

Native Hostel (Compound)

Throughout the history of the mine there have been several areas where natives working in the mine were accommodated. In the early years it would seem that each company had its own "floors" compound but after the claims were amalgamated in 1891 under the ownership of the New Jagersfontein Mining and Exploration Company steps were taken to secure the mining area by fencing it off and building a large secure native hostel. From the archive photographs it would seem this first hostel was erected slightly north-west of the open pit mine, immediately adjacent one of the floors – although this might have been a later construction. A stone-enclosed area that was pointed out to us on the north-western side of the open pit mine at the side of a hill might have been an even earlier hostel but its associated midden (rubbish dump) does not contain waste one would normally associate with a fully male hostel although it could be an indication of a secondary use for the area. Mention was made that the area currently known as the "Mine Stores" area was an earlier hostel (approximately 35% the size of the current one) but no documentation could be found to support this.

The current hostel, however, was certainly erected in the heyday of the mine's existence since it caters for a very large number of inhabitants. The original layout included 50 sleeping units which could each sleep 34 people. Each sleeping unit has a central area with concrete tables and seats fixed to the floor and an adjacent area with a cubicle for each person's personal belongings with a separate area for hanging all the cooking utensils since native mine workers apparently preferred to cook their own food. There was, however, a large kitchen as well equipped with 12 large pots and a cold-storage room.



Figure 98: According to the records a nourishing cup of a porridge mixture was served to each worker before going on shift

The interior of the compound¹ was later changed by turning some of the sleeping units into a school room, a tailor shop, lecture hall, a variety of store rooms, a carpenter shop, boilermaker shop, electrical shop and more luxurious units for the senior workers which had its own communal sitting room and recreational area as well as kitchen and bathrooms. All of these buildings form a large enclosed rectangle with an open courtyard area on the inside. In the latter was a shop, post office and an office area in the easterly section, a wash house (where clothes were washed), a communal kitchen area, communal shower area and latrines in the middle section with two utensil washing sheds on the eastern and western side of the latter set of buildings. On the eastern side was a Bowling Green and tennis courts with a soccer field and grand stand in the southern side of the open square. On the north-western side the remains of an amphitheatre where movies were screened every Sunday is still visible today.

On the southern side was a fully equipped hospital area to include an x-ray unit, operating theatre, hospital wards, doctors' rooms, etc. A short distance away from the hostel on the southern side was the mortuary and isolation ward.

The hostel was connected to the Change Room in the Treatment Plant area by means of an underground tunnel that started at the Talley Room which was on the inside of the northern section of the hostel. From this point underground workers received their headlamps and proceeded through the tunnel to the Change room where an underground tunnel led to the underground mining chambers.



Figure 99: Underground worker handing back his headlamp upon return from his shift.

¹ Refer to page 124 for lay-out of compound structure

The hostel area, therefore, was effectively a fully functional mini-town and was in this sense much more effective in controlling the rampant illicit diamond trafficking of the early years of diamond mining. Native workers were only contracted for short periods after which they could return home and therefore did not spend excessively long periods in this isolated area.

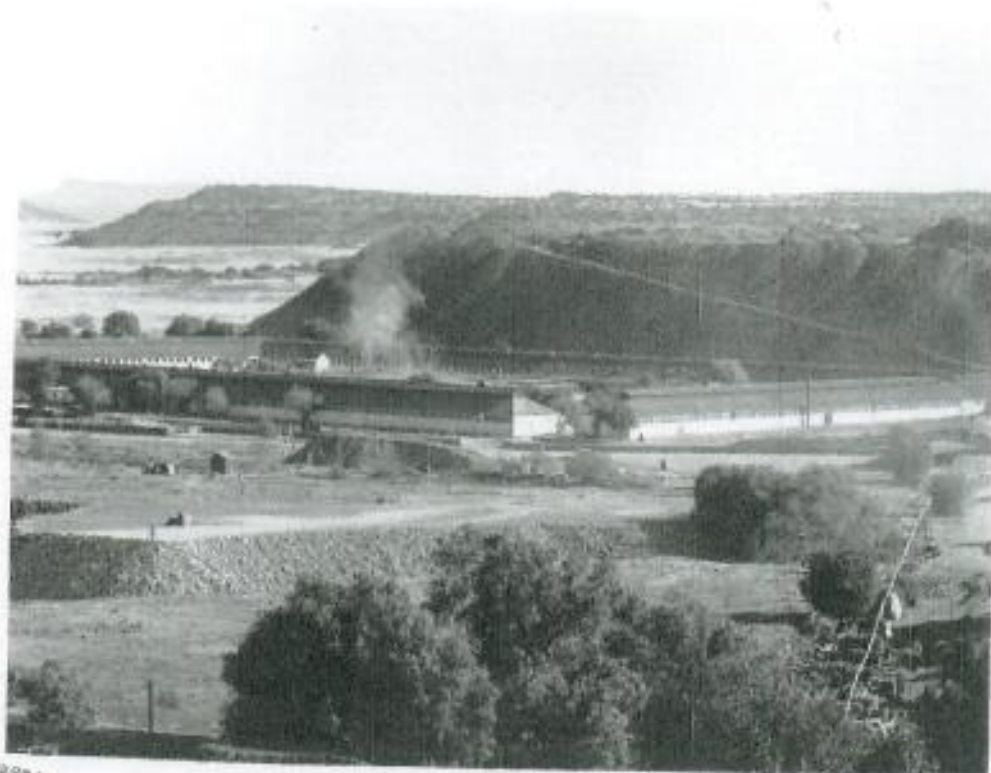
As with all of the other standing structures within the mining area, this area is also subject to looting and several of the corrugated iron sheets of the roof have been removed. The rooms forming the large rectangle are in various stages of disrepair but a large portion still seems solid. Some of walls seem to be constructed of large steel-reinforced concrete slabs but others of bricks and mortar. The building complex in the open square that contains the post office, shop and office area is still standing. None of the communal ablution block, kitchen and washing area in the open square remains. Of the recreational facilities only the amphitheatre remains.

Similar to the tunnel at the Change Room, the tunnel leading from the Talley Room has also been blocked off.

Mine compounds or native hostels like these are not unique to the diamond mining industry, or to South Africa. It does, however, form an important part of the mining history in South Africa and should be preserved as such.



Figure 100: A soccer match in the native hostel



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Figure 101: DBMC Archive photograph of Native Hostel

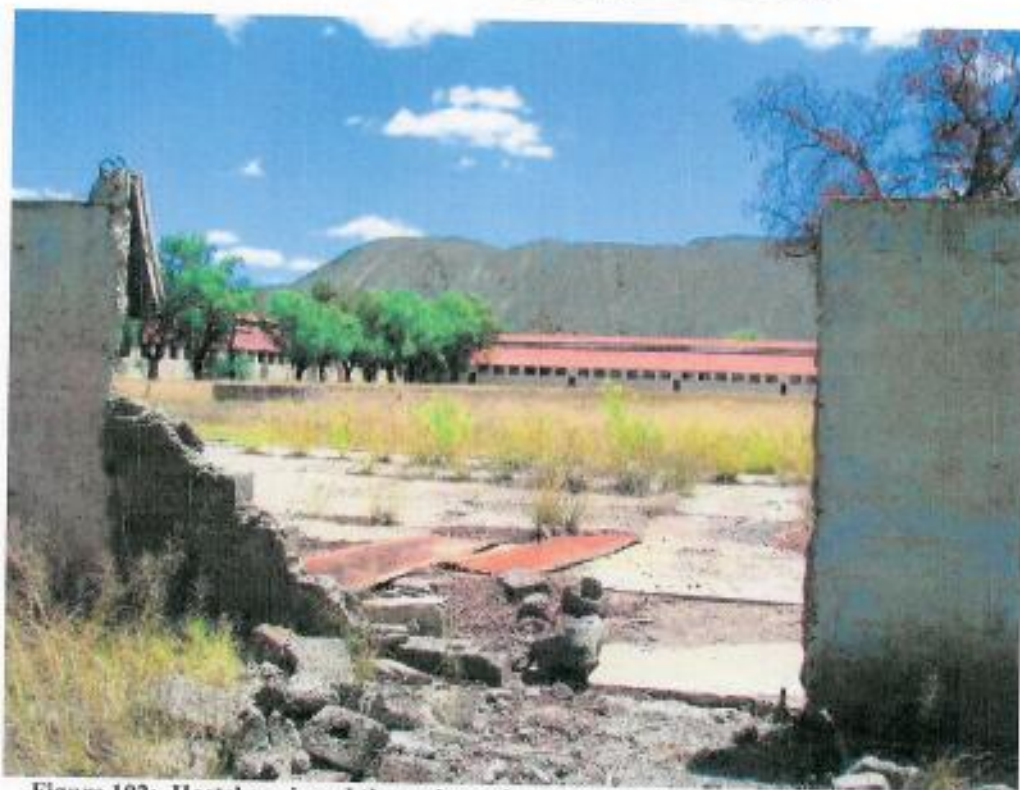


Figure 102: Hostel as viewed through gap in wall at Bayleys Lucern Storeroom section

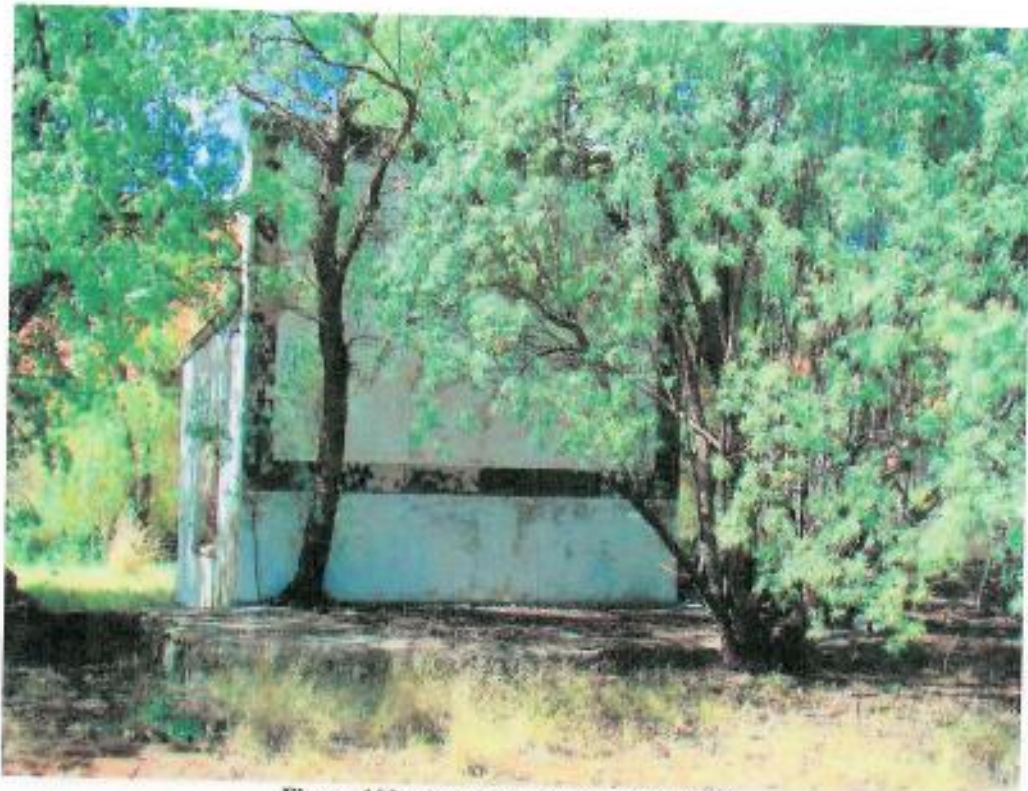


Figure 103: Amphitheatre "Screen area"

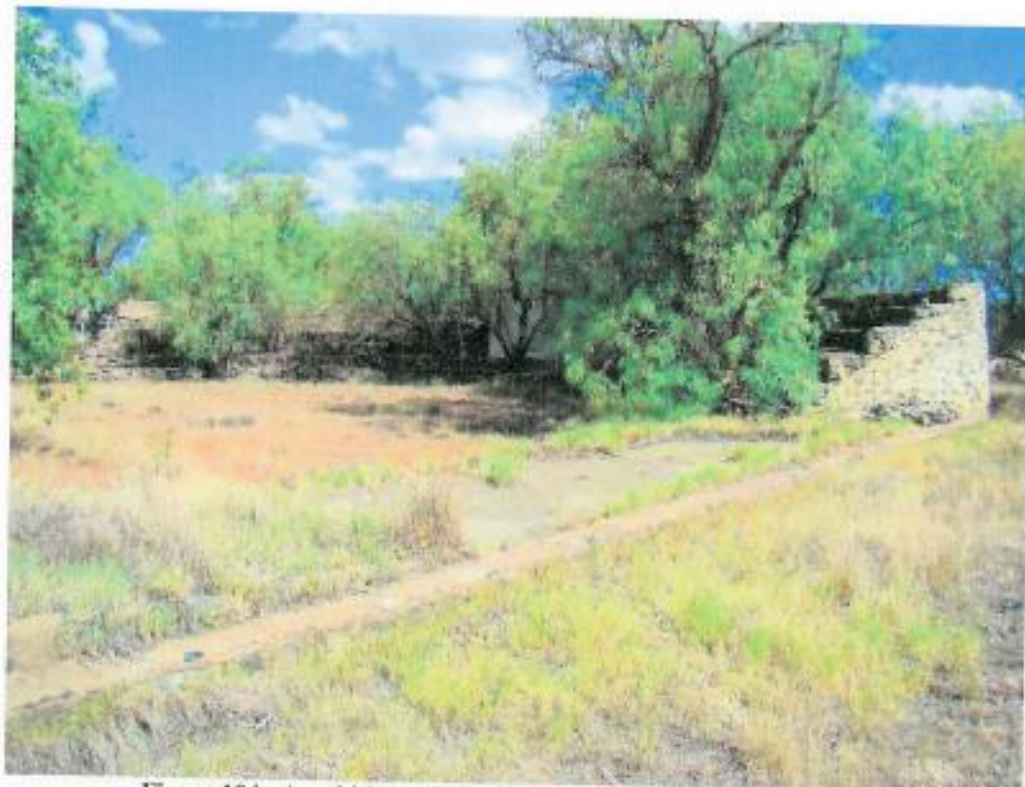


Figure 104: Amphitheatre stand with projector room in the middle



Figure 105: Bayleys Lucerne Store (Orientation North-East)



Figure 106: Bayleys Lucerne Store (Orientation South-East)



Figure 107: Interior of Boilermaker Shop – orientation south-west (Refer to hostel plan on page 124 for location)



Figure 108: Interior of Boilermaker Shop – orientation west

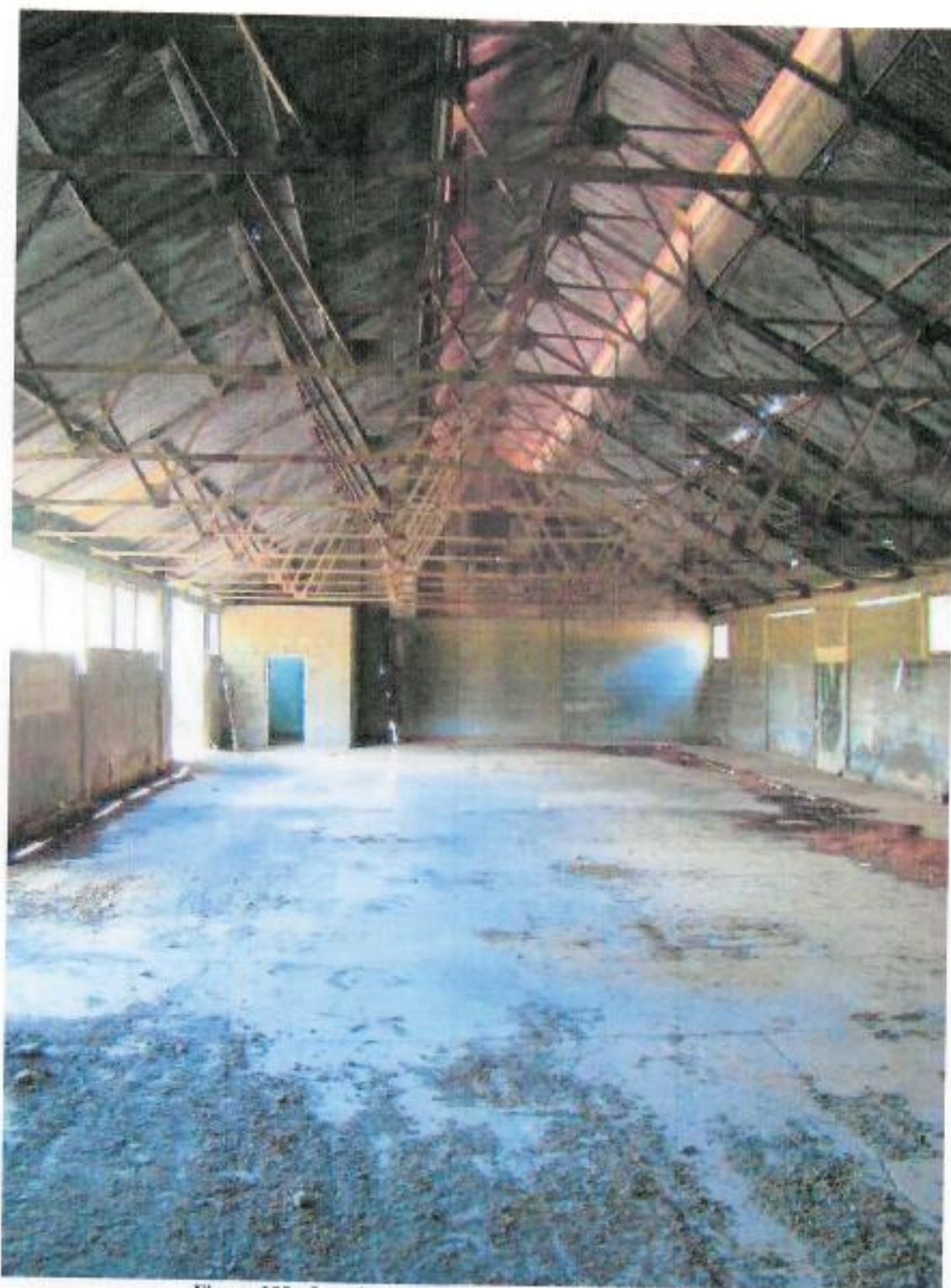


Figure 109: Interior of Boilermaker Shop – orientation east



Figure 110: Senior Quarters Entrance (Refer to "Boss Boys" area on hostel plan on page 124)



Figure 111: Senior Quarters Recreational Area



Figure 112: Senior Quarters Bedroom Section (Individual rooms were formed by low walls as in this photograph)



Figure 113: Senior Quarters Bedroom – built-in closet space divides this space into two rooms



Figure 114: Senior Quarters Toilets



Figure 115: Senior Quarters bathroom (area where basins were affixed)



Figure 116: Church hall (in Eastern Section of compound)



Figure 117: Lecture room (in southern section of compound)

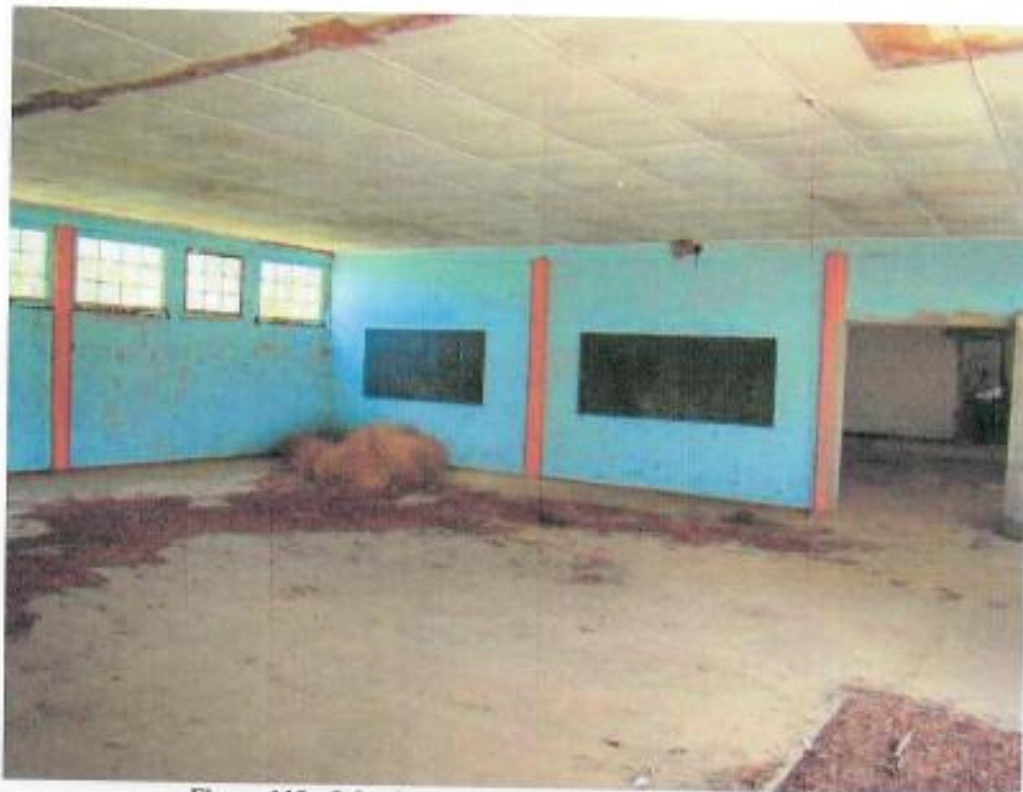


Figure 118: School room in southern section of compound



Figure 119: Recreation room in eastern section of compound



Figure 120: Communal sleeping halls – 17 bunker beds were arranged along the walls to serve as sleeping space for 34 mine workers



Figure 121: Area leading to storage area in sleeping quarters for personal belongings



Figure 122: Interior of storage area: Each worker had his own cubicle (as numbered) for personal belongings



Figure 123: Space in storage area for cooking pots to hang



Figure 124: Front building housed the post office, shop and an office area (Orientation north-west)



Figure 125: Close up of eastern wall of office area



Figure 126: Interior of office area



Figure 127: Interior of Post Office Area (Shop area visible through window)



Figure 128: Interior of shop area



Figure 129: Display window in shop area



Figure 130: Buildings left to right: Isolation wards, Mortuary, Hospital, the latter attached to Hostel on far right



Figure 131: Northern view of Isolation Ward



Figure 132: Southern side of Isolation Ward



Figure 133: Photograph taken from inside Isolation Ward – note build-up of soil on the outside (southern side)



Figure 134: Modern graffiti on walls



Figure 135: Wooden ceiling of Isolation Ward



Figure 136: Mortuary (easterly orientation)



Figure 137: Water pipes suspended from ceiling



Figure 138: Examination slab with bunker slab on left



Figure 139: Bunker slab to the right of the examination table



Figure 140: Southern exterior view of the hospital buildings (attached to main hostel) – orientation north-west



Figure 141: Interior of hospital area



Figure 142: Interior of hospital area



Figure 143: One of the two hospital wards



Figure 144: Entrance to X-ray room

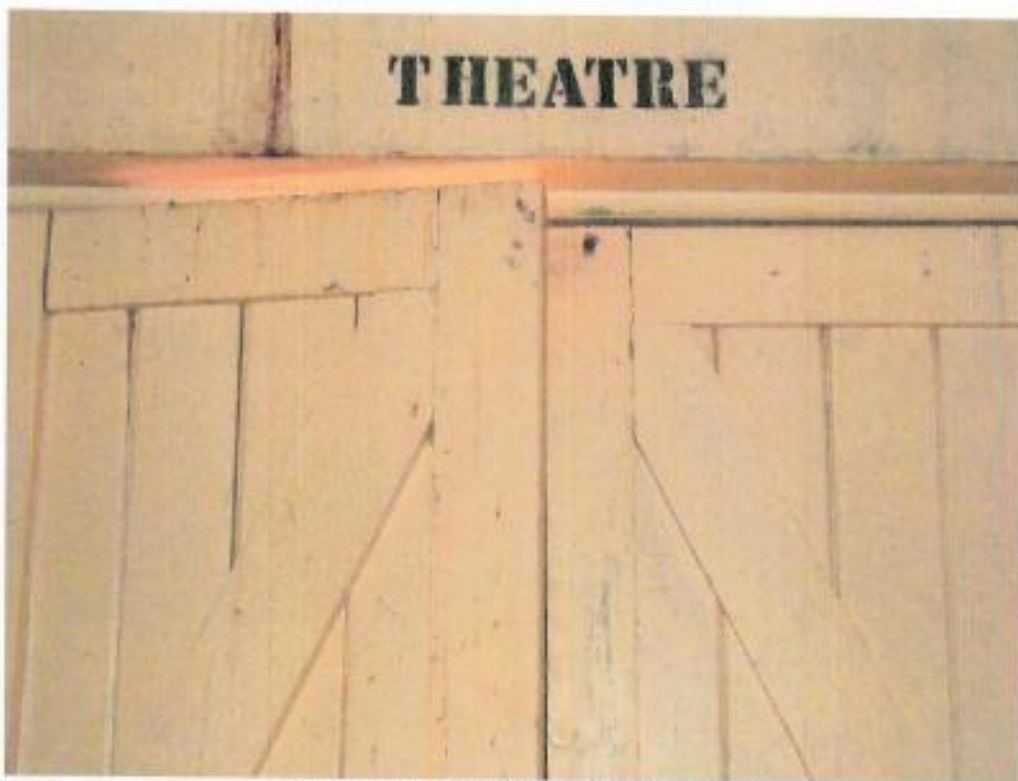


Figure 145: Entrance to operating theatre



Figure 146: Detail of building material (steel reinforced concrete slabs)



Figure 147: Detail of building material (brick and mortar)



Figure 148: Talley room (orientation north) – attached to northern section of hostel (inside enclosed space of compound)



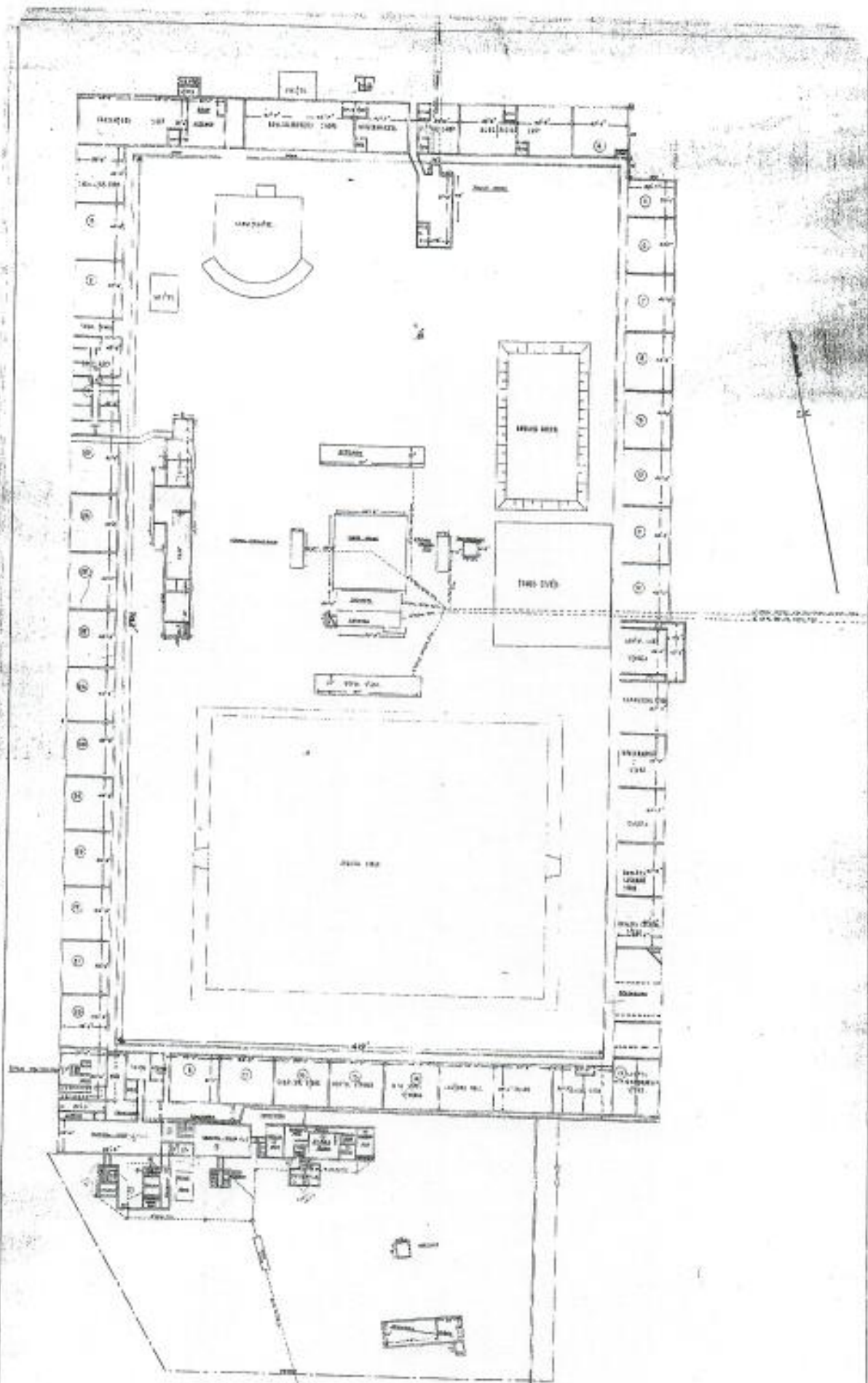
Figure 149: Interior of Talley Room (Door to the left leads to a passage that ends outside the hostel). Area in the middle of the back wall immediately to the left of the counter is the blocked up entrance to the underground passage)



Figure 150: Passage leading from Talley Room through northern section of the hostel to the outside



Figure 151: Blocked-up entrance of underground passage leading from Talley Room to the Change Room in the Treatment Plant area



-JAGERSFONTEIN MINE-

-COMPOUND-

SCALE - 1" = 30 FT

975

5.3.2.2 Mine Area B

Hydro Plants

The filtration and chlorination plant was situated near the main reservoir. Water passed from this plant via a settling tank through filters to the chlorination tank. Clear water from the clear water reservoir joined the filtered water at the chlorination tank. The chlorinated water was then pumped to the potable water storage tanks from where separate distribution lines fed the town, mine square, Charlesville and the native hostel.

The descriptions for the remains of the structures described in this section are as obtained from a 1961-map of the mining area.

Boiler Feed Reservoir



Figure 152: To the west of this lies a succession of cement channels that leads from this reservoir (view photographs below) Judged by the bolts and nuts in both the middle and sides of the dam as well as the patterned edge this structure probably served as foundation for machinery or tanks that were housed in a corrugated iron structure.

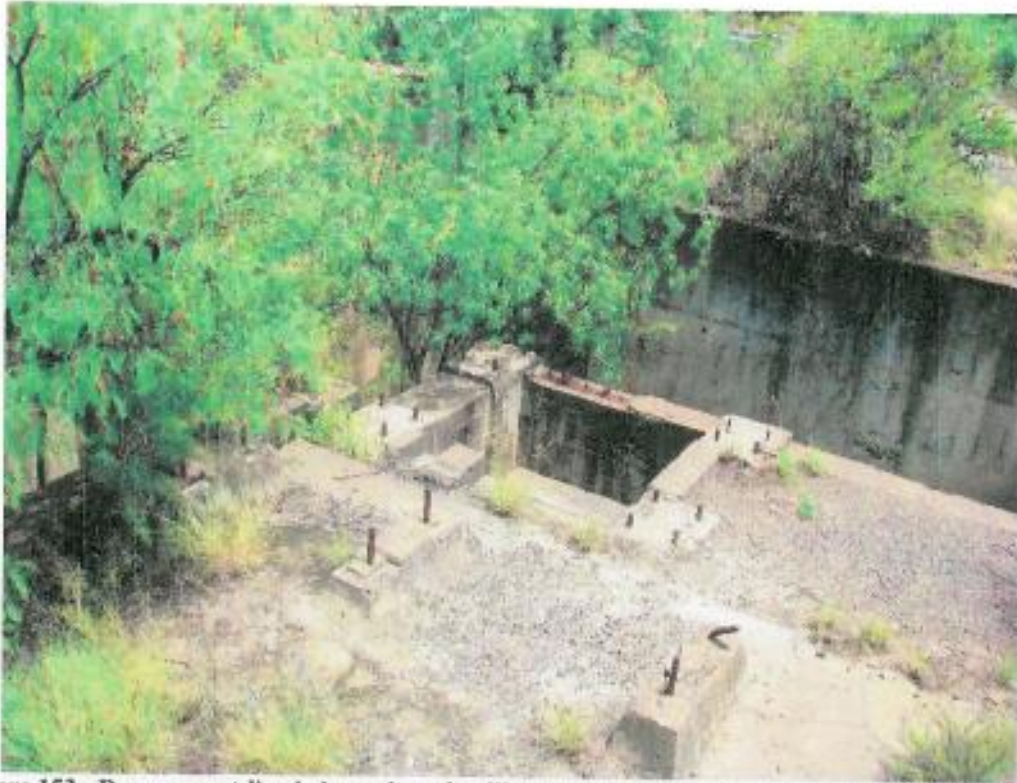


Figure 153: Deep cement-lined channels and gullies that leads from the structure in the photograph above

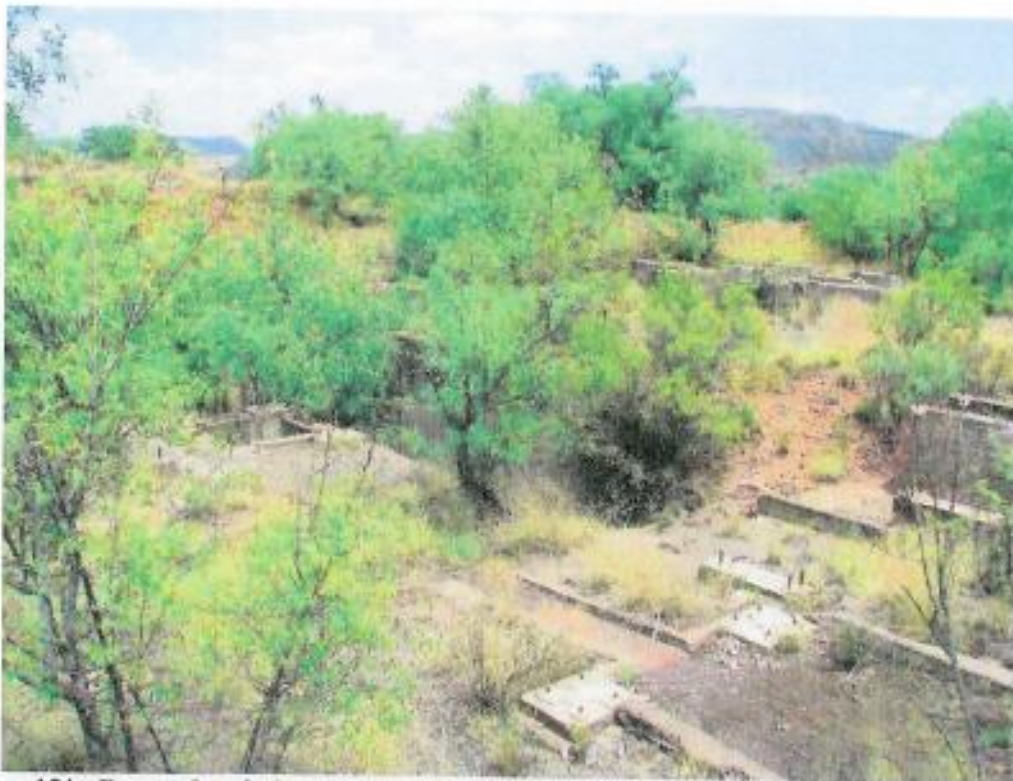


Figure 154: Cement foundations that presumably held more tanks or machinery occur directly west of the gullies in the photograph above

**Reservoir
&
Potable Storage Tanks**



Figure 155: Potable storage tank in back, reservoir in front



Figure 156: Reservoir



Figure 157: Reservoir



Figure 158: Potable Storage tank

Boiler Feed Sump

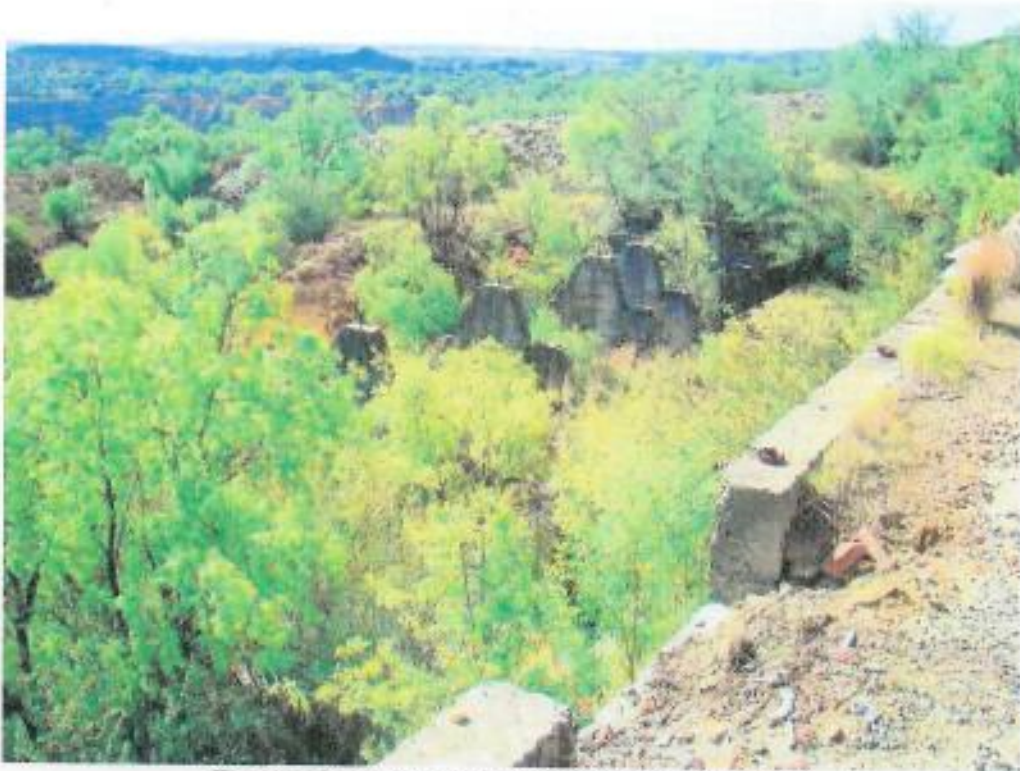


Figure 158: Boiler feed sump (orientation north-west)



Figure 159: Boiler feed sump (orientation west)

Unidentified Foundations

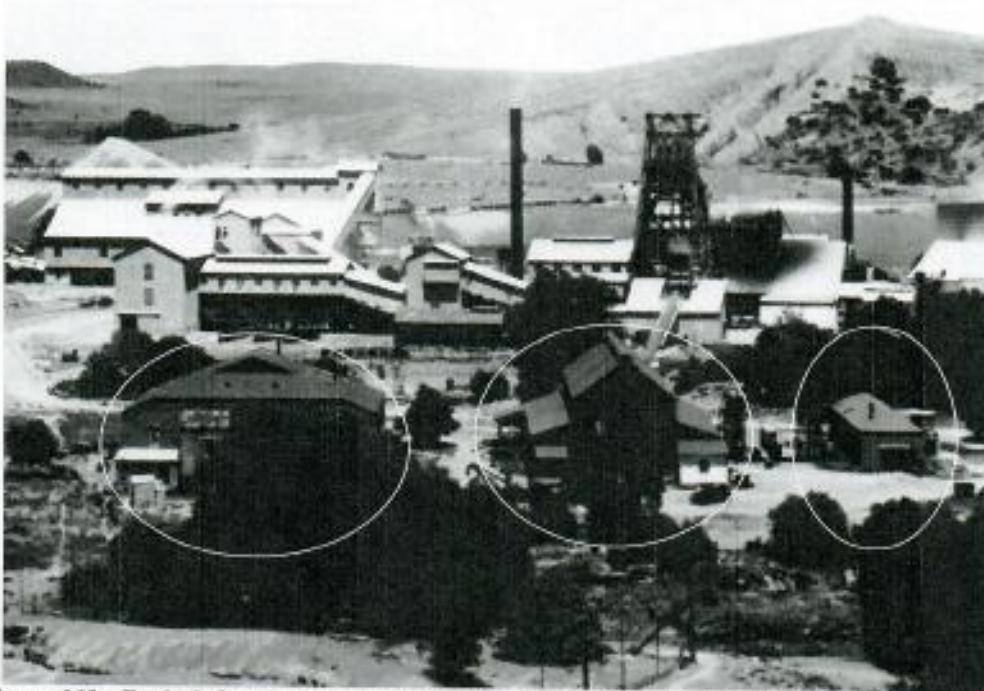


Figure 160: Encircled areas from left to right: Electrical and Blacksmith shops; Fitter Shop; Garage (Treatment Plant in the background)

The remains of the following three unidentified structures might be from the encircled buildings above but seems to be slightly more north of where it is indicated on the mine maps. The three buildings were constructed in a similar style, using similar building material and might therefore date from the same period.

Stone and Cement Foundation 3



Figure 161: The north eastern section of this building has a stone foundation with a cement and brick layer on top

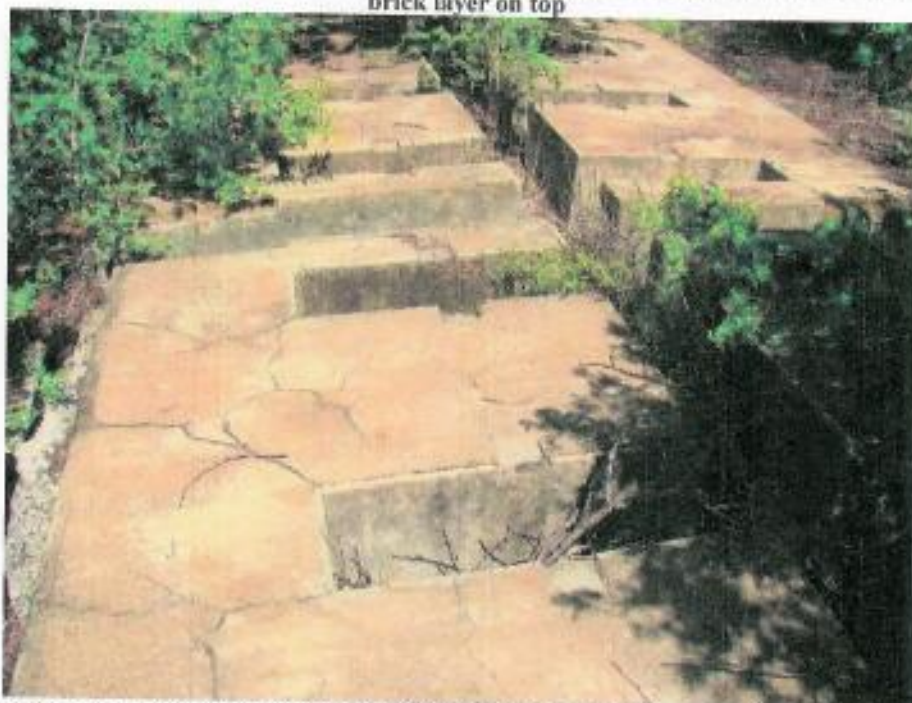


Figure 162: The south-western section of this building has a similar stone foundation but with a cement slab with deep slots on top. This could possibly have been the earlier garage building.

Stone Foundation 2



Figure 163: Similar to the previous structure this also has a stone foundation with cement and bricks on top (only traces visible)



Figure 164: Piles of bricks from the demolished building

Stone Foundation 1



Figure 165: This third structure was built in a similar fashion to the previous two buildings but has two distinct levels as can be seen in this photograph



Figure 166: From this angle the different sections of this building are clearly visible with the middle row of stones the divider wall between the two areas.

Unidentified Redbrick Building

On the western side of the aforementioned three buildings is a redbrick building that is still standing. This building is not indicated on a 1961 map of the mining area so it is possible that it post-dates this period. This building is in an area that is indicated as "stock pile" area on the 1961 map.

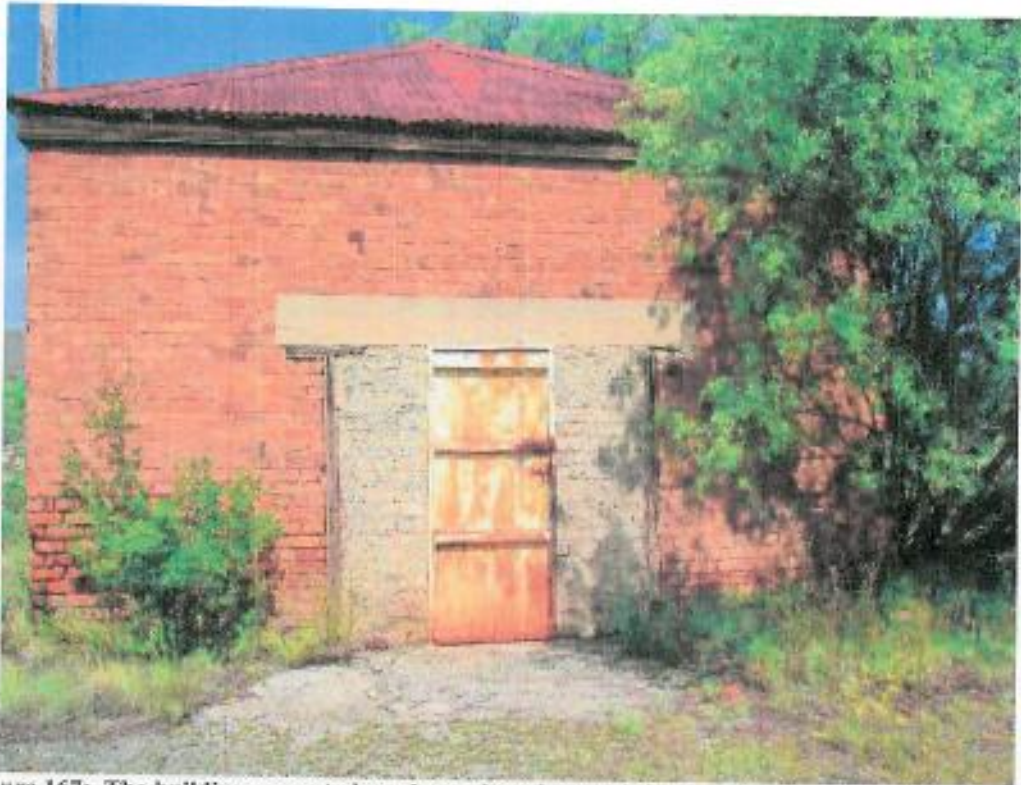


Figure 167: The building seems to have been altered several times – this side originally had a wide entrance as on the other end

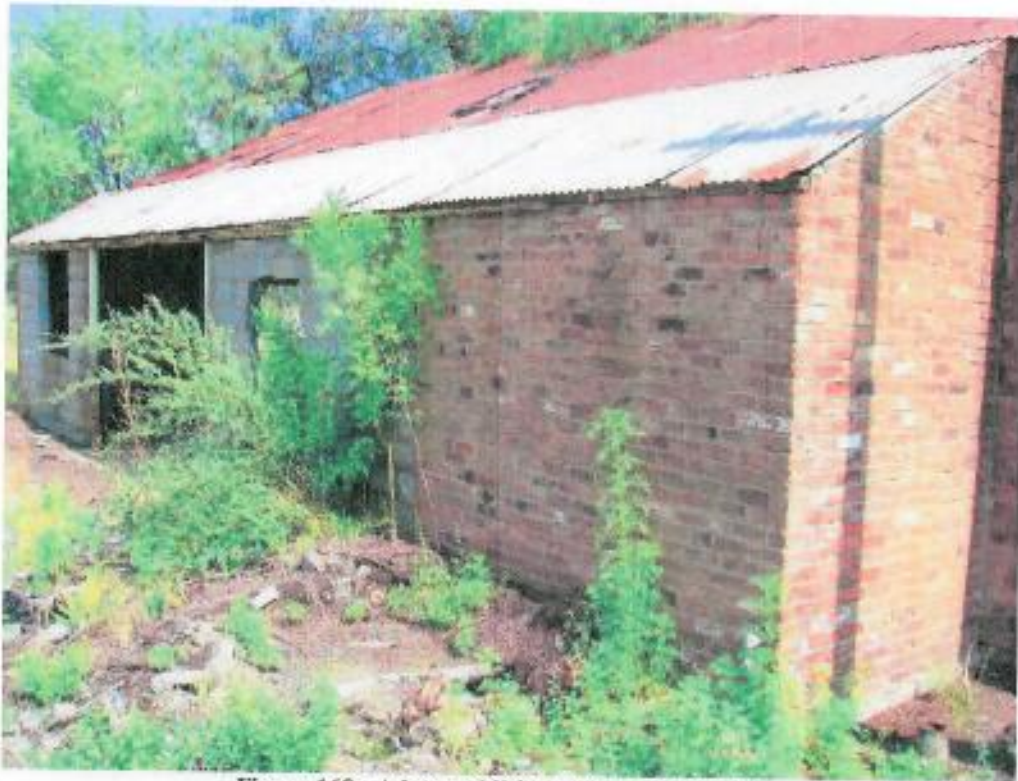


Figure 168: A later addition to the main building



Figure 169: Roof detail shows a gutter resting on the roof support beams



Figure 170: This roof window seems to be part of the original building



Figure 171: Wide entrance – appears to have been reinforced with cement at a later stage



Figure 172: Entrance viewed from inside



Figure 173: Blocked up windows – hay on floor indicate it could have been used for animal shelter or storage for animal feed

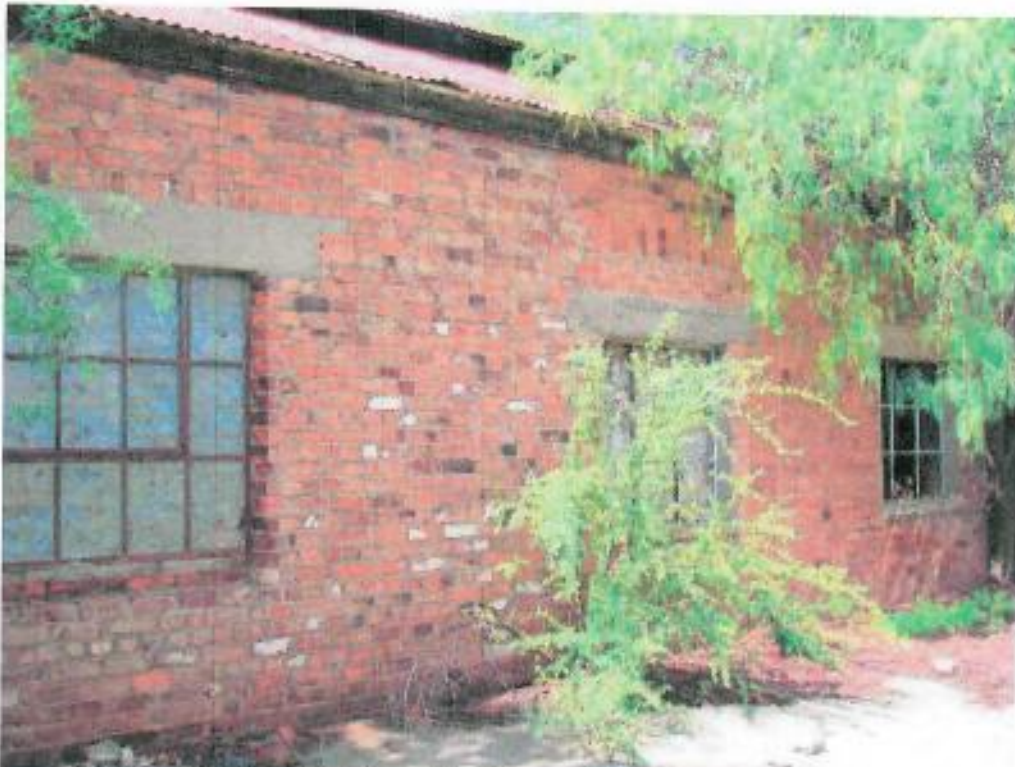


Figure 174: View of blocked up windows from outside



Figure 175: Later alterations on the inside



Figure 176: Room that leads from right hand door in photograph above



Figure 177: Writing on wall on inside of building

Loading Ramp

Remains of a loading ramp in the stock pile area which is situated east of the treatment plant.



Figure 178: Loading ramp in the background and a sunken rectangular construction with an open end in the foreground



Figure 179: View of loading ramp from the back



Figure 180: View of rectangular structure from the same side