



## ARCHIVAL SOURCES ON MITCHELLS PLAIN



Aerial view of Mitchell's Plain - Plots  
(Film still used by permission of GCIS)

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 Mitchells Plain. It is not a complete list but a good starting point.

### 1. Mitchells Plain Magistrates Court (1989-2012) (1/MTP, Inventory in process)

This group is still being processed but will be accessible in the Archives soon. Records include:

- Record Books of cases heard by the Court
- Traffic offenses

### 2. Provincial Administration, Local Authorities (1913-1981) (PAA, listed on National Archives database – see QR code below for access)

The records on Mitchells Plain are planning applications for buildings in the area.

### 3. City of Cape Town Municipality (1840-1992) (3/CT, listed on National Archives database – see QR code below for access)

Correspondence files around leases and purchases of land in the area (mid 1980s).

### 5. DECISION

The committee decided that the publication or object is—

\*not undesirable;

\*undesirable within the meaning of section 47 (2)(e) and publication is prohibited of the Publications Act, 1974. under Sec 9(3).

Chairman of Committee

Date

\* Delete whichever is not applicable.

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### 4. Director of Publications (1975-1996) (IDP; listed on National Archives database – see QR code below for access)

These are reports by the censorship board on 'objectionable literature'. They contain just the report on whether it should be censored or not but not the publication itself. There are reports on, for example, Mitchell's Plain Student Congress, the Counter Propaganda Campaign and on the UDF.

## 5. Secretary for Agriculture (1881-1912) (AGR, Inventory 1/66)

There are few references to Mitchells Plain, the original farm, in volume 44 and 148. The former is about fencing and the latter about drift sands on a farm. Both are dated from the early 1890s.

## 6. Department of Coloured Affairs (KUS, listed on National Archives database – see QR code below for access)

These records from the 1970s and 1980s and deal mainly with Education. They include correspondence around the administration of 'Coloured' schools in the area, staffing, plans and maintenance of schools etc.

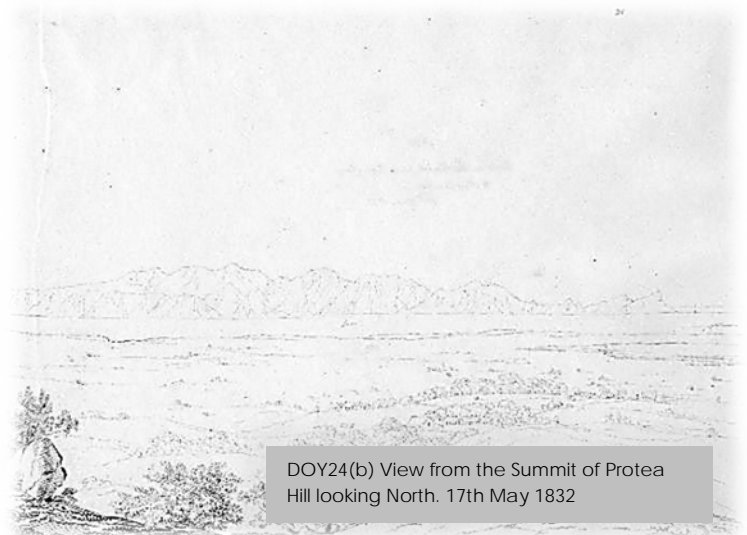
## 7. Department of Community Development (CDC, listed on National Archives database – see QR code below for access)

These Apartheid-era records are mainly application for permits under the Group Areas Act.

## 8. Photographs

The Western Cape Archives has over 80 000 photographs. There are a few photographs showing False bay and the Cape Flats, with Mitchells Plain in the background. of Mitchells Plain in the AG Collection.

Here is the processed image with the mountains sharpened and the entire image converted to black and white:

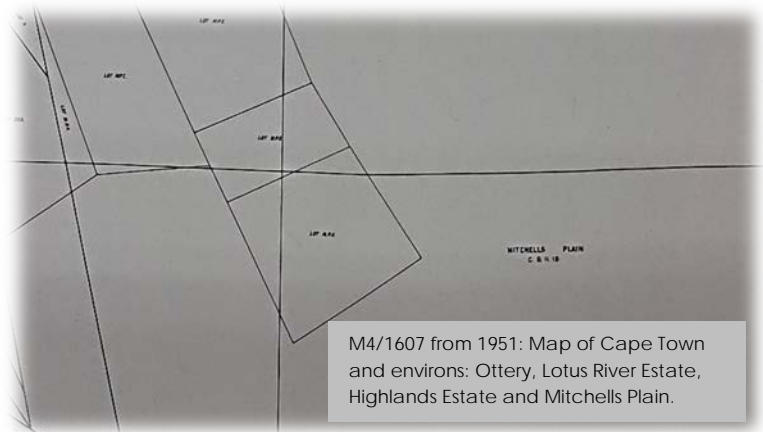


DOY24(b) View from the Summit of Protea Hill looking North. 17th May 1832

The main source of images from the founding of Mitchells Plain is from "Mitchells Plain, a Documentary" by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Information, Republic of South Africa (1980). Transcript and Screenshots – a propaganda film on the 'ideal' township. Stills from the film and the transcript can be downloaded here: [zendo.org/records/7560890](https://www.zendo.org/records/7560890)

## 9. Maps and plans

The Western Cape Archives has over 17 000 maps, plans and architectural drawings in the Cartographic Collection, including a few maps related to Mitchells Plain and the Cape Flats. M4/1607 from 1951: Map of Cape Town and environs: Ottery, Lotus River Estate, Highlands Estate and Mitchells Plain.



M4/1607 from 1951: Map of Cape Town and environs: Ottery, Lotus River Estate, Highlands Estate and Mitchells Plain.

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. Limited telephonic and email assistance can be provided. Tours and programmes can be booked on 021 483 0456.

Some records on Mitchells Plain 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:

