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Cities of refuge: the emergence of temporal urbanism

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site exploration - orange farm 7.1



01. Image donkey drawn cart in Orange Farm (by author)

IMAGES

mapping of urban fabric of orange farm

The municipal district of the township Orange Farm, about 40 kilometres south of the town centre of Johannesburg, is one of the most rapidly growing informal settlements in the closer vicinity of the metropolis.



02

IMAGES

02. Maps of Orange Farm (by author)

historical background of orange farm

Before the development of Orange Farm situated in the south of Johannesburg on the way towards Vereeniging and Vanderbijlpark, many informal settlements have developed in nearby areas. One example is the Weller Farm. During the 1970's a group of women rented some space on some disused chicken runs on this farm. The Weller brothers began renting more and more shack spaces on the farm. This became out of hand as more and more families came to stay on this farm. Because of complaints from neighbouring farmers, the then president P W Botha promised that removals on the farm would take place no later than October 1988.

The TPA (Transvaal Provincial Administration) began developing Orange Farm in an attempt to move towards mass black urbanization in the area. By 1989, over 300 families from the Weller farm had settled at Orange Farm. In the end, Orange Farm did provide more for the squatters of the region, as their homes would be permanent, bringing with it the security of tenure, improved services and an escape from the continued threat of eviction and harassment. In May 1989 around 4300 sites became available. The TPA offered the community a chance to purchase for R500 or rent for R10 per month a small 210 square meters site and service stands, both would have to pay a R29 service levy every month.

In 1991 the Business Day reported that the community of Orange Farm had grown to over 70 000 people. By that time developers had started building low cost brick and tile homes for sale to the community (8 500 each), 3000 had been built. Electricity reached the community in 1991, and was rolled out on an Eskom pre-paid system. Orange Farm had become a place where people could create a strong sense of belonging, ownership and community.

Key issues of Orange Farm when considering provision of housing and related facilities

Extreme levels of poverty and unemployment bringing about social problems such as alcoholism, domestic violence, child abuse, substance abuse, crimes, gangsterism etc

The isolation and marginalization from economic and social opportunities in Greater Johannesburg

– the closest business and economic opportunities stem from Lenasia and Ennerdale.

A low quality of basic services

Poor road infrastructure in the informal settlement sets limitations on proper public transport Insufficient healthcare services

Invasion of planned residential areas, public and private land and open spaces

Most of the planned residential areas for say RDP houses are used for residential purposes in the form of informal settlements although there are currently a number of low scale economic activities in the form of wholesaler, furniture shops, taverns, takeaway outlets, hair salons funeral parlours etc There are also numerous schools. There are also a number of small open spaces which are either used for more informal settlements and rubbish dumps

Safety and security

Poverty and informal settlements make the area prone to crime. Due to poor street lights policing is difficult especially at night.

There is therefore much scope for future well planned housing development discussed in this thesis project with the aim to provide employment opportunities for the unemployed majority, to develop self sufficiency in the form of informal trading, small businesses, to facilitate in the training for skills and personal development with the emphasis on obtaining a better education. All will be done to improve the welfare and wellbeing of the targeted residents of Orange Farm.



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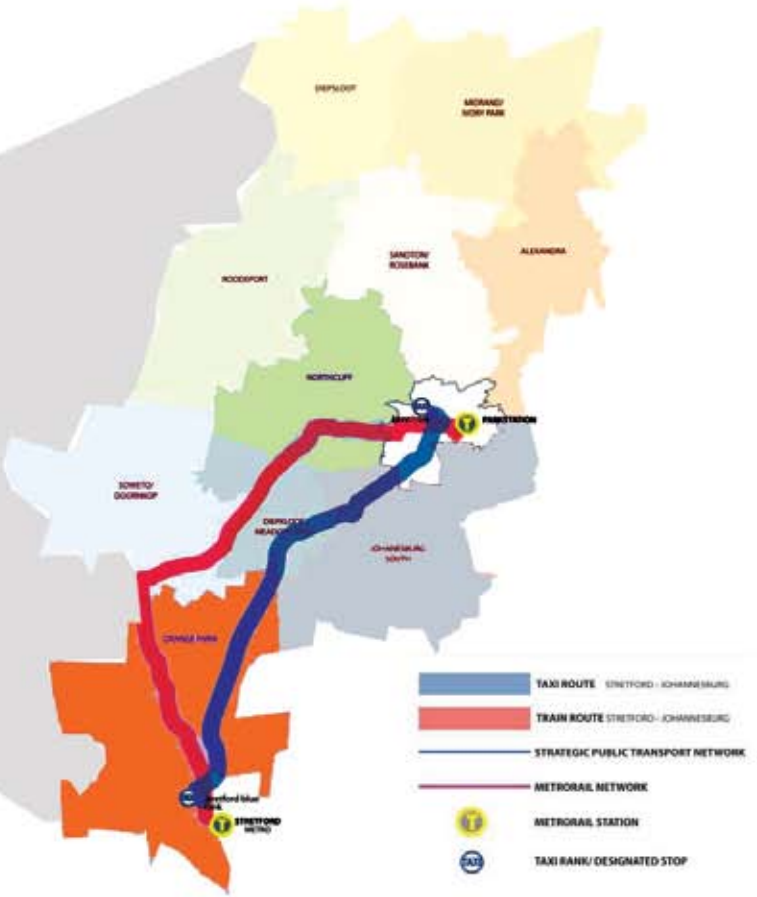
03. Images of Housing and Retail in Orange Farm (by author)

mapping of major road networks to orange farm

The municipal district of the township Orange Farm, about 40 kilometres south of the town centre of Johannesburg, is one of the most rapidly growing informal settlements in the closer vicinity of the metropolis.



Map showing Orange Farm in its relation to major road networks and economic centres



Map taxi and trian routes to Johannesburg CBD

04

04. Regional Maps of Orange Farm (by author)



05



06

IMAGES

05. Image of Stretford Station in Orange Farm (by author)
06. Image of Orange Farm Recreational centre (by author)

orange farm existing land uses



Civic uses including schools
community centre,library, fire station etc.



Housing provided by the government
in the Peoples Housing Program

Key Plan

- Recreational Public Space
- Proposed Site
- Civic
- Retail / Commercial
- Housing
- Informal trading



Plan showing
land uses in
Orange farm

Proposed Site





Informal Trading along major routes



Score supermarket, the major
retailer in the area.

07. Maps showing land uses in Orange Farm (by author)



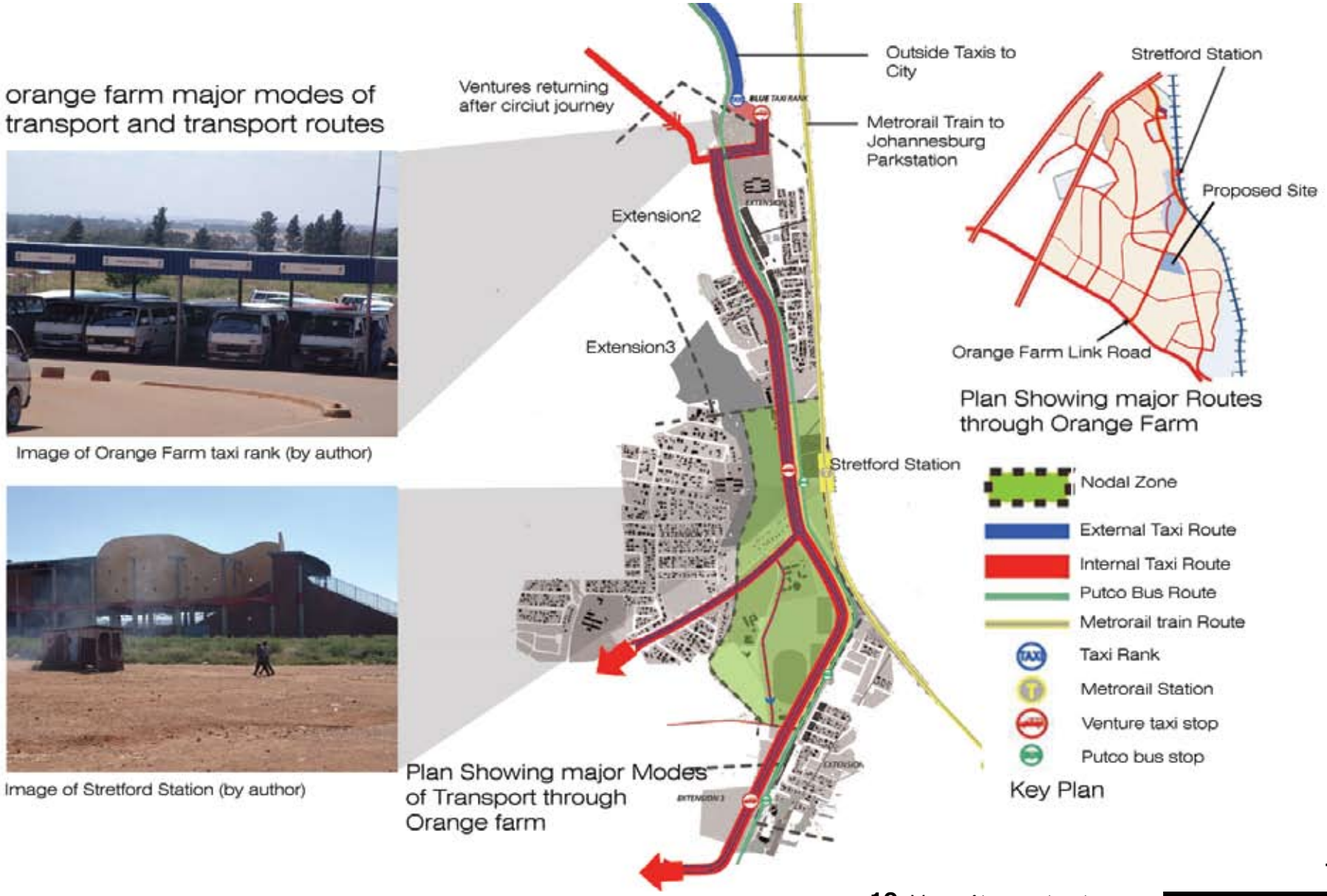
08



09

IMAGES

08. Image of School in Orange Farm (by author)
09. Image of site and service scheme in Orange Farm (by author)



10. Maps of transport routes through Orange Farm (by author)



• Mpho
• Female, 27
• Admin Clerk



• Amos Sithebe
• Male 32
• Taxi Association



• Justice Luklele
• Male, 35
• Stall owner



• Sam Moyanne
• Male, 33
• Stall owner



• Phindile
• Female, 31
• Renting land, Unemployed



• Rasta Man
• Male 30
• Private enterprise



• Thetsoho
• Male, 24
• Informal trader



• Mr and Mrs Molifi
• Female & Male 40
• Business owners



• Magret
• Female, 50
• Nanny



• Bafana
• Male, 25
• Informal market



• Filipe
• Male, 28
• Informal market



• Thandeka
• Female, 35
• Nanny



• Jabo
• Female, 30
• Informal market



• Johannes
• Male 50
• Shepard, animal herder



• Oupa
• Male 32
• Unemployed



• Lydia Stuli
• Female, 50
• Care taker



• Magdeline Shabalala
• Female, 37
• Unemployed



• Phindile
• Female, 31
• Renting land, Unemployed



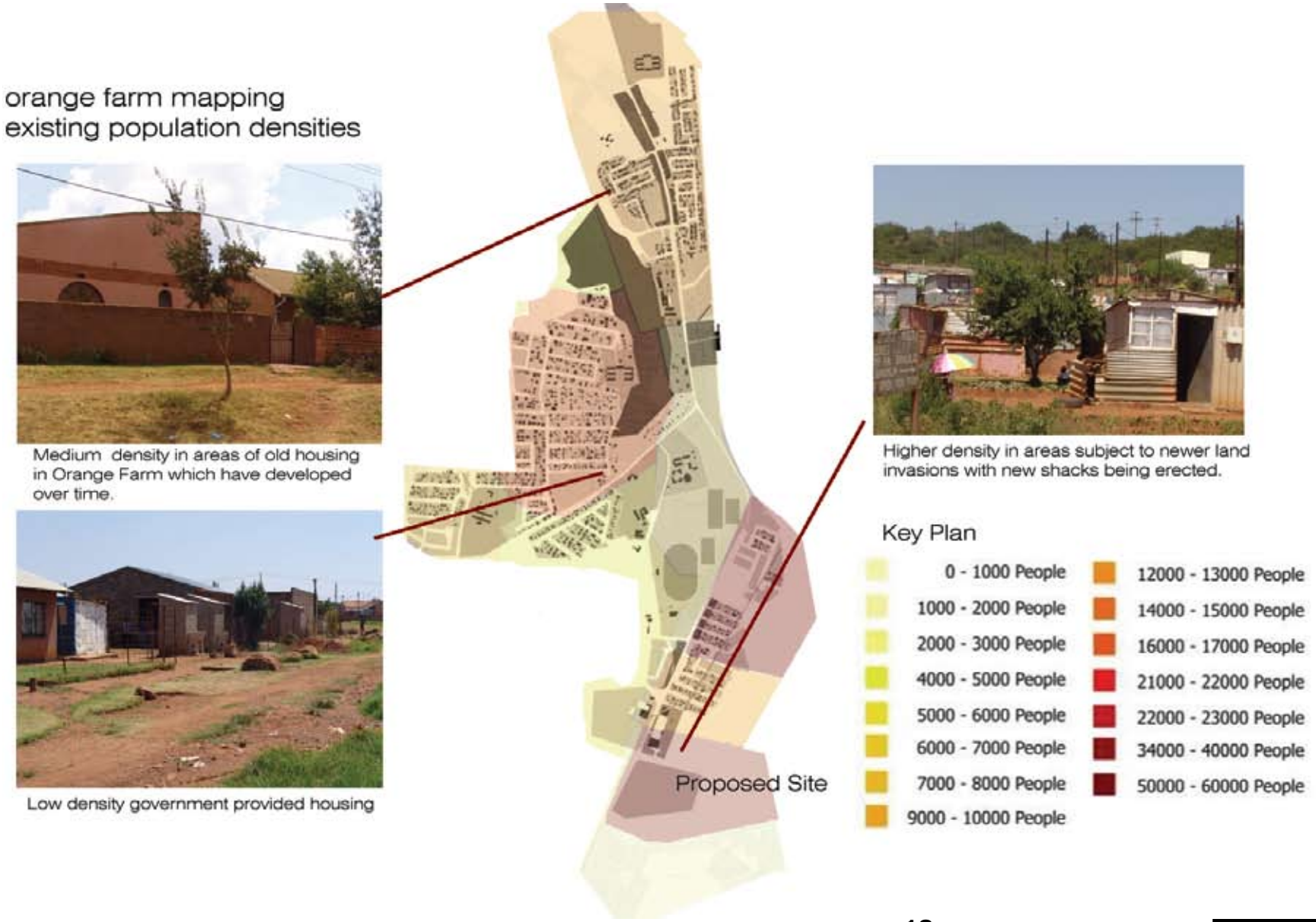
• Thebello
• Male 15
• Student



• Nkgamo Machabalala
• Female, 74
• 50 yrs as a Nanny

IMAGES

15. Social makeup of Orange Farm



12. Maps of population density of Orange Farm (by author)

mapping of urban fabric of orange farm

The township characterised by a lack of infra-structure, high unemployment,crime and abuse. Most of the exclusively black residents live in so-called shacks, small and often primitive buildings made from corrugated iron and recycled materials, which dominate the appearance of the environment.



Densification

Building Massing
Used Space

Open Ground Space

Green Spaces

Road Map

13

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13. Maps of Orange Farm (by author)

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