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Philippolis Legacy Project:

The Becker family

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A. The Becker family in town

Information is available regarding the following Beckers – note the difference in some cases between BEKKER and BECKER:

- Erf 96: Jacobus Marthinus Becker (purchased an erf in 1912)
- Erf 101: Johannes Marthinus Becker (1885)
- Erf 101: Amerentia Frederika Becker (1911) – was she Johannes Becker's daughter?
- Erf 103: Jan Hendrik Becker (1951)
- Erf 104: Christiaan Adolf Becker (1920)
- Erf 286: Jan Hendrik Becker (1941)
- Erf 292: Stephanus Johannes Becker (1876)
- Erf 307 : Jan Hendrik Becker (1950)
- Erf 341, 342 and 343: Jan Hendrik BEKKER (1941); Hendrina Carolina BEKKER (1950); Jan Hendrick BECKER (1954) – BEKKER or BECKER??
- Erf 362: Jan Hendrik Becker (1933) and Jan Hendrick Becker (his son?) 1934
- Erf 363: Hendrik Becker (1933); sold to Jan Hendrik Becker (his son?) (1934)
- Erf 364: Jan Hendrik Becker (1950); he was born 1891
- Erf 372, 373 and 374: Jan Hendrik Becker (1933), sold to Jan Hendrik Becker (his son?) (1934)
- Erf 420, 422, 423, 424: Jan Hendrik Becker (1931)

In chronological order:

- Stephanus Johannes Becker (purchase in 1876)
- Johannes Marthinus Becker (1885)
- Jacobus Marthinus Becker (1912)
- Christiaan Adolf Becker (1920)
- Jan Hendrik Becker (1933, 1934, 1941, 1950 and 1951)
- Hendrina Carolina BEKKER (BECKER?) (1950)

B. Town erven

This data is drawn from the Free State Title Deeds holdings:

1. *Erf 96*

Date	Erven	Transactions	Current address and GPS
1886	96	This property was first registered in 1886, by Edward Herman Van Witt. In 1890, it was owned by the prominent local business, Andries Hartman, as well as other owners.	GPS Johan Olivier's house 30°15'38.6"S 25°16'18.5"E
1912		In 1912, MHC (Hendrick) Botha sold Portion A and Portion C to Dorothea Jacoba Earle and Jacobus Marthinus Becker .	
1917		Dorothea and Jacoba Becker sold both portions to Jacobs Albertus Enslin	

2. Erf 101

Date	Erven	Transactions	Current address and GPS
1861	101	The property was first registered by the Griqua Government. Thereafter it was owned by other owners.	(No 6 Hendrik Street which later became Tobie Muller Street.) Starry Nights Guest House, now 26 Tobie Muller Street 30°15'42.5"S 25°16'19.6"E
101	1885	E Wiese sold to Johannes Marthinus Becker	
	1911	Johannes Becker sold to Amerentia Frederika Maria Becker	
	1918	Amerentia Becker sold to Louis Johannes Holtzhausen	



3. Erf 103

Date	Erven	Transactions	Current address
1860	103	The property was first registered by Adam Kok. Kok sold it to Stoffel van Wyk (probably a Griqua) in 1860. It was thereafter sold to other owners.	No 8 Western side, Hendrik Street Karoo Artists Café 30°15'43.5"S 25°16'19.8"E
1951		The erf was sold by SA Government to Jan Hendrik Becker	
1952		Jan Becker sold to BKB Co-op	



Inscription above the main door of the Becker Building

4. Erf 104

Date	Erven	Transactions	Current address
1861	104	Property was first registered by Adam Kok. Thereafter it was owned by numerous other owners.	No 9 Western side, Hendrik Street Left side of Karoo Artists Café 30°15'44.0"S 25°16'19.6"E
1920		Adam Boshoff sold to Christiaan Adolf Becker	
1927		Christiaan Becker sold to Lourens Jacobus Boshoff	

Picture: See the picture above (Erf 103): The little house to the left of the Karoo Artists Café.

5. Erf 286

Date	Erven	Transactions	Current address
1940	286	The original owner was the Union Government. The next owner was Jan Hendrik Becker	108 A Justisie Straat Small strip at the back of 103, i.e. Karoo Artists Café, has the old school building on it 30°15'43.7"S 25°16'18.5"E
	1941	Government of SA sold to Jan Hendrik Becker	
	1952	Jan Hendrik Bekker sold to Suid-Vrystaatse Vleis Co-op	



The old school building, Justisie Street, with the two little towers on the roof



The old School building in Justisie street, seen from the north. The large building in the background, with the blue roof, is the old Anglican church

6. Erf 292

Date	Erven	Transactions	Current address
1863	292	The first owner was the Griqua Government. Thereafter there were several owners.	Erf A Upper Church Street NG Kerkzaal 30°15'30.3"S 25°15'56.9"E
1876		David Du Plessis sold to Stephanus Johannes Becker	
1883		Stephanus Becker sold to Christiaan Mauritz van der Heever	



The old building on this site, when it was still a shop.



The NG Church Kerksaal, opposite the church, taken from the church building. From Googlemaps.

7. Erf 307

Date	Erven	Transactions	Current address
1910	307	First owner was Schalk Johannes Burger.	Previously known as Portion D of Erf 164 of Rowelsfontein. Philip street- fourth erf from corner; estate late Simes 30°15'30.3"S 25°15'56.9"E
1950		Schalk Burger sold to Jan Hendrik Becker , born 1891	
		Estate of late Becker sold to Cornelis Johannes van der Watt Lamprecht, born 1925	

I do not have a picture of this erf but can take one if required.

8. Erf 341, 342 and 343

Date	Erven	Transactions	Current address
1924	341, 342, 343, 344	First owner was Estate of JJ Kotze; thereafter there were several owners	Rowelsfontein 55 Now owned by Jens Friis Groen Huis Guest House And Die Stal Guest House 30°15'24.3"S 25°15'43.0"E

1941		Cornelis Jansen sold to Jan Hendrik BEKKER	
1950		Jan Bekker sold to Hendrina Carolina BEKKER	
1954		Hendrina sold to Jan Hendrik BECKER [same as Bekker above?]	
1964		Jan Becker sold to Petrus Wiese, born 1905	



Die Stal (left) en Groenhuis (right)



Die Stal, from the garden side



Die Groenhuis



Die Groenhuis



Die Groenhuis

9. Erf 362

Date	Erven	Transactions	Current address
1926	362	First owner was Abel Jacobus Kotze	Sixth erf from corner, Philip Street 30°15'30.3"S 25°15'56.8"E
1933		Abel sold to Jan Hendrik Becker	
1934		Jan Hendrik Becker sold to Jan Hendrik Becker (his son?)	
1954		Jan Becker sold to Johannes Malan, born 1908	

Picture not available; I can get one taken

10. Erf 363

Date	Erven	Transactions	Current address
1886	363	First owner was Francis Richard Cook and William Andrew Cook	Fifth erf from corner, Philip Street 30°15'30.3"S 25°15'56.8"E
1926		Cook sold to Abel Jacobus Kotze	
1933		Kotze sold to Hendrik Becker	
1934		Hendrik Becker sold to Jan Hendrik Becker (his son?)	
1981		Portion sold by the estate of the late Jan Hendrik Becker to Cornelis Johannes van der Watt Lamprecht, born 1925	

Picture not available, but here is a streetscape of that area in Philipstreet. Erf 363 would be on the right.



11. Erf 364

Date	Erven	Transactions	Current address
1886	364	Original owner was James Henry MacFarlane Thereafter the property was split into several portions	Not sure which site; owned by Simes in the 1990s 30°15'30.3"S 25°15'56.8"E
1950		SJJ Burger sold Portion D to Jan Hendrik Becker , born 1891	
1981		The estate of the late Jan Hendrik Becker sold to Cornelis Johannes van der Watt Lamprecht	

Picture not available; see picture above.

12. Erf 372, 373 and 374

Date	Erven	Transactions	Current address
1926	372, 373 and 374	The first owner was Abel Jacobus Kotze	Koksfontein Street, at the back of 363 and 362 30°15'31.9"S 25°15'52.8"E Tannie Lola Oelofse's house?

1933		Abel Kotze sold to Jan Hendrik Becker	
1934		Jan Becker sold to Jan Hendrik Becker (his son?)	
1983		The estate of the late Jan Hendrik Becker sold to Cornelis Johannes van der Watt Lamprecht	



Lola Oelofse's house, Koksfontein. She has now sold it.

Erf 420, 422, 423, and 424

Date	Erven	Transactions	
1931	420	First registration: Jan Hendrik Becker and Johannes Anton August Kreunen	This is now a play park, opposite the Vrou en Moeder Roostuin.

C. Farm purchases

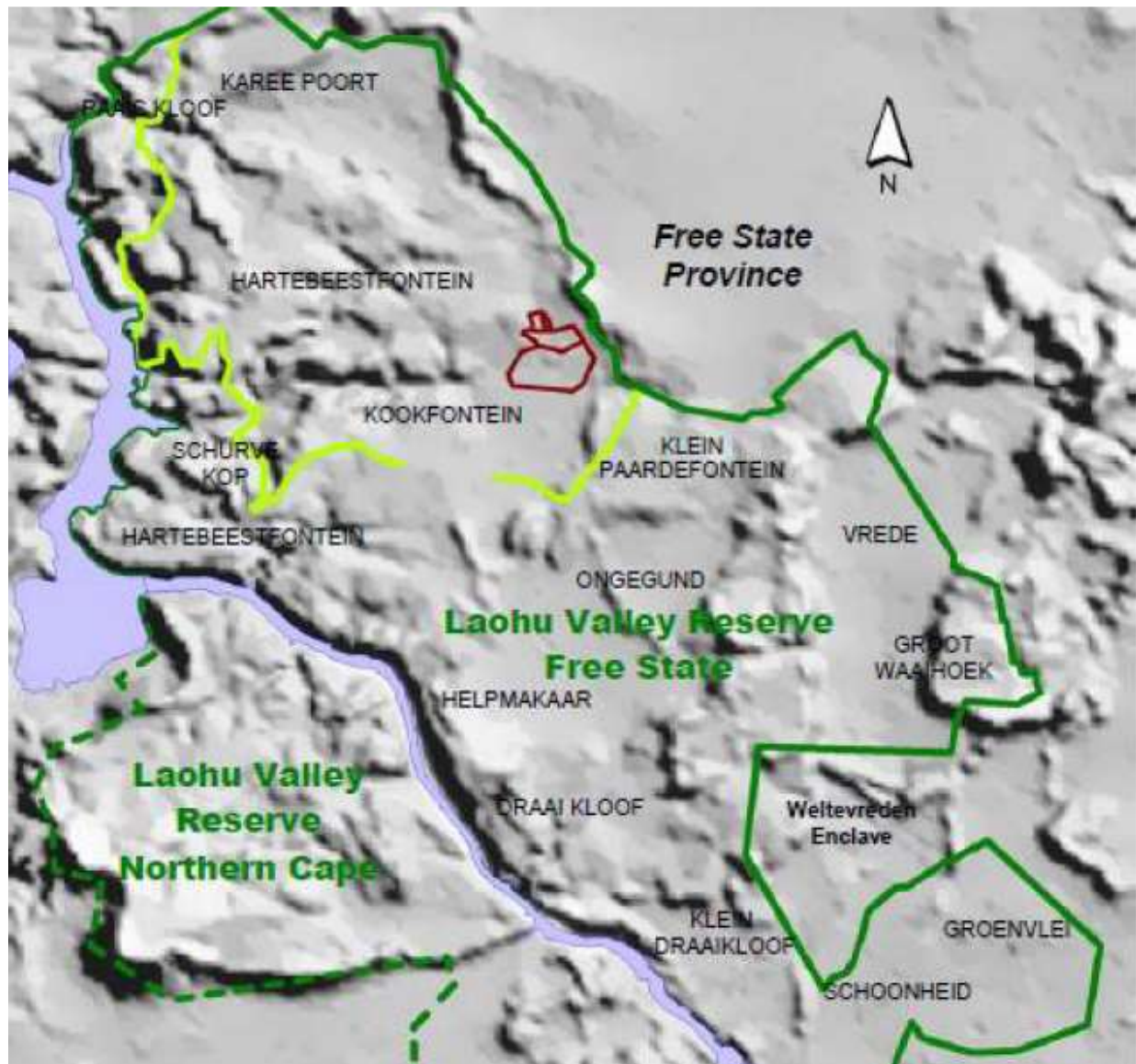
1. Farms “Draaikloof”, and portions split off - “Rooipoortjie” and “Beckershoop”

Farm	Date	Transactions
Draaikloof, farm 25	1856	<p>Original owner was M Coetsee. He sold it in 1856 to Willem van Aswegen. In 1860, it was divided into two portions. Klein Draaikloof split off, and the remainder was sold by Van Aswegen to Jacobus Marhtinus Becker.</p> <p>In 1875, Jacobus Becker sold his portion to Anna Sophia Becker (born Becker!) and Dorothea Jacobus Earle.</p> <p>In 1906, it was divided into two portions; one was called <i>Rooipoortjie</i> (see below); the other portion was called <i>Ongegund</i>, and went out of Becker ownership. Ongegund was later divided into <i>Helpmekaar</i>.</p> <p>The remainder of Draaikloof was later sold back into the Becker family: In 1927, Diederick Janse van Rensburg sold it to Jurgens Johannes Becker, who sold it to Louis Fourie in 1943.</p>
	1919	Anna Sophia Becker sold Draaikloof to Daniel Johannes Holtzhausen
Rooipoortjie, farm 279	1906	First registered by Anna Sophia Becker . This farm was split off from Farm Draaikloof 25.
	1906	AS Becker sold the farm in the same year to Jacobus Marthinus Becker
Rooipoortjie East and Beckershoop	1914	<p>The estate of the Late Jacobus Becker was split into two components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Half was inherited by Richard Caswell Becker. Becker sold in 1928 to Daniel Jacobus Muller. • half inherited by Jacobus Hendrik Marthinus Becker. This was subdivided again in 1920, and Rooipoortjie East was inherited as part of the estate of the late Jacobus Hendrik Marthinus Becker, and divided into two portions in 1920: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> = <i>Beckershoop</i> was inherited by Richard Caswell Becker; In = The remainder was sold by the estate to Amarencia Frederika Snyman, born Jackson; this was then inherited in 1923 by Richard Caswell Becker; Becker sold this portion to Daniel Jacobus Muller in 1928 <p>This farm has subsequently been reunited with other portions, to form the farm <i>Hartebeesfontein</i> Form no. 516.</p>
Beckers Hoop (or Beckershoop)	1920	This farm was first registered in the name of the Estate of the late JHM Becker. Becker (the estate?) sold it in 1928 to Daniel Jacobs Muller.

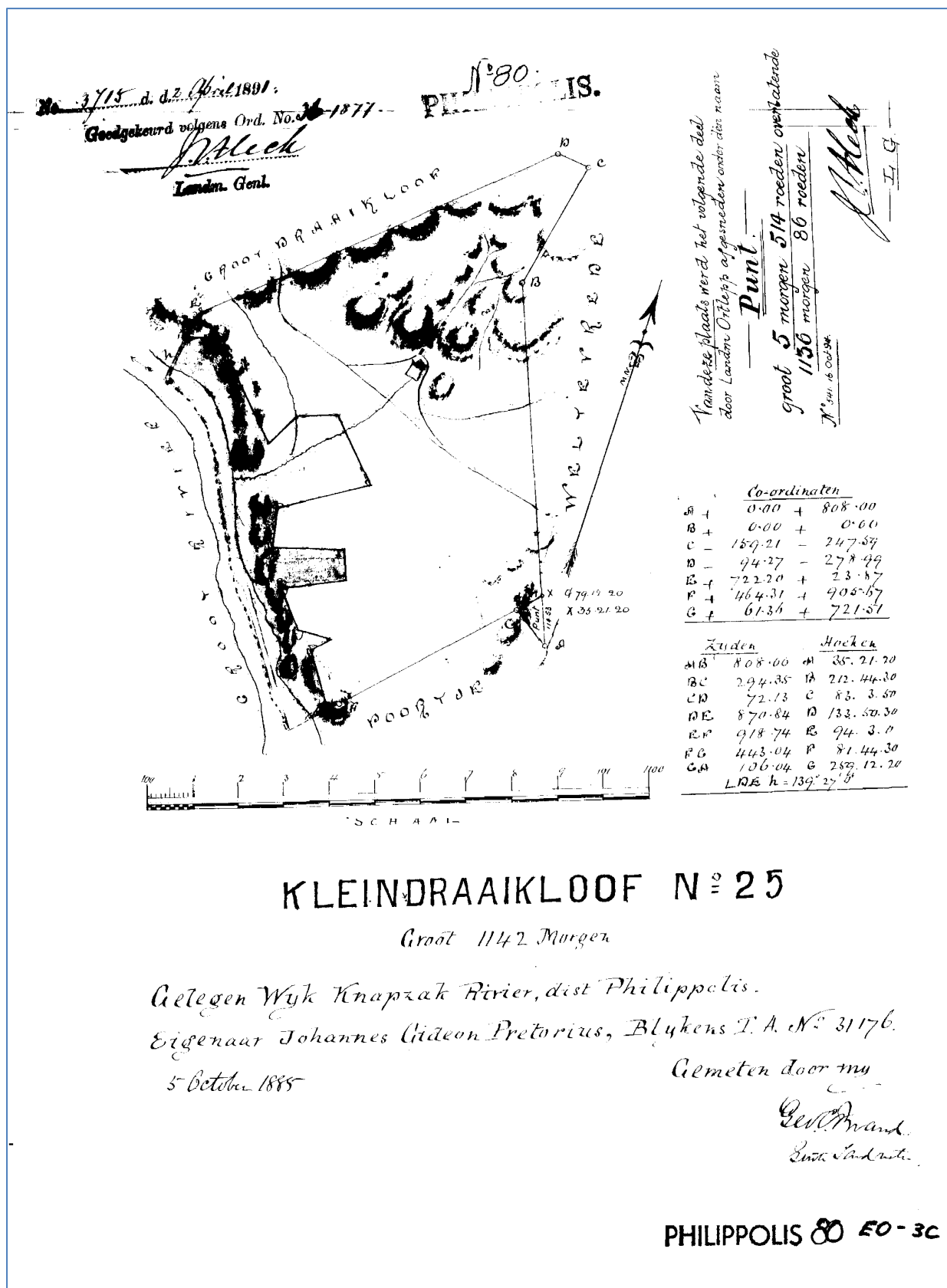
Farm 407		
Helpmekaar (Farm 395)	1919	This farm was first registered in 1919, by A.S. Becker. He sold in 1919 to Daniel Johannes Holtzhausen.

These farms are all in the very southern part of the Philippolis district, along the Orange River.

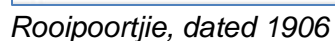
They are now part of the Laohu Tiger Reserve project (see PDF).

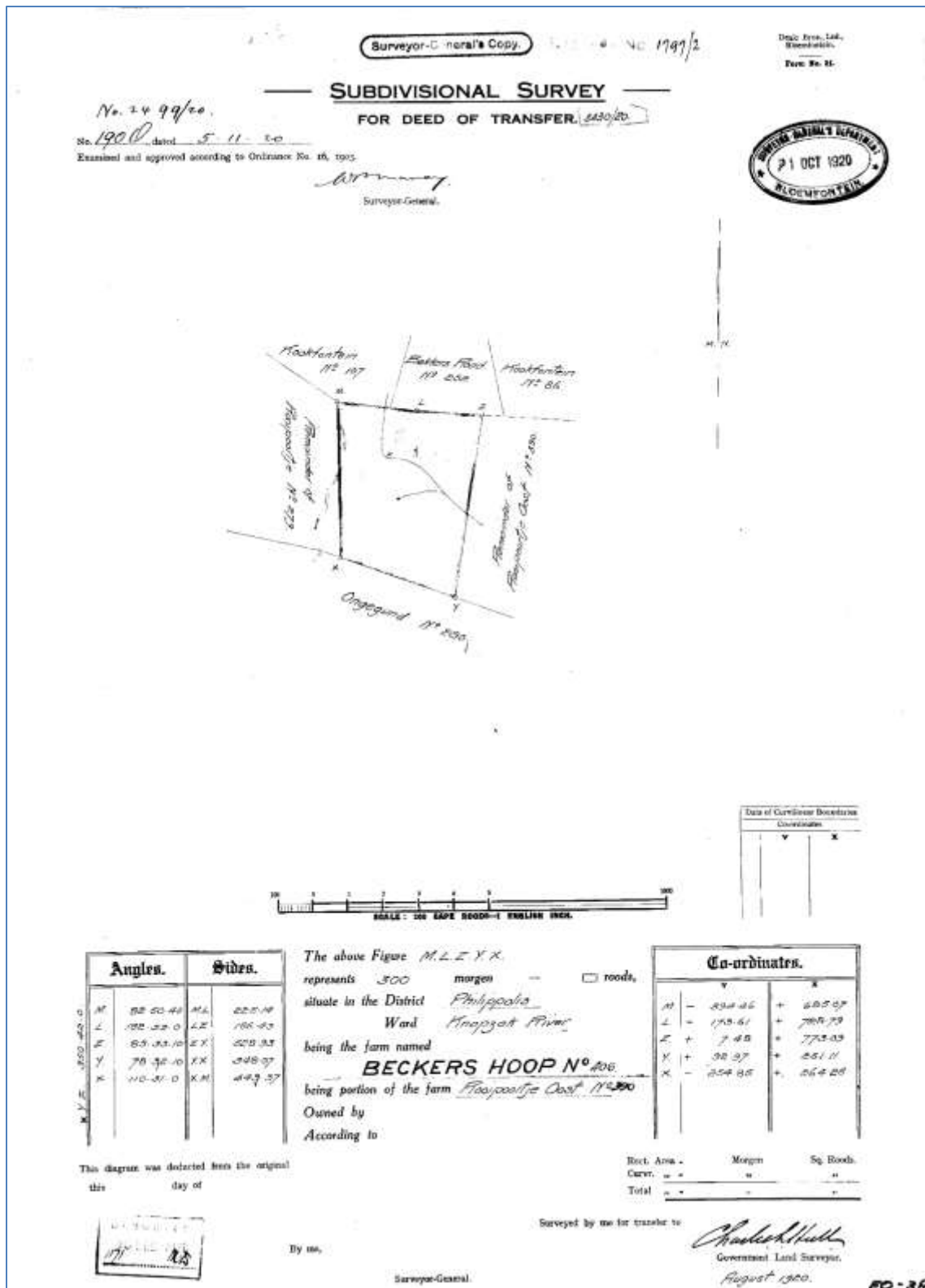


These are some of the original maps:



Klein Draaikloof, dated 1885

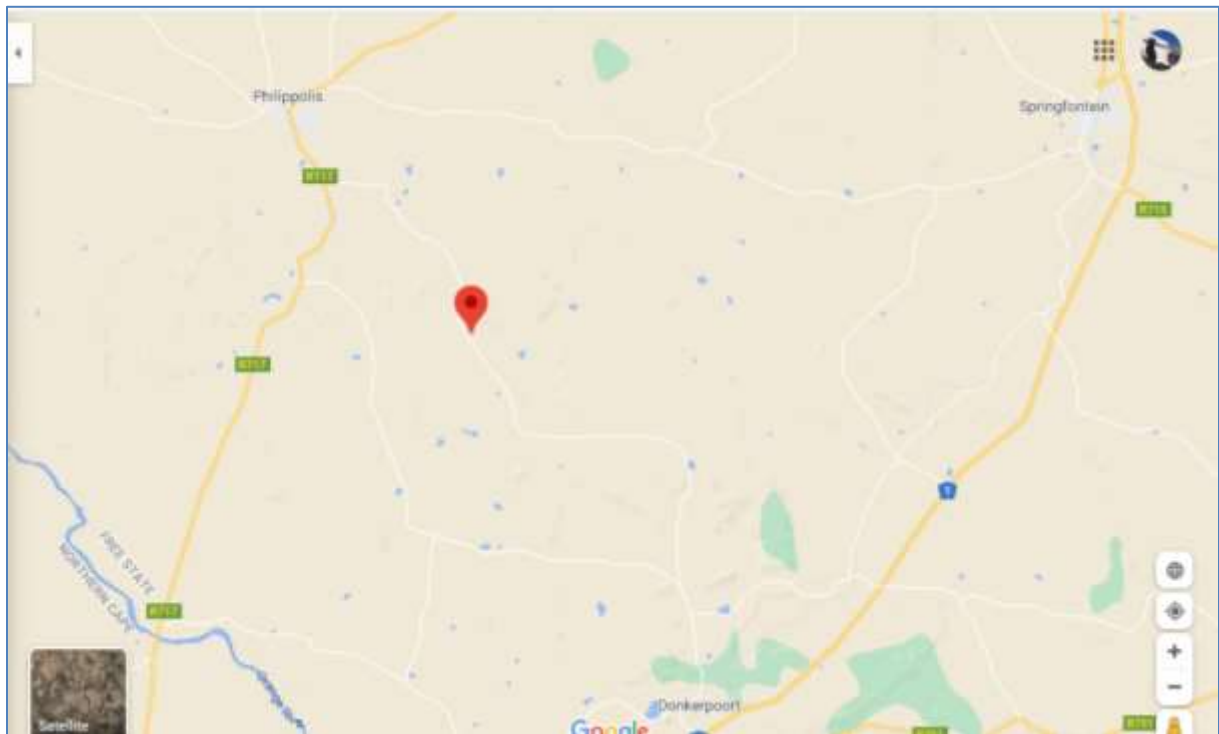




Farm Beckers Hoop, dated 1920

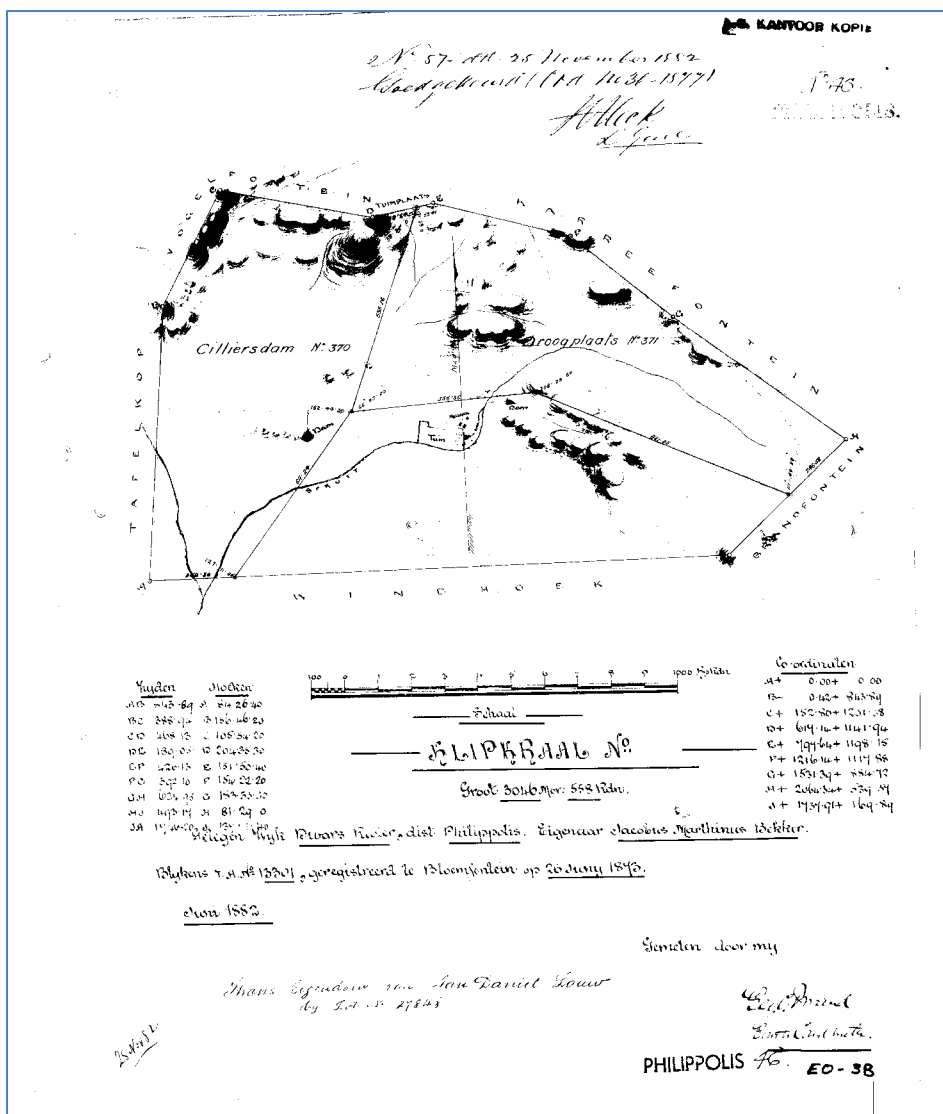
2. Farm "Klipkraal"

Farm	Date	Transactions
Klipkraal, farm 46	1841	First registered in the name of Adam Kok, the Griqua; then sold to Christoffel Visagie, the Griqua; then bought in 1861 in Andries Strauss; then bought by Adolph Albert Ortlepp.
	1873	Adolph Albert Ortlepp sold the farm to Jacobus Marthinus Becker . He sold it to Nicolaas Albertus van Rensburg in 1883.



Farm Klipkraal, south-east of Philippolis, on Googlemaps, see

<https://www.google.co.za/maps/place/30%C2%B021'41.5%22S+25%C2%B022'14.9%22E/@-30.3893678,25.306249,11z/data=!4m5!3m4!1s0x0:0x0!8m2!3d-30.3615255!4d25.3707937>



Klipkraal map from 1882

D. Information from compensation claims

I have two Becker compensation claims (Anna Maria and William), which I will forward to you.

I have not found any Philippolis Beckers in the compensation claims data-base (<https://www2.lib.uct.ac.za/mss/bccd/>) but I suggest that you take a deeper look.

E. Marriage certificate

I have the following certificate available:

1881 Huwelijks-bevestiging ^{op de plaats} te *Philippolis* in het District van *Philippolis* in den Oranjevrijstaat.

No.	Datum.	Volle Naam en Tusschen.	Ouderdom.	Staat.	Aank. of Beroep.	Woning ten tijde des hewelijcs.	Huwelingsgelden: of huur.	Tuochtening.
36	10 ^{de} Jan 1881	<i>Jacobus Martinus Becker</i>	29	<i>Widwer</i>	<i>Becker</i>	<i>Philippolis</i>	<i>Na</i>	<i>der Paden</i>
		<i>Martha Hester Margu- retha Jackson</i>	22	<i>jonge dokter</i>		<i>Draaikloof Diste. Philippolis</i>	<i>huwelyk geboden</i>	<i>van de Bruid</i>

De hewelyk door ons uitgegeven: *D. M. J. Jackson*

Als Getuigen: *R. C. Jackson*
R. C. Botha

Op de plaats *Philippolis* Draaikloof Diste. Philippolis, den 10^{de} Jan 1881

dag *10*

G. F. J. P. P. P. P.

F. The Beckers' economic life after the war

The following items were mentioned in Braby's registers:

1. 1907 and 1908: Farmers: GCA Becker, Kaliesfontein; J Becker at Draaikloof; and K Becker, Alwynskop. (Note that they may have been renters, not owners).
2. 1909-1912: Farmers: SJ Becker, Waaifontein; JM Becker senior, Rooipoortje; and JM Becker junior, Draaikloof
3. 1914: Only SJ Becker, Rooipoortje and JM Becker junior, Draaikloof.

There were no mentions of Beckers living in Philippolis town.