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25 November 2008

Heritage Western Cape
C/o Mr Calvin van Wijk
Private Bag X9067
Cape Town 8000

Dear Mr van Wijk,
I herewith submit the part 2 (follow-up) of the

Phase II (follow-up) Archaeological Permit Mitigation Report
Erf 3032, 150 Buitengracht, Cape Town,

HWC APPLICATION No 2007/08/APM 001
HWC REF. No C13/3/6/2/1/1/1/A1
PERMIT No 2007-08-001

Kind regards

Ute A. Seemann



Part 2 (follow-up)
Phase II Archaeological Permit Mitigation Report
Excavation Permit No 2007-08-001
HWC Application No 2007/08/APM 001
HW Ref No C13/3/6/2/1/1/1/1/A1

ERF 3032
150 Buitengracht
CAPE TOWN

A report prepared for
Western Investment Company (PTY) Ltd



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November 2008

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Dr Ute A Seemann, historical / archaeological contract archaeologist was commissioned by Mr Gert de Wet of ARC ARCHITECTS (PTY) Ltd on behalf of Western Investment Company (Pty) Ltd to undertake Part 2 (a follow-up to) of the PHASE II Archaeological investigation over the back portion of erf 3032, 150 Buitengracht, Cape Town. This investigation was conducted following the demolition of the modern dilapidated buildings on the property.

The aim of the investigation was to:

- Elucidate the ground plan of the original *huurhuis* built in the 1770s,
- Say something about the building methods, materials and mode of construction,
- Search for archaeological debris below the former house, its *stoep* and the backyard
- Thereby adding to the existing record of the site.

This second part (follow-up) Phase II Permit Mitigation Report follows up on the recommendations made in the Phase II Archaeological Permit Mitigation Report dated November 2007 by Dr Ute A Seemann (the author). The development of a three-story commercial / residential building on the site has been approved.

Results

Erf 3032 had been regarded as of high significance within the archaeological / historical context of the Bo-Kaap. The ground plan of the original *huurhuijs* on the site was delineated as far as possible, as were building methods and materials. The found ground plan diverted from the previously assumed standard lay-out for late 17th century *huurhuisjes* in the Bo-Kaap¹: this house contained three rooms to the right of the central entrance door, one room to the left and a large L-shaped *voorkamer*. Bricks and mortar and the use of locally quarried shale for the foundations and retention walls are seen all over this part of town. The few found artefacts add and corroborate the previous collection.

¹ In the Bo-Kaap Museum at 71 Wale Street and next door at 148 Buitengracht.

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The brief

At the request of Western Investment Company (Pty) LTD Mr Gert de Wet of ARC ARCHITECTS (PTY) LTD commissioned Dr Ute A Seemann to conduct a follow-up to the Phase II shovel test excavation on erf 3032, known as 150 Buitengracht, Cape Town, after the dilapidated buildings on the site were demolished. The site is located within an area of considerable architectural aesthetic and historical value, an area referred to as the Bo-Kaap or Malay Quarter of Cape Town².

This report follows up on the recommendations made in the original Phase II Archaeological Permit Mitigation Report dated November 2007 by Dr Ute A Seemann (the author).

The investigation was conducted on 22/23 October 2008.

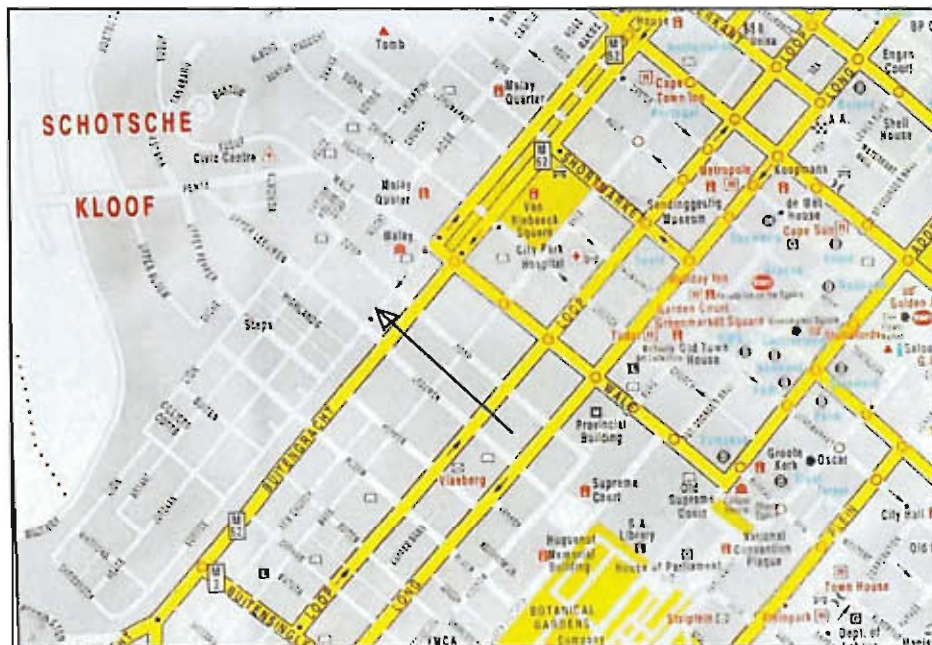


Fig. 1. Central Cape Town, location of the city block under investigation, 2007. (Reference: Street Guide to Cape Town, 9th Edition, 1997/1998)

² Jim Hallinan, pers. com. 8.1.2007. Handout: City of Cape Town, Heritage Resources Section, Environmental Management Branch.

1.2 Baseline description

Erf 3032 is situated at 150 Buitengracht, central Cape Town (Fig. 1). The Buitengracht is regarded as the boundary between the inner city (CBD) and the Bo-Kaap or Malay Quarter³. The geographical co-ordinates are approximately 34°55'40"S, 18°24'39"E.

A survey undertaken during 1983 listed the building on this consolidated erf as "Early parapet flat roof dwelling, converted to workshop in 1952, stands on earlier Buitengracht frontage"⁴.

The property is situated inside a proposed Urban Conservation Area of high significance, the Bo-Kaap or Malay Quarter.

Figure 2 shows the site as of 2008:



Fig. 2. Erf 3032, 150 Buitengracht, Cape Town (2008), situated between the double storey Georgian building on the left and the curvilinear flat-roofed dwelling on the right. Both are declared National Monuments.

To the left of the site a double storey Georgian building dominates the corner of Buitengracht / Leeuwenstraat. To the right a curvilinear parapet, flat-roofed house, 148 Buitengracht, is one of the oldest in town (built in the 1770s). Both have been declared National Monuments.

³ Tomer, Sharone. 2006. Examining a Boundary: Spatial Manifestations of Social Practise along the Buitengracht, Cape Town, 1652-2005. University of Cape Town: Unpublished M.Phil. thesis.

⁴ Louw, Teresa. 1983. The Buildings of Cape Town: Phase II. A Survey undertaken during 1982 and 1983 for the Cape Provincial Institute of Architects. Volume Three: Catalogue and Classification, p 350.

2. HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The historical context of the site is detailed in the earlier Phase II Archaeological Permit Mitigation Report dated November 2007 by Dr Ute A Seemann.

2.1 The colonial period

The development of Cape Town has been described in numerous publications⁵ and does not need to be repeated here. Suffice to say that the area around the Castle, the VOC Garden, Adderley Street (then known as Heerengragt), Strand, Hout and Wale Streets was well developed by the end of the 17th century “establishing the scale of the city blocks as well as the orientation and position of the street grid”⁶.

The Heerengragt (now Adderley Street) and Wale Street, together with the Company Gardens formed the core of the new town grid.

Johannes Schumacher's panorama of Cape Town, ca 1777⁷ (Fig. 3) already anticipates the area later known as the Bo-Kaap, or Malay Quarter on the slopes of Signal Hill. The Bo-Kaap is usually agreed to be an area bounded by Wale Street, Buitengracht, Waterkant Street and extending up Signal Hill. The northwest of the town was then bounded by Bree Street and the market gardens of Schotsche Kloof farm⁸.

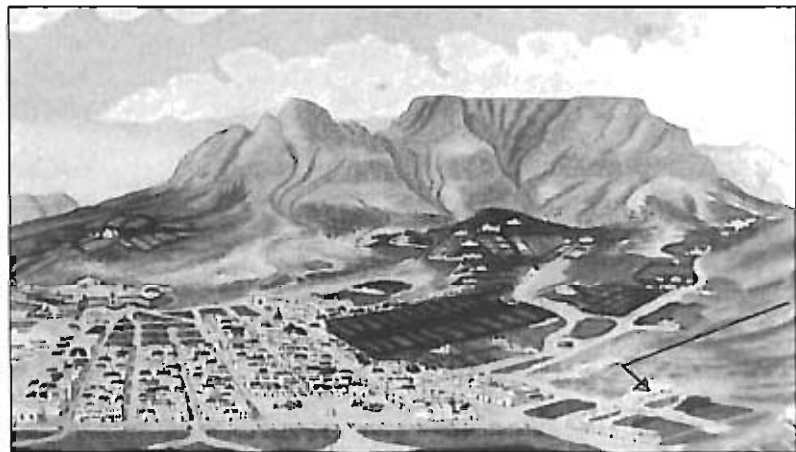


Fig. 3. Part of a panorama of Cape Town, ca 1777, by Johannes Schumacher. The property at 150 Buitengracht is marked by an arrow. (Reference: Cape Archives, M165).

⁵For instance: Worden, N, van Heyningen, E. & Bickford-Smith, V. 1998. Cape Town, the Making of a City. Cape Town: David Philip Publishers.

Townsend, SS. 2003. Development Rights and Conservation Constraints, Urban Conservation-oriented Controls in the City Centre of Cape Town. University of Cape Town: Unpublished PhD thesis.

⁶Townsend, L. & S. 1977. Bokaap Faces and Facades. Cape Town: Howard B Timmins p 112.

⁷Gordon-Brown A. 1975. Pictorial Africana. Cape Town: AA Balkema, p 218.

⁸Townsend, *ibid.* p 3.

In 1760 Jan de Waal , sexton of the Oude Kerk, acquired the land between Dorp and Wale Streets and in 1786 was granted the second block between Dorp and Leeuwen Streets by the Burgher Council above Buitengracht and below Schotsche Kloof farm⁹. According to Townsend, "between 1763 and 1768 De Waal built several small '*huurhuisjes*' (houses for rent) on this land"¹⁰, calling the development 'Walendorp'. It is with one of the *huurhuisjes* that we are concerned here.

During the second half of the 18th century Cape Town experienced a steady growth in commerce, necessitating the expansion of the city grid up Table Valley, across the Buitengracht and up the lower slopes of Signal Hill¹¹. To this end the Engineer SW van de Graaff and LM Thibault's surveyed Cape Town in 1786, with the dwellings of Waalendorp clearly indicated (Fig. 4).

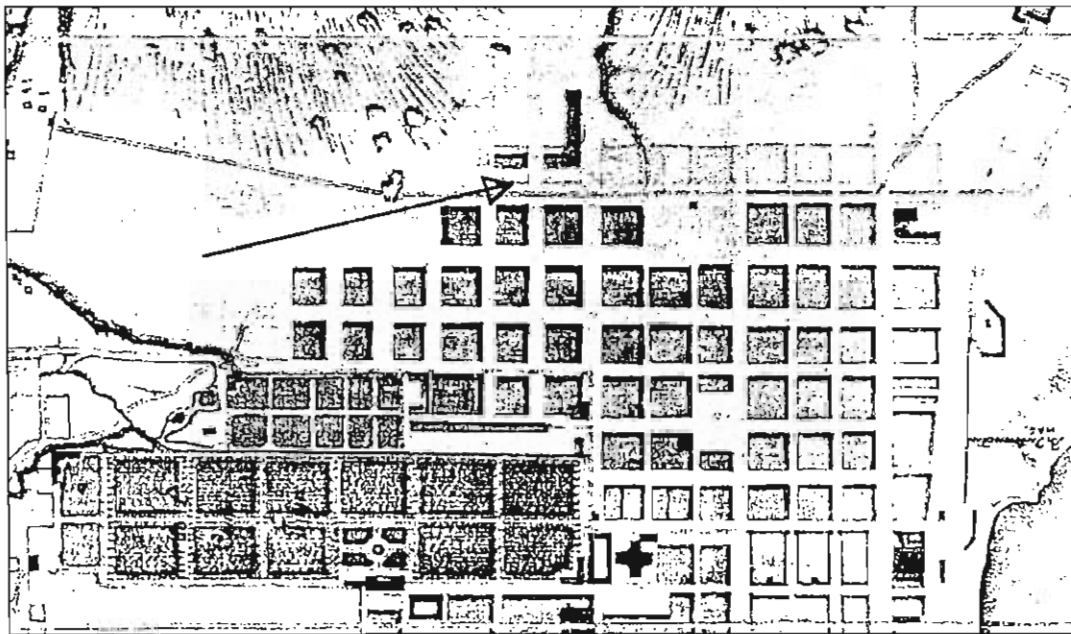


Fig. 4. Portion of a plan of Cape Town, 1786, by SW van de Graaff and LM Thibault. The city block at 150 Buitengracht is marked by an arrow. **Note that buildings at the rear of the properties in this city block have already been built.** (Reference: De Puyfontaine, H. 1972. Louis Michel Thibault 1750-1815. Cape Town: Tafelberg, p.32)

⁹ Behrens, Joanna. 1991. Bo-Kaap Architecture: a Critique of Structuralist Theory. University of Cape Town: unpublished BA (Hons) thesis, page 50.

¹⁰ Townsend, *ibid.* page 3

¹¹ De Puyfontaine, H. 1972. Louis Michel Thibault 1750-1815. Cape Town: Tafelberg, page 57, map 13.

The Cape changed hands in 1795 from Dutch to British rule.

The British occupations of 1795-1802 and after 1806 made Cape Town an even more important commercial and military station. Between two and four thousand men in any given year were stationed here or passed through between 1795 and 1815, a huge increase in the population of Cape Town, which in 1795 consisted of about 15 000 people, half of them slaves and about twenty percent 'free blacks'¹². The provisioning of the army and navy attracted commercial development, immigrant and *platteland* artisans from Europe and elsewhere, who rented modest houses in the newly surveyed area of the Bo-Kaap. Aspirant landlords, mostly leading citizens of the town, invested in building rows of modest single and double storey rental houses, which were seldom occupied by their owners.

The town prospered under the British military occupation (1795-1802 and 1806-1815). Further expansion occurred above the Buitengracht on the slopes of Lion Hill. The population of the Bo-Kaap expanded again during the aftermath of the abolition of slavery in 1834, when a considerable number of rural ex-slaves were drawn to the bright lights of Cape Town. Some of the slave compensation money their white owners got from the British was invested in dozens of rows of cheap hire-houses in the Bo-Kaap¹³. By the 1840s the area above Buitengracht had decayed. The better classes invested in more desirable premises in the suburbs or Upper Gardens area. By then the majority of Bo-Kaap inhabitants were Cape Muslims, as the freed slaves (most of them having embraced Islam) tended to join their fellow co-religionists, for whom a mosque had been built on state owned land in Chiappini Street¹⁴. Some of them owned their properties, but most were rent-paying tenants of the poorer classes.

By the early 19th century Upper Dorp and Upper Leuwen Streets had come into existence. The street map of the Cape Town Almanac of 1830 shows conclusively that the site, now erf 3230, still contained only the rear building (Fig. 5).

¹² Seemann, Ute A. 2001. The British Military Occupation of the Cape 1795-1815, the Case of York Redoubt. University of Cape Town: Unpublished PHD thesis, pp 18-23.

¹³ Loos, Jackie. 2004. Echos of Slavery. Cape Town: David Philip, page 127.

¹⁴ Townsend, *ibid.* page 12.

Fig. 5. Portion of the Plan of Cape Town, 1830, showing the grid layout. 150 Buitengracht located on lower part (arrow) with an open *gracht* running down the middle of the Buitengracht. The Schotsche Kloof Gardens are still extant. (Reference: South African Directory for 1830, compiled by G. Greig).



The Cape Almanac and African Court Calendar published on a yearly basis, contains a census of the heads of households in Cape Town and surrounds.

Snow's survey of 1862 shows city blocks flanked by semi-detached, one-, two- or three-bay flat-roofed houses, so characteristic to this day of the Bo-Kaap. Some houses have a common narrow passage leading to the backyards, which were often built on either higher or lower ground than the main house. Simplification and standardization of domestic architecture of the Malay Quarter appears to have been achieved by this stage¹⁵. The Cape Almanac and African Court Calendar published on a yearly basis, contains a census of the heads of households in Cape Town and surrounds.

THE SITE, NOW KNOWN AS ERF 3032 IS FULLY DEVELOPED.

Wilson's survey of 1878 shows the block under consideration again as fully developed, the Schotsche Kloof farm gardens further up the hill in Dorp Street, still in existence. Thom's survey of 1901 (Fig. 6) clearly depicts details of the properties which will make up erf 3032: steps leading to the *stoeps* of the two one bay dwellings facing Buitengracht, backyards with outside toilets, etc. Note that the extant dwelling at the rear of the erf 3032 shares a common wall with its neighbor in Upper Leuwen Street. However, the *stoep* of this building faces Buitengracht. The yard contains two sheds and a toilet.

¹⁵ Behrens, *ibid.* page 52.

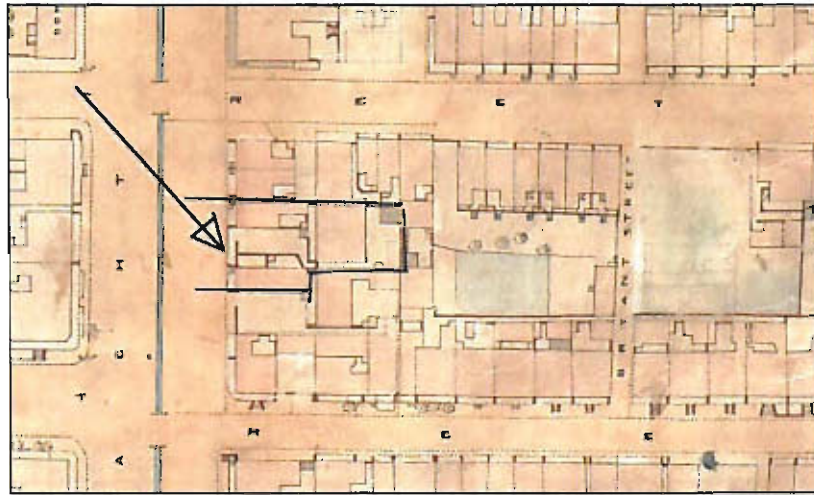


Fig. 6. Thom's survey of 1901/2. 150 Buitengracht – erf 3032 – outlined. (Reference: Cape Town City Council, Historical Map Section).

By the end of the 19th century the Bo-Kaap's identity as a place, separate and distinct, at the periphery of the CBD had been established. The Buitengracht has maintained its character as the boundary between the modernizing commercial and the traditional part of town.

Between 1902 and 1904 a stone retaining wall was built parallel to Buitengracht Street, bisecting the road into an upper and lower side. Subsequently the house numbers were changed, and it was from this time that the dwelling at the rear of the property was known as 150 Buitengracht. The two front houses were numbered 148 and 152.

The following table lists the head of households on erf 3032, Buitengracht, between Dorp Street and Leeuwen Street, Cape Town, numbered until 1904:

Date	Buitengracht house number	Name of head of household	Occupation	Notes
1903-1904	No 90	Langeveld, Wm	-	
	No 90A	Lublinsky, A.	Bootmaker	
	No 92	Fisher, Martin	-	
	No 92A	Jedaar (or Jeddar), Maal	-	

Table 1. Census data from Cape Town street directory 1903/1904.

In the 1905 Street Directory the house numbers had changed, a store had been listed as No 144 and some of the inhabitants stayed on:

1905 - 1906		
	No 146	Stellenboom, Gamiet
	No 148	Langeveld, Wm
	No 150	Jedaar (or Jeddar), Maal
	No 152	Fisher, Martin

Table 2. Census data from Cape Town street directories, 146 to 152 Buitengracht.

All inhabitants of No's 146 to 156 stayed on in their houses until 1910. The store was let to a cobbler, M Swartz in 1907 and 1908, and in 1910 to Jacob Kahn, mattress maker.

2.2 The 20th century

Juta's Directory for Cape Town and environs lists for Buitengracht in 1921

No 148 Arnold, E
 No 150-154 Coloured
 No 156 Burzelman, H

In 1926 the first aerial photographs of Cape Town were taken (Fig. 7).



Fig. 7. Aerial photograph dated 1926. (Arrow points to No's 148 to 152 Buitengracht. (Reference: Chief Directorate of Surveys and Mapping, Mowbray, strip 5, Photo 861, date 1926).

One of the most potent of the 20th century legislative city council act was the 'Slum's Act of 1934'. "The act opened the (legislative) space for the City Council to clear large sections of undesirable areas ... The Bo-Kaap was particularly impacted: nearly the entire 'Malay Quarter' was declared a slum under the act"¹⁶. Tomer concurs with many other authors in that this act was a 'built up to the Group Areas Act of 1951'. Insofar as the Slum's Act of 1934 touches on the dwellings on the property under consideration it seems likely that the owners were compelled to demolish the two front houses No's 148 and 152 Buitengracht in about 1942/3. This assumption is made because the Cape Times and Cape Peninsula Directory lists for these addresses:

Address	Date: 1942	1943 - 1945
No 144	side premises	-
No 146	Ockhim & Co, Mattress makers	Ockhim & Co, Mattress makers
No 148	Arnold, HE	-
No 150-156	coloured	-

Table 3. Heads of households, 1942 to 1945 as listed in the Cape Times and Cape Peninsula Directory for 144 to 156 Buitengracht. Note that the inhabitants of No's 150 to 156 were listed by ethnic origin other than white. We know that Mr Ockim had been of the Muslim faith.

The aerial photograph dated to 1945 (Fig. 8) seems to show that the dwelling 148 Buitengracht is still standing, 152 Buitengracht, however, is demolished.



Fig. 8. Portion of an aerial photograph of Cape Town dated 1945. The arrow points to erf 3032, main gate.

¹⁶ Tomer, *ibid*, page 54.

In 1950 the Sandler Brothers applied to the City Council, City Engineers department, " ... to convert to business use property No 150 Buitengracht Street, Cape Town ... to a garment factory ...

2. The dwelling is single – storey and consists of four rooms and a large hall, with a store room and W.C's in the yard. It is occupied by three adults and five children."

The Building Inspector's Report attached adds that

"... the property is a single storey dwelling and consists of 4 rooms, large Hall, and kitchen with store room"¹⁷.

The City Engineer had no objections and the conversion was approved.

The building, later converted into a car workshop, was demolished in 2008.

3. DEEDS OFFICE RECORDS

Taking into account the information extracted from the documentary evidence and detailed in the Phase II Archaeological Permit Mitigation Report dated November 2007, by Dr Ute A Seemann (the author) it can be summarised as follows:

- The chronology of the subdivisions and consolidations of properties or portions thereof pertaining to this investigation is illustrated in the flow diagram below.
- The city block in Table Valley bounded by Buitengracht, Upper Leuwen Street and upper Dorp Street was first surveyed in 1768.
- It is recorded that Jan de Waal built the first *huurhuisjes* between 1763 and 1768 on this block and named 'Waalendorp'. A surviving dwelling built by Jan de Waal is situated at 148 Buitengracht, adjoining erf 3032, and declared a National Monument.
- The dwelling is shown on several maps dated to between 1786 and today, including Snow's survey of 1862 and Wilson's survey of 1878.
- There is a hiatus of Deed's Office records as well as Surveyor General Diagrams of the property until the survey diagram dated 1885, which lists the dwellings as Nos 98A, 98B, and 100. No 98B seems to be the back dwelling

¹⁷ Cape Archives, 3/CT 4/2/1/3/2048, correspondence file B1557/50.

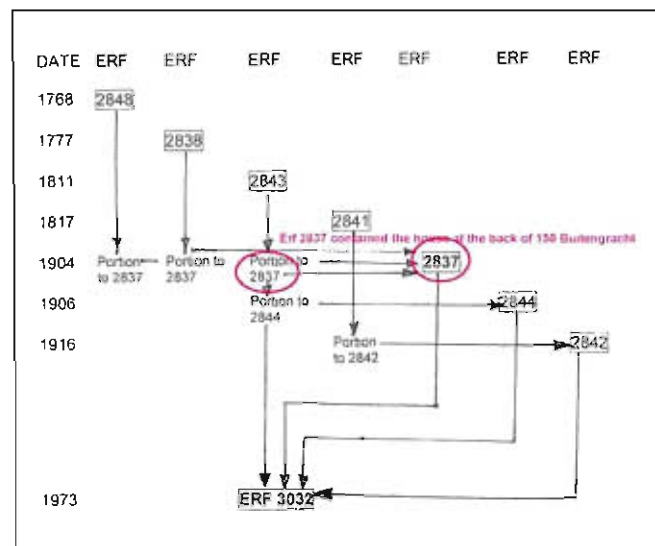


Fig. 9. Flow diagram, erf numbers and portion of erven with the date of the first survey and / or transfer.

- Thom's survey of 1901 is meticulously detailed.
- It is recorded that the houses were marked as 'plague houses' in 1901/2.
- Artisans and labourers rented the dwellings on the property under consideration for most of the 19th century. After the mid- century they tended to belong pre-dominantly to the Muslim faith.
- In 1904/6 erf 2837 was subdivided into erven 2837, containing the *huurhuisje* (owner the widow Catharina Schreiber), erf 2842 (Mr JW Hurlingh), erf 2843 (the approach to the three houses) and erf 2844 (owner Mr JW Hurlingh).
- In 1904 house numbers changed from 98A to 150, 98B to 148 and No 100 to 152 Buitengracht.
- None of the owners thereafter occupied the dwellings.
- Nos 148 to 152 were listed as unoccupied in the 1943 street directory. It is assumed that the dwellings were demolished as a consequence of the Slum's Act of 1934.
- However, by 1950, the new owners of erf 2837, Sandler Brothers & Co applied for conversion of the dwelling thereon into a workshop for commercial use. The application was granted. Erf 2837 contained the dwelling, with which we are concerned here.
- In 1971/3 Mr Ismail Dada Allie bought and consolidated the properties as erf 3032.

4. THE INVESTIGATION into the remains of the main dwelling

A couple of days prior to our investigation the above-surface structures remaining at the rear of the property were demolished and the concrete floor of the former car workshop and the *stoep* removed. The south-west wall of the former dwelling, built flat against the next-door neighbour's yard extension was left standing as were some remains of the front and back walls abutting.

This investigation of the remains of the main dwelling at the rear of 150 Buitengracht, erf 3032, was conducted on 22/23 October 2008.

Three workers and a foreman, supervised by myself and my assistant, Mrs Hennie Prince (BA Archaeology UNISA), conducted the heavy work. A digger / loader scraped the overburden off the area of the former dwelling / car workshop. Two test trenches were then dug by the machine, their location guided by the developer's site survey of extant features, dated 2007 (Fig. 10a, left) and Thom's Survey, dating to 1901 (Fig. 10b, right), which provided a neat fit / overlay.

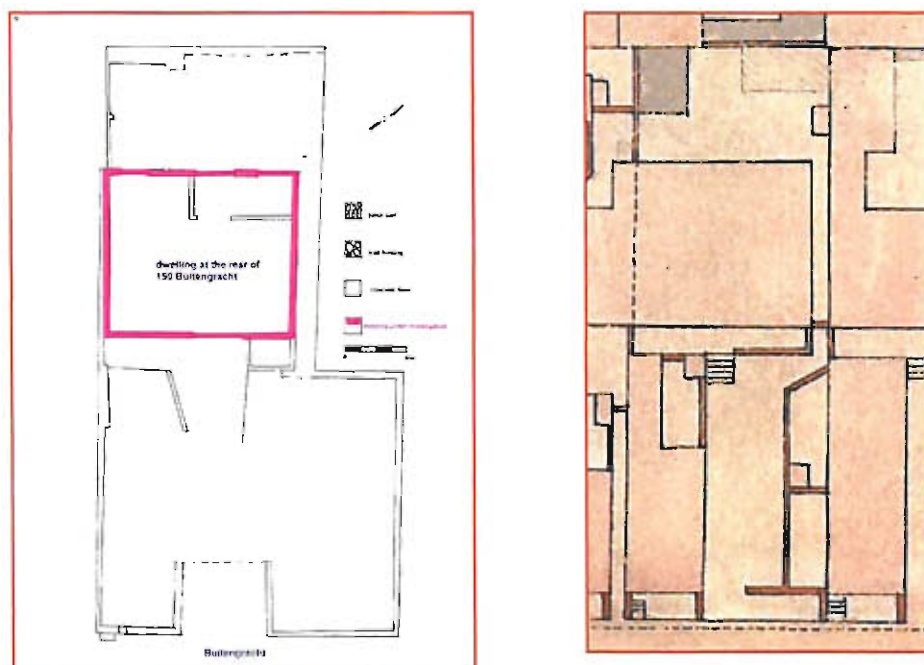


Fig. 10a. Survey diagram, erf 3032, 150 Buitengracht, Cape Town dated 2007 (left) and Fig. 10b, dated 1901 (right).



Fig. 11. The site after demolition of the car workshop and outbuildings, 2008.



Fig. 12. The south-west side wall of the dwelling was left standing. Note the front and back wall remains abutting the wall, as well as the outline of two roof heights.

Wall foundations were then systematically exposed, documented and drawn. It was found that one room, the right hand back room still contained the remnants of a

concrete floor, this was not removed due to time constraints. Thus the partial ground plan of the former dwelling is depicted in Figure 13 below:

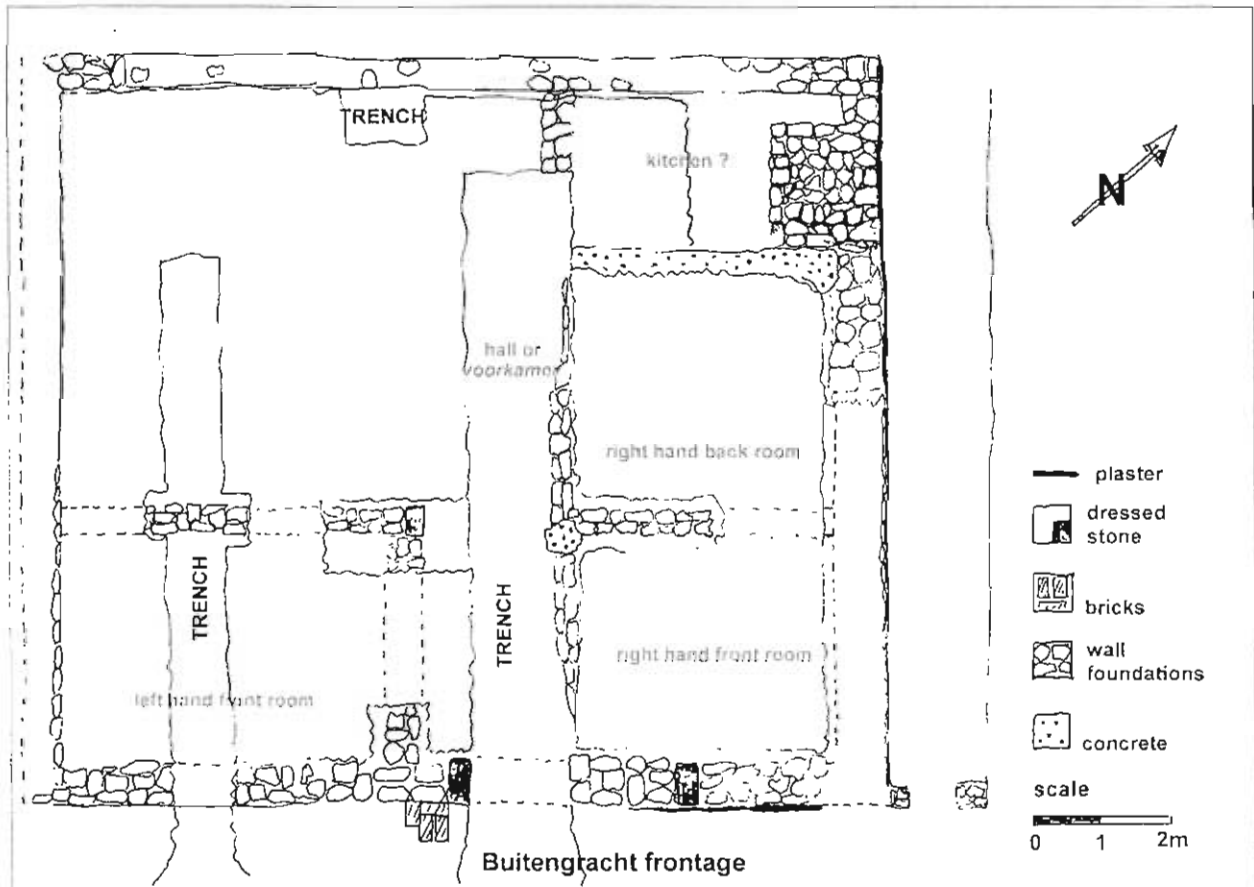


Fig. 13. Diagram of the partial ground plan of the original dwelling at the rear of 150 Buitengracht, 2008.

The outer wall footings of the dwelling were found to be about 500-600 mm wide, the interior wall footings 400-450 mm wide and 300-400mm deep. The latter rested on a sterile gritty soil/ironstone layer upon fragmented shale, which was also encountered in the front yard as bedrock. The site sloped down to the Buitengracht street front.

Excavation of the front wall of the former dwelling revealed that a raised *stoep* had not been incorporated into the original design. This was deduced from the remains of two brick steps, low fired orange bricks with a diameter of 215 x 105 x 65 mm, prevalent in the Dutch period. The steps up to the central front door occurred at about 600 mm

below the first course of the front brick wall (Figs. 14b and 14c). Further evidence for steps leading up to the house are remains of outside plaster to the right of the assumed front door covering the wall footing to a depth of about 300 mm from the top of the wall footing (Fig. 14d). This outside plastering contained very fragmented sea shell remains pointing to a late 18th century construction (Fig. 15).



Fig. 14a. Remains of the front wall. Note the orange low fired bricks and mud / *dagga* filling (mortar).



Fig. 14b. Detail of the front wall foundations at the former entrance, 2008.



Fig. 14c. Possible remains of former entrance steps in the foreground, 2008.



Fig. 15. Remains of plaster on the front wall foundations, covered later by a 19th century raised cement *stoep*. Bottom: the sterile gritty soil / ironstone fragments / shale layer.

The two continuous roof lines suggest that the outer extent of the ground plan of the original dwelling was retained until demolition in 2008. The upper roof line contained a piece of corrugated iron roofing sheet, it is therefore assumed to be the later one. This is corroborated by mid-late 19th century bricks used to raise the south-west wall to accommodate the raised roof. Note the mud *dagga* (mortar) repair work.



Fig. 16. Corner of front and south west wall.

Interior wall footings were partly exposed. It became possible to delineate three rooms to the right of the building as seen from the entrance, the fourth being the room on the left side. The second room to the right contained a cement floor, which was not uncovered due to time constraints.



Fig. 17a. This corner of the interior wall footing occurs at the junction left hand front room and *voorkamer*.

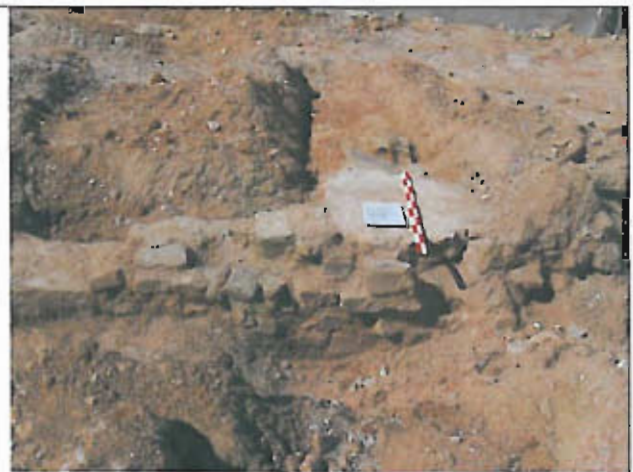
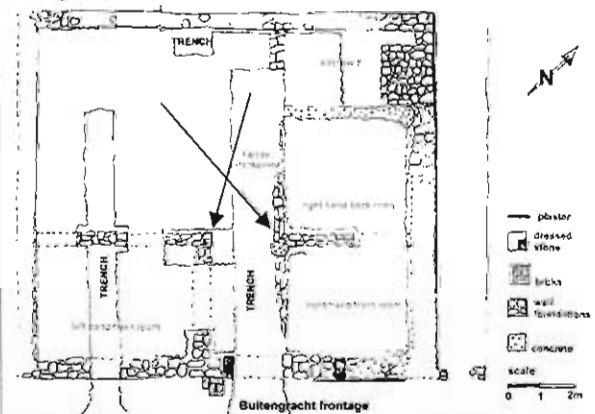


Fig. 17 b. Interior wall at the corner of the right hand front room / *voorkamer* / right hand back room. The concrete patch is the base of a column erected for the car workshop.



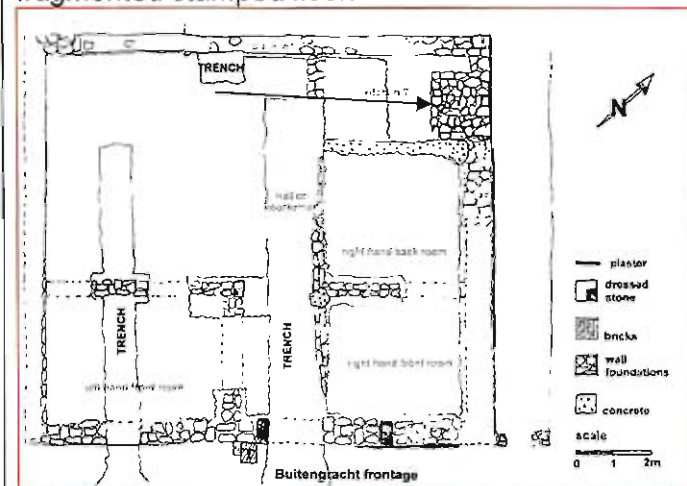
The back room contained a paved area. This was exposed and it was found that two layers, both constructed from carefully dressed shale (or "bluestone") existed. Several artifact fragments were found *in situ*.



Fig. 18a. The paving in the back room / kitchen?. Carefully dressed blue/grey shale was used. The paving was surrounded by an orange brick fragmented stamped floor.



Fig. 18b. Detail of the bluestone paving. The artefacts were collected between the first and second paving layer.



The paving continued across the exterior house wall. On two sides it was surrounded by a stamped floor made from fragmented low-fired orange bricks. It has been noted that the exterior walls of the kitchen(?) are narrower than the side and front walls. The presence of bits of charcoal and a few fragments of household debris at this layer suggested that this was the kitchen area. The paving might have been used as the base of a hearth. However, no wall footings of a chimney have been found.



On this pre-demolition photograph it is clearly seen that the side brick wall above the footings are of late 18th century low-fired orange bricks, with mud and shell lime mortar, as well as outside plastering. The window frames are obviously mid 20th century.

Fig. 19. The historic passage to the back yard at the right hand side of the former workshop. At the back the window of the room with the bluestone paving. To the right the wall of the dwelling 148 Buitengracht, dating from about 1770.

Summery

A gritty brown soil layer with ironstone nodules overlays the sterile, decomposed Malmsbury shale bedrock. The area below the floor of the former dwelling is almost void of artefacts. The “found” ground plan of the original dwelling on the site is larger than its supposedly “twin” next door at 148 Buitengracht (see Fig. 10). The dwelling consisted of four rooms and a large hall / *voorkamer*, three of those rooms on the right hand. The front wall was plastered, whitewashed and contained a few steps leading to the front door, i.e. the raised *stoep* and ramp were added at a much later date. No artefacts were found in the *stoep* infill.

Water seepage from the rear of the property was encountered at about 200-400mm depth in the yard. Since the site sloped towards the Buitengracht frontage the front wall footings were built to a depth of about 700mm. This is probably why the area under the dwelling was found to be relatively dry.

5. THE ARTEFACT MATERIAL

Compared to several domestic sites in the inner city which have been excavated so far, a relatively small collection of artefacts was recovered from this site. Bedrock was encountered between 100mm and 200mm in the backyard and 300mm to 700mm below the front of the dwelling. The property slopes towards the Buitengracht frontage. Artefacts dating to after the first half of the 20th century were not collected.

The artefacts will be added to the collection made during the Phase II excavation at the site in August 2007, curated by the IZIKO Museum in Cape Town. The number of individual vessels here are negligible as to the total vessel count for the site.

5.1 The ceramic assemblage

The standardized method of ceramic analysis used here was developed by Jane Klose during her work on several domestic assemblages from the Western Cape spanning the last two hundred and fifty years¹⁸. Her Cape Classification System (CCS) was used as to ware types and form- and function identification so as to facilitate comparison with other colonial sites.

One assemblage comes from below the floor of the original house (see Fig. 20a-d), and – in a separate bag – another from between the two layers of paving in the right hand back room / kitchen (Fig. 21).

¹⁸ Klose, Jane. 1997. Analysis of Ceramic Assemblages from four Cape Historical Sites Dating from the late Seventeenth Century to the Mid Nineteenth Century. University of Cape Town: Unpublished MA thesis in Archaeology.

Klose, Jane. 2007. Identifying Ceramics, An introduction to the analysis and interpretation of ceramics excavated from 17th to 20th century archaeological sites and shipwrecks in the south-western Cape. University of Cape Town: Historical Archaeological Research Group, HARG HANDBOOK Number 1, Second Edition.



Fig. 20a.

1. 'Grof' Chinese export porcelain, probably kitchen ware. 19th century.
 2. British import. Refined earthenware, creamware, blue underglaze transfer printed, mass produced, Staffordshire ware, first quarter of 19th century. Tableware.
 3. Mid 19th century Staffordshire ware. Green underglaze printed large platter fragments.



Fig. 20b.

Glass collection.

1. Food containers, 19th and 20th century, two-piece mould.
 2. Wine bottle fragments with hand-blown neck, probably 'Constantia bottle'. Late 18th century.
 3. Blue poison bottle fragment, 19th/20th century.
 4. Ornamental pressed glass, often used for front door window panes.



Fig. 20c.

Left: nails, middle a table knife fragment.



Fig. 20d.

Bone fragments, 50g.
 Left: sheep - Right: fowl
 Below: limpet shell and charcoal.

Fig. 20. Artefacts from below the floor of the original dwelling. Note: only about half the area was excavated.



Fig. 21. Artefacts from inbetween the two paving layers in the kitchen(?) at the right hand back of the dwelling.

1. Two fragments of fine Chinese export porcelain (tableware), 'trellis border' and one fragment 'grof' porcelain, used in the kitchen. All late 18th / early 19th century.
2. British imports, 2 creamware kitchen bowl fragments, late 18th / early 19th century.
3. British imports, 'whiteware', one pitcher and one cup handle fragment, one blue-banded "potty" rim (?) fragment, late 19th century.
4. wine bottle fragment.
5. 50g of bones: sheep and fowl.
6. Building material, 19th century.

6. DISCUSSION AND EVALUATION

The historical archaeology of 150 Buitengracht seems to be one that reflects the development of a large number of properties in the Malay quarter / Bo-Kaap. A single dwelling was built at the rear of the property. It was originally assumed to be similar in lay-out and size as the dwelling next door (now 148 Buitengracht) and 71 Wale Street, now the Bo-Kaap Museum. A modest and flat roofed house, the rear dwelling at 150 Buitengracht was described in 1950 as:

“is single-storey and consists of four rooms and a large hall, with a store room and WC’s in the yard”. The building inspector was more implicit: “... single storey [sic] dwelling and consists of 4 rooms, large Hall [sic], and kichen with store room”.¹⁹

Deeds of ownership for the property suggests that leading citizens of the town were granted land for a nominal quitrent, creating, what is called a pattern of absentee landlord and tenant. The distance between the two was further widened during the 19th century as the Buitengracht became the preferred residence of artisans and workers. The street directories from the 1880s onward list the surnames of the heads of households, but one cannot be sure about the racial make-up of the families. It is however known from photographs and other documents that the Bo-Kaap area became the preferred domicile of “coloured” and Malay people.

The houses at erf 3032 were listed as Malay dwellings until 1901. In 1900 Mr H Fisher and his family live in No 92 Buitengracht, and “Malays” in No 90, Buitengracht. If we assume that Mr M Jeddar / Jedaar and his family lived in the rear dwelling and did not move house between 1904 and 1905, then his house became No 150.

The dwelling contained a yard, and according to Thom’s survey dated 1901 a WC, therefore the inhabitants had access to running water. The sanitary arrangements seem to have been exceedingly poor, because the house was declared a ‘plague house’ in 1901, marked as infected and its inhabitants quarantined. The Jeddar / Jedaar family remained at least until 1910.

¹⁹ Cape Archives, 3/CT 4/2/1/3/2048, correspondence file B1557/50.

The dwelling's size in 1901 is identical to the original ground plan found in 2008. The house at 148 Buitengracht is much smaller and the interior space ordered differently, i.e. containing a large hall, two rooms to the right of the central entrance door (one of them being the kitchen) and two rooms to the left.

It has not been possible to ascertain whether the ground plan of 150 Buitengracht as shown below is the correct one as far as the number of rooms is concerned. The concrete floor in the second room to the right might hide a wall foundation separating two rooms, i.e. separating the kitchen area from the second room. The paving has been identified (based on personal experience) as the base of a kitchen hearth, a stamped brick floor contained a few fragmented artefacts. The store room in the 1901 survey is located at the back of the yard.

No wall foundation remains were located at the left hand back area of the dwelling. It remains a mystery why this was so.

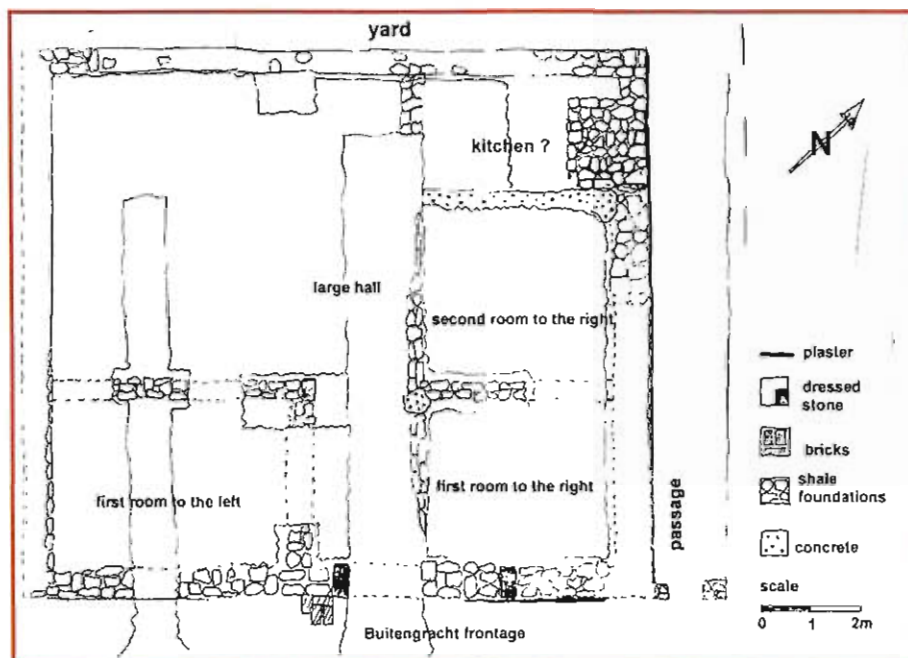


Fig. 22a.

Ground plan of original dwelling 2008. Note: No wall foundations in the top left hand of the plan were found.

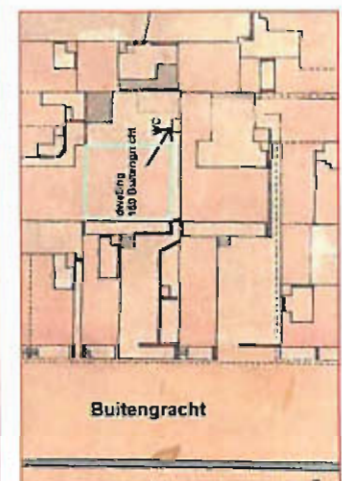


Fig. 22b.

Thom's survey of 1901.

In 1950 the Sandler Brothers (who belonged to the White Group) converted the dwelling into a workshop, gutting the interior and replacing windows and doors.

The list of heads of households and their occupation together with the excavated material remains of their domestic arrangements reflect the status of the families as lower middle class to working class poor. A hiatus of archaeological debris of the mid- to late 18th century indicates the former, occupying the rear building, a dearth of 19th century British ceramic the latter. A knife was the only piece of cutlery found. No 19th or early 20th century alcoholic beverage bottles were found, perhaps an indication of Muslim faith-based occupancy, and only a handful of glass food containers.

* * *

Treating both documents and artefacts as 'text', one source complements the other. It was possible to construct a minor 'footprint' of the many people who occupied and owned what is now known as 150 Buitengracht. However, the material remains at the site are few. It is therefore recommended that the site be released for development, subject to the preservation of the historic retaining wall of blue stone / shale at the back.

Further research into the lives of the people of the Bo-Kaap is eagerly awaited.

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