

FW/LMM.

Ref.296/12.

13th. April, 1945.

PROPOSED ROAD TO HARDEKRAALTJE CEMETERY: BELLVILLE.

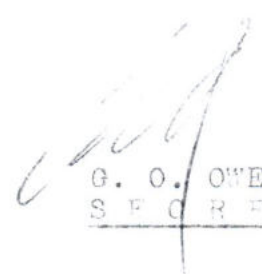
The System Manager.
S. A. Railways.
CAPE TOWN.

With reference to your letter of the 29th June 1944, reference No.L.152/195 relative to the above matter, I desire to state that it is now proposed to close the Hardekraaltje Cemetery and to establish a new one at Stikland.

The Magistrate of Bellville has intimated to the Provincial Secretary that he offers no objection to the proposed closing of the Cemetery provided provision is made for the relations of the people buried there to visit the graves.

I attach copy of your Plan No.C.F.N.W/A/112/1 which accompanied your letter referred to above, and I shall be glad if you will be good enough to indicate thereon the right-of-way which the Administration would be prepared to allow in that connection.

Please also state whether it would be prepared to permit the right-of-way to be registered against the land.


G. O. OWEN.
SECRETARY

2/5.

GOO/MC.

15th August, 1945.

The System Manager,
South African Railways,
CAPE TOWN,

PROPOSED ROAD TO HARDEKRAALTJE CEMETERY, BELLVILLE.

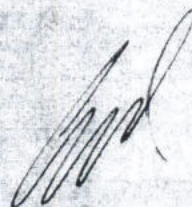
Your letter No. L.152/195 dated the 30th April last.

The Provincial Administration is not prepared to issue the necessary order closing this Cemetery until it is satisfied that provision is made for relations of people buried there to visit the graves, .

This will mean that a road of access must be maintained.

It is noted from your Minute under reply that the Railway Administration "cannot permit access to the cemetery to be gained through Railway land", but with respect it is submitted that it is not competent for the Railway Department to debar access to a cemetery which has existed from time immemorial without making alternative provision if the closing of the existing access becomes necessary in the Railway interests.

It is therefore felt that until such time as the proposed arterial road shown on the plan referred to in your Minute is constructed the existing right of way should continue and when it is closed access from the new arterial road to the Cemetery along the line AB should be provided by the Railway Department and the existing approach track could then be closed.



G.O. OWEN.
SECRETARY.

PROPOSED CLOSING OF CEMETERY AT
HARDEKRAALTJE.

Dear Sir,

As you are no doubt aware arrangements are being made to establish a public cemetery on a portion of the La Belle Alliance Outspan between the Stikland and Botteray Roads and to close the existing one at Hardekraaltje, Bellville. The Provincial Administration has informed the Council that the Magistrate of Bellville, after consultation with the Secretary of the Board of Trustees of the latter cemetery, offers no objection to the proposed closing provided provision is made for relatives of people buried there to visit the graves.

The Council has been in communication with the Railway Administration regarding the question of access to the cemetery and the following letter has now been received from the System Manager :-

"With reference to your letter G00/MC of the 15th August, 1945, it would appear that the present means of access to the cemetery in question is from the Cape Town - Bellville Main Road over the crossing near the gatekeeper's cottage at railway mileage 111. 30Chs. 39Lks. thence across the Elsie's River and bearing in a southerly direction to the cemetery. This route is shown as a path or track on the Surveyor General's degree sheet.

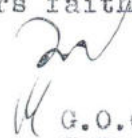
If, however, there was vehicular access to the cemetery via this route it certainly could not now be used by vehicles without a great deal of reconstruction, and it is doubtful if such access as there is has been in recent years by other than foot traffic.

Once the construction of the marshalling yard is under way, it would be definitely impossible to retain the present access, but an alternative scheme would be a path from the Main Road, west of where the proposed avoiding line will cut it, crossing the main line and thence across the Elsie's River to the cemetery.

I should be glad to learn whether a footpath would meet the needs of visitors to the cemetery, in view of what has been stated regarding the present means of access which cannot serve other than foot traffic."

As you are fully cognisant with the needs of the people who are likely to use the cemetery it would be appreciated if you would be good enough to furnish this Council with your view on the last paragraph of the above quoted letter.

Yours faithfully,


G.O. OWEN.
S E C R E T A R Y.

M. A. H. OWEN,
Box 12,
Johannesburg.

Records No 3150

THE DIVISIONAL COUNCIL OF THE CAPE
6 DORP STREET, CAPE TOWN

25th Oct. 1947

To the Medical Officer of Health

In Re. Herdekrachtje Cemetery

Sir

I interviewed Mr Swan who told me the graveyard is 2 Morgan in extent and since 1942, 539 burials are on record. He has no record of burials prior to that date.

On investigation I found the place fenced with barbed wire and graves scattered all over the enclosed area.

The graveyard is in a very neglected state about 25% of the area along the western side is overgrown with bush.

I counted 701 graves indicated by pieces of crockery, bricks, wooden crosses, mounds of sand etc. It is not possible to estimate how many burials have taken place as the flattening of the mounds and activities of Moles have removed all traces of many graves.

There are only two marked slabs the largest being round topped 6 inches by 18 inches high. About 8 graves can be identified by wooden crosses or boards with names still legible.

It is evident from the neglected state of the place that there is nobody in control and that friends & relatives have no interest in the graves.

J. P. Rebel
Health Inspector

MEMO. TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

RE : HAARDEKRAALTJE CEMETERY.

Health Inspector J. E. Retief today surveyed the above Cemetery, interviewed Mr. A. H. Swan, Hon. Secretary, and reported as follows :-

1. The Cemetery is 2 morgen in extent.
2. Mr. Swan says 539 burials have been carried out since 1942. No record prior to that date.
3. Mr. Retief found cemetery fenced in by barbed wire.
4. Graves are scattered over entire two morgen.
5. Graveyard in a very neglected state.
6. 25% of area on western side overgrown with bush.
7. Inspector counted 701 graves indicated by mounds of sand, brick, wooden crosses etc.
8. It is not possible accurately to estimate total number of burials because flattening of mounds and activities of moles have removed traces of many graves.
9. Only two graves with marble slabs, biggest being a round topped 6" x 18" (high) slab.
10. Eight graves can be identified with wooden crosses on which names are still legible.
11. Evident from neglected state of whole burial ground that no control is exercised in regard to its maintenance and upkeep, and no one is apparently interested in any graves.

Mr. Swan will, I believe, be writing to Council re funds he has in hand.

✓ received see attached.

(1)

H. H. H. H.
CHIEF HEALTH CLERK.

23/1/50

N.B. Cemetery closed on 22/1/50 by
proclamation of Administration.

The Divisional Council of the Cape.

6, DORP STREET, CAPE TOWN.

TKK/JL

29th October, 1947.

MEMORANDUM TO THE SECRETARY:

HAARDEKRAALTJIE CEMETERY.

In connection with the above matter I have to advise that the haardkraaltjie cemetery was only "closed for burial purposes".

In terms of the Cemeteries Act (Act No. 3 of 1925) the ownership of this land remains vested in the Trustees of the cemetery. No duty devolves upon the Council in regard to the exhumation and re-interment of the remains buried in the cemetery.

The law is not clear on the point but it would appear that until such time as the administrator gives any further instructions in regard to the cemetery it remains as such and the graves remain as they are.

Noted by Secretary
17/11/47
29/10/47

[Signature]