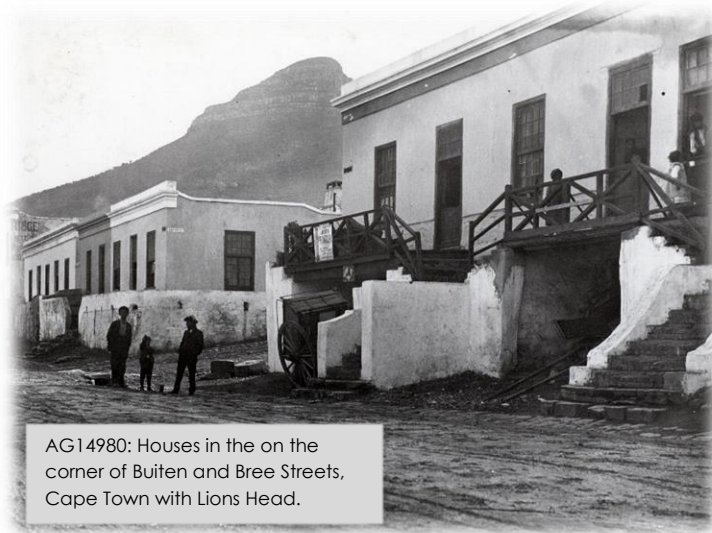




ARCHIVAL SOURCES ON THE BO-KAAP



The Western Cape Archives holds the memory of our province with more than 45kms of records. This flyer will help you identify some of the main sources of historical information available to researchers in the Western Cape Archives, specifically on the Bo-Kaap and its inhabitants.

Note: Some of the terms in the archival descriptions (and thus, terms one needs to use to search for records) are outdated and do not reflect the views and values of the Western Cape Archives and Records Service. For example, many records about the Bo-Kaap, use the term “Malay Quarter”.

1. Archives of the City Manager, City of Cape Town (1840-1993) (3/CT, Inventory 3A/1)

Cape Town received self-governance in 1839 and the areas of the Bo-Kaap (“Malay Quarter, Stadzicht, Schotsche Kloof and Schoone Kloof”) were part of the City Bowl. This group of records covers the period 1840-1993 and contains:

- Minutes for the period, including of various committees
- Correspondence (for example, of the City Engineer on damage to houses in Bo-Kaap)
- Reports
- Real Estate papers

There are references to the “Malay Cemetery” (1937); restoration of the “Malay Quarter” (1940s-1980s), “Malay Mosque, Chiappini Street (1905), ownership of land (1908) in amongst the broader City records.

2. Council of Policy (1651-1795) (C, Inventory 1/1), the Batavian Republic (1801-1806) (BR, Inventory 1/14) and Colonial Office (1806-1911) (CO, Inventory 1/16)

Since most of the Bo-Kaap was built between 1760 and 1840, predating the municipality of Cape Town, a look into the older colonial records, both VOC and British could be helpful.

These records relate to the administration of the Cape. They are big groups of records, some in Dutch. Patience and a specific focus would be required to sift out those related to the Bo-Kaap area.

3. Enslaved people and political exiles: Slave Office (1816-1848) (SO, Inventory 1/21) and Court of Justice (1652-1843) (CJ, Inventory 1/2)

As the Bo-Kaap's population included many freed slaves, and political exiles from Batavia (Indonesia) and their descendants, the records of the Slave Office and the Court of Justice can be useful. For example, CJ 3186 lists convicts from the East from 1722-1757 with a description and the ship they arrived on at the Cape.

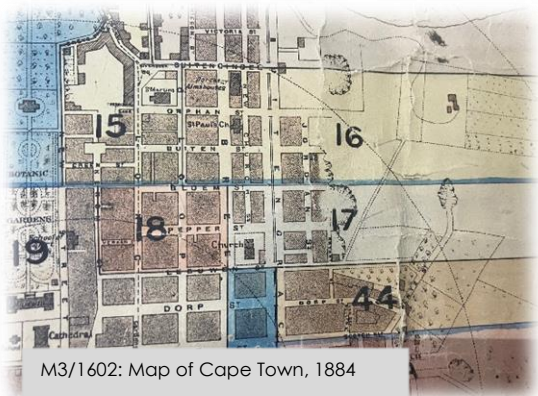
4. Photographs

The Western Cape Archives has over 80 000 photographs. There are many photographs of Bo-Kaap in the AG, Fitchett, Jeffreys and Elliot Collections. They include photos of the area and the cemetery, of various mosques, portraits of unnamed "Malay" or Muslim people in traditional dress, images of choirs, cultural events. The Fitchett Collection has colour images of buildings in the area from the early 1980s.



5. Maps and plans

The Western Cape Archives has over 17 000 maps, plans and architectural drawings in the Cartographic Collection. Many maps of central Cape Town include the Bo-Kaap (for example, of "Malay Burial Ground", "Schoone Kloof", "Schotse/Schotshe Kloof").



The Western Cape Archives and Records Service at 72 Roeland Street, Cape Town is free and open to the public Monday-Friday 8:00-16:00 and the first and third Saturday of the month, 8:00-14:00 for research. Limited telephonic and email research assistance can be provided: Archives.clientservices@westerncape.gov.za; 021 483 0400.

Tours and other programmes can be booked on archives.outreach@westerncape.gov.za

Some records on the Bo-Kaap are listed in the National Archives database:

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.za/node/737>

or scan the QR code to take you to the link:

