present day location of the Fairview Mine in relation to Barberton and Mbombela. (Google Earth 2012)



Colony (or Territory) Boundary	-----	Telegraph line
District	Homesteads-Kraals	● ● ● ●
Farm	Pans-Dams	○ ●
Roads (main)	=====	Farm Numbers-Heights	303-4971
" ordinary	-----	Military Posts	○
Footpaths	-----	Mission St ⁿ Police St ⁿ	M.S.P.S
Bridlepaths	-----	Magistrates Office Police Post	M.O.P.P
Railways	-----	Post & Telegraph Office	P.T.O

Map 2: 1902 Major Jackson Series map of the Barberton district. The area to the north and northeast of Barberton, where the Fairview Mine and the farms Bramber and Bramber Central were later located, was still unmarked. One can see the Natal Road running through the area to the north of Barberton. Some other geographical features to the north of the town are the South Kaap River, the Rimers Creek, the Mislops Creek and the Elephants Kloof. The Caledonian Station and Sheba Mine was located a little further to the northeast. The Fairview Mine was later established in an area a small distance south of the Caledonian Station. (Major Jackson 1902)



Map 3: 1931 Map of the Transvaal. The Barberton town lands are visible, and to the north thereof the locations of the present day Bramber and Bramber Central are indicated by the yellow outlines. These were at the time known as Lot No. 167 and Lot No. 458 respectively. The Fairview Mine would later be located on Lot 138. (Surveyor General 1931)



Map 4: 1973 Topographical Map of the Barberton District. The location of the farms No. 313 (later known as Bramber) and No. 348 (later known as Bramber Central) are indicated by the yellow outlines. These farms are situated to the north of the Barberton town lands, in close vicinity to the Hyslop's Creek, the Caledonian (village) and the Suidkaap River. The first site of the Fairview Mine is located a short distance to the southeast of the farms, and one can see the Olifants Kloof just to the north hereof. The second site of the Fairview Mine is located further to the northeast, and one can see that it was rather built up. A hospital and a general trader store were located on the mine site. In vicinity to this site, one can see the Sheba Mine (to the northeast), Joe's Luck and the Ulundi Creek. (Topographical Map 1973)



Map 5: 1986 Topographical map. The location of the Barberton town lands, as well as the farms Bramber 313 JU and Bramber Central 348 JU are indicated by the yellow outlines. One can see that the farms were located to the north of Barberton. Two green dots indicate the location of the two sites of the Fairview Mine. The first of these can be seen a short distance to the northeast of Barberton, on the farm Bickenhall 346 JU. The location of the Olifants Kloof Compound is indicated by a blue dot, to the east of the mine site. The second site of the Fairview Mine can be seen further to the northeast thereof. One can see that this area was quite built up, and the site of the Fairview Hospital, a mine shaft and a dam is indicated. It does not seem that the second mine site was located on a specific farm, as the area is unmarked. Also of interest is the memorial site of "Jock's Tree", located directly to the north of the farm Bramber Central. (Topographical Map 1986)

4. A BRIEF HISTORY OF HUMAN SETTLEMENT AND BLACK AND WHITE INTERACTION IN THE BARBERTON AREA

In this section, a brief general history of the Barberton area will be given, based chiefly on a study of secondary sources.

By studying the Historical Atlas of South Africa by J. S. Bergh, it could be ascertained that there are no Early, Middle or Later Stone Age sites or rock engraving or rock art sites in the direct vicinity of the present-day Fairview Mine. The closest Stone Age rock art sites to the area under investigation were located a short distance to the north and to the southwest of Barberton. (Bergh 1999: 4-5)

In Southern Africa the domestication of the environment began only a couple of thousands of years ago, when agriculture and herding were introduced. (Ross 1995: 6) At some time during the last half of the first millennium BC, people living in the region where Botswana, Zambia and Angola are today, started moving southward, until they reached the Highveld and the Cape in the area of modern South Africa. (Ross 1995: 7) Over the centuries, as the sub-continent became fully settled, these agro-pastoralists, who spoke Bantu languages, started dominating all those areas which were ecologically suitable for their way of life. This included roughly the eastern half of modern South Africa, the eastern fringe of Botswana and the north of Namibia. Historians agree that the earliest Africans to inhabit in the Lowveld in Mpumalanga were of Sotho, or more particularly Koni-origin. (Packard 2001: 594) According to the source of J. S. Bergh, the Fairview Mine area is situated in the South African Lowveld, which is on average lower than 900 meters above sea level and drops gradually to the east. (Bergh 1999: 82-83) By using the same source, it could be ascertained that there are no prominent Iron Age sites situated in close proximity to the area under investigation. (Bergh 1999: 6-8)

In J. S. Bergh's source, a map is provided on which one can see the migration of Swazi tribes from Swaziland in northwestern and northeastern directions, passing close by the current Barberton district. The movement is indicated with purple arrows. This took place during the "Difaqane" period, which occurred roughly from the early 1820's to the late 1830's, when many tribes were displaced throughout South Africa. (Bergh 1999: 11, 109-115) In 1905, the British authorities in South Africa commissioned a book from its War Office, in which information on the black tribes in Transvaal would be recorded for military purposes. The author of this book, Bt.-Major R. H. Massie, grouped tribes according to the administrative "Divisions" in which they were found. The bulk of the Swazi people found in

the eastern administrative division lived in the district of Barberton, where they are said to have settled in about the year 1865. This settlement took place after the “wholesale killing-off” which took place on the death of the great Swazi chief Umswazi. According to this source, the British had found the area practically uninhabited, as the Swazis under *Sapusa* (This is probably the Swazi chief Sobhuza) had exterminated the Basuto tribe that used to live in the area some years before. (Massie 1905: 14, 85)

It seems that, by the 1930's, the Fairview Mine area was possibly a region where malaria occurred during the rainy season. This was probably also the case during the nineteenth century. During the first half of the nineteenth century, the Tsetse fly would also be found in this area. (Bergh 1999: 3) It seems logical that pastoralists would have preferred to avoid the moist low-lying valleys and thickly wooded regions where these insects preferred to congregate. (Shillington 1995: 32) It is unlikely that populations would be dense in areas where malaria and the “sleeping sickness” transferred by Tsetse flies was a constant threat to humans and their stock. In the source of A. C. Myburgh, it is mentioned that a large part of the western area of the Barberton district was a drainage basin of the Kaap River, or uMlambongwane River. (Myburgh 1956: 6) Myburgh confirms that for the greatest part of the nineteenth century, the present-day Barberton area was malarious and infested with the Tsetse fly and that it was thus useless to pastoralists. He noted that, after Rinderpest broke out in 1897, and the Tsetse fly completely disappeared from the area. Pastoralists could thus only move into the area from the end of the nineteenth century. The western uplands of the Barberton district were not good cattle country and, though not as fly-infested as lower-lying areas, were avoided by the Swazi. The Sotho people who originally settled in the area had few cattle. (Myburgh 1956: 7)

The first Europeans arrived in the Cape in 1652, and expansion to the northern parts of South Africa only started in the late 1820's. The Great Trek, as this northern movement from the Cape Colony was called, resulted in a massive increase in the extent of that proportion of modern South Africa dominated by people of European descent. (Ross 1995: 39) As can be expected, the migration of whites into the northern provinces would have a significant impact on the black people who populated the land. This was also the case in Mpumalanga, the then Eastern Transvaal area.

The two major results of European settlement in what is today known as the Barberton district was, firstly, that only Europeans could own land, except in two released areas in the extreme east of the district. This left several tribes of note without any sufficient land where they could live undisturbed. The European farmers with cattle required few herdsmen, and

were averse to large, permanent black populations on their farms. Vegetable farmers would also employ several workers, including mainly women and children. These people would stay in self-made shelters on the farms. There were also some stable, permanently settled workers on farms. Those black workers with too much cattle were often asked to move from a farm if the farmer felt that his grazing area was threatened. (Myburgh 1956: 9-10) The second result of the European settlement was the institution of a migrant labor system in the area and some workers flocked to the area from beyond the country's borders. (Myburgh 1956: 10)

From 1860 to 1881, the population of whites in the central Transvaal was already very dense and the administrative machinery of their leaders was firmly in place. Many of the policies that would lead the apartheid laws later on had already been developed. (Bergh 1999: 170)

In November 1864, for example, the broad design of the guidelines concerning the pass-system for blacks, the provision of labour, the obligatory tax and the carrying of firearms, had been published in the Government Gazette. (Bergh 1999: 171) In 1860, the Transvaal was again divided into a number of districts, facilitating the administration of blacks through the instalment of a greater number of officers. While there were only seven districts in 1860, the Transvaal was divided into 15 districts by 1886. Blacks in isolated regions would especially feel the threat to their autonomy as white control became increasingly rigid. (Bergh 1999: 171) About half of the black population in the Transvaal was living on private land, owned by whites or companies, in 1904. According to the Squatters' Law of 1895, no more than five families of "natives" could live on any farm or divided portion of a farm, without special permission from the Government. (Massie 1905: 97) This law was however not rigidly enforced in practice and large numbers of blacks still occupied certain places.

The black people living on white-owned properties paid an annual rent in labour or money, varying in amount. Those adult black cultivators living on Crown lands paid an annual rental of £1, in addition to poll tax. They were, however, not charged for water, wood or grazing, and they were not restricted as to the amount of land that they could cultivate. (Massie 1905: 97) There are several indications that the Swazi people in the Transvaal had good relations with its European (Boer and British) inhabitants. In 1876, for example, when war broke out between the Republic and the BaPedi, Swazi forces assisted the burgher army. (Ross 1995: 60)

According to R. H. Massie, by 1904 the Swazis were ruled by two chieftainesses who were both widows of Umwazi. They were named Nomqcisa of Nompete, and Nyanda (known as Mac-Mac) respectively. A number of petty chiefs in the region were subject to these two

royal widows. The Swazi had not, up until 1904, taken part in any war against Europeans, but have rather proved themselves valuable allies to the Boers and British against other black tribes. In the source of Massie, it is noted that 4 473 Swazi people (including 1000 fighting men) lived in the Barberton region by 1904. These people fell under the jurisdiction of the Chieftainess Nomqçisa or Nompete, and the locality of the Chief Kraal was the Msoli River near Nelspruit. The chiefs who fell under the authority of this chieftainess were Roleka, Muisi, Dantyo, Duma, Mhobobo, Mhwayi, Silikana and several lesser chiefs. (Massie 1905: 85-86)

Some of the blacks, who used to stay on farms during the first part of the twentieth century, were probably labour tenants. Through the system of labour tenancy, black people could live on farmers' land, whereas a large part of the black population was restricted to the Natives Reserves, as set out in the Natives Land Act of 1913, which established a clear legal distinction between the African Reserves and white farming areas. Though the Natives Land Committee saw labour tenancy as an evil, they acknowledged that it was the only system by means of which the average farmer could develop his land by 1918. Farmers were indeed opposed to any restriction of the system. (Union of South Africa 1918: 10)

Myburgh describes the general confusion in the Barberton district by the early 20th century as follows: "Certain tribes also were settled by the Boer Government in defined locations, but during the late war some of these took the opportunity of moving to more favourable localities, and now their places of residence are in some cases not settled even now, though the work of locating them is being actively pushed on by the present Administration. By these various disturbing agencies the tribes have become so much scattered, that it is scarcely possible to describe any one tribe as a whole, portions of several tribes being found in almost every district." (Massie 1905: 20) This illustrates the uncertainty that whites felt regarding the distribution of black people in the early 1900's.

The system of land tenure was explained as follows. Those native black people who did not live in towns, would either stay in:

- a) Locations or reserves specially set apart for them,
- b) Land regularly acquired and owned by themselves,
- c) Land, the property of white owners, or
- d) Crown lands. (Massie 1905: 96)

In the case where the native blacks lived on Government locations they had common rights regarding water, wood and grazing. They would pay no rent to the Government for the use of

these lands. With the first Boer occupation of the area, it was decided that no blacks could own land, but the Pretoria Convention of 1881 provided that they could be allowed to acquire land if the transfer of the property was registered in the name of the Native Location Commission. By 1904 the Commissioner for Native Affairs was the trustee for all the lands purchased by blacks. (Massie 1905: 97)

In the early 1930s, a petition was set up by the hereditary chiefs, indunas and headmen of the Swazi tribes of the Transvaal, living in the districts of Barberton, Carolina and Ermelo, representing a black population of 60 000 people. Herewith they tried to bring to the attention of the Union Parliament that they have never had any land or location reserved for them up to that date. The petitioners noted that it was laid down in the Native Land Act No. 27 of 1913 that blacks would have Native Areas reserved to them within which they could develop along their own lines. With this petition the Swazi people asked to be given areas in which they could stay, live and develop separately. On 25 March 1932, the petition was signed by, among others, Chief Mhola Dhlamini, Chief Maguba Shongwe, Chieftainess Monile Dhlamini, Chief Lugedhlane Ngomane, Chief Hoyi Ngomane, Chief Maqekeza Ngomane, Chief Mbuduya Mahlalela and Chief Myomo Ntiwane, all residing in the Barberton district. (NASA, SAB: GG50/1443)

“The tribes of the Barberton District” by A. C. Myburgh is an important source of information on the mid-20th century Barberton area. According to Myburgh, little public matter existed on the tribes and social history of blacks in the Barberton district. He stated that, in earlier works, blacks were more-or-less ignored. In Myburgh’s book, all the tribes of the Barberton district were classified as follows in 1949:

- The Nkosi of Chief Mhola Nkosi
- Nkosi of Chieftainess Monile Nkosi
- Shongwe of Sithulele
- Mkhathjwa of Miyomo Ntiwane
- Mkhathjwa of Mbambiso
- Mahlalela of Gija
- Ngomane of Nkapana (Hoyi)
- Ngomane of Nkapana (Siboshwa)
- Ngomane of Lugedlane

The Nkosi of Chieftainess Monile Nkosi might be of interest. This group was made up of Swazi speakers and a few Shangaan. They inhabited the area east of Barberton and north of Swaziland. (Myburgh 1956: 45)

In the Surplus People Project Report, the forced removal of people to the Kangwane area, or homeland, is discussed. This area could be regarded as a “dumping ground” that was allocated to South Africa’s Swazis, and consisted of two blocks of land. The first of these, the Nsikazi reserve, was a finger of land stretching along the western boundary of the Kruger National Park, and had been under black occupation for over 50 years. The second block was adjacent to the western and northern boundaries of Swaziland, and consisted of the Nkomazi and Mswati/Mlondozi reserves released under the 1935 Land Act. (Surplus people project 1983: 59) The western block of Kangwane was not far from the area that is being investigated in this report, and may have had an impact on the population that is being studied. This reserve was in close enough proximity to have influenced the social dynamics of the area.

A site of historical interest that is located in the vicinity of the Fairview Mine and the farms Bramber 313 JU and Bramber Central 348 JU, is Jock’s Tree. (**See Map 5**) Outside of the Barberton town hall is a statue of Sir Percy Fitzpatrick’s heroic dog, Jock of the Bushveld. Jock’s Tree, an umbrella acacia under which he liked to rest, is located to the north of the town. Jock’s grave is actually located across the border in Mozambique. (Vanhunks 2012)

5. HISTORICAL OVERVIEW OF THE OWNERSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE FAIRVIEW GOLD MINE AND THE FARMS BRAMBER 313 JU AND BRAMBER CENTRAL 348 JU

In 1894, AG Phillips and 57 others applied to build a wagon road to connect Avoca with Eureka, Fairview and Barberton. No information could be found as to whether permission was granted, or if the road was ever built. (NASA TAB, SS: 4144 R2088/94)

On 10 March 1911 the Secretary of Justice approved the granting of a license to brew “kaffir beer” to the Transvaal Consolidated Land and Exploration Company for their workers at Fairview, Eureka City in the Barberton District. Mention was made that no school or Church was located in the vicinity. A warning was issued that the

alcohol content of the beer could not exceed 3%. (NASA TAB, LD: 381 AG1323/03; NASA SAB, URU: 38 898))

A lease in respect of a portion of Lot No. 127 of Section A of the Kaap Block was granted to Francis Beaumont Balman and George Hannan, jointly, on 28th July 1913. This lease was eventually cancelled in May 1926. (NASA SAB, URU: 927 1355)

On 1 May 1926, a lease in respect of the holding comprising Lots 107 and 108 of Section A, Kaap Block, named Bramber No. 167, and well as Lot 109 of Section A of the Kaap Block, called Bramber South, was cancelled. The holdings had been leased to Edward Holgate under the provisions of the Crown Land Disposal Ordinance of 1903 (Transvaal). These properties had been ceded to Richard William Hawkes and Francis Beaumont Balman on 1st August 1912, and were consequently ceded to Francis Beaumont Balman and George Hannan by virtue of a Deed of Cession dated 3rd August 1921. As from 1st July 1926, these properties would again be leased to Francis Beaumont Balman and George Hannan for a period of seven years. They would also have the option of purchase. (NASA SAB, URU: 927 1355; NASA SAB, URU: 927 1355)

On 29 February 1929, the sale of the holding comprising Portion A of Bramber No. 167 (measuring 125 morgen 446 square roods) to George Hannan, was rescinded. (NASA SAB, URU: 1045 865)

On 20 June 1930, the farms Bramber Central No. 458 (previously known as a portion of Lot No. 125, Section A, Kaap Block) and Bramber South No. 461 (previously called Lot No. 109, Section A, Kaap Block) were deproclaimed as public diggings for precious and base metals. (NASA SAB, URU: 1138 1696)

On 31 December 1930, a lease was cancelled in respect of Lot 109, Section A, Kaap Block, at that time known as Bramber South. The cancellation of the lease was extended to Francis Beaumont Balman and George Hannan, and the property was subsequently ceded to George Hannan by Deed of Cession No. 769/1927, under the provisions of the Crown Land Disposal Ordinance of 1903 (Transvaal). (NASA SAB, URU: 1175 3779)

The cancellation of a lease in respect of Lot 125, Section A, District Barberton, was also granted to George Hannan as from 31st December 1930. As from 1st January 1931, the holding comprising Bramber South No. 461 and Bramber Central No. 458 (in extent 201 morgen 19607 square feet), district Barberton, was allotted to George Hannan to lease for a period of five years, with the option of purchase. Also, as from 1st January 1931, George Hannan was allotted an 18 year lease for the property Bramber East No. 457 (in extent 109 morgen 44 778 square feet), without the option of purchase. It however seems that Hannan was able to buy some of these properties before the end of the lease period. On 13 August 1934 the sale of the farms "Bramber South" No. 461 and "Bramber Central" No. 458 to George Hannan, was approved. (NASA SAB, URU: 1175 3779; NASA SAB, URU: 1454 1977)

On 19 October 1938 the South African Police submitted a report to the Magistrate of Barberton. The report recommended that the Magistrate approve an application submitted by the Barberton Mines Syndicate for permission to brew "Native" beer at Fairview Mine. The report stated that the black mine workers were living in huts and wood and iron buildings on the premises and that their wives and children were living with them. The beer would be brewed by two black women who resided on the property and would be given to the black people for free. The report stated that there were 16 white people and 200 black people who resided on the property. The Native Affairs Department approved the application on 17 January 1939. (NASA SAB, NTS: 7058 239/322)

On 25 October 1939, a report was written on the health conditions at the mines in the Barberton District. The Senior Assistant Health Officer of the Union Health Department accompanied the Director of Native Labour on a visit to the mines in the Barberton area, in order to inspect the living conditions of black labourers. The Director of Native Labour apparently wished to determine whether the district would be proclaimed as a "Labour District". The party was also accompanied by Chief Native Commissioner for the Northern Areas and the Sub-Native Commissioner for the Barberton district. At that time the great majority of the mines in the Barberton district were gold mines. These mines had developed rapidly since South Africa went off the gold standard, and it was believed that there would likely be further extensive developments in mining in the area. There were thirty two mines in the district of

which eighteen, including all the larger mines, were inspected. The total number of black labourers on the mines inspected was approximately 4300 and it was predicted that this figure was likely to increase considerably as developments would take place on several mines. (NASA SAB, NTS: 9948 776/408C)

Some inferences were made with regards to health conditions on the mines. It was noted that blacks were housed in huts that they constructed themselves. In some cases the dwellings were built under supervision. The huts were arranged in villages or locations so that the blacks could live under conditions "which are somewhat similar to their natural mode of life and which they are said to prefer". Only a small proportion of the labours appeared to be locals in the area, the majority coming from long distances. There was a large number of woman and children living in the compounds, and the inspectors were given to understand that in the majority of cases the women were not the wives of the black labourers. The following was stated with this regard: "It appears that the majority of the women are concubines living immoral lives with the Native men and producing a considerable number of illegitimate children. These illegitimate children are not subject to proper parental control and a difficult social problem which is not without its public health significance is being created. In addition to the social problem the promiscuous mode of living of these people contributes to the spread of venereal disease." (NASA SAB, NTS: 9948 776/408C)

It was furthermore noted that water was mostly obtained from creeks the mountains and that the purity thereof depended on local conditions. Washing facilities were not provided to the black labourers and they washed themselves in the mountain streams. Care was exercised in most cases that washing would be carried out below the point in the stream where domestic water was obtained. With regards to sustenance, it was found that in many cases the ration scale fell considerably short, the most common deficiency being vegetables. Cooking was mostly carried out by the labourers themselves although on most of the mines they could have their food issued cooked if they wished. The deficiency in vegetables was said to be compensated for by the labourers gathering wild spinach and other wild plants and fruits. There were also gardens in the vicinity of the huts on many of the mines. (NASA SAB, NTS: 9948 776/408C)

It is noted in the report that pit privies were provided on all except one of the mines visited. On that mine the dual pail system was used. Small hospitals were provided on the larger mines but the custom was to send all serious cases to Barberton Hospital. It was believed that this was better than having small and inadequately equipped and short-staffed hospitals on all the mines. First aid facilities were however available on all the mines. No medical examination of black labourers was carried out on recruitment as this was only done in "Labour Districts". (NASA SAB, NTS: 9948 776/408C)

The Senior Assistant Health Officer of the Union Health Department recommended that routine inspections would be carried out on the mines by the District Surgeon, in order to see if the conditions at the mines were improved. During a meeting between the Barberton Mining Association and the officials who inspected mines in the area, it was unanimously decided that the Barberton area should not be proclaimed as a Labour District. Further recommendations were also directed to the Secretary for Public Health. It was noted that the provision of vegetables, meat and fat were unsatisfactory, and suggestions were given as to how more of these resources could be provided to black labourers. A "diet scale for Native labourers" was drawn up by the Union Health Department and distributed to all the managers and others present at the meeting of the Mining Association. It was indicated that this would act as a guide of what was considered a really adequate diet for black labourers. It was furthermore recommended that black labourers would be prohibited from going near the upper reaches of the creeks, in order to protect the water supplies from pollution. With regards to social matters, it was recommended that only married women would be allowed to live at the mines. It was believed that if these regulations were promulgated and could be enforced the social conditions could be improved. It was however noted that this would not be easy to enforce in this area, where control was a matter of considerable difficulty. (NASA SAB, NTS: 9948 776/408C)

An inspection report on the Fairview Mine was filled out on 20 October 1939. This gold mine was at that time known as Lot 138, and was located on government land in the Barberton district. The controlling house of the mine was Barberton Mines (Pty) Ltd and the Local Manager was one W. P. Richardson. He also served as the

Compound Manager of the Mine. A total of 102 black labourers working at the mine originally came from tropical zones (supposedly Central Africa), 116 from Mozambique and 52 from the Union. This amounted to 270 black workers. These labourers were housed in huts at the compound that were built in the traditional style. The "Union Natives" and "Swazi boys" apparently lived separately from the other labourers. The huts were built in groups on the hill sides and there was no uniformity in their structure. The dwellings were built from wattle and daub, which were procured by the occupants at their own cost. The labourers used the water of the creek for washing. A pit latrine was provided on the mine. About 30 of the labourers served as cooks for the rest of the work force. Three lbs. of mealie meal were provided daily to each labourer. A married man would get a little more mealie meal than the single workers, and otherwise the rations were the same. One lb. of monkey nuts and one and a half lbs. of meat were provided weekly. Between June and October of that year one bag of oranges had been provided weekly per 30 workers. The labourers apparently also had gardens of their own. A half-gallon of beer was provided weekly to each worker. First aid facilities were provided at the mine. (NASA SAB, NTS: 9948 776/408C)

In another report by the Union Health Department, dated 31st October 1939, it was recommended that the huts in the compound would gradually be eliminated and replaced by a better type of structure of stone filled wattle and daub, such as the huts constructed at the Sheba Section of the New Consort Gold Mine. It was also recommended that steps would be taken to protect the springs from which drinking water was drawn by fencing or other means, so that it would not be contaminated by animals. It was recommended that fresh vegetables would be issued throughout the year: 3 lbs. per week. It was also noted that the meat ration would be increased to 2 lbs. a week and that 1lb. of beans would be provided weekly. It was furthermore noted that a first aid room and a barrel disinfector would have to be provided for the labourers at the mine. (NASA SAB, NTS: 9948 776/408C)

In addition to the recommendations made in the previous report, the Assistant Native Commissioner at Barberton again wrote to the Manager at Fairview Mine in September 1940, noting that the mine compound would have to be reorganized as

soon as possible. It was also suggested that the labourers would be supplied with weekly rations of sweet potatoes and pumpkin. (NASA SAB, NTS: 9948 776/408C)

In 1947, a report was drawn up by the Inspector of Native Labourers in Barberton. The Mine Manager at that time was one Mr. Greek, and Mr. Dieperink was the Manager of the black compound. Some 350 black labourers were employed at the mine. With regards to housing, a new compound was being laid out above the present compound. Two huts had already been erected at the new site. The huts were of the wattle and daub type with a stone filling and thatched roofs. The dwellings were semi-detached and consisted of a 10' x 10' living room and a kitchen. The compound had apparently been properly cleaned of weeds. Unsuitable huts that have become vacant were being demolished. No new huts were being erected as it was the intention of the Management to gradually remove all the labourers from the old compound. Furthermore, a temporary first aid room with three beds had been provided at the mine works. There were also three first aid stations underground and three surface stations. All serious cases were removed to the Barberton Hospital. (NASA SAB, NTS: 9948 776/408C)

With regards to sanitation, the installation of showers at the works for black labourers was in progress. Upon completion thereof showers for females would also be installed. At that point the workers still washed in the creek running between the mine works and the compound. Proper washing facilities would also be provided in the new compound. The source of drinking water was fenced in to protect it from pollution and the water was regularly tested. Furthermore, screened squat pit latrines for both sexes were provided. These latrines were kept clean. In order to control vermin, the huts and their contents were treated with Lyex D. D. T. and Fumex. (NASA SAB, NTS: 9948 776/408C)

The labourers generally did their own cooking, but cooking was done at the mine for about 25 single workers. A new kitchen was also being built at the site of the new compound. Slaughtering was done at the mine and the meat house was nearing completion. The weekly ration scale per worker by 1947 was as follows:

Mealie Meal	20lbs.
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Salt	½ lbs.
Dried beans	2 lbs. alternatively
1 lb. dried beans and 3lbs. oranges	
Fresh vegetables	3 lbs.
Meat	3 lbs.
Beer	1 gallon
Monkey nuts	1 lb.

It is interesting that the Compound Manager held a silver medal of the S. A. Red Cross, and had been appointed as a lay demonstrator to classes in First Aid with special reference to mining accidents. He presented classes in First Aid to white and black employees of all the surrounding mines. About 13 whites and 23 blacks had qualified for a forthcoming examination at the time. (NASA SAB, NTS: 9948 776/408C)

One can conclude that the mine was in a process of making substantial improvements to the living conditions of black people living there by the late 1940s.

On 1st March 1946, Mrs. Emma Miew wrote a letter to the Secretary of the Transvaal Education Department in Pretoria to apply to open a nursery school for about 12 children at the Fairview Mine. The applicant had a matriculation certificate but held no degrees. Exactly one month later, the Secretary of the Transvaal Education Department replied, noting that there was no objection to Mrs. Miew opening a nursery school for children of pre-school going age. There was no prescribed syllabus and the Department did not supply any books or equipment. A subsidy was however payable to the Department, and forms for the application for this payment had to be submitted to the Inspector of Education for that area. (NASA TAB, TOD: 2669 E34586)

On 30 April 1951 Richard Uren, the Manager of Fairview Mine, applied for permission to brew "Native" beer on the property. Uren mentioned that there were 420 black male labourers residing at the site. It was estimated that 100 gallons of beer would be brewed per week of which two pints would be distributed to each labourers once a week. On 24 March 1953 the Secretary of Justice of the

Department of Natives Affairs approved the application. (NASA SAB, NTS: 7096, 541/322)

In October 1953, the Native Commissioner at Barberton applied to the Chief Native Commissioner at Pietersburg for permission to establish black married quarters at the Fairview Mine at Barberton. By 1953, Barberton Mines Limited owned the Fairview Mine. It was proposed that 100 dwellings would be erected in the married quarters. No such buildings had been erected at the time. Two types of dwellings would be built: those for married couples with more than one child would be constructed with three rooms and a porch and married quarters for couples with one child or less would have two rooms and a porch. It was proposed that 170 families would be housed at these quarters, as well as a number of single black workers. No rental would be charged by the workers. The buildings were to be constructed from brick and concrete, with corrugated galvanized iron roofs and concrete floors. (NASA SAB, NTS: 9948 776/408C)

Regarding sanitary arrangements, application was made that communal pit latrines would be constructed. Ablutions blocks with showers and concrete slabs for the communal washing of clothes would also have to be built. With regards to the domestic water supply, spring water would be piped to tanks and distributed to 12 points. The domestic rubbish service included compound cleaners and incinerators. The married quarters would be enclosed with wire fencing. The married quarters would furthermore be provided with cooking stoves, whereas the single quarters would be provided with a central cookhouse. One A. E. B. Simmons would serve as the Manager of the married quarters. (NASA SAB, NTS: 9948 776/408C)

The Native Affairs Department subsequently requested that the Fairview Mine would provide separate plans for the housing of single workers, as the married and single quarters would have to be separate and distinct. Plans for the single quarters were submitted on 20 July 1954 by the Mine Manager. The single quarters would be constructed from brick. It was noted that these living quarters would be constructed in an enclosed valley where the only drinking water within four miles was available. It would be located about one mile from 5000 European houses, but would be completely isolated therefrom. 16 Labourers would reside per block of two rooms.

The rooms would be well ventilated and iron beds with springs or concrete bunks would be provided, as desired. A stove was provided in each room. The dwellings were to be constructed of plastered brick and mortar, and would have corrugated iron roofs and concrete floors. A pit system was provided, as well as an ablution block with eight showers. No hot water would be supplied. Facilities would also be provided for dishwashing, clothes washing and clothes drying. Drinking water could be obtained at five points. The water would be piped directly from a spring. (NASA SAB, NTS: 9948 776/408C)

The erection of a compound for the housing of 224 unmarried black workers was approved on 10 February 1954 by the Director of Native Labour. The plans for the erection of a compound for 128 married workers were however only approved on 18 December 1956, on the condition that the quarters would partly be converted into single quarters. (NASA SAB, NTS: 9948 776/408C)

In 1954 the mining company Barberton Mines Limited made application for the construction of black married quarters at Fairview Mine. In a letter dated 10 January 1955 the Manager of the mine stated that the new compound would house between 166 and 170 families. It was mentioned that the mine employed approximately 480 people, 65% of which were married. The new compound would be situated off the mine road connecting Belfast with Fairview through Elephant's Kloof. The compound would be about 4500 feet from the nearest white settlement. Mention was made that the black and white settlement would be separated by a "buffer zone" consisting of a narrow valley with steep sides. This area was also thickly wooded and to be used for grazing by farm cattle. (NASA SAB, NTS: 10000 776/408D)

From subsequent correspondence between the Department of Native Affairs and the mine it is evident that the government was hesitant to grant permission for the construction of married quarters. It was also not prepared to give permission for "extra-Union Natives" (blacks foreigners) to be accommodated in married compounds. On 22 August 1955 the Mine Manager wrote a letter to the Native Commissioner at Barberton in which the mine's reasons for the building of married quarters were explained. One of the main considerations was the fact that although the mine was located in close proximity to Swaziland and Portuguese East Africa

(Mozambique) these labourers were actively recruited to go and work on the mines in the Johannesburg area. Mention is also made that most of the young single men preferred to go work on the mines at the Rand as they would receive better remuneration. Conversely, the mine thus drew quite a large number of married men who preferred to stay in the area as they could then live with their families. It was also stated that the nearest black location was located about 8 miles from the mine in "difficult mountainous country". This made it difficult for workers to travel to and from the mine and it was also mentioned that there was "a good deal of shift work starting at all hours of the day". (NASA SAB, NTS: 10000 776/408D)

The letter further mentioned that many of the female blacks were used as labourers on the mines. They also worked on the mine's neighbouring farm, Bickenhall. Thus, there would be work available for the wives of the men who would be accommodated in the married quarters. They could also be employed to work on the plantations on the farm and to do surface work on the mine itself. In conclusion it was stated that: "Over the years of this Mine's existence a native labour force with a large proportion of married families has been built up to suit the prevailing conditions. Most of these have been with us for years. Should we have to dispense with the larger part of our married native labour, the drastic change that would be involved would permanently disorganise and impair the work on this mine". (NASA SAB, NTS: 10000 776/408D)

On 21 December 1955 the Native Affairs Department gave permission for 166 married quarters to be constructed but with the condition that "should a so-called married foreign native be discharged he be replaced by an unmarried employee". A memorandum from the Native Affairs Department dated 01 August 1956 made it clear that it was expected of the mine that no further married labourers should be employed and that all new vacancies should be given to single men. The position was made clear on 18 August 1956 when the Chief Native Commissioner explained in a memorandum that only 3% of "essential" staff could be accommodated in married quarters. It was stated that the maximum number of married units on a large mine was a 100. Accordingly the Fairview Mine that had approximately 480 workers was not considered a large mine. The main issue it seemed was the fact that Union blacks who were married could not be replaced by foreign married black labourers. It was made clear that it was not the intention to replace married workers with single

workers but that a discharged married labourer had to be replaced with a single worker, since no more than 3% of the mine's essential workers could be married. In a letter dated 03 June 1957 the mine informed the Native Affairs Department that these regulations would place the mine in a difficult position as unmarried labourers were difficult to obtain in this area. The mine wanted an 8 year period in which it would be allowed to comply with the implementation of the 3% requirement of the department. It would seem that the Department of Native Affairs remained adamant that only 128 married quarters could be built. It was further stated that labour would be channelled to the mine via the labour bureau system. (NASA SAB, NTS: 10000 776/408D)

In February 1956, the Chief Native Commissioner wrote to the Management of the Fairview Mine. It was noted that the Inspector of Native Labourers had recently visited the mine and found the black housing and amenities very unsatisfactory. In the Inspector's report it was noted that 561 black labourers were employed at the Fairview Mine at the time. He also stated that the workers had constructed huts in a very disorderly fashion and lived spread out across the mountain. No sanitary facilities had been provided at these dwellings. The Commissioner noted that he realized the labour force would ultimately shift from the top of the mountain to the site at Elephantskloof where the new mining compound was under construction, but that in the meantime steps would have to be taken to provide all the necessary health requirements at the old site. The sanitary facilities, rations and cooking facilities were described as insufficient. It was furthermore suggested that the area occupied by the married labourers would be fenced apart from the single quarters and that proper control would be maintained. (NASA SAB, NTS: 9948 776/408C)

In the following month, a representative of Barberton Mines Limited wrote to the Chief Native Commissioner, and provided a list of names for the married Swazi, Nyasaland and Shangaan workers at the Fairview Mine. (NASA SAB, NTS: 9948 776/408C)

MAILED. 23.11.19.

Co. No.	Name and Surname.	Service.	Type of Work.	Tribe.	Wife's Nation.	Children.	Fairview or Elspensskloof.
7	Vangululu Kunene	8 months	Chief Induna	X Swazi	Swazi		EE
101	Phillimon Dlamini	6 "	Hoist Driver	X "	"		FV
618	Zibaya Sillinda	10 "	Machine Boy	X "	"		EE
291	Samuel Dlamini	7 "	Work Shop	X "	"		EE
118	Boy Dlamini	10 "	Mine Sampling	X "	"		FV
288	Sampingane Navimbela	5 "	Plantation	X "	"		FV
171	Paul Temba	7 "	Cook Boy	X Zulu	"		EE
94	Johane Blophe	3 "	Engine Boy	X Swazi	"		EE
591	Petrus Vilane	3 "	Lashing	"	"		EE
82	Moses Kkosi	3 "	Lashing	"	"		EE
419	William Gama	1 "	Lashing	"	"		EE
107	Stephen Dlamini	2 weeks	Lorry Driver	X "	"		EE
607	Sanson Marisa	11 months	Machine Boy	X "	"		FV
94	Johannes Qwabi	11 "	Ambulance	X "	"		EE
438	Leontjie Dlamini	8 "	General	X "	Shangaan		FV
441	Fanyana Malimane	2 "	Roaster	X "	Swazi		EE
392	Scotch Temba	2 "	Belfast Police	X Zulu	"		EE
2	David Kothobula	5 years	Clerk	X Swazi	"		EE
4	Albert Fakude	3 yr. 10 mhs.	"	X "	"		EE
3	Besevel Zulu	4 years.	"	X Zulu	Zulu		EE
8	Belson Lulane	2 "	"	X Swazi	Swazi		EE
142	Daniel Thwala	2 "	"	X "	"		EE
417	Jacob Mavuso	2 "	Engine Boy	X "	"		FV
333	Phinias Shongwe	18 "	Lorry Driver	X "	"	11	FV
19	Ngolombeni Mgagula	18 "	Police	X "	"	4	FV
528	Ngundeni Mabilisa	13 "	Machine Boy	X "	"	2	EE
70	Percy Malusa	1 yr. 4 mhs.	Post Boy	X "	"	2	EE
13	Simen Mguni	10 years.	Engine Boy	X "	"	4	FV
87	Anock Mlambe	3 "	Police	X "	"	1	EE
144	Fene Siselane	15 "	Bell Boy	X "	"	1	EE
446	Sandanzwe Qwabi	3 "	Track Boy	X "	"		EE
398	Petrus Malindisa	7 yrs. 9 mhs.	Loco Driver	X "	"	2	EE
449	Lovisa Mncina	2 years.	Plantation	X "	"		FV
68	Ngobelo Dhlawini	14 yrs. 6 mhs.	Blacksmith	X "	"	1	EE
377	Lovukusa Dlamini	3 " 6 "	Loco Driver	X "	"	1	EE
241	Tom Masuku	7 " 9 "	Police	X "	"		EE
244	Phillip Gwebu	7 " 8 "	Assay	X "	"		EE
48	Munshi Dlamini	1 " 3 "	Plantation	X "	"	4	FV
579	Anock Kothobula	2 years.	Hoist Driver	X "	"	4	FV
277	Julius Mashonga	2 yrs. 4 "	Hoist Driver	X "	"	1	FV
16	Mhassa Cepe	18 " 10 "	Compound	"	"	4	EE
250	Edward Vilakazi	3 years.	Compound	"	"	3	FV
341	Alphius Maseko	2 yrs. 6 "	Crusher	X "	"	4	EE
76	Jim Mkhambane	8 " 10 "	Hoist Driver	X "	"	5	EE
629	Absalom Sibanyoni	1 " 3 "	Lorry Driver	X "	"	1	EE
112	Phinias Kunene	7 " 5 "	Erigne Boy	X "	"		FV
62	Petrus Ngobeni	1 " 9 "	Sanitation	X "	"		EE
550	Myekwa Mgagula	1 " 4 "	Machine Boy	X "	"		EE
36	Ngobiyane Gama	8 " 10 "	Boys Boy	X "	"	6	EE
322	Phillimon Blope	6 " 8 "	Flumber	X "	"	6	FV
404	Fanyane Mkhonja	1 " 6 "	Machine Boy	X "	"	1	FV
427	Pompoen Kkosi	10 " 10 "	Lashing Boy	X "	Chopi		EE
401	France Kkosi	1 " 9 "	General Boss Boy	X "	Swazi	1	EE
189	Lizike Dlamini	2 years.	General Boy	X "	"		EE
31	Majobo Mhlanga	4 " 10 "	Roads	X "	"		FV
192	Maru Dlamini	4 " "	Police	X "	"	10	EE
130	Mbulonva Estiphako	4 " 6 "	General	X "	"		FV
133	Abednego Kunene	2 " 5 "	Clerk	X "	"	2	FV
125	Mathollinyathi Nosibela	1 " 4 "	General	X "	"	4	FV
259	James Ndabandaba	5 " 7 "	Loco Driver	X "	"		EE
305	Ngongo Vilakazi	3 " 3 "	General Work	"	"		EE
395	George Lukhelo	" 10 "	General Work	"	"	5	EE
384	Milope Dlamini	3 " 10 "	Police	X "	"	1	EE
318	Mlupho Mamba	1 " 2 "	Machine Boy	X "	"	1	EE
410	Charlie Malinga	3 " 5 "	General Work	X "	"		EE
105	Tom Mkhize	7 " 6 "	General Work	X "	"	1	EE
614	Mhlotshwa Shongwe	1 " "	Mill Boy	X Zulu	Zulu		EE
439	Judas Mofilela	1 " 10 "	Lashing	X Swazi	Swazi		EE
172	Malindo Mavuso	1 " 11 "	Brickfield	X "	"		EE
623	Sinobane Maseko	1 " 8 "	Engine Boy	X "	"	1	EE
422	Absolon Mtho	1 " 2 "	Machine Boy	X "	"		EE
387	James Gamede	4 " 8 "	Lorry Driver	X Zulu	"	1	EE

Co. No.	Name and Surname.	Service.	Type of Work.	Tribe.	Wife's Nation.	Children.	Fairview Elements
9	Patriek Hense	8 yrs. 9 mhs.	Pipe Boy	X Ntonga	Sotho	3	FV
18	Elver Kondowa	1 " 10 "	General	"	Swazi	-	FV
30	Heck Mwenda	6 " 4 "	Timber Boy	X	Ntonga	-	FV
39	Whisky Phiri	3 " "	Crusher Boy	X Nyanja	Swazi	-	FV
50	Masudi Phiri	4 " 9 "	Hoist Driver	X Zongendaba	Shangaan	-	FV
54	Nyobe Chavuka	4 " 7 "	Boss Boy	X	Swazi	-	FV
66	Smarton Mwenda	4 " 7 "	Police	X Ntonga	"	-	FV
99	Wilson Kandatila	8 " 3 "	Sorting	X Zongendaba	"	-	FV
107	Abedon Maseko	4 " 11 "	Engine Boy	X	"	-	FV
144	Lyson Zimba	19 " 9 "	Police	X Nyanja	Shangaan	-	FV
115	Lesu Mchobi	8 " 6 "	Timber	X Zongendaba	Swazi	-	FV
235	Habson Mwale	3 " 8 "	Boss Boy	X	"	-	EE
134	Peter Chirwa	3 " 8 "	Pipe Boy	X Zongendaba	"	-	EE
173	Alfred Mhoni	6 " 6 "	Boss Boy	X Ntonga	"	-	EE
108	Lyson Mchabi	6 " 4 "	Boss Boy	X Zongendaba	Zongendaba	-	EE
157	Saltisen Mhoni	1 " 1 "	Engine Boy	X Ntonga	Ntonga	-	FV
168	Bennett Moyo	9 " 8 "	Timber	X Zongendaba	Zongendaba	-	FV
191	Laban Chirwa	11 " 8 "	Concentrates	X Ntonga	Ntonga	1	FV
358	Fraser Phiri	8 " 10 "	Flotation	X Ntonga	Ntonga	-	EE
200	Notice Mkhoma	6 " 3 "	Power Stn.	X Zongendaba	Shangaan	-	FV
125	Habson Mhlovu	7 " 7 "	Bell Boy	X Zongendaba	Swazi	-	EE
316	Heerfyn Banda	7 " 7 "	Boss Boy	X Chewa	Swazi	-	EE
141	Great Louwe	4 " 9 "	Lorry Boy	X Ntonga	"	-	EE
255	Akin Banda	8 " 8 "	Power Stn.	X	Ntonga	-	EE
771	Akweniere Mhoni	9 " 8 "	Sampling	X	Swazi	-	EE
200	Sam Banda	16 " 9 "	Engine Boy	X Senja	"	-	EE
453	Petrus Phiri	4 " 10 "	Pump Boy	X Mchawa	"	3	EE
312	Sozwell Moyo	6 " 10 "	Timber Boy	X Zongendaba	Shangaan	-	FV
79	Tom Mkhala	1 " 8 "	General	"	Chava	-	FV
399	John Mhlovu	1 " 8 "	General	"	Nyasa	-	FV
500	Aaron Banda	1 " 9 "	Road Boy	X Ntonga	"	4	FV
335	Minos Nyirenda	1 " 9 "	Police	X Mhenga	"	2	FV
527	Mathew Chirwa	3 " 3 "	Police	X Likomca	"	-	FV
535	Stanford Mkhoma	3 " 3 "	Lashing	X Ntonga	"	1	FV
478	Wadula Nyirenda	1 " 3 "	Boss Boy	X Ngweni	Swazi	2	EE
458	Kalimadola Mhwinika	4 " 3 "	Timber Boy	X Zongendaba	"	-	FV
444	Robert Mwas	3 " 3 "	Engine Boy	X Ntonga	"	-	EE
462	Benery Phiri	1 " 3 "	Pump Boy	X	Shangaan	2	EE
437	Amanson Banda	5 " 9 "	Mill	X	Ntonga	-	FV
419	Jafor Makame	2 " 9 "	Disposal	X Zongendaba	Swazi	-	FV
351	Josiah Hense	9 " 9 "	Pump Boy	X Ntonga	"	-	FV
201	Mangweni Chirwa	17 " 9 "	Gravity	X	"	-	EE
191	Laban Chirwa	4 " 9 "	Concentrates	X	Ntonga	-	EE
193	James Mkhoma	11 " 9 "	Lorry Boy	X	Swazi	-	EE
78	James Mkhoma	1 " 4 "	General	Zongendaba	Shangaan	-	FV
616	Petrus Mkhater	1 " 2 "	General	Zongendaba	Shangaan	-	EE
81	Chavuka Sithole	1 " 7 "	Power Stn.	X Ntonga	Sotho	-	FV
284	Alick Chirwa	10 " 7 "	Boss Boy	X Ntonga	Ntonga	-	EE
295	Petrus Mhni	6 " 3 "	Lashing	X Zongendaba	Swazi	-	EE
307	Tison Mhlovu	1 " 3 "	Crusher	X Nyasa	Sotho	-	FV
22	Mazaro Sibande	11 " 3 "	Bell Boy	X Zongendaba	Sotho	2	FV
251	Laban Mwale	2 " 3 "	Police	X Ntonga	Swazi	-	EE
274	Smart Hense	2 " 3 "	Lashing	X Ntonga	Swazi	-	EE
285	Donald Mwenda	2 " 4 "	"	Zongendaba	Sotho	-	EE
397	William Banda	5 " 10 "	Mill Boy	X Nyasa	Shangaan	-	FV
399	John Mhlovu	" 11 "	"	X	Swazi	-	EE
448	John Mhlovu	" 8 "	"	X	Swazi	-	FV
539	John Banda	1 " 4 "	"	X	Swazi	-	EE
561	James Mhlovu	2 " 4 "	"	X Nyasa	"	-	EE
584	John Banda	1 " 6 "	Roaster	X Ntonga	Swazi	-	EE
594	Milijah Ngodwe	2 " 6 "	"	X Zongendaba	Shangaan	-	EE
204	Pius Nyirenda	2 " 6 "	"	X Nyasa	Sotho	-	FV
220	Randel Banda	2 " 4 "	Police	X Zongendaba	Shangaan	1	FV
198	James Zimba	2 " 4 "	Boss Boy	X	Zongendaba	2	FV
266	Dick Phiri	5 " 5 "	Carpenter	X Chewa	Sotho	-	EE
472	William Phiri	3 weeks	Lashing	X Nyanja	Swazi	-	FV
512	Nicely Phiri	3 months	Sampling	X Ntonga	"	1	EE
165	Austin Chirwa	"	Cheesa Boy	X Ntonga	Ntonga	-	FV
612	Roses Phiri	9 " "	Paint Boy	X	"	-	FV
44	John Chirwa	10 " "	Engine Boy	X Zongendaba	Shangaan	3	EE
11	James Phiri	8 " "	Assay	X Ntonga	Ntonga	-	EE
87	John Banda	3 " "	Workshop	X	"	-	EE
63	Frank Banda	3 " "	Pump Boy	X	Swazi	-	FV
184	Alfred Banda	6 " "	Mill Boy	X	Sotho	-	FV
368	Epbraes Phiri	6 " "	Concentrates	X	Shangaan	-	EE
640	Jack Mwale	1 " "	Lashing	X	Swazi	-	EE
			Machine	X Nuventa	Chewa	-	EE

SHANGAANS.

- 3 -

Co. No.	Name and Surname.	Service.	Type of Work.	Tribe.	Wife's Nation.	Children.	Fairview or Elephantzolo
2	Boleni Makvakva	2 months	Police	X Shangaan	Swazi	-	FV
494	Jacob Mabene	11 "	Disposal	X Chopie	Shangaan	-	FV
177	Magoka Shishaba	2 "	Lashing	X Shangaan	Swazi	-	EE
368	Antonio Mabasa	1 "	"	X " "	Shangaan	1	EE
369	Ezequias Malene	11 "	"	X Chopie	"	-	EE
370	Govenwane Gossa	3 "	General	X Shangaan	"	-	EE
487	Jacalazi Khosa	1 "	Lashing	X " "	"	-	FV
480	Gasete Maculube	2 "	Engine Boy	X Chopie	Zulu	-	EE
506	Charlie Mtshombeni	2 "	Crusher	X Shangaan	Gotho	-	FV
514	Chileto Chissico	2 "	Roaster	X Chopie	Shangaan	-	EE
523	Tinheleti Chissico	11 "	Gravity	X " "	Chopie	-	EE
524	Francis Matsosi	11 "	Tramming	X Shangaan	Shangaan	-	EE
533	Manuel Sitsindza	2 "	Builder	X " "	Swazi	-	EE
540	John Khosa	3 "	Lashing	X " "	Shangaan	-	EE
541	George Malaza	10 "	Roaster	X " "	"	-	FV
546	Mashingane Madonsela	16 yrs.	Police	X " "	"	-	EE
547	Nadakhoni Gibi	5 "	Boss Boy	X " "	Swazi	-	FV
364	Fencil Jozini	1 " 9 mhs.	Police	X " "	"	1	EE
197	Elias Mazibe	3 "	Picannin	X " "	Shangaan	1	EE
25	George Nussane	2 "	Pipe Boy	X " "	"	1	EE
26	Nicks Granbe	1 " 10 "	Bell Boy	X " "	Gotho	2	EE
331	Fourteen Makvakva	7 " 6 "	Boss Boy	X " "	Shangaan	2	EE
370	Mafartels Mkhabela	8 " 2 "	Boss Boy	X " "	"	3	EE
702	Johane Khosa	11 "	Lamproom	X " "	Swazi	-	EE
179	Johannes Nyambi	2 "	Tip Boy	X " "	Shangaan	4	EE
395	Leti Hayinoti	1 " 9 "	Hoist Driver	X " "	Swazi	1	FV
230	Jim Moyane	8 " 3 "	Engine Boy	X " "	Shangaan	1	FV
150	Jose Machava	14 " 3 "	Lashing	X " "	"	2	FV
379	Lazarus Mabasa	2 " 3 "	Lashing	X " "	Swazi	2	FV
86	Paulo Mhassengo	3 "	Builder	X " "	"	2	EE
378	Valent Mthonsi	6 " 2 "	Machine Boy	X " "	Shangaan	1	EE
128	Zacurai Macia	4 " 2 "	Machine Boy	X " "	Swazi	1	EE
126	Timothy Machava	5 " 8 "	Hoist Driver	X " "	Shangaan	2	EE
381	Pedro Mtshombeni	2 " 5 "	Machine Boy	X " "	"	4	EE
89	Vinish Muzanda	14 " 3 "	Boss Boy	X " "	"	1	EE
221	Getiman Canda	10 " 3 "	Carpenter	X " "	"	1	EE
779	Joao Malunga	5 " 2 "	Lashing	X " "	"	1	EE
17	Penches Sambo	3 " 2 "	Lashing	X " "	"	1	FV
186	Albert Matsolo	10 " 2 "	Hoist Driver	X " "	Swazi	1	FV
118	Gomish Mandlazi	12 " 2 "	Pipe Boy	X " "	"	1	FV
414	Eleson Mlovu	4 " 3 "	Engine Boy	X " "	Shangaan	1	EE
503	Marrangeni Gumbe	2 " 2 "	Machine Boy	X " "	"	1	EE
27	Mulafu Mkhumbi	4 " 2 "	Police	X " "	Khosa	1	EE
610	Smart Mbalane	2 " 2 "	Crusher	X " "	Gotho	2	EE
372	Jeremiah Mabuza	2 " 3 "	Machine Boy	X " "	Shangaan	1	EE
491	Lucas Maculube	4 " 2 "	House Boy	X " "	"	1	FV
267	Time Zavala	1 " 2 "	Lashing	X " "	"	1	FV
104	Mfanekiso Mhamuehwen	2 " 7 "	Workshop	X Chopie	Chopie	-	EE
233	Johas Ngubila	7 " 4 "	Pump Boy	X " "	"	-	FV
24	Paduco Muzia	10 " 2 "	Police	X " "	"	-	FV
248	Loice Maziba	2 " 5 "	Lashing	X " "	"	-	FV
254	Meshado Sibim	1 " 4 "	Lorry Boy	X Shangaan	Shangaan	1	EE
114	Jam Chibandu	8 " 4 "	Hill Boy	X Chopie	Chopie	-	EE
222	Samuel Zuprona	1 " 6 "	Pictation	X Shangaan	Shangaan	-	EE
23	Gamelane Gumbe	5 " 3 "	Track Boy	X Chopie	Chopie	-	EE
37	Saban Maculube	7 " 9 "	Ash Boy	X " "	"	-	FV
536	Trinta Chiburi	2 " 2 "	Road Boy	X Shangaan	Swazi	1	FV
249	Paraffin Sithole	2 " 5 "	Cook Boy	X " "	"	-	FV
315	Sabasiao Mpeana	8 " 4 "	Timber Boy	X " "	Shangaan	-	EE
517	Moskeni Sambo	2 " 2 "	Timber Boy	X " "	"	1	FV
548	Beock Chisiku	2 " 2 "	Workshop	X Chopie	Chopie	-	FV
186	Fordsburg Mpsanganhe	2 " 10 "	Hill Boy	X Shangaan	Shangaan	-	EE
207	Josiah Makano	5 " 7 "	Roaster Boy	X " "	Swazi	-	EE
216	Amos Masango	1 " 7 "	Machine Boy	X " "	Shangaan	-	EE
218	Pedro Sambo	1 " 10 "	Roaster	X " "	"	-	EE
737	Santosi Thamba	1 " 4 "	Builder	X " "	Swazi	-	FV
287	Johane Maluti	1 " 10 "	Hill Boy	X " "	Shangaan	3	EE
293	Joel Mahooke	1 " 2 "	Lashing	X Chopie	Chopie	-	EE
303	Johane Mhassabe	1 " 8 "	Lashing	X " "	"	-	EE
390	Petrus Mkhabela	1 " 2 "	Roaster	X Shangaan	Shangaan	1	EE
488	Office Swambe	1 " 5 "	General	X Chopie	Chopie	-	FV
486	Madsuzumhane Lubisi	2 " 3 "	"	X Shangaan	Shangaan	-	FV
493	Alfred Mashaba	1 " 3 "	Roaster	X " "	"	-	EE
405	Francis Makokola	1 " 3 "	Lashing	X " "	"	-	EE
371	George Mlatshayo	1 " 5 "	Timber Boy	X " "	"	-	EE
271	John Mhlaboya	1 " 5 "	Lamp Room	X " "	"	-	EE
273	Maziz Mhlophi	1 " 5 "	Machine Boy	X " "	"	-	FV
37	Mooch Buque	1 " 10 "	Lorry Boy	X " "	Swazi	-	EE
341	Capene Lavnie	1 " 10 "	Sell Boy	X Chopie	Chopie	-	EE

Images 1 - 3: List of names for the married Swazi, Nyasaland and Shangaan workers at the Fairview Mine by March 1956. (NASA SAB, NTS: 9948 776/408C)

The total labour strength at the mine at that time was 632 workers, of which 20% (172 workers) were residing in the new married quarters. 150 of the married workers had been working on the mine for over two years, half of whom had been there for

over five years. These married labourers apparently formed the “solid core” of the labour strength at the mine, having been trained as engine minders, “machine boys”, “workshop boys” and on special work in the mill. It is noted in the letter that the loss of the married workers' services would be a catastrophe for the mine. On the grounds that they were essential to the efficient working of the mine, it was requested that married workers be allowed to live in the new quarters, and to increase the percentage of married workers to 20%. (NASA SAB, NTS: 9948 776/408C)

It was furthermore noted in the letter that steps were being taken to improve the position at the mine with regards to sanitation. Pit latrines were being dug and separate latrines would be provided for men and women. The workers' rations would also be increased by ½ lb. fat in addition to the 3 ¾ lb. of fresh meat. Mealie meal, beans, sweet potatoes and fresh vegetables were also provided daily. Oranges were issued in season and crops provided the workers with carrots, cabbages, pumpkin, green mealies, marrows and mangoes. Peanuts were being grown on the farm for the use of the black labourers. With regards to communal cooking for single workers, a kitchen at Elephants Kloof would be started as soon as possible. The fencing of the married quarters would also commence in the near future. The single quarters at Elephants Kloof Compound was apparently nearing completion at that time. (NASA SAB, NTS: 9948 776/408C)

Regarding the married quarters, it was noted that it would be situated on a private mine road approximately a mile from the “European zone”, where white workers quarters were to be built. The topography of the country was apparently completely isolated, and it was only accessible through the mine road. According to the mine management this area was ideal, as “Perfect control of natives can be established and complete segregation.” (NASA SAB, NTS: 9948 776/408C)

On 23 May 1956 the Native Commissioner of Barberton approved that a hospital that was built on the Fairview Mine could be opened. It was mentioned that the hospital made provision for 10 beds. (NASA SAB, NTS: 10008 776/408E) It was possible to find plans for this hospital in a file in the National Archives of South Africa:

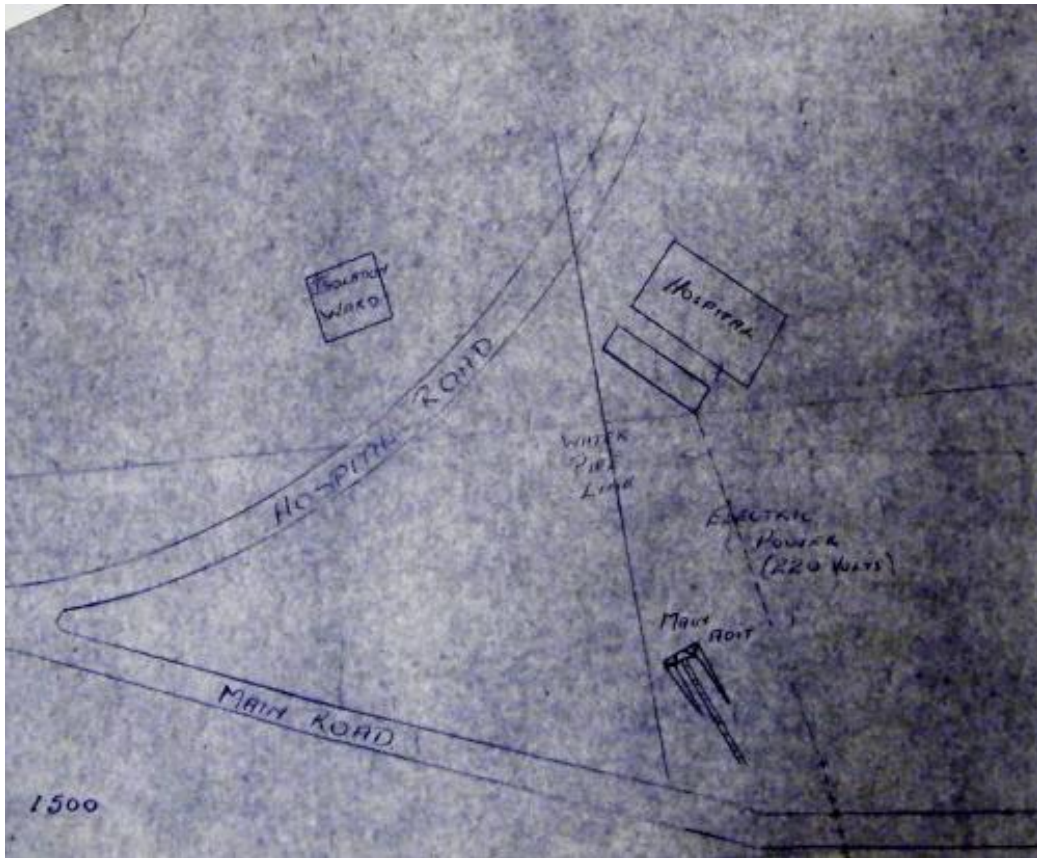


Image 4: Site plan for the hospital at Fairview Mine.

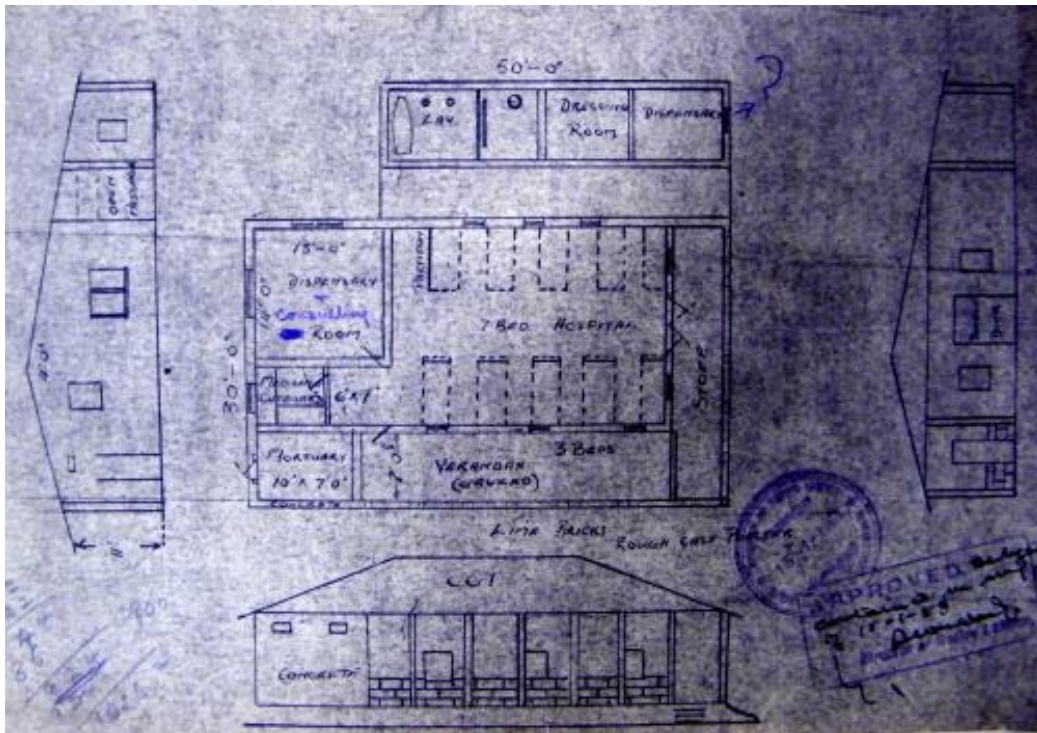


Image 5: Plans for the hospital at the Fairview Mine. . (NASA SAB, NTS: 10101 782/408Z)

In September 1957, the Inspector of Native Labour in Barberton once again visited the compound at the Fairview Mine. It was again noted that the circumstances at the old compound left much to be desired, and recommendations were made as to the state of the lavatories, water points and ablution blocks. In addition to these complaints, it was found that the work force had increased by nearly 130 workers. The number of workers at the mine was given as follows:

Fairview:

Unmarried –	377
Married –	232
Total –	609

Olifants Kloof:

Unmarried –	117
Married –	0
Total –	117

It is noted that the mining firm was in the process of constructing a new compound at Olifants Kloof, but that it would take quite a long time before all the workers at the mine would be able to move to these quarters. The Inspector insisted that the health conditions at the old living quarters had to be improved before that time. (NASA SAB, NTS: 9948 776/408C)

By October 1957, a new company had taken over the Fairview Mine operations. It is not certain when this transition took place. The Manager of the company Federale Mynbou wrote to the Native Commissioner at Barberton on 2nd October 1957, in reply to the report of the Inspector that had visited the mine in the month before. It was noted that, since Federale Mynbou had assumed control of the mine, the setup had changed completely. It was noted that the output of the mine had been quadrupled, and that the workforce therefore also had to be increased. Details are given as to how the Compound Manager, one Mr. Phelan, had been instructed to improve conditions at the black workers' quarters. This included the excavation of new lavatory pits, the provision of 26 extra water points and the erection of ablution buildings. According to the Mine Manager, there was no water available at the top of

the hill, and that all the water for milling and drinking purposes was pumped from the river at Clutha, which was located some six miles from the site. (NASA SAB, NTS: 9948 776/408C)

It is noted in the letter that, since labour needs on the mine had doubled, every effort was made to obtain the labour required. Since February 1956, 662 black workers had been recruited as single persons, whilst many of the married blacks had been discharged "as instructed". Quite perturbingly, the Mine Manager also noted the following: "I hope that when all capital work is completed to weed out the married natives until the final figure of 3% is reached." (NASA SAB, NTS: 9948 776/408C)

In April 1959, the Fairview Mine was again examined by the Inspector of Bantu Labour. It seems that the mine was by that time still managed by the Federale Mynboumaatskappy, which had its headquarters in the Sanlam building in Johannesburg. The name of the farm on which the inspection was conducted was Bickenhall No. 346 JU. The Local Manager at that time was one Mr. R. R. Uren. Dr. Hobson of Barberton was the Medical Officer. It is noted that the mine had a neat hospital with 14 beds and a full time white nurse. Sufficient first aid equipment was also provided. One Mr. H. C. Field was the licenced compound Manager and approximately 850 black workers were housed at the mine. 170 of these workers were from tropical areas (presumably Central Africa), and 350 more were from the Mozambique ("Ooskus"). All these foreigners were only issued with temporary permits to work on the mine. (NASA SAB, NTS: 9948 776/408C)

By the time of the inspection the black workers at Fairview Mine were living in two separate compounds. The first of these was the Fairview Compound, which housed 352 single and 171 married workers in informal huts. It had long since been envisioned that these workers would be moved to a more formal compound at Olifants Kloof. The Olifants Kloof Compound at that time housed 270 unmarried workers and 33 families. 17 huts had been built and 34 bedrooms had been completed for single workers. At that stage eight single workers were housed per room. Double cement and steel beds had been installed. 40 married quarters had been erected on the site. (NASA SAB, NTS: 9948 776/408C)

It is noted that a small number of showers had been built at the Fairview Compound, and that sufficient water points had been provided. Sufficient ablution facilities were also provided at Olifants Kloof. Adequate numbers of latrines were provided at both sites. With regards to cooking facilities, workers cooked their own food over open fires at Fairview. At Olifants Kloof cooking was done in a temporary kitchen, and plans had been submitted for the building of more permanent cooking facilities. (NASA SAB, NTS: 9948 776/408C)

On 1st April 1960, the Inspector of Bantu Labourers at Barberton visited the single quarters at Fairview Mine, as well as the Compound at Olifants Kloof. By this time a new kitchen had been erected at Olifants Kloof and it was already in use. These facilities were relatively neat and tidy. The erection of 15 blocks of single quarters had also been completed. These quarters were located adjacent to a private road which was built and used by the mine. There was a fence separating some of the single quarters from the road. The married quarters were about 15 yards from the road but there was no fence. There was also no fence separating the single and married quarters. Some recommendations were made to improve the new facilities, but it seemed that these amenities would soon be put to use. (NASA SAB, NTS: 9948 776/408C)

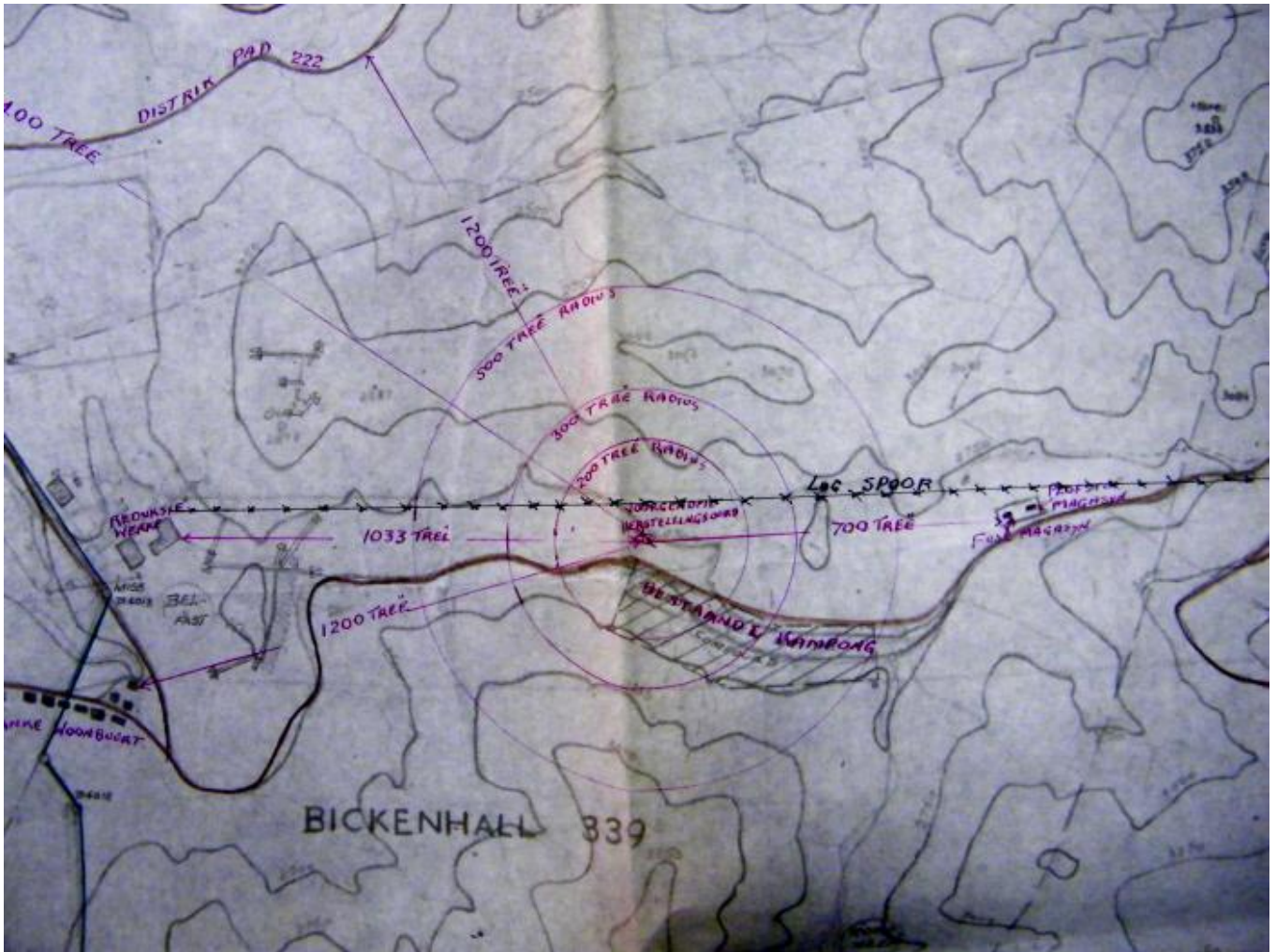
In January 1961, one Jacobus Martinus Klopper applied to the Department of Bantu Administration and Development for a licence to work as the Fairview Mine Compound Manager. It is not known whether Klopper received the licence. (NASA SAB, BAO: 9768 C30/389)

In 1962 the Fairview Mine received permission to rent and build a recreational facility known as the Fairview Mine Recreation Club on the farm Bickenhall No. 346. It seems that membership to this club was restricted for the use of whites. Mention is also made of a tennis court. (NASA SAB, JUS: 711 53/1588)

In 1964 an application was made for the expansion of facilities for black workers on the Fairview Mine – specifically for the establishment of a rehabilitation centre. On 23 June 1964 there were 874 workers in the employment of the mine, of which 612 were housed in single quarters. There were 44 family quarters and 145 black

workers were housed in non-approved quarters. 63 were housed in self-erected quarters and 10 were housed elsewhere. The application was also for additional quarters to house 16 workers. It was also noted that there were 542 workers housed in single quarters and 176 individuals, including wives and children, in married quarters. (NASA SAB, BAO: 2418 C31/3/389)





Images 6 & 7: Sketch maps showing the Fairview Mine Compound and the location of the proposed rehabilitation centre.

6. CONCLUSION

This report endeavoured to give an account of the history of the farms Bramber 313 JU and Bramber Central 348 JU, as well as the Fairview Gold Mine in the Barberton area in Mpumalanga Province. The general history of human settlement in the Barberton area, as well as the interaction between black and white population groups, was discussed. Finally, all available information on the concerned area was taken into account to write up a history of the developments and activities that had taken place there.

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