



Permit Committee of the Free State Provincial Heritage Resources Authority

Ref: S38(1)-Erf 30113-WoodlandHills
11 February 2020
Enquiries: Loudine Philip (078 448 9307)

Erf 30113, 51 Kameeldoring Street, Woodland Hills Wildlife Estate, Bloemfontein

COMMENT

Attention: Dr R Redelstorff

SAHRA CaseID: 533397

Re: Application for demolition of a section of an historic stone wall on the farm Hillandale 249, Bloemfontein, Free State

Two separate archaeological impact assessments were conducted by Cobus Dreyer for the Woodland Hills Wildlife Estate development on the farm Hillandale 249. The first report is dated 20 February 2004 (SAHRIS document: 9-2-302-0002-20040220-PAHS_0.pdf) and the second, for phase II of the aforementioned development, is dated 28 August 2006 (SAHRIS document: 9-2-343-0004-20060828-PAHS_0.pdf). Neither report is sufficiently clear on the exact location of 'stone walling' that should be preserved and excluded from the development area.

Erf 30113 (No. 51 Kameeldoring Street) is situated very close to the original farmhouse that belonged to the Fischer family which was recently renovated (Heritage Free State Permit 1-464-13) and in the process of being declared as protected heritage. Erf 30113 falls within the first development phase of the Wildlife Estate and is situated at the end of a stone-packed wall that runs in a southern direction up to the south-western border of the estate. From thereon it follows the borders of the original farm in a southerly direction until it meets up with the N1 on the eastern side of the farm. (Refer to attached images).

Historical and archival records indicate that there was a British remount camp situated on the Fischer farm, Hillandale, during the Anglo-Boer War. Several military occupied areas in and around Bloemfontein contain similar walling to that at Hillandale. These walls don't necessarily follow farm borders, but merely served to delineate a military area. The Royal Engineers' camp was at Tempe and they undertook extensive building works in and around Bloemfontein and are in general considered the architects of these walls.

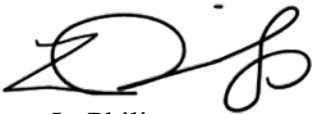
The site was visited by Heritage Free State on 5 February 2020 and the following observations are of relevance:

1. There are two erven situated on the eastern side of the subject property that might (judged by earlier Google images) also have contained evidence of the wall.
2. Following the trajectory of the wall it is highly likely that the wall might have ended up at, or very close to, the Fischer farmstead that was already in existence at the time of the Anglo-Boer War.
3. The section of the wall that falls within the subject property is not well defined and there is not currently any evidence of the wall extending any further in a northerly direction.
4. The section of the wall within the erf that would require demolition is very close to the erf boundary and would not make a discernible difference to the heritage value of a wall that is several kilometres long.
5. Sections of the wall further down the line were already demolished in the past to allow roads to pass through it.

In light of the aforementioned, Heritage Free State would like to make the following recommendations regarding this application:

1. That permission is granted for the section of the historic wall that falls within Erf 30113 to be demolished.
2. That a conservation management plan for the remainder of the wall, and any other physical remains of the Anglo-Boer War as identified in the two reports by Mr Cobus Dreyer, be drawn up by the management of the Woodland Hills Wildlife Estate in conjunction with a suitably qualified archaeologist, to ensure this piece of heritage is conserved for future generations.

Sincerely



L. Philip
S38 Heritage Officer
Heritage Free State



Figure 1: Red line indicates stone-packed wall



Figure 2: Placement of wall in relation to subject erf and the path it followed across the adjacent two erven



Figure 3: Wall section on subject property near the back end of the erf



Figure 4: Section of wall leading immediately up to the subject property (right)



Figure 5: Wall interrupted by a gravel road leading to the Horse Stables on the estate

Photographs taken by investigating officer, Loudine Philip, Heritage Free State