

Public Participation document:

DE KELDERS

Overstrand Heritage Landscape Group:

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Prepared for the

Overstrand Municipality

June 2009

Site Description:

De Kelders is situated on a series of limestone cliffs, overlooking Walker Bay. A number of caves are located in the limestone cliffs, some of geological interest eg the Mineral cave below the hotel, as well as Klipgat cave; one of South Africa's most well known archaeological sites. De Kelders is adjoined by the Walker Bay Nature Reserve which includes the area known as 'Die Grou Duine'.

The village itself, dates to the post WWII period and represents an eclectic mix of architectural styles, typical of the coastal resort towns of this period in this area. Little remains architecturally of its early 19th century roots; which would have been situated around the natural harbour of Stanford Cove.

Historical Background:

Archaeological excavations at Klipgat cave (de Kelders cave) first excavated in 1969 and 1973 by Frank Schweitzer of the SA Museum and more recent excavations by Fred Grin and Curtis Marean and Graham Avery, have shown the cave to have rich archaeological deposits extending into the Middle Stone Age. This testifies to a long history of human exploitation of marine resources.

1798: Lady Anne Barnard visits De Kelders caves; the mineral cave situated below the Hotel which was well known for its stalagmites

1811: first permanent fishermen's cottages built at De Kelders. Robert Stanford used de Kelders as harbour from which to transport market garden produce to Cape Town.

1870: 2 Stone houses built at De Kelders by Louis Muller – demolished c1980

1900 – end of WWII: Stanford Cove: graves above the bathing area – including victims of the 1918 flu epidemic. Old Fig tree is marker

1940: De Kelders laid out along a typical grid system.

Heritage Significance:

The setting on the limestone cliffs has visual-spatial significance in terms of providing an outstanding view platform across Walker Bay. Hiking trails.

Constraints/Vulnerabilities:**Proposed heritage conservation areas and special areas:**

The coastal areas with the limestone cliffs, mineral caves and archaeological sites are protected as natural conservancies, but care should be taken that the urban area does not encroach any closer to the cliff edges.

The Stanford Cove area should be declared a special area.

The archaeological sites are protected by the National Heritage Resources Act 25 (1999) and may not be damaged, altered, destroyed, or anything removed from the site without a permit from the provincial heritage authorities (Heritage Western Cape)

Heritage Management Recommendations:

Sources:

Time line

Period	Events
Precolonial	Archaeological excavations of Klippgat cave (de Kelders cave) first excavated in 1969 and 1973 by Frank Schweitzer of the SA Museum and more recent excavations by Fred Grin and Curtis Marean and Graham Avery, have shown the cave to have rich archaeological deposits extending into the Middle Stone Age. This testifies to a long history of human exploitation of marine resources.
Dutch: 1652- 1806	1798: Lady Anne Barnard visits De Kelders caves; the mineral cave situated below the Hotel which was well known for its stalagmites
1806 – 1900	1811: first permanent fishermen's cottages built at De Kelders. Robert Stanford used de Kelders (Stanford Cove) as harbour from which to transport market garden produce to Cape Town.
	1870: 2 Stone houses built at De Kelders by Louis Muller – demolished c1980
1900 – end of WWII	Stanford Cove: graves above the bathing area – including victims of the 1918 flu epidemic Old Fig tree
	1940: De Kelders laid out along a typical grid system.
Post WWII	
Post Apartheid	

Site name: De Kelders Cave Klipgat Type of resource: Archaeological site
Location: 3419 CB: 34 32' 44.34" S, 19 22' 0.58" E
Erf/Farm : 1079/
Address: De Kelders

Description:

Archaeological cave site which has been researched by the IZIKO SA Museum since 1969. Includes MSA and LSA material.

Materials:

Associated landscape features:

Original use: Cave

Current use:

Landscape type:

Design/Style:

Construction date:

Historical period in which constructed: Upper Pleistocene to Late Holocene

Theme: Use of landscape by indigenous groups

Historical information:

Klipgat or De Kelders cave was first excavated in 1969 and 1973 by the late Frank Schweitzer of the IZIKO South African Museum. 1992-1995 excavations were extended by Fred Grine and Curtis Marean, Richard Klein and Graham Avery. It includes MSA as well as LSA material.

Heritage Status:

Previous status under National Monuments Act: Pending declaration

Current status under National Heritage Resources Act:

Approved grading:

Suggested grading: 2

Responsible heritage authority: HWC

Significance: Archaeological cave site which has been researched by the IZIKO SA Museum since 1969.

High archaeological and scientific value illustrating:

First site that ceramics and domesticated animals have early history in SA

Preservation of fauna at Middle Stone Age levels.

Constraints and Opportunities: Municipal agreement no development on the limestone cliffs

Heritage Management Recommendations:

Proposed conservation/Special areas:

References/Sources:

Graham Avery pers comm 2008

Site name: Mineral Springs at de Kelders Cave Miracle Cave
Type of resource: Natural resource
Location: 3419 CB: 34 33 '19.09" S, 19 21' 49.31" E Google Earth 2009
Erf/Farm : 1069/
Address: De Kelders

Description:

Natural spring used historically and possibly earlier
Materials:
Associated landscape features:

Original use: Natural feature
Current use:
Landscape type:
Design/Style:
Construction date:
Historical period in which constructed:
Theme: Tourism

Historical information:

The old De Kelders Hotel was situated above these caves, which were visited by Lady Anne Barnard in 1798. The old hotel has been demolished.

Heritage Status:

Previous status under National Monuments Act: National Monument
1995

Current status under National Heritage Resources Act: Provincial Heritage Site
Responsible heritage authority: HWC

Significance:

Constraints and Opportunities:

Heritage Management Recommendations:

Proposed conservation/Special areas:

References/Sources:



Approved grading: 2

Suggested grading: 3A

Site name: Stanford Cove **Type of resource:** Natural resource
Location: 3419 CB: 34 33' 53.25" S, 19 21' 12.33" E
Erf/Farm : 1178/
Address: De Kelders

Description:

Natural harbour and the site of the first permanent cottages at De Kelders which were demolished in 1980s. Of the early settlement only the burial ground has remained, although its exact location is unknown.

Materials:

Associated landscape features: Old fig tree
Old burial ground - exact location uncertain

Original use: Cove

Current use:

Landscape type:

Design/Style:

Construction date: Early 19th century

Historical period in which constructed: Early 19th century

Theme: Anchorage

Village development pattern

Maritime commerce



Historical information:

Just above Stanford Cove are a number of grave which is associated with the earliest settlement at de Kelders. The graveyard also includes victims of the 1918 flu epidemic which had a world wide impact. Nothing remains of the settlement, with the exception of the fig tree and burial ground. The cove is also associated with Captain Robert Stanford, who ran a market garden from Stanford during the 19th century and shipping the produce to Cape Town from Stanford Cove

Heritage Status:

Previous status under National Monuments Act:

Current status under National Heritage Resources Act:
Responsible heritage authority: SAHRA

Approved grading:

Suggested grading: 3B

Significance: Stanford Cove has historical and social significance in terms of being on site of the earliest permanent fishing settlements along this coastline, dating to the early 19th century.
The Fig tree has landmark status.

The cove is also associated with Captain Robert Stanford, who ran a market garden from Stanford during the 19th century and shipping the produce to Cape Town from Stanford Cove.

Constraints and Opportunities:

Heritage Management Recommendations:

Proposed conservation/Special areas: Stanford Cove should be declared a Heritage area

References/Sources:

Site name: De Kelders House Type of resource: Building
Location: 3419 CB: S, E
Erf/Farm : 279/
Address: 69 Cliff Str de Kelders

Description:

Villa style house with protruding gabled bay, facing the ocean.
Materials: Brick; Thatch
Associated landscape features: Fir tree

Original use: Residential

Current use: Villa

Landscape type:

Design/Style: Cape Revival

Construction date: 1940s

Historical period in which constructed: Mid 20th century

Theme: Recreation and fishing

Historical information:

Heritage Status:

Previous status under National Monuments Act:

Current status under National Heritage Resources Act: Older than 60

Responsible heritage authority: HWC

Significance: Rare remaining intact holiday house dating to the first half of the 20th century

Constraints and Opportunities:

Heritage Management Recommendations:

Ongoing repair and maintenance

Formal protection in terms of zoning scheme regulations (Grade 3C)

- Conserve wherever possible
- Retain historical fabric wherever possible (exterior only)
- Conserve and enhance contribution to overall character and streetscape (predominantly public/private interface)
- HWC permit of approval required for any demolition, alteration or change in planning status
- Demolition only to be considered if appropriate adaptive reuses cannot be established



Approved grading:

Suggested grading: 3C

Proposed conservation/Special areas:

References/Sources:

Site name: Duiwelsgat Cave Type of resource: Natural resource
Location: 3419 CD: S, E
Erf/Farm : /
Address: De Kelders

Description:

Cave site, according to Graham Avery (Iziko Museum) this cave had no archaeological deposits. It now forms part of the Duiwelsgat Hiking trail.

Materials:

Associated landscape features:

Original use: Cave

Current use:

Landscape type:

Design/Style:

Construction date:

Historical period in which constructed:

Theme: Tourism

Historical information:

Heritage Status:

Previous status under National Monuments Act:

Current status under National Heritage Resources Act:

Approved grading:

Suggested grading:

Responsible heritage authority: HWC

Significance:

Constraints and Opportunities: Municipal agreement no development on the limestone cliffs

Heritage Management Recommendations:

Proposed conservation/Special areas:

References/Sources:

Graham Avery pers comm 2008

Site name: De Kelders House Type of resource: Building
Location: 3419 CB: S, E
Erf/Farm : 22/
Address: Eden Str de Kelders

Description:

Ungraded
Materials:
Associated landscape features:

Original use:
Current use:
Landscape type:
Design/Style:
Construction date:
Historical period in which constructed:
Theme:

Historical information:

Heritage Status:

Previous status under National Monuments Act:

Current status under National Heritage Resources Act: Older than 60
Responsible heritage authority: HWC

Approved grading:

Suggested grading:

Significance:

Constraints and Opportunities:

Heritage Management Recommendations:
Formal protection in terms of zoning scheme regulations (Ungraded)

- Demolition could be considered
- HWC permit of approval required for demolition

Proposed conservation/Special areas:

References/Sources: