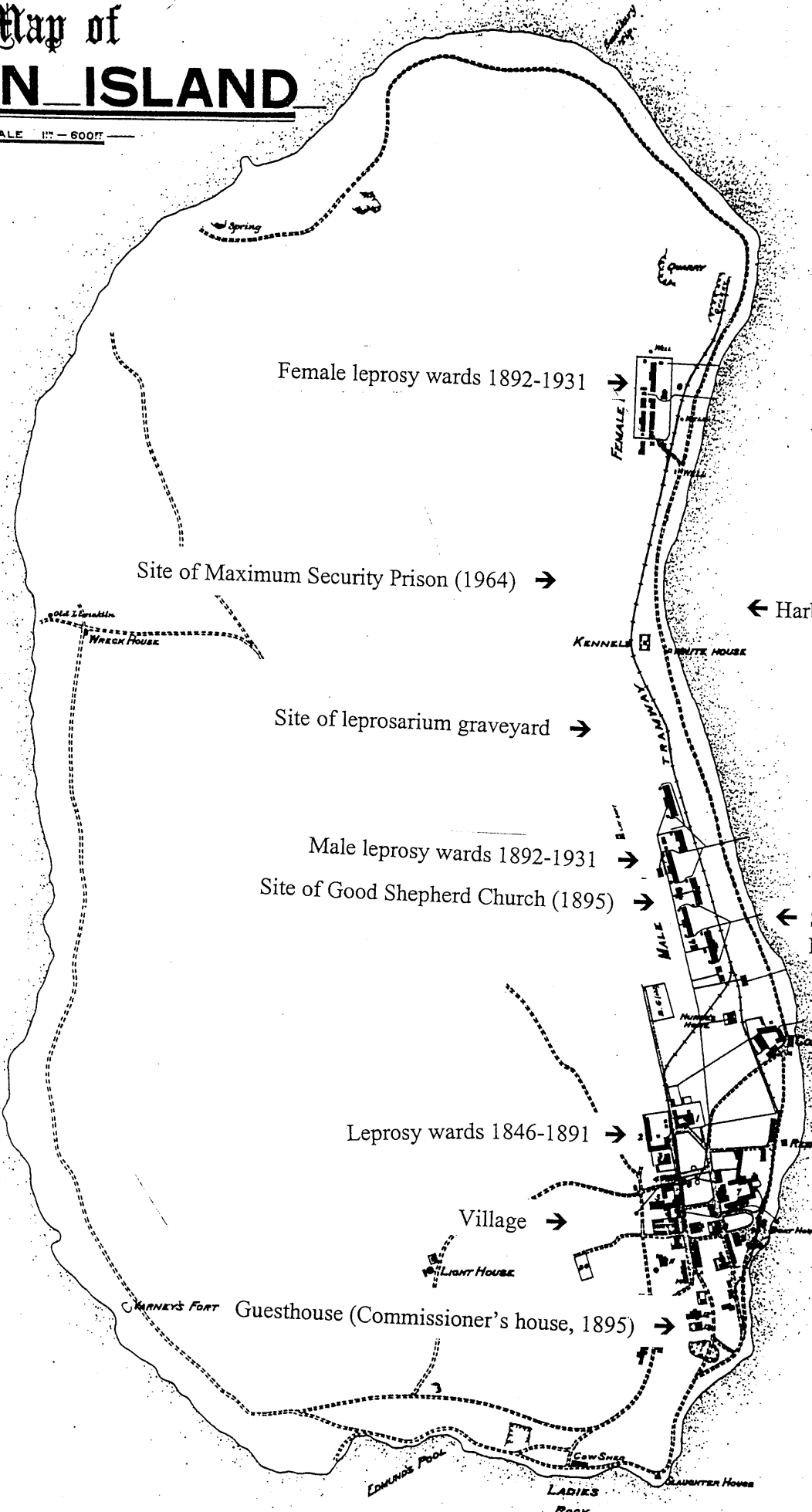


Map of

ROBBEN ISLAND

1894

SCALE 1" = 600'



REFERENCE.	
1	Chief & Med. Supr.
2	Workshops.
3	Parananga.
4	English Church.
5	Male Asylum.
6	Tank, Messery.
7	Female Asylum.
8	Asst. Med. Officer.
9	Office.
10	Store.
11	Library & Billiard Room.
12	Dutch Parananga.
13	Magistrate's Quarters.
14	Wks. Dept. Recreation Rm.
--- Tram Line.	
Blue	Water Pipes.
Brown	Drain

*Reduced from Survey Map
and revised & completed to date
D. C. G. ...
Archived*

Period	Administration	Use of Robben Island
1652-1795	Dutch colonial	Food supplies: sheep, seals, penguins Prison: political & criminal from 1657 Early warning system for ships entering bay
1795-1803	British colonial	Prison?
1803-1806	Batavian Republic (Dutch)	Probably unused
1806-1910	British colonial	1808-1845 Prison 1866-c.1890 Criminal prison 1857-c.1890 Political prisoners 1846-1891 Chronic sick Hospital 1846-1921 Mental asylum 1846-1931 Leprosarium
1910-1948	Union of South Africa	until 1921 Mental asylum until 1931 Leprosarium 1931-1939 Vacant 1939-1945 Wartime training station 1946-1959 Coastal Artillery, Marine Corps & Naval training station
1948-1994	Republic of South Africa	until 1959 Coastal Artillery, Marine Corps & Naval training station 1960-1996 Prison
1994-present	Democratic South Africa	until 1996 Prison 1997-present Museum & Heritage site



**A BRIEF CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS RELATED TO
PEOPLE AFFECTED BY LEPROSY
ON ROBBEN ISLAND**



1846

The hospital period begins on Robben Island and people affected by leprosy are brought to the island from *Hemel-en-Aarde* (Heaven and Earth), a Moravian mission station. They are very unhappy about the move as they lost established gardens and livestock. On the island there is no strict segregation on grounds of race or illness in this early phase, only according to gender. Old buildings are used to house people affected by leprosy, including old prison buildings, sheds and stables.

In September, 56 people affected by leprosy are recorded as living on the island. The death rate is extremely high with an average of one patient dying per month from January to September.

1863

Records indicate 69 patients, mostly classified coloured, in the leper section of the hospital.

1868

Moravian missionaries leave the island and the Anglican Church took over the ministering to patients.

1871

Women affected by leprosy are moved to the Old Somerset hospital in order to segregate them further from affected males because of fears of their bearing children with leprosy.

1884

Leprosy Repression Act passed by Cape Parliament (but not gazetted). The intention of the act is to identify and isolate all those living with leprosy in leper hospitals due to misplaced but growing fears of contagion.

1886

Women are returned to Robben Island and housed in new quarters to the north of Murray's Bay.

1887-8

People affected by leprosy prevented from visiting friends on the mainland due to mistaken fears of the disease being highly contagious.

1889

New developments and buildings constructed prior to an expected influx of people living with leprosy.

1890

The Dutch Reformed Church establishes a mission on the island and builds a church for men living with leprosy.

1891

Cape Leprosy Suppression Act is enforced and large numbers of people living with leprosy are identified under the act.

1892

As the only asylum for leprosy in the Cape Colony, large numbers of affected people are transported to Robben Island. New male patients are housed in a compound to the south-west of Murray's Bay, much



closer to the village than the women's asylum, which is now fenced and guarded. Racial segregation is also enforced.

1892-3

Records indicate 838 new patients admitted during these years after the enforcement of the act.. A library is opened and thousands of trees planted to provide shade and reduce the glare.

1892-5

Rebellion by people living with leprosy against the increased control mechanisms. Escape attempts and arson attempts occur. Franz Jacobs recorded as the leader of the uprising. Jacobs is removed to the Old Somerset Hospital until he acknowledges that 'he had been wrong to rebel'. Additional men posted to the island to quell the rebellion – they become known as the leper police. Improvements are made to buildings and sanitation facilities are built. Families of people living with leprosy are allowed free boat trips to Robben Island.

1895

Church of the Good Shepherd is constructed for men affected by leprosy.

1890s

Robben Island houses the majority of patients, over 500 lepers at any one time. 'Troublemakers', including people protesting against their incarceration, are transported to the island. Rev C. Engleheart builds his residence within the men's settlement.

1895-1901

The death rate for people living with leprosy remains high, ranging from 13-20%.

1901

An outbreak of smallpox leads to the authorities destroying a number of shanties that patients constructed and were allowed to use during the day time, providing some privacy and independence. Shacks were also destroyed as a punishment, e.g. if patients were found guilty of having sexual relations.

1910

The Anglican Sisters of All Saints establishes a home for children living with leprosy on a rise between the women's and men's settlements. Separate wards for boys and girls, a residence for the sisters, a rondavel for activities and a chapel are built. Children born to parents affected by leprosy are housed here alongside patients.

1910-1917

Records indicate that 275 people living with leprosy are released as their condition is designated as 'arrested'.

1921

The children's wards are closed when the Anglican sisters returned to England.



1923-30

As understanding of leprosy grows, many lepers are released as they are regarded as non-infective.

1931

The remaining 108 lepers leave Robben Island due to closure of the hospital and are sent to hospitals on the mainland. All the buildings used by lepers are destroyed and burnt, with the exception of the Church of the Good Shepherd.

