

Phase 2 Archaeological Investigations at Skuifraam, Franschhoek Berg River Dam

(HWC Permit No: 2005-02-003)



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Trans Caledon Tunnel Authority
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Executive summary

The Trans Caledon Tunnel Authority (TCTA), the implementing agent for the Berg Water Project (BWP) on behalf of the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAF), appointed Cape Archaeological Survey to compile an Archaeological Management Plan for the BWP and submit the necessary permit applications that may be required to implement the project. This report has been prepared with this in mind, and in response to a Record of Decision from Heritage Western Cape (HWC) which required a Second Phase Archaeological Investigation to be undertaken of the known archaeological features within, and around, the dam basin which had been identified in a previous archaeological survey.

Implementing the National Heritage Resources Act, Section 35 (1999), which protects buildings older than sixty years, serves as a framework for heritage conservation in South Africa, and the Skuifraam ruins, the subject of this report, are older than sixty-years and are assessed and graded according to their heritage significance for inclusion into the National Estate. The ruins, an example of an early 19th century farm situated in the Berg River valley, parallel to the Franschhoek valley, represent a cultural landscape and life style associated with livestock farming in these areas. During this time, farmers in the Drakenstein, Stellenbosch and Swellendam areas started concentrating increasingly on stock farming. The ruins are particularly well preserved, with external walls, rooms, floors and hearths largely intact and contribute to our understanding of local architecture and settlement patterns in the Drakenstein area. The Franschhoek valley, seen in its wider context, represents a heritage resource which is considered to be of National significance. It is typical of the Boland landscape, which has been nominated for World Heritage Site status. The complex layering of this landscape is a product of various forces; access to raw materials, a place of occupation in the early colonial landscape; expansion into the interior of Africa and the result of human endeavour, which has left behind a landscape that are unique to this valley.

'Skuifraam'

Phase Two Archaeological Investigation

1. Introduction

This report, commissioned by the Trans Caledon Tunnel Authority (TCTA) investigates the remains of an early 19th century farm, which lies to the east of the Berg River at the foot of the Berg Water Dam wall (*Skuifraam*) in the Drakenstein valley. The dam is located approximately 6km west of Franschhoek in the La Motte state forest and when complete, will be approximately 990m in length and 60m in height above ground level, with a surface area of 488 hectares. Figure 1 shows the geographical location of the site which is situated at S 33° 54.423' E 19° 03.519'.

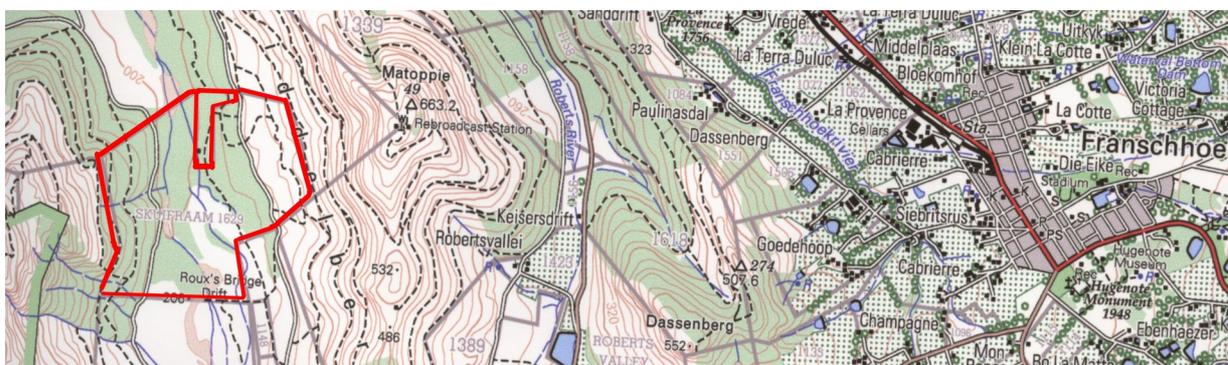


Figure 1: 1:50 000 topographical map showing the location of Skuifraam (Map 3319 CC Franschhoek).

2. Historical Background of the Site

2.1 Land ownership

The farm *Skuifraam* consists of two portions of land. The first (Farm 1149) is a piece of perpetual quitrent originally associated with the neighbouring farm, *Driefontein* and measured 8 morgen 430 square roods.

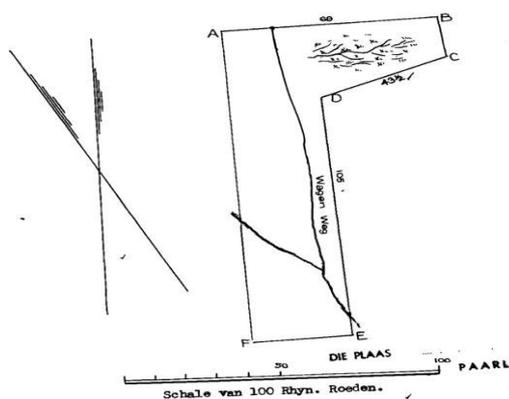


Figure 2: Perpetual quitrent granted in 1813 (SgD B.175/1811)

This portion of land was known as *Schuijfraam* or *Modder Valley* and was granted in 1813 to Johannes Isaac de Villiers. The survey diagram shows the boundaries of the grant as well as the position of the wagon route through which this valley was accessed (Figure 2). In the latter half of the 19th century, *Skuifraam* was owned, in share, by a number of farmers, who between 1913 and 1919 sold the farm to the Government of the first South Africa.

A portion of the farm (Farm 1629) was surveyed for the first time in 1999 (Figure 3). It is possible that this land formed part of *Skuifraam*, but was not formally registered. It is indicated on the 1997 1:50 000 topographical map.

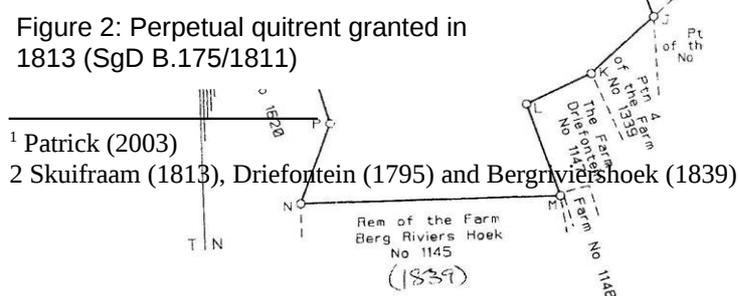


Figure 3: 1999 survey diagram of Skuifraam (Farm 1629). The portion shaded in yellow is the 1813 perpetual quitrent grant.

¹ Patrick (2003)

² Skuifraam (1813), Driefontein (1795) and Bergriviershoek (1839)

2.2 Historic land use

Skuifraam forms part of a group of three farms ² situated along a stretch of the Berg River that were historically used as stock farms. Of note, *Skuifraam* does not appear on any of the Paarl divisional maps of the late 19th and early 20th century, clearly showing the marginality of this farm, while the boundaries of *Driefontein* and *Bergriviershoek* are shown. Many of the farmers who had shares in these farms also owned wine farms in the Franschhoek valley.

The pastures of the Western Cape are deficient in certain nutrients, and so in the manner of the Khoekhoe who grazed their herds in these valleys before them, these farmers, too, needed to move their herds to the coastal plains to keep them healthy. The farmers of *Skuifraam*, *Driefontein* and *Bergriviershoek* annually moved their herds to Saldanah Bay.

At the end of the 19th century, an outbreak of the *Phylloxera* virus destroyed 80% of the vineyards in the Drakenstein valley ³ and the resulting economic crisis was also felt in this part of the Berg River valley and many farmers were declared insolvent. Attempts to avert or alleviate the crisis lead to the establishment of a deciduous fruit farming industry in Groot Drakenstein and Wellington. The La Motte Plantation was established in the Berg River valley in 1903 and it has been suggested that this early phase of forestry development also had ties with the deciduous fruit industry in providing packing material.

After the First World War, the world experienced an economic depression and in attempt to alleviate the resulting poverty, the Government of the Union of South Africa started buying up land of insolvent farmers and redeveloping it as plantations. On the farms of *Skuifraam* and the neighbouring *Driefontein*, the existing farm houses were reused as accommodation for the foresters. As the plantation expanded, additional accommodation was built on *Driefontein*⁴. Additional expansion and development in the forestry industry took place in the La Motte plantation with its expansion into the Robertsvlei in c1917, and *Wemmershoek*, *La Motte* and *Maasdorp* in the 1960s.

2

³ Van Zyl, D. (1987)

⁴ The remains of the forestry hamlet at *Driefontein* will be the focus of another Phase 2 Investigation.

3. Methodology

A Phase One archaeological investigation in 2002⁵, of the area lying within the core area of the dam basin, identified the ruin of a historical building on what was once the farm *Skuifraam*.

The area was densely bushed and in 2004, it was cleared of alien vegetation in a 100x 100 meter square by the Working for Water Team and sprayed with herbicide to prevent re-growth of vegetation. In March 2005, after the bush clearing was completed, two ruins were visible. An access road from the contour path to the river was bulldozed through the southern edge of the upper ruin (Skuifraam-1). A 5x 5m grid was set out over the ruins and covered an area of 110m². The grid extended 10m beyond the bulldozed road and 5m beyond a (possible) boundary wall and ditch.



Plate 1. General view of the site looking north-east. The red line shows the location of the grid.

Owing to the massive modification of the landscape by the dam building activities, it has not been possible to select a permanent datum point. An arbitrary point on the top of the south-western corner was selected from which height measurements would be taken.

The walls and foundations were cleared using spades and picks. Labour was provided by six men from Simondium and Paarl. Artefacts were collected and their provenience recorded. Larger metal objects, which were scattered around the site, were photographed and left *in situ*. These included a number of enamelled basins, a galvanised bath, a potty, a wheel barrow and a number of wheel frames and cogs.

4. Archaeology

In terms of the Phase 2 Archaeological investigation, it was required to assess the archaeological potential of the remains and the extent of the preservation of the structures. Attempts would also be made to find the domestic dumps associated with the ruins.

For the sake of simplicity, we have used the access road as a north-south line and have described walls etc relative to this line; what is described as the 'North wall' is in actuality fact the 'North-East wall'. The Berg River runs in a northerly direction at this site.

⁵ Patrick (2003)

4.1. Excavation

4.1.1. Skuifraam-1

In addition to uncovering the ground plan of the structures, four test pits were excavated in the interior of Skuifraam-1 (Figure 4). These test pits clearly show that at least two building episodes had taken place. A rubble layer rich in charcoal also confirmed that the structure was badly damaged by fire at some point during its history. In January 1931 a veld fire near Skuifraam was documented in the forestry records. This fire destroyed about 260 acres of land⁶. It is possible that the charcoal layers found in the deposits correspond to this event.

Two test pits were also excavated in the area to the south east of the ruin where concentrations of artefacts were seen on the surface. The artefacts were confined to the top 20cm of soil, which consisted of ashy sand which lay on top of a gravely brown soil. Beneath the brown gravely soil was sterile grey gravel. The domestic dump was not found.

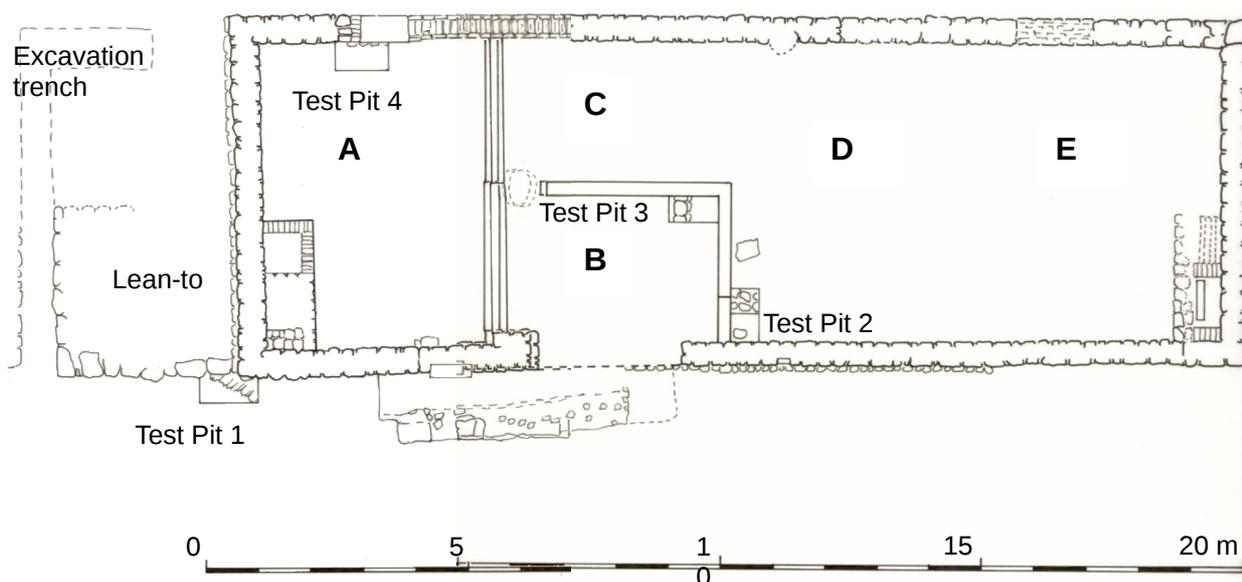


Figure 4: Floor plan of Skuifraam-1 drawn facing east. Letters A-E indicate possible rooms. The walls between Rooms C, D and E have not been preserved.



Plate 2: View of SKuifraam-1, looking north.

⁶ Patrick 2003:17

The foundations of Skuifraam-1 are largely intact, with the exception of the southern end, where the bulldozed road cut through it (Plate 2). The main section of the building is 19.5m long and 6.5 – 7m wide (it is slightly wider on the northern end). A lean-to had been added along the northern edge of the building, adding another 3m to the length of the building. The foundations and large parts of the existing outer walls of Skuifraam-1 are constructed with stone. The stone is neatly dressed and evidence of lime plaster as well as a later cement plaster has been found intact in various places. The exterior walls are on average 50cm wide.



Plate 3: Daniel Steenbok, Johan Cilliers and Jonathan Williams clearing rubble away from the western wall. Note the change in stonework at the junction of the house and the lean-to.

The stone foundation of the lean-to is less substantial than that of the main section (Plate 3) and on its northern side could only be traced for a length of 3m. The north-eastern corner of the lean-to was not found. No plaster, lime or cement, has been found intact on the stonewalling of the lean-to.



Plate 4: Western wall. Derrick Hartnick is cleaning what was initially thought to be the remains of a stoep, but seems to be rubble as exterior plaster extends behind it. Note the change in level of the plinth sloping upwards towards the southern end of the building. Elton Haas (with the red vest) is showing the original level of the surface of the ground.

Along the 'front' or western wall, rubble was cleared away to the base of the foundation. The foundation sat on top of decomposing quartzite-like gravel associated with the paleo-river bed.

The plinth along the south-western portion of this wall clearly shows the natural slope of the land at the time that the structure was built (Plate 4).

About 5m from the north-western corner of the main section of the

building, the western wall is constructed with brick for a stretch of 4 m. (This section of bricked outer wall corresponds to a pair of interior walls which will be discussed below.) It is

possible that the original façade was drastically altered when the building was reused in the early 20th century when this farm formed part of the La Motte plantation.

The foundation of the southern wall was buried under more than 1.5m of soil. The base of the foundation cuts into dense white/yellow clay along its south-eastern corner and the water seeps readily to the surface at this point.

The foundation of the eastern wall has been destroyed along the southern end by the bulldozed road. The foundation of this wall is mainly stone, but about 3m from the north-eastern corner, the stone wall is interrupted by brick, corresponding with a doorway. This interruption may also be associated with the early 20th century reuse of the building as it more or less corresponds to the similar occurrence along the western wall.

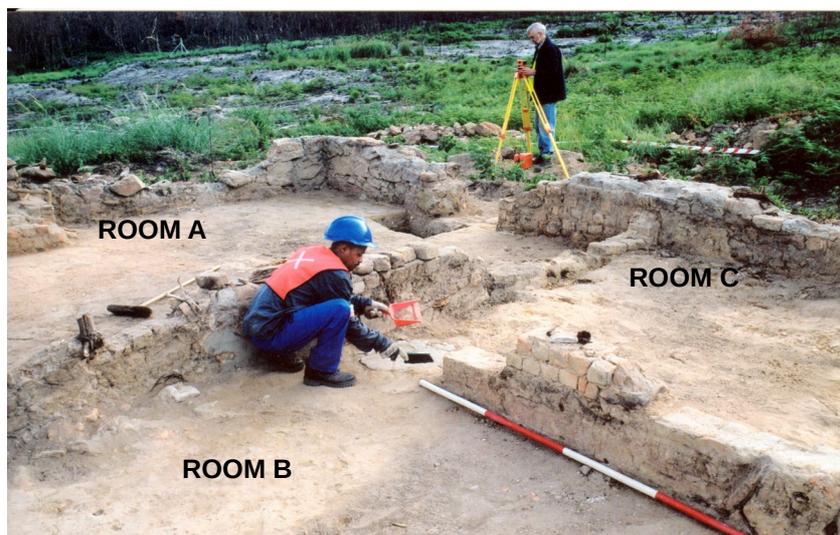


Plate 5: Note portion of eastern wall constructed of brick. Jonathan Williams is cleaning part of a preserved cement floor dating to the early 20th century

There is evidence that the remainder of the eastern wall above the footing was constructed with sun-dried or raw brick (Plate 5). The bricks are soft, extremely vulnerable to the elements and tend very rarely to survive.

The foundation of the northern wall is built of stone. Within the time constraints, it was not possible to remove the pile of rocks which obscured the exterior of the northern wall as well as the interior of the lean-to.

Interior walls and floors – early 20th century

The existing interior walls are 19-23cm thick and are associated with the early 20th century reuse of the building. These walls do not have a stone footing, and sit on top of a clay plaster floor surface. The rooms formed by these walls have been indicated on Figure 4 as A, B, C, D and E, running from north to south.

The interior of the lean-to has not been described. This ‘room’ is still largely covered by a pile of stone, which is possibly the collapsed northern wall of the original main section of the building. It is possible that this lean-to served as the kitchen to the original structure prior to its reuse during the forestry phase.

Room A measures roughly 4x5m. An exterior doorway is evident in the eastern wall of this room, and the 20th century floor level is indicated by a cement plaster (Plate 6). Floor surfaces have been preserved in two places in Room A; a cement one at the eastern doorway and in the south-western corner of the room, measuring 143cm and 135cm below datum respectively.



Plate 6: Exterior doorway in Room A. Note the change in building material (stone vs brick) as well as the compacted clay which formed the base for a 20th century cement floor.

The interior wall on the southern side of Room A is only partially preserved (Plate 5). Evidence suggests that the remainder of this wall was constructed using raw bricks that have not preserved well.

An opening in Room A, along the western wall could either be a door or a window. A concrete slab marks the base of the opening. Two large flat stone slabs reminiscent of the base of a stairway are directly in line with this opening supporting the suggestion of a possible door opening.

A brick and stone hearth feature takes up the north-western corner of Room A.



Plate 7: Mary Patrick cleaning the compacted clay floor in Room B. Note the cement step from Room D. Test Pit 3 is in the centre left.

Room B is a small room measuring 4x2m. Access into this room was via doorways from Room C and Room D. Cement and clay floor surfaces have been preserved in both these doorways. The floor surface from Room D drops by 18cm (via a cement plastered step) to a clay floor surface in Room B, which measures 130cm below datum. A cement floor surface is preserved in the doorway between Room B and Room C (Plate 5). The level of this floor measures 124cm below datum.

The dividing wall between Room D and Room E has not been located with certainty. The bulldozed road has badly damaged this part of the site. In this area the loose soil had been cleared off to a depth between 80-83cm below datum in Room E and 110-114cm below datum in Room D.

Interior walls and floors – late 19th century

A test pit in Room B indicated that an earlier series of interior walls existed. This wall had a stone footing and was built with brick. The existing brick was 138cm below datum, while the base of the footing was 162cm below datum.

A compact clay surface was uncovered in test pit in Room D. This floor surface measured 164cm below datum. Underneath this surface roughly packed stones were uncovered. These stones were used to ‘build up’ the level of a floor prior to an actual floor surface being created.

Features

Two hearths were found; one in Room A and the other in Room E.



Plate 8: Hearth in Room A. Note the later brick addition, making it a double hearth.

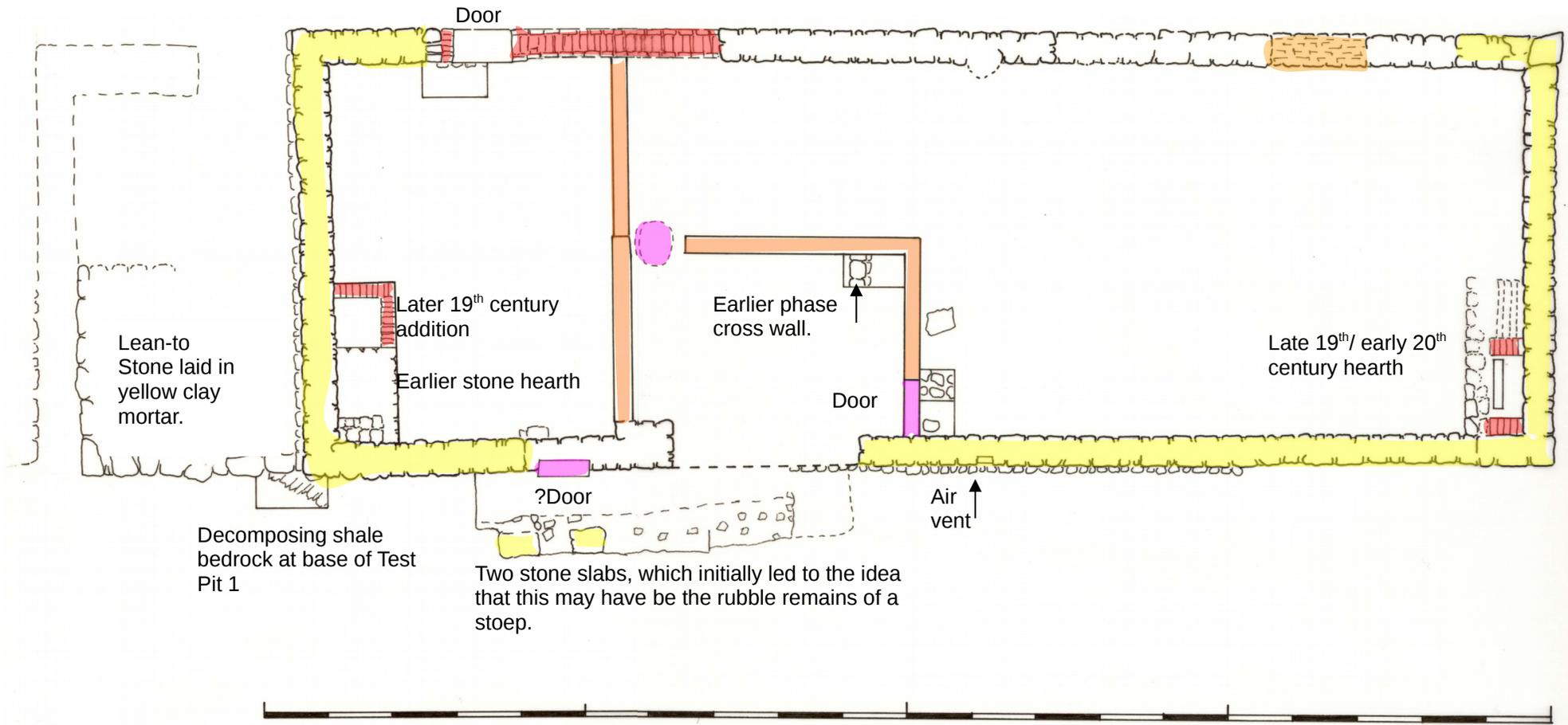
The hearth in Room A consists of two parts; the part in the north-western corner is built of stone and measures 107cm below datum. The hearth at some point was enlarged and this section is built with brick and measures 105cm below datum (Plate 7). A portion of cement plaster suggests that this feature was still in use during the 20th century reuse of the building.



Plate 9: Hearth in Room E. This hearth is entirely build of brick and dates to the forestry period.

The hearth in Room E is a later addition; it is built with later bricks and is flush with the stone exterior wall. It is a double hearth similar to the one in Room A (Plate 8). The position of a metal plate in one half of the hearth is marked by the metre stick.

The two hearths suggest that during the plantation period of the structure, at least two families occupied the house.



- KEY:**
- Dressed sandstone
 - Raw brick and clay mortar
 - Fired brick
 - Cement

Figure 5: Skuifraam-1. Annotated floor plan, showing the use of raw materials.

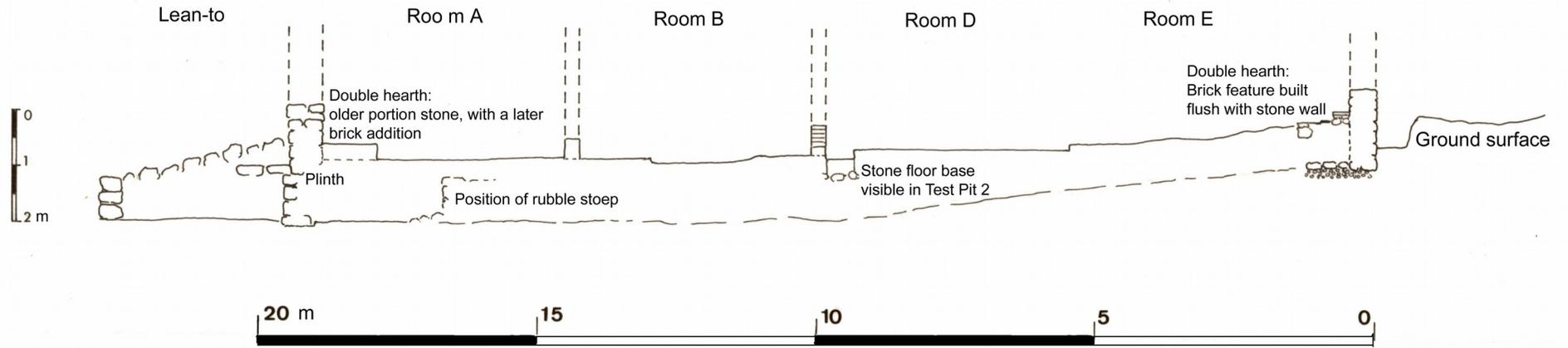


Figure.6: Skuifraam-1. Elevation of the western façade, drawn facing eastward.

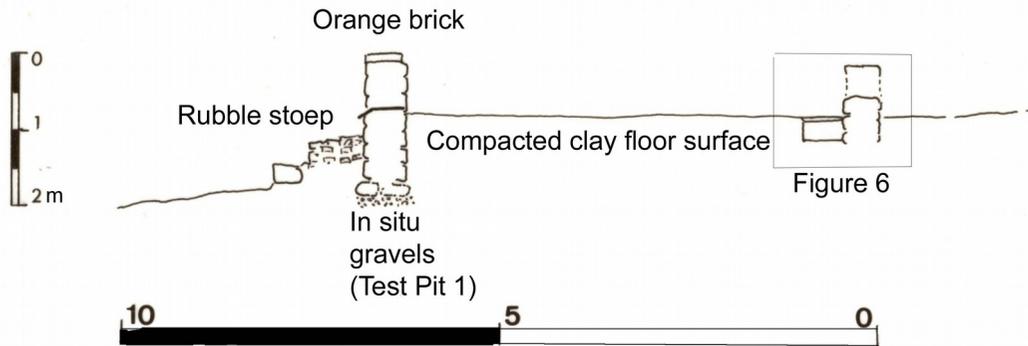
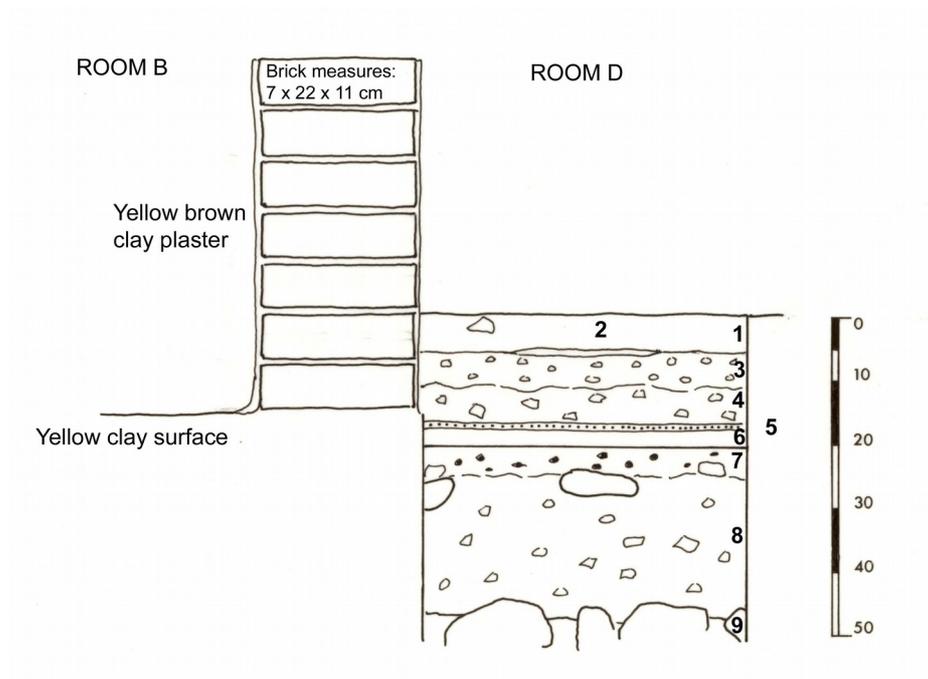


Figure.7: Skuifraam-1. Cross-section of Room A, drawn looking northwards. (Correction: Detail marked Figure 6, should read Figure 9)



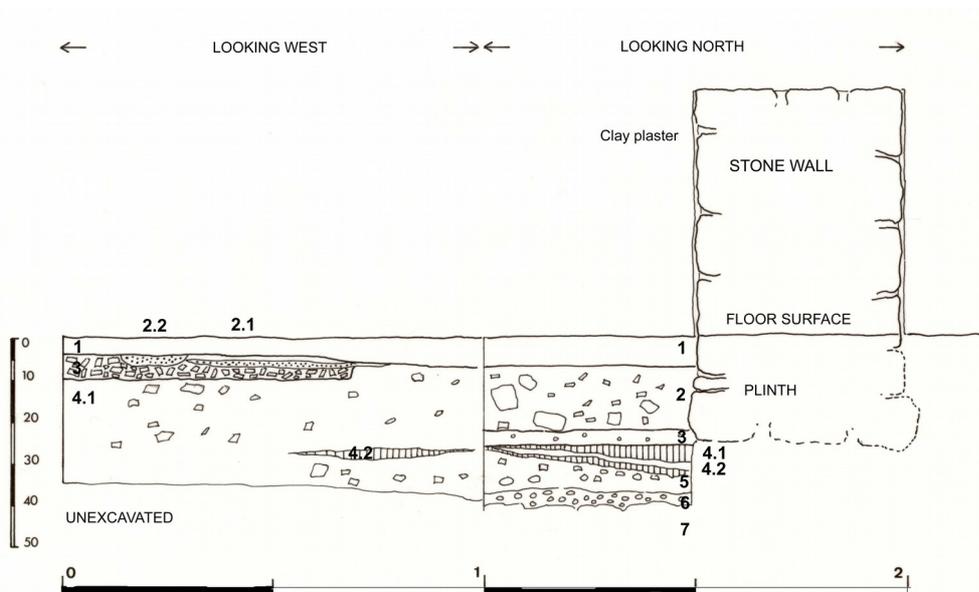
Key to layers:

- 1 YELLOW COARSE CLAY FLOOR with bits of lime and brick rubble
- 2 LENS OF WOOD (possible flooring remnant)
- 3 COMPACTED CLAY BRICK RUBBLE, light cream in colour
- 4 BROWN GREY FILL, RUBBLE & SOOT
- 5 FINE CLAYEY-SAND FLOOR, dark brownish in colour
- 6 YELLOW CLAY FLOOR – sterile
- 7 RUBBLE FILL, fine matrix with charcoal specs
- 8 RUBBLE FILL, with brown soil and orange brick specs
- 9 BEDDING STONES possibly forming base for raised floor surface

Figure 8:Skuifraam-1. Eastern section of Test Pit 2, Room D.



Plate 10: Skuifraam-1. Eastern section of Test Pit 2.



Key to layers:

LOOKING WEST

- 1 YELLOW CLAY FLOOR
- 2 LENSES OF DARK BROWN SOIL
- 3 FLOOR OF HARD LIME PLASTER
- 4.1 RUBBLE FILL with brick pieces, orange specs & yellow clay
- 4.2 DARK BLACK LAYER – burnt material

4.2

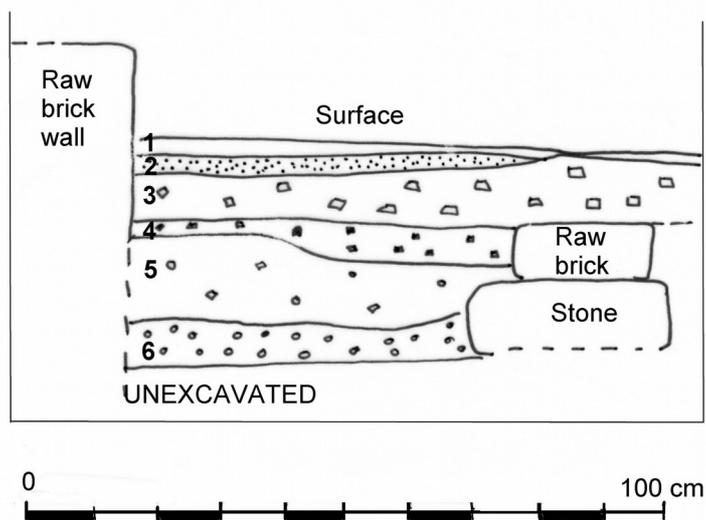
LOOKING NORTH

- 1 YELLOW CLAY FLOOR
- 2 FILL of light cream, brick pieces & specs, lime plaster – indicates earlier building phase
- 3 DARKISH BROWN SOIL with specs orange brick
- 4.1 DARK BLACK LAYER – burnt materi
- 5 LENS WATERLAIN SOIL, light brown colour
RUBBLE FILL of yellow/orange clay and brick pieces
- 6 GREYSIH GRAVEL, with small pebbles
- 7 GRAVEL, associated with paleo-river system

Figure 9: Skuifraam-1. Western and northern section of Test Pit 4, Room A.



Plate 11: Skuifraam-1. Northern section of Test Pit 4.



Key to layers

- 1 YELLOW CLAY FLOOR
- 2 FILL, plaster and cement
- 3 RUBBLE, red brick, plaster and charcoal specks
- 4 RUBBLE, raw brick, plaster and charcoal specks
- 5 RUBBLE, compact and gravelly with plaster specks
- 6 RUBBLE, compact and gravelly with plaster specks

Figure 10: Skuifraam-1. Western section of Test Pit 3, Room B.



Plate 12: Western section of Test Pit 3, Room B.

4.1.2. Skuifraam-2

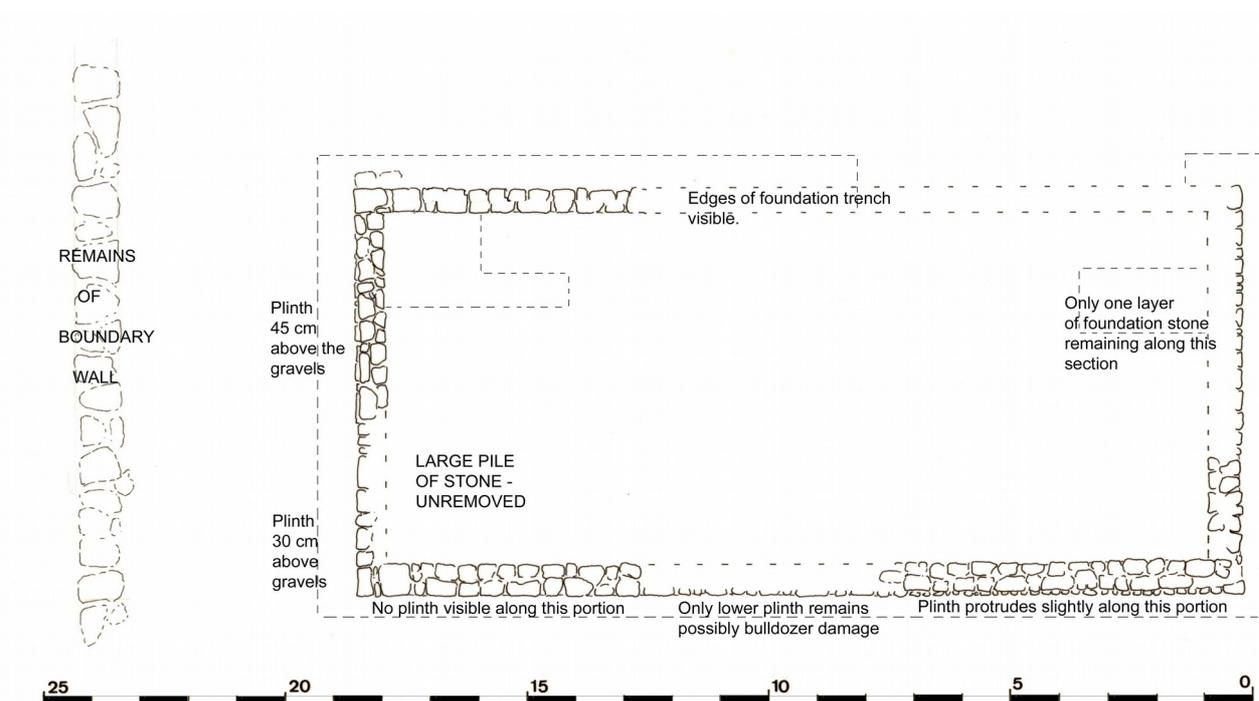


Figure 11. Skuifraam-2: Annotated floor plan of the structure. All surviving walls are of dressed stone and have plinths. (Scale in m).

The northern wall of Skuifraam-2 has a substantial stepped plinth. Along the eastern side, no stone walling was found in tact, in fact the only evidence of a wall was found in the change in soil colour indicating the foundation trench. Along the southern wall, the remaining plinth is only one stone deep, and is buried under nearly 1.8m of sandy deposit. The southern footing cuts into the natural white/yellow clay. This wall does not seem to be as solidly built as its northern counterpart and in some places resembles smallish chunks held together with clay mortar. The western wall of Skuifraam-2 appears to be partially built of stone and sits on top of a stone plinth. The middle part of the wall has not survived. One gets the impression that a bulldozer may have driven through the middle of this structure at some point. It also seems as if stones from this structure were removed and used in the rebuilding of Skuifraam-1.

No interior walls or floor surfaces have been found in the areas designated for trial excavations.



Plate 13: North wall. Note the very fine stepped plinth.



Plate 14: East wall, which was only partially preserved.



Plate 15: West wall. This wall is fairly well preserved, but the middle portion only retained the plinth. It is possible that this is also damaged caused by a bulldozer.



Plate 16: South wall. The foundation of this wall cut into the underlying natural clays. Only the plinth has survived.

4.2. Artefacts

Relative to the size of the site, few artefacts were found and as it was, the bulk of the artefacts were from Skuifraam-2. At Skuifraam-1, Room A was characterised by a concentration of metal objects ranging from the various parts of a bicycle to farm implements, which were found in the vicinity of the hearth. Metal, glass and ceramics dominated the artefact assemblage. Very little bone and shell was found and personal use artefacts were rare.

4.2.1. Ceramics

According to Klose ⁶ the majority of ceramics from Skuifraam date to the late 19th century, with some examples dating to the early 20th century. The ceramics are all imported and the majority were mass produced in Britain. Some examples of Asian porcelain as well as European produced stoneware are present. A few fragments of shell-edged ware, pale cream-coloured ware as well as an example of cat's eye industrial slipware date to the earlier half of the 19th century. The ceramics represent tableware; plates, serving dishes, cups and saucers. Storage vessels such as ginger jars and ink pots are also present (Vide Appendix 1).



Plate 17: Asian porcelain.



Plate 18: British porcelain, typical of 20th century.



Plate 19: Transfer printed refined earthenware (REW); Willow pattern on the left and a selection of single colour transfer printed on the right. The fragment of Willow pattern to the top right of the scale is on British porcelain.

⁶ Klose, J. (2005) Preliminary Analysis of the Skuifraam Ceramics. Unpublished Report submitted to Cape Archaeological Survey cc. Cape Town.



Plate 20: Hand painted and sponged decoration on REW.



Plate 21: Industrial slipware



Plate 22: Vitrified REW/Ironstone

4.2.2. Glass

As with the ceramics, the glass dates mainly to the late 19th century and early 20th century. This site is relatively close to the Jim Fouché picnic site and as a result some modern beer bottle glass has contaminated the assemblage. A broken coca-cola bottle has also found its way into the assemblage via one of the dam site workers. The glass assemblage contains a variety of wine, beer and spirits bottles. Medicinal and poison bottles are well represented. 'Balls' preserve jars made in the USA (with white-glass seals), milk bottles, a possible globe from an oil lamp, window glass, decorative glass items (vase, small lidded bowl and a candlestick) and small white-glass pots (probably containing cosmetic cream) complete the glass assemblage.



Plate 23: The flared lip on the top left is from an earlier style casement bottle. The remaining examples have no seams on either neck nor lip, indicating that they were handblown with the lip laid on by hand c1830.



Plate 24: The bottle on the left has a seam on the neck, but not on the lip, indicating that it was manufactured 1810-1880. The two bottles in the centre were manufactured between 1881 and 1920. The bottle on the right (crown top) were manufactured from 1903 onwards.



Plate 25: Pontil scars indicate that the bottle was manufactured prior to 1860.



Plate 26: Mould blown bottles post 1860 and modern machine made bottles on the right.



Plate 27: Bernard & Co Old Tom Cordial, post 1875.



Plate 28: Markings of Ohlson's Cape Brewery beer bottles. The one on the left may be a South African Brewery.

4.2.3. Other

Only three personal items have been found; part of a ceramic doll (Plate 17), a double-sided plastic comb (Plate 18) and a commemorative badge (Plate 19).



Plate 29: Part of a ceramic doll's leg.



Plate 30: Fragment of a comb



Plate 31: Commemorative badge.

4.2.4. Metal

There is no accurate way to date the metal artefacts recovered from the Skuifraam site without undertaking mass spectrometry analysis which would date the charcoal used in the smelting process. Such analysis however falls out with the scope of this project. It is probable that some of the artefacts were made from bloomery iron, a smelting technique used all over the world until the mid 19th century where iron was made in a furnace with charcoal (Miller pers comm). The bulk of the Skuifraam artefacts however were made in the 20th century and for the purpose of this research have been grouped together stylistically and photographed. Where the functional use of the item is known this is discussed. The bulk of the metal artefacts are agricultural implements, or items associated with the building industry



Plate 32: Selection of roofing nails on top row. Small nails on bottom left are horse shoe nails.



Plate 33: Gate hinge and roofing nails.



Plate 34: Bicycle parts on the left and building hardware on the right.



Plate 35: Horse shoes.



Plate 36: Digging implements on the left, hoe and shovel and wood cutting implements on the right. The Panga is post c1960, dated by the introduction of plastic handles which replaced wooden handles.

4.2.5 Bone

Three fragments of bone from a cow were found at Skuifraam-1.

4.2.6 Shell

Very little shell was found on the site. It is uncertain as to whether the shell represents a food source or whether it was used in making lime plaster. Although the practise of burning shell on site to make lime plaster was no longer common in the 19th century (Vos pers comm.), shell lime plaster has been preserved in patches on the walls of Skuifraam-1. The volume of shell is too small to be able to undertake any comprehensive analysis.

4.2.7. Building material

The building material recovered from site falls into four categories. Namely, brick, plaster, and dressed stone manufactured by a mason, roofing nails, bolts and gate hinges. The average brick measures 220 x105 mm, and is made from sun-dried orange clay. Plaster is distinguished by colour and roofing plaster varies from the plaster used to cement bricks walls.



Plate 37: Roofing Plaster which showing that Skuifraam 1 had a thatched roof



Plate 38: Sun-dried clay bricks

According to Vos (pers comm), eighteenth century foundations are characterised by a brown and/or grey clay mortar, while 19th century foundations have a characteristic yellow clay mortar. Bricks are more difficult to date in this manner as there is often a wide variation in the quality of bricks from the same manufactured batch. Nevertheless, the following rule of thumb

still holds: sun-dried clay bricks are indicative of an earlier date: Nineteenth century bricks tend to be ‘softer’ with a more orange colour and are often used together with a yellowish clay mortar. The relative dating of bricks are complicated by the wide variety in quality to be found in the same batch. Twentieth century bricks have a redder colour and are usually harder.

The western wall of Skuifraam-1 has a relatively high stone plinth – possibly to compensate for dramatic changes in the slope of the ground. Along the eastern edge, the plinth is less high. The walls were built of a range of bricks from sun-dried mud bricks to baked bricks of varying quality. Evidence of a thatched roof has preserved in the imprint of thatching reeds in relatively modern cement. Corrugated iron found along the north western end of Skuifraam-1 suggests that the lean-to had a corrugated iron roof. Corrugated iron was commonly available in South Africa since the 1860s. Both lime plaster and more modern cement plaster has preserved in patches on Skuifraam-1. At Skuifraam-2 only the stone foundations have survived. The odd brick has been found in the surrounding rubble, but its association is not definite.

5. Conclusion

The Skuifraam -1 farmstead is significant because it represents the (under researched) early 19th century stock farm in the south-western Cape. External stone walls and brick interior walls with stone foundations have been found largely intact, providing a unique insight into the architectural history of these farms. At Skuifraam-2, only the external stone walls have been found partially intact but it is clear from the dressed stonework in the walling that although this site was marginal agriculturally, it was still closely tied to the Victorian town of Franschoek. The wealth of iron and dressed stone on the site indicates close ties to a blacksmith in town, or that a blacksmith was living or working on site, as well as a stone mason.

Ceramics from four discrete areas have been analysed to show the general distribution of wares and forms throughout the whole site and indicates that the ceramics are late 19th century with a scattering of mid-19th century and 20th century items. Only one Chinese bowl with red edge represents an earlier occupation of the landscape, and is thought to have been manufactured in provincial kilns in South China which exported low cost ceramics to South East Asia. This indicates that the household dump associated with the early 19th century occupation has not yet been found. The glass, ceramics and metal work are all associated with the later forestry occupation of the site and confirm what has been cleaned from the archival record. Namely, that the site has been continuously occupied through several dramatic changes in the economic climate of the Franschoek Valley, until in the early 20th century, when it was acquired by the state and developed as part of the La Motte state forest.

6. Recommendations

(1) Skuifraam-1 has clear indications of an earlier building phase, which is still only partly understood. Further excavations would be required to uncover this earlier phase and to place it in the historical development of the farmstead.

(2) The site should be preserved in-situ as an example of an 19th farm dwelling unique to the Franschoek valley related to a discrete cultural episode which played a role in agro-industrial activities related to cattle farming and forestry. Ultimately the dam will also be developed as a tourism feature and it is our opinion that an interpretative display incorporating the ruins will add value to the dam site.

(3) Interim measures have been taken to protect the ruins from the effects of the winter rains, but more substantial steps must be taken to protect the ruins until a decision can be made as to their future. Should the relevant authorities agree to incorporate the ruins in an interpretative display, it will be necessary to consult with a conservation architect to determine the best way to do so without necessarily rebuilding the ruins as this in itself would mean the destruction of the site.

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**Skuifraam
 ruins**



Appendix 1: Preliminary analysis of ceramics from Skuifraam – Jane Klose

SR (1) 15-3-05 Surface coll. A(QUAD) strip

Cups & saucers –	Porc & vitreous wares – gold & white
Cup	Asiatic porc – transfer –printed
Saucers	REW printed green, blue band,
Vase	REW vit. Hand painted (in other areas)
Table plates -	Asiatic pheasant - blue
Table plates-	Blue, green, brown printed
Table plates-	White
Table plates-	White moulded rim
Table plates-	Blue - lined
Cup bowl	Blue printed
Bowl – medium	sponged
Bottle/jar	British s/g commercial stoneware
?"ginger jar"	Asiatic-(also in B) – common in 19th C

SR (1) 24-3-05 S Wall.

'Ginger jar'	Chinese coarse porcelain ubw jar – common in 19 th C. (Lastovica 1990:58).
Teapot	Part ftr of red-bodied and dark-brown glazed teapot
Large vertical loop handle	poss. from chamber pot.
Saucer	Porcelain – Willow pattern

SR (1) 15-3-05 Surface coll. B(quad) strip 1-3

Large collection gold & white porcelain cups & saucers.	
Cup	Swirl moulded printed green cup marked 'England'
Plate	'Bo Kaap slave pattern' grey printed (Klose & Malan 2003:Fig. 87)
Cup	Asian porcelain printed & painted – Late 19 th early 20 th C.
'Ginger jar'	Asian red printed & enamelled– matches other pieces above.

SR (1) 30-3-05 Quad AB1/2/3 Test pit X2-brown gravel

Cup	Asian red printed & enamelled – matches Surface coll. Above.
'Ginger jar'	Neck of small ginger jar.

SR (2) 5-4-05-SE Corner

Cups & saucers	Porcelain & vit. – 1 x og decoration, 1 x fluted.
Saucer	REW printed green – seaweed pattern; blue-tinted,
Table plates	Asiatic Pheasant; Willow pattern; green & brown printed; Undec. white; blue shell-edged (mid- 19th C)
Bowl	brown dot garlands (1st half 19th C.)
Bowls x 2	Industrial slip (annular ware)
Dish	Boerenbont & sponged
Dish	Sponged
Bowl	Asiatic, red enamel- found on late 18th & 19th C sites- difficult to date

SR (2) 30-3-05 S Wall

Cup	White porcelain+ faded dec. (also in SE corner)
Saucer	White & gold; blue band at rim; blue printed; green sponged (x mend NS trench)
Table plates	Willow pattern; white almost cream-coloured – poss mid 19 th C.); white moulded rim; green printed.
Bowls	Industrial slip (blue & white); boerenbont;
Dish	Porcelain painted dec.
Jar/bottle	British commercial s/g stoneware

SR (2) 4-4-05 SE Corner 1m20

Cups & saucers	White porcelain 1 x brown rim + striped dec.; cup with faded dec. (sim. to SE corner & S Wall); blue printed cup;
Lid	Blue printed lid, poss. teapot.
Table plates	Willow pattern; blue x 3; grey, green, & brown printed; white with moulded rim;
Dish	Poss. late cream-coloured ware.
Storage jar	Lid with banded dec. poss. industrial slipware.
Bowls	Industrial slipware blue & black bands
Dish / plate	Sponged dec.
Bowl	Asian porcelain – red enamel, sim. in SE Corner.
Jar/bottle	British commercial s/g saltglaze.
Jar	European grey s/g stoneware with painted with cobalt.

The following list unusual/special ceramics found in other squares in addition to the types listed above:

SR (2) 29-3-05 W Wall

Possible jug/pitcher.

Storage bottle

REW white with green moulded dec. poss part toilet set.

British brown s/g storage bottle – large.

SR (2) 5-4-05 NS trench

Oval serving dish (platter)

Matching cup & saucer

Mineral water / 'gin' bottle

REW green printed.

REW green sponged dec. Unidentified back mark.

German brown s/g stoneware (Common in 19th C.) (Lastovica 1990:38).

Storage bottle

British commercial s/g tapered bottle, poss. ink bottle. (Lastovica 1990: 56).

SR (2) 30-3-05 N Wall

Table plate

REW Willow pattern with impressed back mark.

75% complete.

Jug/ewer

REW white jug/ewer from toilet set.

SR (2) 1-4-05 E Wall

Cup

Large cup with frieze of large blue leaves around outside.

SR (2) 31-3-05 SE Corner – 30cm

Plate

Bowl

Saucer

Jug/ewer

Poss. cream-coloured ware

Industrial slip – cat's eye.

Green sponged x mend NS Trench

REW blue printed.

SR (2) 31-3-05 NE Corner

Flat dish

Green glazed dish moulded with ? Eastern landscape; part printed back-mark.

Preserving jar cover

Glass jar cover. - ? modern.

SR (2) 4-4-05 S Wall ?F7

Dish/platter

REW Willow pattern

SR (2) 4-4-05 Eastern Wall – middle

Saucer

Flow blue – typical post 1840's