



THE SOUTH AFRICAN ARMY HEADQUARTERS

The History of the Transvaal
State Artillery Precinct
1894 to 2010

By Robin Jay
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE
VOLUME 1

South African Army Headquarters

The History of the Transvaal State Artillery Precinct 1894 to 2010

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84 Portebello Drive, Centurion Golf Estate, South Africa

PO Box 66478, Highveld Park, South Africa, 0169

hpa@mwebbiz.co.za

www.hpa.co.za

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Written by:

Robin Jay

Edited by

Joy Capon

Editorial Coordination by:

Helene Potgieter

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Neels Bezuidenhout

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FOREWORD BY CHIEF OF THE SA ARMY

The SA Army as a component of the SANDF, with its rich and proud history, lies at the heart of the military community of South Africa. Although we as the SA Army are focussing on our core business, namely force preparation, we are also aware of our responsibilities in terms of protecting our military heritage.

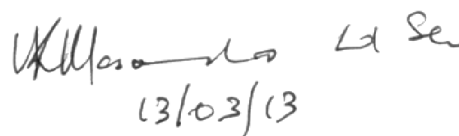
The National Heritage Resources Act of South Africa (Act 25 of 1999) stipulates that an authority which owns or controls a heritage resource is responsible to manage such an asset within the framework of a conservation management plan. In this regard the SA Army has embarked on a process to renovate the old South African Republic State Artillery Precinct, in which the Army HQ is currently housed, so that it may be bequeathed to future generations.

We have decided on this publication about the history of these buildings as part of the process to deepen our understanding of society and to make us proud of occupying this complex. With this publication we are placing on record our appreciation for the preservation of our military heritage. I would also like to thank Major (Ret) Robin Jay for his effort in researching the history of this precinct.

It is interesting to note that the history of this site dates back to 1877 when a military camp was established after the British Occupation of the Transvaal. Thereafter the complex was built over the period 1895 to 1898 to house the *Staatsartillerie* of the *Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek*, with later editions to house the Union Defence Force Headquarters and more recently the South Africa Defence Force Headquarters.

No military establishment in South Africa, other than perhaps the Castle in Cape Town, can compete in size or grandeur with these buildings. The restoration and refurbishment of the buildings offers an ideal opportunity to establish a unified and stately command for the SA Army Headquarters. Therefore we deemed it necessary to put on record the history of this site.

I dedicate this publication to all South African Army soldiers, personnel and their families and loved ones, who directly or indirectly serve the South Army and will continue to serve the SANDF and our country from this precinct.



(V.R. MASONDO)
CHIEF OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN ARMY: LIEUTENANT GENERAL

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Books	
1	Gedenkboek van M.J de Jager,
2	History of the War in South Africa 1899 – 1902, Volume 1, Frederick Maurice, Hurt and Blackett Limited, 1906
3	History of the War in South Africa 1899 – 1902, Volume 2, Frederick Maurice, Hurt and Blackett Limited, 1906
4	Crossing the Buffalo, The Zulu War of 1879, Adrian Greaves, Jonathan Ball Publishers, 2005
5	David and Goliath, The First War of independence 1880 – 1881, Geo R. Duxbury, SA National Museum of Military History, 1981
6	Illustrated History of South Africa, The Real Story, Readers Digest, 1988
7	Pretoria at War 1899 – 1900, Bridget Theron, Protea Book House, 2000
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10.	The Transvaal War 1880 – 1881, Bellairs, William Blackwood and Sons, 1905
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12.	The War of South Africa, Bill Nasson, Tafelberg, 2010
13.	Die voormalige Staatsartillerie, PJ Venter, 1887
14.	The Fortification of Pretoria, J. Ploeger, Government Printer, 1968
15.	Militaria 2/2, 1970, Besonderhede aangaande 'n aantal geboue op die terrein van die huidige verdedigingshoofkwartier, Potgieterstraat, Pretoria, Col J. Ploeger
16.	Militaria 4/3, 1974, Die Uniform van die Transvaalse Staatsartillerie
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18.	Militaria 15/4 1985, Uit die Geskiedenis van die “Corps Staatsartillerie” van die Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek, Col J. Ploeger
19.	Besonderhede Aangaande die bou op die huidige terrein van die Verdedigingshoofkwartier, Potgieterstraat, Pretoria, Col J. Ploeger
20.	Republic of South Africa Government Gazette No. 19974, 28 April 1999
21.	Military History Journal Vol 4, No. 4, The Zulu Military Organization and the Challenge of 1879, Commandant S. Bourquin, DWD
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23	Commando, Vol 5, No. 6, June 1954, Die Geskiedenis van die Staatsartillerie
24.	Argus Annual & SA dir 1889; Greig 1971; Kesting 1978; Longlands Pta dir 1899; Picton-Seymour 1977; Pretoriana Apr 1957 (23):26 – 32; Pretorius 1969; Rex 1974; SESA 3:617
25.	http://af.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sytze_Wierda
26.	http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Piet_Joubert

Ser No.	Abbreviation	Description
	A	B
1	ANC	African National Congress
2	ARMSCOR	Armaments Corporation of South Africa
3	ft	Feet
4	HQ	Headquarters
5	Lt Col	Lieutenant Colonel
6	m	Metres
7	NCO	Non-Commissioned Officer
8	No	Number
9	PAC	Pan African Congress
10	SAHRA	South African Heritage Regulatory Authority
11	SANDF	South African National Defence Force
12	SWAPO	South West Africa People's Organisation
13	UDF	Union Defence Force
14	UNITA	National Union for the Total Independence of Angola

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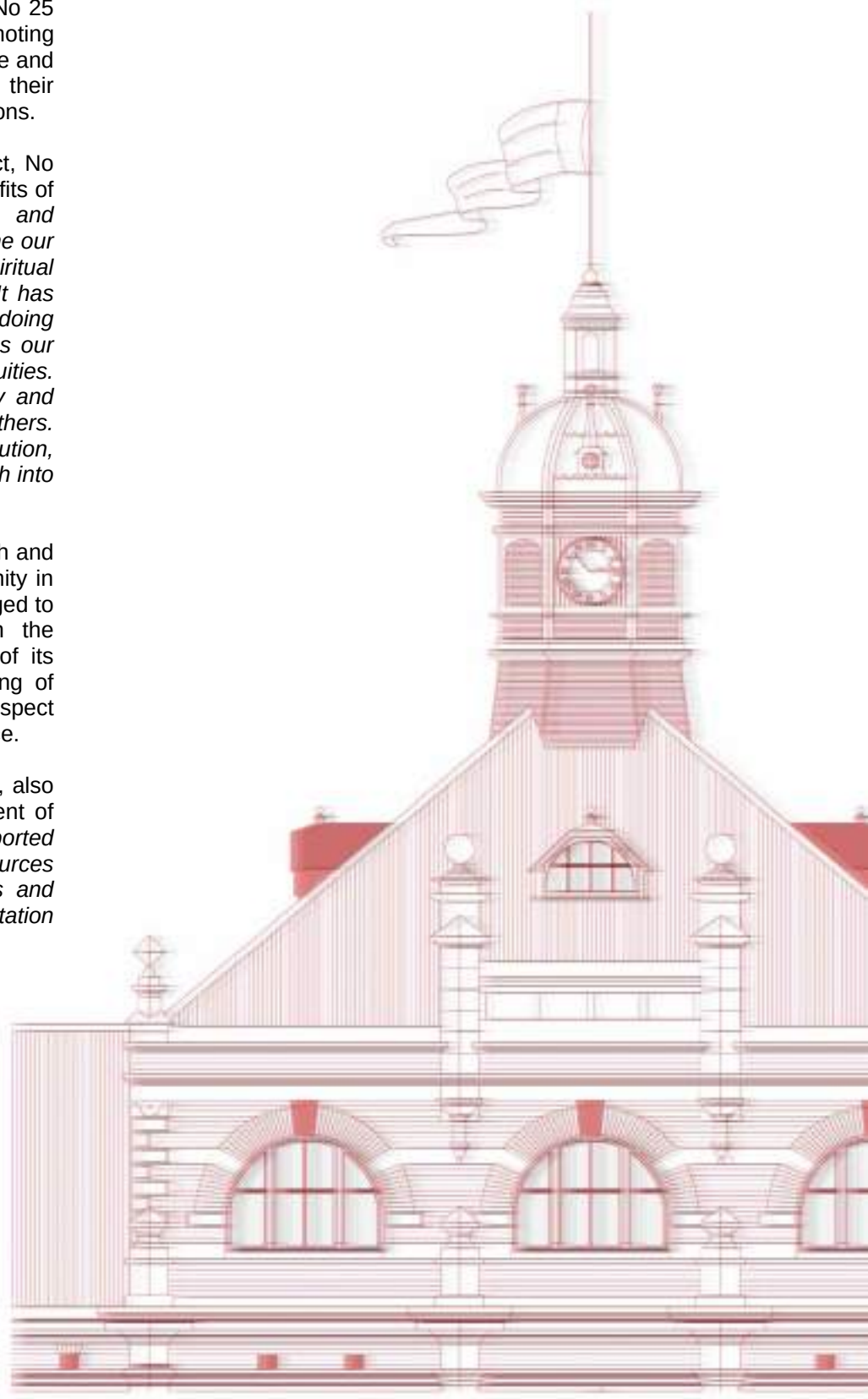
“Our heritage is unique and precious and it cannot be renewed. It helps us to define our cultural identity and therefore lies at the heart of our spiritual wellbeing, and it has the power to build our nation. It has the potential to affirm our diverse cultures, and in so doing shape our national character. Our heritage celebrates our achievements and contributes to redressing past inequities. It educates, it deepens our understanding of society and encourages us to empathise with the experience of others. It facilitates healing, and material and symbolic restitution, and it promotes new and previously neglected research into our rich oral traditions and customs.”

National Heritage Resources Act, No 25 of 1999,
Preamble

CHAPTER 1: introduction

IMPORTANCE OF HERITAGE

1. The South African National Heritage Resources Act, No 25 of 1999, was promulgated in 1999 with the aim of promoting the good management of national estate, and to enable and encourage communities to nurture and conserve their legacy so that it may be bequeathed to future generations.
2. The preamble to the National Heritage Resources Act, No 25 of 1999, clearly highlights the importance and benefits of conserving our heritage: *"Our heritage is unique and precious and it cannot be renewed. It helps us to define our cultural identity and therefore lies at the heart of our spiritual wellbeing, and it has the power to build our nation. It has the potential to affirm our diverse cultures, and in so doing shape our national character. Our heritage celebrates our achievements and contributes to redressing past inequities. It educates, it deepens our understanding of society and encourages us to empathise with the experience of others. It facilitates healing, and material and symbolic restitution, and it promotes new and previously neglected research into our rich oral traditions and customs."*
3. The South African National Defence Force, with its rich and proud history, lies at the heart of the military community in South Africa. As such, the SANDF should be encouraged to nurture and conserve this military legacy. Within the SANDF, a greater understanding and appreciation of its heritage will promote reconciliation and understanding of the military society, and encourage its members to respect each other's unique military background and experience.
4. The National Heritage Resources Act, No 25 of 1999, also prescribes the duty of conservation on the Department of Defence, stating: *"Each State department and supported body must maintain and conserve the heritage resources under its control, in accordance with the standards and procedures set out in regulations by SAHRA in consultation with the Department of Public Works."*



SIGNIFICANCE OF THE ARTILLERY PRECINCT

Military Heritage

5. The Transvaal State Artillery Precinct is a key military heritage site. After the Castle of Good Hope, it is probably the most significant military complex developed in South African history. Since its construction in the late 1890s, the Transvaal State Artillery Precinct has been involved in every major conflict in which the South African military has been involved.
 - a. **The Second Anglo Boer War (1899 to 1902).** During this war, the Transvaal State Artillery Precinct was first used as a barracks for the Transvaal State Artillery. With the occupation of Pretoria by British forces, it was then used as headquarters for the occupying forces.
 - b. **World War I (1914 to 1918).** During World War I, the Transvaal State Artillery Precinct functioned as the headquarters of the Union Defence Force, whose forces were engaged in both Africa and Europe in support of the Allied armies.
 - c. **World War II (1939 to 1945),** During World War II, the Transvaal State Artillery Precinct continued to function as the headquarters of the Union Defence Force. However, it was during this period that the precinct saw rapid expansion and was also used as a base ordnance depot, managing the supplies and stores of the Union Defence Force.
 - d. **Korean War (1950 to 1953).** During the Korean War, the Transvaal State Artillery Precinct again fulfilled the role of headquarters of the Union Defence Force, after the Union Government offered the services of the South African Air Force's 2 Squadron to the United Nations.
 - e. **The Bush War (1966 to 1989).** The South African Border War, commonly referred to as the Angola Bush War in South Africa, and also known as the Namibian War of Independence, refers to the conflict that took place in South-West Africa (now Namibia) and Angola between South Africa and its allied forces (mainly UNITA) on the one side, and the Angolan government, South-West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) and their allies – mainly Cuba – on the other. It was closely intertwined with the Angolan Civil War and the freedom struggle within South Africa by the military wings of the liberation movements such as the African National Congress (ANC) and the Pan African Congress of Azania (PAC).
 - f. **Modern conflict within Africa.** The Transvaal State Artillery continues to play an important role in the South African military, as it is currently the headquarters of the South African Army, which is involved in peacekeeping operations throughout Africa. The South African Army has deployed troops in peace support and peacekeeping operations, on behalf of the United Nations and African Union, to Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Sudan.
6. The Transvaal State Artillery Precinct was the headquarters of the Union Defence Force prior to 1961, the headquarters of the South African Defence Force after the establishment of the Republic of South Africa, and is currently the headquarters of the South African Army.
7. The Green Magazine that was constructed during the development of the Transvaal State Artillery continues to accommodate the Transvaal State Artillery, which is today a Reserve Force Unit within the South African Army. The current Transvaal State Artillery continues to perform its role within the South African National Defence Force (SANDF), and is often involved in the ceremonial opening of parliament and the other activities at the Union Buildings.

Archaeological Significance

8. The Transvaal State Artillery Precinct was designed by the Public Works Department of the Transvaal Republic and represents a period during which there was a deliberate attempt to re-establish a Dutch idiom in the Public Services of the Republic. This idiom, as architecturally expressed, is characterised by the interplay of red brick and light-coloured decorative stone work. A late 19th century European influence, loosely referred to as French or Dutch Renaissance style, is apparent in the architecture.
9. The buildings that constitute the Transvaal State Artillery Precinct were all designed under the direction of the two senior architects at the Department of Public Works: Sytze Wierda and Klaas van Rijnse. These two architects played a major role in the development of other major landmarks in the Transvaal Republic, eg the Union Buildings.
10. The Transvaal State Artillery Precinct was designed around three major squares: Stable Square (or stable-plain) on the western side, Drill Square (drill-plain) in the centre, and the Parade Ground or Fore Square (fore-plain) to the east.
11. The buildings have a utilitarian character and are constructed of face brick and stone, with simple double pitched roofs over rectangular floor plans.
12. With the various alterations and additions that have taken place over time, the following three major styles can be recognised within the precinct:
 - a. The Department of Public Works of the Transvaal Republic.
 - b. A style reminiscent of Herbert Baker following the period of Union.
 - c. A style associated with the South African Public Works from the middle of the century onwards.

Cultural Heritage

13. The Transvaal State Artillery Precinct is largely associated with the Transvaal Republic and the cultural heritage of the Afrikaner. However, the influence of Europe during the previous century cannot be ignored. The architecture of the precinct clearly indicated Dutch influence, while a number of the iron gates and other materials used during the construction were of Dutch origin.
14. The Italian involvement in the construction of the precinct is through the use of the *Societa Italiana di Costruzione* or the *Italiaansche Bouwmaatschappij* (Italian Building Company), which was originally awarded the tender for the construction of the barracks.
15. The German influence, in terms of the weapons and tactics used by the Transvaal State Artillery, cannot be ignored either. The original Dingen's Battery was formed and trained by a German officer, Captain Otto Riedl, while the establishment and development of the Field Telegraphy Section (which was considered to be the elite of the Artillery Corps) was led by a Dutch officer, Lieutenant PC Paff.
16. The original establishment of a military camp at the Potgieter Street location can be attributed to the British occupation during the First Anglo Boer War. Once the British withdrew, the site continued to be used as a military camp and eventually became the site for the development of the Transvaal State Artillery Precinct, now the South African Army Headquarters. The British again played a role in the site during the second occupation of Pretoria during the Second Anglo Boer War.
17. Finally, the fact that the Transvaal State Artillery Precinct now houses the integrated South African National Defence Force is a tribute to its role and prestige in the military heritage of South Africa.
18. The Transvaal State Artillery Precinct was constructed in the 1890s, and its hallways have been visited by the likes of President Paul Kruger, Lord Roberts, Prime Minister Jan Smuts, President FW de Klerk and President Nelson Mandela.

PRETORIA PRE-HISTORY

19. Defining the first human settlements in Southern Africa is difficult at best, but archaeological evidence indicates that from the Holocene era, 10 000 years ago, the southern tip of Africa was sparsely populated by the San people. The San people survived throughout time and are more commonly known in modern times as the Bushmen. Living alongside the San people were the nomadic Khoikhoi, or “men-of-men” people. The Khoikhoi had migrated south from the modern-day Botswana; the Boers named them, for reasons unknown, the Hottentots.
20. Evidence from sites in KwaZulu-Natal suggests that the San and Khoikhoi were already established in the region by 300 AD. The main migration of the modern-day African peoples, eg Zulu, Xhosa, Ndebele, Sotho, etc, did not reach this far south for another 1 000 years. Over several thousand years, these African peoples spread out across Africa from the central and west coast areas, and slowly progressed south and east around the Kalahari Desert. One of these groupings, which became known as the Southern Ndebele, settled in the general Pretoria area, while the Nguni, Xhosa and Zulu moved further south. Through this migration process, the San and Khoikhoi were systematically driven towards the Qahlamba Mountains, later named the Drakensberg by the Boers. It was from these fertile lands that they were later again driven out and into the inhospitable Kalahari Desert by the Boers.
21. The Southern Ndebele people were led by Chief Msi; however, turmoil among the black communities of Southern Africa during the period between 1820 and 1832 saw the settlement pattern north of the Vaal River change dramatically. Several Nguni groups moved across the Drakensberg from KwaZulu-Natal in order to escape the expansion of the Zulu kingdom by King Shaka. Mzilikazi, a Matabele general who had fled from King Shaka’s army, was the cause of much of the destruction of the smaller tribes in the area north of the Vaal River. Mzilikazi conquered and integrated all of the tribes from the Orange River in the south to Mozambique in the north-east – an area which included Bechuanaland. The men from the conquered tribes were killed, while the boys and girls were incorporated into the Matabele tribe.
22. Not long after arriving in the Pretoria area, Mzilikazi wiped out the Bakwena and Ba-Hurutsi tribes, after which he established two military kraals on the Apies River. EnDinaneni was situated north-west of Pretoria on the road to Hartbeespoort Dam, while enKungweni was built along the Daspoort range of hills. Mzilikazi established his residence on the south side of Meintjieskop, but later moved it to the north of the Magaliesberg range, to a place named emHlahlanlela.
23. However, in 1836 it was reported to Mzilikazi that thousands of white people were moving southwards to invade his land. Feeling threatened, Mzilikazi launched a devastating attack on the Voortrekkers, led by General Hendrik Potgieter. The Voortrekkers managed to ward off their attackers after suffering great loss of life and livestock.
24. Shortly after this, Mzilikazi launched a second attack on the Voortrekkers, and this time his men carried off all their livestock.
25. Potgieter, determined to succeed, launched a counter-attack on the Matabele at Mosega, and managed to recover a considerable number of livestock. In December 1837, Potgieter launched another attack on Mzilikazi and his tribe. This battle, together with the one waged by Dingane a few months earlier, was enough to send Mzilikazi fleeing across the Limpopo. With Mzilikazi out of the way, it was easy for Potgieter to drive the rest of the Matabele stragglers to the north over Silkaatsnek.
26. Although some Tswana tribes returned to the Apies River area after the departure of the Ndebele, there is no evidence of large communities occupying the area that is now the Pretoria municipality. The first white inhabitants to settle in Pretoria, in 1840, were the brothers Lucas and Gert Bronkhorst, who registered the farms Groenkloof and Elandspoort.
27. Groenkloof encompassed the Fountains Valley area, while Elandspoort extended from the south to Daspoortrand in the north, and from Pretoria west through to Hatfield in the east.
28. Later, a trek led by Andries Pretorius from Ohrigstad, together with a few stragglers from Natal and the Orange Free State, also settled in the area.

ELANDSPOORT NO 193

29. The original farm on which the Artillery Precinct was constructed was known as Elandspoort No 193. The name Elandspoort originated from the pass through which the Apies river flows, which was grazed by a number of Oryx (eland).
30. Johannes Gerhardus Stephanus Bronkhorst settled on Elandspoort in 1840, establishing his farmhouse approximately half a mile to the north of the Apies River pass. It was here that he established cultivated lands and a farm dam.

ESTABLISHMENT OF PRETORIA

31. Pretoria was first called Petoriusdorp. To the relief of many, the name Pretoria was finally adopted. It was the choice of Marthinus Wessel Pretorius, who wished to honour the memory of his father, Commandant General Andries Pretorius, the hero of Blood River and negotiator with Britain of the Sand River Convention, which acknowledged the independence of the Transvaal. Pretoria became the seat of government on 1 May 1860.
32. The Executive Council of the Transvaal Republic agreed to the establishment of the town, as well as to the name Pretoria. The actual date of this decision was 16 December 1855, and this date is regarded as Pretoria's birthday.

“In the early 1850s, the Transvaal Republic had no organised military force; rather, it relied on a strong Citizen Force that could be called on in times of war or unrest. The average citizen fulfilled the role of mounted infantryman naturally, but there was no formally organised artillery component.”

CHAPTER 2: The Transvaal State Artillery

INTRODUCTION

1. Although Jan Mocke, a fiery republican, had already proclaimed an independent republic at Alleman's Drift on the banks of the Orange River in October 1842, it was not until the Sand River Convention (1852) and the Bloemfontein Convention (1854) that the independent Boer republics were formally established north of the Vaal and Orange Rivers respectively.
2. The Transvaal Republic had no organised military force; rather, it relied on a strong Citizen Force that could be called on in times of war or unrest. The average citizen fulfilled the role of mounted infantryman naturally, but there was no formally organised artillery component. In the early 1850s, the Transvaal Government attempted to acquire a number of artillery guns. In October 1850, the Executive Council approved the purchase of a cannon from Stephanus Schoeman, while in June 1852, Commandant General Andries Pretorius requested the Executive Council's approval for the purchase of two more cannons.
3. With the acceptance of the Transvaal Republic's constitution in 1858, Article 81 empowered the President and members of the Executive Committee to supervise and manage the powder magazines and cannons belonging to the Government. This did not, however, result in the establishment of an organised and trained Artillery Corps within the Republic.

DINGAAN'S BATTERY

4. On 1 July 1872, Thomas Francois Burgers was sworn in as the new President of the Transvaal Republic. President Burgers had a keen interest in developing the Transvaal military, and on 22 July 1872, the Transvaal Government approved the purchase of ammunition for the guns currently in the arsenal of the Republic, as well as for the construction of a magazine or fort within Pretoria.
5. In August 1872, President Burgers established a public fund for the collection of donations for the purchase of new cannons from Europe. This collection process continued well into 1873. During this period, President Burgers recruited a German officer, Captain Otto Riedl, to establish the Artillery Corps of the Transvaal Republic.



Figure 2-1: President T.F. Burgers



Figure 2-2: Captain Otto Riedl

6. Captain Riedl was sworn in as a captain and instructor of the planned Artillery Corps in January 1874. He was tasked with the establishment of a foundation for the development of an Artillery Corps, the supervision and management of the current guns within the Transvaal Republic's arsenal, and the training of personnel in the use of artillery.
7. By 1874 the Artillery Corps, under the leadership of Captain Riedl, became known as Dingaan's Battery. Initially Captain Riedl had one lieutenant, two sergeants and four gunners under his command. The Battery's barracks were situated on the corner of Paleis and Vermeulen Streets, behind the present-day Post Office.
8. In 1874, President Burgers was also able to obtain new guns and ammunition from Germany, which were imported directly via Delgoa Bay. The shipment consisted of four light Krupp guns; a Mitraillease, which was apparently used during the 1870-1871 Franco-Prussian War and subsequently captured by the Germans; 33 000lb of lead; 14 000lb of black powder; and 100 rifles. The purchase, estimated at a value of £4 065, was made possible as a result of donations received and the sale of state-owned land. The shipment was transported to Lydenburg by a transport contractor by the name of Macdonald, using 16 teams of oxen. It was eventually loaded onto a train and transported to Pretoria.
9. President Burgers initially wanted to use the Corps as a training institution for the young men of the Transvaal, and at the same time create a sense of patriotism among the citizens of the Transvaal. Twenty-five men from the same district would be trained at a time, with a regular intake targeting different districts each time.
10. By March 1877 it was decided that, in addition to the Citizen Force that could be called up in times of war or unrest, a permanent police force combined with the Artillery Corps should be strengthened to 125 men. This proposal was never realised, as on 12 April 1877, Sir Theophilus Shepstone annexed the Transvaal in the name of Britain.

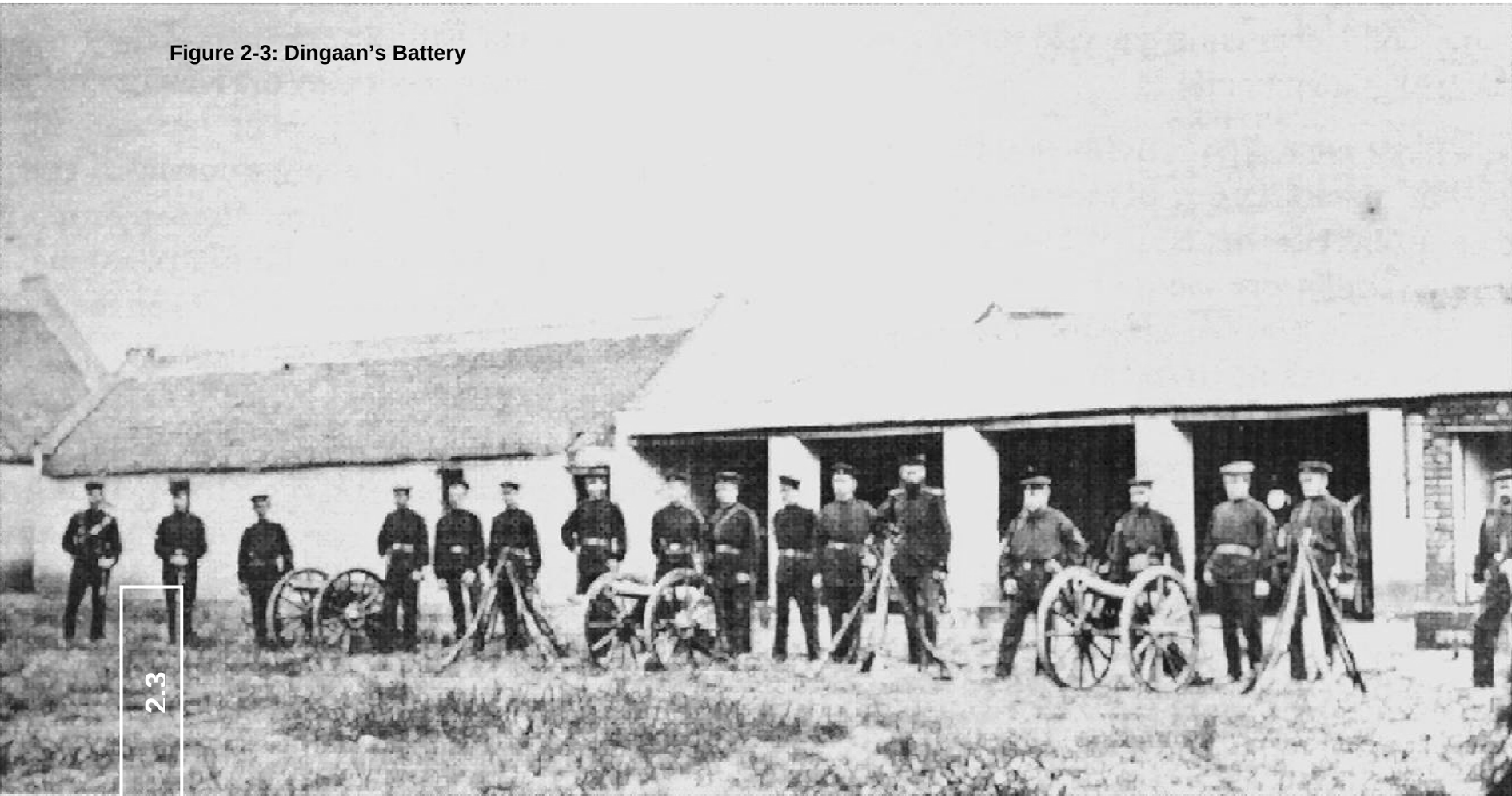
BRITISH RULE 1877 – 1881

11. Under British rule, the barracks and guns of Dingaan's Battery were confiscated. A military camp was established south of Pretoria on the present-day site of the SA Army Headquarters. This camp was relatively large, for at one period it is recorded to have housed over 5 000 troops of the four British regiments and five artillery batteries stationed in Pretoria.
12. The British built several forts around Pretoria. Fort Tullichiwan and Fort Timeball Hill were erected on the southern hills of Pretoria, roughly south of where the present-day station is located. Fort Commeline was erected on Magazine Hill, south of the military camp. Two other forts were also constructed: Fort Royal and Fort Campbell. These forts were all destroyed when the British withdrew from the Transvaal after it regained its independence.
13. With the withdrawal of the British, the four Krupp guns belonging to Dingaan's Battery were returned to the Transvaal Government.

THE EARLY 1880s

14. On 19 September 1881, the Executive Council of the Transvaal Republic instructed the Commandant General, General PJ Joubert, to establish an Artillery Corps similar to that of the Orange Free State Republic.
15. General Joubert, having realised the importance of a force capable of defending the Republic from foreign aggression, and in terms of Act No 4 of 1881, formed the Artillery Corps of the South African Republic. Captain BH Pelser was appointed as the Officer Commanding of the Corps, with an annual budget of £3 000. The Artillery Corps of the South African Republic was housed in the military camp on Potgieter Street, the current location of the SA Army Headquarters.
16. In accordance with Act No 5 of 1881, the Transvaal Mounted Police (*Transvaalsche Rydende Politie*) was formed under the command of Captain I Ferreira, and was also to be housed in the Potgieter Street camp. Desertion and improper use of funds led to the downfall of the police and the discharge of Captain Ferreira.

Figure 2-3: Dingaan's Battery



17. General Joubert then suggested to the Executive Council that the Transvaal Mounted Police and the Artillery Corps be integrated into one unit, to be known as the Transvaal Artillery Corps. On 14 June 1882, General Joubert was given authority by the Executive Council to proceed with the integration of the two units.
18. The Transvaal Artillery Corps was thus responsible for the tasks of both the police force and the defence force. The Corps found it very difficult to accomplish both of these tasks successfully and never really excelled in either field. By 1884 the Artillery Corps was in a state of decline. The annual budget continued to shrink, while no attempt was made to modernise or purchase new guns or equipment. The buildings were mostly in a state of disrepair and too small to accommodate all of the personnel.

THE STATE ARTILLERY IN THE 1890s

19. In 1892 the Executive Council authorised a reduction in the size of the artillery camp after numerous petitions were received questioning the requirement for an Artillery Corps. Some of the citizens felt that they were always ready and willing to defend the Republic and a permanent Artillery Corps was not a necessity.
20. In his annual report in 1892, the Commandant General reported that the effective management and development of a professional Artillery Corps would be impossible if certain principles for the development of such a capability were not adhered to. The report stated that as long as the Artillery Corps was used for ad hoc tasks and not given the opportunity to train and drill, it would never become an organised and professional corps. The number of horses available to the Artillery Corps was inadequate, and they were used mostly for escort duties. The guns were outdated and the buildings were becoming dilapidated. As a result of these issues, it was becoming difficult to maintain discipline within the Artillery Corps.



Figure 2-4: Commandant General P.J. Joubert

21. On 19 June 1893, the Executive Council appointed a three-man commission to investigate the Artillery Corps. This commission reported that the artillery camp was inadequate and ineffective, and that the guns and other equipment were in desperate need of renewal. The commission further reported that the training of the members of the Artillery Corps needed to be addressed as a matter of urgency. Finally, the commission reported that the Field Telegraphy Section was the best equipped and trained section within the Artillery Corps, and should continue to receive support in order to maintain and develop its capabilities.
22. It was as a result of this commission that General PJ Joubert and Mr S Wierda were instructed to investigate the development of the Artillery Corps and the facilities at the Potgieter Street military camp.
25. In most armies, different colours and colour combinations were also employed to distinguish one regiment or corps from another. Attractive, colourful uniforms made the ordinary soldier more accepted, and soldiers were honoured as heroes. They were the vehicles of the aspirations of those countries to attain national unification and international recognition by means of the military might that they wielded.
26. The uniform not only met military demands, but also had important psychological value and implications. An outstanding example of this was the use of the red tunic by the British infantry to overawe their opponents. It is important to remember, however, that the functional combat uniform of one generation becomes the impractical ceremonial uniform of the next.

THE UNIFORM OF THE STATE ARTILLERY

Introduction

23. During the 19th century, military efficiency was invariably measured by the smartness of a soldier's uniform and appearance. Unconventional dress and untidy appearance were considered to reflect an inefficient and undisciplined army or soldier. To ensure a high degree of smartness, esprit de corps and uniformity of thought and reaction, colourful uniforms, some requiring many hours of meticulous preparation, were adopted.
24. These colourful uniforms originated during the days of set battlefields, where the dense smoke, generated by guns firing black powder, rendered many parts of the battlefield totally or partially invisible to the commanders, in many instances making soldiers unable to see one another. Coloured uniforms would make the soldier more visible to his commanders and fellow soldiers, and would also facilitate the identification of the enemy, as in many instances the colour and style of uniforms differed from one country to another.
27. The full dress uniform consisted of dark-blue riding breeches, boots and a dark-blue Hussar-style jacket, or Attila, with black cord decorations across the chest. The jacket had sky-blue facings and blue piping, which was a prominent feature of the uniform. The jacket was an indication of the Austrian influence.
28. The headdress was a white helmet with a spike and falling plume, similar to the British Colonial pattern cork helmet. This style of headdress was later replaced with the low continental-style busby worn by the Dutch artillery regiments, which was more suited to the climatic conditions in South Africa.
29. Officer's rank was indicated on the collar by means of six-pointed silver metal stars, while non-commissioned officers wore white cloth stars on the collar and a corresponding number of chevrons on the forearm. This practice was later reviewed, resulting in the removal of the stars on the collar of the NCOs, with only the chevrons worn to indicate their rank.

Full Dress Uniform

30. The buttons were made of brass, depicting crossed guns surmounted by a grenade. A further similarity with the Austrian style was the silver-plated officer's pouch, which was identical to that worn by Austrian officers and even included the double-headed eagle which appeared on the Austrian pouches.

Summer and Field Dress Uniform

31. The summer and field dress uniform was a sand-grey drill which faded to almost white after exposure to the elements for a prolonged period of time. The uniform consisted of a jacket with a Prussian collar, brass buttons, riding breeches, boots and spurs.
32. The headdress was a shako or forage cap of the same colour as the uniform, with a black visor. The cap insignia design was identical to the Austrian badge, except that the initials FJ (Franz Joseph) were replaced by the letters ZAR.
33. Rank was worn in the same manner as on the full dress uniform.
34. These early uniforms were initially developed for mainly ceremonial purposes and did not take the harsh Transvaal climate into consideration. Despite this inadequacy, members of the State Artillery were tremendously proud of their uniform.
35. By 1896 several changes had been authorised to the uniform of the State Artillery. Both the full dress uniform and the field dress uniform were modified to ensure easier recognition of the various ranks, as well as to ensure that the uniform was more suited to the South African climate.

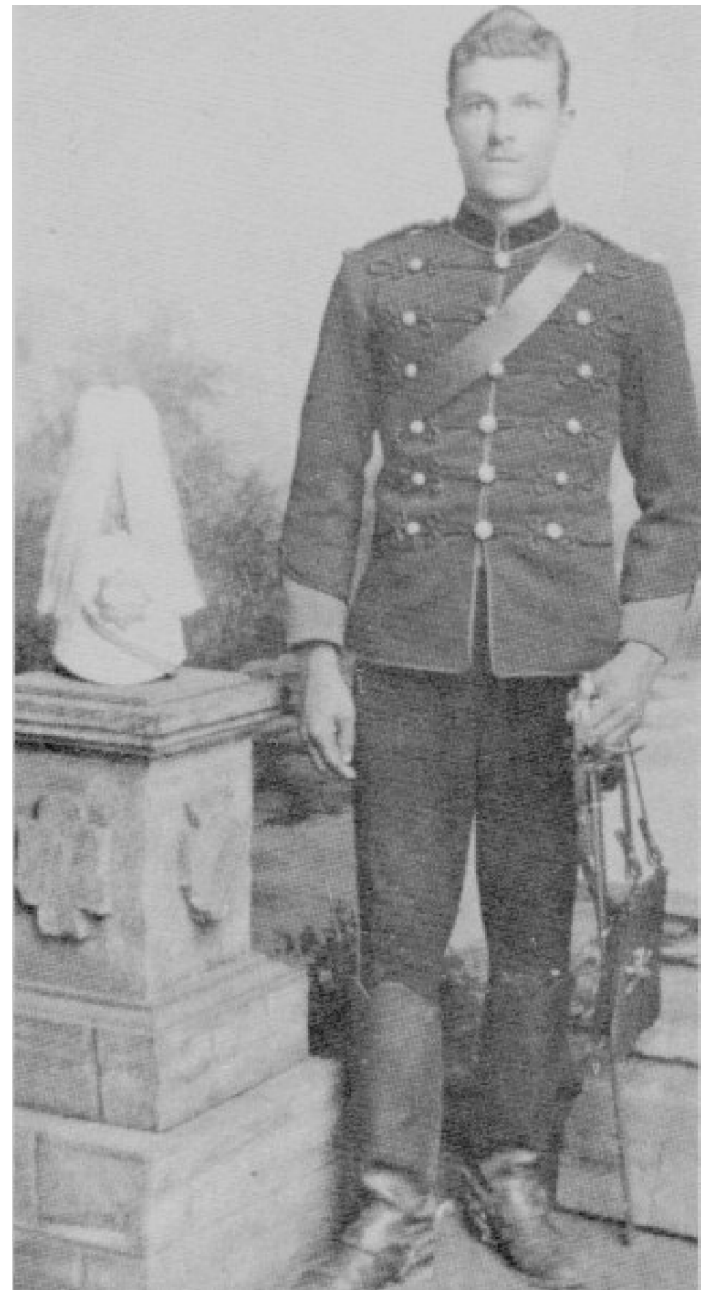


Figure 2-5: State Artillery full dress uniform



Figure 2-6: Summer and field dress uniform of the State Artillery

“... the desperate conditions of the then existing artillery camp and the planned expansion of the Artillery Corps led to a major breakthrough with the finalisation of the development of a camp for a 200 - man Artillery Corps in 1893...”

CHAPTER 3: The Transvaal State Artillery Precinct

INTRODUCTION

1. As a result of an Executive Council instruction given to General Joubert and Mr S Wierda, head of the Department of Public Works, an inspection took place at the military camp. On 25 February 1893, a report was submitted to the State Secretary which stated that the existing Field Telegraph building and the ammunition magazine could be repaired. The report further stated that the current stables were ineffective and that the accommodation for personnel was inadequate. The report recommended that the camp not be allowed to remain in its current condition and that the majority of the buildings be upgraded over a period of three years.
2. In July 1893, the Administrator of the Transvaal Artillery Corps expressed a desire for the construction of a main administration building for the artillery, as well as barracks which could accommodate 200 men, a kitchen, stores, mess hall, classroom, canteen, hospital, and accommodation for the non-commissioned officers and officers. He further requested that a stable be constructed to accommodate 30 officers' horses, a general stable which could accommodate 200 horses and a hospital stable for approximately 11 horses. Finally, he requested that a magazine, cannon stores, clothing store, drill hall, carpenter shop and smith shop be constructed to support the artillery.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE STATE ARTILLERY PRECINCT

3. The 1893 commission report, the desperate conditions of the artillery camp and the planned expansion of the Artillery Corps led to a major breakthrough with the finalisation of the Department of Public Works' report by architect K van Rijsse, *Memorie van Toelichting*, regarding the development of a camp for a 200-man Artillery Corps. In this historic document, Van Rijsse recommended a number of key aspects:

- a. He recommended that the site of the current (1894) artillery camp be used as the site for the construction and development of a new precinct for the State Artillery. As a result of the terrain, he found that the levelling of the Drill and Fore Square would not require large earthworks. The site was also suitable for the foundations that would be required to develop the envisaged precinct.
- b. Van Rijsse further recommended that the largely successful "pavilion" style used throughout Europe and America be used to construct the precinct, as it had major advantages in terms of practicality and hygiene, while being suited to the warm South African climate. The placement and layout of the camp would be designed around three distinct squares: Fore Square (fore-plain), Drill Square (drill-plain) and Stable Square (stable-plain).
 - i. Fore Square. The Fore Square would be formed through the construction of the administration building, mess and recreation hall, and barracks. The entrance to the camp from Potgieter Street would lead directly into the Fore Square.
 - ii. Drill Square. The Drill Square would be situated between the Fore Square to the east, behind the barracks, and the Stable Square to the west. The Drill Square would be surrounded to the north and south by the cannon and wagon stores. The Drill Square was originally intended for local exercises, the drilling of recruits and horse-riding lessons.
 - iii. Stable Square. The Stable Square would be situated on the far western side of the precinct, and would be used for all activities related to the stabling and care of the horses used by the State Artillery.

- c. Van Rijse stated that the layout of the precinct should be guided, firstly, by the practical use of the facility, and secondly, by its architectural beauty. Finally, he stated that both of these factors must contribute to the development of a world-class facility which would be capable of housing and training the artillery of the Transvaal Republic.
- d. Aligned with the centre of the Fore Square, Van Rijse envisioned an administration building which would provide the required office space for the daily administration of the artillery. On the opposite side of the Fore Square would be the new offices for the Field Telegraphy Section. While the main entrance opened onto the Fore Square, the rear of the square would be closed by a 200-man barracks.
- e. Van Rijse also indicated that, to the side of the Fore Square, a mess hall would be constructed, with an adjacent recreation building.

The recreation building was to provide a buffet-room, conversation, reading and billiards rooms.

- f. Behind the barracks, on opposite sides of the Drill Square, the cannon and wagon stores would be located. Van Rijse envisioned that adjacent to one of the cannon and wagon stores would be a weapon magazine, while adjacent to the opposite cannon and wagon store would be an ammunition magazine.
- g. Behind the Drill Square, Van Rijse envisioned the construction of four stables which would be able to accommodate 200 horses for troops, as well as a stable for 28 officers' horses, and a hospital stable capable of accommodating 12 horses. In the centre of each stable would be a harness room and stairs leading up to the feed loft. Together these stables would form the final square of the precinct, the Stable Square.



Figure 3-1: Plan showing the overall layout of the intended State Artillery Precinct

- h. Van Rijssse indicated that the precinct should be surrounded with a perimeter wall, with entrances on the Scheidings Street side and an additional entrance opening onto the Drill Square. This second entrance was to provide access for the horses, cannons and wagons housed within the precinct.
 - i. The main entrance would consist of two gates, with a guardroom on the one side, and an office and sleeping quarters for the guard commander on the other. A room would be constructed above the entrance for the guard officer, which would be occupied only during times of war.
 - j. Van Rijssse envisioned two accommodation blocks to the left and right of the main entrance. These blocks would be used to accommodate the farrier, armourer, carpenters and warrant officers of the artillery. The entrances to these two blocks were to face inwards towards the Fore Square.
 - k. Van Rijssse opted for the military tradition of accommodating the officers within or close to the camp. As a result, he planned to construct the required residences on a section of land between the camp perimeter and Maree Street.
4. Van Rijssse included the following budget for the development of the precinct:
 - a. Main entrance: £7 000.
 - b. Non-commissioned officer residences: £2 000.
 - c. Accommodation for the farrier and armourer: £1 000.
 - d. Accommodation for the warrant officers: £1 000.
 - e. Administration building: £4 000.
 - f. Field Telegraphy building: £4 000.
 - g. Barracks: £12 000.
 - h. Mess hall: £2 000.
 - i. Recreation hall: £2 000.
 - j. Cannon store: £2 200.
 - k. Wagon store: £2 200.
 - l. Ammunition magazine: £1 800.
 - m. Riding master's office: £300.
 - n. Stable for troops: £9 000.
 - o. Officers' stable: £1 500.
 - p. Hospital stable: £1 500.
 - q. Latrines, etc: £500.
 - r. Perimeter wall: £3 500.
 - s. Commandant's residence: £2 000.
 - t. Captain's residence: £1 500.
 - u. Four residences for married lieutenants: £4 000.
 - v. Residence for single lieutenants: £1 500.
 - w. Residence for the weapon magazine master: £700.
 - x. Ground work for the construction of the precinct: £1 600.

CONSTRUCTION THAT NEVER TOOK PLACE

Introduction

5. Based on the budget above, Van Rijse estimated that it would cost £70 000 for the construction of what would be considered a world-class military facility.
6. Van Rijse's final recommendations were that the precinct be constructed from sandstone and brick with stone foundations; that the construction takes place in accordance with the requirement for the various buildings; and that the existing structures be systematically demolished once their replacement was completed.
7. Initially the plans drawn up by Van Rijse were left undeveloped. In August 1894, the law and regulations pertaining to the Artillery Corps of the South African Republic, Act No 15 of 1894, came into effect. This Act authorised the establishment of a single Artillery Corps consisting of 154 officers and men.
8. In March 1895, the acting captain of the artillery reported to Commandant General PJ Joubert that tents had been erected in the artillery camp in order to accommodate the troops, and that a number of men were sick as a result of the conditions in the camp. Two days after this report, Acting Commandant Bosman added to this report the fact that a lice plague had set in among the men and that the majority of them were sleeping in tents and two old commando wagons.
9. By August 1895 the decision had been made to continue with the development of the precinct. Over the next three years the precinct would be developed using a neo-Renaissance style, symmetrically designed around the three squares. However, as a result of the recession and the outbreak of war, the precinct would never be completed, with a number of the intended buildings never being constructed.
10. The Transvaal State Artillery Precinct as it stands today is incomplete. The original design of the precinct included a number of buildings that were not constructed due to the recession just prior to, and the commencement of, the Second Anglo Boer War. Once the war was over, the plans for the completion of the precinct were never taken further. As a result, the majority of the buildings that would have been constructed on the Fore Square were never completed.

Riding School

11. A domed-shape riding school was to have been constructed for the Transvaal State Artillery to train both rider and horse. This magnificent structure would have been 32.3ft high, 136.7ft long and 110ft wide. Seven wagon wheel-shaped windows would have been constructed on the second floor above the main entrance. The riding school would have consisted of a training area and six storerooms for riding equipment. The plans for the construction of the riding school were signed on 3 August 1896.

Mess Building

12. A mess hall or *Keukengebouw* was planned in order to provide a kitchen and dining hall for the personnel of the Transvaal State Artillery. The mess building would have been 100.9ft long and 56.6ft wide. It made provision for a dining hall for the troops, a separate room for the non-commissioned officers and another for the officers. An office was provided for the mess manager, along with a number of storerooms for the provisions. Two kitchens and a number of washrooms were also catered for. The plans for the mess building were signed on 4 March 1897.

Opposite pages

Figure 3-2: Plan for the construction of a riding school

Figure 3-3: Mess building plans

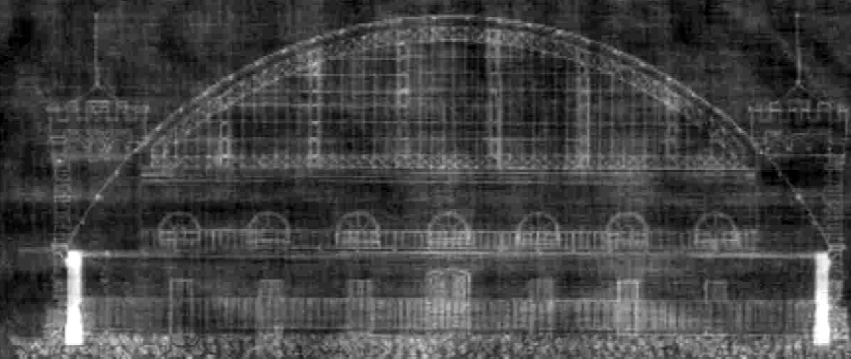
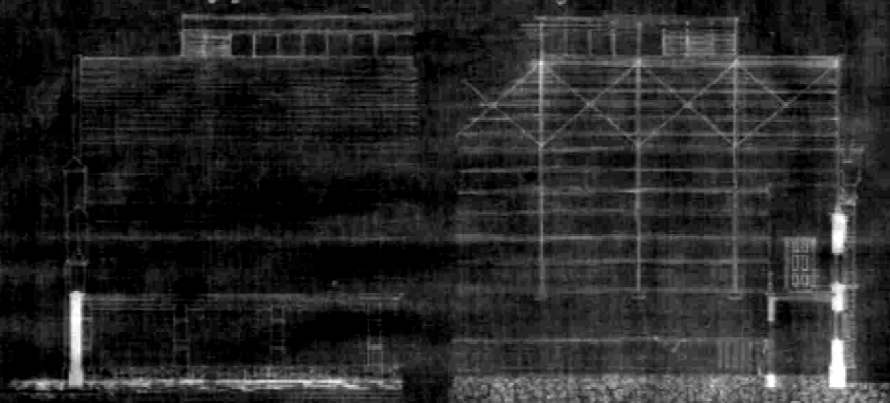
E. A. Campbell

City of Boston, Va.

By Elev.

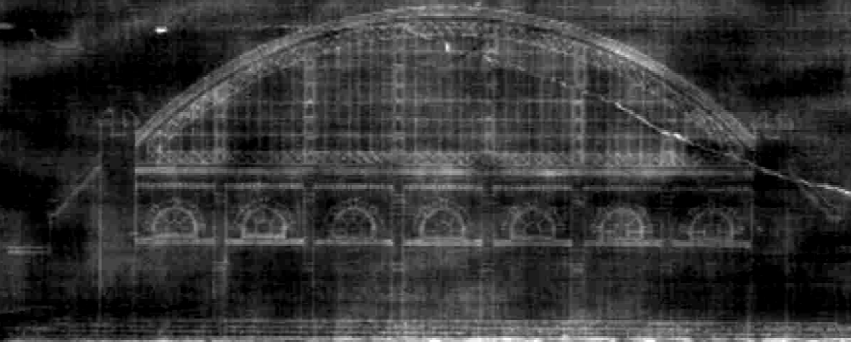
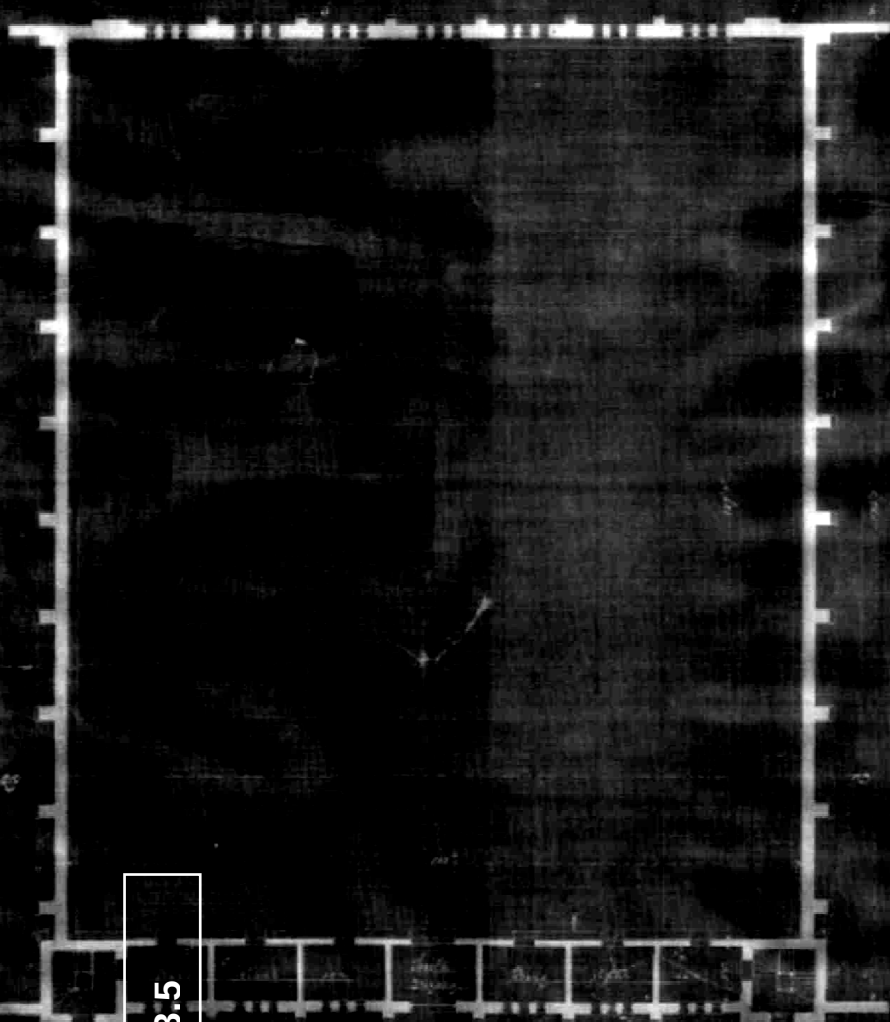
Long's Avenue

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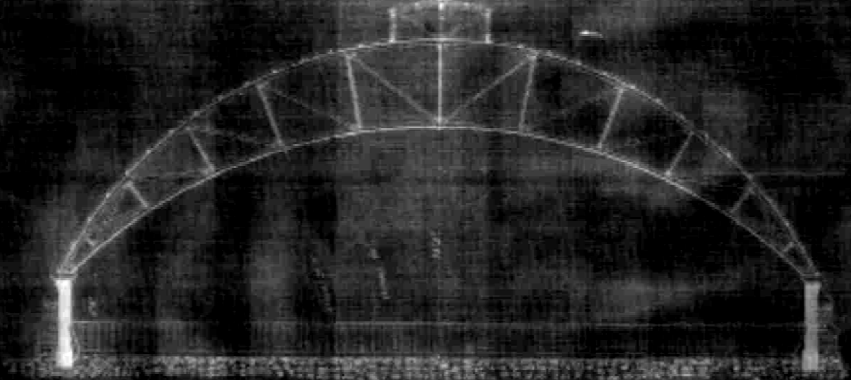


Ground Plan

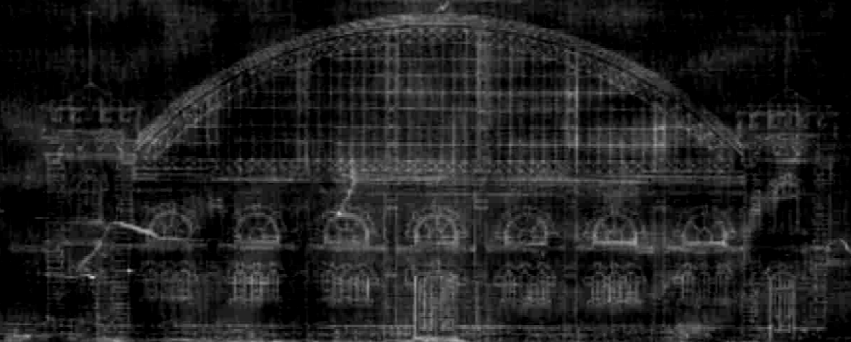
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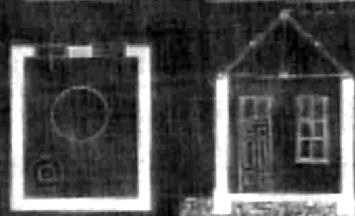
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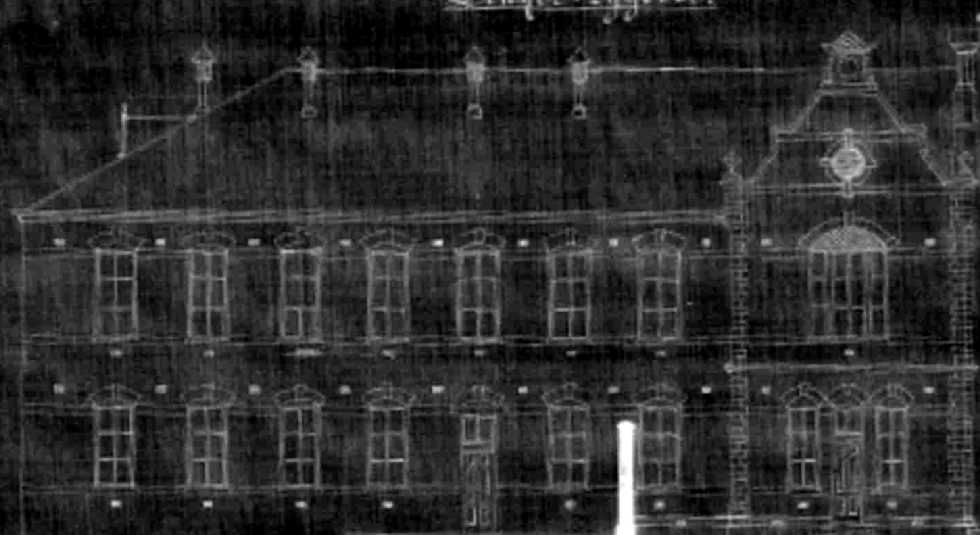
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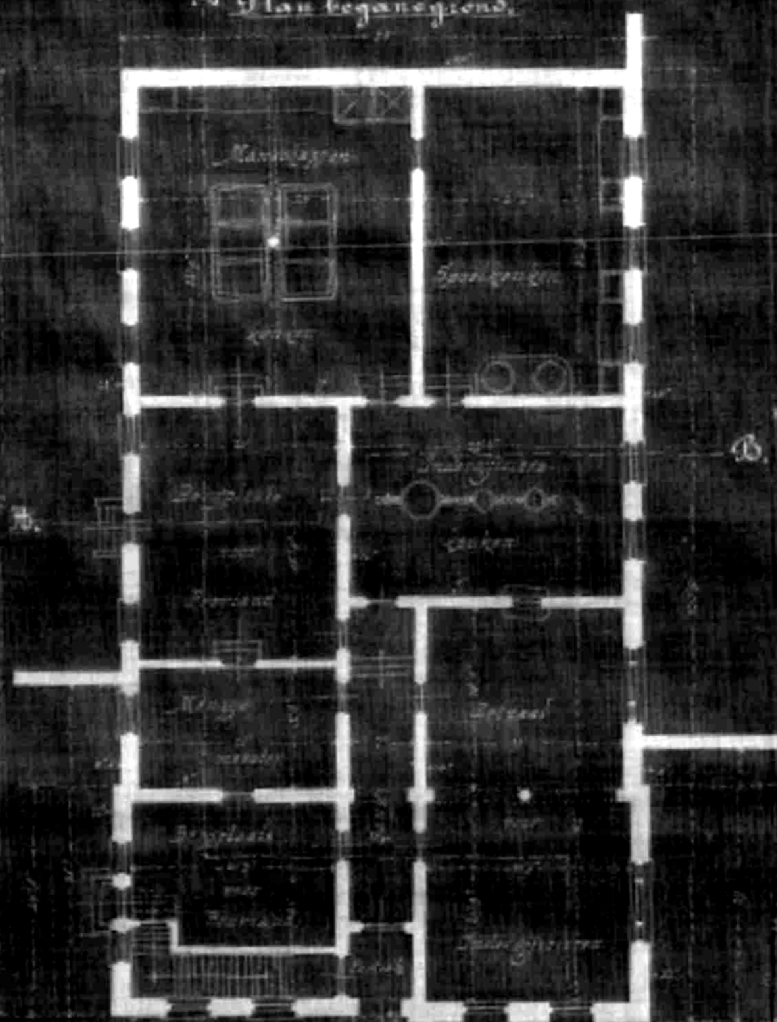
Plan. Doornede.



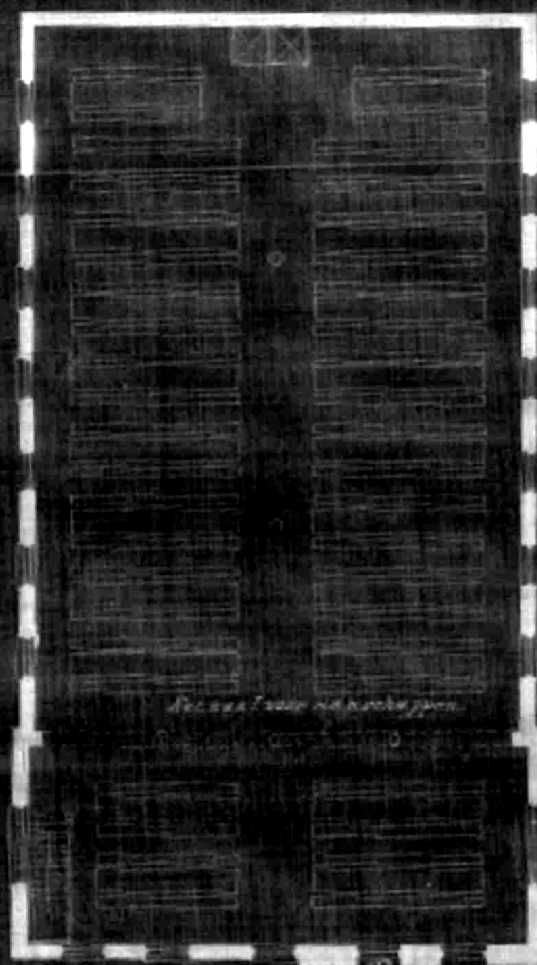
Linke-rijgevel.



Plan begane grond.



Plan verdieping.



Administration Building

13. An administration building was planned for. This building would act as headquarters for the staff of the Transvaal State Artillery. The two-storey building would have been 100ft long and 131.6ft wide. It made provision for an office for the commandant general, a lieutenant colonel, major and two captains. An office would also be provided for the chief illustrator, who would have been a lieutenant. The building further made provision for a darkroom, printing room, drawing hall, court-martial hall, military police office, prison, guard room and two bathrooms. The plans for the administration building were signed on 24 April 1896.
(Page 3.8 figure 3-4)

Field Telegraph Building

14. With the upgrade of the Transvaal Artillery Precinct, the previous building used by the Field Telegraph Section was destroyed. Provision was made for the development of an administration building, wagon stores and magazine for the Field Telegraph Section. The wagon stores and magazine were constructed, but the administration building was influenced by the recession and outbreak of war.
(Page 3.9 figure 3-5)
15. The planned Field Telegraph administration building would have consisted of three storeys reaching a height of 63.6ft. A basement level and two storeys were planned for, with the length of the building being 85ft and the width 130ft.
16. The ground floor was to have made provision for a guardroom, office for a lieutenant and non-commissioned officer, as well as a workshop, telegraph office, signals room, classroom and optical sight room. The second storey would have made provision for two barracks which could accommodate 20 men each, two rooms for officers, two rooms for non-commissioned officers, bathrooms for the troops, a non-commissioned officers' bathroom and finally a bathroom for the officers.
17. The basement level would have consisted of stores for the section's equipment and a safe.

Forge

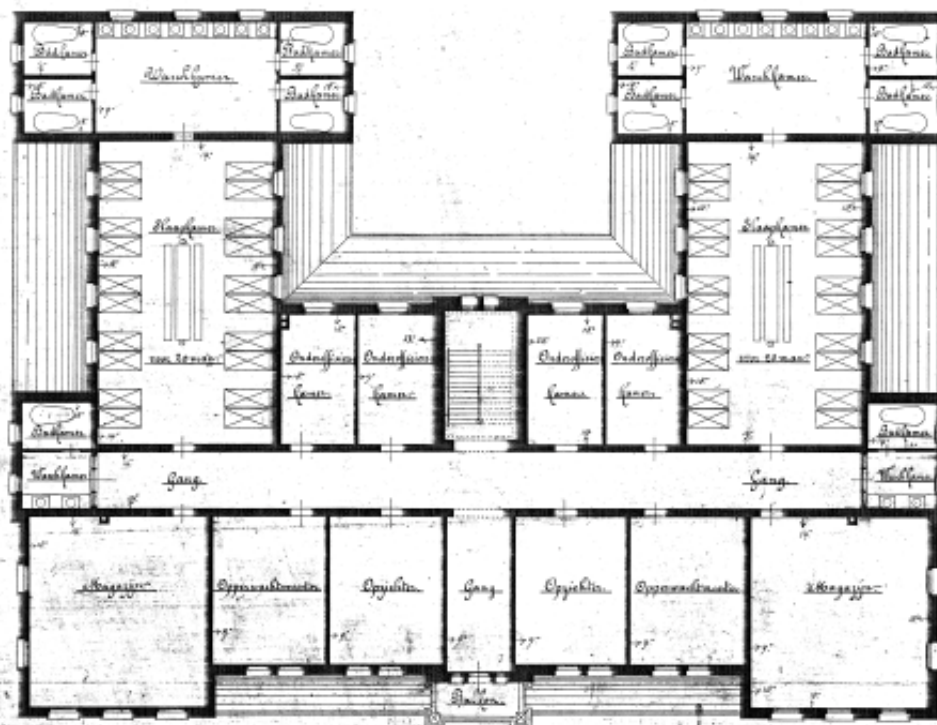
18. A forge was planned to provide the blacksmiths of the Transvaal State Artillery with the necessary workshops and equipment to be able to support the maintenance of the Corps. The forge would have been 39ft long and 186.1ft wide. It would have consisted of a workshop, loft, large magazine, two smaller magazines and two offices. The forge would have been equipped with five ovens.
(Page 3.10 figure 3-6)

Recreation Hall

19. The designers of the Transvaal State Artillery Precinct originally made provision for the construction of a recreation hall for the personnel of the Artillery Corps. This building would have been rectangular in shape with an overall length of 95ft and a width of 55ft. It would have consisted of two storeys. The ground floor would have made provision for a storeroom, coffee room for the troops, kitchen, billiards room and coffee room for the non-commissioned officers. The second storey was to have made provision for a conversation and reading room for the troops, a conversation room for the non-commissioned officers, and finally a reading room for the non-commissioned officers. The plans for the recreation hall were signed on 5 March 1896.
(Page 3.11 figure 3-7)



Plan van de Verdieping.



Profesia 15 April 1996

[Signature]
 Robert Lee Sullivan

Figure 3-5: Field Telegraph building plan

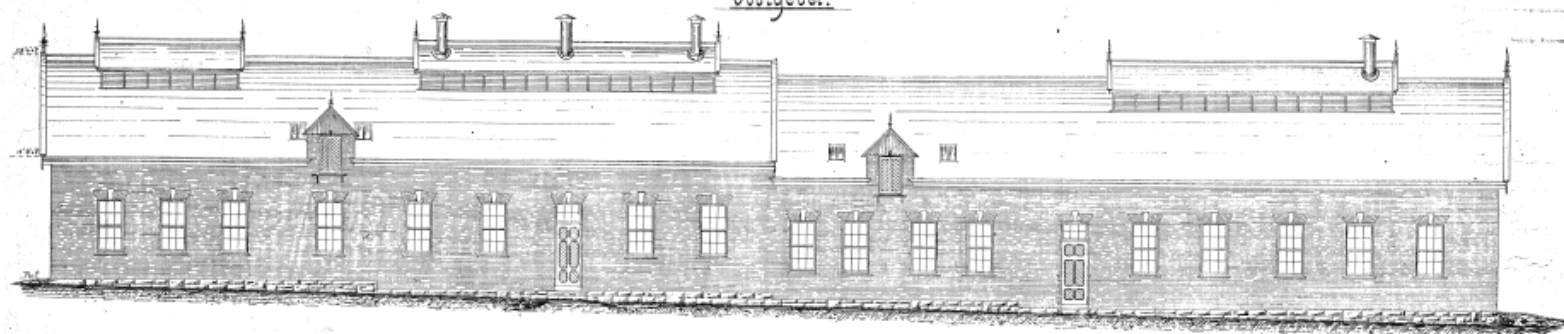
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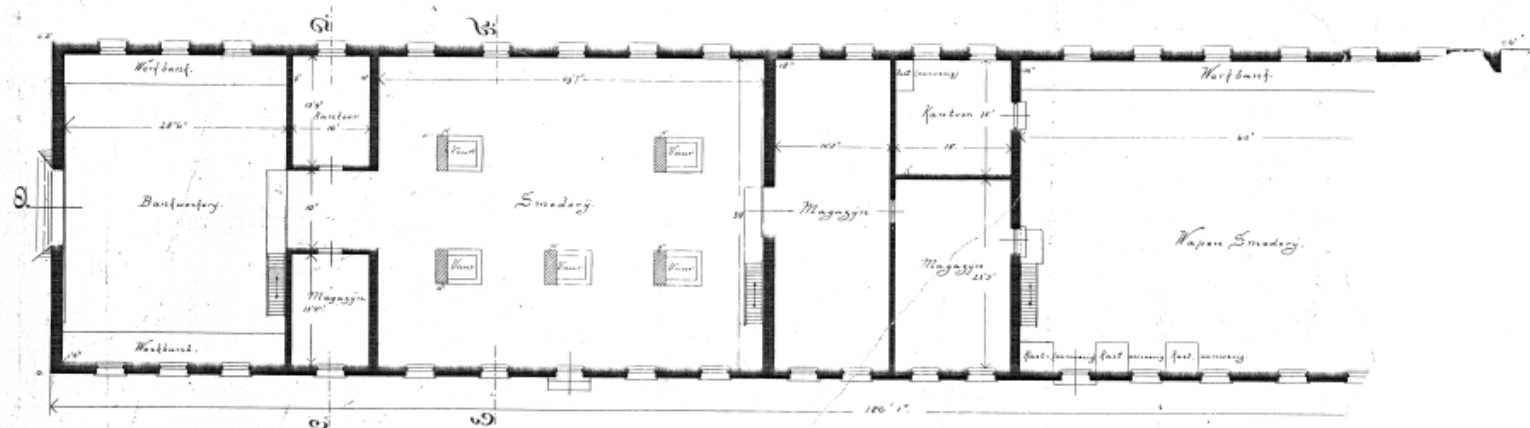
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Figure 3-6: Forge plan

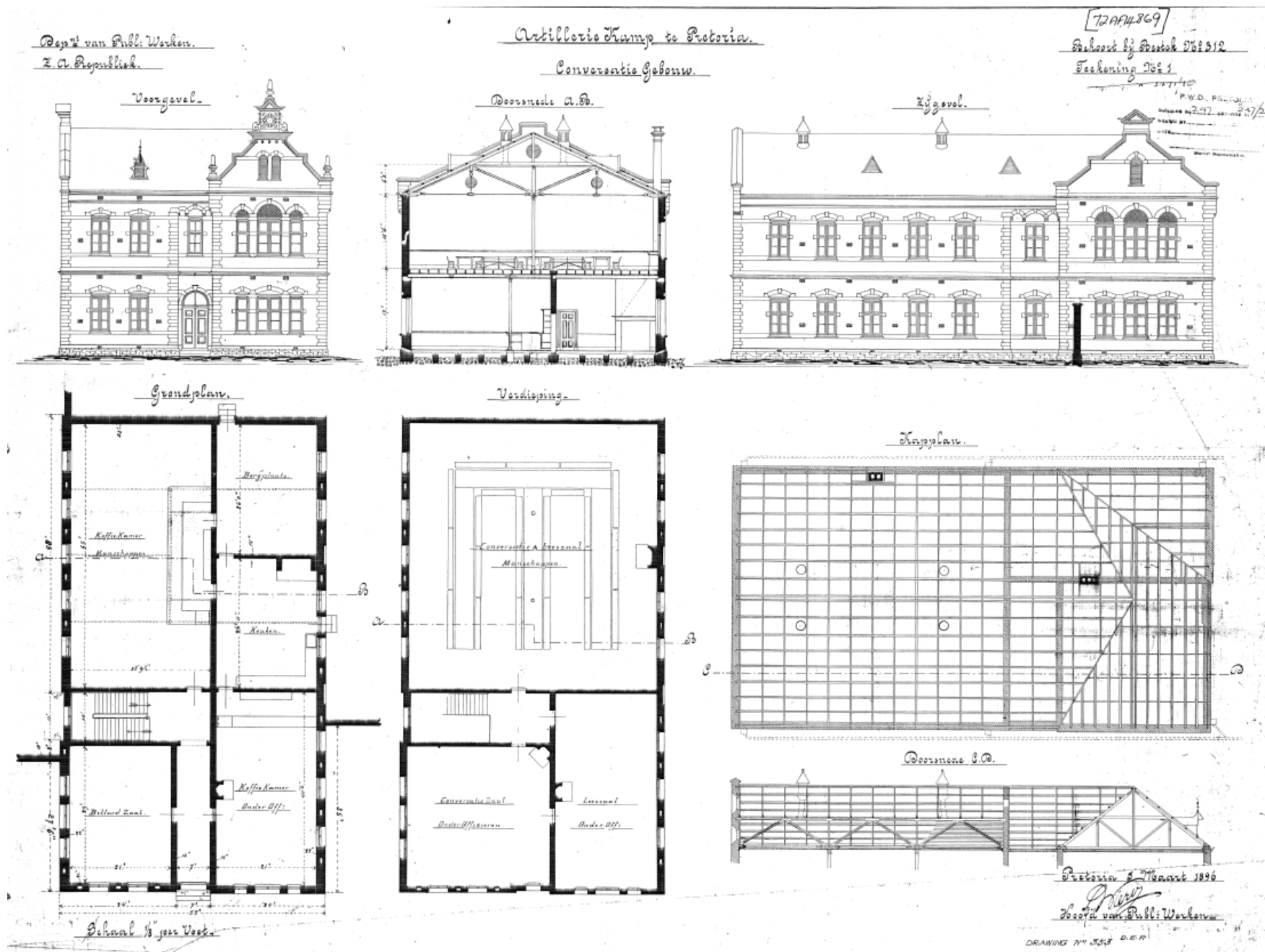


Figure 3-7: Recreation hall plans

THE SOUTH AFRICAN COMMAND

20. On the morning of 12 October 1899, Jacob van Deventer, a gunner in the Transvaal State Artillery, sent the first shot of the Second Boer War screaming towards a British armoured train between Mafikeng and Kimberley. It was less than 24 hours after the expiry of the ultimatum issued by President Paul Kruger for the withdrawal of British forces on the borders of the South African Republic.
21. The first troop train had already left Pretoria for the Natal border on 28 September 1899, with a section of the Transvaal State Artillery on board. This section consisted of 60 men with six guns, eight ammunition wagons and 105 horses. Not much later, the rest of the Transvaal State Artillery were deployed to various fronts, with the exception of the few serving in the Siege Artillery, who were required to man the forts in defence of the capital.
22. By the beginning of June 1900, the British troops were closing in on Pretoria. On the night of 30 May and in the early hours of 31 May 1900, a hysterical spree of looting and disorder erupted in Pretoria. The government stores on the corner of Market and Visagie Streets were looted, with crowds of Pretoria residents taking whatever they could lay their hands on. In his memoirs, Lt Col Trichardt recalls that, during this period, the Artillery Precinct was also plundered. Office furniture, saddles, tools and equipment, as well as the uniforms of the soldiers in the trunks under their beds, were all prized loot.
23. With the British occupation of Pretoria on 5 June 1900, a new era dawned on the Artillery Precinct. In 1902 the Artillery Precinct became the seat of the British military in South Africa.

DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS OF THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

24. On 31 May 1910, eight years to the day after the Boer generals had signed the surrender of their republics to the British, General Louis Botha became the first Prime Minister of a united South Africa.
25. With the proclamation of the Union Defence Act in 1913, the Union Defence Force (UDF) was established. Lieutenant-General J Wolfe-Murray, the Commanding General of British Forces in South Africa, suggested that his headquarters move to Cape Town as part of the withdrawal from South Africa and their return to England. General Wolfe-Murray further recommended that, on the withdrawal of British forces, the Union Government assume control over the precinct Roberts Heights (later to be renamed Voortrekkerhoogte and later Thaba Tshwane) and all other military centres. This proposal was approved by the Union's government.
26. In a letter to General JC Smuts, the Minister of Defence of the Union of South Africa, General Wolfe-Murray stated: "The Headquarters Block Artillery Barracks, at present used as headquarters South African Command, can be handed over to the Union Department, at a date to be subsequently arranged, after my headquarters move to Cape Town on 31st August. The conditions of this transfer will, of course, be governed by whatever decision may be arrived at in connection with the general question of Colonial Military Lands in South Africa ..."
27. Some of the buildings within the Artillery Precinct had already been taken over by the Union's Department of Defence by September 1914. The Secretary of the Department of Public Works informed the Secretary of the Department of Defence, through a letter written on 11 September 1914: "The Offices of the Executive Commanders Union Defence Force, the District Staff Officer No 9 Military District, the Active Citizen Units, whose headquarters are at Pretoria, will shortly be established at the Headquarters Block, Artillery Barracks. In the case of the latter, they move in tomorrow."
28. Although the UDF had taken control over a number of the buildings at this stage, the Headquarters Block was officially taken over by the UDF only on 1 October 1914.



Figure 3-8: GHQ staff



Figure 3-9: Artillery Precinct aerial view during the early 1930's. Alterations to Stable Square have already been completed

WORLD WAR II

29. Britain declared war on Nazi Germany on 1 September 1939. By 4 September the South African Parliament had decided to support the British and Commonwealth allies, and declared war on Nazi Germany. This was followed by a declaration of war against Italy on 11 June 1940.
30. When South Africa declared war on Germany, the Permanent Force component of the UDF was made up of 3 350 officers and men. There were 14 600 part-time soldiers in the Active Citizen Force, while the Seaward Defence Force had a meagre 70 officers and 900 men. By the end of 1939, 137 000 men were already under arms and volunteers were still pouring in.
31. As a result of this rapid increase in manpower, the demand for storage and office space at the Defence Headquarters rapidly increased. This would see the character of the Transvaal State Artillery Precinct change forever.
32. As a result of the demand for additional storage space, numerous sink structures were constructed in the Stable Square during 1939 and 1942. This resulted in the removal of the original horse-shoe shaped drinking fountains.
33. It was also during this time that a number of items were removed from within the stables to create more space for stores and offices. The oak partitions were removed from some of the stables, while others were simply left in place and the stables used as office space for the numerous clerks working within the precinct.
34. The effect of the expansion was also felt in other parts of the precinct. Two large sink buildings were constructed on the western side of the Drill Square, ie between the barracks and the stables. A verandah was constructed on the eastern side of these two buildings.
35. A sink fence was erected between the two sink buildings and the barracks. This fence officially separated the Defence Headquarters from the Stable Square and a number of sink buildings that were erected on and behind it. The fence was fitted with a wooden gate, however, as the personnel working in the stables and newly erected sink buildings still had to make use of the newly reopened main entrance on Potgieter Street and the southern entrance on Dequar Road.

36. In 1942 it was decided to add a second storey to the southernmost cannon and wagon stores. Although attempts were made to ensure the continued architectural character of the original buildings with the use of red brick, the buildings were forever defaced by the use of steel window and door frames. The lack of sandstone corners and decoration also clearly distinguishes the two storeys from each other.
37. During the alteration of the cannon and wagon stores, the southern entrance in Dequar Road was closed and members working in the Drill and Stable Square had to make use of the main entrance in Potgieter Street.
38. The veld on the western side of the precinct, which was previously under the control of the Forestry Department, was now also developed in order to support the war effort. The Department of Public Works and Engineers Corps were contracted to construct a number of sink buildings adjacent to the precinct in order to provide additional storage and work space. A single wire fence was erected around these structures, with a single gate linking them to the Stable Square and greater precinct.
39. Prior to the declaration of war, the Fore Square had been used mostly as a garden and lawn, which allowed passers-by on Potgieter Street to view the splendour of the Artillery Precinct, especially the barracks. However, the Fore Square was not left untouched by the demand for additional space, and a number of sink structures were erected on the lawns. Nine separate structures were erected by 1947.
40. During 1942, the Red Magazine was totally destroyed through an accidental explosion. The explosion of the ammunition stored in the magazine was exceptionally powerful, resulting in a number of the buildings in the precinct being damaged when their rafters were torn from the ceilings. The Group C buildings also recorded damage to their outer walls as a result of the explosion.
41. In 1943 a fire broke out in the loft of one of the duty rooms in the stables on the western side of the precinct. Records do not specify the damage or extent of the fire, but an indication is given that the stable was repaired immediately after the fire.

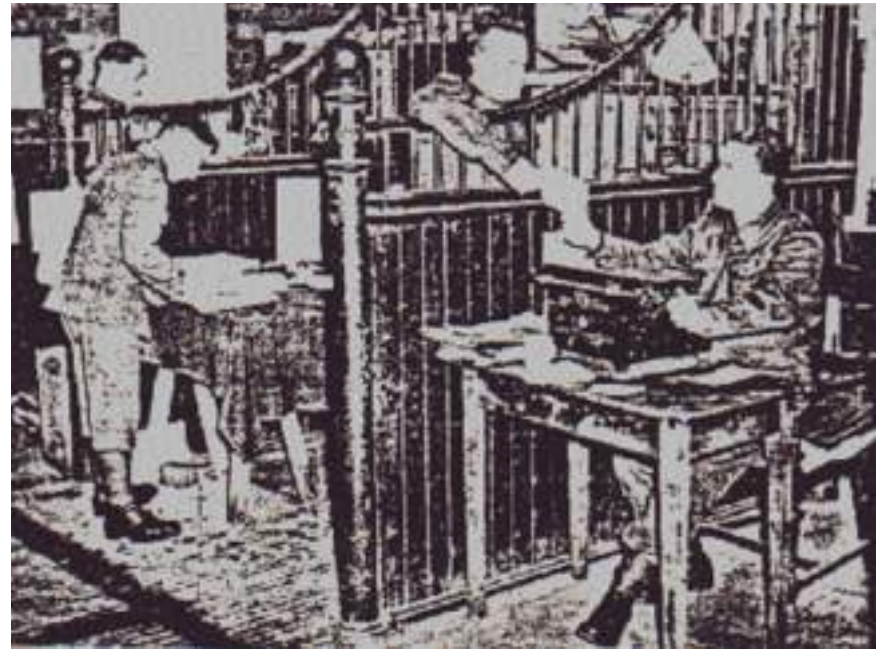


Figure 3-10: Stable offices clearly indicating the horse partitions

5 BASE ORDNANCE DEPOT

42. Records of 5 Base Ordnance Depot indicate that a second fire occurred in the complex in 1948. This fire broke out in one of the sink buildings that were constructed by the Department of Public Works and Engineers Corps in 1942. Historical records from 5 Base Ordnance Depot indicate that large amounts of personal webbing and mattresses were destroyed in this fire. No further records are available in terms of the repair or destruction of the damaged building.
43. The 5 Base Ordnance Depot records further reflect that a hail storm, also in 1948, damaged the roofs of a number of the buildings on the precinct. The shutters on the roofs of some of the buildings were so badly damaged that they were removed and repaired. The extent of the repair forever altered the appearance of these shutters.
44. The U-shaped stable on the southern side of the precinct serves as the only example of the original roof shutters. Some of the damage caused by the hail storm is still evident on the houses on Artillery Road.

DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS

45. Following the establishment of the Republic of South Africa on 31 May 1961, the Transvaal State Artillery Precinct continued to fulfil the role of Defence Headquarters until 1992. With the construction of the Armaments Corporation of South Africa (ARMSCOR) building complete, the headquarters of the South African Defence Force relocated to its current location on the corner of Delmas Avenue and Nossob Street, Pretoria.

SOUTH AFRICAN ARMY HEADQUARTERS

46. With the relocation of Defence Headquarters, the South African Army took over complete control of the precinct, which continues to this day.



Figure 3-11: The two large sink buildings constructed between the Drill Square and the Stable Parade in 1939, as photographed in 20110

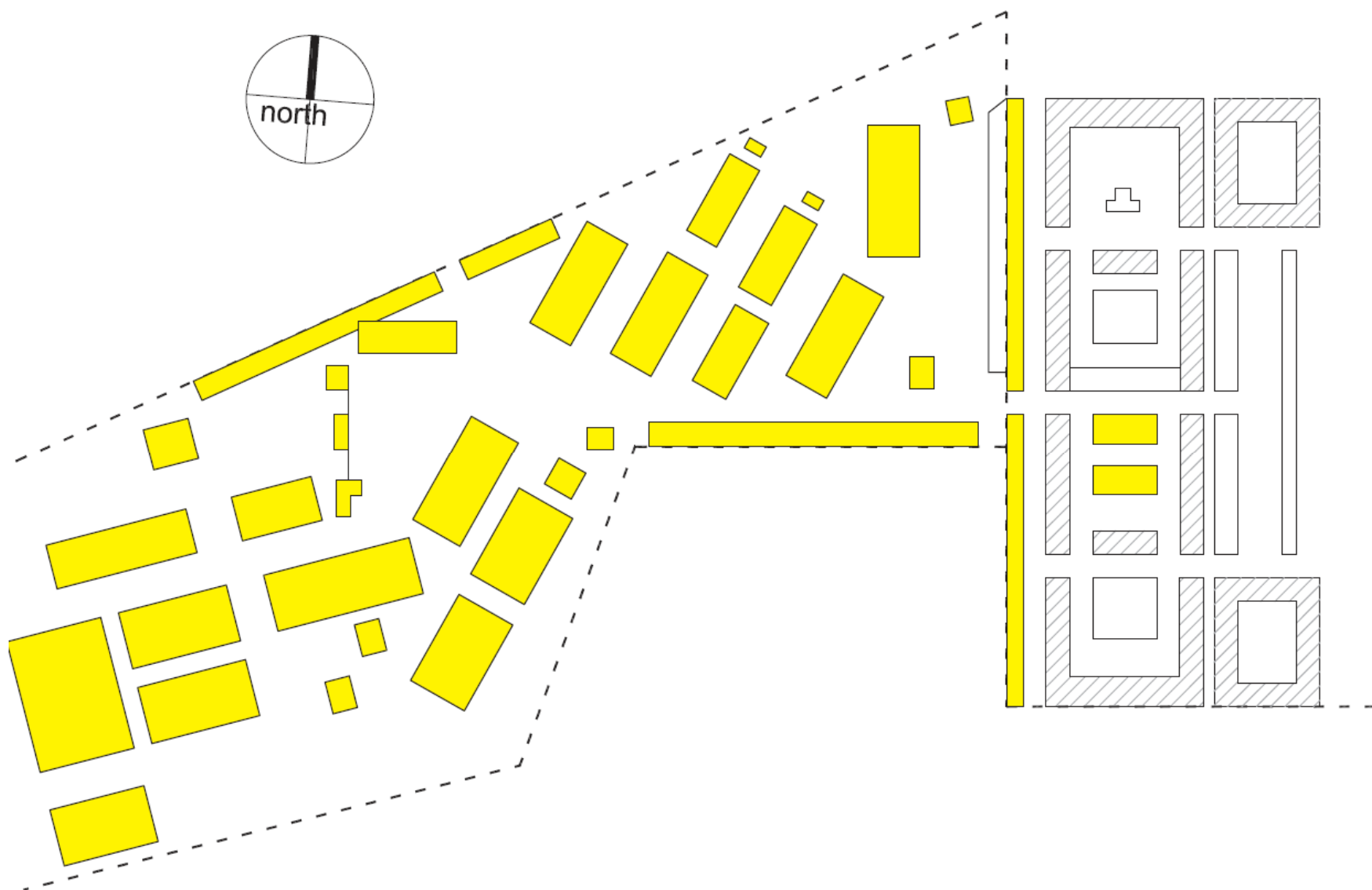


Figure 3-12: Structures added during the 1935 – 1949 period

Figure 3-13: The only original roof shutters remaining after the 1948 hail damage resulted in all the others being replaced



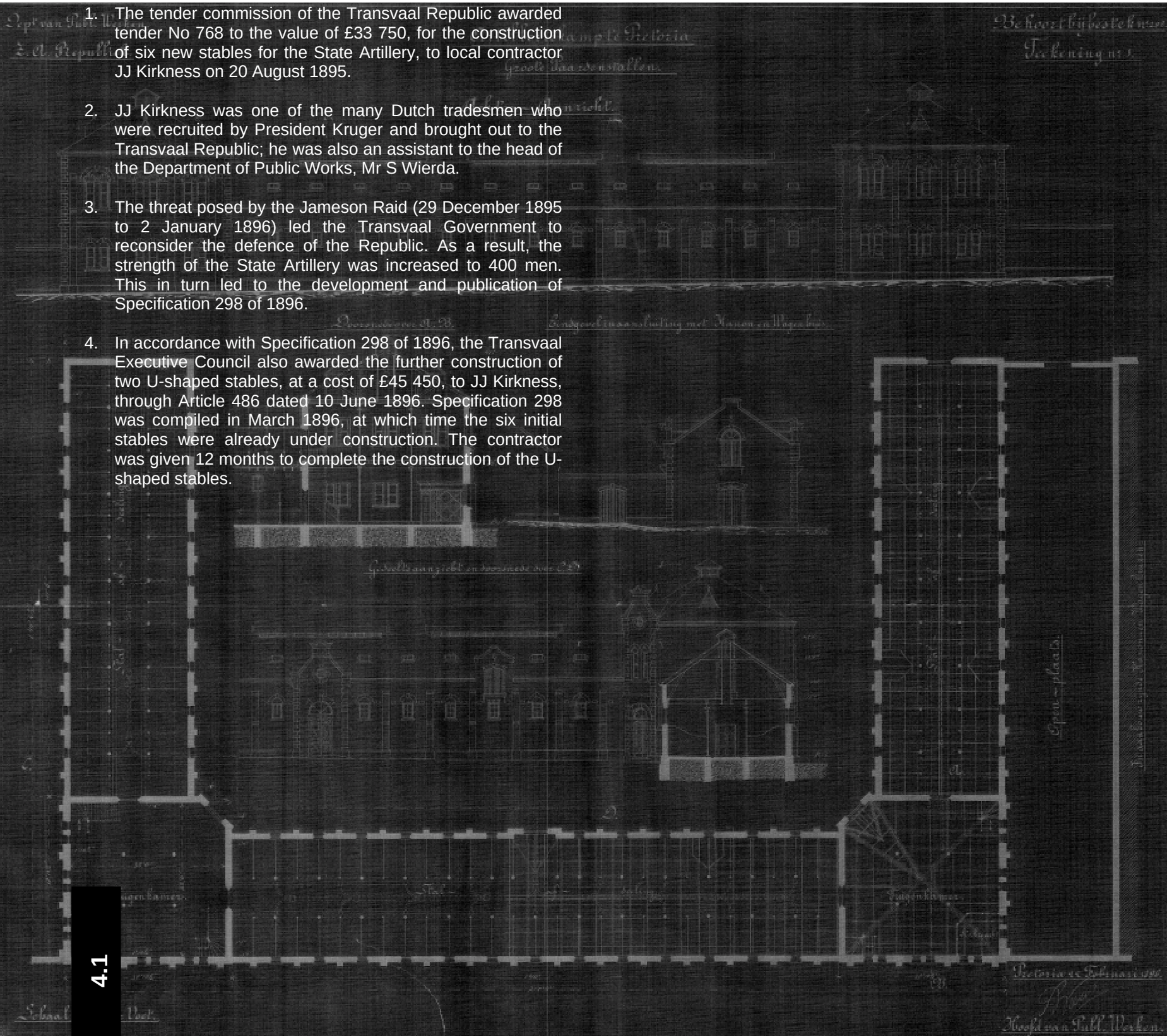
“In the early 1850s, the Transvaal Republic had no organised military force; rather, it relied on a strong Citizen Force that could be called on in times of war or unrest. The average citizen fulfilled the role of mounted infantryman naturally, but there was no formally organised artillery component.”

CHAPTER 4: Stable Square

CONSTRUCTION

Figure 4-1: Architectural plans for the U-shaped stables

1. The tender commission of the Transvaal Republic awarded tender No 768 to the value of £33 750, for the construction of six new stables for the State Artillery, to local contractor JJ Kirkness on 20 August 1895.
2. JJ Kirkness was one of the many Dutch tradesmen who were recruited by President Kruger and brought out to the Transvaal Republic; he was also an assistant to the head of the Department of Public Works, Mr S Wierda.
3. The threat posed by the Jameson Raid (29 December 1895 to 2 January 1896) led the Transvaal Government to reconsider the defence of the Republic. As a result, the strength of the State Artillery was increased to 400 men. This in turn led to the development and publication of Specification 298 of 1896.
4. In accordance with Specification 298 of 1896, the Transvaal Executive Council also awarded the further construction of two U-shaped stables, at a cost of £45 450, to JJ Kirkness, through Article 486 dated 10 June 1896. Specification 298 was compiled in March 1896, at which time the six initial stables were already under construction. The contractor was given 12 months to complete the construction of the U-shaped stables.

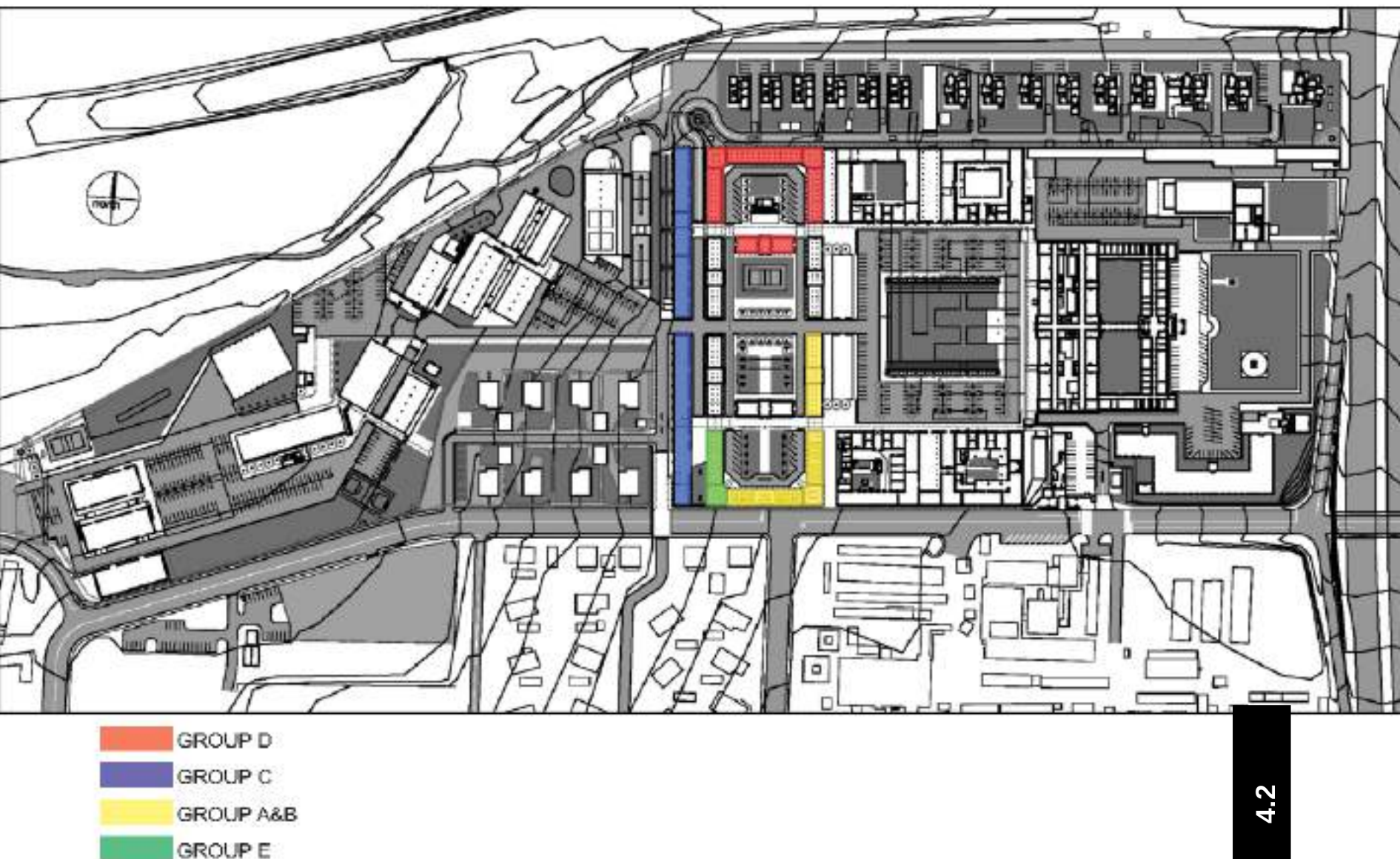


5. The stables, being the oldest section of the Transvaal State Artillery Precinct, are distinguishable by their rectangular shape, which constitutes the Stable Square, and the markings of "1896" on the front facade. The luxurious double-storey, 217ft 19in U-shaped stables, each with their spacious tack room and adjacent waiting room, are a clear indication of the important role played by the horse in South African military history, as well as the love that the Afrikaner nation had for the animal, which was often more of a companion than a simple means of transport.
6. The interior of the stables would be fitted with cast-iron columns and a drainage system, and completed with wooden window frames and doors.

The type of wood used on the floors is uncertain, but at some stage it was suggested that Burmese or Rhodesian teak was prescribed. Later evidence would indicate that oak was used.

7. According to the plans that were approved by the Department of Public Works in 1895, the six stables, of which two were to be hospital stables, were to be 30ft wide and 152ft 6in long. The hospital and officers' stables were to be 30ft wide and 107ft long.

Figure 4-2: Layout of the Stable Square

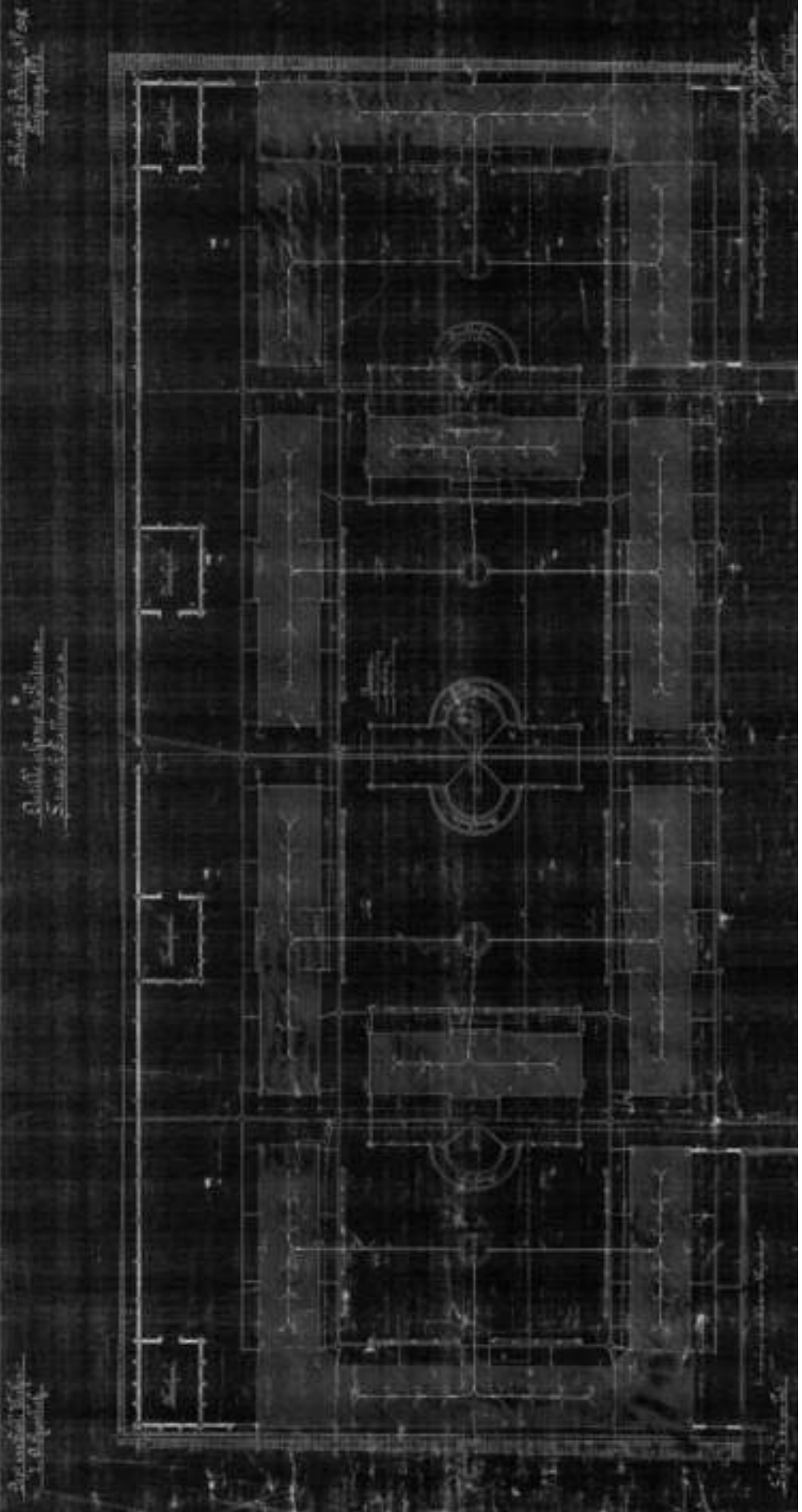


8. Klaas van Rijse, the architect, planned all eight buildings to harmoniously fit in with the Fore and Drill Square concept of the greater complex, while continuing the use of red brick and sandstone to decorate the facade of the stables. The sandstone, although taken from the surrounding hills, was used sparingly in order to ensure sufficient supplies for the construction of the entire State Artillery Precinct.
9. In his memoirs *Memorie van Toelichting*, dated 1894, Van Rijse stated that he originally planned to build only four stables for 200 horses, a hospital stable for 12 horses and a stable for 28 officers' horses. However, each of the additional U-shaped stables could house 134 horses, which, with the exception of the hospital stable, brought the total number of horses which could be accommodated in the Stable Square to 496.
10. The approved plans for the U-shaped stables also indicated that *mestkrale*, or manure storage facilities, would be built for the stables; however, no further mention was made of this. The facilities were never built as planned, although the wall against which they would have been built was completed.
11. The construction of the stable for the 268 horses was finally completed in 1897.



Figure 4-3: Southern U-shaped stable with drinking fountain

Figure 4-4: Drainage plan for the stables



HORSES

12. There is little known about the role of the horse in the Transvaal State Artillery or even during the Anglo Boer War. However, after the cannon and its ammunition, the horse was the most important item or equipment within the artillery. This is clearly evident from the importance and priority attached to the construction of the stables. There is very little known or recorded information about the exact number of horses that were present in the Artillery Precinct. Commandant Pretorius, however, did mention in the 1896 annual report that proper cavalry drills could not be exercised as a result of the shortage of horses.
13. Information obtained from the sole surviving *Paardenboek*, or horse register, which is kept within the archives, also does not shed light on this matter, as its title suggests: *Paardenboek van de linker sectie* or "Horse Register of the Left Section". It provides information only on one section of the horses kept within the stables. This register, dated 1 August 1896, does, however, provide a description of each horse in the section, as well as the person responsible for the care of the horse. In some cases the arrival and death of the horse are also recorded.
14. The expenditure register of the Transvaal State Artillery does indicate the number of horses and mules that were purchased over the period 1895 to 1900, at an average price of £20 to £30 per animal:
 - a. 1895 – 36 horses were purchased.
 - b. 1896 – 71 horses were purchased, along with an undisclosed number of mules.
 - c. 1897 – 126 horses and 44 mules were purchased.
 - d. 1898 – 21 horses were purchased.
 - e. 1899 – 138 horses and 190 mules were purchased.
 - f. 1900 – 93 horses and 207 mules were purchased.
15. Interestingly, the annual budget for the Transvaal State Artillery for 1897 made provision for £6 000 to be spent on the purchase of horses. As a result of the expansion of the State Artillery, this amount was far exceeded, with the final cost of horses for the year being £13 789.15.9.

INITIAL USE OF THE STABLES

16. Within the State Artillery, strict rules were enforced with regard to the care and maintenance of the horses and their equipment. Horses were regularly brushed and their individual stalls were cleaned on a daily basis. Non-commissioned officers were required to care for their own horses, as well as clean out the stall. Members caught delegating these responsibilities to their subordinates were severely punished.
17. Stable parades were held daily, with each parade announced by a trumpet call at the times determined by the officer commanding.
18. On 11 November 1897, the *Volksraad Kommissie* inspected the camp and determined that the ventilation in the stables was exceptionally poor; however, the problem could be addressed with minimum expenditure. They also found it essential that each horse's saddle and reins be kept in its stall. The commission recommended that a building in Mark Street be commissioned as a storage facility for the government mealies being used as horse feed for the State Artillery.

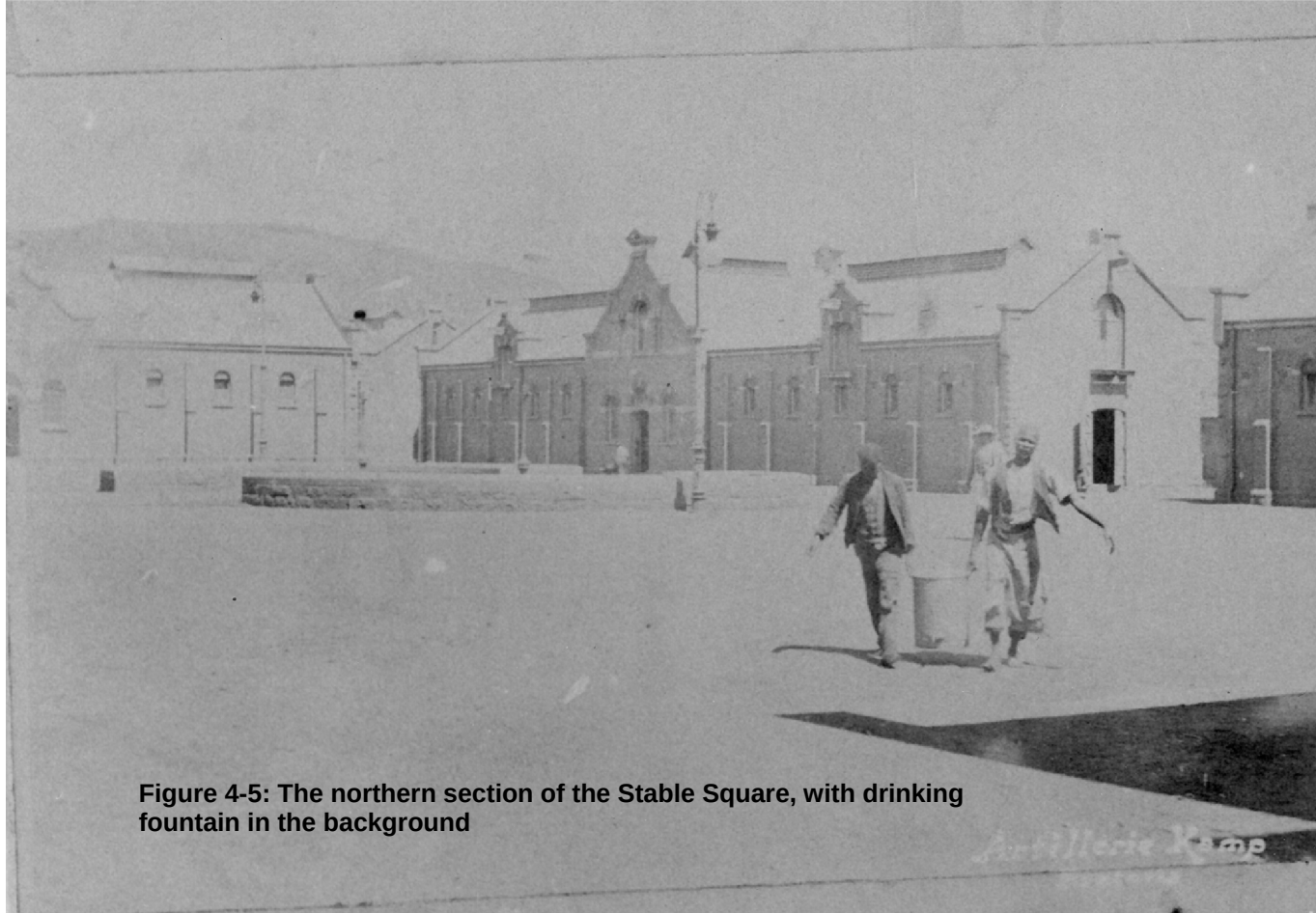


Figure 4-5: The northern section of the Stable Square, with drinking fountain in the background

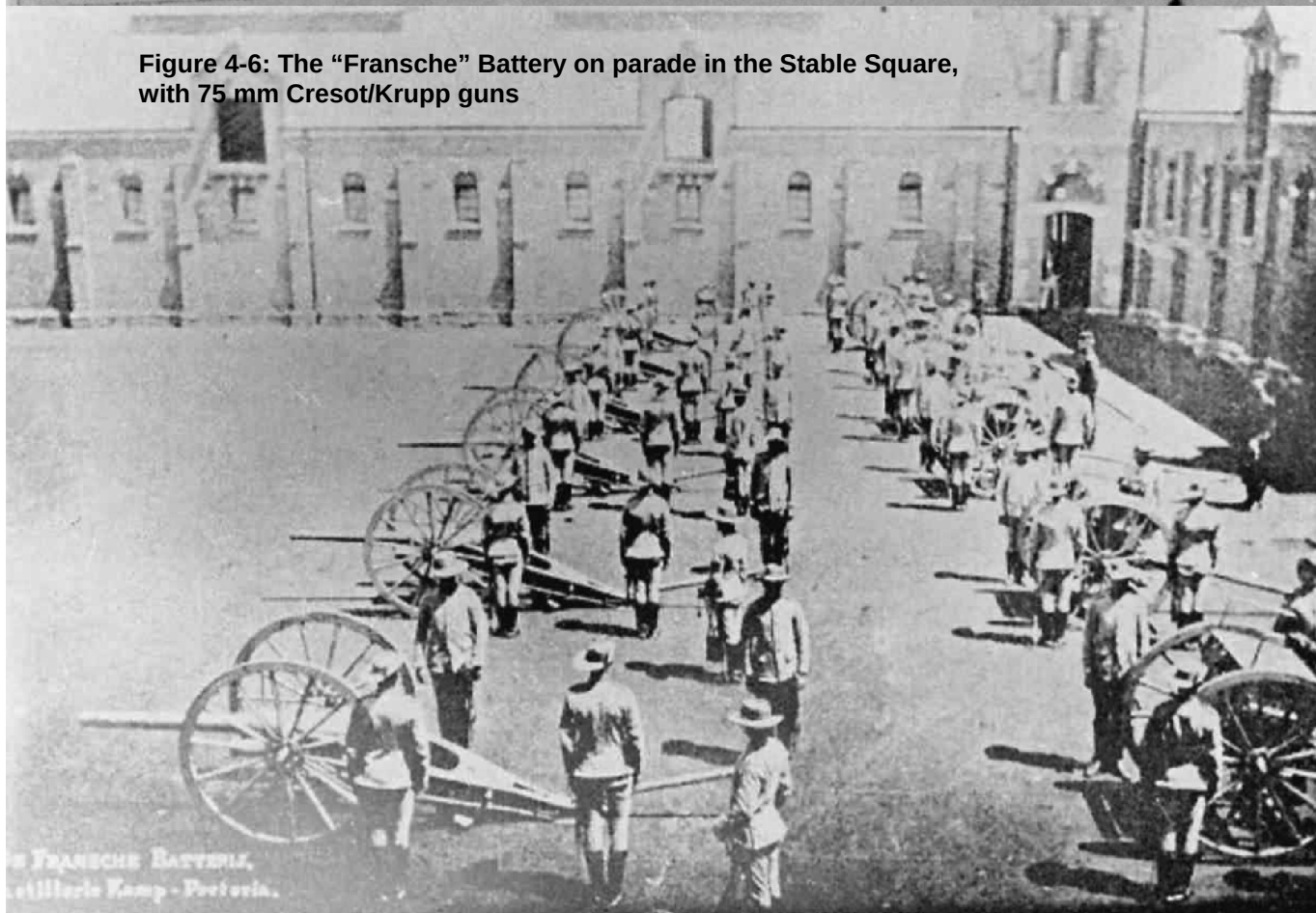


Figure 4-6: The "Fransche" Battery on parade in the Stable Square, with 75 mm Cresot/Krupp guns

THE CHANGING ROLE OF THE STABLES

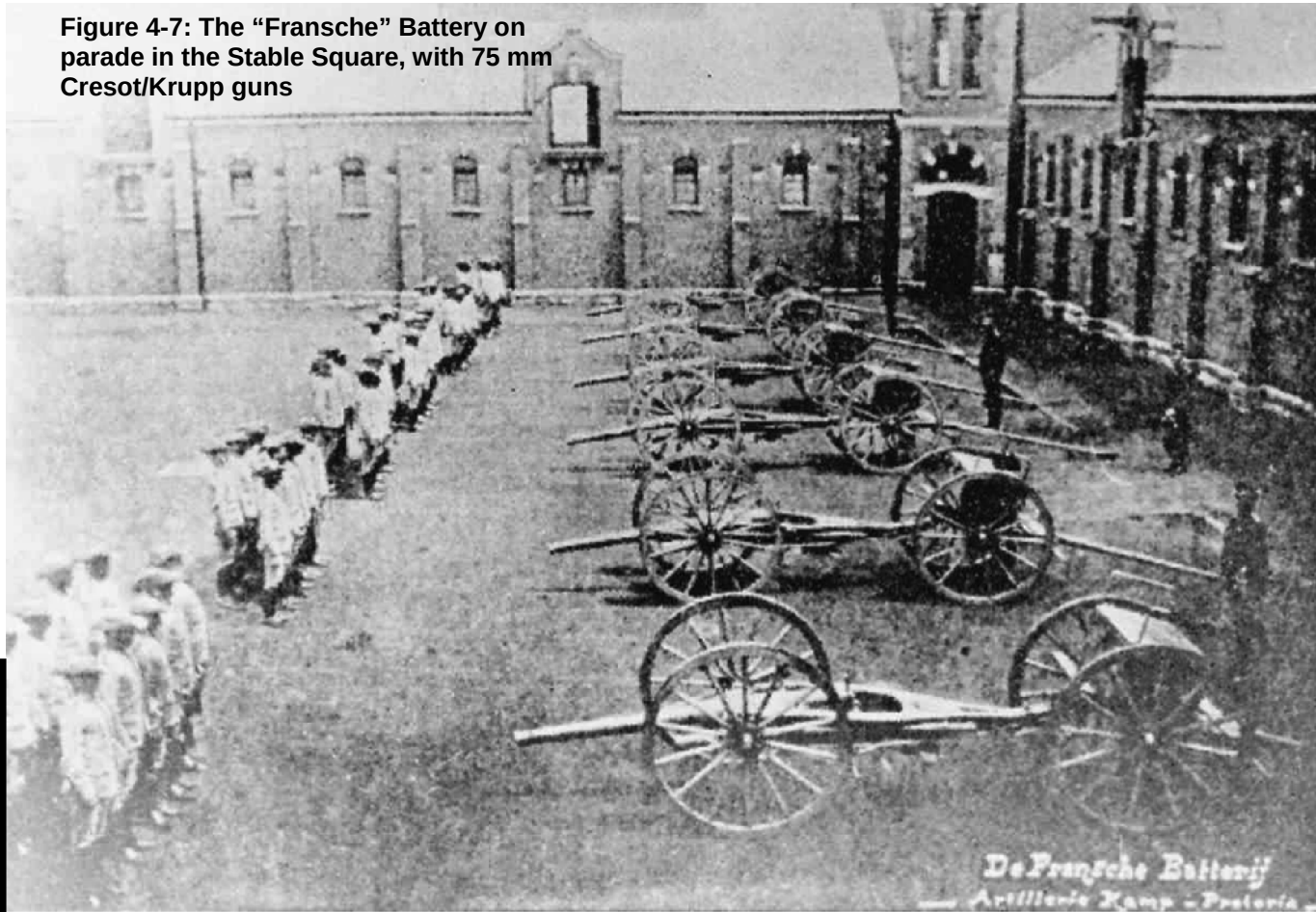
South African Command

19. The use of the Stable Square during the period in which the precinct was occupied by the South African Command is unclear. However, it is assumed that, at this stage, horses were still present and were then accommodated within the stables.
20. It was during this period that the transition from horse-powered transport to motorised transport would begin. This transition would see the role of the stables change forever.

Ordnance Service Depot

21. By the late 1920s and early 1930s, the Stable Square remained unchanged in terms of its structure, but it no longer housed horses; rather, it was used as storage space for the large volume of ordnance and stores being managed by the Ordnance Service Depot.
22. The Ordnance Service Corps and its associated depot came into being with the Unionisation of South Africa. The Ordnance Service Depot was established in Pretoria, and was responsible for the procurement and management of clothing, ordnance, ammunition and explosives for the Union Defence Force.
23. In order to control access to the stores, the stables were separated from the Drill Square by means of wooden gates that were installed between the front (eastern) stables. During this period, the wooden floors, cast-iron columns, drainage channels, steel doors and wooden stall walls were still intact within the various stables.
24. On the western side of the artillery camp was an area of open veld. Controlled by the Department of Forestry, it was separated from the artillery camp by a wall which had a set of heavy wooden doors in the centre. This is the same wall that was intended to support the previously mentioned *mestkrale*, or manure facilities.

Figure 4-7: The “Fransche” Battery on parade in the Stable Square, with 75 mm Cresot/Krupp guns



25. In 1935 it was decided to develop the Stable Parade by adding a row of buildings behind the westernmost stables. These buildings were erected against the western perimeter wall which separated the camp from the open veld. Although these buildings were constructed using red brick, they were not part of the original architectural design, and many of the features and finishes of these buildings are not consistent with the original construction. The use of wooden window frames and doors, for example, was not continued in the construction of these buildings.
26. This original wall is still evident on the western side of the Group C buildings that were constructed in 1935, along with the reinforcing pillars that were meant to support the manure storage areas.
27. The re-organisation of the Ordnance Corps resulted in the previous sections being divided into groups. These groups were mostly responsible for the stores being managed by the Ordnance Service Depot, with the majority of the stores found in the Stable Square. The following groups were accommodated in the Stable Square:
- a. Group B: Paints, oils, tools, steel and hardware.
 - b. Group C: Tents, picks, spades, etc.
 - c. Group D: Office and barracks equipment.
 - d. Group E: Unserviceable stores.
28. Labourers were responsible for the movement of ordnance between stores by means of trolleys. These trolleys were pushed from facility to facility, as the only vehicles present in the camp at this stage were a Leyland truck and mule wagons. The areas, paths and roads in the artillery camp were still untarred during this period.

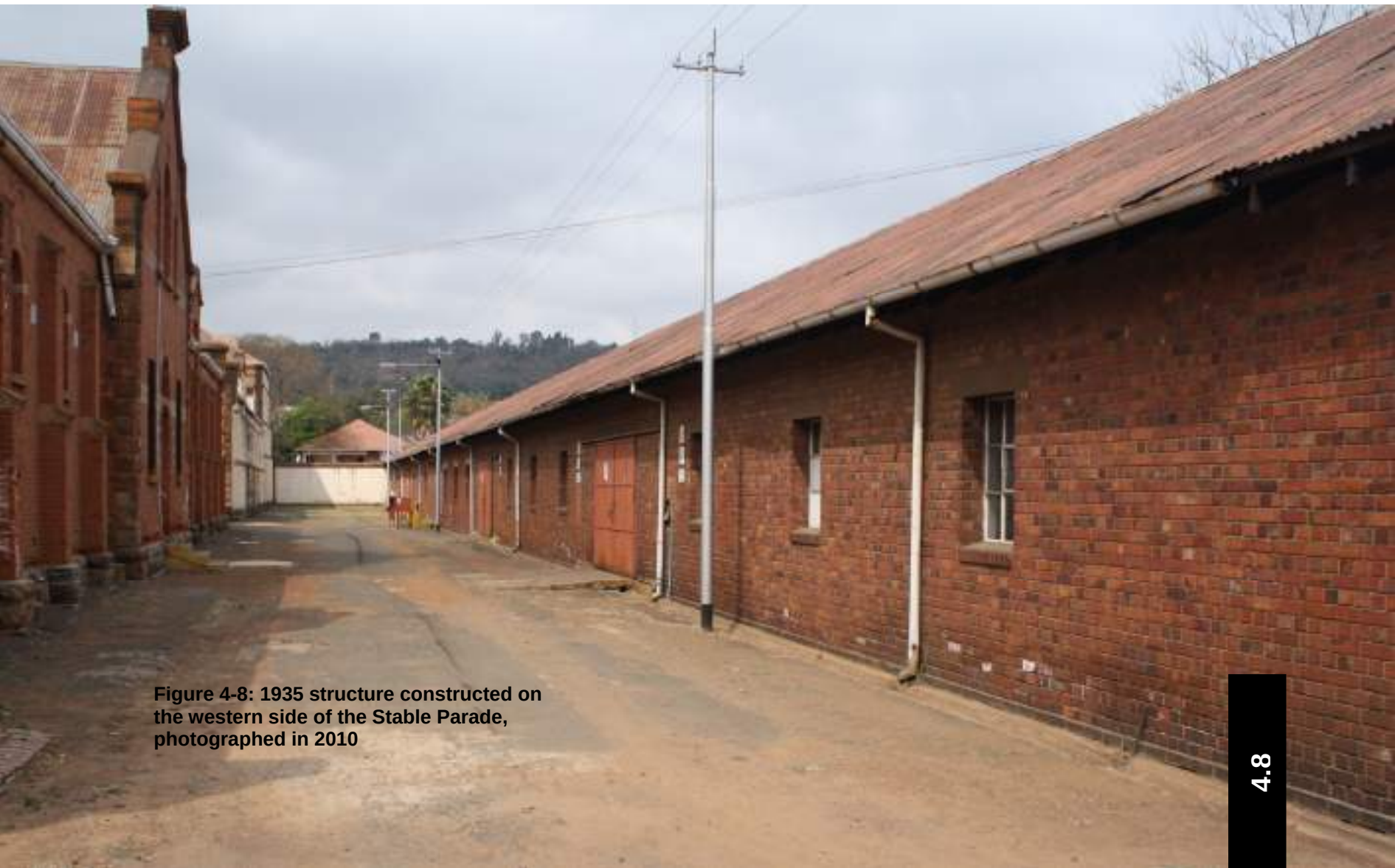


Figure 4-8: 1935 structure constructed on the western side of the Stable Parade, photographed in 2010

Figure 4-9: Original boundary wall used during the construction of the 1935 structure which was to become known as Group C



Figure 4-10: Reinforcing pillars of the original boundary wall

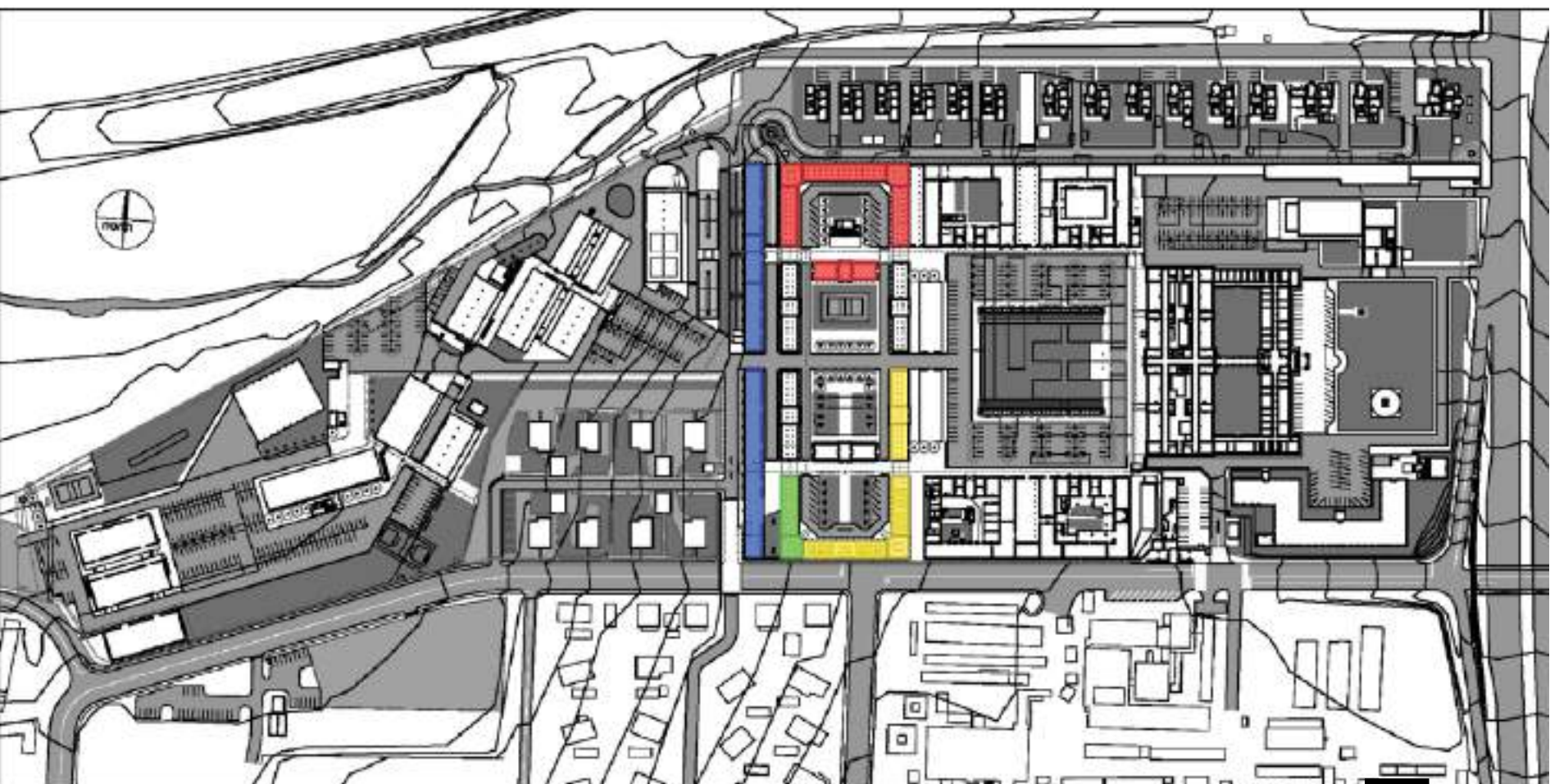


29. Although horses and mules were still being used within the artillery camp at this time, they were not accommodated in the original stables, but rather in the sink buildings that were erected behind the camp.
30. Records indicate that, in 1943, a fire broke out in the loft of one of the duty rooms in the stables on the western side of the complex. The extent of the fire and the damage caused by it are unknown. The damage was apparently repaired shortly after the fire, and no further evidence of this incident is visible.

Figure 4-11: Organisation of the Ordnance Service Depot groups within the Stable Square of the artillery camp

5 Base Ordnance Depot

31. During 1962, a modernisation programme was implemented within 5 Base Ordnance Depot which saw the Officer Commanding Commandant C Venter approve the recommended alterations to the stores (which were in the old stables). These alterations saw the wooden stairs fitted on the outside of the U-shaped stables removed and replaced with steel stairs. A number of the wooden doors were also removed from the stables and replaced with steel doors. (See Fig 4-12.)
32. It was also during the late 1960s that the Department of Public Works finally removed the remaining oak floors and stall partitions from the stables. In the old officers' stables,



- GROUP D
- GROUP C
- GROUP A&B
- GROUP E

the wooden floors of the loft were removed, along with the iron columns.

33. Records indicate that a number of other obsolete items were also removed and disposed of during this period. Reference was made to two huge machines that were found in the stables: one was previously used to make hay bales, while the other was a giant shredding machine. The two machines were supposedly taken to the Klapperkop Museum, but no record of their delivery there can be found. It is presumed that the machines were disposed of, along with a number of other items that were discarded during this period.
34. By 1977, the oldest buildings in the precinct – the stables and the cannon and wagon stores – were starting to show

severe signs of deterioration due to the effects of the weather and age. A decision was taken to plaster and paint the walls of these two structures to try to prevent any further deterioration. However, later in 1977, the Stable Square, along with the cannon and wagon stores, was declared a National Monument. The new status prevented any further alterations or construction in the Stable Square or cannon and wagon stores; the southern U-shaped stable had by this time already been plastered and painted, along with the north-eastern section of the northern U-shaped stable.

South African Army Headquarters

35. The South African Army continues to make use of the Stable Square as additional office and storage space.

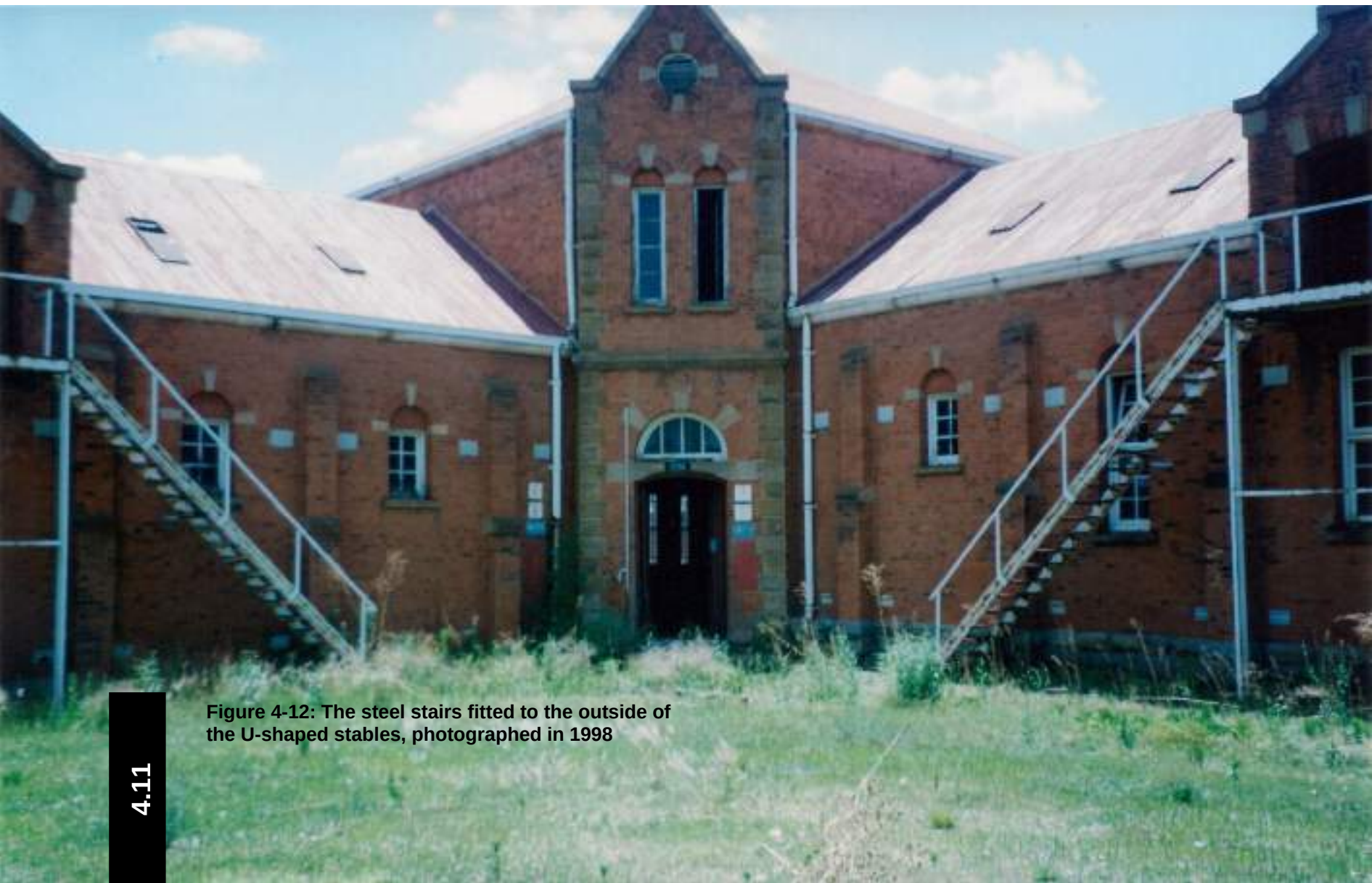


Figure 4-12: The steel stairs fitted to the outside of the U-shaped stables, photographed in 1998

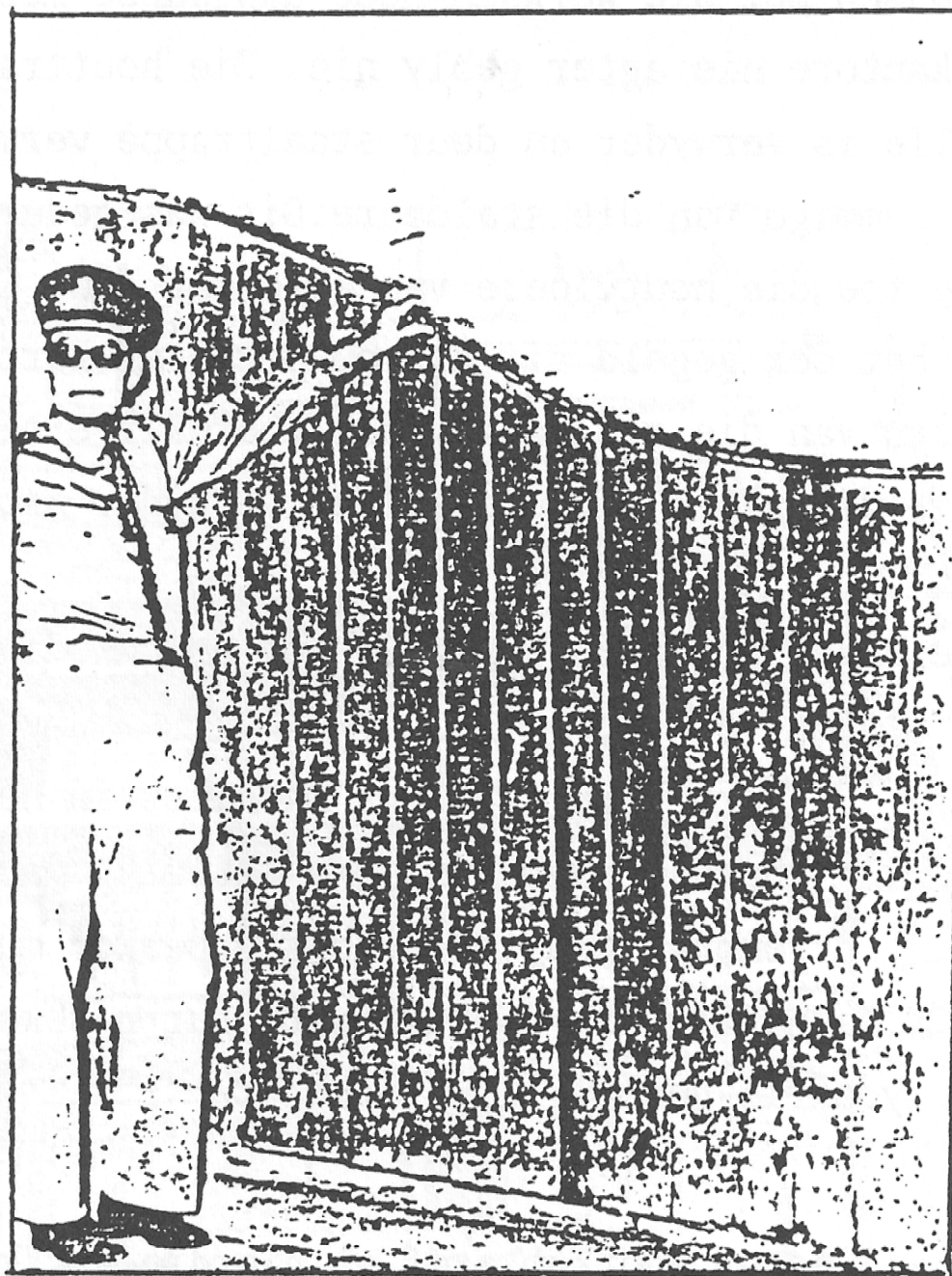


Figure 4-13: Col D Erasmus photographed with the last remaining horse stall partition in the stables



Figure 4-14: Southern U-shaped stables, photographed in 2010, showing the effect of the 1977 alterations



Figure 4-15: Northern U-shaped stables, photographed in 2010, showing the partial effect of the 1977 alterations

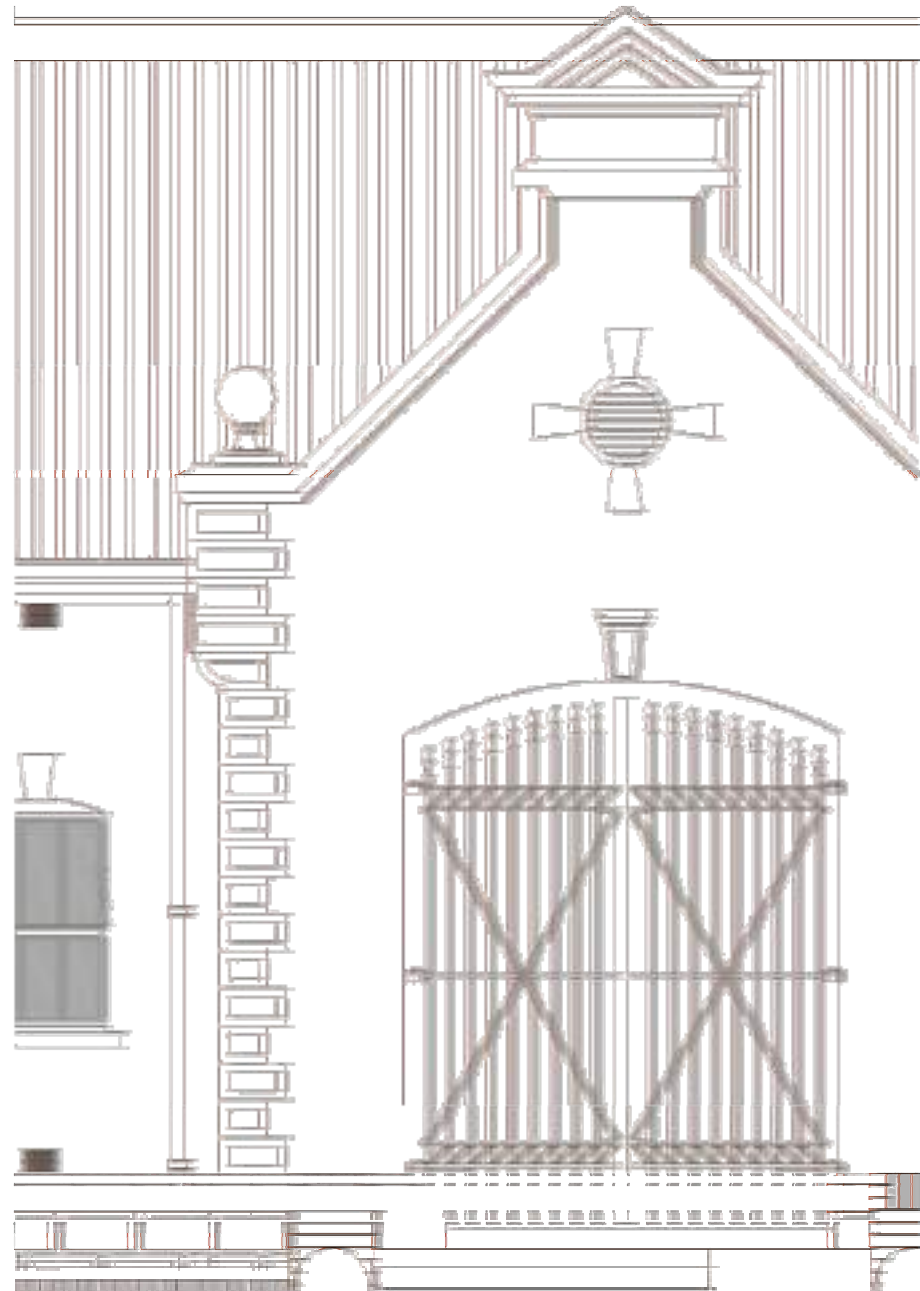
CHAPTER 5: The Cannon and Wagon Stores

INTRODUCTION

1. By 2 October 1895, with the construction of the Stable Square already under way, the Department of Public Works of the Transvaal Republic began compiling the architectural plans for the construction of two cannon and wagon houses for the Transvaal State Artillery.

CONSTRUCTION

2. The specification for the development of the cannon and wagon stores was completed in the same year, calling for the construction of two identical cannon and wagon stores. The front gable of each of the stores was to be positioned 192ft 6in from the side of the Drill Square, with a 40ft alley between them to ensure sufficient room for movement. The specification also referred to the existing cannon and wagon stores situated on the southern side of the Drill Square.
3. In accordance with the Department of Public Works specification, each of the stores should have a length of 156ft and a width of 140ft. The inner courtyard of the cannon and wagon stores was to be 99ft long and 78ft 6in wide.
4. The Department of Public Works specified that the cannon and wagon stores were to be constructed from the same red brick as was used for the stables. Granite and sandstone were prescribed to ensure a uniform building style within the Artillery Precinct. Each store was also to have a cast-iron entrance gate.
5. The deadline for the submission of tender proposals to the Auditor General was set for 12 December 1895. On 22 January 1896, the Executive Council of the Transvaal authorised the construction of four, instead of the planned two, cannon and wagon stores at the Transvaal State Artillery Precinct, at a maximum cost of £40 000.
6. The contract for the construction of the four cannon and wagon stores was again awarded to the building contractor JJ Kirkness. The contract stipulated that the construction of the four cannon and wagon stores had to be completed within six months.



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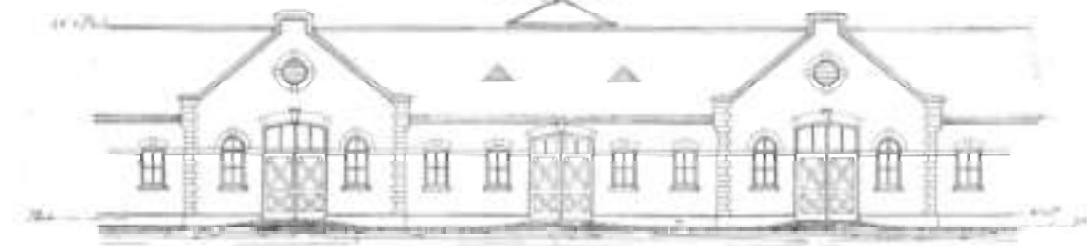
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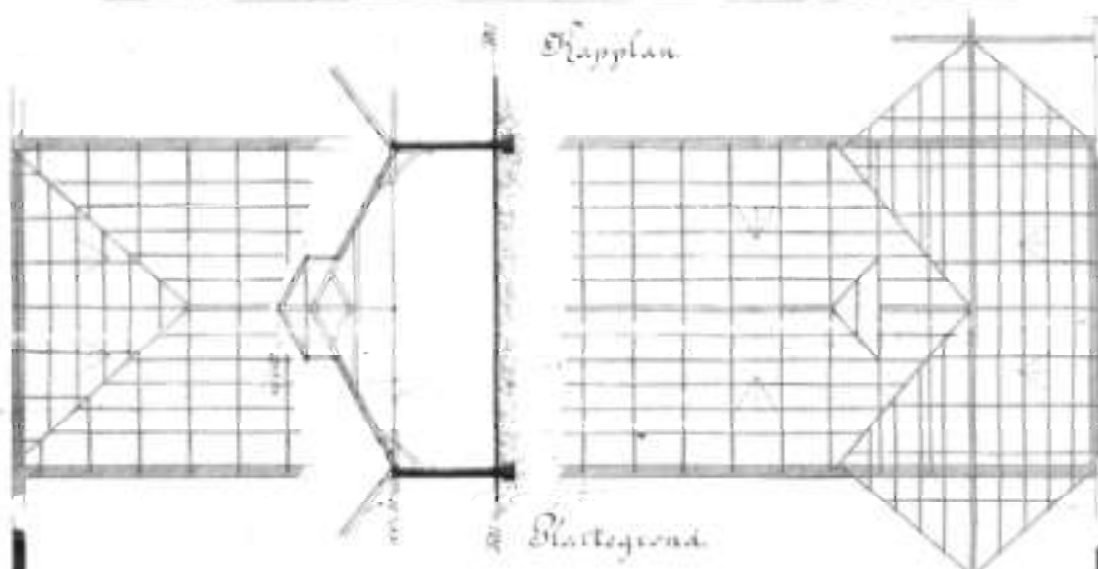
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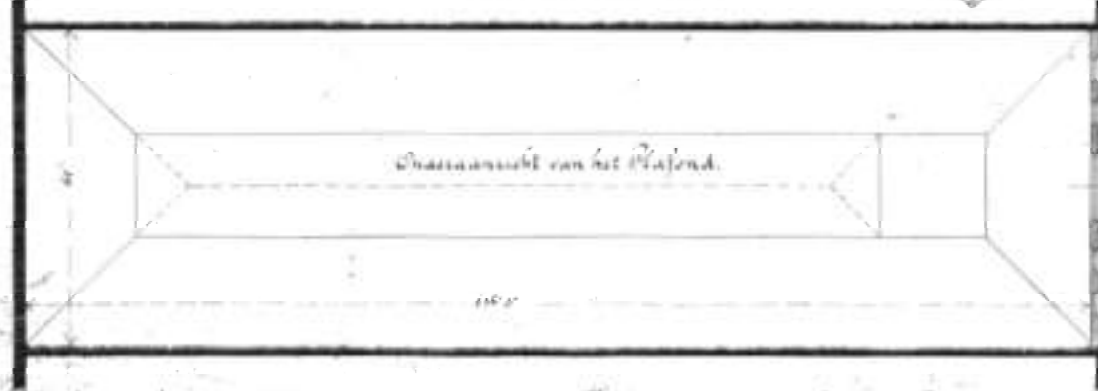


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Blaatzgrond

Overkapping van het Huis.



Victoria 12 Augustus 1892.

Konink van Duit. Werken.

Figure 5-1: Plan of the roof added between the cannon and wagon stores



Figure 5-2: Cast-iron balls used to prevent damage to the cannon and wagon stores still in place at the entrance to the northern cannon and wagon stores

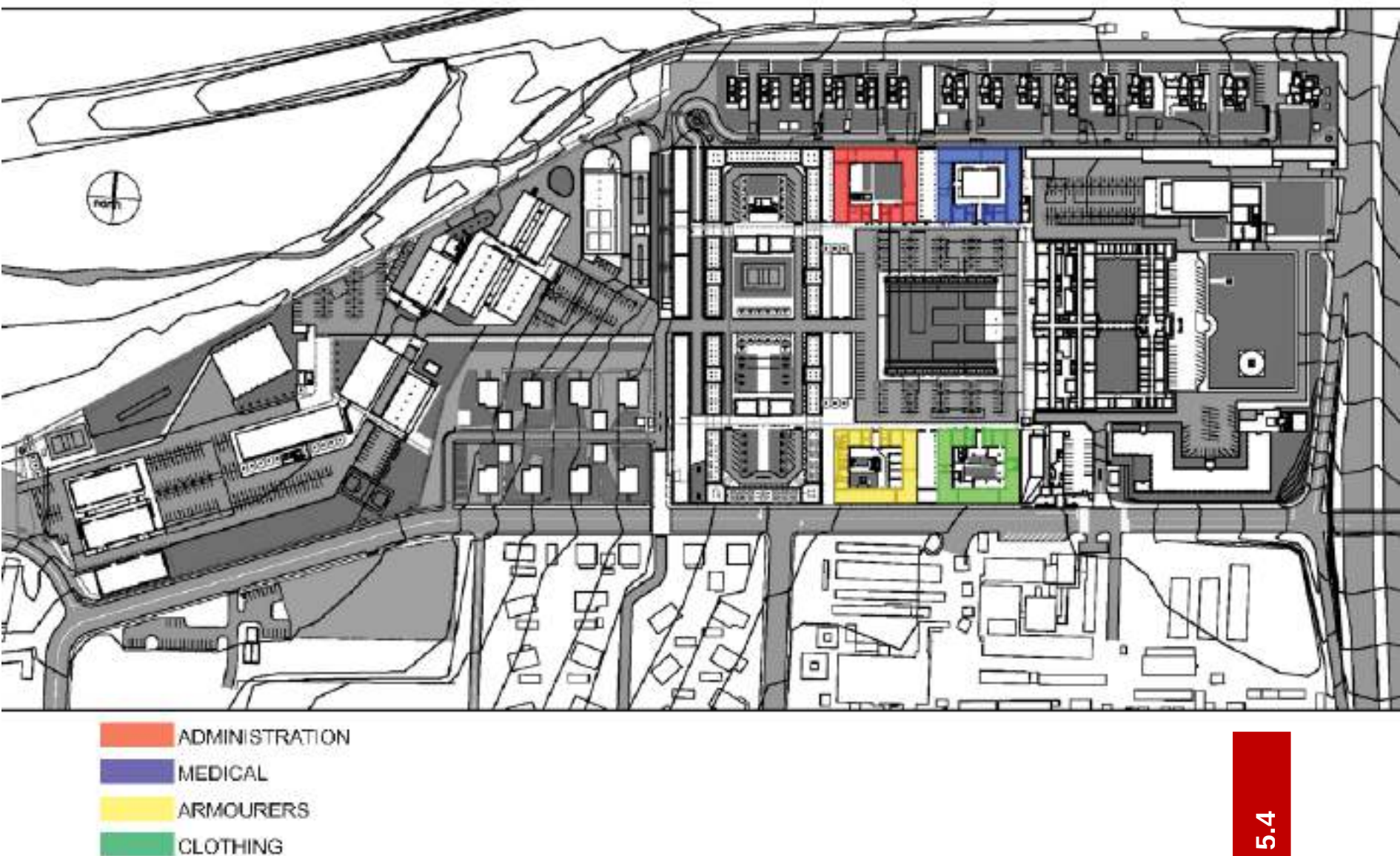
7. On 7 January 1897, Major PE Erasmus of the State Artillery reported to the Commandant General that the contractor had completed the construction of the southern cannon and wagon stores, and that they had been taken into service by the State Artillery.
8. In 1897 it was decided to add a roof over the area separating the two southern cannon and wagon stores in order to increase the amount of space available to the State Artillery. The plans for this alteration were compiled and approved by the Department of Public Works on 12 August 1897.
9. During this same period of construction, the contractor JJ Kirkness had also built and handed over a temporary magazine, while the firm Winkler and Didden was responsible for the construction of the temporary barracks and stable.
10. On 11 November 1897, the *Volksraad Kommissie* found the cannon and wagon stores spacious and adequate.
11. In order to prevent the movement of the wagons in and out of the stores from damaging the walls, cast-iron balls were placed in the bottom corners of the walls. These iron balls prevented the wheels of the wagons from making contact with and breaking the walls. During later construction in the Artillery Precinct, these balls were replaced with cement balls.

THE CHANGING ROLE OF THE CANNON AND WAGON STORES

South African Command

12. The cannon and wagon stores remained largely unchanged until shortly before World War II. During the 1920s, the cannon and wagon stores on the southern side of the precinct housed the clothing and armourer sections of the Ordnance Service Depot, while the northern cannon and wagon stores housed the medical and administrative offices.

Figure 5-3: Layout and use of the cannon and wagon stores during the 1920s



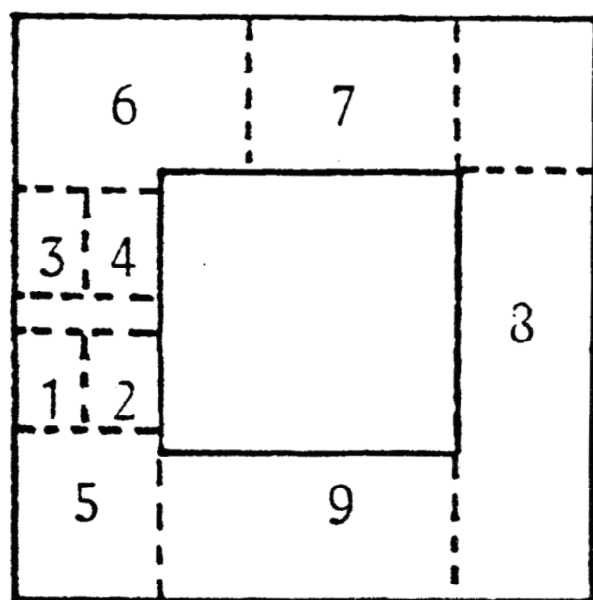


Figure 5-4: Layout of the Ordnance Service Corps headquarters in the northern cannon and wagon store

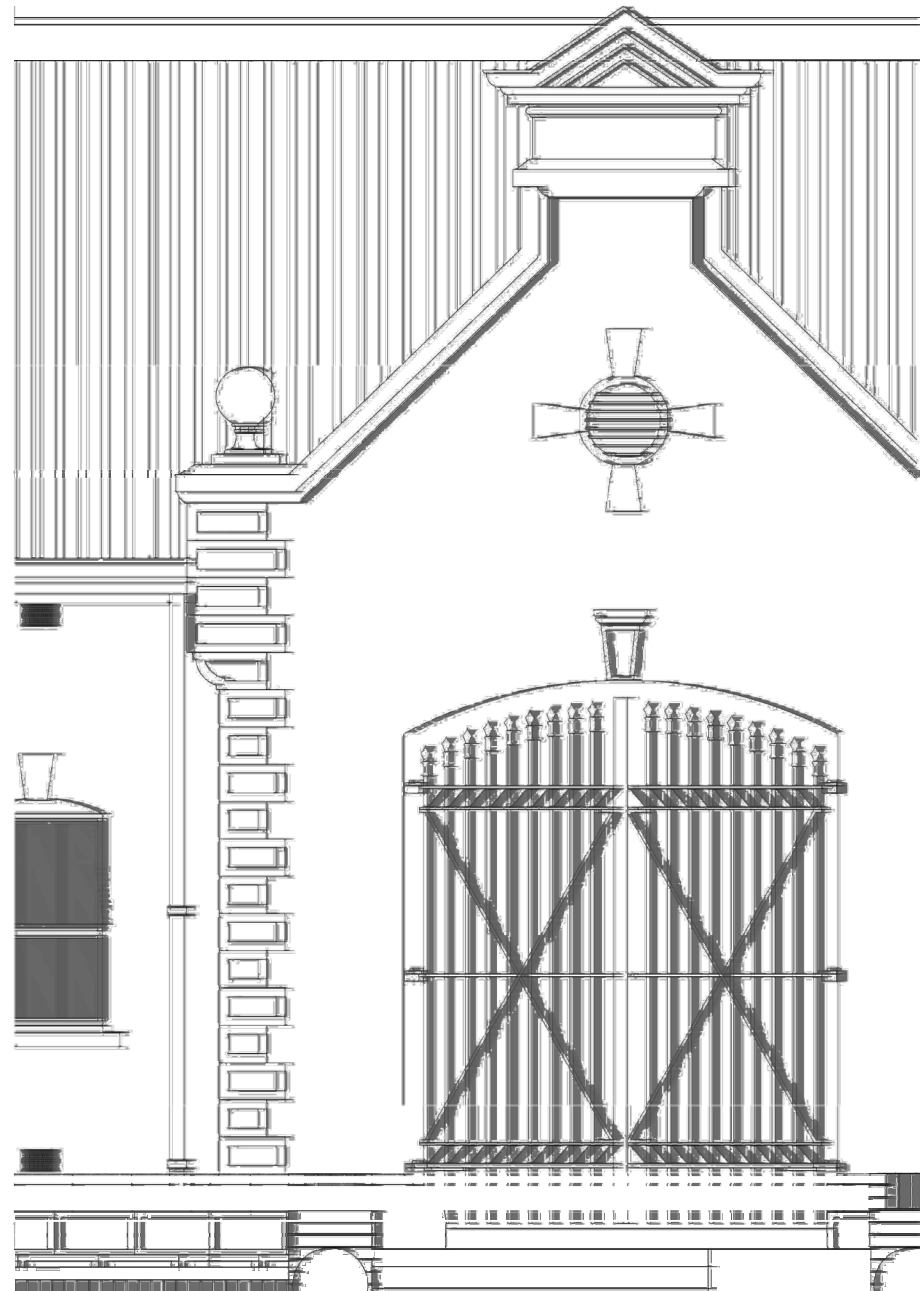
Ordnance Service Depot

13. With the re-organisation of the Ordnance Service Corps and Depot, the cannon and wagon stores were also affected. The cannon and wagon store on the northern side of the precinct closest to the U-shaped stables was organised as the headquarters of the Ordnance Service Corps. The headquarters were laid out as follows:
 - a. 1 – Paymaster.
 - b. 2 – Second-in-command.
 - c. 3 – Chief clerk.
 - d. 4 – Officer commanding.
 - e. 5 – Typists.
 - f. 6 – Ledger section.
 - g. 7 – Duty room.
 - h. 8 – Carpentry workshop.
 - i. 9 – Saddle-maker workshop.
14. A small building was constructed in the inner court of the cannon and wagon store used as the headquarters of the Ordnance Service Corps. This structure was constructed between 1928 and 1932 in front of the duty room.
15. During this period, the other three cannon and wagon stores were also altered. Small structures and verandahs were constructed in the cannon and wagon stores used for clothing and medical, while a shooting range was constructed in the stores used by the armourers to test weapons and ammunition.
16. Records indicate that, at this stage, each of the cannon and wagon stores had a cannon displayed at the entrance. Over the next few years these cannons would be systematically removed. No records are available with regard to what type of cannons these were or what happened to them once they were removed.
17. With the outbreak of World War II, the demand for office and storage space increased dramatically. This resulted in numerous structures being added throughout the precinct. The cannon and wagon stores were no exception. In 1942 a second storey was added to the cannon and wagon stores on the southern side of the precinct. Although every effort was made to ensure that the architecture and building material were the same as for the original building, these two stores would be defaced forever.

CHAPTER 6: The Officers' and Non-commissioned Officers' Quarters

INTRODUCTION

1. In 1894 the Executive Council of the Transvaal Republic passed Act No 15 of 1894, which set out the regulations relating to the *Korps Rijende Artillerie*, later to become known as the Transvaal State Artillery.
2. The Act promulgated that the Transvaal State Artillery would consist of the following positions:
 - a. Commandant (officer commanding).
 - b. Captain.
 - c. First lieutenant.
 - d. Lieutenant.
 - e. Lieutenant-adjutant.
 - f. Two second lieutenants.
 - g. Lieutenant Field Telegraphy.
 - h. Quartermaster.
 - i. Paymaster.
 - j. Teacher.
 - k. Farrier.
 - l. Armourer.
 - m. Guard commander
 - n. Sergeant quartermaster.
 - o. Three sergeants.
 - p. Eight corporals.
 - q. 100 privates (gunners).
 - r. 15 Field Telegraphy privates.
 - s. 16 band members.
3. In his memoirs *Memorie van Toelichting*, dated 1894, the architect Klaas van Rysse stated that it was customary for the officers of a unit to live on post. As a result, he envisioned that a number of houses would be constructed on the outskirts of the camp to accommodate the officers of the Transvaal State Artillery. He further stipulated that the residences should have an entrance to both the camp and the public street on which they would be built.



CONSTRUCTION

4. Klaas van Rysse completed the architectural plans for the 15 residences (nine houses for the officers and six for the non-commissioned officers) on 18 December 1895. (See Fig 61.) These plans were then submitted to Mr S Wierda, head of the Department of Public Works, for final approval. Mr Wierda completed the scope of work for the construction of the 15 residences.
5. The specification called for the following categories of residences:
 - a. The commandant's residence.
 - b. The two captains' residences.
 - c. The six lieutenants' residences.
 - d. The six non-commissioned officers' residences.
6. Besides the intended occupant, the various categories of houses differed in terms of the overall size, the height of the ceiling, the height and width of the passage, and the width of the front door frame. Finally, the non-commissioned officers' residences did not have a store in the yard.
7. On 2 May 1896, the Executive Council of the Transvaal Republic accepted the proposal submitted by Mr JJ Kirkness for the construction of the 15 residences at a cost of £31 340. The construction had to be completed within 15 months. No delays were reported in the construction of the 15 residences, so it can be assumed that they were all completed and handed over to the Transvaal State Artillery by mid-1897.

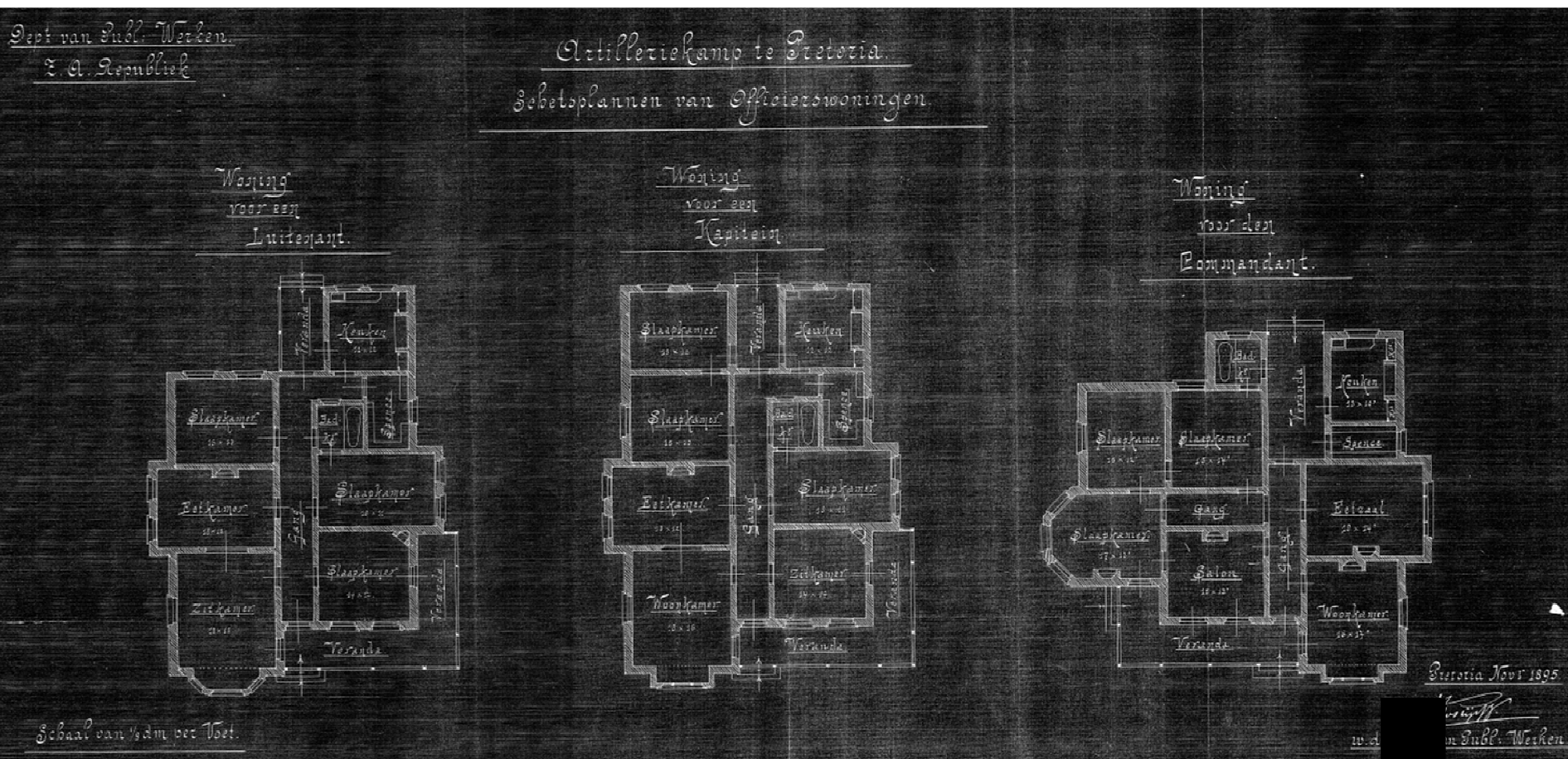


Figure 6-1: Architectural plans for the State Artillery residences

8. All of the houses were to be constructed using the same red brick and sandstone used to construct the stables and cannon and wagon stores. Wooden window frames were used to enhance the overall appearance of the houses, while each was fitted with a front gable. The front gables of the six non-commissioned officers' residences (No 10 to No 15) were similar to those on the stables, while the officers' residences had more fitting gables that made use of more sandstone to decorate the front facade of the residence. The non-commissioned officers' residences were also fitted with a simpler roof shutter.
9. The interior walls of all of the houses were plastered, and each house was fitted with a fireplace. The cast-iron front gates to the residences were imported from the Netherlands, where they were cast by the firm FW Braat van Delft. These gates can still be found in place at the residences.

Figure 6-2: Plan indicating the location of the various residences

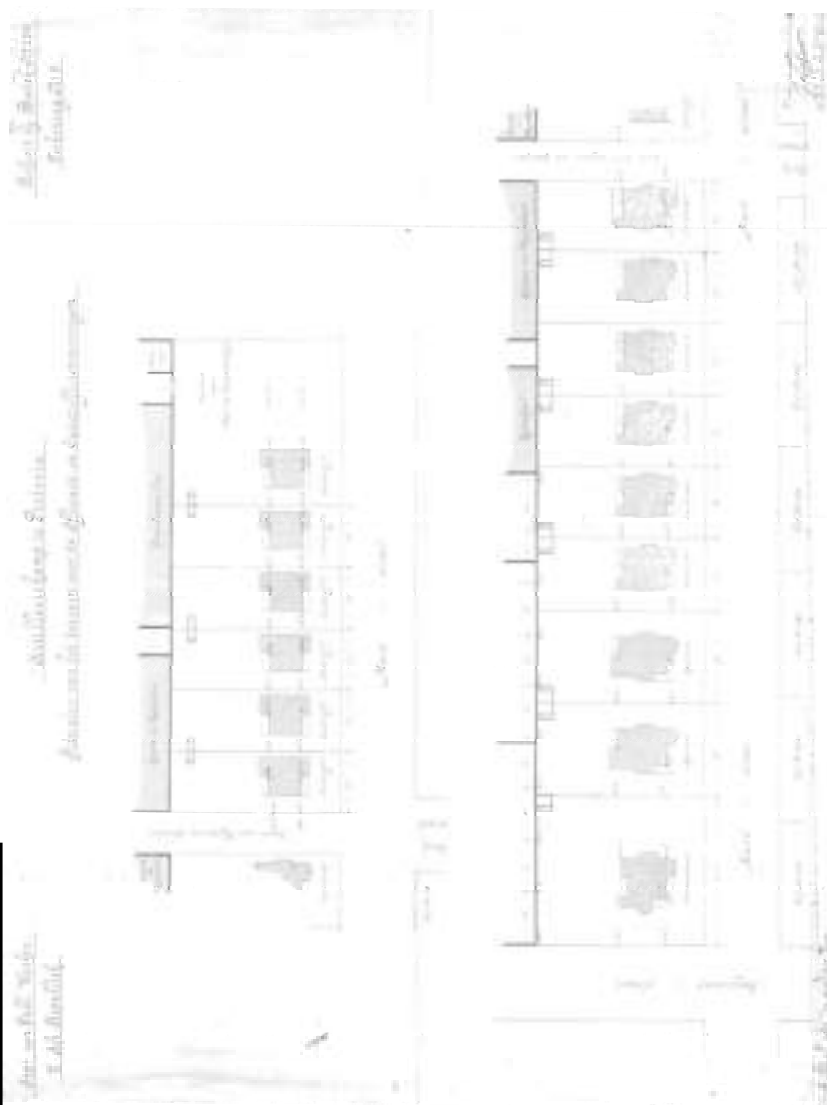


Figure 6-3: NCO residence front gable



Figure 6-4: Officer's residence front gable



Figure 6-5: Cast-iron gate handle indicating the firm FW Braat van Delft from Holland



The Commandant's Residence

10. The commandant's residence was built on the corner of Artillery Road and Potgieter Street. It is the first residence in the row of 15 (easternmost house). The approved specification called for the residence to have a total floor surface of 53ft 10in by 54ft 4in. The house was to consist of three bedrooms, a living room, saloon (bar), dining room, bathroom, kitchen, pantry and two verandahs.
11. The front facade of the residence was decorated with a small tower and graceful roof shutter, which were provided by the Stollberger Sink Factory in Aachen, Germany. The original fireplace cover and woodwork can still be found inside the residence. The floors and door frames were constructed from yellowwood.
12. The first occupant of the commandant's residence was Lieutenant Colonel SPE Trichardt, the second officer commanding of the Transvaal State Artillery.

**Figure 6-6: Transvaal State Artillery
commandant's residence, No 1 Artillery Road**



The Captains' Residences

13. The two captains' residences, at No 2 and No 3 Artillery Road, were to consist of three bedrooms, a lounge, dining room, living room, bathroom, kitchen, pantry and two verandahs. Although the commandant's residence appears larger, the two captains' residences are in fact larger in terms of floor space. Each of the residences has a total floor space of 46ft 10in by 62ft 10in.
14. In all other external features, these two residences resemble the commandant's residence.

Figure 6-7: The glamorous roof shutters fitted to the officers' residences



The Lieutenants' Residences

15. The six lieutenants' residences are replicas of the two captains' residences, with the exception of size and the absence of a living room. The front facade of the lieutenants' residences also differs slightly from that of the captains' residences. The lieutenants' residences were built in accordance with the specification approved by the Department of Public Works, which stated that they were to have a total floor space of 42ft 10in by 57ft 4in.

The Non-Commissioned Officers' Residences

16. The six non-commissioned officers' residences were constructed on the same plans as the officers' residences. Each resident was to have three bedrooms, a bathroom, kitchen, pantry, lounge, dining room and two smaller verandahs. The houses, numbered 10 to 15 on Artillery Road, were to have a total floor space of 37ft 4in by 46ft 7in. These residences differed from the officers' residences in terms of their front facade and gable.

Expansion of the Transvaal State Artillery

17. The original number of houses constructed was sufficient for the Transvaal State Artillery as promulgated by the 1894 Act. However, in 1896, after the Jameson Raid, the Transvaal Government decided to increase the strength of the artillery. This saw the Transvaal State Artillery increase the number of officers to 29, while the number of non-commissioned officers increased to 47.
18. As the residences on Artillery Road were completed only in mid-1897, it is difficult to determine how the houses were allocated to the members of the Transvaal State Artillery. The only confirmed allocation was that of Lieutenant Colonel Trichardt.

THE CHANGING ROLE OF THE RESIDENCES ON ARTILLERY ROAD

South African Command

19. During the period of British occupation, it is assumed that the residences on Artillery Road were used by British officers working at the South African Command Headquarters.

Defence Headquarters

20. With the establishment of the Union Defence Force in 1913, the houses on Artillery Road were occupied by the officers of the South African Mounted Rifles. The commandant's residence was occupied by Lieutenant Colonel Dawson.

21. The residences continued to be used in this manner, with the management thereof eventually handed over to the Town Management Unit that was established in Voortrekkerhoogte (Thaba Tshwane).

Directorate Military Police

22. With the continued expansion of the SA Army Headquarters, additional office space was required to accommodate the various support staff. The commandant's residence was renovated and then occupied by the South African Corps of Military Police as its Directorate Headquarters. The headquarters would later be moved and the residence taken over by a Military Police unit.

Figure 6-8: Transvaal State Artillery non-commissioned officer's residence



CHAPTER 7: The Barracks

INTRODUCTION

1. The Transvaal State Artillery Barracks, or as it is more commonly known today, the Paul Kruger Building, was originally constructed to house the troops of the Transvaal State Artillery. The specifications for the construction of the barracks were drawn up by the Department of Public Works in February 1896.
4. The specification further identified the exact location where the barracks were to be constructed: *"Dat het hart van het gebouw komt te liggen in de hartlijn van het daarachter gelegen drillplein (zijnde het hart van Scheidingstraat), en met de achtergevel 200 voet uit de verlengde hartlijn der Parkstraat."*

CONSTRUCTION

2. The specification required the barracks to accommodate 400 men in 16 dormitories, each accommodating 25 men. Rooms for non-commissioned officers and bathrooms were also to be provided.
3. The front facade of the barracks would be 315ft long, while the side would be 106ft 8in wide. The barracks would consist of two sections, each having two storeys and a loft. The highest point of the building was to be the top of the clock tower that was to be constructed on the front section of the barracks; this clock tower stands 82ft 6in above the ground.
5. The designers of the barracks took into consideration the possible fire hazard, as well as the cleanliness and hygiene of the building, and as such, beams, stairs and floors were all made from iron and stone.
6. The construction of the barracks was approved by the Transvaal Executive Council on 8 July 1896. The tender was awarded to the *Societa Italiana di Construzione* or the *Italiaansche Bouwmaatschappij* (Italian Building Company), to a value of £58 250. An additional £2 000 was added to this amount to allow the main passages of the barracks to be widened from 6ft to 10ft.

Figure 7-1: The Transvaal State Artillery Barracks



11. Ground work commenced in the week of 24 to 29 August 1896, while the first five loads of stone arrived in the week of 21 to 26 September. The week of 5 to 10 October saw the construction workers start to demolish the old building that was still present on site, while more stone and sand preparation was completed. Records indicate that the demolition of the old barracks was still in progress during the week of 26 to 31 October 1896.
12. During the first week of November, the construction workers began digging the foundation of the barracks, while in the week of 4 to 9 January 1897, they commenced with the laying of the foundation. During the week of 17 to 23 January 1897, the foundation stone work that would be visible above the surface of the ground was prepared and moved into place.
13. The week of 25 to 30 January 1897 saw additional sand and stone being delivered to the site, while the construction workers began laying the foundations for the inner walls of the barracks.
14. In March 1897, the first of the brick shortages occurred, resulting in a temporary halt to building activities on the site. It was also during this period that the Italian Building Company handed over construction of the barracks to the Franco Italian Company. It would appear that this new company was partially supported by the *Banque Francaise de l' Afrique du Sud*, which placed it in the financial position to be able to continue and complete the construction of the barracks.
15. Shortly after 15 March, an additional 50 000 bricks were delivered to the site, which resulted in the continuation of the construction of the inner walls and door frames. At this stage it is recorded that two blacksmiths, six granite stonemasons, seven sandstone masons, one carpenter, 18 bricklayers, 10 assistants and 14 labourers were involved in the construction of the barracks.
16. The contractor's report for the week of 26 April to 1 May 1897 indicated that work was continuing with the construction of the front, rear and side facades of the barracks, as well as the placement of the sandstone.

Figure 7-3: The front facade of the Transvaal State Artillery Barracks in the early 1900s



17. The construction of the barracks was continually hampered by shortages of building stone and bricks. During late May and early June, it is recorded that work on site was again halted due to shortages. These shortages were finally addressed in the latter half of June, when bricks were brought in from the Daspoort area. By 24 July, the bricklayers had reached the level of the first storey of the barracks. The contractor's report also indicated that, during the first week of August, the labourers were still filling up the ground on the Fore Square.
18. In the contractor's reports for the month of August, mention was made for the first time of two Italian bricklaying supervisors. The barracks were now taking shape, but the target date of 8 July 1898 was rapidly approaching and the constant delays caused by the shortages of bricks had resulted in progress falling behind schedule.
19. It was reported that, between 25 October and 6 November 1897, an additional 100 000 bricks were delivered to the site, while the construction workers commenced with the second floor's iron beams. These beams would separate the second storey from the loft. Additional workers were already busy levelling the Drill Square. The contractor reported at this stage that 30 bricklayers, 11 carpenters, 40 stonemasons, 15 assistants and 150 labourers were working on the construction site.
20. By December the levelling and preparation of the Drill Square were practically complete, with only the laying of the gravel outstanding. The contractor would report that the Fore Square was completed in early January 1898. The contractor also reported that, during this period, the stairs in the barracks were laid and the majority of the plaster work within the barracks was completed.



Figure 7-4: The tennis courts on the Fore Square in front of the barracks

21. The period between 21 and 26 March 1898 saw the construction workers commence with the laying of the asphalt floors in the four large dormitories of the first storey, as well as in the weapon rooms in the middle of the front section of the barracks.
22. By the end of May 1898, the asphalt floors were completed and the contractor reported that they were in the process of planting trees in the Fore Square. The report for the period of 5 to 9 June 1898 stated that the new barracks were practically complete and that they had been taken into service two weeks prior.
23. The barracks were finally handed over to the Transvaal Government in the week of 12 to 17 September 1898. The original specification for the construction of the barracks required that the barracks be completed within 18 months, and as such should have been completed by 8 July 1898.

As a result of the late delivery of the barracks, the contractor was fined £10 per day for the period after 8 July 1898. An additional £400 penalty was imposed on the contractor for the non-delivery of the clock works.

24. After the initial maintenance period was completed, the final payment of £2 360 was made to the contractor on 25 March 1899. A Department of Public Works report to the Commandant General from this period proudly stated: "*De Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek is nu in het bezit van een kamp, zooals bijna nergens ter wereld bestaan...*" (The South African Republic is now in possession of a camp rivalling the best in the world).

Figure 7-5: Battery of the Transvaal State Artillery on Drill Square behind the barracks



THE CHANGING ROLE OF THE BARRACKS

South African Command

25. With the British occupation of Pretoria on 5 June 1900, the Artillery Precinct became the headquarters of the British South African Command. During this period the barracks were transformed into headquarters.

Defence Headquarters

26. The barracks, now a fully functional headquarters block, were officially taken over by the UDF on 1 October 1914 after the withdrawal of the staff of the South African Command.
27. In an effort to centralise the command of the UDF, the Active Citizen Forces under the command of Brigadier General CF Beyers were moved from Mark Street (known today as Paul Kruger Street) to the Artillery Precinct in Potgieter Street, while the headquarters of Colonel PS Beves, the Commander of the Cadets, were moved from Pretorius Square. The headquarters of the Permanent Forces under the command of Brigadier General HT Lukin were also established in the Artillery Precinct.
28. In 1927, the General Building was constructed in front of the barracks on the Fore Square, forever defacing the barracks. With the construction of the General Building, the barracks became known as the Paul Kruger Building, in honour of former president Paul Kruger.
29. Following the establishment of the Republic of South Africa on 31 May 1961, the barracks continued to fulfil the role of Defence Headquarters until 1992.

South African Army Headquarters

30. With the decision to relocate Defence Headquarters to the Armaments Corporation of South Africa (ARMSCOR) building in 1992, the South African Army took over control of the Artillery Precinct.
31. The Artillery Precinct continues to function as the South African Army Headquarters today.

Figure 7-6: The clock tower and clock works of the Transvaal State Artillery Barracks

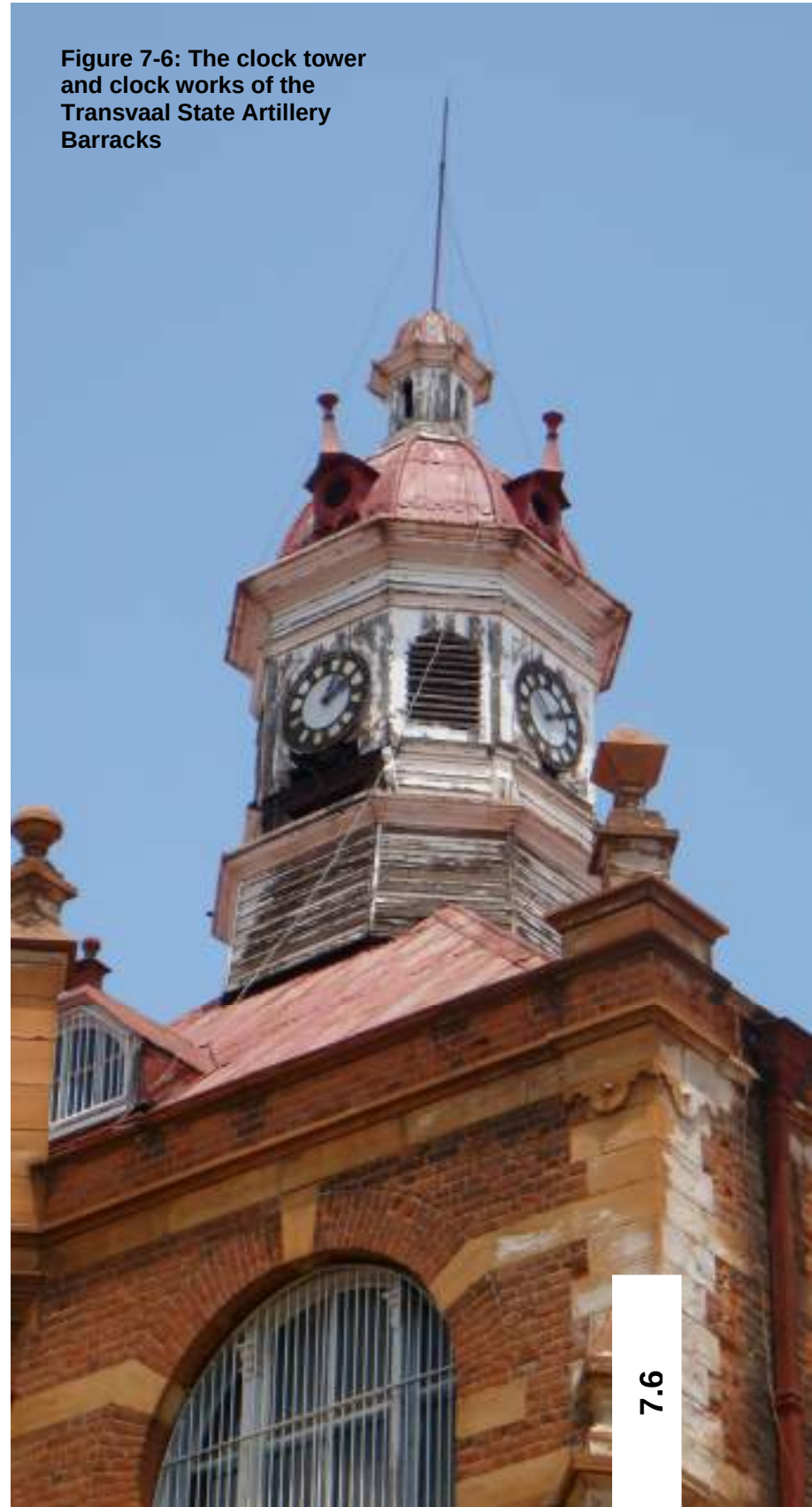


Figure 7-7: Modern-day entrance to the barracks showing the link with the General Building



CHAPTER 8: The Field Telegraphy Magazine and Wagon Stores

INTRODUCTION

1. In 1890 the Commandant General of the Transvaal Republic, PJ Joubert, suggested that a Field Telegraphy Section be established as part of the Transvaal State Artillery. This section was established under the leadership of a young Dutch telegraph operator, Second Lieutenant PC Paff.
2. Selection into the Field Telegraphy Section was more stringent than the standard requirements for the artillery. Members wishing to apply for Field Telegraphy had to meet the additional requirement of being citizens by birth, as well as having a Standard 3 school certificate.

Figure 8-1: The Field Telegraphy Section photographed within the original Field Telegraph Building

CONSTRUCTION

Destruction of the Original Field Telegraphy Building

3. A number of pre-1896 buildings were destroyed to make way for the future development of the Artillery Precinct site.

Field Telegraphy Magazine and Wagon Stores

4. The overall layout of the Artillery Precinct called for the construction of the Field Telegraphy magazine and wagon stores on the north-eastern side of the complex, the easternmost stores bordering on Potgieter Street.

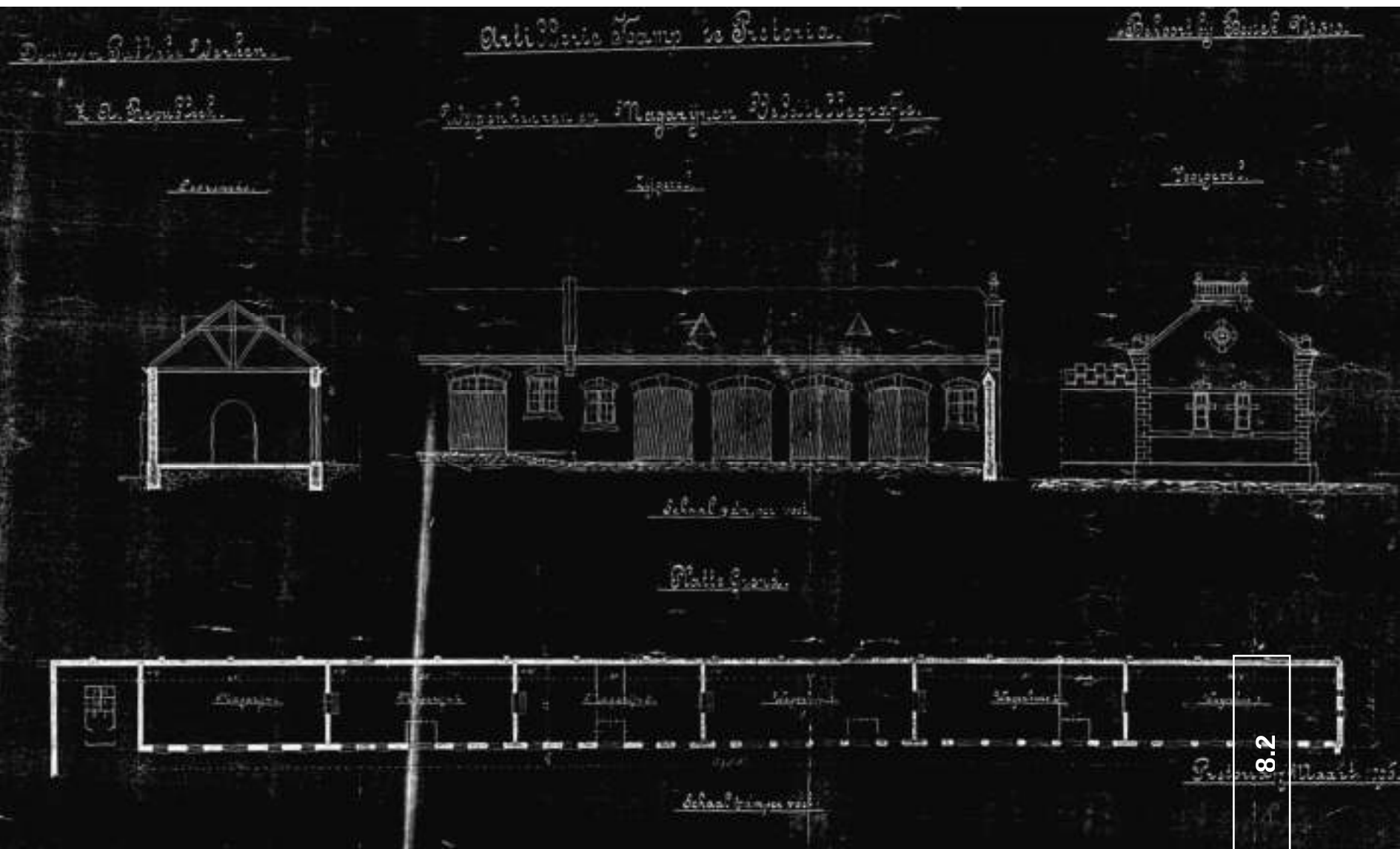


5. The architectural plans were approved by the Department of Public Works on 17 March 1896, and specified that the overall length of the building would be 348ft 3in, and the width 23ft 6in. The building would consist of three magazines and three wagon stores, with a kitchen on the far western side.
6. The specification and scope of work for the construction of the magazine and wagon stores were approved on 1 April 1896, with the contract being awarded to the De Groen Brothers at a cost of £7 977. The magazine and wagon stores were to be constructed from the same red brick and sandstone as the stables, and cannon and wagon stores.

CHANGING ROLE OF THE FIELD TELEGRAPHY MAGAZINE AND WAGON STORES

7. The Field Telegraphy magazine and wagon stores have fulfilled many roles since their construction in 1896. During the Angolan War, the Field Post Office was situated in the eastern section of the wagon stores.
8. The westernmost section is currently used as the transport section of the SA Army HQ unit, while the eastern section forms part of the Military Police unit stationed at the SA Army HQ.

Figure 8-2: Architectural plan of the Field Telegraphy wagon stores



CHAPTER 9: The Machine Building

INTRODUCTION

1. The provision of electricity to Pretoria dates back to 1890, when an electricity concession was granted to the *Pretoria Verlichting Maatschappij*, or Pretoria Lighting Company. The first power station was built on the corner of Schoeman and Van der Walt Streets, and by 1892 power was being generated there. Apparently this power supply was insufficient, and the Transvaal Executive Committee deemed it necessary to provide the Artillery Precinct with an independent source of electricity.
2. The Machine Building was thus originally designed and constructed to provide the Artillery Precinct with electricity.

CONSTRUCTION

3. The construction was based on three drawings dated 31 December 1896, while the specification for the construction was dated 25 January 1897.
4. This specification called for the Machine Building to be constructed on the northern side of the Fore Square, south of the magazines and wagon houses of the Field Telegraphy Section. The building was to be 100ft long and 56ft 6in wide. It was to consist of a boiler room with two boilers, a coal storage facility, machine room, battery room and a 100ft-high chimney.
5. On 24 March 1896, the Executive Committee of the Transvaal decided to accept the tender of £11 971 from the De Groen Broers for the construction of the Machine Building. Construction was to be completed within 12 months, while Mr J Mundt was subcontracted to install the boilers and construct the chimney. The firm Siemens and Halske was contracted to provide the machinery, batteries and personnel required to provide the precinct with electricity.

Figure 9-1: The Artillery Barracks and Machine Building with 100ft chimney

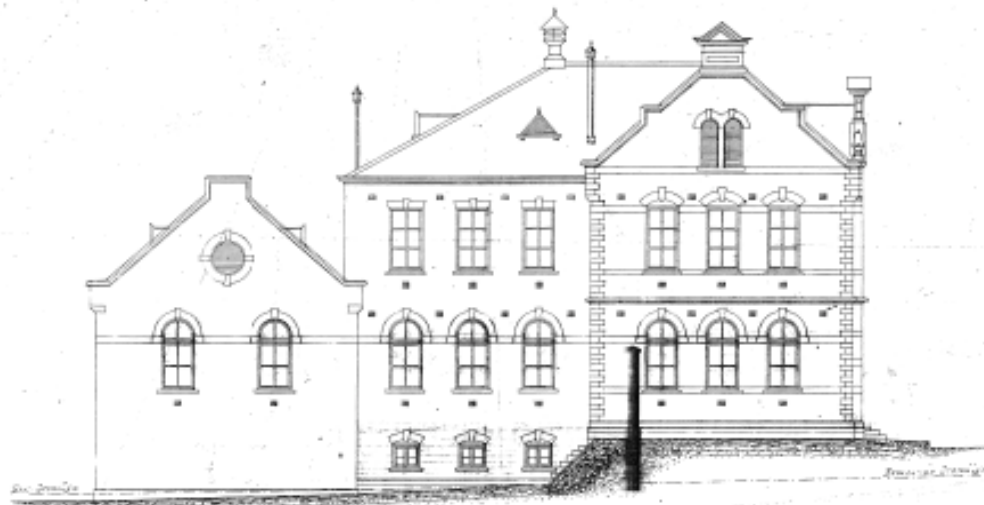


CHANGING ROLE OF THE MACHINE BUILDING

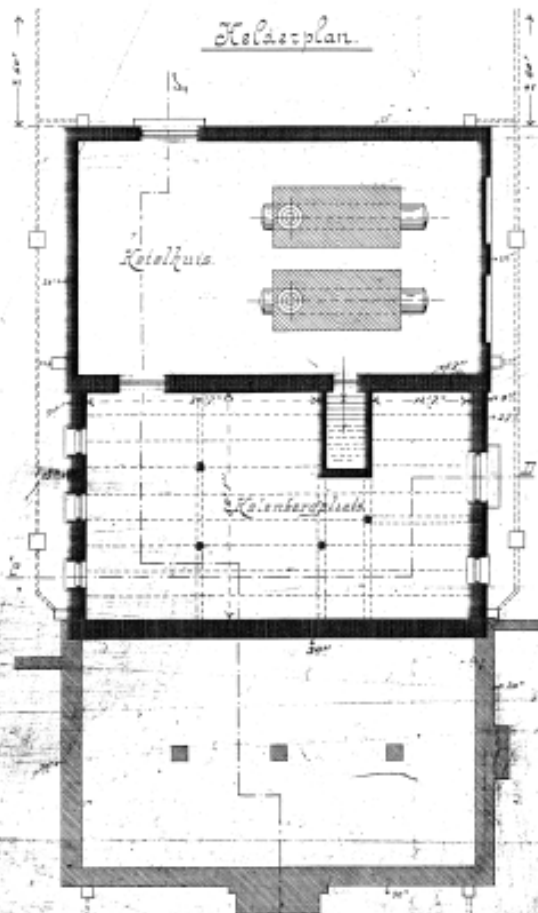
6. With the commencement of hostilities of the Second Boer War, the existing power supply in Pretoria was deemed insufficient to meet wartime demands, despite the fact that, as with other essential services, the full complement of staff was permitted to remain in Pretoria. The firm Delfos Bros was contracted to construct a further seven generators which would be capable of supplying the hospitals and prisoner-of-war camps with electricity.
7. Although it is uncertain, it appears that, after the British occupation of Pretoria, the Machine Building was no longer required to generate electricity solely for the Artillery Precinct. The additional capacity within the city was sufficient to ensure a steady supply to the precinct as well.
8. A report dated 1924 records that the machinery and the building were still in a good condition, and that the facility was being used by the Pretoria Regiment and as a storage facility.
9. The 100ft chimney dominated the Pretoria skyline for a number of years, but with the obsolescence of the Machine Building, its days were numbered.
10. The exact date of the demolition of the chimney is uncertain, but it must have been destroyed in the 1920s, as photos taken of the newly erected General's Building, which was constructed in front of the barracks, already shows the Machine Building without the chimney.
11. Throughout its history the Machine Building has fulfilled numerous roles. It was used as a club for the officers working at Defence Headquarters, as an archive for the Department of Defence, and as a media briefing centre during the war in Angola. Currently the Machine Building is the home of the SA Army Headquarters Library, a role which it was given after its restoration in 1999.



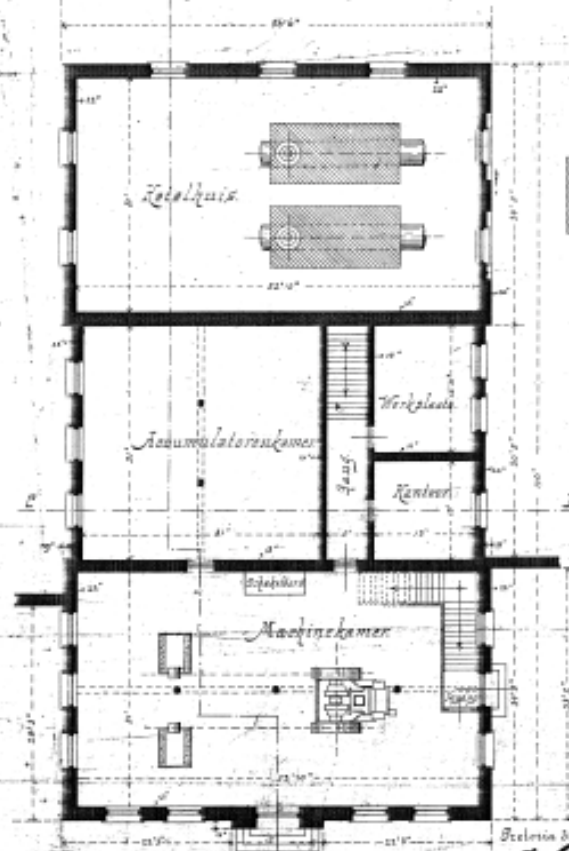
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Figure 9-2:
Machine Building
architectural plan

Figure 9-3: The Machine Building and chimney, with the barracks in the background



Figure 9-4: Ambulance train arriving in Pretoria Station, with the Artillery Precinct and Machine Building in the background



Aankomst Europese
AMBULANCE H Pits phot

RESTORATION OF THE MACHINE BUILDING

12. The Machine Building, as did the rest of the Artillery Precinct, suffered the deteriorating effects of the weather and age. It was declared a National Monument on 1 April 1977.
13. On 15 August 1997, the National Monuments Council issued a permit to the Department of Public Works for the restoration of the precinct.
14. The conservation policy for the restoration of the precinct was compiled by Steyn and Viljoen Architects, an architectural firm based in Pretoria; the Machine Building was to be the first declared National Monument on site to be restored.
15. AJ Construction, a specialist in the restoration of sandstone, was contracted to restore the Machine Building.
16. During the restoration of the Machine Building, the contractor discovered that .303 rifle barrels had been used as steel reinforcing within the walls. The original foundation of the 100ft chimney was also discovered. The location of the chimney is today clearly marked with a circular shape of brick paving.

Figure 9-5: The General Building and Machine Building without the chimney

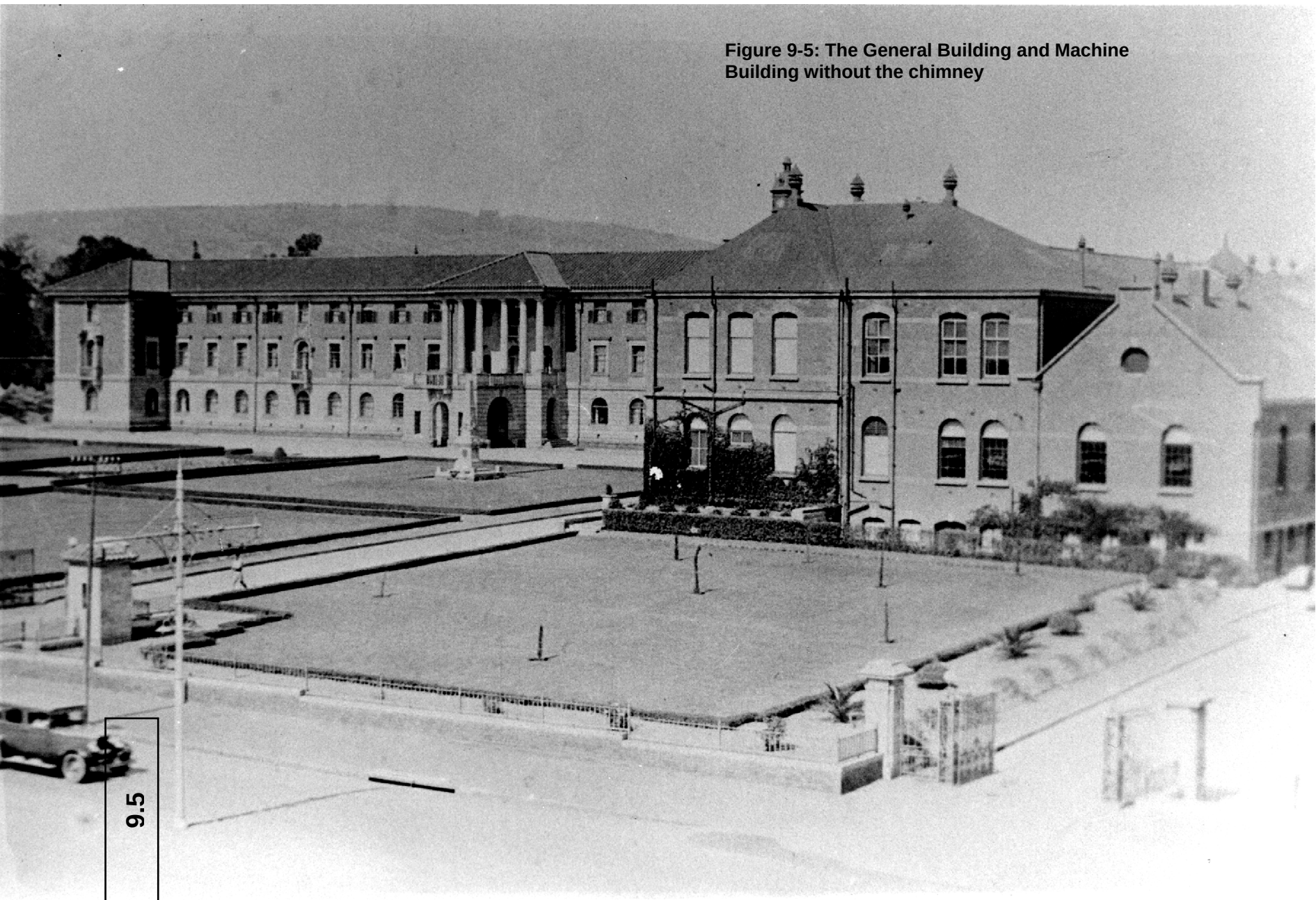


Figure 9-6: The restoration of the Machine Building by AJ Construction



Figure 9-7: The original foundation of the chimney, photographed during the restoration of the Machine Building in 1999



CHAPTER 10: Lieutenant Colonel Pretorius Obelisk



Figure 10-1: Lieutenant Colonel Henning Nicolaas Pretorius

INTRODUCTION

1. Lieutenant Colonel Henning Nicolaas Pretorius was born in February 1844. His father was Marthinus Wessel Pretorius and his mother, Debora Jacoba Retief, was the daughter of the well-known Voortrekker leader Piet Retief.
2. Pretorius began his military career when he was appointed as a field cornet during the 1876 Sekhukhune War. In 1883 he took part in the expedition against Mapoch. Pretorius distinguished himself during the First Boer War battle at Elandsfontein. During the battle, Pretorius was wounded twice.
3. In 1896 Pretorius was promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel and appointed as the first Officer Commanding of the Transvaal State Artillery, a title that would eventually see him dubbed the "Father of the Artillery".
4. Pretorius's uncanny ability to accurately aim an artillery gun with the eye led to the nickname "Skote Petoors". During his short time in command of the State Artillery, Pretorius made several improvements that saw the Transvaal Artillery develop into a world-class artillery unit.
5. Lieutenant Colonel HN Pretorius passed away on 25 January 1897 while on leave. He was buried with full military honours on 29 January 1897, in the old Pretoria West cemetery next to former president TF Burger, the first president of the South African Republic.

THE OBELISK

6. During February 1897, a meeting was arranged by the previous Secretary of the Department of the Commandant General, Mr FC Stiemens, and the First Clerk, Mr PJ Loots. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss how such an inspirational man could be honoured and remembered. The meeting was attended by a number of Pretorius's friends and colleagues. The minutes of the meeting reflect that the following members were present:
 - a. FC Stiemens.
 - b. PJ Loots.
 - c. WC Meyer (the Railway Commissioner).
 - d. JS Smit.
 - e. Major PE Erasmus (State Artillery).
 - f. Lieutenant Thomas Kroon (State Artillery).
 - g. Lieutenant PC Paff (State Artillery, Department of the Commandant General).
 - h. Lieutenant J Maggs (State Artillery).
 - i. Second Lieutenant MJ de Jager (State Artillery).
 - j. JPJ Botha (Clerk of the Department of the Commandant General).
 - k. LF Souza (Secretary of the Department of the Commandant General).
 - l. Dr TL Laxton (State Artillery).
 - m. GEJ Bohlmann
 - n. P Zeederberg.
 - o. H Groenewald (Armourer State Artillery).
7. At the meeting, JS Smit was elected as chairman, while Major Erasmus suggested that a preliminary committee be convened consisting of the following members:
 - a. JPJ Botha.
 - b. Lieutenant Thomas Kroon.
 - c. GEJ Bohlmann
 - d. Major PE Erasmus.
 - e. P Zeederberg.
 - f. Lieutenant PC Paff.
 - g. WC Meyer.
 - h. Second Lieutenant MJ de Jager.
 - i. Dr TL Laxton.
 - j. FC Stiemens.
 - k. PJ Loots.
 - l. Lieutenant J Maggs.
8. The minutes of the meeting reflect that JPJ Botha recommended that a monument be erected in honour of Lieutenant Colonel Pretorius, and that fundraising commence immediately. On 4 February 1897, the chairman, JPJ Botha, raised the question of the possible location of the monument. Major Erasmus suggested that it be erected at the Artillery Precinct. It was further specified that the erection of the monument would be considered a separate matter from the gravestone which would be laid in the Pretoria West cemetery.
9. Four members of the committee were identified to approach the Executive Council of the Transvaal Government to obtain permission for the construction of the monument at the Artillery Precinct. The delegation would also use this opportunity to inform the Executive Council of their plans for the erection of the monument, as well as the fundraising efforts that were being planned. Once the plan was approved by the Executive Council, the delegation was to forward a letter to the Commandant General to request that a location be identified and allocated for the erection of the monument.

10. The Executive Council supported the plan, and on 10 February 1897, the subscription lists were circulated to the various magistrates, who would then act as honorary members of the committee.
11. In order to simplify the collection of funds, Pretoria was divided into four wards in which the control and coordination of fundraising would be overseen by Major Erasmus, Dr Laxton, P Zeederberg and GEJ Bohlmann, while Stiemens, Lieutenant Kroon and Van Alphen (Postmaster General) would be responsible for the collection of funds from senior government officials. Botha was to approach the Executive Council and place the necessary advertisements in the newspapers. Mr Loots was appointed as the treasurer, and was responsible for depositing the funds into the appropriate account in the National Bank.
12. Donations were received from all over the Republic of South Africa. The subscription lists indicated that the following substantial amounts were donated:
 - a. President SJP Kruger – £3.
 - b. General PA Cronje – £2.
 - c. General PJ Joubert – £15.
 - d. Councillor JHM Kock – £2.
 - e. Councillor JMA Wolmarans – £2.2.
 - f. Councillor SW Burger – £1.1.
 - g. State Secretary WJ Leyds – £1.1.
 - h. Mr S Wierda, head of Department of Public Works – £10.
 - i. Dr Laxton – £5.
 - j. Lieutenant MJ de Jager – £3.3.
 - k. Lieutenant PC Paff – £5.
 - l. Lieutenant Kroon – £5.
 - m. Dr N Mansveld, head of Department of Education – £1.
 - n. Melt and Marais – £10.
 - o. The firm Le Greusot (Scheinder and Co) – £10.
 - p. L Grunberg and S Leon – £10.
 - q. The firm Friedrich Krupp – £25.
 - r. HC Werner and O von Deurtz – £25.
 - s. E Lutz, the city engineer of Pretoria – £10.
 - t. The firm T Beckett and Co – £50.
 - u. H Eckstein, a mining magnate from Johannesburg – £10.10.
 - v. The magistrate from the Lydenburg district collected a total of £2, while the magistrate from Wakkerstroom collected £26. The magistrate from Waterberg managed to collect a staggering £42. A number of the districts were suffering from a rinderpest outbreak and as such were not able to donate funds to the establishment of the monument, but Rustenburg was able to collect £2 and Ermelo £4. Finally, the magistrate from Lichtenberg was able to collect £7.8.

13. By 18 September 1897, the committee had raised a total of £486.10 in cash and had commitments for an additional £364.16.
14. Prior to the finalisation of the fundraising, the committee approached Mr JN Hekhuysen to compile the necessary plans and specifications for the monument. On 31 August 1897, Hekhuysen declared that he was prepared to construct a sandstone monument in accordance with the given specification for an amount of £450. This amount, however, did not include the copper work, metal vases or the name plaque that would be mounted on the monument. Hekhuysen further reported that the monument could be completed within three months.
15. Hekhuysen was requested to present his plans and quotation to the committee meeting that was held on 6 September 1897. It would appear that the committee was not completely satisfied with Hekhuysen's plans, as he was requested to provide a further quotation. On 20 September 1897, Hekhuysen submitted alternative quotations for the construction of the monument. A granite monument to the value of £700, or a combination of white marble and granite to the value of £950 were proposed. The following day the committee made it known that it had accepted the proposal for a granite and sandstone combination for the construction of the monument at a cost of £650. The committee further required that the specification for the monument be updated and a scale drawing be provided prior to the final awarding of the contract.
16. The minutes of the meetings give no indication as to why the committee selected the combination of granite and sandstone, or why the monument was to be manufactured in Europe.
17. The specification for the monument stated that its base would consist of stone and granite that was to be imported from Belgium. The granite would be partially polished and partially chipped. The monument would stand 20ft high and be surrounded by four posts connected with a chain. A resemblance of Lieutenant Colonel Pretorius's face was to be engraved on red copper and attached to the monument.

Figure 10-2: The face of Henning Pretorius engraved in red copper on the side of the obelisk

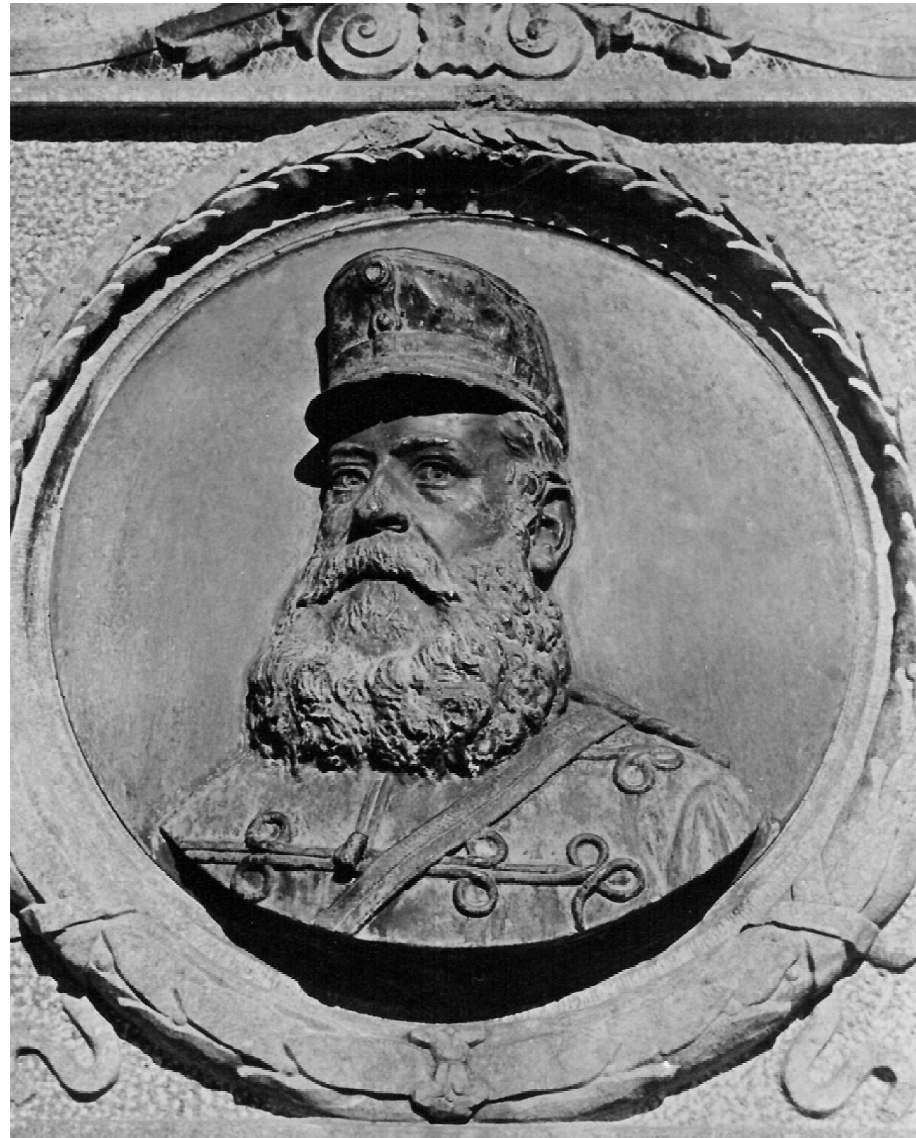


Figure 10-3: The Henning Pretorius Obelisk



The wording was to be engraved into the base of the monument. On 30 October 1897, the city engineer, Mr E Lutz, approved the design of the monument.

18. On 12 November 1897, Hekhuysen requested that the committee identify the exact location of the monument and confirm the final wording that needed to be engraved on the granite stone in Europe.
19. The contract was compiled and signed on 15 December 1897. The contract required that each section of the monument be packed and transported separately in order to ensure that it was not damaged during transportation. The monument had to be completed within eight months of the awarding of the contract. Hekhuysen was to be paid £400 on the arrival of the monument in Pretoria, while the final payment of £250 would be made only on completion of the monument.
20. Hekhuysen contracted the building firm Daanen and Dorlas to construct the monument on the site identified by the committee. The construction of the monument was completed on 27 July 1898, whereafter the chairman of the committee, JS Smit, requested that Mr E Lutz, the city engineer, inspect the monument before the final payment of £250 was made.
21. Lutz inspected the monument, and in his report dated 6 September 1898, he stated that the monument was not exactly level, that the finishing was not neatly rounded off and that the chain separating the monument was not according to the original specification. He recommended that the final payment not be made until the outstanding issues were addressed.
22. Although no record could be found as to when the additional work was performed, it is recorded that the architect K van Rysse inspected the monument on 5 December 1898 and found that, although the granite and finishing of the monument were not up to standard, it was now exactly level.

CHAPTER 11: The General Building

INTRODUCTION

1. In 1919 WJ Woolley declared in a report that the military offices in Mark Street (now Paul Kruger Street) were inadequate as office space for the General Staff of the Union Defence Force (UDF). Woolley's report, dated 23 July 1919, stated: "If a higgledy-piggledy lot of rooms in cottages are used for staff work, you cannot have economy and efficiency."
2. The district engineer from the Department of Public Works noted the same issue in a report dated 12 September 1919; however, he further recommended that a new wing be added to the Mark Street building. This new wing would create the additional space required by the General Staff.
3. A report by the Government Service Commission to the Department of Public Works, dated 7 December 1919, stated: "The Secretary and Chief Military Officers of the Defence Department, with their respective staffs, are accommodated in somewhat rambling offices in Mark Street. There can be no question that increased efficiency and economy in administration would result by the transfer of the Defence Headquarters to the Artillery Barracks. The ground floor of the latter is at present occupied by offices which might well be moved elsewhere, but even with the relief thus afforded, it is impossible for us to say whether the move of Defence Headquarters could be affected without adding another storey to the building."

Figure 11-1: The General Building photographed in the 1940s



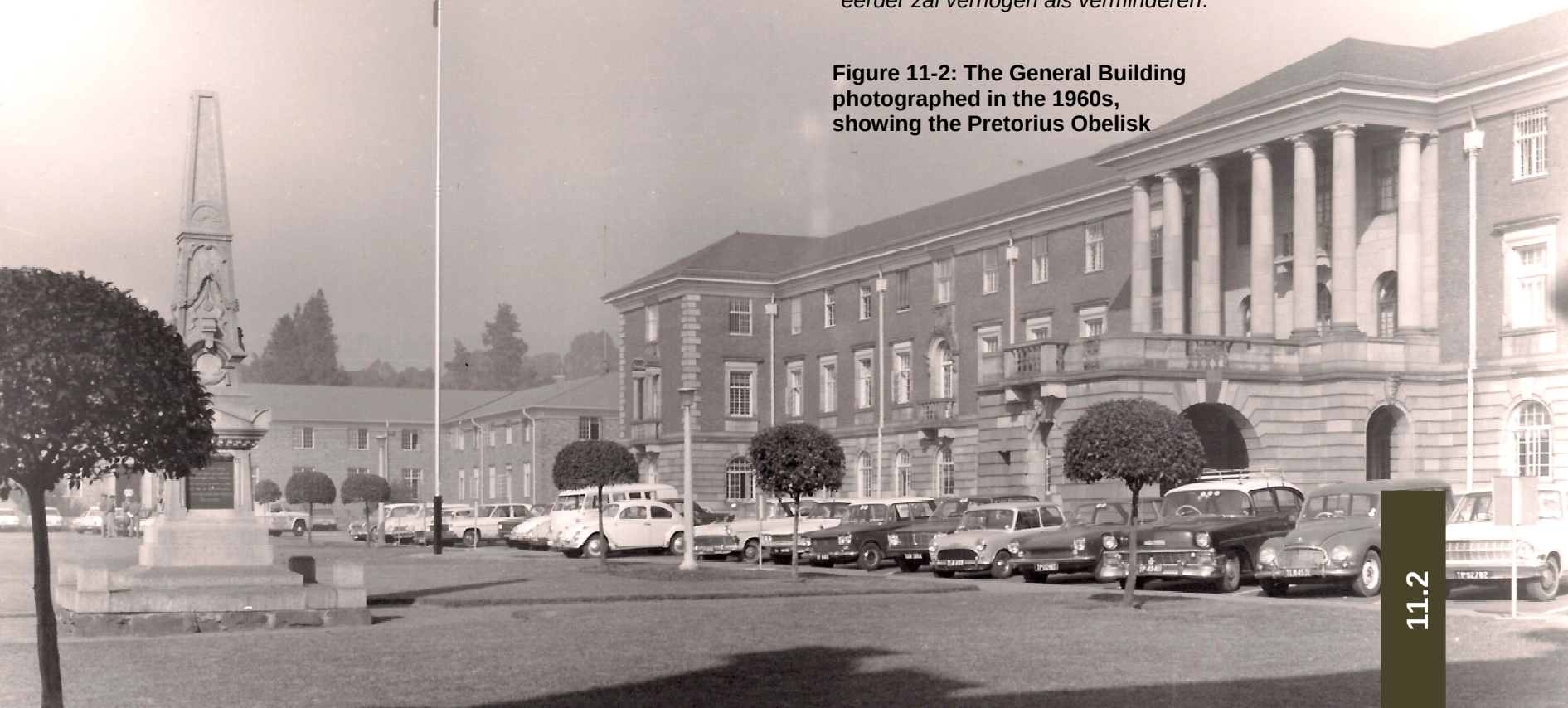
4. In 1922 the construction of additional offices in the Fore Square of the Artillery Precinct was considered, along with the addition of an extra storey to the barracks. However, the authorities did not consider this a viable option.

CONSTRUCTION

5. The architect JS Clelland reported to the Secretary of the Department of Public Works on 11 July 1924 that a new three-storey building was to be constructed in front of the old barracks in the Fore Square of the Artillery Precinct. The construction of this new building was estimated at £56 000.
6. The new building would have a total floor space of 62 944ft², and would be used to house the Defence Headquarters (currently occupying an area of 26 700 ft²), the Medical Services (currently occupying 2 820 ft² of the Union Buildings) and the barracks (excluding the loft), which provided 25 168ft² of office space. In total, the new building would provide an additional 8 256ft² of office space.
7. On 14 August 1924, Brigadier General AJ Brink approved the construction of the new building, along with the movement of the Medical Services. He further stated: "Accommodation for the Minister and Staff, myself and the General Staff Section should be provided in the front of the new building on the storey above the ground floor – that is the middle storey."

8. A total of 21 tenders were received for the construction of the new building. The tender from the Port Elizabeth firm J Brocco and Co (Pty) Ltd was accepted at a cost of £65 000.
9. The alteration of the old barracks was the responsibility of the South African Engineers Corps. The barracks would have to be broken into on the southern and northern corners on both the upper and lower level in order to accommodate the new passages into the General Building.
10. Although construction was already under way, Mr L Moffat, representing Mr CW Giovanetti, approached the Executive Council on 6 March 1925 to request that the Minister of Public Works suspend construction of the new building as it was going to deface the Artillery Barracks and change the overall architecture of the precinct.
11. Minister Boydell responded with the statement: "*Die voormalige kaserne voorsiening gemaak is vir huisvesting van die Verdedigingshoofkwartier wat in zeer ongelukkige geboue aan Markstraat gehuisves is en hieraan toegevoeg: die toevoeging zal zijn in de vorm van vleugels aan die voorkant en verbonden het bestaande gebouw... Het nieuwe gedeelte van het gebouw zal geen wijze veranderd worden, waardoor inbreuk gemaakt zou worden op zijn bouwkundige aangezichten, en over het algemeen is het gehele plan opgetrokken op zondanige wijze, dat de geschiedkundige waarde van de bestaande gebouwen eerder zal verhogen als verminderen.*"

Figure 11-2: The General Building photographed in the 1960s, showing the Pretorius Obelisk



CHAPTER 12: The Personalities

KLAAS VAN RIJSSE

1. The name is also spelt Van Rysse. Klaas van Rysse was born in Zaandam, the Netherlands. A private pupil in Amsterdam of Sytze Wierda, he, his wife and family immigrated to the ZAR in 1887 to work for the industrialist GA Oekerse, who helped many Netherlands to come to the South African Republic. He arrived before Wierda and took part in the commission set up to consider the prize-winning design for the proposed new government buildings for Church Square, Pretoria, for which a number of architects had submitted plans.
2. It seems that Van Rysse's knowledge and persistence in examining the various schemes encouraged the government to reconsider these drawings; he was asked by President Kruger to submit fresh plans. Van Rysse was temporarily appointed to a newly created position, Government Engineer and Architect, and assisted in various ways from August to October 1887, before the arrival in November 1887 of Wierda, who succeeded to the position.
3. Sytze Wierda requested that Van Rysse be appointed his assistant, which was approved. In 1889 the government gave Van Rysse permission to leave its service for a while.
4. During the Anglo-Boer War, Van Rysse joined the Hollander Corps and was Lieutenant of the 5th Platoon. In 1900 the Van Rysse family was deported and given severance pay in Brussels. The family returned to the Netherlands, where Van Rysse died in the town of Velp.

SYTZE WIERDA

5. Sytze Wopkes Wierda was born in Friesland, the Netherlands, on 28 February 1839. He initially qualified as a carpenter, married Hermina Kamp in 1862, and fathered four daughters. He later qualified as an architect and went to work for the Netherlands railways. While employed at the railways, he was responsible for the design of the central station and a number of churches.

6. Wierda and his family immigrated to the South African Republic in 1887. On arrival in Pretoria in November, he was appointed as the Government Engineer and Architect. During this period, he was responsible for the design of a number of prominent buildings in the Pretoria area.
7. After the Anglo-Boer War, Wierda entered into a partnership with CF Obermeyer in Loveday Street. A few years later he moved to Cape Town, where in 1911 he died in the house of his son-in-law, CJG van Hoogstraten.

GENERAL PJ JOUBERT

8. Petrus Jacobus Joubert was born in Congo, in the district of Oudtshoorn, Cape Colony, on 20 January 1834. He moved to the Wakkerstroom district, near Laing's Nek, in the Transvaal. There he established himself as a farmer and studied law.
9. During the first British annexation of the Transvaal, Joubert earned himself the reputation of a consistent irreconcilable by refusing to hold office under the government, as Paul Kruger and other prominent Boers were doing. Instead of accepting the lucrative post offered to him, he took a leading part in creating and directing the agitation which led to the war of 1880-1881, eventually becoming, as Commandant General of the Boer forces, a member of the triumvirate that administered the provisional Boer government set up in December 1880 at Heidelberg.
10. Joubert, as the Commandant General of the Transvaal, played an instrumental role in the establishment and development of the State Artillery. During the Anglo-Boer War, he was involved in the coordination of the Boer forces, but declining health left him playing an ever-smaller role in the conflict, and he eventually passed away on 28 March 1900.

CHAPTER 13: Interesting Facts and Urban Myths

THE GHOST OF THE WOMAN IN THE BARRACKS LOFT

1. Numerous personnel working in the Defence HQ and Army HQ have over the years reported sightings of the ghost of a woman in the loft of the Paul Kruger Building. Legend has it that shortly prior to the occupation of Pretoria by the British during the Second Boer War, women and children plundered the barracks for valuables, food and other items deemed important. The ghost seen in the loft is said to be one of the women who plundered the precinct during this period.

THE SECRET TUNNEL BETWEEN THE BARRACKS AND THE FORTS

2. During the fortification of Pretoria after the Jameson Raid, a number of forts were constructed that were to be manned by the Transvaal State Artillery's Siege Artillery Section. Numerous rumours have circulated through the years that a tunnel was built between the precinct and the forts. This tunnel was supposed to be used by the gunners to take post in the forts during a possible attack on Pretoria.

COGHILL & HAVENGA

3. If one were to visit the loft of the Paul Kruger Building at the base of the clock tower, the inscription of the name Coghill would be found on one of the windowsills. The origin of this beautifully engraved stone is uncertain. As the barracks were built only in the late 1890s, it is impossible that the inscription was made by the famous Lt Coghill, of Isandlwana fame. An alternative suggestion is that the inscription was that of the brickmaker, but none of the other stones are marked in a similar manner. Records show that the only other Coghill was a Dr J Coghill, who served with the 8th Battery Royal Field Artillery and was subsequently wounded at Senekal on 26 June 1900. Whether or not he is our man is uncertain.
4. The Green Magazine is currently used by the Transvaal State Artillery as its museum. If one should visit the museum, an inscription of the name Havenga can be found inside one of the vents. The inscription is dated 1894. However, it would appear that the date is incorrect or a fraud, as the magazines and forts were constructed only in mid-to-late 1890!

POWs AT THE MAGAZINE ON THE HILL

5. During the Second Boer War, British prisoners of war were transported by train to Pretoria for internment. The most famous of these prisoners, who later escaped, was Sir Winston Churchill, who would later become Prime Minister of Great Britain during WWII. Legend has it that prisoners were often kept in the passage around the Green Magazine while awaiting further transportation to an official POW camp.

BURIAL OF WEAPONS AT BUILDING T468

6. Prior to the outbreak of WWII, the South African government was concerned about the allegiance of a portion of the Afrikaans-speaking population. In an effort to reduce the possibility of an armed uprising, the government attempted to reduce the number of weapons in circulation. A large number of weapons was collected from citizens and was apparently destroyed by the armourers working at the Defence HQ as part of the Ordnance Service Corps. The remains of these weapons were apparently buried in the vicinity of building T468.

BURIED TREASURE POSSIBLE LINK TO KRUGER MILLIONS

7. One of the reasons why it is suspected that the precinct was raided by women and children prior to the British occupation during the Second Boer War was the rumour that the famous Kruger millions were buried on the site.

OBELISK FOR GENERAL PIET JOUBERT

8. With the death of General Piet Joubert, there was a popular call to honour him in a similar fashion to Lieutenant Colonel Pretorius. The debate continued and came close to success; however, it was finally decided not to proceed with the erection of a similar obelisk in honour of the former Commandant General. An aerial photograph taken in the 1930s indicated the proposed position of the obelisk next to that of Lieutenant Colonel Pretorius on the southern side of the Fore Square.

SWIMMING POOL

9. During the Defence HQ time, the Barracks Manager, Mr Gey van Pittius, had a borehole drilled in the open veld area on the western side of the Stable Square, with the intention of later constructing a swimming pool.

