



ARCHIVAL SOURCES ON SIMON'S TOWN



E4229 Simon's Town and harbour
S.A. Illustrated News, 9 August
1884.

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 Simon's Town. Remember when looking for information, try all the spelling variations – Simon's Town and Simonstown.

1. Town Clerk, Municipality of Simon's Town (1883-1987) (3/SMT, Inventory 3A/53).

The Municipality of Simon' Town was constituted on 25 January 1883. On 1 February 1996 all the local authorities in the Cape and surrounding areas were dissolved and replaced, first, by a Transitional Metropolitan Substructure and then by the Cape Metropolitan. Records include:

- Council minutes
- Correspondence
- Valuation rolls
- Committees
- Reports: health, housing, water
- Financial Statements



M793 Roman Rock
Lighthouse

2. Port Officer: Simon's Town (1814-1904) (POS, Inventory 1/103)

In 1814, a Harbour Master was appointed to the town. Before 1814 the duties of a harbour master were performed by harbour officials of the Cape District on a temporary basis each year. These records include:

- Correspondence
- Ships arrivals and departures books (1809-1871)
- Boat licence register (1876-1902)

3. Magistrate of Simon's Town (1793-1985) (1/SMT, Inventory 2/5)

Records include:

- Records of criminal proceedings including in police court and the periodical court at Kalk Bay and St. James
- Notebooks
- Criminal record books from regional court, children's court and others
- Civil cases and warrants
- Inquests
- Correspondence



4. The Keeper of Roman Rock Lighthouse, Simon's Town (1862-1895) (RRL, Inventory 1/88)

- Daily journals.

5. Collector of Customs, Simon's Town (1808-1960) (CST, Inventory 1/20/10)

Includes:

- Correspondence
- Cargo manifests
- Warehouse registers
- Ship's Report books



6. The Colonial Office (1806-1911) (CO, Inventory 1/16)

This group is mainly letters received and despatched relating to the administration of the British colony at the Cape. They include letters received from private individuals and institutions in the form of petitions or request ('Memorials'). Simon's Town is mentioned in relation to customs, churches, magistrates, civil commissioners and shipping papers.

7. Slave Office (1816-1848) (SO, Inventory 1/21)

The British centralised the administration of enslaved people and required all slave holders to register births, deaths, sales etc. of enslaved people. An alphabetical register of slave holders within Cape

Town, the Cape District and Simon's Town, giving the names and all particulars of each person, and what happened to them, was to be kept in the office of the Inspector.

8. Photographs

The Western Cape Archives has over 80 000 photographs. There are photographs of Simon's Town in the Fitchett Collection (street scenes and landmarks, late 1970s and early 1980s), Dr Juritz Collection (1890s), Ravenscroft, D'Oyly (drawings), Elliot, Morrison, Jeffreys and AG Collections (navy, landmarks, construction of harbour).

9. Maps and plans

The Western Cape Archives has over 17 000 maps, plans and architectural drawings in the Cartographic Collection, including some maps of Simon's Town and surrounds and plans of landmarks, military installations and houses in Simon's Town.

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 Simon's Town are listed in the National Archives database:

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.za/node/737> or scan the QR code:

