

## **9. HISTORIC OVERVIEW OF OTHER FEATURES FROM WITHIN THE STUDY AREA**

The desktop study has revealed a number of features, though not associated with the two clusters of married quarters, were nonetheless located within the study area.

### **9.1 The Sports Field**

The earliest indication of a sports field from within the study area seems to be depicted on an untitled map compiled in 1903 (Boksburg Town Council, 1978/9). Although the wording is not very readable, two words enclosed within a rectangular area from within the present study area appear to read 'Hockey Ground'.

In a letter written by the Secretary of the ERPM Club on 28 June 1909 and addressed to the Mining Commissioner of Boksburg, it is indicated that a sports field had been established in 1907. This letter also represented an application for what appears to have been another sports ground (MMB, 143, MCK1251/09).

On 16 July 1909 a plan was drawn up to accompany an application to have the existing sports field extended. The extension comprised a 3.03 acre of land. This map also depicts a number of buildings with the sports field (MMB, 145, MCK1404/09).

The next important information comes from a map titled 'General surface Plan of the New Comet Gold Mine'. Although the map was surveyed on 30 June 1907, it was revised annually for the subsequent three years. The last revision was undertaken on 30 June 1910. The map shows the sports field with all its associated buildings, including a grand stand, two refreshment rooms, a ticket office, offices, 'boys room' and cottage.

Although it is not known exactly which sporting events took place at the sports ground within the study area, an article was found in the East Rand Express of 2 January 1904 which indicates that before the South African War sporting events were held on an annual basis each Christmas Day at ERPM and that such an event again took place on 25 December 1903. This day comprised a number of sporting activities including athletics such as the Handicap Flat Races (100 yards, 120 yards, 220 yards and 440 yards), Sack Race, Handicap Hurdle Race (120 yards), Three-legged race and a Tug-of-War as well as horse racing activities such as the Five Furlong Pony Race, the Six Furlong Galloway Race and the Six Furlong Hack Race (East Rand Express, 1904).

Based on the available information it seems that the sports field was destroyed with the extension of the Cason Slimes Dams over this area.

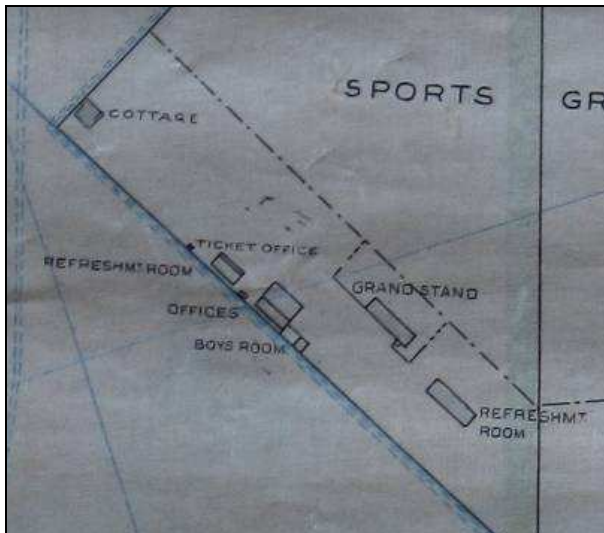
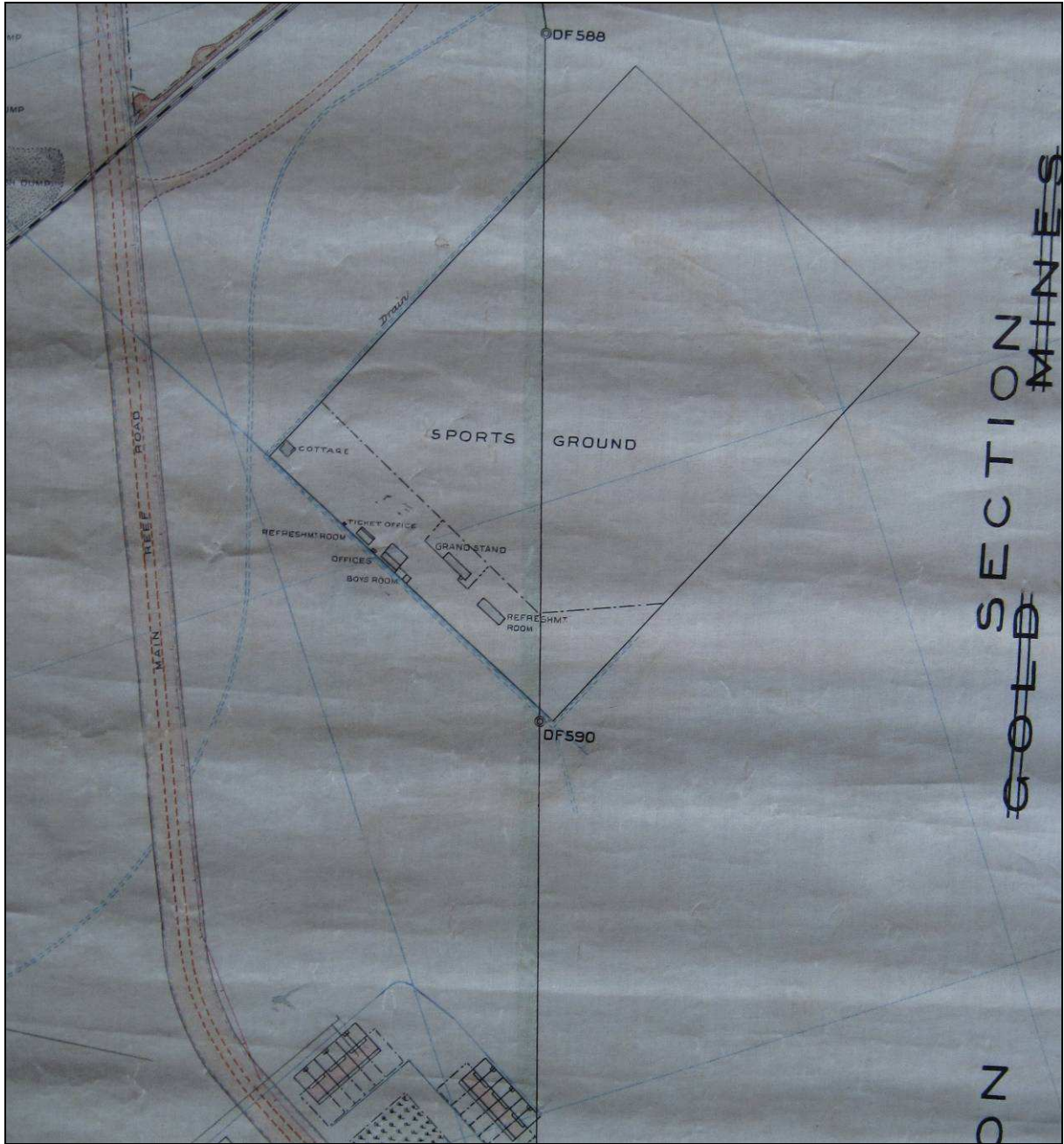


Figure 18

Enlarged section of the map titled 'General surface Plan of the New Comet Gold Mine'. Although the map was surveyed on 30 June 1907, it was revised annually for the subsequent three years. The last revision was undertaken on 30 June 1910. It shows the sports field with all its associated buildings as it existed at the time. The north-eastern corner of the old married quarters provides a reference for the position of the sports field as a whole. A further enlargement of the section containing the buildings associated with the sports field is depicted on the left.

## 9.2 The Slimes Dam

On 16 September 1914 the manager of ERPM submitted an application to the Mining Commissioner of Boksburg for the proposed extension of the Cason Slimes Dams. This proposed extension was towards the west of the existing slimes dams, and as such meant that the existing road known as Hospital Road had to be closed. Of importance for the present study is that this proposed extension meant that the slimes dams would be constructed over a large section of the present study area.

On 17 September 1914 the Beacon Inspector objected in writing to the extension. His objection centred on the fact that it would entail the closing of Hospital Road, which in his opinion was a popular route used by the general public. On 26 September 1914 the Inspector of Mines dismissed the Beacon Inspector's objection with the following words: *'(T)he road mentioned by the Beacon Inspector is not being proclaimed, and it will have to be sacrificed for the requirements of the mine'*.

On 29 January 1915 the Mining Commissioner of Boksburg wrote a letter to the manager of ERPM and indicated that the proposed extension would be approved. He added that signs were to be erected at each end of Hospital Road. These signs were to inform the reader that the road will be permanently closed to traffic from 15 February 1915.

On 1 February 1915 the Mining Commissioner of Boksburg wrote to the Acting Secretary for Mines and Industries and indicated to him that he had granted permission for the proposed extension to take place. The Mining Commissioner also indicated that confirmation by the Minister for Mines and Energy was sought in terms of the proposed fencing of the extension to the slimes dams. On 10 June 1915 the proposed extension was formally approved by the Boksburg Mining Commissioner (MMB, 234, MCK969/14).

In a note dated 11 December 1915 the Beacon Inspector indicated that the extension to the slimes dams had been completed and that this construction had taken place over a section of the sports field. In a subsequent note dated 18 December 1915 he also reported that the ERPM Surveyor had indicated to him that the construction of the slimes dams over the area registered as a sports field was only a temporary one and that the land would again be used for this purpose after a period of two years (MMB, 245, MCK 1001/15).

At present very little of the slimes dams can still be seen. This is due to the fact that in recent years the slimes dams were removed and rehabilitated.





Figure 19 Enlarged section of the Second Edition of the 2628AA Johannesburg sheet of the 1:50 000 topographical map series. This map was surveyed in 1939, and printed in 1945. It represents the earliest available map which depicts the slimes dams within the study area.

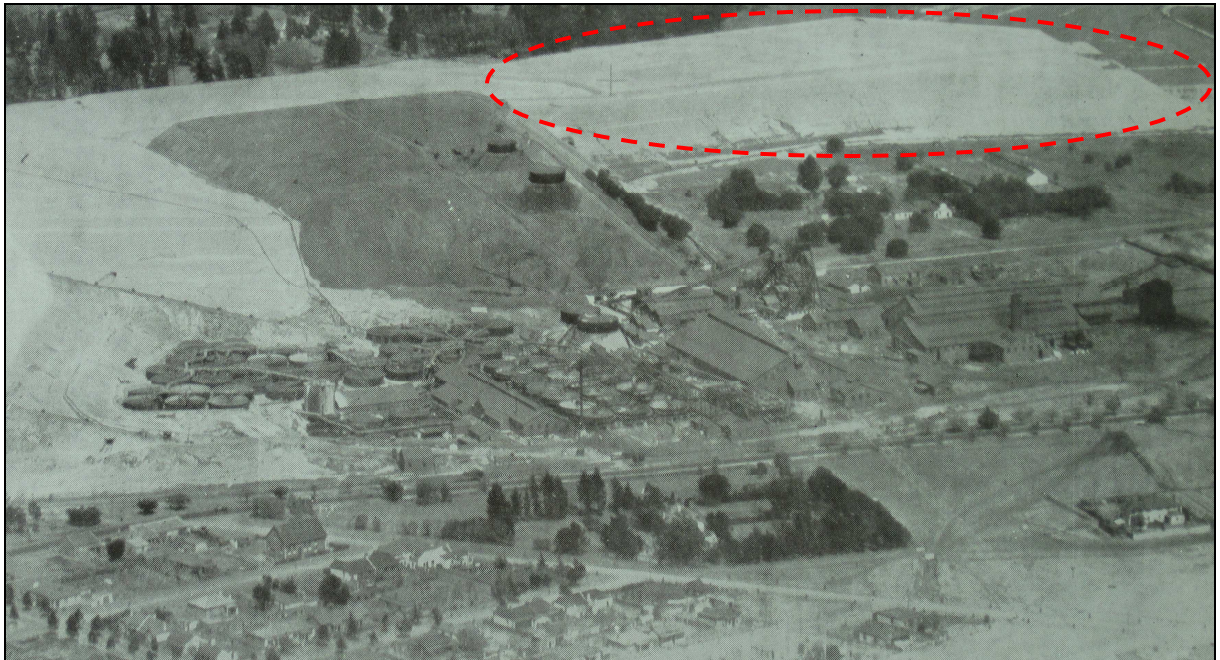


Figure 20 Historic photograph of the Cason Slimes Dams as seen from the north-east. The photograph appeared in a book titled *Boksburg: Mining and Industrial Activity* which was published in 1937. The section of the slimes dam that was located within the present study area is marked.



### **9.3 The Roads from Within the Study Area**

The chronology of the development of roads within the study area and its direct surroundings must be based on the available cartographic and photographic data.

One of the earliest maps depicting the study area which could be found is the Heidelberg Sheet of the Major Jackson Series which dates from April 1903. As can be seen from Figure 13 no roads are depicted within the study area. The fact that no roads are depicted on this map is interesting in that a map believed to be dated from the same year (see Figure 15) clearly shows at least one road running across the section where the old married quarters are located and passes from the south-west to the north-east across the study area. As this road passed across the area where the extension to the old married quarters was proposed in 1903, it seems evident that the construction of this extension shortly thereafter would have closed the road. To the west of the study area two roads running along the north-south axis and also parallel to one another are shown meeting in the vicinity of the south-eastern corner of the old married quarters.

On the revised map dated to 30 June 1910 (see Figures 16 & 18) no roads are depicted within the study area. The two roads from the previous map located directly to the west of the study area have been replaced by a single road known as Main Reef Road which runs along the north-south axis through the eastern end of the old married quarters.

The next available image of relevance is the 1939 topographical sheet. For the first time it shows roads associated with the old and new married quarters. This said it is important to note that these roads were likely built at the same time (or shortly after) the married quarters were constructed. Roads are shown on the inside and outside of the old married quarters. Although not clearly shown on the map, the aerial photograph from this time (see Figure 23) shows Maple Avenue from the Vogelfontein Plantation suburb linking up with the inner road from the old married quarters and thereby providing access for the residents of the latter suburb to Main Reef Road. Furthermore a road is shown going around the four terrace buildings associated with the new married quarters and another one linking the four terraces with the Vogelfontein Plantation area by connecting with Pine Street. This latter road splits the four terrace buildings into two clusters containing two terrace buildings each. The road going around the four terrace buildings are presently named Forest Street and the road linking up with Pine Street is also named Pine Street.

A general plan of the East Rand Proprietary Mines dating from 19 June 1958 (refer Figure 22) provides one with a clear understanding of the road network existing within the study area at the time. What is evident from this plan is that the road network looks almost exactly the same as it did on the 1939 topographical map. The one exception is the possible extension of Wattle Street from the Vogelfontein Plantation area into the study area. This road is located directly east of the new married quarters. The plan also indicates that the road located to the west of the study area on the eastern end of the old married quarters is now known as Comet Road and not Main Reef Road.

The last observation to be made about the chronology of the roads from within the study area and its direct surroundings is that a short time before 2002 the Gauteng Provincial Roads Department and the Boksburg City Council extended Rondebult Road over the railway line east of East Rand Station to join Rietfontein Road in Boksburg North crossing over ERPM property in the process (Wood, n.d.). This road development resulted in the demolishing of three buildings from the old married quarters, two of which was located within the study area. South and outside of the study area a blockhouse from the South African War (1899-1902) was also destroyed.



Figure 21 Enlarged section of the topographical sheet was surveyed in 1939 and printed in 1945. The road network located within the study area and associated with the old and new married quarters can clearly be seen.



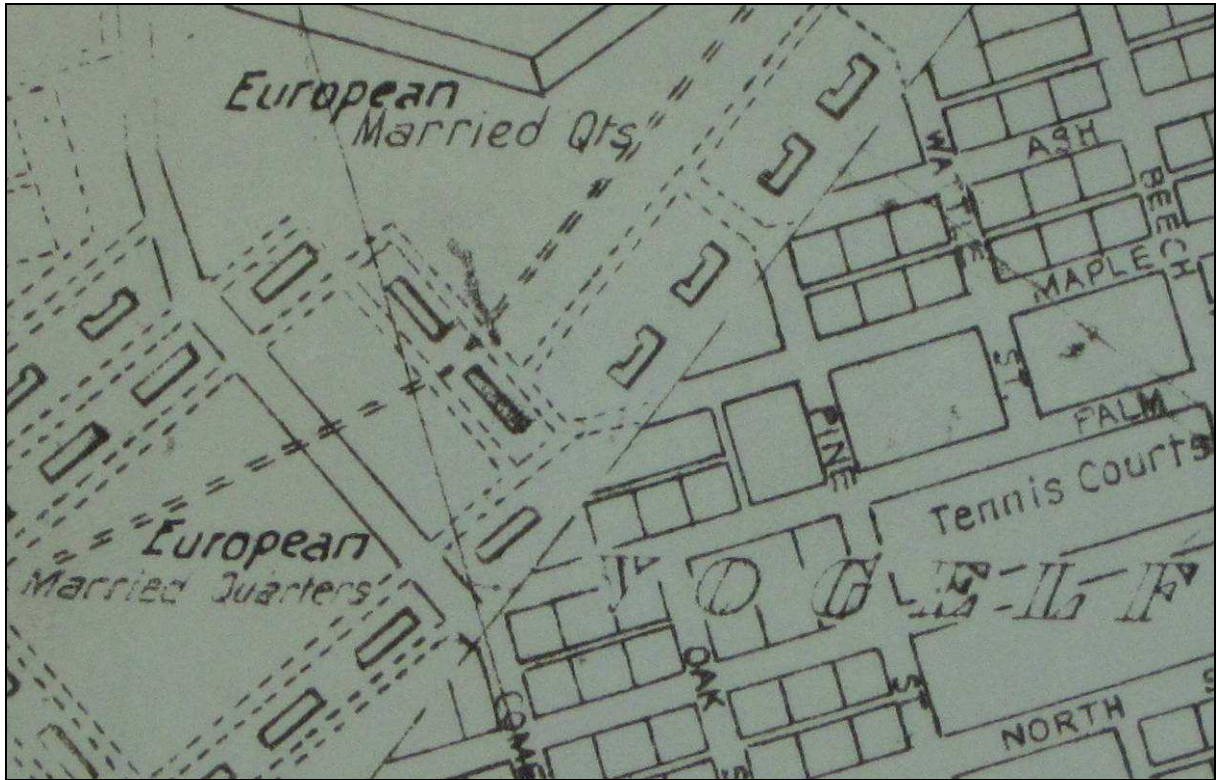


Figure 22 This general plan of ERPM was surveyed on 19 June 1958.

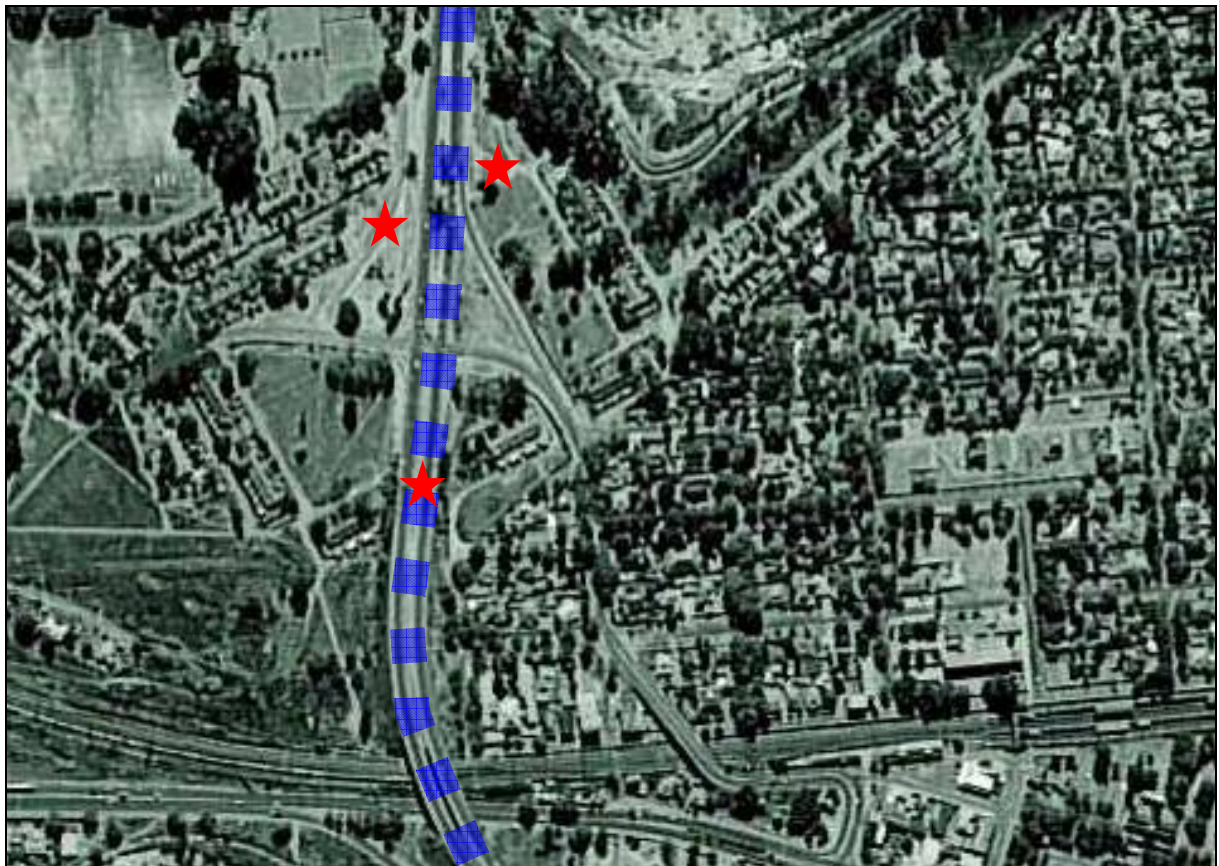


Figure 23 This aerial photograph was taken in 2002. Rondebult Road is marked in blue, whereas the three buildings from the old married quarters that were demolished as part of its development is indicated with red stars.

## **9.4 Trees from Within the Study Area**

After the discovery of gold in the vicinity of Boksburg in 1886, the study area at first fell outside of any mining areas. During this time the site and its direct surroundings would have comprised open grassland with almost no trees evident. It is known that in 1888 there was only one tree between Knight's Homestead and Modderfontein. This tree was jokingly referred to as 'the Boksburg Forest'.

However, with time more and more trees were planted within the study area and its surroundings. At present four main groups of planted trees can be identified within the study area. These comprise the isolated trees associated with the Vogelfontein Plantation which are growing within the study area, the trees associated with the old and new married quarters, the cluster of trees on the south-western corner of the slimes dam and finally the trees associated with the drainage line or watercourse directly south of what used to be the slimes dam.

### **9.4.1 The trees associated with the Vogelfontein Plantation**

A small number of very large eucalyptus trees were observed along the boundary of the study area with Vogelfontein Township. These appear to be associated with the Vogelfontein Plantation which was established by Montagu White.

White was appointed Mining Commissioner for Boksburg in 1888, and almost immediately started working on plans for a proposed dam which was to be known as the Boksburg Lake. Although construction work was completed earlier, the lake was only filled with water after good rain fell in 1891. White subsequently also planted approximately 40,000 trees on a rise north-west of the lake. This area was later known as Vogelfontein Plantation and is located directly south-east of the study area.

### **9.4.2 The trees associated with the old and new married quarters**

The trees falling within this grouping comprise typical garden and ornamental trees such as pine and fruit trees. As stated elsewhere, the old married quarters was constructed between 1903 and 1905 whereas the new married quarters were constructed between 1910 and 1911. This said it is highly unlikely for any of the trees from this grouping to have been planted just after the completion of the both clusters of married quarters during the early 1900s.



### 9.4.3 The trees located on the south-western corner of the slimes dam

None of the maps from before the construction of the slimes dam depict any trees in this area. It therefore seems likely that the trees were associated with the slimes dam in some way. The earliest indication of these trees is on an aerial photograph taken in 1939.

### 9.4.4 The trees located south of the slimes dam

A large number of trees are located all along the drainage line or watercourse south of the slimes dam. These are mostly eucalyptus trees. None of the maps from before the construction of the slimes dam depict any trees in this area. The earliest indication of trees in this area is on the 1939 aerial map. At the time only a few can be seen towards the east of the study area. The 1984 aerial photograph shows a marked increase in the numbers of trees in this area of the study area.



Plate 7 This copse of old eucalyptus trees is located near the boundary between the study area and Vogelfontein Plantation. It seems likely that these trees are associated in some way with the plantation planted by Montagu White in c. 1891. While it is unlikely that these trees are the actual trees planted in 1891, they may very well be offshoots of the original trees.

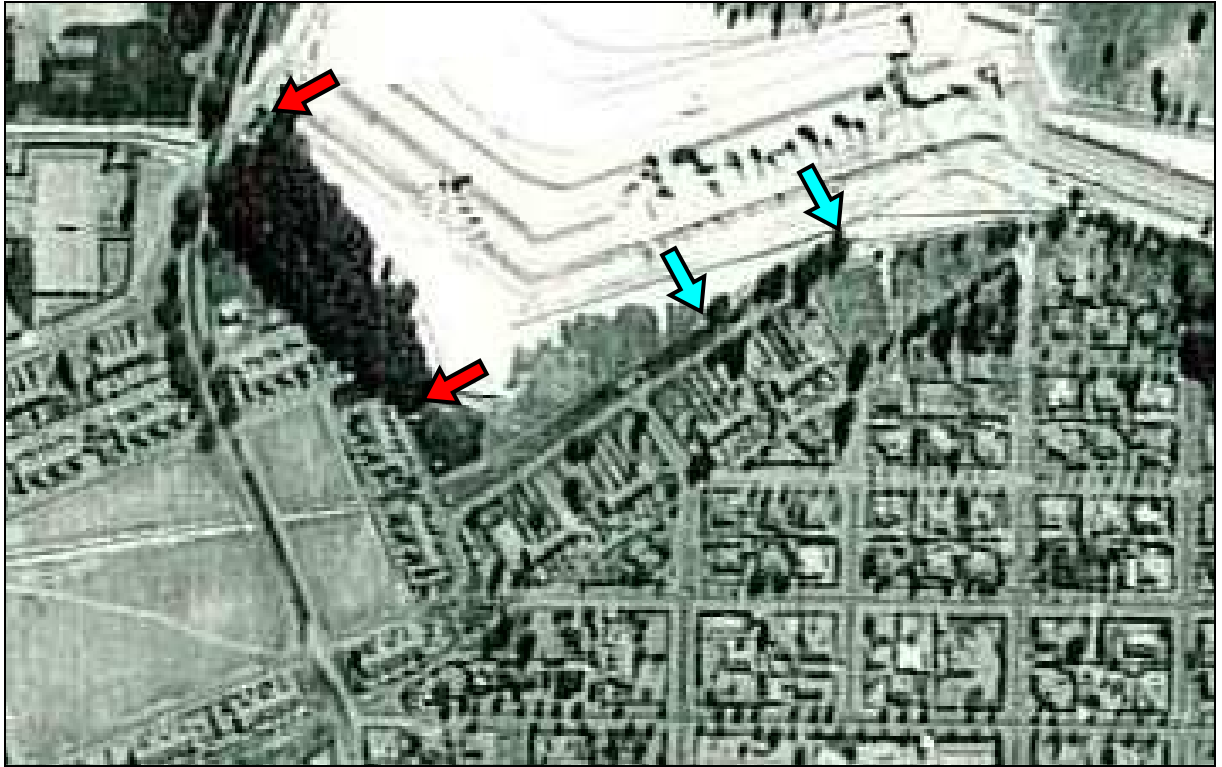


Figure 24 Section of an aerial photograph taken in 1939. The trees located at the south-western end of the slimes dam and the trees along the drainage line south of the slimes dam are marked with red and blue arrows respectively.

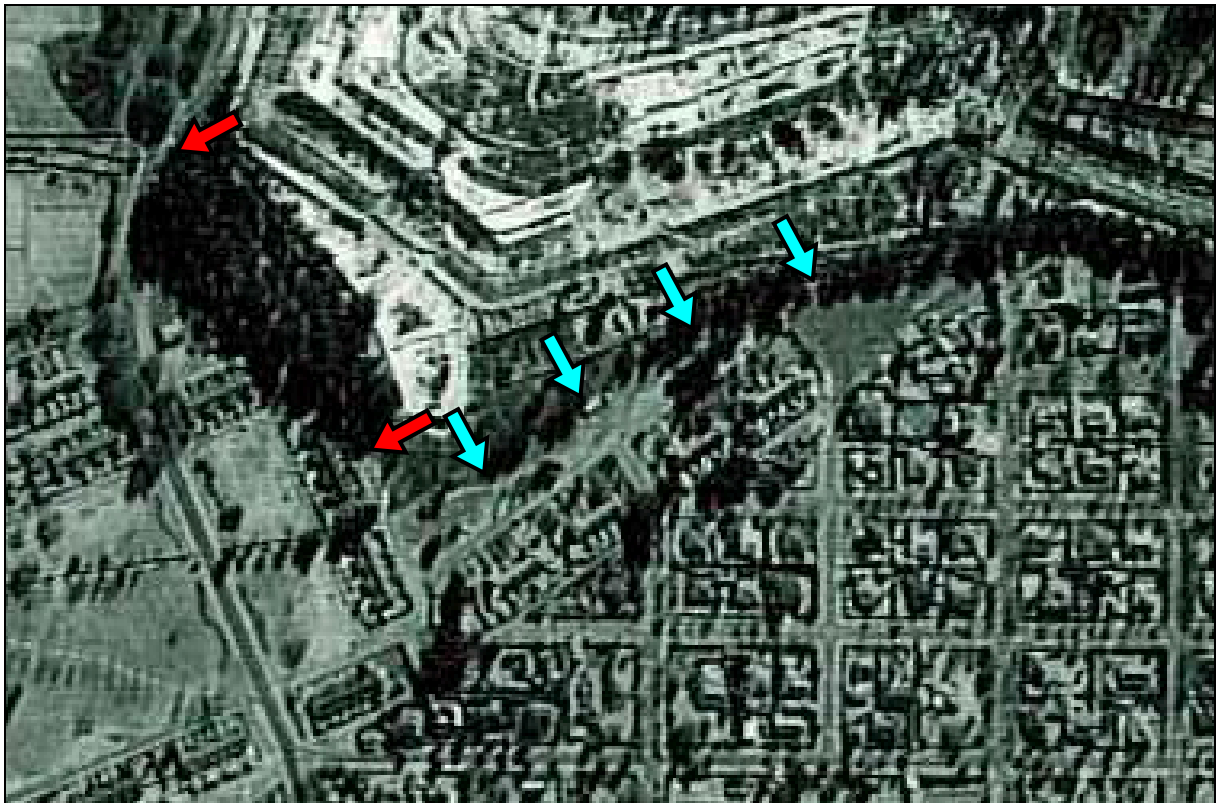


Figure 25 Section of an aerial photograph taken in 1984. The trees located at the south-western end of the slimes dam and the trees along the drainage line south of the slimes dam are marked with red and blue arrows respectively.



## 9.5 Drainage lines and watercourses from within the study area

The earliest available map depicting the study area and surroundings is the Heidelberg sheet of the Major Jackson Series that was produced during July 1902 and revised during April 1903 (National Archives, Maps, 2/179). As can be seen from Figure 13 no drainage lines or water courses are depicted within the study area.

The next relevant map is titled *General Surface Plan of the New Comet Gold Mine*. Although the map was surveyed on 30 June 1907, it was revised annually for the subsequent three years. The last revision was undertaken on 30 June 1910. The map shows a storm drain snaking around the northern end of the sports ground before turning sharply to the south to eventually cross underneath the road which is today known as Rondebult Road. The map also depicts a drainage line along the north-western, western and south-eastern sides of the sports ground itself.

A map dating from the period between 1911 and 1915 provides a better view of the storm drain. No other water courses or drainage lines are depicted on the map.

As stated elsewhere the Cason Slimes Dams were extended over sections of the study during the end of 1915. Although no maps are available for this period or shortly thereafter, a detailed map produced on 19 June 1958 was located. This map was compiled by L.A. Wilson in his capacity as Chief Surveyor of the East Rand Proprietary Mines. While the map still shows the original storm drain to the west of the road presently known as Rondebult Road, it does not show any section of it to the east of the road. A second drain or drainage line is shown running all along the southern boundary of the slimes dam before crossing through the old married quarters and underneath the road. As this drainage line was not depicted on any of the maps from the period before the slimes dam was extended into the study area, one can assume that it was associated with it.

The final map relevant to this section is the Fifth Edition of the 2628AA Topographical Sheet that was compiled in 1975. It also shows only one watercourse or drainage line within the study area, namely the one located to the south of the slimes dam.

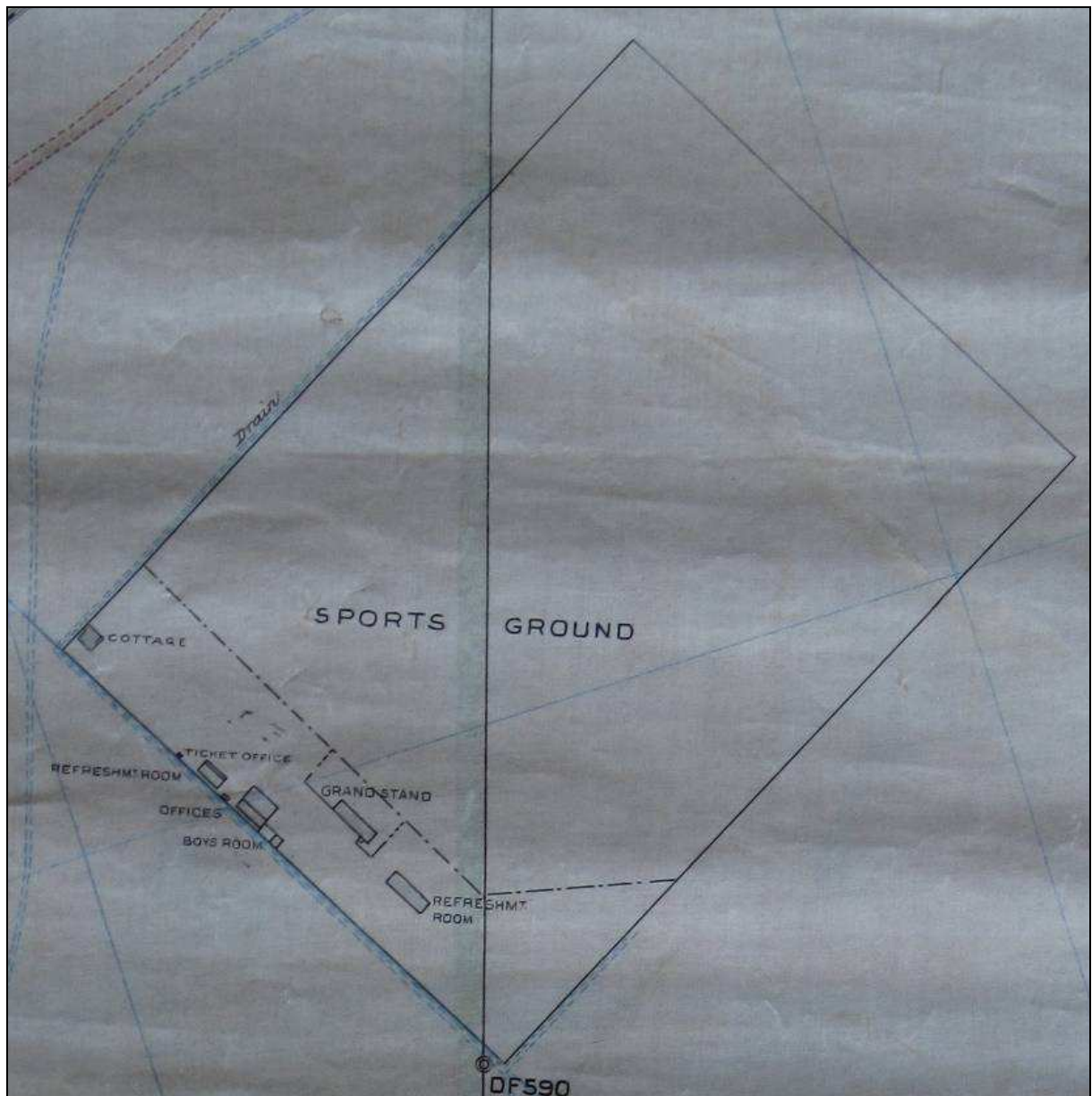


Figure 26 Enlarged section of the map titled *General Surface Plan of the New Comet Gold Mine*. Although the map was surveyed on 30 June 1907, it was revised annually for the subsequent three years. The last revision was undertaken on 30 June 1910. It shows the sports field with all its associated buildings as it existed at the time. Of importance for the section under discussion is the indication of drainage lines along the north-western, western and south-western ends of the sports ground. A section of the storm drain is also shown.



Figure 27 Enlarged section of a map dating from between 1911 and 1915. It clearly shows the storm drain discussed in the text.



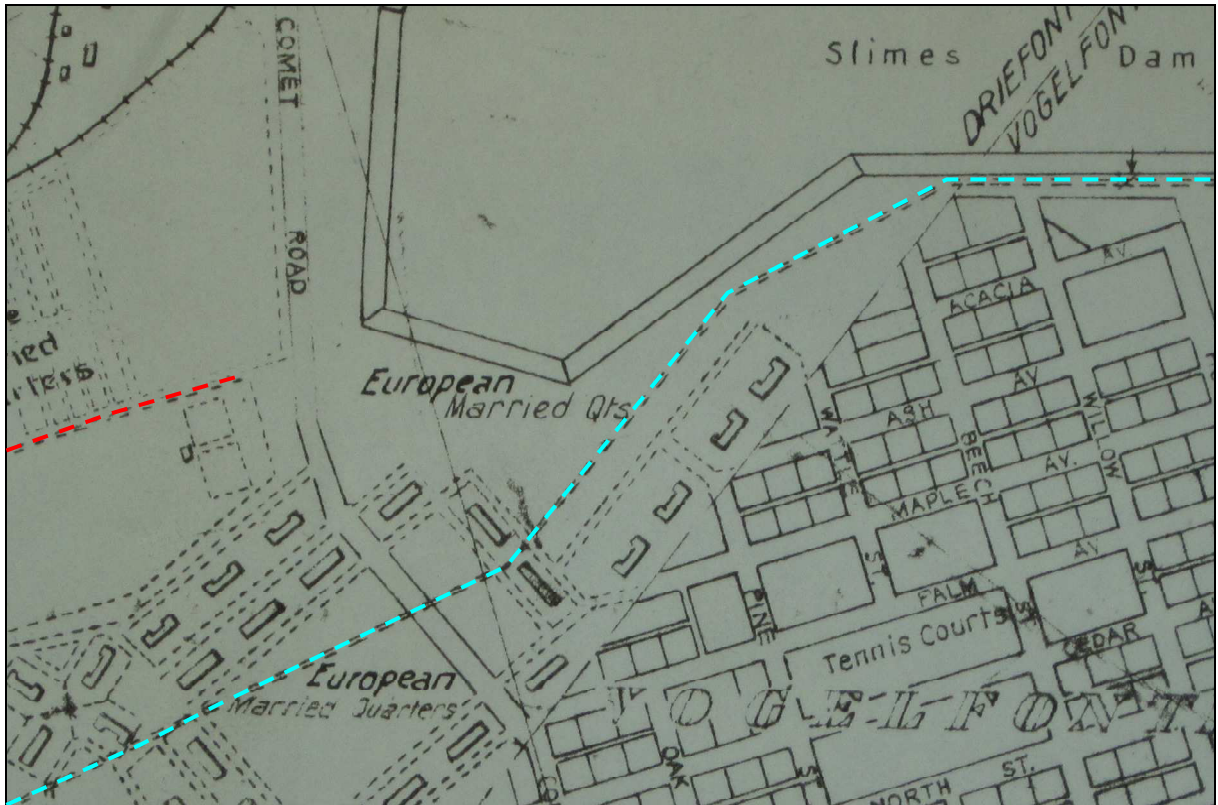


Figure 28 Enlarged section of a map that was produced on 19 June 1958. It shows the original storm drain stopping just west of the road (see red dotted line). The map also depicts a second storm drain, drainage line or watercourse to the south of the slimes dam (see blue dotted line).



Figure 29 Enlarged section of the Fifth Edition of the 2628AA Topographical Sheet that was compiled during 1975 and printed during 1980. It shows a storm drain, drainage line or watercourse to the south of the slimes dam in exactly the same position as the one depicted on the 1958 map.

## 10. THE MARRIED QUARTERS AS REVEALED THROUGH DESKTOP STUDY WORK AND AN ASSESSMENT OF THE EXISTING BUILDINGS OUTSIDE THE STUDY AREA

### 10.1 The Old Married Quarters

At the time of its construction between 1902 and 1905 the old married quarters consisted of a rectangular layout of 12 buildings, with four buildings on the northern and southern ends respectively and two buildings each on the eastern and western ends. Each of these 12 buildings comprised six individual units intended for the use of a married couple and their children. This means that as a whole the old married quarters provided accommodation for 72 individual families.

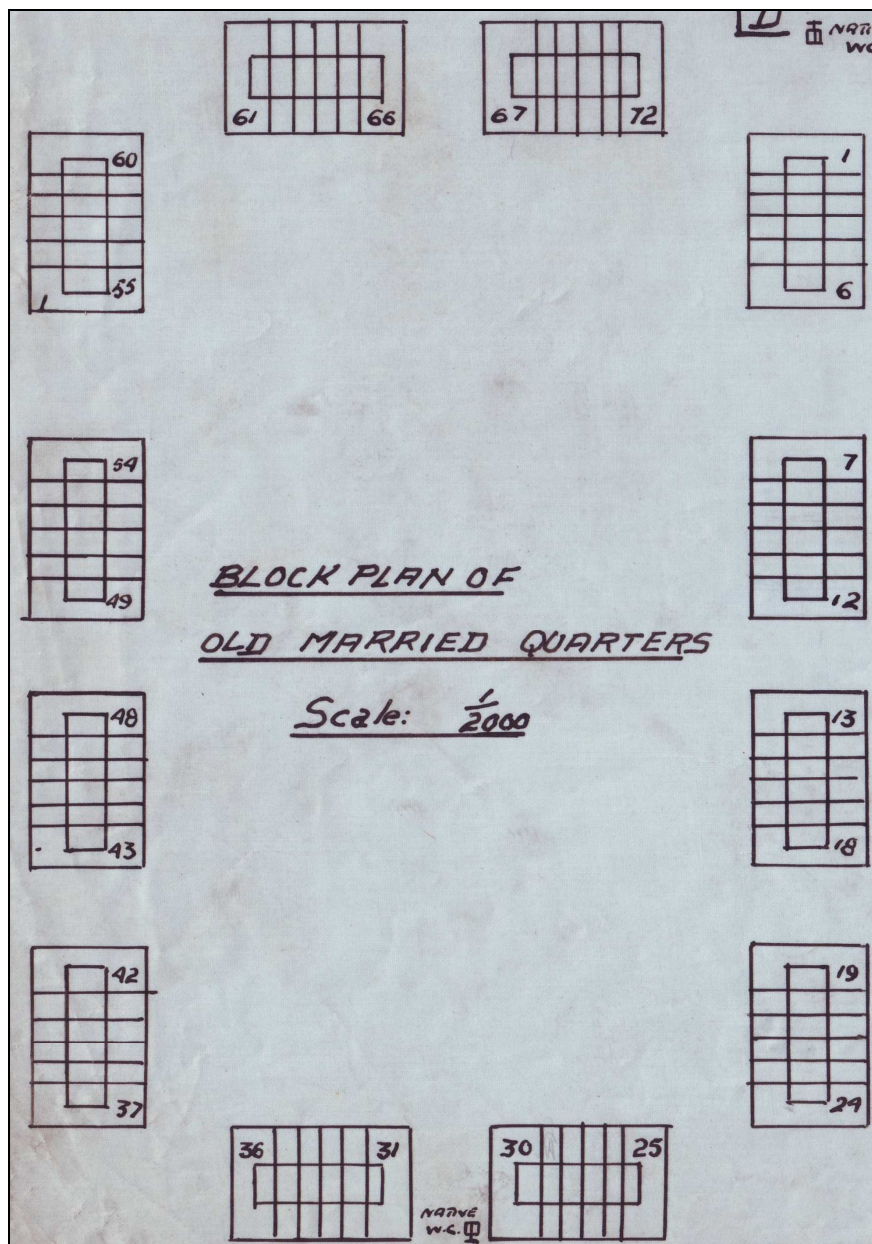


Figure 30 Diagram depicting the layout and unit numbering of the old married quarters. North is toward the top left of this image.



The layout of the old married quarters was such that it had a large green or communal open space in its centre. While the section of this open space still existing today to the west of Rondebult Road is essentially covered in grass with a number of trees toward the sides, the available archival maps indicate that especially the sides of this open area used to be covered with far more trees than is the situation at present.



Plate 8 A section of the old married quarters is visible in the back. The communal space which has remained preserved fills the rest of the image.

The original units had stone foundations with a plinth elevated to a height of about 500-600mm above the ground and were probably not painted at first. During the later extensions the same architectural solution was discarded in favour of more commercial foundations that were subterranean.

The original buildings had a simple gable roof spanning the entire length of a single building without firewalls between the various dwelling units. A narrow veranda may have existed along the front facades of these buildings. All later additions can be identified by the location of lean-to roof porches and rooms.

Some of the units found to the west of Rondebult Road still have corrugated sheets on its walls. The use of corrugated iron at first is supported by an archival map which depicts the old married quarters as brick-lined iron buildings. At a later stage the walls of the dwellings were constructed with face brick and left unpainted. This rule of thumb was altered over time and all the buildings were covered with paint without plastering the original brick exterior walling.





The available archival maps also indicate that during the early years each unit was quite small and had parallel sides. A comparison of the undated archival map depicted as Figure 31 above and a later undated layout plan depicted under Figure 32 below indicates that the original units comprised a pantry, kitchen, bathroom, dining room, two bedrooms and a possible veranda.

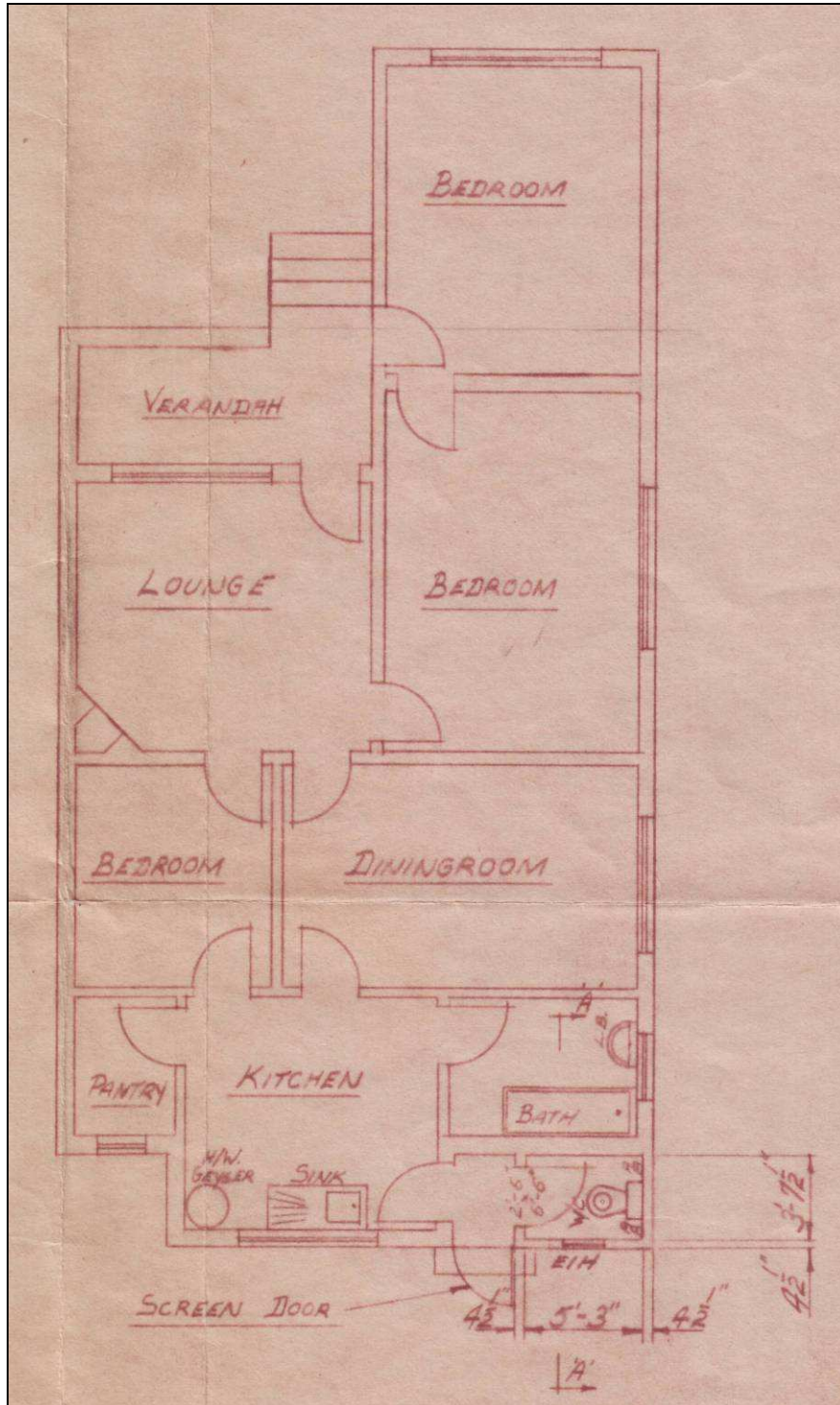


Figure 32 Enlarged section of an undated archival map depicting the layout of the old married quarters' Unit 55. The map dates from the 1960s or early 1970s.

Closer scrutiny of the five remaining buildings still existing to the west of Rondebult Road confirms the fact that the small rectangular units indicated on the archival maps are still intact but that the original floor plans have been altered extensively over the years when lean-to's and several new rooms were added along the back and front facades of each unit. This is supported by plans of the interior of the individual units obtained from the archives of the East Rand Proprietary Mines (see Figure 32). Although these plans are undated, they are believed to be from the 1960s or early 1970s. They reveal that the corner units had three bedrooms, one lounge, one dining room, one kitchen, one bathroom, one toilet and one veranda. It is evident therefore that the difference between the original units and a later modified version is two bedrooms, a lounge and an inside toilet.



Plate 9 Side elevation of one of the existing buildings from the old married quarters. The enlarged image (bottom) clearly shows the original stone foundation. The stone foundation is marked in red.





Plate 10 The front elevation and garden of one of the existing units from the old married quarters. This unit is number 22.



Plate 11 The front elevation and garden of another one of the existing units from the old married quarters. This unit is number 32, with unit 31 to the left.





Plate 12 The front veranda of one of the existing units from the old married quarters. This unit is number 39. The corrugated iron sheeting on the walling next to the door can clearly be seen. As discussed elsewhere the corrugated sheeting must have formed part of the original structure.



Plate 13 A section of the front elevation of another existing unit from the old married quarters. The original structure's corrugated iron sheeting and stone foundation can clearly be seen.

In terms of the individual stands, some of the old maps indicate that during the early years each unit had rectangular stands on it's in- and outsides. It is also worth noting that the corner units had larger stands. As stated above each stand originally had an outside toilet. In later years the corner stands also contained two garages, a 'servant's room', an outside toilet, a fowl run and a shed.

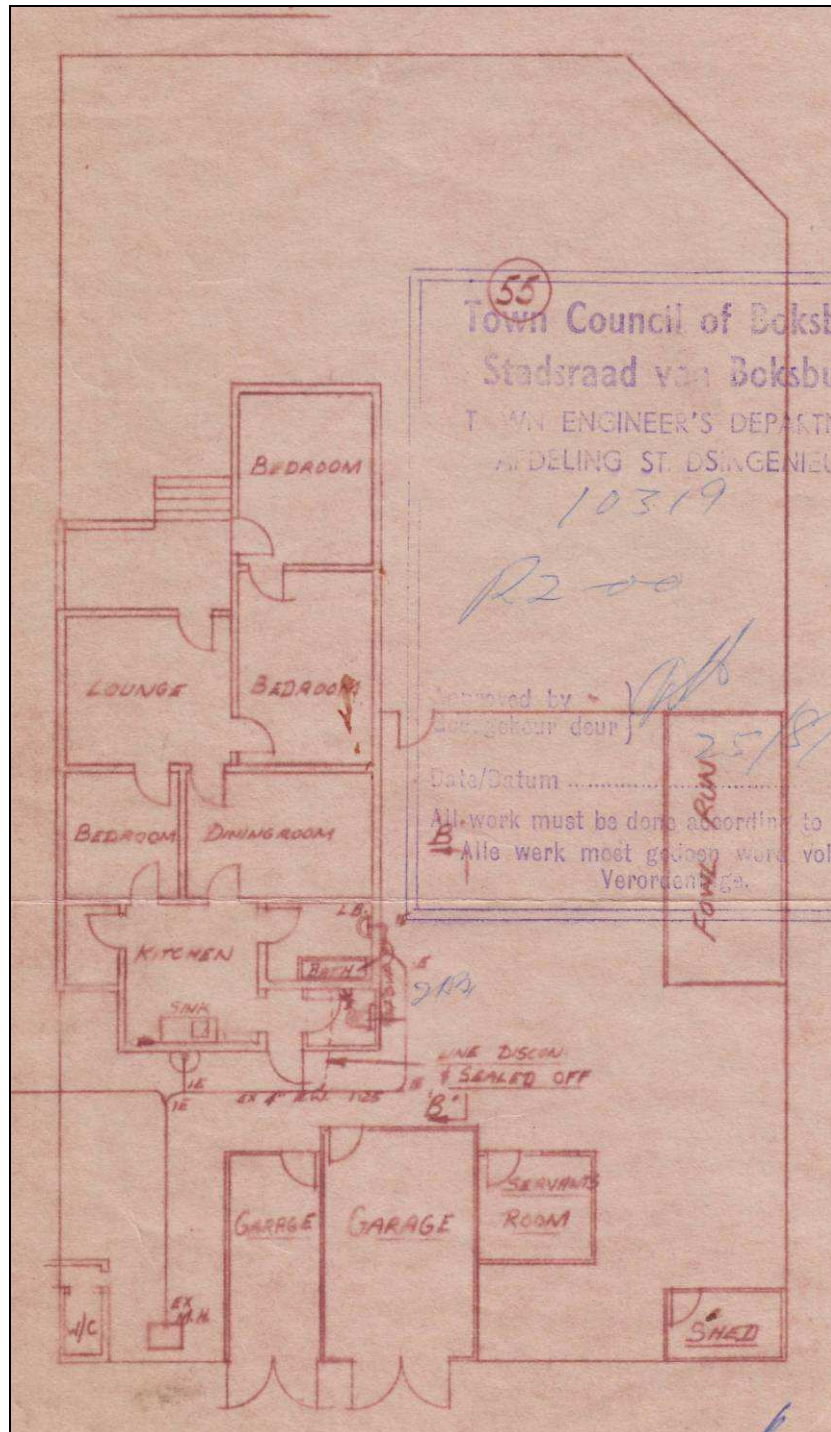


Figure 33 Enlarged section of an undated archival map depicting the layout of the old married quarters' Unit 55 as well as its stand. The map likely dates from the 1960s or early 1970s.



## 10.2 The New Married Quarters

After completion in 1911 the new married quarters comprised a total of 13 individual buildings. These buildings were large double storey residential units known as terrace housing. Five individual units were accommodated within each building. This means that with the completion of the new married quarters a total of 65 individual accommodation units for married couples and their children were created.

Four of these buildings (see numbers 1 - 4 below) were constructed in a straight line within the study area along its boundary with the Vogelfontein Plantation area. Three buildings (see numbers 5 - 7 below) were constructed between the bowling green and the northern end of the old married quarters, while four other buildings (see numbers 8 - 11 below) were constructed in an 'X' on the north-western end of the old married quarters. One of the remaining two buildings (see number 12) was constructed to the west of (and parallel with) the western end of the old married quarters while the thirteenth building (see number 13) was constructed further west.

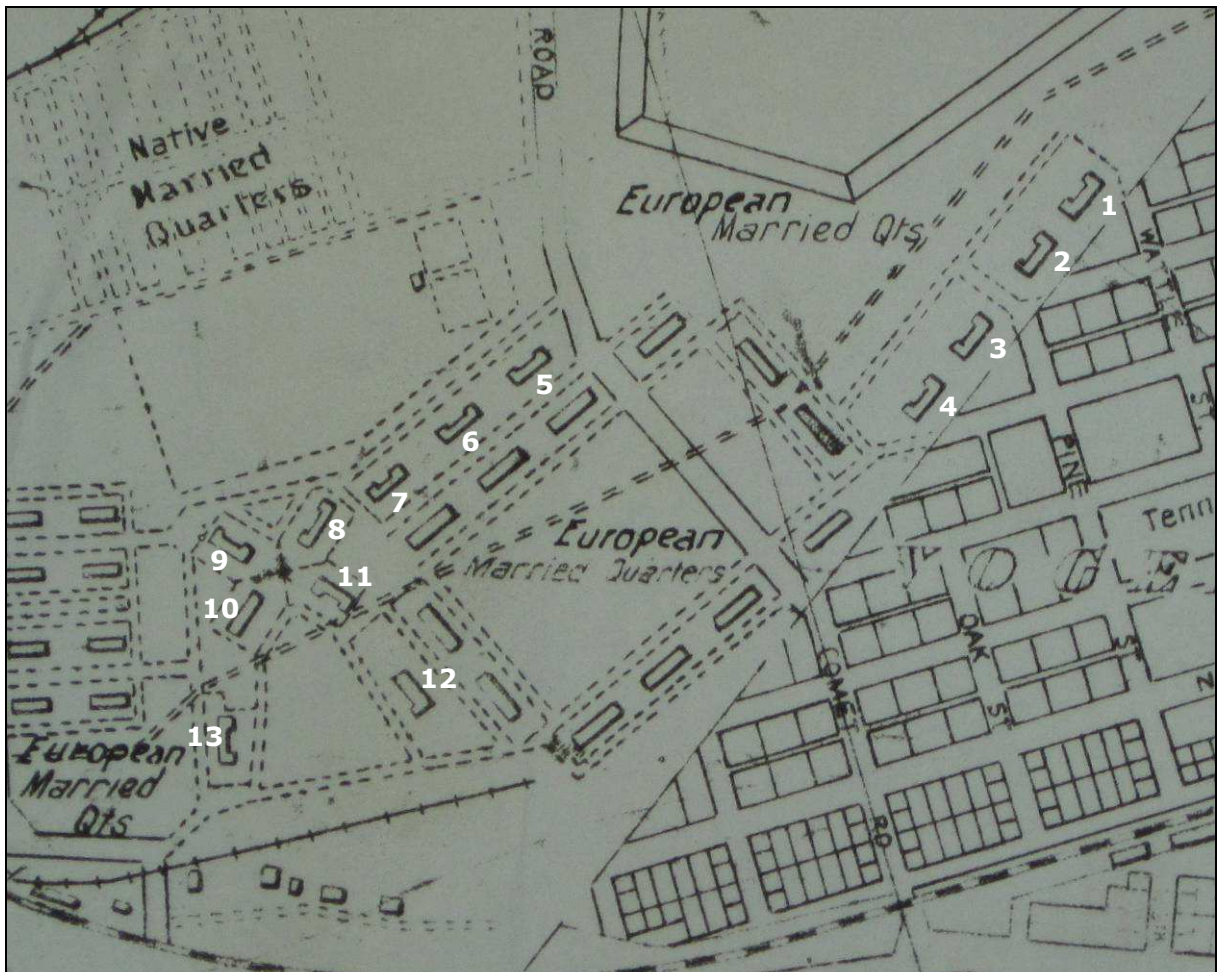


Figure 34 Enlarged section of a map that was produced on 19 June 1958. The thirteen buildings comprising the new married quarters are marked.

Nine of the original 13 buildings associated with the new married quarters still exist. Most of them face north-northwest and are set in stands that later became large front gardens. All four buildings associated with the new married quarters from within the study area had however been demolished during 2007.

In terms of the nine remaining buildings, these were not investigated in detail and no structural analyses were done. Such an investigation would have exposed the addition of walls and later extensions. The general architectural character of the existing buildings has been stripped of any elements or architectural detailing associated with the original designs of Baker. The buildings have been stripped of all Arts and Crafts elements and detailing except for the brickwork along the rims of the chimney stacks. Another obvious element to be questioned is the occurrence of steel frame windows in all the buildings (Radford also mentions the loss of the casement windows). Steel frame windows were only used from the 1920s onward and these buildings are much older than this date. It implies that the original wooden casement windows and probably also the door frames were replaced with steel frames during the 1920s or later. It is also possible that the original exterior walls or some parts of the exterior were constructed with face bricks. All the walls have been plastered – an original feature of the Baker design. However, after the replacement of the casement windows the plastered walls tend to render these buildings quite sterile and seem to reflect the ‘clean’ character typical of the Modernist movement of the 1940s-1950s. It is also assumed that the roof sheets have been replaced with new corrugated iron sheeting and that all the guttering and down pipes were replaced several times after the roof was altered.

A photograph was located in the images collection of Museum Africa in Johannesburg (Museum Africa, Images Collection, PH2007-34201) which provides one with at least some idea of what the original terrace houses designed by Herbert Baker would have looked like before all of the abovementioned alterations and changes were put in place. While this image (refer Figure 35) is in actual fact of the ERPM Central Workshops, and enlargement of a section of the background clearly shows a number of the terrace buildings located to the west of the present study area. While this photograph is undated, motor vehicles parked amongst the buildings allow one to suggest that the photograph was taken during the 1920s or 1930s.

While the buildings themselves were designed by Sir Herbert Baker, Denis Radford makes the argument that the entire layout of the new married quarters was also designed by Baker. He adds that the double storey dwelling units at ERPM are the ‘..most common form of the terrace ...’ type, designed by Baker’s office.



Figure 35 Historic image of the East Rand Proprietary Mines' workshops. Although the photograph is not dated, a number of motor vehicles can be seen amongst the buildings in the foreground which suggest that the photograph was taken during the 1920s or 1930s. In the top left hand corner (see enlarged photograph below) three of the terrace houses designed by Sir Herbert Baker can be seen. Although these fall to the west and outside of the study area, they would have been exactly the same as the four from within the study area. As such, this image provides a valuable glimpse into the general appearance of the terrace houses in the way Baker designed them and before they were modified and altered in later years.



*'The most common form of the terrace was the double storey one of five units in length. This type was extensively used at E.R.P.M. and Geldenhuys Deep. The ones built at E.R.P.M. still survive but not with the original windows. In plan they are similar to the semi-detached units but the end units are brought forward and treated as pavilions to give the terrace a slightly more formal quality. They are probably the most directly English in inspiration of all Baker mining house work and relate very much to the model working class housing of the era in form, plan and detail'.*

Two other elements typical of Bakers work was the use of buttresses and arches. The buttresses were used to reinforce the walls while also serve as an aesthetic detail as it would break-up the flat surfaces of the walls visually, thus providing some variety. At ERPM, buttresses were introduced at the corners of the main facades almost to ceiling height but they do not dictate or dominate the general appearance of the facades

Radford also mentioned the occurrence of the chimneys as they tend to be a trademark element on the terrace and single storey units. They were used both as functional and aesthetic elements in order to fit the balance and symmetry of the design and to add some aesthetic value to an otherwise functional element.



Figure 36 This photograph of ladies playing bowls at the E.R.P.M. Bowling Club was taken by David Goldblatt during 1979/1980 ([www.michaelstevenson.com](http://www.michaelstevenson.com)). One of the terrace buildings is visible in the background. Closer inspection of this image shows that the appearance of the terrace buildings during 1979/1980 was very much the same as it is today.



Plate 14 View from Rondebult Road towards the southern elevation (back elevation) of one of terrace buildings located to the west of the aforementioned road.



Plate 15 General view of the northern elevation of one of the units indicating the new steel frame windows that replaced the casement windows of Baker.





Plate 16 A similar pattern emerges in Baker's work with the simple rectangular floor plan pushed backwards by adding a pavilion at each side of the front elevation - here applied at the Union Buildings but also applied at the ERPM housing units in minute scale.

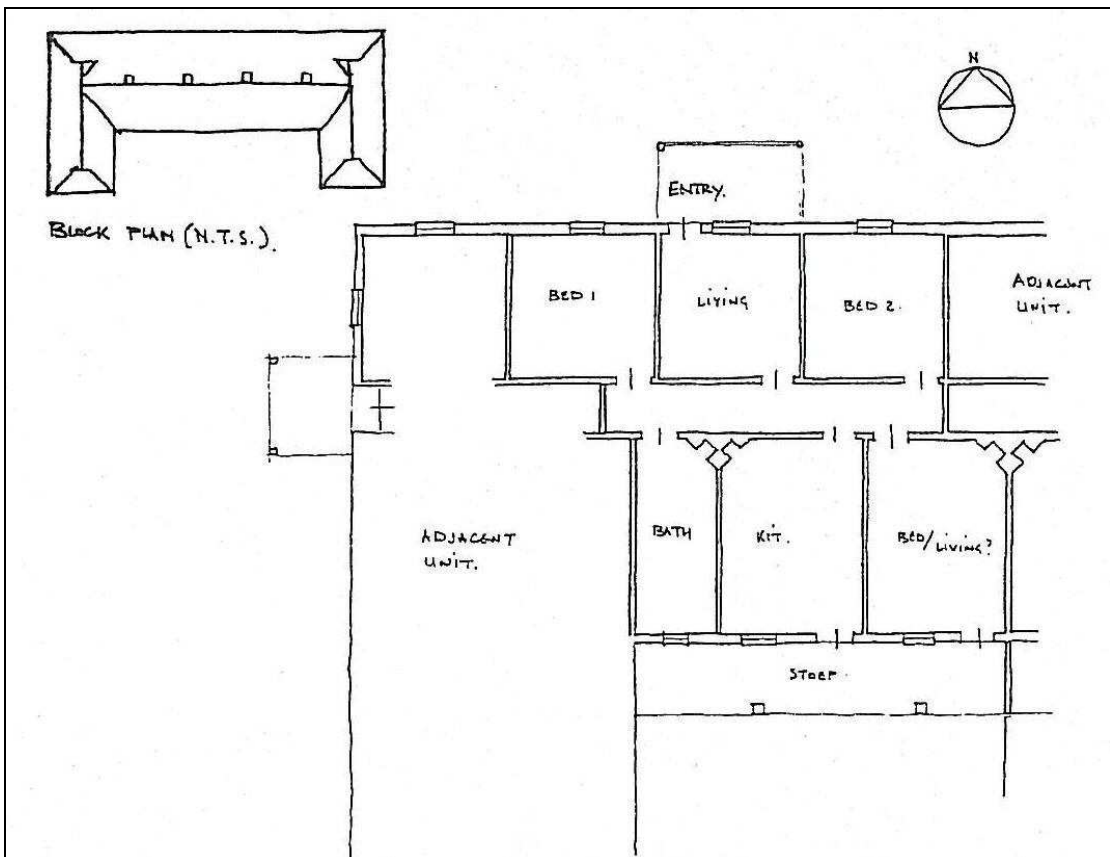


Figure 37 General roof plan of double storey housing units at ERPM (Radford, 1990).



Plates 17 & 18

Second generation steel frame windows (left) are replaced by the current residents or owners (right).

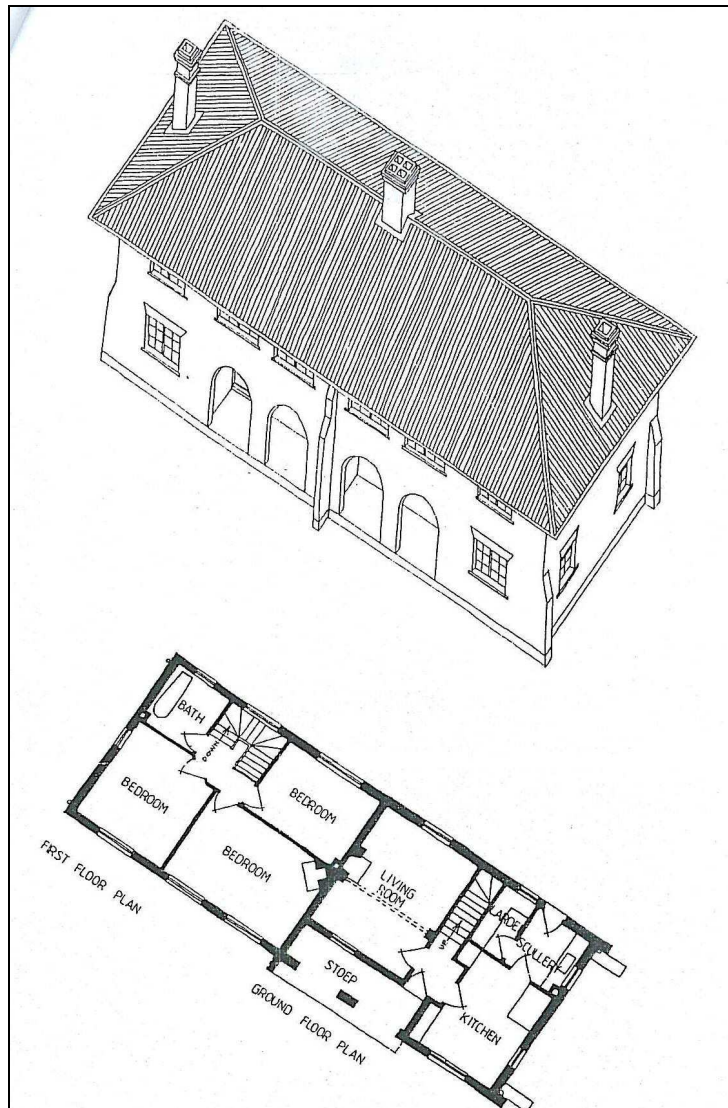


Figure 38

Example of ERPM doubles storey units not represented on this site. Note the presence of the small buttresses on the corners (Radford, 1990).





Plate 19 Corner elevation of one of the terrace buildings at ERPM with a slightly protruding pavilion and small buttressing element at its corner.



Plate 20 Simple though stylish chimneys as seen at the terrace housing from ERPM are typical of the design of the architectural firm of Baker & Masey.

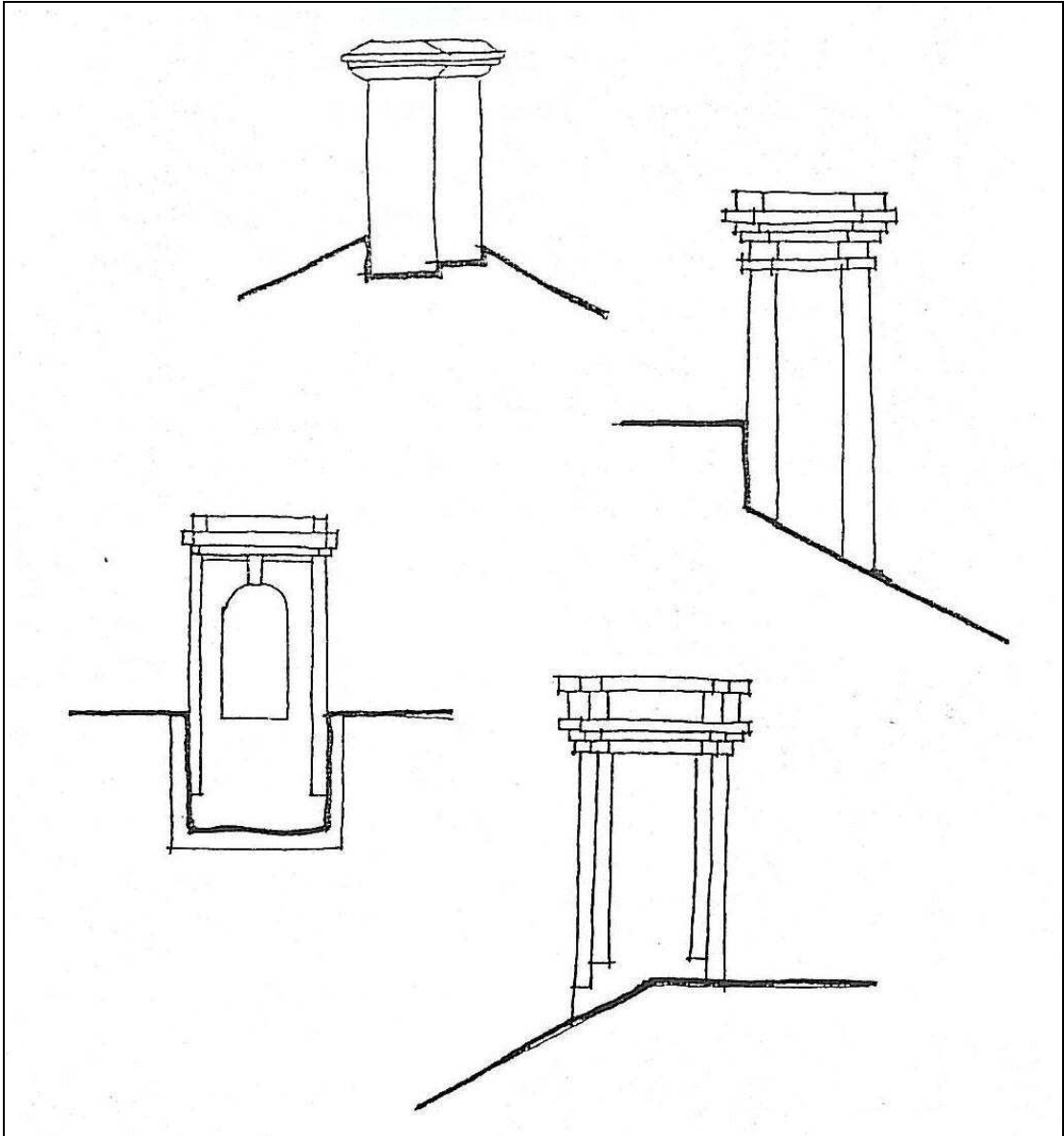


Figure 39 Typology of chimneys favoured by Baker's firm and used in the design of mining housing complexes (Radford 1990).



Another aspect of mining housing complexes is the treatment of spatial elements such as the backyards. At ERPM ample backyards were allowed behind the terrace housing and services and amenities such as toilets and showers were accommodated in the corrugated iron outbuildings located on the extreme periphery away from the backdoors. Wooden doors and windows were also installed in these buildings although most of these have since been replaced with steel frame windows. Some original windows were discovered in isolated outbuildings giving some indication of the type, style and form of these windows.



Plates 21 & 22 Exterior of backyard walling and small timber and iron outbuilding.



Plate 23 The original wooden window from an old corrugated iron outbuilding.

## **11. THE MARRIED QUARTERS FROM WITHIN THE STUDY AREA**

### **11.1 The Old Married Quarters from Within the Study Area**

#### **11.1.1 Introduction to the old married quarters from within the study area**

At the time of its construction during the early 1900s there would have been five individual buildings of the old married quarters located within the present study area. These five units represented the north-eastern edge of the complex of old married quarters which in total contained 12 buildings. The five buildings from within the study area contained units 1-6, 7-12, 55-60, 61-66 and 67-72.

As mentioned elsewhere, one of the five buildings from within the study area was destroyed when Rondebult Road was extended in 2002. This building contained units 55-60.

For the purposes of this report the remaining four buildings are numbered Building 1 (which contained units 7-12), Building 2 (which contained units 1-6), Building 3 (which contained units 67-72) and Building 4 (which contained units 61-66) (refer Annexure B).

On the available Google Earth Image which dates from May 2007, three buildings associated with the old married quarters as well as the foundations of one such building are indicated. The building of which the foundations are depicted is Building 1 and is located directly adjacent to Rondebult Road. Although it is not known exactly when the demolishing of the buildings from within the study area started, the fact that only the foundations of this building can be seen on the Google Earth Image indicate that its demolishing started sometime before May 2007.

With the complete demolishing of the buildings from within the study area in 2007, the available evidence therefore suggests that four individual buildings associated with the old married quarters were demolished from within the study area. The remains of three of these buildings were located in the field.

#### **11.1.2 Fieldwork findings in terms of the old married quarters**

As indicated above, the remains of the three most recently demolished buildings associated with the old married quarters were located in the field. The entire area was overgrown and this portion of the former residential complex had been cut-off from the remaining part of the original (surviving and still functioning) residential area during the



construction of Rondebult Road. Trees and grass have been allowed to grow freely over the remains and rubble of the demolished buildings and redundant gardens.

The only remains of the former buildings were large middens of building rubble – overgrown with grass and weeds. The rubble indicated that the buildings must have been pushed over with a front-end-loader. The doors, windows, corrugated iron, floor boards and other fixtures and fittings must have been removed prior to the demolition as no evidence of these could be found on any of the sites. After the buildings were gutted the shells were probably pushed over and the rubble neatly dumped on the spot where each building existed.

The number of rubble dumps could be counted and their locations were the same as the GPS-coordinates obtained from the Google Earth Image which still depicted the three buildings. The position of the three buildings represented by rubble dumps are as follows:

- Building 2

26° 12' 58.8" S

28° 14' 13.1" E

- Building 3

26° 12' 56.1" S

28° 14' 13.6" E

- Building 4

26° 12' 53.9" S

28° 14' 12.6" E

A number of photographs were taken by a presently unknown individual of some of the old married quarters before and during their demolition. Although some of these photographs were taken in 2007, others may have been taken before that. These photographs were supplied to the authors of this report by Mr. Danie van der Merwe of Urban Dynamics and are depicted here as they represent the only available images of the old married quarters from within the study area before their destruction. The photographs taken of the demolished buildings during the site visit on 28 January 2010 are also depicted herewith.



Plate 24 This image taken before or during 2007 appears to show the old married quarters known in this report as Building 1. The view is from the east.



Plate 25 This image taken before or during 2007 appears to show a section of the old married quarters known in this report as Building 1.





Plate 26 The outside buildings as well as a section of the roof from Building 2 can be seen on the left of this photograph taken before or during 2007. The access road from Palm Avenue can be seen in the centre.



Plate 27 All that remains of what used to be the old married quarters known in this report as Building 2.





Plate 28 This image taken before or during 2007 appears to show the old married quarters known in this report as Building 4. The view is from the northwest.



Plate 29 This image taken before or during 2007 appears to show a section of the old married quarters known in this report as Building 4. The fact that demolition had already started when this photograph was taken is evident.





Plate 30 This image taken before or during 2007 appears to show the tar road running behind the old married quarters known in this report as Building 4.



Plate 31 This image taken during 2010 shows more or less the same view as depicted in Plate 30. Note the marked difference between the two views with Building 4 completely destroyed and the overgrown state of the surrounding landscape.





Plate 32 The remains of Building 4 are visible on the right. The overgrown nature of the site is clearly evident.



Plate 33 All that remain of Building 4 is this mound of rubble.



## **11.2 The New Married Quarters from Within the Study Area**

### **11.2.1 Introduction to the old married quarters from within the study area**

At the time of its completion in 1911 there would have been four individual buildings associated with the new married quarters located within the present study area. These four units represented the eastern component of the entire complex of new married quarters which in total contained 13 buildings. These four buildings comprised the only manifestation of Baker architecture from within the study area. For the purposes of this report the four buildings are numbered (from west to east) Buildings 5 to 8.

Although all four buildings are still depicted on the available Google Earth Image which dates from May 2007, they all bear evidence that demolition activities had already commenced. The building known for the purposes of this report as Building 6 shows the most damage.

The remains of all four demolished buildings associated with the new married quarters were located in the field.

### **11.2.2 Fieldwork findings in terms of the old married quarters**

As indicated above, the remains of the four demolished buildings associated with the new married quarters were located in the field.

The site where the Baker dwellings used to be located was investigated on foot. The entire area was overgrown in that trees and grass have been allowed to grow freely over the remains and rubble of the demolished buildings and redundant gardens.

As was the case with the old married quarters, the only remains of the former Baker houses were large middens of building rubble. The rubble indicated that the buildings must have been pushed over with a front-end-loader. The doors, windows, corrugated iron, floor boards and other fixtures and fittings must have been removed prior to the demolition as no evidence of these could be found on any of the sites. After the buildings were gutted the shells were probably pushed over and the rubble neatly dumped on the spot where each building existed. This said, some building elements such as concrete lintels and sections of walls that were not completely crushed during demolition were still found. A few chunks of sandstone occur in scattered finds on the rubble and some selective examples of red Kirkness face bricks were also identified. Kirkness bricks were common at the time but have also become one of Bakers trademarks as these bricks

were of excellent quality and were manufactured in several types – sometimes to fit catalogue fireplace and hearth designs.

A single chunk of walling consisting of three layers of shale stone was also observed among the rubble, indicating that the building material must have been used either for structural or ornamental purposes when the building was erected. This material was also used by Baker – especially at the Union Buildings, however, mostly for retaining walls and terracing and not in dwellings.

The most significant remains of this portion of the demolished residential area are the original tarred streets as they were not ripped but left intact. Some trees and garden shrubs have also remained intact.

The number of rubble dumps could be counted and their locations were the same as the GPS-coordinates obtained from the Google Earth Image which still depicted the four buildings. The position of the four buildings represented by rubble dumps are as follows:

- Building 5  
  
26° 12' 56.1" S  
28° 14' 17.1" E
  
- Building 6  
  
26° 12' 55" S  
28° 14' 18.8" E
  
- Building 7  
  
26° 12' 53.5" S  
28° 14' 21.1" E
  
- Building 8  
  
26° 12' 52.4" S  
28° 14' 22.8" E





Plate 34 This image taken before or during 2007 shows the tar road running in front (north) of the new married quarters located within the study area.



Plate 35 This image taken during 2010 shows the same street but was taken a little further to the west than the previous one. Note the marked difference between the two views with the overgrown state of the road and surrounding landscape.





Plate 36 This image taken before or during 2007 appears to show the new married quarters building known in this report as Building 5.



Plate 37 All that remains of what used to be the new married quarters known in this report as Building 5 is a large mound of rubble.





Plate 38 This image taken before or during 2007 appears to show the new married quarters building known in this report as Building 6.



Plate 39 This image taken before or during 2007 appears to show a section of Building 6 within its landscape. The view is from the north.





Plate 40 This image taken before or during 2007 appears to show a section of the back elevation of Building 6. The view is from the south-east.



Plate 41 All that remains of what used to be the new married quarters known in this report as Building 6. The Kirkness brick alluded to in the report was observed here.