

https://dspace.org/

The architecture of Kimberley : 1871-1914

Yuill, David William Barton

2014-07-25
http://hdl.handle.net/10539/15028

Downloaded from a DSpace repository. https://dspace.org/

THE ARCHITECTURE OF KIMBERLEY : 1871 - 1914:

David William Barton Yuill.

A dissertation submitted to the Faculty of Architecture, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, in fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Architecture.

1984.

DECLARATION.

THE ARCHITECTURE OF KIMBERLEY : 1871 - 1914.

I declare that this dissertation is my own, unaided work. It is being submitted for the Degree of Master of Architecture in the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. It has not been submitted before for any degree or examination in any other University, nor has it been prepared under the aegis or with the assistance of any body or organisation or person outside the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg.

SIGNED: .....

DAVID WILLIAM BARTON YOULL.

The 23rd day of December, 1984.

ABSTRACT.

THE ARCHITECTURE OF KIMBERLEY : 1871 - 1914:

This dissertation records the development of the Architecture of early Kimberley from its beginnings in 1871 to the outbreak of the First World War in 1914.

The built environment is considered against the backgrou of, and as a response to, History. Individual buildings are analysed, and Kimberley's early architecture is considered in terms of these buildings and what is known of their authors. In this study, extensive use has been made of old drawings, photographs and buildings of the period that have survived.

Kimberley's early Architecture emerges as an often rough and ready, but always vital response to the influences of the time. By the end of the period under study in 1914, despite a process of refinement, buildings remained poorly adapted to their environment, thus emphasising the importance of time in the establishment of a sound local building tradition.

Conclusions have been drawn, however, these are incidental to the main purpose of this study, which is to record Architectural History.

This study has been undertaken in the light of the author's firm conviction that although most of the buildings studied are of limited importance in themselves, the development of Kimberley as South Africa's first mining and industrial centre is an important link in the as yet scantily documented chain of the development of South Africa's Architectural History of the late 19th and early centuries.

CONTENTS.

		PAGE NO:
ABSTRACT		
PREFACE		1.
CHAPTER 1 :	HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:	4.
	Map Kimberley & Dutoitspan - 1875.	14.
	Map Kimberley & Beaconsfield - 1884.	15.
	Map Kimberley & Beaconsfield - 1901.	16.
CHAPTER 2 :	THE DEVELOPMENT OF BUILDING METHODS & MATERIALS:	17.
	i. Tents	17.
	ii. Corrugated Iron	18.
	iii. Prefabrication	19.
	iv. Bricks	20.
	v. Building Stone	24.
	vi. Structural Timber	25.
	vii. Concrete, Plaster and use of Cement.	26.
	viii. Joinery, Doors and Windows	28.
	ix. Ceilings	30.
	x. Ventilation Devices	31.
	xi. Terracotta Work	33.
	xii. Faience Work	35.
	xiii. Scagliola	36.
	xiv. Ceramic and Encaustic Tiles	37.
	xv. Painting and Decorating	38.
	xvi. Boundary walls and fences	42.
	xvii. Cast Iron	43.
	xviii. Verandahs and ornamental woodwork	44.
CHAPTER 3 :	SURVEY OF SELECTED SURVIVING BUILDINGS OF PRE-1914:	47.
	Criteria for inclusion	47.
	List and Locality Map	50.

		PAGE NO:
CHAPTER 4 :	ARCHITECTS AND ATTITUDES:	51.
	The development of the profession, Architects, their background and their major works.	
	Influences and sources of reference.	63.
CHAPTER 5 :	PUBLIC BUILDINGS:	68.
	Background including The Contribution of the P.W.D.	
	The Kimberley Gaol	70.
	High Court	71.
	Library	73.
	City Hall, Market Hall & Market Shelter	74.
	Kimberley Hospital - New Ward 1901	80.
	Kimberley Hospital - New Wards 1912	82.
	Kimberley Hospital - Nurses' Home 1914	83.
	The Kimberley Rifles Drill Hall	85.
CHAPTER 6 :	CHURCHES, SYNAGOGUES, TEMPLES AND LODGES:	86
	Background	
	St Albans	87.
	Newton N. G. Kerk	88.
	Memorial Road Synagogue	89.
	St Edwards - Kenilworth	90.
	Anglican Church - Bean Street	91.
	Trinity Methodist Church	92.
	Beaconsfield Presbyterian Church	93.
	Masonic Temple	94.
	St Cyprians Anglican Cathedral	95.
	Bean Street Methodist Church	97.
CHAPTER 7 :	HOTELS, PUBLIC HOUSES & CLUBS:	
	Background	98.
	Star of the West	99.
	Alexandersfontein Hotel	100.
	Savoy Hotel	104.

		PAGE NO:
	Belgrave Hotel	108.
	Kimberley Club	111.
CHAPTER 8 :	THEATRES AND PLACES OF ENTERTAINMENT:	113.
	Background	
	McGregor Museum	114.
	Theatre Royal	115.
CHAPTER 9 :	BUSINESS PREMISES:	118.
	Background	
	De Beers Mining Company Offices	119.
	De Beers Consolidated Mines Head Office	120.
	Lawyers Offices	122.
	Cuthberts	123.
	A. J. Hazell	124.
	W. N. Cooper	125.
	G. P. Hendry	126.
	V. Sammy	127.
	M. Sammy	128.
	P. Henwood	129.
	Kimberley Building Society	130.
	T. S. Morgan	131.
	S. Senier	133.
CHAPTER 10 :	SPORT FACILITIES:	134.
	Background	
	Kimberley Bowling Green Club	135.
	Pirates Club Pavilion	136.
	Alexandersfontein Skittle Alley	137.
CHAPTER 11 :	MONUMENTS:	
	Background and Examples	138.

PAGE NO.

CHAPTER 12: SCHOOLS AND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS: 140.

The Development of the School

Undenominational School 141.

Newton Schoo 143.

Lawrence Street School 144.

School at Kenilworth 145.

Boys High School 146.

Girls High School 148.

Alfred Belt House 150.

CHAPTER 13: HOUSES: 151.

Background and the Development of Housing Types

The Residency 153.

Rudd House (The Bungalow) 154.

J. B. Curry House (The Lodge) 156.

Bonas House (Dunluce) 159.

O'Callaghan House 161.

Anderson House 162.

Horwitz House 163.

Harris House 164.

Blakemore House 165.

Greenberg House 166.

Boland House 167.

Ford House 168.

Raynham House 169.

Devenish House 170.

Col. Sir David Harris Spec. Houses: 1903. 171.
1905. 172.
1905. 175.
1907. 176.

Kenilworth House - 1912 178.

CHAPTER 14: CONCLUSIONS - CONSERVATION OF KIMBERLEY'S BUILT ENVIRONMENT: 179.

The Conservation Concept

Funding of Conservation

Towards an appropriate Conservation Strategy for Kimberley.

PAGE NO:

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Primary Sources 191.

Secondary Sources 192.

APPENDIX A. 196.

APPENDIX B. 197.

APPENDIX C. 200.

APPENDIX D. 201.

APPENDIX E. 202.

PREFACE.

Buildings of the period under study are disappearing rapidly. Other than examples preserved in the Kimberley Mine Museum, no recognisable buildings of the 1870s, and few of the 1880s survive. Of surviving pre-1914 buildings generally most are threatened by demolition or an irreversable change in appearance.

Reasons for this state of affairs are not difficult to identify. Turn-of-the-century building stock is often poorly designed and constructed. Restoration is expensive as these buildings were the result of building practices no longer in use,and maintenance is ongoing. Old buildings often under-utilise expensive sites and pose the further problem of redundancy as a result of which it is often difficult to find new uses for old buildings.

When in the past the demolition of an old building has been imminent, it has been difficult to argue in cultural terms a convincing case for preservation. No study has yet been made placing these buildings in any national or international context, and it has thus been virtually impossible to attach to them any meaningful value. The need for such a study as well as the need to record the architecture of old Kimberley while some of it still survives, are both factors motivating this dissertation.

A close association over a period of more than ten years with Kimberley and its old buildings - initially in their destruction and alteration, and latterly in their conservation - provides further motivation and a degree of qualification to undertake this study.

The work has been carried out against the background of the history of Kimberley which in its 114 years existence has developed from a camp much like a squatter camp of today to a viable city. The initial trans-

ition from camp to South Africa's second largest town took less than 15 years. Thereafter development was sporadic until the outbreak of the First World War in 1914, when Kimberley was plunged into recession and an era ended. The architecture of the camp days was characterised by a mixture of shanty town and varied vernacular architectural styles. Thereafter a primitive public building style emerges, and towards the end of the period of study, housing has acquired a confident refined Colonial style with unique South African overtones, while other building types such as churches are almost perfect transplants from the British architectural scene.

Kimberley's development has a particular importance in the development of South Africa and its Architecture, both of which had previously been on a modest scale. Prior to the discovery of diamonds, South Africa was an economic backwater surviving mainly on its agriculture and wool production. There was a dearth of industry and economic activity was depressed as indeed it was throughout most of the world at the time. Diamonds and gold respectively made possible the phenomenal development of Kimberley from 1870, and Johannesburg from 1885. Kimberley and Johannesburg provided the wealth upon which South Africa's prosperity and subsequent Architectural Development were based.

Much of this study concerns itself with Kimberley at the time that Johannesburg and the Witwatersrand were developing. While much of the former's building stock of the time is still intact, most of the latter's have been the victim of progress. Possibly the Kimberley situation will be of use in studies yet to be made of Johannesburg's early development.

Information has been drawn from sources including surviving buildings, the records of early architects, libraries, museums and the Cape Archives. An extensive collection of drawings and records of D. W. Great-

batch, a turn-of-the-century Kimberley Architect, has however been the main source of study material. Invaluable help has been supplied by the personnel of the previously mentioned institutions and particularly Mrs. M. Macey of the Kimberley Public Library. Without the patience of Mrs. D. Greenblatt, who accommodated seemingly neverending changes in lay-out and content, the typing would never have been completed, and without the stimulation provided in the supervision of this study by Dr. D. Radford, the project would have collapsed before completion as it often threatened to do. Thanks are also due to my wife, who assisted with the compilation of the Bibliographies and various of my colleagues who assisted with illustrations and printing.

Present day photographs are my own, and only photographs from other sources have been specifically acknowledged. Many of the reproductions of old drawings are from the Goldblatt, Yuill & Partners' collection, as are the measured drawings. Only drawings from other sources have been specifically acknowledged.

CHAPTER I.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND.

A study of the Architecture of Kimberley between 1871 and 1914 has logically to start with a brief resumé of the Historical factors that shaped the city's development during that time. The History of Kimberley has been recorded in an extremely readable form in Erlan Roberts' Municipal History titled "Civic Century" and the same author's "The Diamond Magnates" and "Kimberley - Turbulent City". The material that follows has been extracted largely from these sources, and any other sources have been specifically acknowledged.

The City of Kimberley is situated in the arid North of the Cape Province of the Republic of South Africa.

Kimberley owes its existence to the discovery of diamonds in the Hopetown area, approximately 130 Kilometres to the South, during the latter half of the 19th Century. International publicity was given to one of the early finds, "The Eureka Diamond", that was exhibited at the "Exposition Universele" in Paris in 1867. Initial reaction to this and subsequent finds was however sceptical and it was not until the discovery in March 1869, of the "Star of South Africa" that interest in the area began to mount.

Interest was at first confined to the Orange and Vaal River banks in the belief that the deposits were exclusively alluvial. Increasing reports of finds lured more fortune hunters to this area with the Vaal River proving the evermore popular site for diggings. Despite early reports of inland finds, the river diggings were favoured in the early years and of the settlements established, small towns such as Barkly



Kimberley before the discovery of diamonds - an illustration from the Diamond Mines of South Africa by Gardner F. Williams.



Diamond washing on the Vaal River - Illustration from the Diamond Mines of South Africa by Gardner F. Williams



Kimberley Mine just after discovery in July 1871 - Illustration from the Diamond Mines of South Africa by Gardner F. Williams.



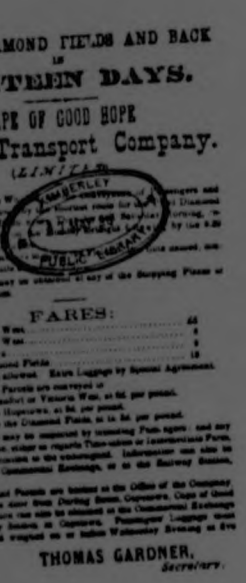
Kimberley Mine 1872 - Illustration from the Diamond Fields of South Africa by Gardner F. Williams.

West and Windsorton have survived. The rush to the Vaal River gathered momentum during '870. Where previously there were only several hundred diamond diggers and speculators, the figure may have been as high as seven or eight thousand by August 1870. This figure was claimed by one, David Arnot, in his pleas to the British authorities for intervention on behalf of the Griquas against the Orange Free State's seizure of the area. Free State rule did not last long and the territory was annexed by the Cape late in 187'.

By 1871, the population along the Vaal River had swelled yet further and after news leaked out of exciting finds approximately 30 Kms South of the Vaal, the new discovery was literally stampeded. Within weeks, the area was said to have a population in excess of five thousand, and thus Kimberley, then known as "New Rush" was born.

The new arrivals set up camp in a random manner around an open area known as the Market Square. Tracks radiated out from this square giving access to the mine and surrounding areas. Conditions in the settlement were extremely squalid, without even the most rudimentary sanitation. Disease prevailed and yet the population continued to expand rapidly and was reported to number approximately fifty thousand by mid-1872.

The routes to the Diamond Fields are shown on a map in Jerome L. Babe's "The South African Diamond Fields" published in 1872. The principal routes were from Delagoa Bay (Maputo) via Pretoria and Potchefstroom, from Port Natal (Durban) via Pietermaritsburg, Ladysmith and Bloemfontein, from Port Elizabeth via Cradock and Colesburg, from Cape Town via Victoria West and Hopetown and via what seems a highly improbable route starting at Port Nolloth. This map has been included - Appendix C.


TO THE DIAMOND FIELDS AND BACK
IN
EIGHTEEN DAYS.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE
Inland Transport Company.
(LIMITED)

KIMBERLEY
PUBLIC LIBRARY

FARES:

THOMAS GARDNER,
Secretary.

Advertisement from the South African Diamond Fields by Jerome L. Babe published in 1872. The stamp of the Kimberley Public Library is dated 1898.



The Diamond Market Kimberley 1872 - The Diamond Mines of South Africa by Gardner F. Williams

On the 20th November, 1874, the population of Kimberley was forcibly reminded, as was to be the case on many future occasions, of the hardships associated with the diamond industry. There was a major rockfall in the Kimberley Mine, which, combined with the low prices then being received for diamonds, was not calculated to inspire confidence.

It is perhaps a tribute to the almost mystical lure of diamonds, that the town continued to grow and an ever increasing number of diggers were joined by wives and families.

Sporadic attempts were made to introduce and enforce elementary sanitation regulations, but it was not until 27th June, 1877, that an Ordinance constituting the "Town of Kimberley as a Municipality" was published, and by 1879, Municipal officialdom was making some impact on what was still an overgrown Mining camp.

Rule from distant Cape Town proved unpopular and ineffective, and from January, 1873, Griqua and West was governed as an independent Crown Colony. This too proved unpopular, but was to last for seven years, and in October 1880, the hitherto uncertain political future of the area was assured with the incorporation of Griqualand West as a Province of the Cape Colony.

In November 1882, a regular water supply was established with the completion of the pipeline from the Vaal River, and also in this year a modest start was made on electric street lighting.

A report published at the end of March 1882, by one, Bernard V. Shaw, detailing the need for an adequate fire fighting service, mentions that there were at that stage between two thousand five hundred and three thousand houses in the area built mainly of wood and iron and "of a light construction".



Kimberley of the early 1880's when it began to change from Camp to Town. Photograph from Diamond Fields Advertiser, Christmas Number of 1905, which contained an article reviewing Kimberley's development.



Dutoitspan - an illustration taken from an early photograph - The Diamond Mines of South Africa by Gardner F. Williams.

According to Brian Roberts, in his "Civic Century", "the year 1882 must be regarded as a landmark in the history of the Kimberley Municipality". It was the year in which Kimberley really began to develop into a town, and it is only from this time that any useful study of buildings that were intended to be permanent can be made from reference to drawings and surviving examples. Until this time Kimberley had merely attempted to disguise its camp origins rather than eliminate them; tents had been replaced by corrugated iron shacks, winding tracks had become straggling streets, and here and there a few brick buildings were to be seen, but there were still few of the comforts of civilised life and even less in the way of public amenities.

The reforms of 1882 laid the foundations for future Municipal development. During the next few years, the Council was to be largely occupied in building upon those foundations. In addition to routine matters - sanitation, the widening and maintaining of roads, planting of trees, law enforcement and traffic control - the Council was also called upon to assist in local emergencies. A particularly serious crisis arose in October 1883 when a smallpox epidemic broke out in Kimberley. The epidemic raged for almost two years, and there were some 2 300 cases, resulting in 700 deaths.

At this point, it is worth noting that early rivalry between Kimberley and adjoining Dutoitspan had swung in Kimberley's favour, and by the 1880's Dutoitspan was generally regarded as Kimberley's poor relation. Originally formed from a merger of two of the early camps, Dutoitspan, like Kimberley, developed around a Market Square. Dutoitspan had taken its first step towards achieving the status of a town at the beginning of 1883 when a petition was sent to the Cape Governor requesting that the camp's status be changed to that of a Municipality. The name pro-



Extract from 1885 panoramic sketch of the recently completed Kimberley Station showing amongst others the "Residency" in the background. This house is discussed on Page 153.

Original sketch in the possession of the Kimberley Public Library.

posed for the Municipality was "Beaconsfield" in honour of the former British Prime Minister, Lord Beaconsfield, (Benjamin Disraeli), who had died in April, 1881. The petition was granted, and on the 16th August 1883, Dutoitspan officially became Beaconsfield.

During 1880, Kimberley people had reason to be cheerful, with the price of diamonds rising. This period too marked the beginning of the end for the small digger as mines went deeper and greater capital and technical expertise was required. This started the fusion of mining interests, and 1881 saw the start of the Company boom. The boom was frenetic and undisciplined. Worthless and bogus Companies proliferated and the unsuspecting public were often offloaded with worthless worked-out claims in their mad scramble for shares. Banks took fright and in mid-1881 clamped down on loans. Added to the shaky financial situation that prevailed, the mines suffered severe setbacks and throughout 1882, the Kimberley mine was plagued by rockfalls.

Nonetheless, by the beginning of 1883, Kimberley had several distinctions. It was the first South African inland settlement away from a river, it was the first South African town to depend solely on mineral wealth, and it was South Africa's first significant centre of industry. The town had at this stage attracted many foreign capitalists and artisans. Despite this, the years 1883 and 1884 witnessed a deterioration of Kimberley's economy, but the diamond industry did not collapse completely. (See map Page 15). November 1885, saw the arrival of the first train in Kimberley, and shortly thereafter, the discovery of gold in the Transvaal became common knowledge. Diggers flocked to the Transvaal and Johannesburg quickly eclipsed Kimberley as South Africa's foremost industrial town. As has been mentioned earlier, little of Kimberley survives from the pre-Johannesburg days, and this study therefore concentrates on the development of Kimberley parallel to

and as second fiddle to Johannesburg.

At this point, it is interesting to note the circumstances of Kimberley Municipality of the late 1880s.

Shortly after the early diamond rushes, the Vooruitsigt Farm (on which the Kimberley Mine had been discovered) had been sold to a private company. However, disputes between the company and the diggers led in May, 1875, to the Cape Government buying the Vooruitsigt Estate for £100,000. It had been hoped that when Griqualand West was annexed by the Cape in 1881, that the Estate would be handed over to the Municipality for much needed commonage. It was not until 16th July, 1884, however, that a resolution to this effect was passed in the Cape House of Assembly, but the terms of the grant were a subject of controversy until 1889, when the Council finally gained full control and thus had the full use of the revenue.



Debris washing during the 1890s. Photograph in the possession of the Kimberley Public Library.

It was in 1889 that the four mines then operating in the Kimberley area were brought under the control of De Beers Consolidated Mines. In the years prior to the amalgamation, ruinous competition had resulted in a depressed diamond industry. Amalgamation provided no immediate solution as in order to limit the supply of diamonds to an oversupplied market, De Beers slowed down production. This in turn created largescale unemployment, and if anything aggravated the recession that had existed before amalgamation.

Fortunately the Kimberley City Council was in a position to assist. Land was made available to "debris washers" who had practised their occupation since the earliest days of Kimberley. Debris washing involved the re-washing of mine debris that contained small diamonds

overlooked by early claim owners, who were, it seems, mainly concerned with large and spectacular finds. In 1890, the Council issued permits on Municipal land and was able to reap handsome rewards in the form of commission on stones unearthed in the debris heaps. The Council was to a small extent able to alleviate unemployment by spending its income on road repair schemes and on improving stormwater drainage, but for all these efforts, could not significantly alleviate the unemployment problem.

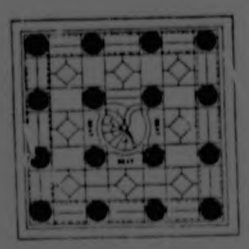


The Theatre Royal - illustration from the Diamond Mines of South Africa by Gardner F. Williams.

It was realised at this stage that Kimberley desperately needed an alternative source of income to that provided by the diamond industry which had in its short history proved itself to be extremely fickle, as is indeed understandable when it is considered that the diamond is essentially a luxury item. As a result, in 1891, the idea of an International Exhibition was initiated and on the 8th September, 1892, the Exhibition was opened by Sir Henry Loch. It was widely acknowledged as one of the most important undertakings ever staged in the Cape Colony. More perhaps than anything else it helped counter the gloomy predictions that Kimberley was doomed as a centre of any importance with the rise of Johannesburg and the Transvaal Goldfields. The depression however continued, and it was not until towards the end of the decade that there were signs of improvement. Perhaps the glittering opening of the Kimberley Theatre Royal in 1897 suggested a turning point in Kimberley's economic recovery. In that year, the Mayor's report stated that "building operations have been in progress in all parts of the town - our land sales have realised high prices and the value of property generally has largely increased - ".

In April, 1898, it was formally resolved to build a Town Hall, and De





The Honoured Dead Memorial by Herbert Baker - Illustration from the Diamond Mines of South Africa by Gardner F. Williams.

Beers offered financial support for the project. On the 20th September, 1899, a new Town Hall was ready for occupation.

The discovery of Diamonds in Kimberley and the subsequent discovery of gold on the Witwatersrand set in motion the forces that resulted in the second Anglo-Boer War. War was declared on the 10th October, 1899, and Kimberley besieged almost immediately by the Boer forces. The siege lasted until 15th February, 1900, and its lifting made a little difference to Kimberley's economic plight. Indeed, the early years of the 20th Century saw bad economic conditions throughout South Africa. During the siege, Cecil John Rhodes, one of Kimberley's great personalities, kept himself and others busy with the task of trying to be[a]t the drab Kimberley environment dominated by grey mine debris he[a]p. He had or[c]hards and gardens planted and conceived the idea of a monument and bath, both to be designed by Herbert Baker. The former project came to fruition and is illustrated opposite and discussed on Page 139. Conditions slowly began to brighten and a new less frenetic order established itself in Kimberley until the outbreak of the First World War in August, 1914, at which stage work in the mines immediately stopped and the now familiar problems of unemployment and depression again presented themselves.

1900 to 1914 is an important period architecturally as it in many respects represents the start of architectural practice as we know it today. It was also during this period that most of the pre-1914 buildings that still exist were built.

****

From Kimberley's history of the period from inception to 1914, three distinct phases can be identified. Each phase is characterised by an



Sketch of Jerome Babe's claim in 1871. This scene and the buildings in the background must have been typical of the Camp Phase - Illustration from the South African Diamond Fields by Jerome L. Babe.

identifiable approach to building and is largely confined to an identifiable area (other than in the case of the central city where a process of renewal was ongoing). The causes and characteristics of the phases are briefly set out hereafter and their extent illustrated on the maps on Pages 14 - 16.

1. The Camp Phase : 1871 to approximately 1883:

   This phase was one of political uncertainty, squalid living conditions and a relatively uncomplicated approach to mining. Fortunes came to a few and optimism reigned supreme. The population increased spectacularly and by the end of the phase, Kimberley was South Africa's second largest town, Cape Town being the largest. The only surviving buildings of the period are to be found in the Kimberley Mine Museum and their most obvious characteristic is their temporary nature. See Map on Page 14.



Drawing of verandah to the Beaconsfield Post Office from P.W.D. drawings in the possession of the McGregor Museum. This typifies the approach to Public building of the early Consolidation Phase.

2. The Consolidation Phase : Approximately 1883 to approximately 1892:

   The previous phase witnessed economic problems resulting from an oversupplied diamond market. These problems became more acute and the increasing depth of the mines resulted in mining becoming more sophisticated and demanding greater capital resources. Ruinous competition lead to the inevitable consequence of one company (De Beers) eventually dominating the industry and cutting output, in order to ensure an adequate price for its diamond production. This, combined with the lure of the Transvaal goldfields, resulted in an exodus of entrepreneurs and skills from Kimberley. The white population is thought to have dropped to about one half of its level of over 50 000 before the amalgamation of the mines under De Beers. The 1880s were however the years of Kimberley's establishment as a permanent settlement and with this came permanent



The Kimberley Town Hall completed in 1899. This building displays a certain lack of sophistication, but does nevertheless herald the beginnings of the Mature phase.



Residence Hirschorn built in 1898 for a mining magnate, typifies a large home of the Mature Phase.

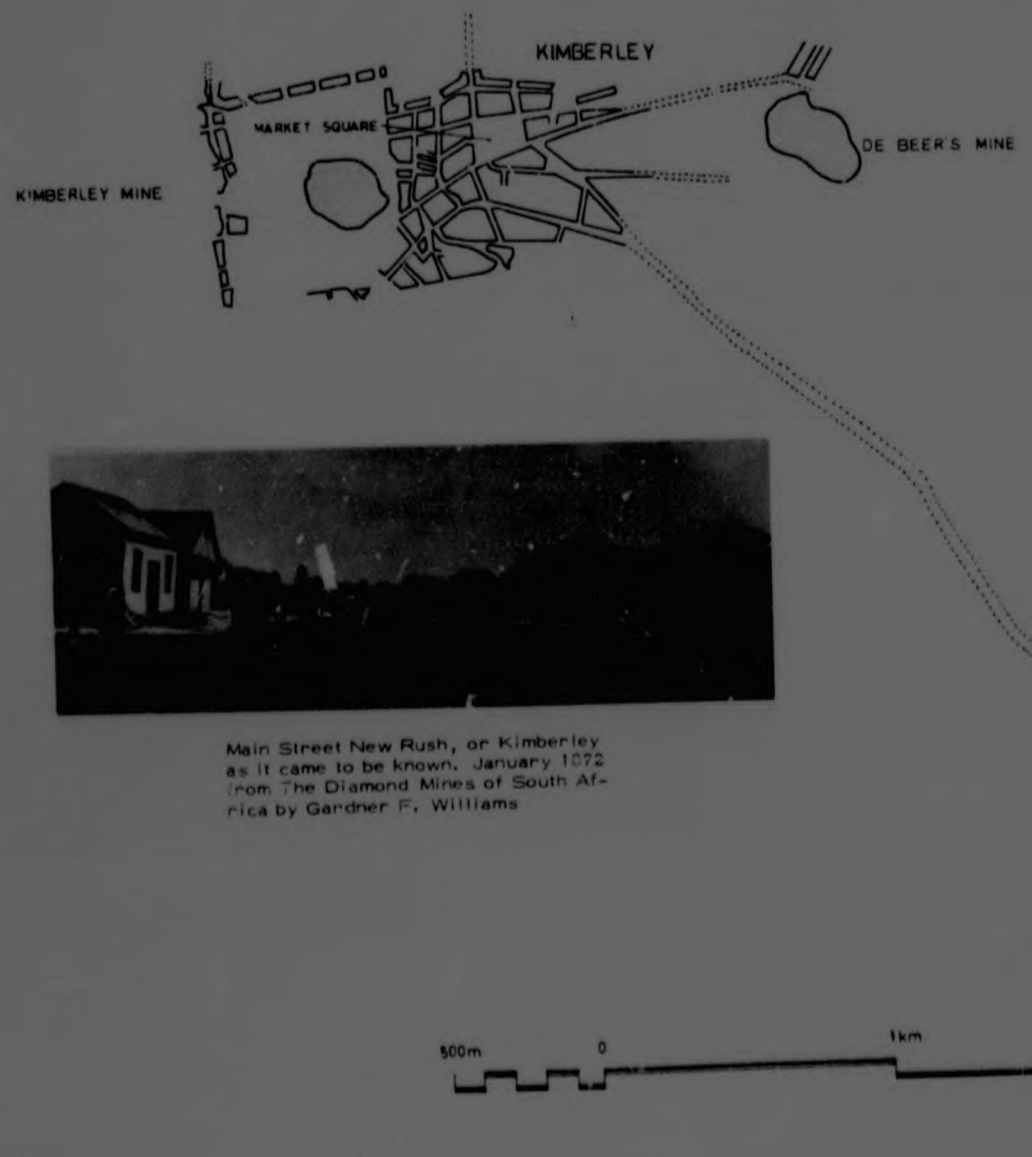
Buildings constructed of permanent, and in some cases, locally produced materials. These early attempts at permanence are embodied in the Public buildings of the period of which several survive. Few of the buildings of this period were the work of professional architects. See Map on Page 15. This was most of all the age of Kimberley's architectural primitives.

3. The Mature Phase : Approximately 1892 - 1914:

This phase saw a gradual improvement of economic conditions up to the outbreak of the Anglo-Boer War and after this setback, a second recovery and slow development until the outbreak of the First World War in 1914. The buildings of this phase were characterised by a certain refinement and in the case of commercial buildings, concern with ornate detail. Much of the building work of this period was in the hands of an architectural profession that was beginning to establish itself along the lines of the profession of today, and Architecture by Architects became the norm. Many of the Public and Church buildings of this phase would not have been out of place in an English provincial town. Domestic design reached its culmination during this period, and Kimberley's houses of the mature phase have a uniquely South African quality. The houses were those of a settled community, as by this time the hordes of speculators and fortune-seekers had been replaced by a more solid citizenry.

Even the proclamation of the Union of South Africa in 1910, which heralded a spectacular economic revival elsewhere in South Africa had little effect on the by now staid Kimberley.

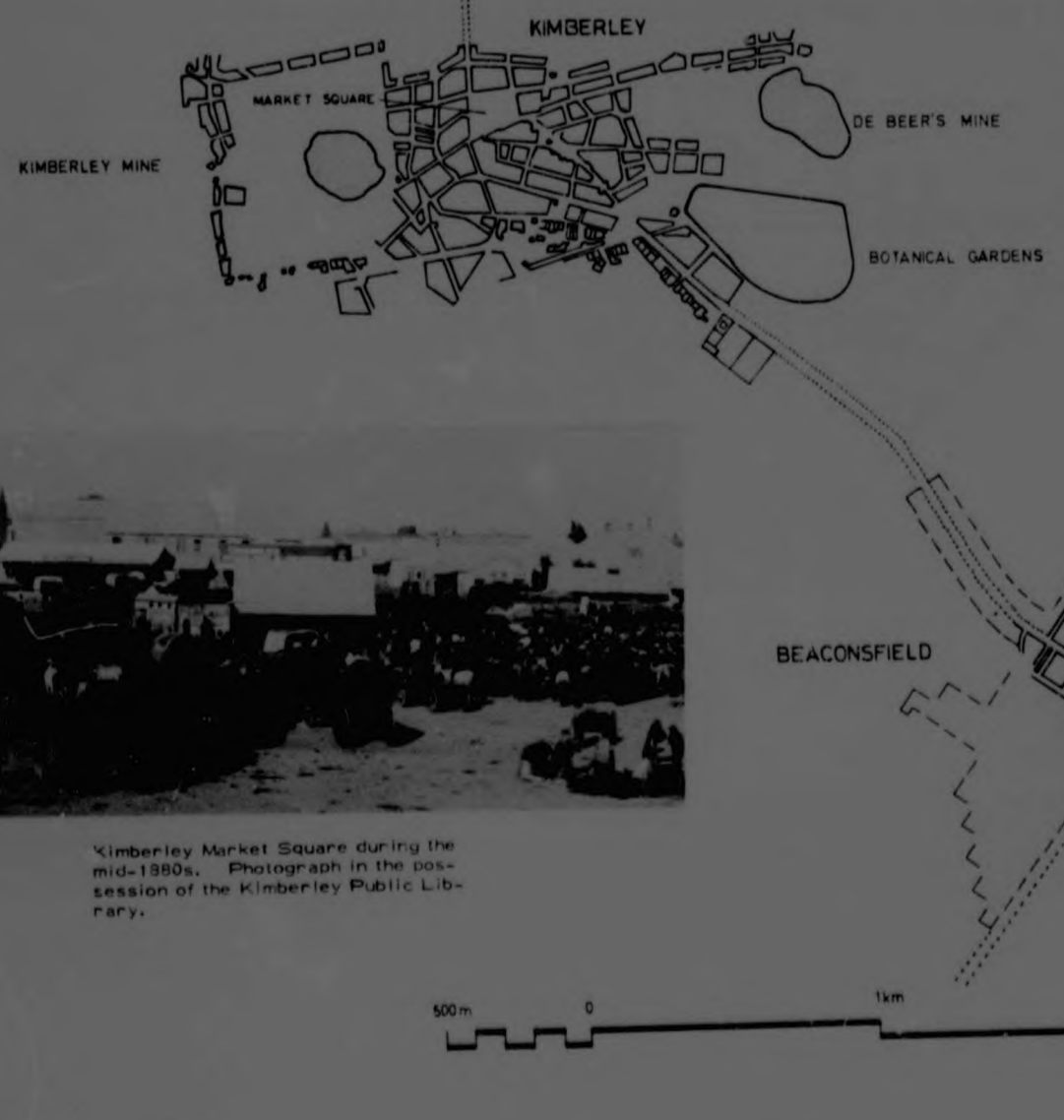
See Map on Page 16.



KIMBERLEY AND DUTOITSPAN: MID-1870s.

At this stage a street pattern had developed that exists essentially unaltered in central Kimberley today. Dutoitspan too was beginning to show a street pattern albeit on a more modest scale. In both the Kimberley and Dutoitspan areas a far wider area than illustrated on the map was covered by a range of arbitrarily situated abodes including tents, shacks and covered wagons. Such was the temporary nature of most the the buildings of this period that none are known to still exist on their original sites. This map was prepared from the earliest known map of Kimberley, in a book by A. Hornsby, The South African Diamond Fields. Copy in the Kimberley Public Library.

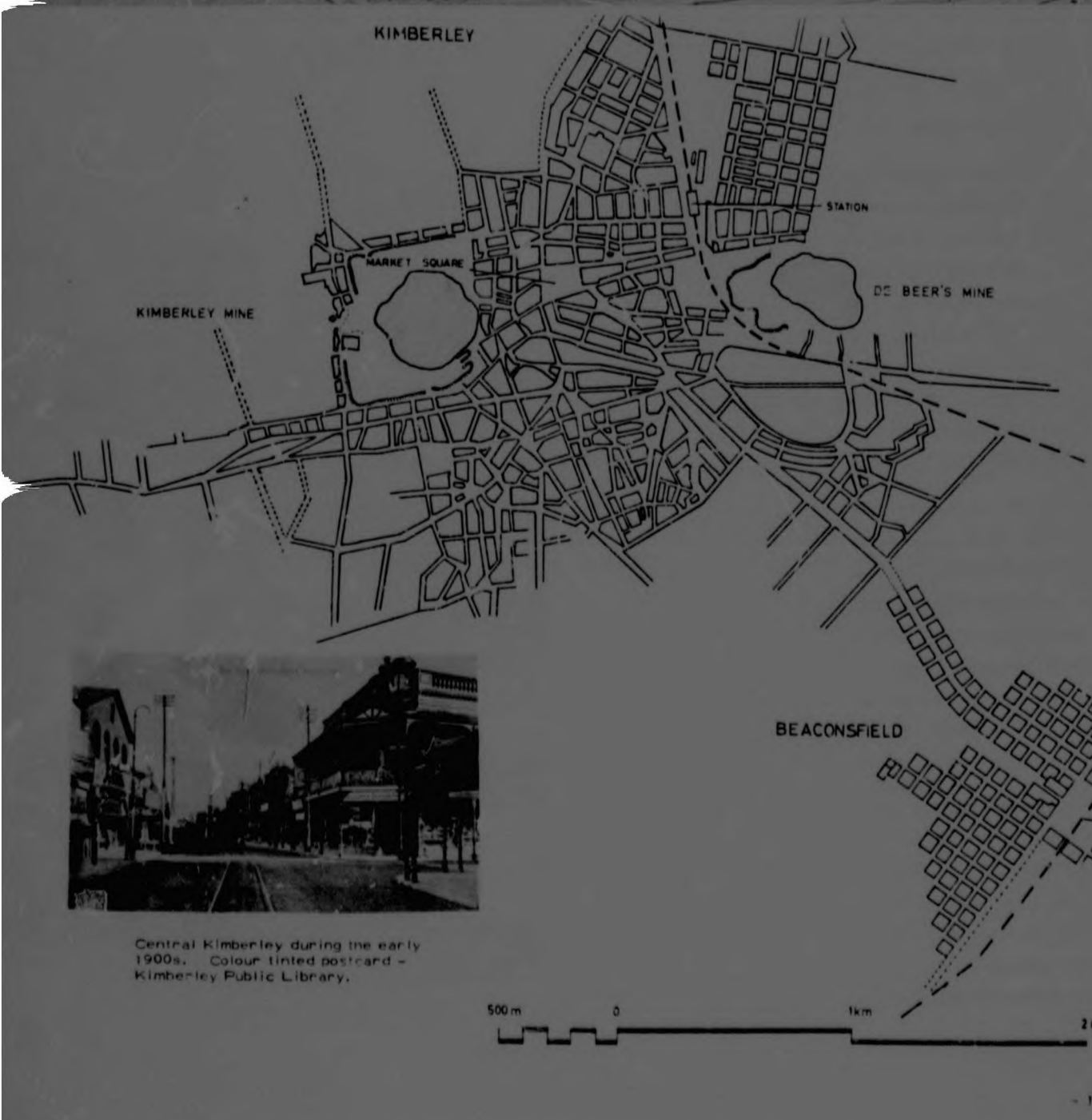
Main Street New Rush, or Kimberley as it came to be known. January 1872 from The Diamond Mines of South Africa by Gardner F. Williams



KIMBERLEY AND BEACONSFIELD: MID-1880s.

Beaconsfield had at this stage already been laid out in a "gridiron" pattern outlined by the broken line. A survey of 1887 by John W. Dale for the then proposed tramway and held by the Kimberley Public Library shows that actual development was still very much confined to the main route between Dutoitspan and Kimberley.
Signs of permanence include the Cricket Ground and Botanical Gardens of Kimberley. A few buildings of this period survive.
This map was prepared from a Public Works Department Survey of Kimberley dated 28. 3. 1884. signed Richard Wright, and a similar survey of Beaconsfield dated 1883 and signed by W. B. Coventry. Both in possession of McGregor Museum, Kimberley.

Kimberley Market Square during the mid-1880s. Photograph in the possession of the Kimberley Public Library.



KIMBERLEY AND BEACONSFIELD : 1900:

Kimberley's spectacular growth had at this stage been arrested. The Transvaal Goldfields lured many of Kimberley's pioneers and the amalgamation of the mines under the control of the De Beers Company denied opportunity to many would-be entrepreneurs. With the amalgamation in 1889, the Dutoitspan camp then almost 20 years old, fell within the De Beers controlled area. For security reasons the inhabitants were expelled and with them went the buildings which disappeared from the scene as rapidly as only wood and iron buildings could. Many buildings of this period survive in a recognisable form.

This plan was prepared from map published by Mark Henderson in 1901 in the possession of the Kimberley Public Library.

Central Kimberley during the early 1900s. Colour tinted postcard - Kimberley Public Library.

* Pioneers of Prefabrication: The British Contribution in the 19th Century, Gilbert Herbert, John Hopkins University Press : Baltimore and London, 1978.



Various vernacular types - Illustration from The South African Diamond Fields by Jerome L. Babe.



Diggers Camp - 1872.



Mary Barber's Panorama with tents. (Albany Museum - Grahamstown)

CHAPTER 2.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF BUILDING METHODS AND MATERIALS:

Immediately prior to the establishment of diamond diggings in the Kimberley area, the sparse local population eked out an existence from agriculture. The varied building styles of these people as illustrated opposite cover a wide range of distinct vernacular types. The improbability of the varied types existing in close proximity is contradicted by the variety of illustrations that confirm that such a situation did in fact exist. From these illustrations can be deduced that mainly local materials were used and that the buildings were not of a very substantial nature. The insubstantial nature of the buildings is further borne out by the fact that little or nothing remains of buildings of the period.

With the rush from the river diggings in 1871, the vernecular building styles seem to have disappeared from the scene. This is hardly surprising, as although clay abounded in the area there was no suitable building timber and indeed no firewood and little other fuel such as grass with which to fire clay bricks. At Kimberley, as distinct from Dutoitspan, there was not even water with which to mix the clay (a problem that was to persist for many years). As Gilbert Herbert notes in his book "Pioneers of Prefabrication",* partial or total prefabrication was the logical response.

i. TENTS:

Tents probably represent prefabricated building in its simplest, lightest, cheapest and most easily transportable form. In Mary Barber's "Panorama of New Rush", or Kimberley as it was later to be called, we see illusirated a veritable tent city. Tents included wellmade examples such as "The Digger's Friend", a modest 12 ft x 10 ft x 9 ft high model, and on a more ambitious scale, examples complete with timber doors and timber framed windows.

* Pioneers of Prefabrication: The British Contribution in the 19th Century, Gilbert Herbert, John Hopkins University Press: Baltimore and London, 1978.

** The South African Diamond Fields: Babe, J. C. Facsimile edition published by Historical Society of Kimberley and the Northern Cape, 1976. Original published by David Wesley & Co., New York, 1872.



Early framed tents of 1872 - 3, as illustrated in the S. A. Mining and Engineering Journal of 7. 9. 29.



Corrugated iron roofscape of Kimberley today, very much as it was at the turn of the century.

ii. CORRUGATED IRON:

Timber clad buildings were fairly common, but undoubtedly the most important material of Kimberley's early days was corrugated iron, which added the qualities of durability and rigidity that canvas lacked in "prefabricated" construction.

Corrugated iron seems to have made its appearance in Great Britain in 1829, and with development of hot dip galvanising in 1837, became a formidable building material. By 1857, small quantities of galvanised corrugated iron in 6 ft and 8 ft lengths were being offered by Durban merchants, and in 1859 after Customs duties were altered, large quantities of corrugated iron, galvanised sheet iron and rainwater goods became available. By the time of the discovery of diamonds, corrugated iron was a widely used material. As early as 1870, at the Vaal diggings coastal dealers were advertising corrugated and sheet iron at Port Elizabeth prices. By 1872, local merchants were handling considerable stocks of not only iron, but other building materials as well.*

There is evidence that much corrugated iron originally used in makeshift buildings at the river diggings moved to the dry diggings with its owners. According to Jerome L. Babe, an early inhabitant of the diggings, a billiard saloon of 1872 consisted of "a frame covered with canvass on the sides and a corrugated iron roof".** The roof of this structure could therefore have been of either new or secondhand material although photographs dating to the early 1870's suggest that the corrugated iron of early Kimberley was predominantly secondhand. From early photographs and records, complete buildings can be identified that moved from the river to Kimberley.

As a roofing material, corrugated iron was used almost exclusively during the period of this study. Extensive use was also made of corrugated

* South Africa, Anthony Trollope, Chapman & Hall, London, 1878. 2 volumes.



1890 Corrugated Iron as used in the Beaconsfield seventh day Adventist Church.



The Main Building of the Exhibition was reported to be 10 000 square feet in area and 290 feet long. Photo - Kimberley Public Library.

iron as a side cladding material in most classes of building, but by the turn of the century its use in the side cladding of houses was confined to lower priced dwellings. This is understandable when it is remembered that corrugated iron and its associations had always been a source of distaste. This distaste was expressed by writer Anthony Trollope who visited Kimberley in 1877 and described the corrugated iron houses there as "mean-looking" and "devoid of comfort".* It is regrettable that corrugated iron clad houses never developed to their full potential, as well detailed examples built at the turn of the century have withstood the ravages of time better than many brick clad houses. These houses, several of which still exist, are worthy of close scrutiny as they provide interesting possibilities for building in non-corrosive areas and on expansive clay soils such as are found in Kimberley.

Clay, found on or near the site was used for the in situ moulding of raw bricks which provided internal walls of low cost and excellent thermal and acoustic properties. Corrugated iron provided the ideal external cladding and roof, both essential in protecting the raw bricks from moisture. A suspended timber floor and well ventilated underfloor space helped to balance the moisture content of the areas under and immediately surrounding the house, and in consequence prevented differential movement. Corrugated iron over 100 years old shows little sign of corrosive deterioration in these structures.

Corrugated iron on a "grand scale" appears in the buildings of the International Exhibition held in Kimberley in 1892, and these buildings are considered in greater detail in Chapter 8. Regrettably this was the only venture into grand scale building in corrugated iron.

iii. PREFABRICATION:

There was in the 1870's a trade in totally prefabricated buildings

* Albany Museum, Grahamstown.



Prefabricated house at the Kimberley Mine Museum from the early 1870's. See also Page 44 for this house before "restoration".



Prefabricated Church at the Kimberley Mine Museum dating from the early 1870's.

such as the house and church illustrated opposite, both of which have been preserved in the Kimberley Mine Museum. A variety of prefabricated corrugated iron churches were produced in Britain, as much for export as for use at home as mission churches in rapidly industrialising areas. Prefabricated buildings appear to have been produced for the Colonial market from early in the 19th century, as the following advertisement in the London Evening Chronicle, of October 14, 1819, illustrated:-

> "CAPE OF GOOD HOPE - Persons intending to EMIGRATE to that, or any other Colony, are invited to inspect, at the AGRICULTURAL REPOSITORY of LEES, COTTAM and HALLEN, in Winsley-street, opposite the Pantheon, Oxford-street, the following new-invented Articles:- A PORTABLE IRON-FRAMED COTTAGE, upon the principle that admits of being extended, and affording accommodation to any given number of persons, packed up in a small case, and erected in a few hours by a common workman".

Early buildings in Kimberley were largely utilitarian, and as has been noted, were in many cases constructed of secondhand materials. Embellishment was almost totally lacking on the "in situ" buildings but common on the fully prefabricated buildings. These can be clearly picked out in the 1873 panoramic view of early Kimberley and the detail of the prefabricated house illustrated opposite.

iv. BRICKS:

Early use of unburnt clay bricks is referred to in the Diamond Fields News of 4th Feoruary, 1874, as follows:-

> "Nearly all the brick houses of Kimberley being built of sunburnt bricks have succumbed to the effects of late pitiless rain, the registered fall of which is stated to have been 7 inches and 1/10th. St Cyprians Church has also been seriously damaged. Large pieces of the side wall have fallen in and it has been found necessary to put up props

* Report to Parliament of the Chief Inspector for Public Works for the year 1[illegible], Kimberley Public Library.



A measured drawing of the Old Jail building prepared by the P.W.D. in 1882. Crosses on the plan indicate portions of the building that were then in a state of collapse. See text opposite. Original drawing in the possession of the McGregor Museum.

to keep the remainder from falling. The necessity of guttering is obvious as the Church being plastered most of the damage was caused by the drippings from the roof".

Similarly, in the P.W.D. report for 1882, the state of the old jail is referred to as follows:-

"I would draw particular attention to the jail buildings which although probably as good as can be obtained by the use of raw brick walls and clay floors, are anything but desirable, and may at any time be rendered insecure and dangerous in a heavy storm of rain".

In the Griqualand West Government Gazette of Saturday, April 6th, 1878, the Inspector of Prisons lists labour expenditure in respect of brickmaking for inter alia:- The New Hospital, the Police Barracks, the New Market House, the New Government Offices and the Gaol Buildings. Documentation of the Gaol buildings shows that it was built entirely of unburnt bricks and it is thus assumed that the other buildings were also of unburnt bricks.

There is evidence that during the late 1870s, burnt bricks were produced. This situation existed despite the problem posed by a lack of fuel and water before the arrival of the railway in 1885 when reasonably priced coal became available and the completion of the pipeline from the Vaal River in 1884, which ensured a supply of cheap water.

Kiln fired bricks, tiles and pipes were being produced in the early 80s.

From a prospectus for the Kimberley Patent Brick Company contained in the Diamond News of 2nd August 1881, it can be concluded that there existed at that time:-

2 Fawcett's Patent brickmaking machines, each capable of moulding 16 bricks per minute.

1 Hand press for moulding special bricks.

* Cape of Good Hope, Ministerial Department of Crown Lands and Public Works, Report by the Manager of the Voorulzigt Estate for the year 1882, Presented to both Houses of Parliament by command of His Excellency the Governor, 1883 - Kimberley Public Library.

** Report to Parliament of the Chief Inspector for Public Works for the year 1885, Kimberley Public Library.



P. W. D. Special bricks as used in the Front Elevation of the J. B. Curry House in 1889.



P. W. D. brick of the 1880s. The creases on the front of the brick indicate that is was hand moulded.

Fairly sophisticated mechanical equipment including a 20 horsepower engine (presumably a wood fired steam engine).

4 Kilns (presumably wood fired).

The bricks produced by the Company found a ready market at the the exceptionally high price of £10 per thousand.

The assumed position of this brickyard is indicated on the map on Page 50. There is a slightly later reference to brick-making in the Report to Parliament of the Manager of the Vooruitsigt Estate for the year 1882, which reads as follows:-

> "Beyond the cemetery and in the north-east angle of the Estate, about 60 acres of clay ground, suitable for brick-making, have been surveyed into brickfields of four acres each. The operations of the first applicants for leases of this ground have (unfortunately for the town) been suspended, but the lessee of Kriel's Dam, which borders upon the western end of the brickfields, is actively engaged upon one of the lots, and two others are occupied by the Public Works Department, who are making bricks for the public buildings now in course of erection".

The assumed position of these brickworks is indicated on the map on Page 50.

Several buildings built by the P.W.D. using their own bricks still exist and will be considered in more detail later in this study.

In the report of the Chief Inspector of the Public Works Department of 1885, we read of a Government Brickyard in Kimberley.

> "The Civil Commissioner having requested Mr Wright to find employment for a number of convicts for whom at that time there was no work, that officer originated the idea of establishing a brickmaking yard, which has with your sanction been given effect to. The work has been carried out with considerable success, plant has been purchased and fixed, brick kilns built, wells sunk, drying grounds laid out, and all has been placed on a proper businesslike footing. At the end of the financial year it is anticipated that a considerable profit will have been made by the sale of bricks. I am indebted to Mr Wright for the energy and skill with which he has car-

* Report to Parliament of the Chief Inspector for Public Works for the year 1885, Kimberley Public Library.

** Diary of Sam. el James Halford on microfilm, Kimberley Public Library.

ried out the various works entrusted to him, and the careful manner in which he has worked the brickyard."

In 1887 bricks from the Government brickyard were used in the construction of a warehouse for Messrs Peach & Co. Reference is made to "best pressed bricks" and "moulded bricks for panels and projections". See Appendix page 196

In a report for 1888, the Government Brickyard is commented on as follows:-

> "This industry has been kept going as far as the supply of prisoners admitted. The fluctuation in numbers of prisoners and the occasionally scant supply of this class of labour, have militated much against the full working of this brickyard. A tramway has been laid down from the clay hole to the mill, with a view to reducing the amount of labour required. A circular kiln has been built, and another is in the course of building, whereby it is hoped that a very considerable saving in fuel will be effected".

Further, in the same report it is mentioned that the Public Library illustrated opposite, which had been built out of bricks produced by the Public Works Department, was now complete.



The Public Library completed in 1888 using Public Works Department Bricks. Close examination of the original of this photograph belonging to the Library suggests that the dark brickwork was in fact painted.

Despite progress in the manufacture of burnt bricks, mud bricks (popularly known as Kimberley bricks) were widely used, and were still commonly used for non-loadbearing internal walls in domestic buildings at the end of the period of this study (1914). An interesting description of how these were made is given in the diary of Samuel James Halford, in which he writes as follows:-

> "To make the real genuine Kimberley brick, the clay or ground must be well mixed, and a quantity of stable manure added. Short straw or chaff from a cowshed is also very suitable. There is an art in the mixing process. One way is to get some natives to tramp it until it is well puddled. The more natives, the less water you will require, which is a consideration when water is scarce. The brick mould is a box, say 15 inches x 9 inches x 6 inches or thereabouts.

* Report on Kimberley Prison and Dutoitspan Police
G77/1882 - Kimberley Public Library.



Unburnt brickwork (Kimberley brick) in the J. B. Curry House. Remains of mud plaster above and to the left of the hand. Built 1889.



Dolorite foundation stonework under brickwork at Belt House. Built 1911.

There is no actual standard size. Into this box the mixture is pressed and when turned out of the mould is allowed to dry in the sun".

The mud brick was an important building material from early on in the development of the building process. Although previously mentioned reports indicate that it was not particularly successful as an exterior skin to buildings, it provided an ideal internal skin if suitably protected, and in terms of durability, there is little to choose between a wood and iron house lined with mud brick and with mud brick internal walls, and a similar house with a burnt brick exterior. The latter has in fact often proved to be inferior, as many of the early burnt bricks used externally have weathered badly where exposed to the elements.

Brickmaking and terracotta work in Kimberley achieved heights at the turn of the century that are unequalled by the local brickmaking industry of today. Bricks and terracotta work by Church and McLauchlin are described hereafter under the heading "Terracotta work".

v. BUILDING STONE:

Dolorite in partially dressed form was used throughout the period of this study for foundation walls. This stone often has rounded weathered sides indicating that its source was in many instances the round surface boulders found in abundance around Kimberley. Surface boulders also appear to have been the source of the kerbstones that line the streets constructed before the turn of the century.

It was no doubt as a result of the high cost of producing bricks (as well as possible doubts about their durability) that led the P.W.D. to the use of stone in their buildings. The stone used was also dolorite, which was apparently quarried by convict labour, and is commented on in a report by Bernard B. Shaw, of 1882, which reads as follows:-

* Commission of Enquiry into affairs of the Kimberley Gaol, 1880.
Cape Archives.



Colour tinted postcard in the possession of the Kimberley Mine Museum shows what was probably the earliest use of stone in Public buildings, in the Post Office of 1882.



Timber in large sections was used from early on in mining machinery.

> "Material for external walls, if not of internal divisions also, should be of well-burnt bricks, or stone of similar substance to that now being used in the construction of the new Post Office in this town. The cost of this stone is a shilling a load of 18 cubic feet. It is taken from the De Beers Mine, quarried by convicts".

Small quantities of imported sandstone were used in the monuments that made their appearance after the Boer War, and in the construction of the Anglican Cathedral. The use of sandstone is commented on in this study where the monuments and Cathedral are considered individually. Refe. ences exist in respect of sandstone from Modder River, about 30 Kms to the South of Kimberley. No surviving examples of the use of this stone have been identified positively, but the low sandstone wall at the base of the Rhodes Equestrian statue in Dutoitspan Road could be from this source. In the Diamond Fields Advertiser of 23/6/1887, we read:-

> " --- the handsome structure in the course of erection for Messrs Peach & Co. (Limited). ----- The building is of burnt bricks throughout and these were supplied by the Public Works Department ----- The stone dressings are from Modder River".

The full text of this report has been included as Appendix A, as it gives insight into both the concerns and the technicalities of building in 1887.

vi. STRUCTURAL TIMBER:

Sawn timber provided the framework for the very earliest buildings in Kimberley and is indeed the obvious ally of corrugated iron. Before the completion of the rail link in 1885, imported timber was transported from the coast by ox-wagon and not surprisingly the lightest possible sections were used in most applications. An idea of the great variety of timber sections available, typically in 18 - 20 ft lengths, can be gained from invoices of the Kimberley "Steam Saw Mills",* who in 1870 were supplying deal planks for maintenance work at the Gaol. We

* R. Fredman, Structural concrete in South Africa. The South African Reinforced Concrete Engineers Association, 1964, Johannesburg.

learn from these invoices that for example, a plank of 1" x 9" x 18'0" cost 18/-, and a plank of 1½" x 9" x 20'0" cost £1-15-0; expensive for over a century ago.

A catalogue of some 18 years later of Messrs Holland & Vardy dated July 1897, lists a great variety of timber then available, including Red Baltic Deal, Pitch Pine, Poplar, Ash Walnut, Hickory, Teak and Clear Pine. Red Baltic Deal appears to have been the most popular for trusses, joists and flooring, and Pitch Pine for verandah flooring exposed to the weather. This price list, the only South African Catalogue that it has been possible to locate for this study, was used by D. W. Greatbatch for a project involving additions to the Beaconsfield Town Hall. The entire list which gives an excellent indication of the nature and extent of materials available at the turn of the century, has been reproduced as Appendix B.

vii. CONCRETE, PLASTER AND USE OF CEMENT:

During the latter half of the 19th century, cement became available and began to replace lime. Imported cement was expensive at that time and as a result tended to be used sparingly. It was only in 1892, after the opening of the Transvaal Goldfields, that the local manufacture of Portland cement was started at Daspoort near Pretoria. This enterprise, after a shaky start, was flourishing at the turn of the century, and in 1904 the first rotary cement kiln was introduced at Daspoort. Only four years earlier, Associated Portland Cement Manufacturers had purchased the right to use similar equipment in Great Britain. South African cement production remained centred at Daspoort until 1913, when the industry started to spread.

Fredman refers to the first South African use of a reinforced slab and beam construction at the Salt River Public School buildings in 1908 or

HOLLAND & VARDY'S

PRICE LIST.

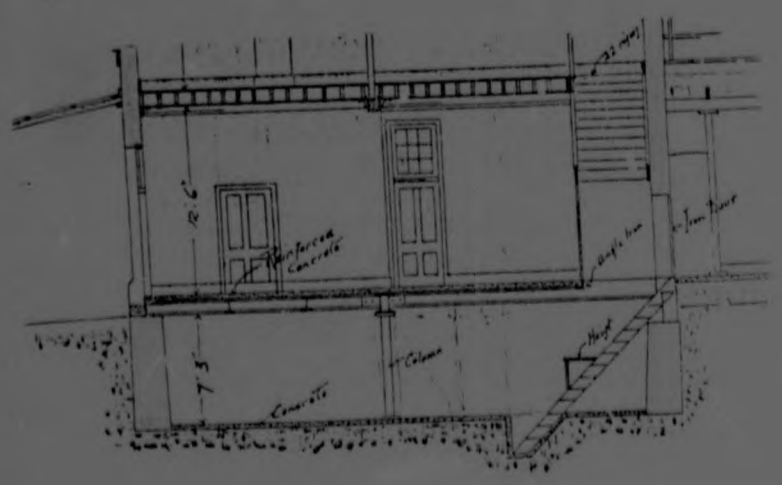
JULY, 1897.

P.O. BOX 20. Telegraphic Address -"AGENDO."

Holland and Vardy were a Port Elizabeth based firm of merchants and importers. This catalogue which is reproduced as Appendix B was found filed with correspondence about the 1907 extensions by the Beaconsfield Town Hall with amongst others the letter reproduced on Page 51.



Section from working drawings of D.F.A. building which still exists. The reinforced slab carried printing presses.



1909, however, before that time reinforced concrete had begun to appear in Kimberley. The earliest use appears to have been during 1886 in the Public Library Portico, and as the illustration opposite shows, (taken from a drawing dated 1906), reinforced concrete was then being used in association with steel joists in suspended floor construction. By the end of the First World War, reinforced beam and slab construction was being used in many buildings, the structural design having been supplied by Trussed Concrete Steel Co. (London).

In the Kenilworth model village, which by the turn of the century had been recognised as being on expansive clay, reinforced concrete foundations were used in the Church (St Edwards) in 1903. Railway lines were cast into the concrete strip foundations. The result was not successful. See illustration overleaf.

Portland cement does not appear to have been used at all in mortar mixes for internal use before 1914, and was only used to a limited extent for the external rendering of brick walls towards the end of the period of study. Surviving external plaster specimens dating back to the late 1880s, show no signs of portland cement and its earliest use in plaster appears to have been about 1913 (Kimberley Boys' High School).

Portland cement mortars were used for pointing the very earliest surviving examples of external facebrickwork, but not in any recorded cases between bricks. Mortar between bricks, like internal plaster, appears to have been entirely of local "red sand" (a fine windblown sand that originates in the Kalahari). According to building artisans who worked in Kimberley during the 1930s, red sand was obtained from different sources having greater or less clay content for use in plasters and mortars.

* R. Fredman, Structural concrete in South Africa. The South African Reinforced Concrete Engineers Association, 1964, Johannesburg.



Extract from working drawing for St Edwards at Kenilworth. In 1902 this represented one of the first uses of concrete strip foundations. The use of rails in the concrete proved to be of little value in resisting heaving clay.

Smooth cement or granolithic floors, usually tinted red, appear to have been used on external verandahs from about the mid-1880s. A surviving external ground floor verandah of 1889 does however have a suspended timber verandah, and there is no reason to believe it not to be original.

It is of some interest that despite the availability of lime in the area to the North of Kimberley, and very close to the early river diggings, there is no evidence of the use of lime mortars in building until well after the period of study.

Portland cement was advertised as being available in quantity in 1881, although no positive evidence of its use in Kimberley at this time has been encountered. It is, however, probable that it was at this time being used in association with mining works. One of the earliest uses of Portland cement in South Africa is claimed to be the reconstructed stonework of a wharf in Durban in 1859.*

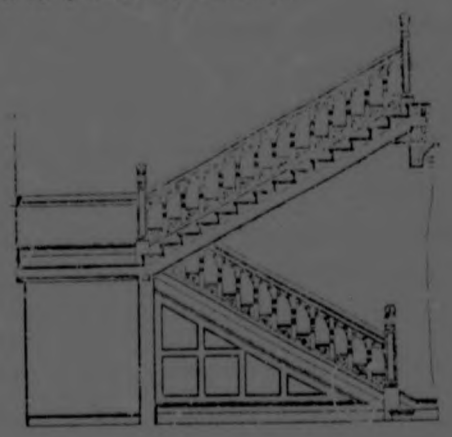
viii. JOINERY, DOORS AND WINDOWS:

Joinery work is known to have been undertaken in Kimberley from the early 1870s, and considering the size of the population, there was not surprisingly also a furniture manufacturing industry. Doors and windows were however mainly supplied by Port Elizabeth based merchants, who in turn appear to have imported the ready manufactured articles from overseas. Indeed, identical doors, windows, skirtings, architraves and picture rails to those to be found in Kimberley have been observed by the author in North London terrace housing of the 1880s. As these items are by no means unique to Kimberley, it has been decided not to consider them in any great detail. The Holland & Vardy catalogue reproduced as Appendix B on Page 197, describes the items concerned in detail.

Illustrated opposite and below are miscellaneous examples of the joinery capabilities of early Kimberley craftsmen.

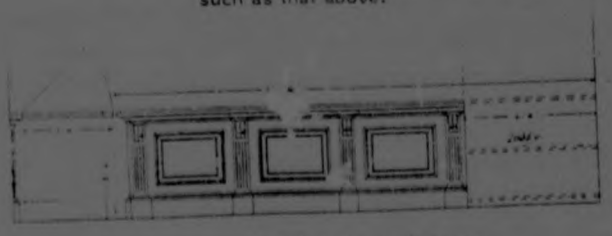


Panelled dado with woodgraining of about 1889 in the J.B. Curry House.



— SECTION ON LINE M.N. —

Detail drawn originally to a scale of ½" to 1'0" by R.S. Day for the Theatre Royal in 1887. Details such as this are rare and amongst the several hundred drawings of Day, Greatbatch, Ross and others still to be found in Kimberley, there exists only a handful of details such as that above.



Half Inch Detail of Counter

1911 Detail by Greatbatch for a Teak counter.



Ceiling of 1889 of timber mouldings planted on cloth drawn tightly over matchboarding in the J. B. Curry House.



Belgrave Hotel foyer ceiling of wood grained matchboarding with stencil decorated surround on cloth.

ix. CEILINGS:

The evolution of ceiling types is best illustrated in the situation revealed in the restoration of the J. B. Curry House which is know to have been built in 1889. A matchboard ceiling that was obviously original was initially covered with clear varnish. Thereafter this ceiling was painted in alternating stripes of light and dark blue. After the blue paint followed an embossed paper and thereafter a pressed metal ceiling, presumably in the early years of this century.

Pressed metal ceilings are often to be found fixed under matchboard ceilings and the situation in the J. B. Curry House is thus not exceptional.

Reports of early buildingsduring the Camp Phase refer to ceilings of canvas and calico, but none of these are known to survive.

A ceiling that made its appearance early on, during the consolidation phase of the eighties, was illustrated opposite - a flat surface with a pattern described in moulded timber sections. This type of ceiling was of cloth or paper over matchboarding with planted timber mouldings, and imitates the forms of fibrous plaster ceilings that had their origins in 12th Century England.

The most common ceiling, and that which covered the greatest span of time, was matchboarding described at the time as $\frac{1}{2}$" x 6" tongue and groove with double bead in merchants' catalogues. This is known to have been used from Kimberley's earliest days and was still in use at the outbreak of the First World War.

The most usual finish on matchboard ceilings was clear varnish, although in many cases the timber was first stained. In the case of Belgrave Hotel ceiling, illustrated opposite, wood graining and stencilwork were used. Examples are also to be found of matchboarding that was first primed with an opaque primer that obliterated knots and thereafter stained and varnished.



Ceiling of 1889 of timber mouldings planted on cloth drawn tightly over matchboarding in the J. B. Curry House.



Belgrave Hotel foyer ceiling of wood grained matchboarding with stencil decorated surround on cloth.

ix. CEILINGS:

The evolution of ceiling types is best illustrated in the situation revealed in the restoration of the J. B. Curry House which is know to have been built in 1889. A matchboard ceiling that was obviously original was initially covered with clear varnish. Thereafter this ceiling was painted in alternating stripes of light and dark blue. After the blue paint followed an embossed paper and thereafter a pressed metal ceiling, presumably in the early years of this century.

Pressed metal ceilings are often to be found fixed under matchboard ceilings and the situation in the J. B. Curry House is thus not exceptional.

Reports of early buildingsduring the Camp Phase refer to ceilings of canvas and calico, but none of these are known to survive.

A ceiling that made its appearance early on, during the consolidation phase of the eighties, is as illustrated opposite - a flat surface with a pattern described in moulded timber sections. This type of ceiling was of cloth or paper over matchboarding with planted timber mouldings, and imitates the forms of fibrous plaster ceilings that had their origins in 17th Century England.

The most common ceiling, and that which covered the greatest span of time, was matchboarding described at the time as ½" x 6" tongue and groove with double bead' in merchants' catalogues. This is known to have been used from Kimberley's earliest days and was still in use at the outbreak of the First World War.

The most usual finish on matchboard ceilings was clear varnish, although in many cases the timber was first stained. In the case of Belgrave Hotel ceiling, illustrated opposite, wood graining and stenciliwork were used. Examples are also to be found of matchboarding that was first primed with an opaque primer that obliterated knots and thereafter stained and varnished.

* Robert Boyle, A Sanitary Crusade through South Africa - Robert Boyle and Son, Glasgow - Kimberley Public Library.



The "Boyles" ventilator was the most widely used. This Advertisement appeared in "Academy Architecture" of 1893.

FOR THE HOT WEATHER.
WILLIAM EMMS
REVOLVING VENTILATORS
Douche, Fitz, and Slipper BATHS made TO ORDER AND FITTED.
BEAN ST., opposite Crossman Rd.

Advertisement that appeared in the Wasp of 6.11.88. indicating that ventilators were then being manufactured in Kimberley.

x. VENTILATION DEVICES:

Kimberley has an extreme climate. Summer temperatures reach and exceed 40°C, while winter nighttime temperatures regularly drop below freezing point. Both summer and winter conditions are characterised by daily temperature extremes, and both Summer nights and Winter days could drop and rise respectively to about 20°C.

This generalisation in respect of Kimberley's temperatures is important in that it illustrates a natural situation that can be exploited in order to make the climate within buildings more bearable that the climate without. It is a situation that is in fact typical to a greater or lesser extent of most of South Africa's "hot" areas in the interior. Designers of today attempt to capture within their buildings the coolness of summer nights and the warmth of winter days. The devices used to achieve this end are extremely simple - sun penetration is encouraged in the cold winter months and discouraged during the warm summer months by the design and orientation of window openings. Hot or cool conditions are then maintained by insulating buildings to prevent the ingress or egress of heat.

These simple principles were largely ignored by Kimberley's early Architects, who chose instead to pin their faith on ventilation devices that often actually decreased rather than increased the conditions of comfort within the buildings they served. Possibly the power of advertising had much to do with this situation. See advertisement opposite of 1893 for the Boyles patent airpump ventilator. In 1891 in 'A Sanitary Crusade through South Africa", published by Robert Boyle and Son, Glasgow, we read:-

> "Though the majority of the houses are more corrugated iron huts, there are a number of handsome public buildings in Kimberley, notably the High Court House, new

* Discussion with Author, July, 1983.

Government Buildings, new Stock Exchange, Kimberley Club, and the Diamond Fields Club, all of which are ventilated with the air-pump ventilators, also several of the principal business premises and offices connected with the mines.

Mr Sydney Stent, F.R.I.B.A., furnishes the following report respecting the success of Mr Boyle's system of ventilation in Kimberley: "I am perfectly willing to bear testimony to the efficiency of your air pump ventilators. I have used them here in Kimberley, and in many other towns in the Colony, with the greatest satisfaction. I prefer them before any other kind I know of, and shall continue to specify them. The Kimberley Club is one of the many buildings of importance where I have used them and where they have proved most successful".



Various roof ventilators

The variety of ventilators used during the 80s and 90s was fairly extensive, as can be seen from illustrations opposite.

Roof ventilators were connected by means of flues to ceiling grids, and from observation of several that still exist effectively exhaust air from the space they serve. Unfortunately, the air so exhausted is replaced by external air drawn in through door, window and airbrick openings. The air drawn in can in summer be considerably hotter than, and in winter considerably colder than the air it is replacing. See Page 116 for section showing flues in roof space.

There was clearly no generally accepted view held on the efficacy of roof ventilators. They are absent on the vast majority of surviving houses of the period of this study, and indeed the advertisement of William Emms on the previous page only suggests their use for "heated churches, offices and rooms", the latter presumably referring to professional suites. According to Dr D. Padford, Victorian ventilation systems were as much the product of an obsession with air movement as of a desire to modify climate, and the desire to move air was clearly greater in public buildings other than houses.*



Eaves detail from Beaconsfield Methodist Church. Open eaves were also common in houses for the ventilation of roof spaces and contribute greatly to conditions of discomfort.

A description of a public building ventilation system is given on Page 76 in respect of the 1903 supper room addition to the City Hall. The sys-



The ventilator on the ridge is connected by means of a duct to the classroom below. The louvre provides ventilation to the roof space. Kimberley Undenominational School.



Terracotta sundial outside Kimberley Public Library as manufactured by Church & McLauchlin.

tem described with wall ducts and adjustable inlets for incoming air was widely used in churches.

Roof ventilation was universally accepted as being necessary. Various types of vents appear in gable walls, and eaves were as a rule open, being protected only be some form of mesh aimed at keeping out birds and vermin. Ventilated roof spaces may help marginally with the evacuation of hot air in summer, but are a distinct disadvantage in winter, when they allow the ingress of cold air, and the only barrier between the building's inhabitants and the cold outside air is a thin and not very airtight ceiling.

xi. TERRACOTTA WORK:

Brickmaking in Kimberley did not rise to any great heights before the turn of the century. Bricks made during this period weathered badly, and where used externally, have in most cases had to be plastered to prevent their total deterioration. It is known that other clay products such as pipes and channels were manufactured in Kimberley before the turn of the century, but none have been positively identified at this stage.

By 1904, however, the firm of Church & McLauchlin were manufacturing terracotta products of a wide variety of types for which they won a gold medal at the Cape Town International Exhibition of that year. These products, together with their excellent facebricks, were produced at the firm's Ronaldsvlei works (on the Southern outskirts of Kimberley).

The tiles, architectural ornaments and ventilators produced by Church & McLauchlin were not in any way innovative. This type of work had been executed in Britain for centuries, and had, by the early 20th century lost much of its former popularity. What was significant about the Kimberley

product was the high quality of the work and the opportunities that it afforded Kimberley's architects of the "Mature Phase" particularly in the construction of churches.

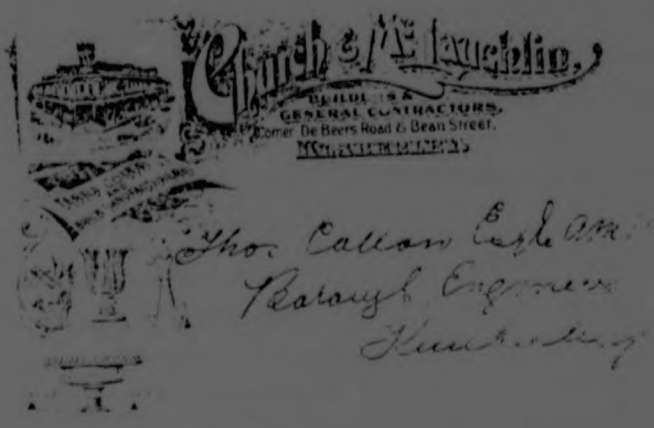
Examples of terracotta work by Church & McLauchlin are illustrated opposite and below.

Regrettably, the supply of these products, particularly the bricks, terminated before the First World War, although Church & McLauchlin survived as a firm for very much longer.



Letterhead of Church & McLauchlin on which is illustrated examples their range of special bricks. The photograph below shows special bricks in a portico at the J.B. Curry House.





Church & McLauchlin envelope showing part of their range of terracotta products.



Faience Corinthian columns supporting the Portico of the Masonic Temple.



Ornamental plasterwork on the front elevation of the Old McGregor Museum.

xii. FAIENCE WORK AND ORNAMENTAL PLASTERWORK:

These two crafts have in common a degree of similarity in the appearance of the finished product. Faience work is a prefabricated fired ceramic product, while plasterwork is essentially an in situ craft using a cement based plaster. Cast elements, such as the capitals shown opposite, are also used in plasterwork.

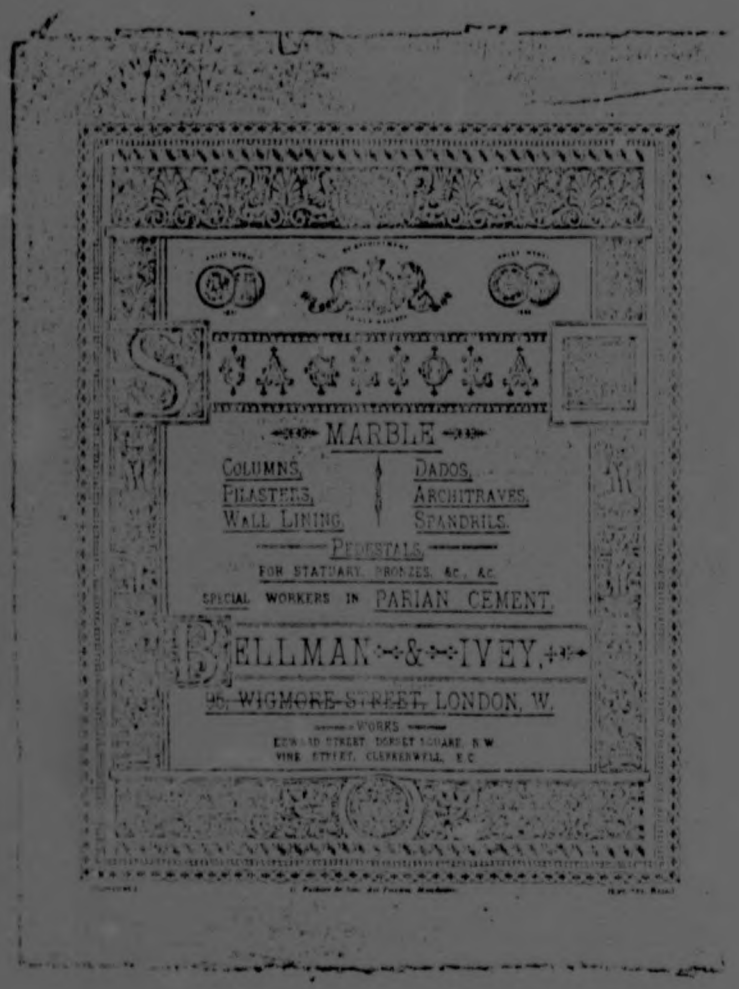
During the 19th century, Faience work in Britain, Europe and America reached a high level of sophistication. Architectural ornamentation was manufactured in a wide range of highly detailed components and even statuary was available. Highly popular reclining figures could be purchased as a kit of easily transportable parts, so precisely manufactured that when assembled, the joints were hardly visible.

Faience work was not particularly popular in early Kimberley, presumably on account of its high cost. An excellent example of the use of this material is however to be found in the Masonic Temple's Corinthian portico columns illustrated in the photo opposite. The source of these columns is to be found in the pamphlet (found with the original drawings for the building) illustrated overleaf.

Ornamental plasterwork was a more popular, if less enduring craft, of which several specimens remain. The only identifiable exponent of this work was one Bociarelli, and a surviving example of his work is illustrated opposite (The Old McGregor Museum).

The Kimberley City Hall has much external ornamental plasterwork, which, although possibly inappropriate, was competently executed, as was the plasterwork on the exterior of the McGregor Museum.

* Personal contact with author, September 1982.



Scagliola pamphlet found with drawings for the Masonic Temple in the collection of Goldblatt, Yuill & Partners.

xiii. SCAGLIOLA:

Scagliola, or the art of decorating a surface to imitate marble, derives its name from the use of small pieces (scagliole) of marble being applied to a surface. The art is thought to have had its origins in 16th century Italy, although similar processes are known to have been used throughout the world since ancient Egyptian times.

Earliest use in Britain of Scagliola was in about the mid-18th century, and during about the 1830's, Scagliola in Britain came to be regarded as a lost art according to Dr D. Lindstrom, of York University.* A modern version of Scagliola is presently being practised in the United States by the likes of Michael Graves, who makes wide use of what he refers to as marbeling in the interior decoration of his buildings.

Scagliola is often very difficult to distinguish from real marble, and is often only given away by the lack of joints in a Scagliola surface or the improbability of the grain and pattern of some examples. Scagliola can be applied to any sound surface including timber and slate, on which it is most commonly to be found on fireplace surrounds in Kimberley. There is an example of in work in the Memorial Road Synagogue, however, it is in fireplace surrounds that some extremely fine examples of overripe turn-of-the-century decoration are to be found. Examples of these surrounds, together with brightly coloured ceramic tiles abound in Kimberley.

Scagliola fireplace surrounds do not seem to have been used before the late 1890's, or after the end of this period of study. It is assumed that the surrounds were imported together with the cast iron fireplaces with which they are to be found.

* Background information from Hans van Lemmer, Tiles - A Collectors Guide, Souvenir Press, London, 1979.



1897 Encaustic tiles in Entrance Lobby of Belgrave Hotel using plain and inlaid tiles in this magnificent mosaic floor.



Du Toitspan Road shop ingo of about 1893.

xiv. CERAMIC AND ENCAUSTIC TILES:

Most Victorian tiles were of the dust pressed type, easily recognisable by the ars of squares pressed into their backs. Betwwen 1840 and 1873 these were made in hand presses, but after 1873 steam presses came into use and tiles were manufactured on a massive scale. The most common size of Victorian tiles was 150mm x 150mm.

Patterns on tiles were produced by a variety of methods of which transfer printing was the most widely used.

The most common situation in which tiles are found is, flanking fireplaces, in flooring in front of fireplaces, and on entrance hall floors. the latter being of the mosaic encaustic type and unglazed. Examples of tiles are illustrated opposite and overleaf. Unglazed tiles are also to be found in the ingo's to shops and here special designs were often made incorporating the name of the business concerned. Tiles were also to be found in conjunction with shopfronts, particularly on stall-risers.

Tiles were not commonly used on bathroom walls during the period of study, and a rare example of wall tiling to an internal wall was in the embalming room of a popular turn-of-the-century undertaker, which on account of the decline in the popularity of this practice, today serves as a tea kitchen.

Encaustic tiles as illustrated opposite were of either British or American origin. Glazed tiles as illustrated overleaf were most probably from such famous British manufacturers as the firm of Minton of Stoke on Trent and Maw & Co., of Ironbridge, both in Britain.



Transfer printed tile with classical theme.



Tile pattern either applied by stencil or silkscreen.



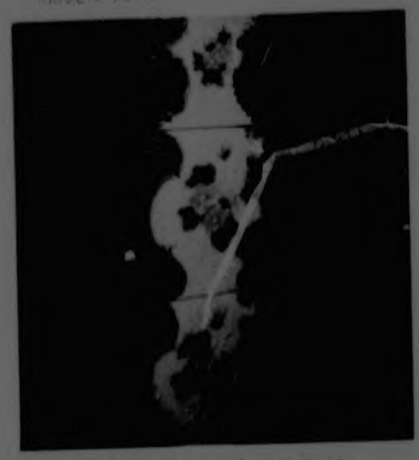
Plain tiles flanked by patterned tiles with pseudo mosaic pattern.



Transfer printed design



Transfer printed floral design



Stylized tiles with design in relief.

* Grahamstown Journal, June 2nd, 1849.
Albany Museum, Grahamstown.

** Everyman his own Mechanic: A complete guide for amateurs, Francis Young, Ward Lock & Co., London, 1903. Property of Marian Robertson.

*** Daily Independent, 14 Nov. 1885, Kimberley Public Library - "whitewash roof craze damaging to the eyes".

**** Diamond Fields Express, 11.11.1885. Kimberley Public Library.



This single photograph taken in the entrance hall of The Bungalow (Rudd House) illustrates several of the excesses of late 1880's Kimberley decorating including door and architrave mouldings picked out in different colours, multi-coloured skirtings and striped cloth dado.

xv. PAINTING AND DECORATING:

The turn-of-the-century painter and decorator appears to have been far more of a technician than his modern day counterpart. Patent ready-mixed paints were not common and most paint was prepared by the painter from basic ingredients as are listed in the Holland and Vardy catalogue of 1897 reproduced in Appendix E on Page 197. These ingredients are much the same as those listed in an advertisement that appeared in the Grahamstown Journal of June 2nd, 1849, and it can be assumed that the painter and decorator's craft was a well established one.

There were two basic types of painting, i.e. distempering and painting in oils. The former included limewashing and painting with any preparation mixed with size. Oils, as the name suggests, were paints in which the colouring matter was mixed with oil or turpentine.

Distemper was generally applied to plaster only and tended to be used in the cheaper work, while quality work and the painting of timber surfaces was generally done in oils.

An idea of the turn-of-the-century painting practice is to be gained from "Every Man his own Mechanic - A complete guide for amateurs", published in 1903. Using this as a source of reference, together with the remains of turn-of-the-century paintwork and the contents of the Holland and Vardy catalogue, some broad conclusions can be drawn in respect of different types of work:-

Corrugated Iron:

Many old roofs bear evidence of having been limewashed, which no doubt helped render building interiors cooler than they may otherwise have been. An extravagantly worded newspaper advertisement of 1885 claimed that "Robinson's anti-calloric as used by the South Australian Government reduces heat by $\pm 30^{\circ}$, will last for years and costs little more than limewash". There is however no evidence of this product enjoying great popularity.



External doorframe at the J. B. Curry House indicates that the scraped surface was first stained a dark brown colour which seems to have been the standard treatment for exterior softwood application. Thereafter a white undercoat followed by green paint was applied presumably in the early years of this century. The original stain was applied in 1889.

External Woodwork:

Oil based paints were used on fascias, bargeboards, verandahs and timber ornamentation. The popular colours appear to have been white and dark brown, but colour will always be problematical where it has to be gauged from black and white photos. Windows and doors (softwood) tended to be stained and varnished in a manner that has proved to be most enduring. This treatment penetrated the wood and offered a great deal of protection from the elements. Many of these old doors and windows have only failed as a result of shrinkage and the entry of water through joints opened by shrinkage. There are still many examples of windows and verandah doors that retain their original finish, and no colours other than brown and white are known to have been used. Certainly, there was no shortage of pigments for a variety of colours, but it is assumed that then, as today, many of these colours were not very successful under prolonged exposure to sunlight. It is very probable that green, which had long been used at the Cape, was also used in early Kimberley, but to date there is no evidence to support this.

Internal Woodwork:

Very little hardwood was used in early Kimberley, with the exception of Teak used in better class front doors, fireplace surrounds and overmantles. Teak used in these circumstances was generally oiled. Softwood was widely used in architraves, skirtings, picture rails, doors, windows and matchboard ceiling and wall cladding. Softwood was generally not required to express itself as natural wood with the exception of some ceilings that were stained and varnished and show the knots and grain of the wood. More often wood was either oil painted or undercoated with a pigmented preparation of wood colour and then varnished. This produced a woodlike appearance without the underlying knots and imperfections. A great deal more colour was to be found on internal wood-

* From "Five Thousand Receipts in all the Useful and Domestic Arts constituting a complete and universal Practical Library and Operative Cyclopaedia" by Colin Mackenzie. Fifth Edition. London. 1825. Property of Marian Robertson.

work than was popular externally, and it was common to pick out mouldings on architraves in varying colours. (See Page 38).

Woodgraining was popular and was achieved as follows:-

"The painting of common wood to imitate any more expensive wood, such as oak, mahogany or maple, is called graining. To do this the colour for the ground which is some light colour, generally yellow, is first laid on and allowed to dry. A coat of dark rather slow-drying paint is laid upon the light ground and while this is wet the surface is diversified by drawing combs of leather or metal and graining brushes over it. These combs and brushes take off some of the dark coloured paint and expose the light ground colour. An example of wood graining is illustrated opposite.



Wood graining ranges from extremely skillful grain imitations as in the above example in the J. B. Curry House, to less convincing, but nevertheless very decorative work as on the Belgrave Hotel ceiling on Page 30.

Floors:

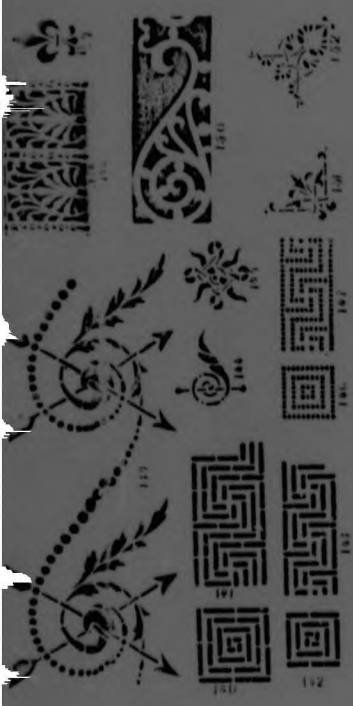
Turn-of-the-century softwood floors are invariably black or dark brown when encountered today. Up to a century of polish of varying types contributes to this condition, but some type of stain was obviously used initially. Although no written source of information has been located, elderly workmen talk of stains composed of tea, potash, and in more recent years, ground gramaphone records.

Walls:

In domestic work walls to picture rail height were generally oil-painted with distemper above. In offices an oil-painted dado appears to have terminated about one metre above the floor with a chair rail or a thin black stripe, separating the dark dado colour from a lighter colour above.

Decorative Devices:

Stencil work as illustrated overleaf, was widely used both in detail work on joinery items and ceilings, and on a larger scale on walls.



CUT STENCILS

PRICE LIST.

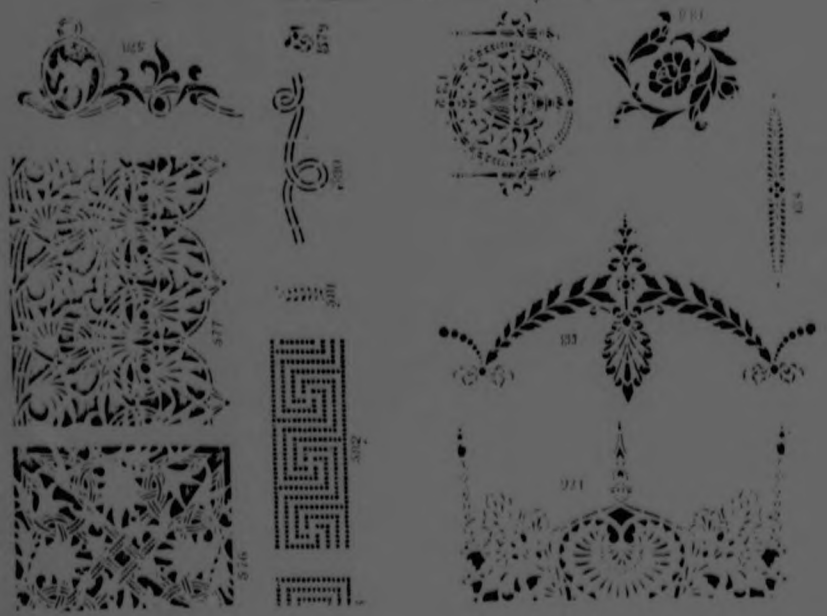
Designs Furnished to Decorators.

We also furnish designs for competent decorators who may use in decorating buildings with Alabastine. These we furnish at cost. Where such designs, or suggestions in the combinations, for any building or room are asked for, we should also have a description of the room, the purpose for which it is used, the kind of wood work, also general colors in carpets, furniture, etc., if possible, and if to be decorated, we should know about how much money is to be spent for the job.

Decorators' Tint Card.

DECORATORS should send for our Decorators' Tint Card, containing forty beautiful shades, only three of which are sold (A., B. and 3½). From these three tints the decorator produces all shades, rules for making thirty-seven of them being given on the circular, which circular is furnished to decorators only. We also furnish a book of tint sheets (the forty tints) 1½ x 3 inches.

ALABASTINE CO.,
M. B. CHURCH, Mgr.
GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.



Illustrated opposite is a pamphlet for stencils of American origin from D. W. Greatbatch's office.

Wood panelling to walls underwent an interesting process of development. Traces have been found of wood panelling painted on to a wall surface complete with shadows in the foyer of what was then the Kimberley Central Diamond Mining Company Limited (Now De Beers Consolidated Mines). This painted imitation of panelling dates to 1887. Real panelling in the form of softwood with artificial wood graining appeared in 1889 in the J. B. Curry House, and is illustrated on Page 29.

Painted decoration found on the toilet wall of the J. B. Curry House is illustrated opposite. This work was found beneath wallpaper that was, until the restoration work started, thought to be original.

Wallpaper:

A wide variety of imported wallpapers were available, and those used reflected what was popular in both Europe and America. As none of these appear to be in any way unique to Kimberley (other than perhaps in the boldness of the designs that predominate), no examples will be illustrated. It is perhaps significant that picture rails were, as far as can be determined, seldom used on wallpapered walls. Wallpaper appeared to fall out of favour when pressed metal ceilings were introduced. Many of the wallpaper designs used in early Kimberley are to be found in manufacturers' catalogues of today. Much evidence of how and where these designs were used is to be found in the photographic collections housed in Kimberley museums and libraries.

General:

Before the turn of the century, dark colours and bold patterns predominated. In the early years of this century lighter and less extravagant colours became the norm.



Painted mural decoration appears to have been popular before the turn of the century and no post-1900 examples are known to exist. The example above was painted as a dado to about 1 metre above floor level. At a later stage, probably after the turn of the century, the painted wall was covered with an embossed paper of a type commonly used on ceilings of which the remains can be seen.

illustrated opposite is a pamphlet for stencils of American origin from D. W. Greatbatch's office.

Wood panelling to walls underwent an interesting process of development. Traces have been found of wood panelling painted on to a wall surface complete with shadows in the foyer of what was then the Kimberley Central Diamond Mining Company Limited (Now De Beers Consolidated Mines). This painted imitation of panelling dates to 1887. Real panelling in the form of softwood with artificial wood graining appeared in 1889 in the J. B. Curry House, and is illustrated on Page 29.

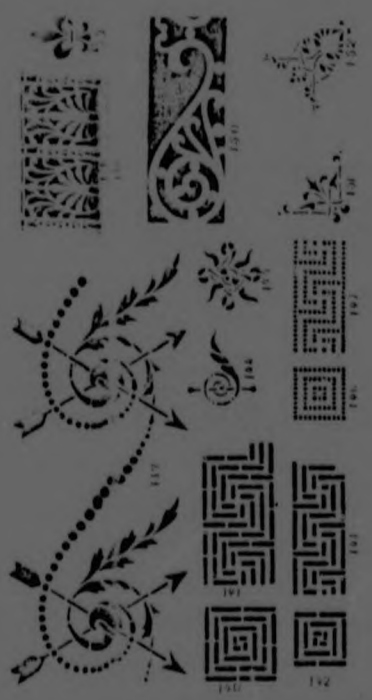
Painted decoration found on the toilet wall of the J. B. Curry House is illustrated opposite. This work was found beneath wallpaper that was, until the restoration work started, thought to be original.

Wallpaper:

A wide variety of imported wallpapers were available, and those used reflected what was popular in both Europe and America. As none of these appear to be in any way unique to Kimberley (other than perhaps in the boldness of the designs that predominate), no examples will be illustrated. It is perhaps significant that picture rails were, as far as can be determined, seldom used on wallpapered walls. Wallpaper appeared to fall out of favour when pressed metal ceilings were introduced. Many of the wallpaper designs used in early Kimberley are to be found in manufacturers' catalogues of today. Much evidence of how and where these designs were used is to be found in the photographic collections housed in Kimberley museums and libraries.

General:

Before the turn of the century, dark colours and bold patterns predominated. In the early years of this century lighter and less extravagant colours became the norm.



CUT STENCILS

PRICE LIST.

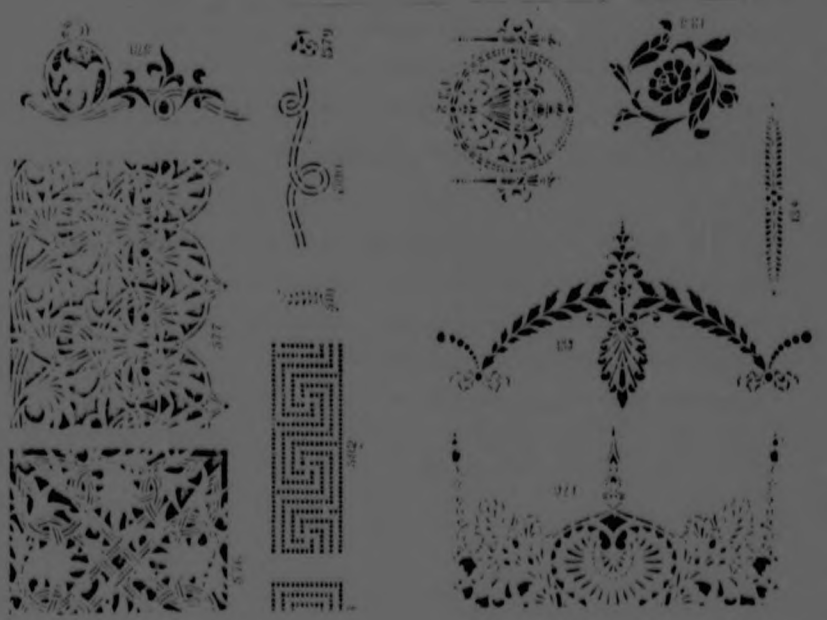
Designs Furnished to Decorators.

We also furnish designs for competent decorators only, for use in decorating buildings with Alabastine. These we furnish at cost. Where such designs, or suggestions to find combinations, for any building or room are asked for, we should also have a description of the room, the purpose for which it is used, the kind of wood work, also general colors of carpets, furniture, etc., if possible, and if to be decorated, we should know about how much money is to be spent for the job.

Decorators' Tint Card.

Decorators should send for our Decorators' Tint Card, containing forty beautiful shades, only three of which are sold (X, B, and 31). From these three three the decorator produces all shades; rules for making forty-seven of them being given on the circular, which circular is furnished to decorators only. We also furnish a book of tint sheets (the forty tints) 11⅛ x 8 inches.

ALABASTINE CO.,
M. B. CHURCH, Mgr.,
GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.





Main Road, Beaconsfield:- 1900-1914



Park Road. Probably originally facebrick-work. 1890 - 1900

xvi. BOUNDARY WALLS AND FENCES:

Kimberley was very much a town of selfmade men, and selfmade men have never been noted for their modesty. The front wall of larger houses was therefore invariably of such a nature that the house could be clearly viewed. Although flippant and an oversimplification of the situation, this proposition is unquestionably true. It is suspected that Kimberley's turn-of-the-century houses were designed to be looked at primarily and to be lived in secondarily.

Very much the same type of wall was to be found at the front of more modest houses, for the added reason that the fronts of these houses had a strong relationship with the streets onto which they fronted. In many of the small houses in suburban situations one observes even today, conversations between parties seated on front verandahs on opposite sides of the street or between street and verandah, and anything but a low verandah wall would be obstructive to such social contact.

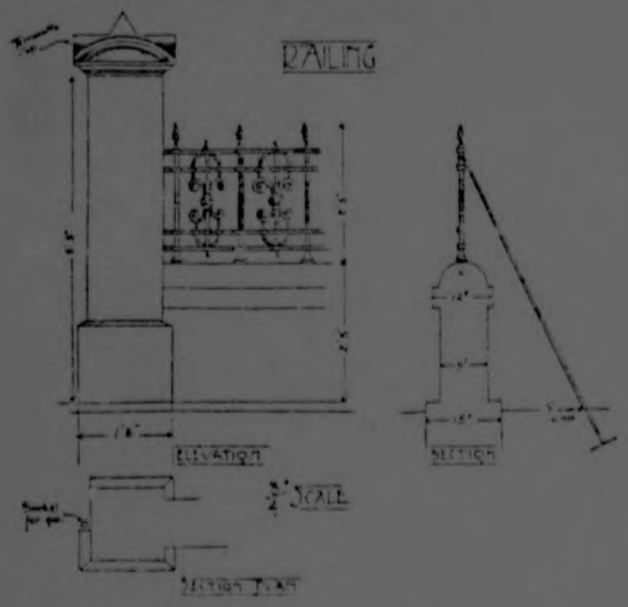
Early suburban layouts included sanitary lanes which for obvious reasons had to be screened from view. Here, and in the case of side boundaries, corrugated iron was used, typically to a height of about 1,8 m.

Illustrated opposite are a variety of front walls and gates that still survive in Kimberley.

The pattern and colours of woodwork to fences often reflected that of the verandah, although cast iron work to fences was fairly common in association with wooden verandahs. The woodwork was generally over a brick sub-wall, although corrugated iron was used in more modestly priced houses for the subwall with simple timberwork in light sections above.



Cast iron palings over Church and McLauchlin brick wall of 1911. See original drawing below from Goldblatt, Yuill & Partners Collection.

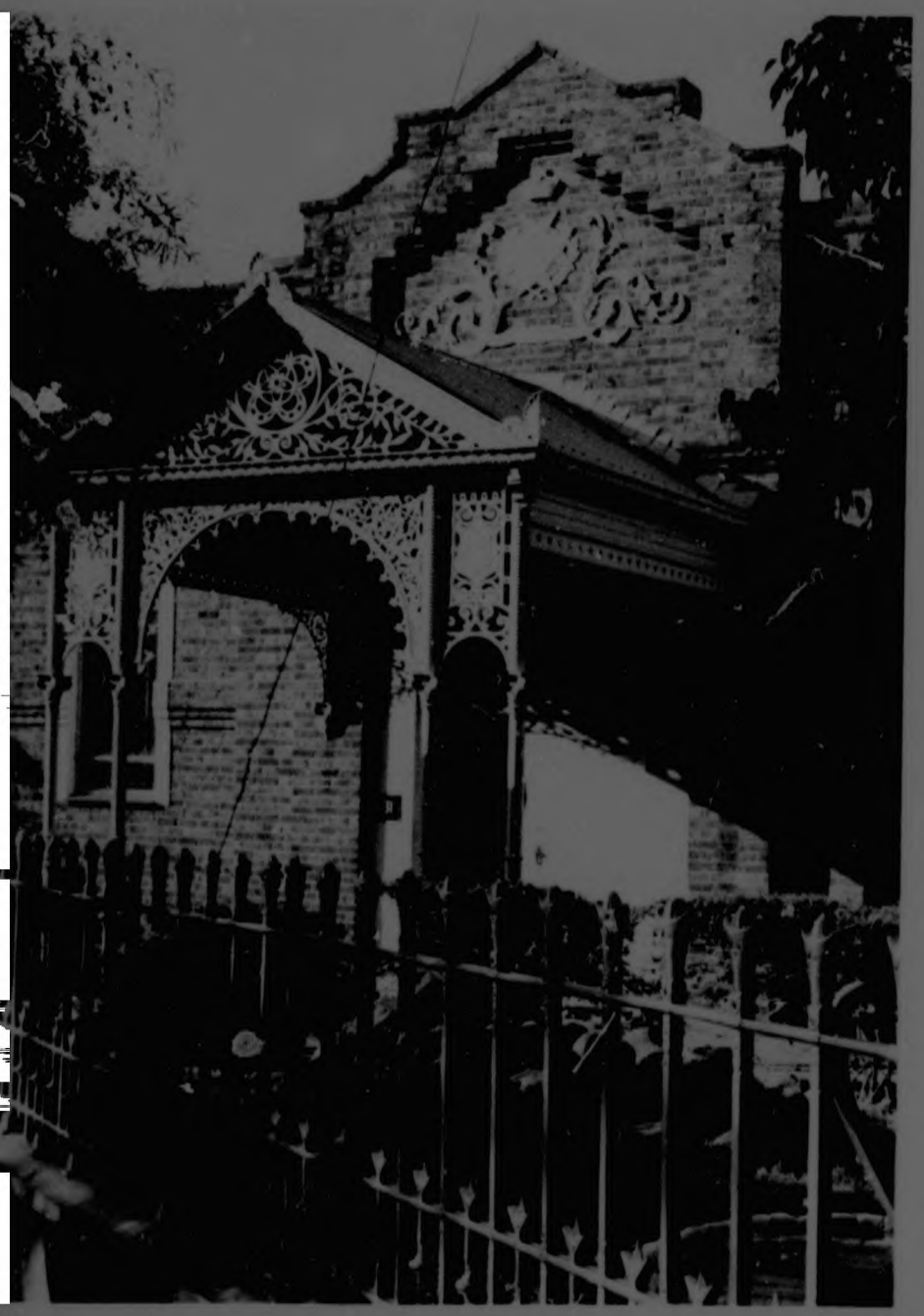




Front wall and gate at Dunluce built in 1897.



Wall in Belgravia with Church and McLauchlin terracotta capping built about 1905.



xvii. CAST IRON:

Cast iron work in verandahs, fire places and verandah decoration was in evidence in South Africa during the first half of the 19th century. It was however only after the arrival of the railway in 1885 that this material was used to any extent in Kimberley.

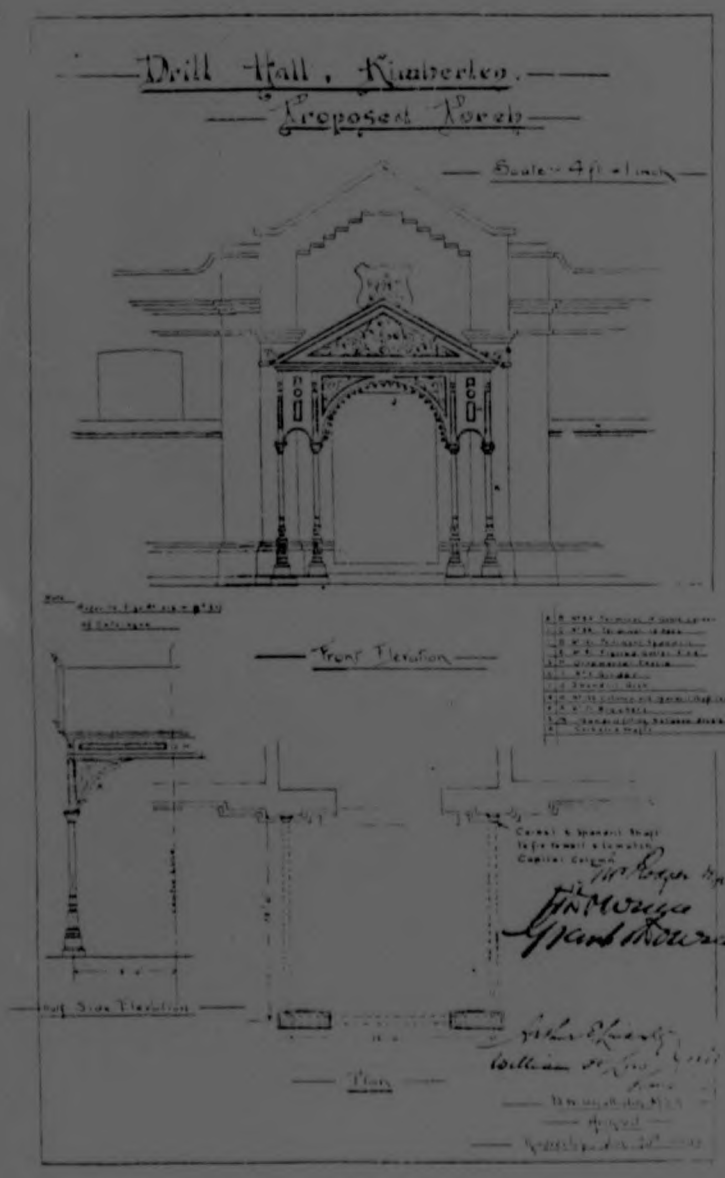
The largest architectural practice in Kimberley of the post-1885 period (that of D. W. Greatbatch) seems to have had little use for cast iron work. Greatbatch is not known ot have ever used cast iron in domestic work(even in front fences) and used the material only sparingly in his commercial buildings. Greatbatch's only use of cast iron on any scale appears to have been in the Kimberley Regimental Portico illustrated opposite. This drawing quotes numbers from the McFarlanes catalogue, two copies of which survive in the McGregor Museum.

Cast iron columns were popular in shops where a minimum of obstruction was required to floor space.

Generally, cast iron was not widely used in Kimberley, and the reason was probably as follows:-

By the time the Railway reached Kimberley in 1885 and made cast iron easily transportable, Kimberley was in a state of economic depression and when it emerged from this depression, it was a slowmoving and not overly prosperous town. There were cheaper alternatives to cast iron and under the prevailing economic circumstances these tended to be used.

The house "Violet Bank" in Park Road, and dating to about the turn-of-the-century, is a veritable iron merchant's dream, and not in any way typical of the houses of its time in Kimberley.



xvii. CAST IRON:

Cast iron work in verandahs, fire places and verandah decoration was in evidence in South Africa during the first half of the 19th century. It was however only after the arrival of the railway in 1885 that this material was used to any extent in Kimberley.

The largest architectural practice in Kimberley of the post-1885 period (that of D. W. Greatbatch) seems to have had little use for cast iron work. Greatbatch is not known ot have ever used cast iron in domestic work(even in front fences) and used the material only sparingly in his commercial buildings. Greatbatch's only use of cast iron on any scale appears to have been in the Kimberley Regimental Portico illustrated opposite. This drawing quotes numbers from the McFarlanes catalogue, two copies of which survive in the McGregor Museum.

Cast iron columns were popular in shops where a minimum of obstruction was required to floor space.

Generally, cast iron was not widely used in Kimberley, and the reason was probably as follows:-
By the time the Railway reached Kimberley in 1885 and made cast iron easily transportable, Kimberley was in a state of economic depression and when it emerged from this depression, it was a slowmoving and not overly prosperous town. There were cheaper alternatives to cast iron and under the prevailing economic circumstances these tended to be used.

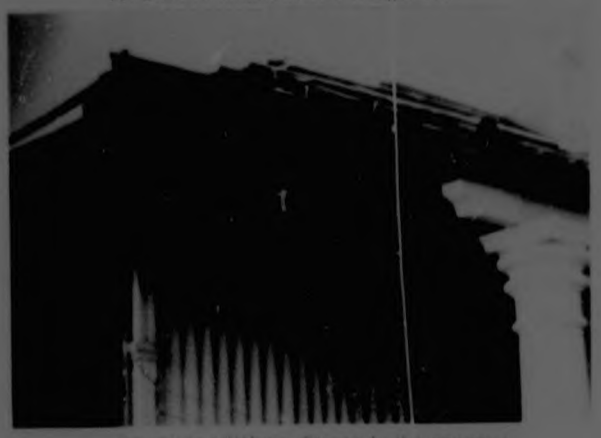
The house "Violet Bank" in Park Road, and dating to about the turn-of-the-century, is a veritable iron merchant's dream, but not in any way typical of the houses of its time in Kimberley.

* (** Kearny, E. Architecture in Natal from 1824 to 1893, A. A. Balkema, Cape Town, 1973.

***Radford, D. Architecture of the Western Cape, Ph.D. Dissertation, University of the Witwatersrand.



Camp Phase : Verandah added to prefabricated wooden house of the early 1870's. This house in its 'restored" version is illustrated on Page 20.



House in Villiers Street in the process of demolition in 1962. Note the concrete verandah column and the remains of an old timber column against the building.

xviii. VERANDAHS AND ORNAMENTAL WOODWORK:

Lewcock traces the origins of the verandah to mediaeval Portuyal and comments on its popularity in the North American Colonies during the 18th Century and subsequently in the fashionable architecture of Britain and the Continent. He describes South Africa's first "verandah house" as Lord Charles Somerset's Newlands of 1819.*

By mid-century verandahs in Cape Town were appearing in a variety of situations, and with the development of the Diamond Fields in the 1870s, the verandah was an established element of Architecture in South Africa. During the first half of the 19th century, verandahs were undergoing a parallel development in Natal, and Kearney illustrates various verandah forms that existed in Natal by the mid-1880s.**

Reasons offered for the use of verandahs in South Africa vary. Kearney puts forward three major reasons for their use in Colonial Natal, namely:- (1) The provision of shady semi-outdoor spaces related to the house; (2) Protection of the outer walls from the sun; (3) Fashion. Radford describes the verandah in Western Cape domestic architecture as "the prime climate modifying element", and attributes various intentions to the designers of verandahs citing verandah width as the clue to these intentions.***

The Kimberley verandah of the "Camp Phase" as described on Page 12 and illustrated opposite may have existed for reasons other than fashion, but with the culmination of verandah design during the "Mature Phase", fashion must have been the prime motivator of verandah designers. There are two major reasons for making this supposition.

Firstly, given the materials used in early Kimberley, the extent to which a verandah can usefully modify climate is decidedly limited. As a device



Extract from original drawing in possession of McGregor Museum, showing original timberwork.



Extract from drawing for alterations dated 1911 showing concrete columns supporting the extended verandah. Drawing in possession of McGregor Museum.

for keeping the sun off mudbrick insulated external walls and thus keeping the interior cool, the verandah is irrelevant when the heat gain through an invariably uninsulated corrugated iron roof is considered.

Secondly, the extent to which the verandah was celebrated and ornamented up to about 1914, and thereafter summarily discarded, sems to verify that by this time it was regarded purely as an object of fashion, and was cast aside as such.

Verandah posts were, until about 1905, of timber, typically small in section and spaced at close centres. The lightness of Kimberley's early verandahs was no doubt influenced by the cost of timber and the fact that for a given sum of money more could be obtained if light sections were used.

After 1905 precast concrete columns began to make their appearance and for this there are several reasons:-

1. Over 30 years of experience of Kimberley's climate proved that it was hostile to timber.
2. Edwardian fashion was sympathetic to the heavier expression of the concrete columns.
3. Concrete proved the equal of Kimberley's climate.

The drawing opposite shows the Hotel Belgrave as built with wooden verandah posts in 1897, and concrete in their place in 1911. In literally hundreds of surviving turn-of-the-century houses that today have either brick or concrete verandah columns, there is evidence of their earlier timber columns as in the photograph of the previous page. There is also an example of a house in which the original timber work on the South Elevation (which is least vulnerable) remains while concrete columns have been used elsewhere to replace timber work that had deteriorated.



10 Lodge Road

While verandahs and front fences were important situations for ornamental woodwork, gables were almost as important. Illustrated opposite and below are examples of surviving verandahs and gables.

Verandah architecture in both houses and hotels was, as has already been stated, the norm until very near to the end of the period of this study, and it was only in buildings such as the Hospital, Nurses' Home and the Cape Dutch revival Boys High that the verandah was reluctantly abandoned.

The verandah was therefore the essential element of most of Kimberley's pre-1914 architecture, and only at the end of the period of this study did designers begin to question its validity.

22 Carrington Road



Lodge Road



CHAPTER 3.

SURVEY OF SELECTED SURVIVING BUILDINGS OF THE PRE-1914 ERA:

CRITERIA FOR INCLUSION:

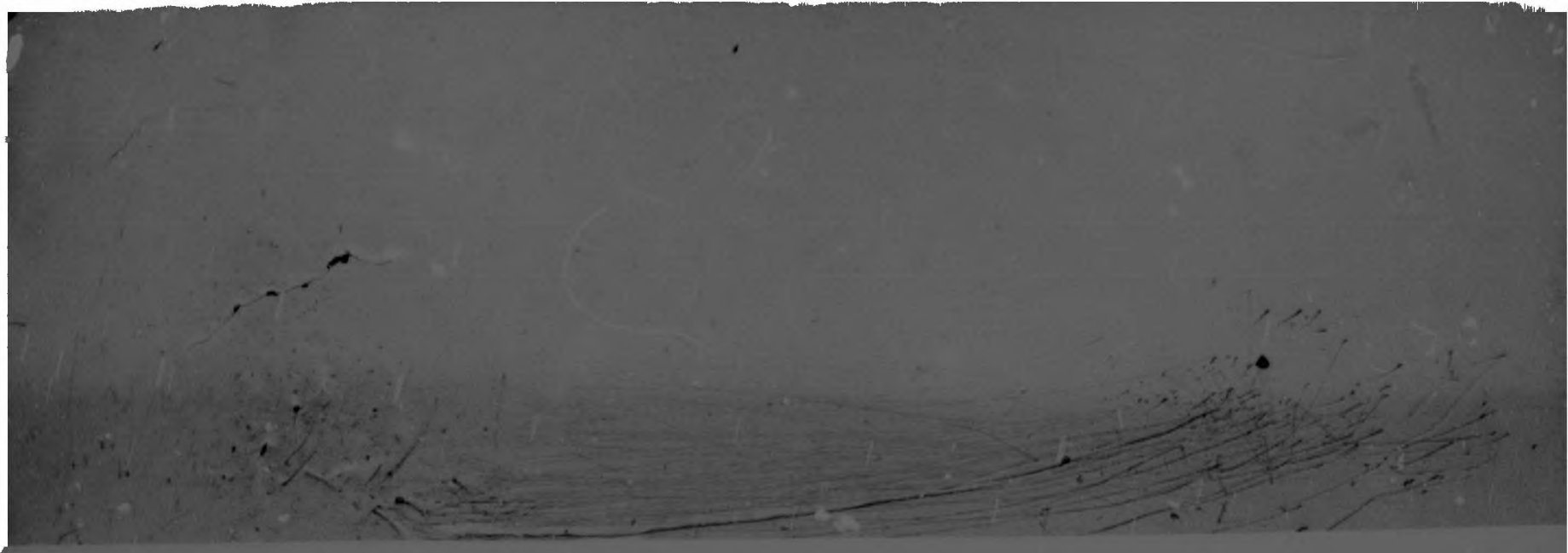
Buildings included in this list have not been chosen for any Architectural merit they may possess, nor have they been chosen for any contribution they may make to their environment.

As this study is essentially aimed at recording Architectural History, the typical is of more interest than the exceptional. Selection has therefore been made simply in terms of the extent to which the buildings concerned may be considered typical and recognisable of the pre-1914 era or to at least have typical or recognisable characteristics.

The basis for selection has of necessity been flexible. It has not been deemed necessary to include the several hundred extensively altered or poorly preserved buildings of the era, where their characteristics are apparent in better preserved examples. It has however been necessary to include certain of the poorly preserved examples where these have qualities that are unique, or are otherwise deemed to be of interest.

In addition to individual examples reference is also made to streets and areas of interest in which remains of buildings of the period are to be found. These precincts often provide significant, if only fragmentary evidence of the inter-relationship of pre-1914 buildings.

An arbitrary number of 50 examples have been selected out of at least double that number of surviving pre-1914 buildings that are considered worthy of close scrutiny. These selected buildings (identified on the map overleaf), together with others which no longer exist, are considered in Chapters 4 - 14, illustrated where possible with extracts from original drawings, or measured drawings, and photographs.



SELECTED BUILDINGS AND PRECINCTS PRE-DATING 1914:

PRECINCTS:

1. De Beers Head Office Group.
2. Chapel Street Group.
3. Lodge Road Group.
4. Carrington Road Group.
5. Milner Street Group.
6. Kenilworth Group.

BUILDINGS:

1. Magistrates Courts - Originally Griqualand West High Court and Public Offices.
2. City Hall and Market Hall.
3. Market Shelter.
4. De Beers Head Office Building
5. Old McGregor Museum.
6. Trinity Methodist Church.
7. Methodist Church Parsonage.
8. Public Library.
9. Kimberley Club.
10. Ozalid Premises - Originally Kimberley Building Society.
11. Baronial Street Synagogue.
12. Newton N. G. Church.
13. "Star of the West" Public House.
14. "Australian Arms" Public House.
15. Residency - Originally the residence of the Civil Commissioner.
16. Memorial Road Synagogue.
17. Boys' High School.
18. Boys' High School Pavilion - Originally the Pirates Club Pavilion.
19. Kimberley Regiment Drill Hall - Originally the Kimberley Exhibition Art Gallery.
20. The Bungalow - Rudd Residence.

21. Rhodes Board Room - Originally the Office of the De Beers Mining Company.

22. Bell House - Girls' High School Hostel.

23. Girls' High School.

24. Greenberg Residence.

25. O'Callaghan Residence.

26. Horwitz Residence.

27. Harris Residence.

28. Dunluce - Bonas Residence.

29. The Lodge (Duggan Cronin Gallery) - Originally the Curry Residence.

30. Raynham Residence.

31. Masonic Temple.

32. Cottage adjoining Masonic Temple.

33. Dutoitspan Road speculative houses for Sir David Harris.

34. Memorial Road speculative houses for Sir David Harris.

35. Synagogue Street speculative houses for Sir David Harris.

36. Rhodes Equestrian Statue.

37. Queen Victoria Statue.

38. Cape Police Memorial.

39. Kimberley Hospital Nurses Home.

40. McGregor Museum - Originally the Belgrave Hotel.

41. St Cyprians Anglican Cathedral.

42. St Albans Anglican Church.

43. Jack Hindon Mess - Originally the Alexandersfontein Hotel.

44. Undenominational School.

45. Bean Street Methodist Church.

46. Beaconsfield Presbyterian Church.

47. Beaconsfield Post Office - Originally Public Offices.

48. Kenilworth School.

21. Rhodes Board Room - Originally the Office of the De Beers Mining Company.

22. Belt House - Girls' High School Hostel.

23. Girls' High School.

24. Greenberg Residence.

25. O'Callaghan Residence.

26. Horwitz Residence.

27. Harris Residence.

28. Dunluce - Bonas Residence.

29. The Lodge (Duggan Cronin Gallery) - Originally the Curry Residence.

30. Raynham Residence.

31. Masonic Temple.

32. Cottage adjoining Masonic Temple.

33. Dutoitspan Road speculative houses for Sir David Harris.

34. Memorial Road speculative houses for Sir David Harris.

35. Synagogue Street speculative houses for Sir David Harris.

36. Rhodes Equestrian Statue.

37. Queen Victoria Statue.

38. Cape Police Memorial.

39. Kimberley Hospital Nurses Home.

40. McGregor Museum - Originally the Belgrave Hotel.

41. St Cyprians Anglican Cathedral.

42. St Albans Anglican Church.

43. Jack Hindon Mess - Originally the Alexandersfontein Hotel.

44. Undenominational School.

45. Bean Street Methodist Church.

46. Beaconsfield Presbyterian Church.

47. Beaconsfield Post Office - Originally Public Offices.

48. Kenilworth School.

49. St Edwards Anglican Church Kenilworth.

50. House at Kenilworth

In the text that follow surviving buildings located on the map below have been identified with a red dot as hereunder.



Area in which brickfields referred to on Page 22 were said to be situated.

D. W. GREATBATCH,
ARCHITECT.

MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS
MEMBER OF THE S. A. ASSOCIATION OF ENGINEERS AND ARCHITECTS

P. O. Box 196.

Kimberley, Aug 28th 1877

J. Hopwood Thorpe Esq
Beaconsfield

Dear Sir

I send you herewith plan & specification (amended) for your proposed jubilee wing. I have completed the list of material required, but as I think that it will be cheaper to have the windows & doors made in Pt Elizabeth I must go through my list again & re write it.

I will post it, to reach you on Monday morning

Yours Faithfully
D. Greatbatch

CHAPTER 4.

ARCHITECTS AND ATTITUDES.

During the 1870s, while Kimberley was in a state of transition from tent town to shanty town, South Africa's Architects were to be found mainly in the coastal towns. As has already been noted, South Africa of the 1870s was in a state of economic depression and the growing permanence of the Diamond Fields population began to provide much-needed opportunities for Architects.

One can only speculate as to the exact role played by Kimberley's Architects of the 70s as no significant buildings survive and no drawings of the period have been located (if indeed they ever existed to any significant extent). Newspaper reports and advertisements do however mention Architects. In the list of Architects that follows there is one dating back to 1870, and an advertisement for a house for sale in 1878 mentions that it was "Architect designed". As was the case in the coastal towns, the Architect-cum-Building Contractor no doubt played a prominent role during the 70s.

Architects as independent professionals can only satisfactorily be traced back to the mid-80s in Kimberley during what has been described as the "Consolidation Phase". It is only during the "Mature Phase" at the turn of the century that we can recognise a profession organised much as it is today, and make any meaningful study of drawings and surviving buildings.

As the copy of the letter illustrated opposite shows, an Architect's duties included the production of drawings and a specification as the case today, as well as a "List of materials" presumably the forerunner of what is today done by Quantity Surveyors.

A number of Architects have been identified by Mrs M. Macey, of the Kimberley Public Library, mainly from newspaper reports and advertisements. It is from this source that many of the names and firms that follow have been obtained. The list that follows provides scant information on what

*Greig, D.E. Herbert Baker in South Africa, Cape Town : Purnell, 1970.

were probably the less important figures and fuller information on Architects responsible for a significant number of surviving buildings.
Of the "less important" figures, none have been identified as having as an individual had any noteworthy influence on Kimberleys architectural history. It is possible, however, that some of these names will have associations with the Architectural History of the Witwatersrand, as much of Kimberley's talent is known to have been drawn to the Goldfields during the late 1880s and 1890s.

Sources other than the Kimberley Public Library have been specifically acknowledged in the list that follows:-

ABBEN & OLLEY

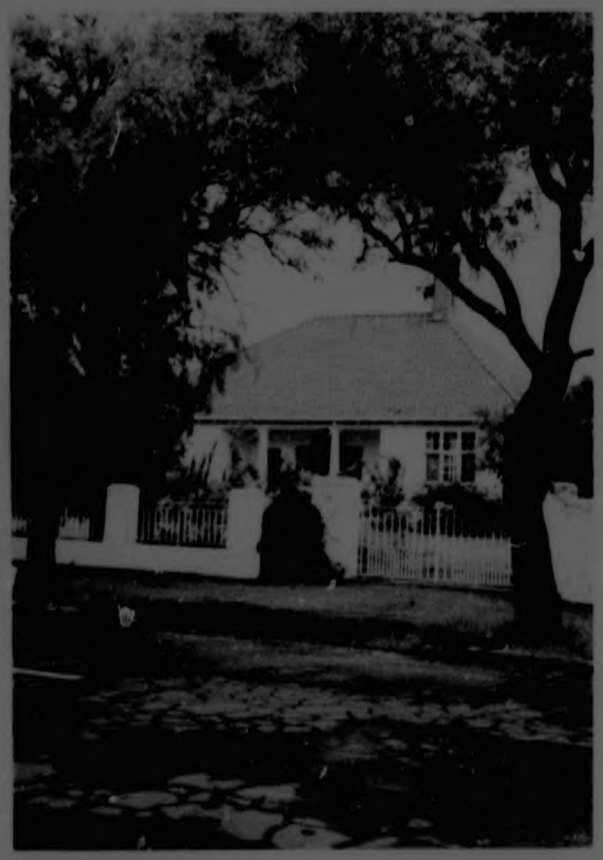
Advertised their talents as Architects and Civil Engineers with 2[illegible] years of Colonial and European experience (Diamond Fields Advertiser 10/1/89).

J. ARMSTRONG

Called for tenders for Peach and Company, Market Square (Daily Independent 23/2/87, Page 1) see Appendix A

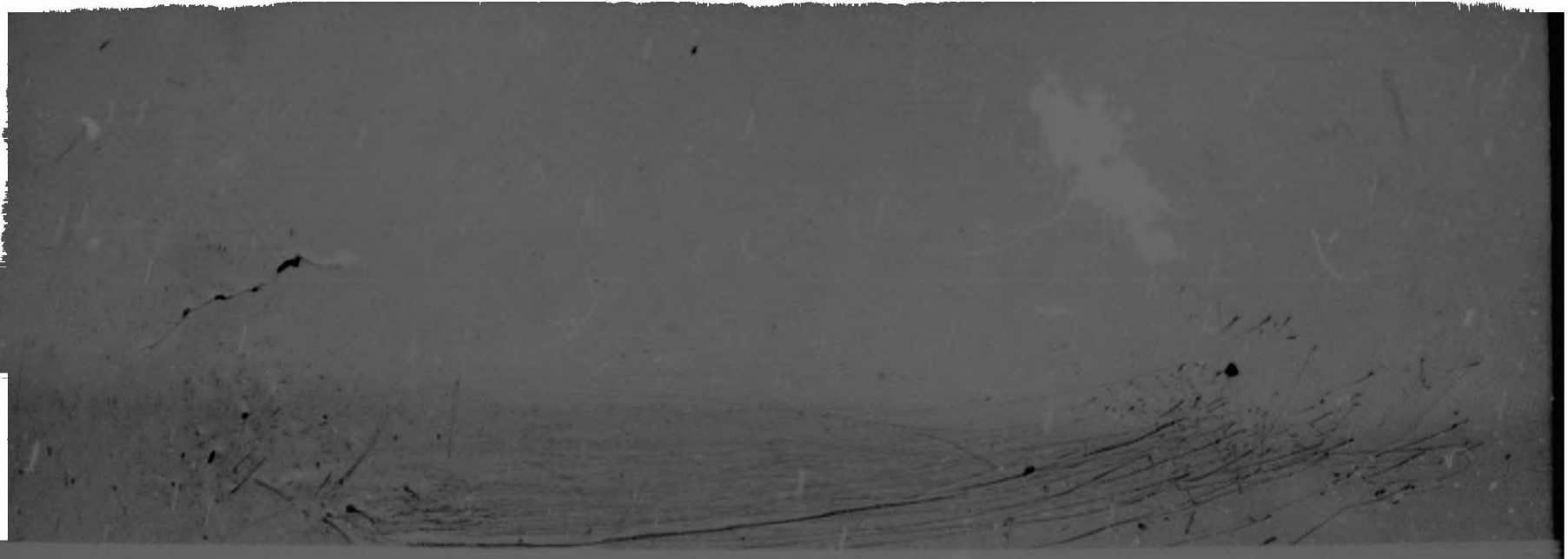
HERBERT BAKER *

Born 9th June, 1862, Baker arrived in Cape Town in 1892. His architectural education was by the standards of the time extensive, and in 1889 when he wrote the examination for Associateship of the Royal Institute of British Architects, he gained the prize awarded to the top student. In 1893, Rhodes invited Baker to remodel his house, Groote Schuur, in Cape Town. In 1896, after it had been gutted by Fire, Baker was responsible for the rebuilding of Groote Schuur. In 1901, Baker becomes founder member of South African Society of Architects, and in 1902 begins practice in Transvaal. In 1904, Baker is principal of three practices situated in Johannesburg, Bloemfontein and Cape Town, and it was at this time that his work in Kimberley in the form of The Honoured Dead Memorial, and a house in Carrington Road, was built. In 1912, Baker left South



Baker's only known house in Kimberley dating to about 190[illegible]. It appears to have had no influence on subsequent houses of pre-1914 Kimberley.

* Radford, D. Architecture of the Western Cape, Ph. D Dissertation, University of the Witwatersrand.



Name of Architects from drawing for Beaconsfield Presbyterian Church.



Herbert Baker's accepted design for the Honoured Dead Memorial. Drawing in the possession of the McGregor Museum.

Africa, and was responsible for a great deal of work in England and India. He died at the age of 84 at his birthplace in Kent in England.

BRENNAN & HILL

Name appears in 1903 - 04 Kimberley Directory. Architects for Presbyterian Church, Beaconsfield, drawings in Goldblatt, Yuill & Partners' collection. See also P. J. Hill on Page 55.

FRED CHERRY *

Undated drawing possibly of 1890s for shops in Bean Street (Goldblatt, Yuill & Partners' collection). He served his articles with Messrs Mccurdy and Mitchell of Dublin, with whom he worked as chief draughtsman until the year 1890 when he came to South Africa and joined the P.W.D. He remained there for two years untill starting a practice. Cherry was a member of the Royal Institute of Architects in Ireland.

F. S. CHITTENDEN

Called for tenders for London and S. A. Exploration Co., Lennox Street, (Diamond News 7/6/81, Page 2).

THOMAS CLARIDGE

Successor to L. Ford Hanson, offices in Old Main Street next to Standard Bank (Diamond Fields Advertiser, 18/2/82, Page 2). Opened tenders for N.G. Kerk Newton, for which L. Ford Hanson was originally commissioned (Diamond Fields Advertiser, 19/12/82, Page 2). Subsequently moved to Transvaal and was Architect of N.G. Church, Church Square, and President Kruger's House, Pretoria.

J. W. DALE

Listed in Kimberley Directory of 1898/99 and 19.3/04.

ROBERT SCOTT DAY

Came to Kimberley in about 188[illegible], and founded a practice that still ex-

Robert S. Day. B.E. Architect
Kimberley. July 1887

Signature of R. S. Day as it appears on his drawings for the Theatre Royal.



Day's proposals for the Front Elevation of the Theatre Royal. The Elevation of the building as eventually built by D. W. Greatbatch owes little to this design. See Greatbatch Elevation on Page 10.

ists under the Name Goldblatt, Yuill & Partners. Called for tenders for offices for Griqualand West Board of Executors (Daily Independent, 14/10/86, Page 1).

Listed as Architect in prospectus for Theatre Royal Co. Ltd. (Daily Independent 16/5/87, Page 1). Original drawings in Goldblatt, Yuill & Partners' collection.

Called for tenders for offices of Kimberley Permanent Mutual Building Society (Daily Independent, 19/11/87, Page 1).

Called for tenders for Hill & Paddon offices. (Daily Independent, 13/3/88, Page 1).

Called for tenders for Villa at corner of D'Arcy Street and Park Lane for E. Krause (Daily Independent, 26/3/88, Page 1).

Sketch of Grand Hotel published in Diamond Fields Advertiser , 13/4/88, Page 8. Illustrated opposite.

Called for tenders for three shops in Jones Street, (Daily Independent, 11/4/88, Page 1).

Called for tenders for Good Templer Hall shops (Diamond Fields Advertiser, 6/10/88, Page 1).

Called for tenders for New Offices for De Beers Consolidated Mines (Daily Independent, 18/11/88). Illustrated opposite.

Called for tenders for Store Bros. building in Dutoitspan Road, (Diamond Fields Advertiser, 22/2/89, Page 1).

Called for tenders for Alterations and Additions to Grand Hotel (Diamond Fields Advertiser, 3/3/90, Page 3). Left

Left for Johannesburg in 1890 after disposing of his practice to D. W. Greatbatch.

J. DURWARD

Advertised as Architect and Surveyor (Diamond Fields Advertiser, 11/1/83, Last Page).

* Griqualand West Government Gazette, 23rd March, 1878, Kimberley Public Library.

T. W. ELLISON

Foreman of Public Works, 1878.

Called for tenders for Grewers new Butcher shop in Park Lane opposite Synagogue (Daily Independent, 22/10/87).

Called for terders for Villa in Woodley Street (Daily Independent, 26/11/86, Page 1). Lisied in Argus Directory, 1891.

C. A. FABBEN

Listed in 1891 Argus Directory.

G. F. L. GILES

Called for tenders for Wesleyan School and Hall in Dutoitspan Road, (Diamond Fields News, 4/6/81). The building was not built at that time and was subsequently built on its present site, corner of Chapel and Woodley Streets, in 1883.

JOHAN GOODMAN

Advertised as Architect and Contractor (Diamond Fields News 13/10/70).

P. J. HILL

All that is known of this architect is that his drawing of the front elevation of the Gladstone Hotel was regularly used in advertisements for the Hotel. The illustration opposite originally appeared in the Christmas Number of the Diamond Fields Advertiser of 1905.

Possibly P. J. Hill was the Hill of Brennan & Hill, who were responsible for the Beaconsfield Presbyterian Church of 1905, and who are listed on Page 33.



T. W. ELLISON

Foreman of Public Works, 1878.

Called for tenders for Grewers new Butcher shop in Park Lane opposite Synagogue (Daily Independent, 22/10/87).

Called for tenders for Villa in Woodley Street (Daily Independent, 26/11/86, Page 1). Listed in Argus Directory, 1891.

C. A. FABBEN

Listed in 1891 Argus Directory.

G. F. L. GILES

Called for tenders for Wesleyan School and Hall in Dutoitspan Road, (Diamond Fields News, 4/6/81). The building was not built at that time and was subsequently built on its present site, corner of Chapel and Woodley Streets, in 1883.

JOHAN GOODMAN

Advertised as Architect and Contractor (Diamond Fields News 13/10/70).

P. J. HILL

All that is known of this architect is that his drawing of the front elevation of the Gladstone Hotel was regularly used in advertisements for the Hotel. The illustration opposite originally appeared in the Christmas Number of the Diamond Fields Advertiser of 1905.

Possibly P. J. Hill was the Hill of Brennan & Hill, who were responsible for the Beaconsfield Presbyterian Church of 1905, and who are listed on Page 33.



* Information drawn largely from article in Kimberley and Beaconsfield Illustrated, Argus & Co., 1902, Kimberley Public Library.

** Certificates in the possession of the McGregor Museum, Kimberley.



D. W. Greatbatch photo - Kimberley
Turbulent City, by Roberts.

D. Greatbatch M.S.A.
Architect,
Kimberley. May. 6 th 1901.

DANIEL WESTWOOD GREATBATCH

D. W. Greatbatch came to South Africa at the age of 12 in the company of his parents, who settled in Grahamstown. He was the son of Edward Daniel Greatbatch, a master upholsterer, and Mary Ann Greatbatch, formerly Westwood. Born in December 1868, in Blanford in the County of Dorset, young Daniel's poor health was one of the reasons for the family's emigration.

Greatbatch was educated at St Andrews College in Grahamstown, and articled to Sydney Stent with whom he came to the Diamond Fields in 1885. After several years with Stent he entered the employ of R. S. Day. Thereafter, in 1889, he worked for a short period in Johannesburg. In 1890, Greatbatch, then 22 years old, took over Day's Kimberley practice and in 1892, at the age of 24, won the competition for the design of the Kimberley Exhibition, illustrated opposite.

Greatbatch died on September 16th, 1925, at the age of 56.

Without any doubt, Greatbatch was the architect who had the greatest impact on pre-1914 Kimberley. Greatbatch as an Architect virtually grew with Kimberley. His early training was in Kimberley as were his later successes as an extremely profilic Architect. Greatbatch's membership of professional societies is in itself an interesting reflection of the development of professionalism in South African Architecture. His memberships included:-

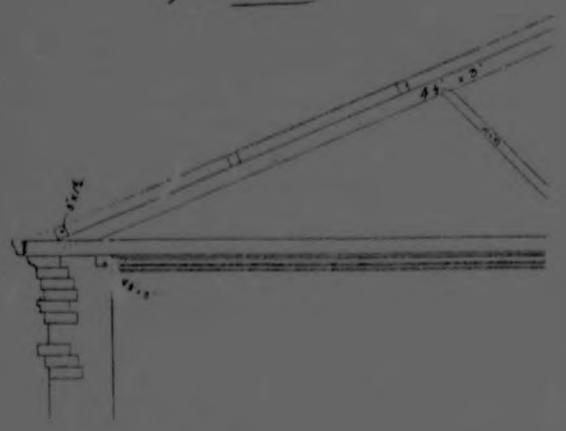
1. Member of the South African Association of Engineers and Architects, 12 September, 1894.
2. Member of the South African Association of Engineers, 12 September, 1894.
3. Member of the Society of Architects, 12 February, 1895.

According to the Head of Library Information Services of the

* Radford, D. Architecture of the Western Cape, Ph. D. Dissertation, University of the Witwatersrand.

2y - Are not the roof timbers rather slight, might they not be increased in size with advantage.

W. Greaves
24. 11. 83



This masterly piece of understatement was written two years after the opening of Greaves' Houses of Parliament in Cape Town while he was struggling with that building's not inconsiderable teething problems. The comment was written on a drawing for the Griqualand West High Court sent from Kimberley to Greaves in Cape Town for his approval.

R.I.B.A. The Society of Architects was founded in Britain in 1884, and a South African branch with Headquarters in Johannesburg was formed in 1906.

4. Fellow of the Cape Institute of Architects, 12th April, 1914.

HARRY S. GREAVES [4]

Born in 1844 in Edinburgh.

From 1862 - 72 he was a Clerk of Works in the office of John Whichcord (later President of the R.I.B.A.) in London, where he qualified as a District Surveyor. Engaged as the Clerk of Works for the new Houses of Parliament, he arrived in Cape Town in early 1876. After the hiatus surrounding Freeman's dismissal, he seems to have been engaged on surveying the public buildings in Cape Town and district. By 1879 he had become chief architectural assistant to the Chief Inspector of Public Works. In that year he was engaged on the design of the New Parliament Buildings with J. Whichcord as consultant. From then until his retirement in 1900 he was in charge of all the architectural work executed by the Cape P.W.D. and he can be credited with most of the large public buildings produced by the department, including those in the Kimberley area. In addition he designed the Physics building at the S. A. College in 1880. He became an A.R.I.B.A. and later F.R.I.B.A. and was also a founder member of the Engineers and Architects Association in 1884. He died in 1901.

A. GRELLERT

Advertised as Architect and Civil Engineer (Diamond Fields Advertiser, 2/12/81). Architect for Public Library later used as City Hall, illustrated opposite.

F. HADCOCK DAVIES

Advertised as Architect. (Diamond Fields Advertiser 8/2/82 (Front page).



Drawing by Arthur E. Lindley, whose talents as a draftsman far exceed those of any of his contemporaries in Kimberley.

LAWRENCE FORD HANSON

Advertised as Civil Engineer and Architect (Diamond News 2/9/82, Column 2). Originally commissioned for N. G. K. Newton.

P. J. JARVIS

Listed in 1898 - 99 Directory.

ARTHUR E. LINDLEY

Employed by D. W. Greatbatch, an exceptionally fine draughtsman; practised under his own name towards end of period of study. Little is known about Lindley, other than that he managed the office in 1902 during a period of absence by Greatbatch and that he died on October 12th, 1918, at the age of 49 during the 'flu epidemic and was buried in Kimberley's West End Cemetery.

E. McDOUGAL

Listed in 1903 - 04 Directory.

GEORGE STANLEY REES

Advertised as Architect (Daily Independent, 21/5/81, Column 3).

HENRY ARTHUR REID*

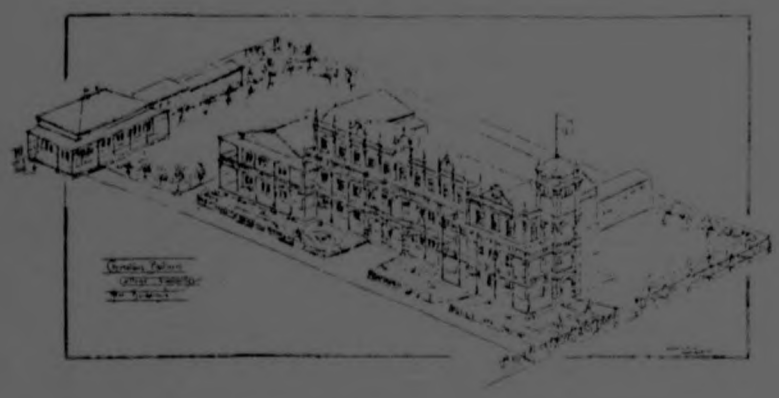


Signature of Henry Arthur Reid as it appears on the working drawings for the Masonic Temple in Dutoitspan Road.

Signature as Architect on drawing dated 24/10/86 for the Masonic Temple in Dutoitspan Road. (Drawing in Goldblatt, Yuill & Partners' collection). The drawing concerned was largely a copy of a standard plan for a Masonic Temple also in the Goldblatt, Yuill & Partners' collection. Born in 1856 in Plymouth, England, the eldest son of W. H. Reid, Architect.

Reid was educated in England and served his articles to his father. In 1877 he arrived in Cape Town with his father. He joined the City Engineers Department and became Assistant City Engineer in 1878. The following year he was appointed City Engineer in Grahamstown. He retired from this post in 1882 to go into private practice in Port Eliza-

* Radford, D. Architecture of the Western Cape, Ph.D. Dissertation, University of the Witwatersrand.



Christian Brothers College by Carstairs Rogers survives with a much altered appearance. Illustration from Diamond Fields Advertiser Christmas Number of 1905.



Carstairs Rogers Nazareth House also survives much altered. Illustration from the Diamond Mines of South Africa by Gardner F. Williams.

beth where he remained until 1887. In 1881, he became an associate of the R.I.B.A. and was also a founder member of the Engineers and Architects Association in 1884. He went to Johannesburg in 1887, where he opened an office. During this time, from 1892 to 1893, he was President of the S. A. A. Society of Architects and Engineers. In 1397 he combined his practice with that of his brother's, W. Reid, who took over the Johannesburg branch, while he returned to Cape Town. The firm was known as A. H. & H. Reid. In the early 1900s, the firm was responsible for several buildings for the Standard Bank, including branches as far afield as Oudtshoorn. In 1901, already an F.R.I.B.A., he became a foundation member of the S. A. Society of Architects. The following year he became the first president of the newly formed Cape Institute of Architects.

FERGUS CARSTAIRS ROGERS

Born in 1864, died in 1927, Rogers commenced practice in Kimberley in 1892 at the age of 28. He was educated at the Dollar Academy and George Watson's School, South Kensington. He was articled to J. MacVicar Anderson, F.R.I.B.A. Rogers is principally known as Architect for Kimberley City Hall, which he won in open competition, Christian Brothers College, the Methodist Church and Manse in Chapel Street, the Presbyterian Church and the Alexander McGregor Memorial Museum.

The practice founded by Fergus Carstairs Rogers still exists in Kimberley under the name Joubert, Owens, van Niekerk, Watt & Partners, and several of Rogers' drawings are in their possession.

Rogers also practised as Rogers & Ross, and Whittaker & Rogers. He is listed in Who's Who in Architecture of 1914.

* Information drawn largely from obituary in Diamond Fields Advertiser, 28th May, 1898. Kimberley Public Library.

Royal Institute of British Architects.

INCORPORATED IN THE SIXTH YEAR OF WILLIAM IV

Sydney Stent

of the Public Works Department of the Cape of Good Hope

having read the Charter and By-Laws of the Royal Institute of British Architects, and being duly qualified and willing to conform thereto, is desirous of being admitted as a FELLOW.

[illegible] by Architectural Education, and attained an Appointment in the Office of my father Mr W. J. Stent Warminster where I studied for 4 years. In 1868 I commenced practice for myself in [illegible] but in 1869 left England for Natal from whence after a few months residence I travelled to the Cape Colony where I practised for myself. Subsequently I lived a short time at Griqualand West, and was then occupied by Government for all such Architectural works as were required. In 1873 I was appointed resident Architect in Government and this appointment I still hold. In this capacity I have designed and carried out for Government extensive public buildings. My district is very wide, - about 150 miles by 100, and all Public Buildings within this area are under my direction, [illegible] the Chief Inspector of Public Works alone being above me in official position.

We the undersigned do [illegible] and recommend him to the Council for ballot.

Witness our hands this 18th day of July 1879

Sydney Stent

Thos Hemp[illegible]

William White

Mato Wyatt

Approved by the Council, 25th day of August 1880

Elected at the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday, 4th of July 1881

9 Conduit Street, Hanover Square, London, W

Copy of Stent's Application for Membership of the Royal Institute of British Architects, made available by the Institute - For Stent's statement of professional education refer to text opposite.

SYDNEY STENT *

Born in 1845, Sydney Stent was the son of an Architect in Warminster, Wiltshire, England. Stent chose to follow a career as a Civil Engineer, and in 1863 was articled to a Mr W. W. Moore of Cheltenham, where he gained experience in various aspects of railway construction. Early in 1869, he left England for South Africa and in 1871, was engaged by the Cape Government to plan bridges over the Orange River which had not at that time been bridged. Following this assignment, Stent was appointed District Inspector for the Public Works Department in the Eastern Province in which capacity he was employed from 1874 to 1885. In 1885 the District Inspector's post was abolished and Stent commenced his practice in Kimberley where he remained until 1893, when he left to settle in Cape Town.

In 1880, Stent became South Africa's first Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects - See application form opposite in which he made the following statement referring to his professional education and works:-

"My architectural education was obtained in the office of my father (Mr W. J. Stent, Warminister) where I studied for 4 years. In 1868 I commenced practice for myself in ------- but in 1869 left England for Natal from whence after a few months residence I travelled to the Cape Colony where I practised for myself. Subsequently I lived a short time at Griqualand West,* and was then occupied by Government for all such Architectural works as were required. In 1873, I was appointed resident architect in Government and this appointment I still hold. In this capacity I have designed and carried out for Government extensive public buildings. My district is very wide, - about 150 miles by 100, and all Public Buildings within this area are under my direction, ------- the Chief Inspector of Public Works alone being above me in official position.

* Presumably at the end of his "short time" in Griqualand West, there appears in the Diamond News of January 9th, 1875, a catalogue of the

Author Yuill D W B
Name of thesis The architecture of Kimberley: 1871 - 1914 01155

PUBLISHER:
University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg
©2013

LEGAL NOTICES:

Copyright Notice: All materials on the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg Library website are protected by South African copyright law and may not be distributed, transmitted, displayed, or otherwise published in any format, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

Disclaimer and Terms of Use: Provided that you maintain all copyright and other notices contained therein, you may download material (one machine readable copy and one print copy per page) for your personal and/or educational non-commercial use only.

The University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, is not responsible for any errors or omissions and excludes any and all liability for any errors in or omissions from the information on the Library website.