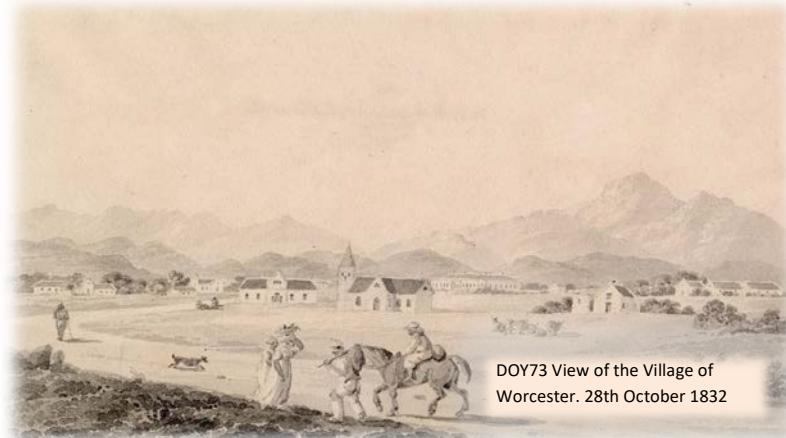




ARCHIVAL SOURCES ON WORCESTER



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 Worcester.

1. Town Clerk, Municipality of Worcester (1841-1991) (3/WOC, Inventory 3A/74).

On 30 September 1895, Sir Hercules Robinson proclaimed the Municipality of Worcester, a municipality under the provisions of the "Municipal Act, 1882". Certain archives have not survived to be transferred from the municipality. This accounts for gaps occurring within the various series. Records include:

- Minute books: 1842 – 1950, including "Non-European Affairs" Committee: Minutes, 1945–1955
- Reports by various municipal and government officials, viz the Town Treasurer, Superintendent of Water Works, Location Inspector, Street Inspector, Sanitary Inspector, Medical Officer of Health, Commonage Overseer and Electrical Engineer.
- Correspondence
- Financial papers
- Newspapers Cuttings, 1867 – 1916 (incomplete)

2. Magistrate of Worcester (1804-1984) (1/WOC, Inventory 2/7)

In 1819 a sub-district of the landdrost of Tulbagh was established at Worcester. The sub-district at Worcester existed until November 1822 when the seat of magistracy of the Tulbagh district was moved to Worcester. This means that the Tulbagh and Worcester records are interrelated for this period. Records include:

- Minutes (also see Court of Justice (CJ, Inventory 1/2): Minutes 1821-1827
- Criminal Case books and records of proceedings
- Civil cases, including of the Bantu Affairs Commissioner: 1955-1967
- Inquests
- Journals of the landdrost: 1805-1833
- Correspondence
- Lists of "Hottentots" contracted, indenture contracts 1815 – 1850, register of owners and indentured persons: 1815-1828
- Slave Office Records 1816-1831 (also see: Slave Office (1816-1848) (SO, Inventory 1/21 for registers)
- Matrimonial Court records





AG4846 Thatched roof building occupied by Sagor's Store, 70 Napier Street, Worcester, January 1946

3. Secretary of Divisional Council of Worcester (1855-1979) (4/WOC, Inventory 3/9)

The Council – a type of rural municipality - was established in 1855 and dissolved in 1980 when the Divisional Councils of Worcester and Laingsburg were merged into the Divisional Council of Matroosberg. Records are mainly minutes, correspondence and financial records.

4. Worcester School Board (1906-1991) (SBW, Inventory 4/19/8)

The Board was established in 1905 and dissolved in 1991. The records are minutes.

5. Marriages, births and deaths, Western Cape (1861-1997) (HAWC, Inventory 1/128)

This group contains birth indexes 1895 – 1972, birth registers 1895 – 1972, death Registers, 1895 – 1970 and Death Indexes, 1896 – 1969 for the town of Worcester.

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, including related to Worcester.

7. Financial records: There are mentions of Worcester in groups of Opgaafrolle (1652-1845) (J, Inventory 1/5) related to taxation on indentured labourers and enslaved people. Also see The Provincial Auditor (1915-1947, PAO, Inventory 1/132).

8. Land records: There are mentions of Worcester in (List of Quitrent Registers, QRR, Inventory 1/6 for 1743-1939)

9. Apartheid era records: The following groups have records related to so called 'non-white' people during Apartheid: Provincial Administration, Secretary, (PAS), Provincial Administration, Education (PAE) and Administration Western Cape (AWC). Descriptions of these files are available on the database – see QR code below.

10. Photographs

The Western Cape Archives has over 80 000 photographs. There are photographs of Worcester in the Fitchett Collection (landmarks, late 1970s and early 1980s), Ravenscroft, D'Oyly (drawings), Elliot, Hopkins (portraits of residents) and AG Collections (landmarks, street scenes).

11. Maps and plans

The Western Cape Archives has over 17 000 maps, plans and architectural drawings in the Cartographic Collection, including some maps and plans of the town of Worcester and surrounds. There are also municipal plans on water, hospitals, irrigation.

The Western Cape Archives and Records Service, 72 Roeland Street, Cape Town is free and open to the public Monday-Friday 8:00-16:00; the first and third Saturday of the month, 8:00-14:00. Limited telephonic/email assistance can be provided. Tours and programmes can be booked on 021 483 0456. Some records on Worcester are listed in the National Archives database:

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

