

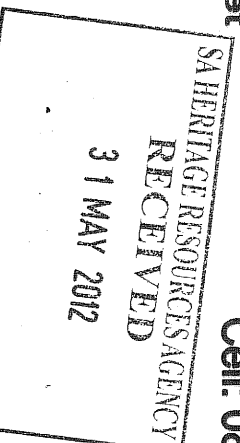


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**FIRST PHASE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HERITAGE
INVESTIGATION OF THE PROPOSED LIQUID AND SOLID
FERTILISER PRODUCTION FACILITY AT THE OLD CREAMERY,
WINBURG, FREE STATE**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A new fertiliser production plant is planned on the old Creamery site, at Winburg, Free State.

The building and surrounding land had been severely damaged and neglected over time.

According to two keystones, which are still in place, the original main building of the creamery date from 1912. Inscriptions in English and Dutch indicate that the stones were laid by Genl. Louis Botha, the first Prime Minister of the Union of South Africa. Local people relate that major renovations were done at the creamery by about 1956. The work included the enlargement of the factory and the addition of a new façade. This claim could not be verified officially, but could still indicate that the present buildings are almost sixty years old.

The new developments are planned to cover a substantial part of the land and will require the demolition of all the structures, including the main creamery building.

I recommend that further planning and development of the site should be delayed, pending approval from the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) in Cape Town, and the Free State Provincial Heritage Resources Agency (PHRA) in Bloemfontein. Members of the Winburg Historical Committee also expressed their concern about the proposed demolition of the Old Creamery buildings. A suggestion to relocate the old keystones to the new building was also made.

INTRODUCTION AND DESCRIPTION

Scope and Limitations

The investigation provided the opportunity to examine the site proposed for the new industrial developments. No limitations were experienced during the site inspection.

Methodology

Standard archaeological survey and recording methods were applied.

1. The proposed land was inspected on foot.
2. GPS points were taken and the surroundings and features were recorded on camera.

INVESTIGATION

The old creamery site at Winburg was inspected on 31 March 2012. Dr Johan du Preez, Environmental Consultant from Bloemfontein, directed me to the site.

The study aims to locate and evaluate the significance of cultural heritage sites, archaeological material, manmade structures older than 60 years, and sites associated with oral histories and graves that might be affected by the proposed development.

The area was examined for possible archaeological and historical material and to establish the potential impact on any cultural material that might be found. The Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) is done in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA), (25 of 1999) and under the Environmental Conservation Act, (73 of 1989).

LOCALITY

The site for the proposed new industrial developments is located on the Winburg town lands (2826D, 2827CA) on the northern outskirts of the town of Winburg (Map 2).

The following GPS coordinates (Cape scale) were taken (Map 4):

- A 28°30'07"S 027°00'14"E Altitude 1430m (Figs.1&2).
- B 28°30'01"S 027°00'17"E Altitude 1458m (Fig:3).
- C 28°30'06"S 027°00'20"E Altitude 1456m (Figs.4&5).
- D 28°30'08"S 027°00'20"E Altitude 1453m (Figs.6-9).

RESULTS

FINDS

Creameries and butter factories had been established in every town in the Free State. For many years even Bloemfontein had a creamery and butter factory. These plants were established to generate a cash income for the farmers and to relieve the plight of poverty after the Anglo-Boer War.

The Winburg Creamery dates from shortly after the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902). The establishment of the old creamery is confirmed by the first keystones which date from 1912 (Figs.6, 12-13). Inscriptions in English and Dutch indicate that the stones were laid by Genl. Louis Botha, the first Prime Minister of the Union of South Africa.

Local people relate that major alterations were done at the creamery in about 1956. The work included the enlargement of the factory building and the addition of a new façade. This claim could not be confirmed officially, but could indicate that the buildings are almost sixty years old.

ASSESSMENT OF IMPACT

The buildings and surrounding land had been severely damaged and neglected over time (Map 3). After the closing of the creamery, the buildings were used for various activities and as storage facilities. Some of the inner walls had been removed (Figs.18&19). At some stage the site was even used as a cattle feeding lot (Figs.10-11) (Map 4).

The proposed developments are planned to cover a substantial part of the land and will involve the demolition of all the structures, including the main creamery building.

It is clear that the new industrial developments will have a serious and fatal impact on the old Winburg creamery.

In reality most if not all of the creameries and butter factories in the Free State rural areas have been closed and the buildings, as in the case of the neighbouring town of Senekal, have been demolished by people from the townships.

RECOMMENDATIONS

I recommend that further planning and development of the site should be delayed, pending approval from the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) in Cape Town, and the Free State Provincial Heritage Resources Agency (PHRA) in Bloemfontein.

Members of the Winburg Historical Committee also expressed their concern about the proposed demolition of the Old Creamery buildings. I suggest that their contributions should also be taken into consideration.

A suggestion to relocate the old keystones to the new building was also made.

MITIGATION

Concerning the area for the proposed developments, mitigation measures will be required in the case of the two keystones in the old building.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

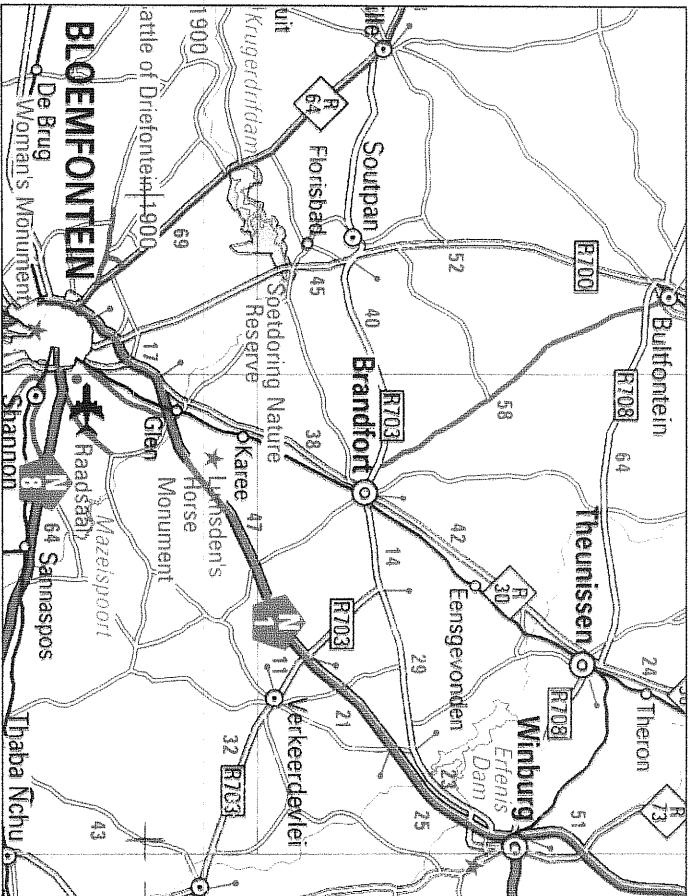
I thank Dr Johan du Preez from Bloemfontein, for directing me to the site. I also owe gratitude to Mrs Janette van Niekerk of Winburg, for information on the olden times of the Old Creamery.

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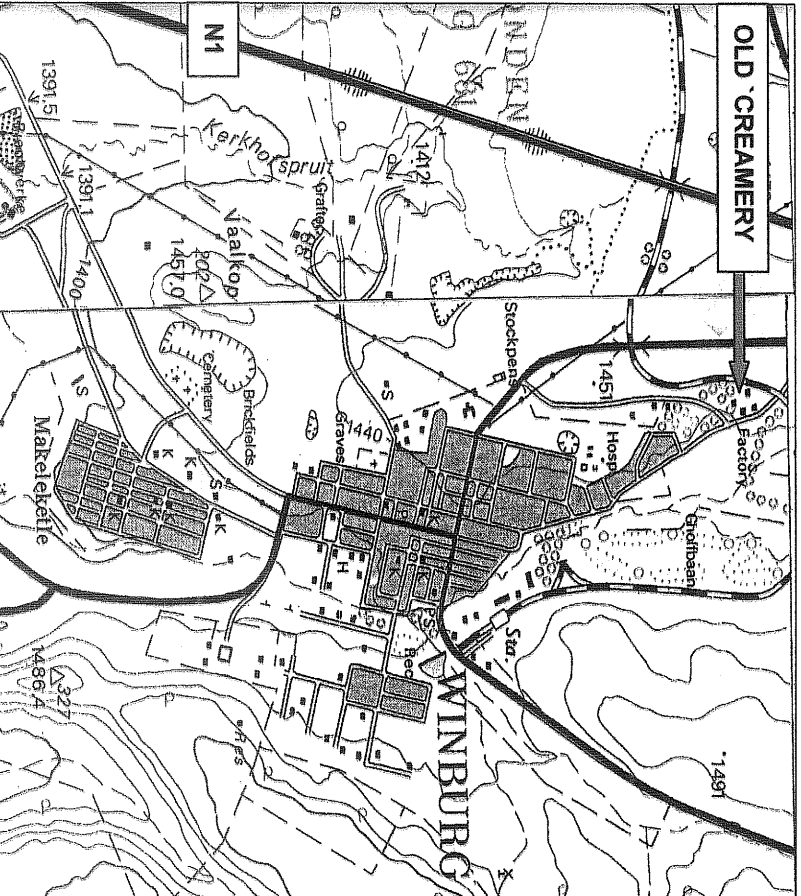
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LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS:



Map 1 Locality of Winburg in relation to the N1 and Bloemfontein.



Map 2 Locality of the old creamery at Winburg (2826DB&2827CA).



Map 3 The old creamery proposed for new fertiliser production developments, Winburg.



Fig. 1 Point A at the old creamery site, Winburg, facing east.



Map 4 Old creamery site at Winburg with different features and GPS Coordinate points.



Fig.2 Point A at the old creamery site, Winburg.



Fig.3 Point B at the old creamery site, Winburg.



Fig. 4 Point C at the old creamery site, Winburg.



Fig. 5 Point C at the old creamery site, Winburg.

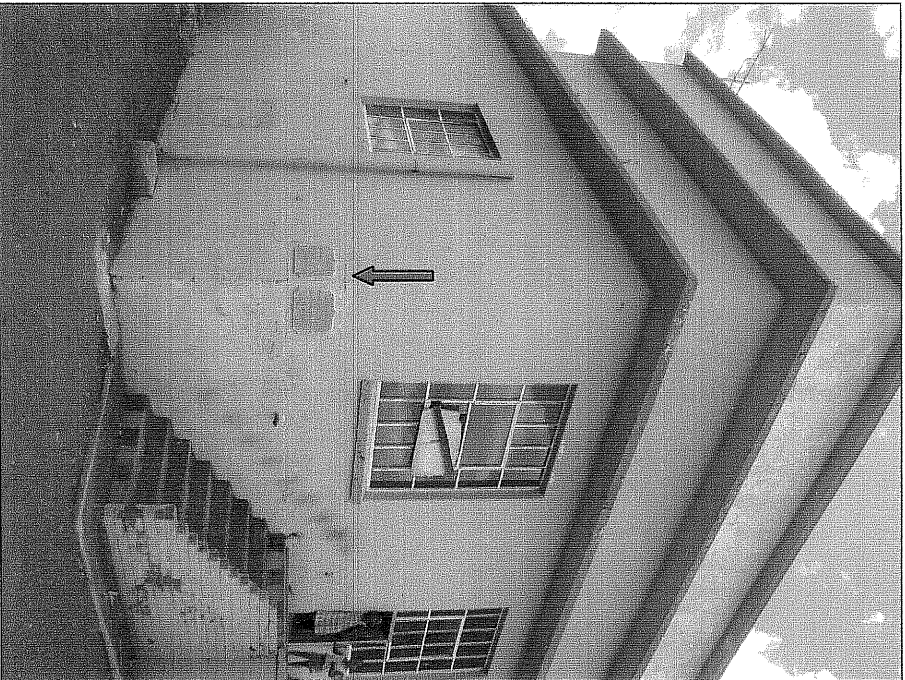


Fig. 6 Point D at the old creamery building, Winburg. Note the position of the keystones.

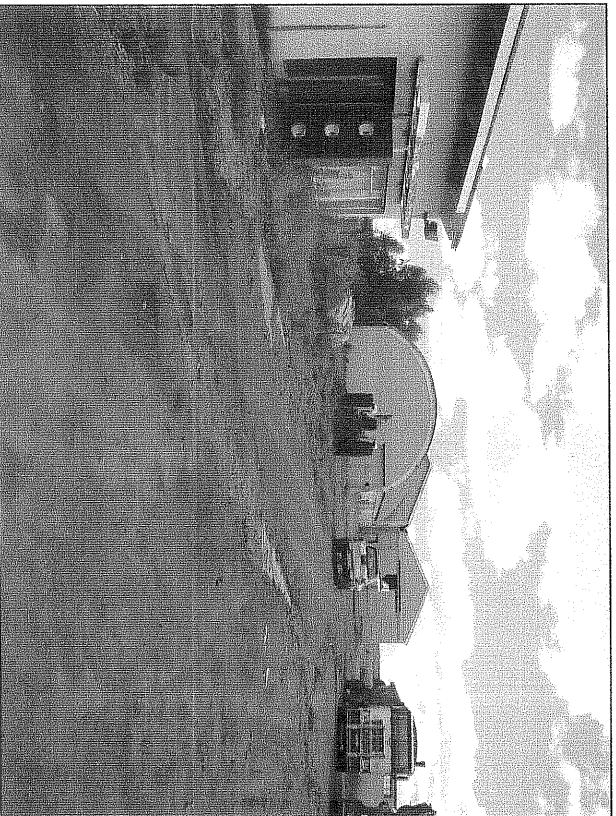


Fig. 7 Point D at the old creamery site, Winburg, facing west.



Fig. 8 Point D at the old creamery site, Winburg.



Fig. 9 Point D at the old creamery site, Winburg, facing Point C.

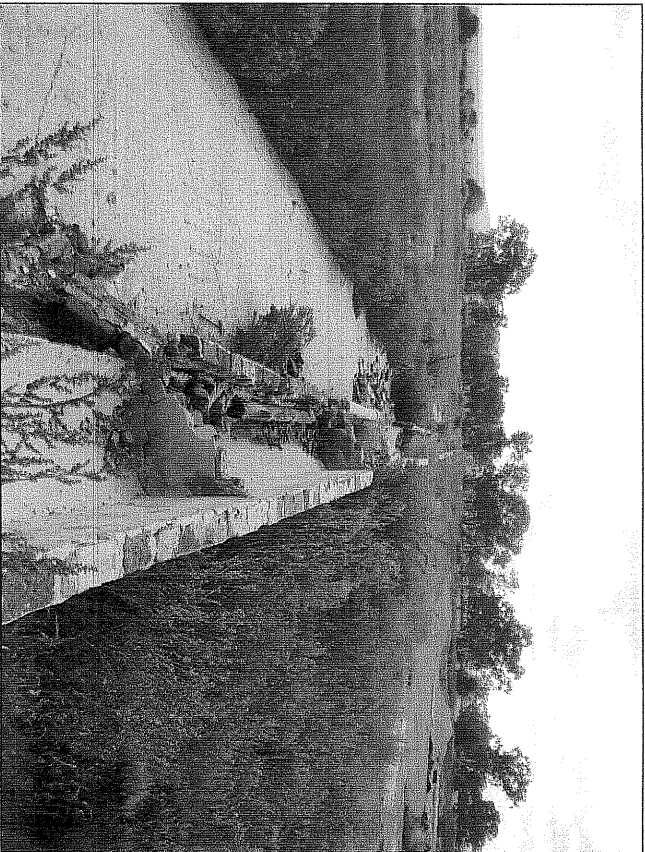


Fig. 10 Cattle feed lot at the old creamery site, Winburg, facing north.



Fig. 11 Cattle feed lot at the old creamery site, Winburg, facing south.

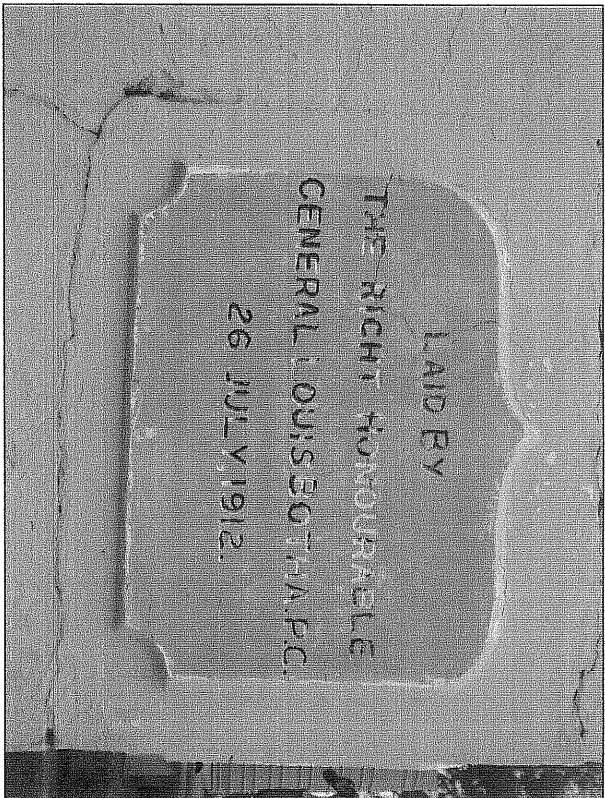


Fig. 12 Keystone near Point D at the old creamery site, Winburg.



Fig. 13 Keystone near Point D at the old creamery site, Winburg.

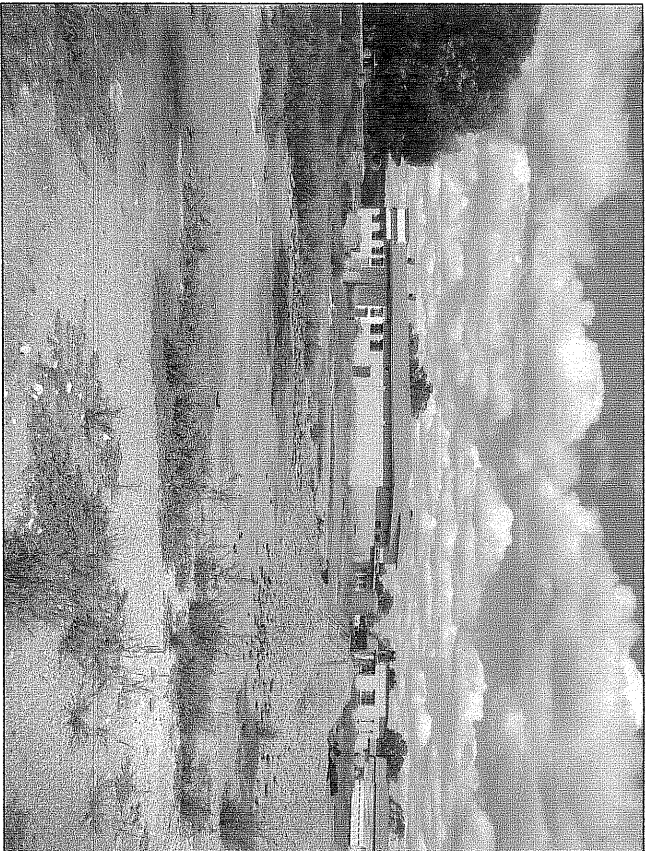


Fig. 14 Facing south towards the main building at the old creamery site, Winburg.



Fig. 15 South face of the main building, old creamery site, Winburg.



Fig. 16 Receiving platform at the old creamery, Winburg.

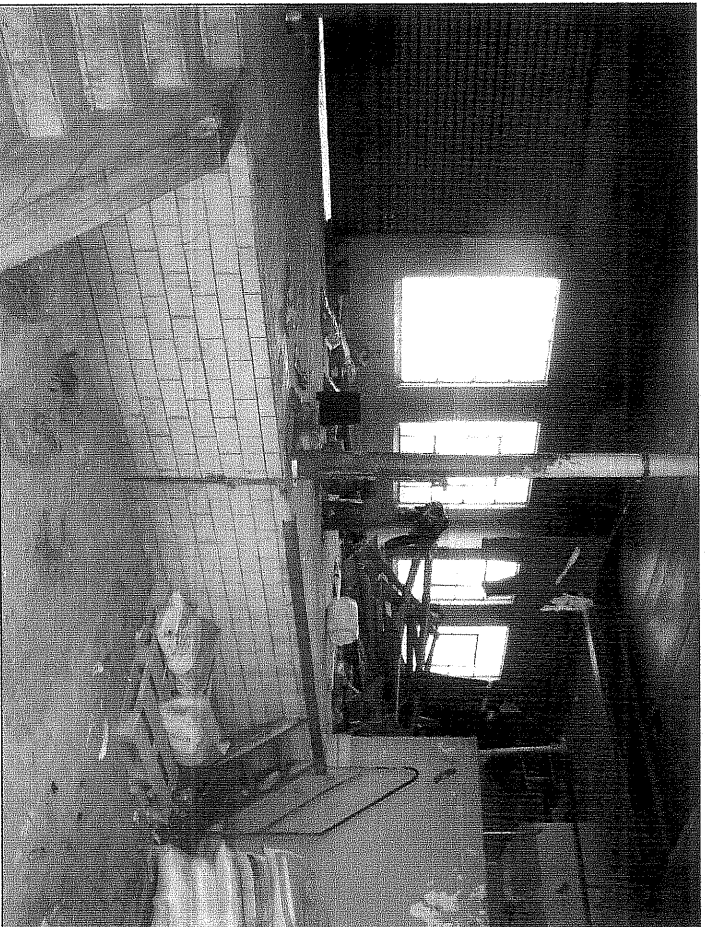


Fig. 17 Interior view of the receiving platform at the old creamery, Winburg.



Fig. 18 Cold storage room at the old creamery site, Winburg.

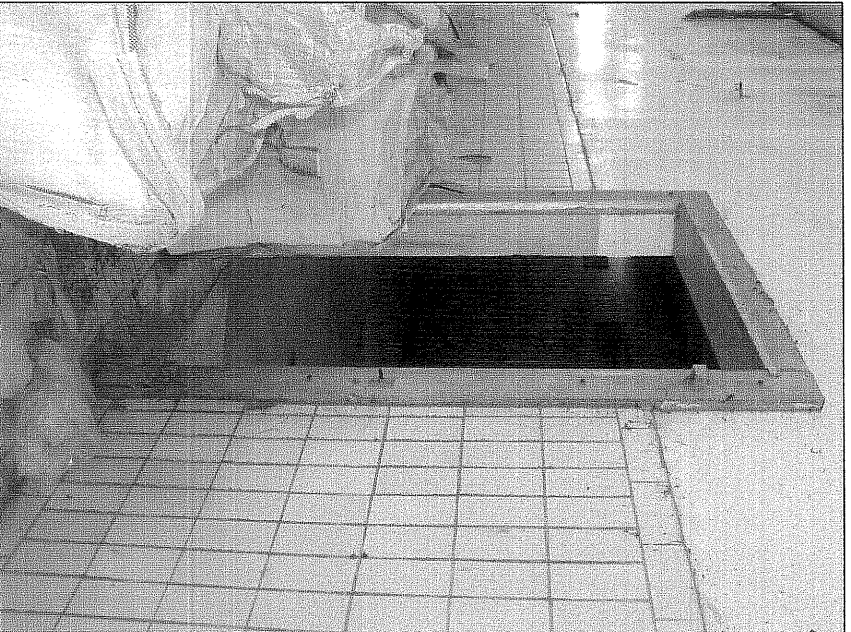


Fig. 19 Entrance door to the cold storage room at the old creamery site, Winburg.

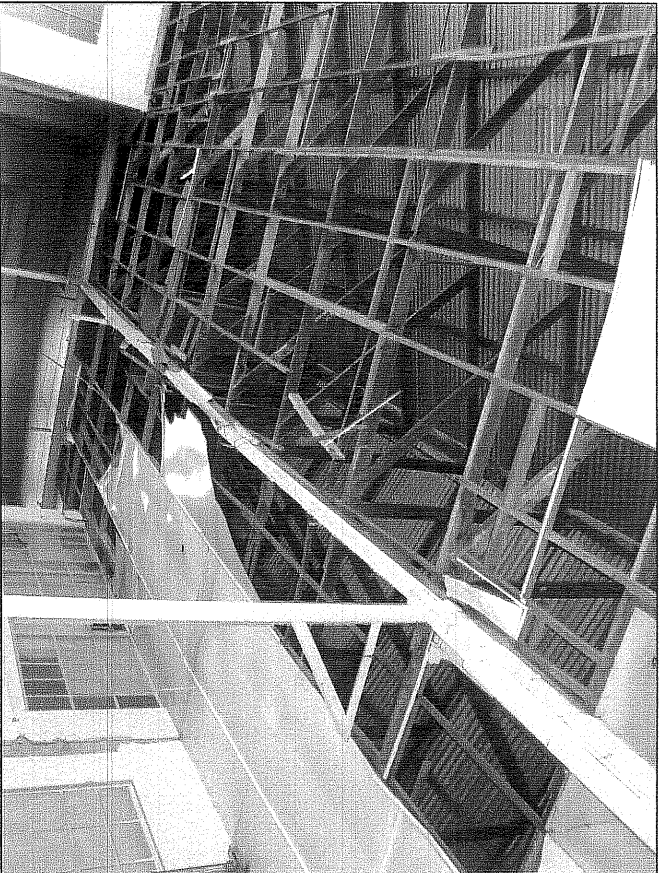


Fig.20 Roof rafters inside the main building at the old creamery site, Winzburg.



Fig.20 Office building at the old creamery site, Winzburg.

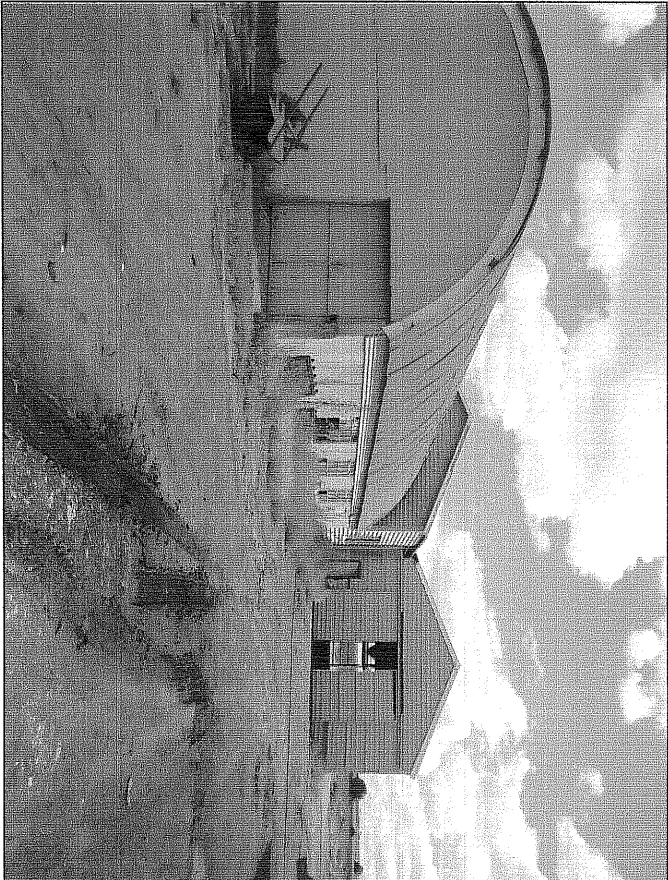


Fig.21 Storage facilities at the old creamery site, Winbury.