

RR 99/58
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SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF RACE RELATIONS (INC.)
SUID-AFRIKAANSE INSTITUUT VIR RASSEVERHOUDINGS (INGELYF)

P.O. Box 97

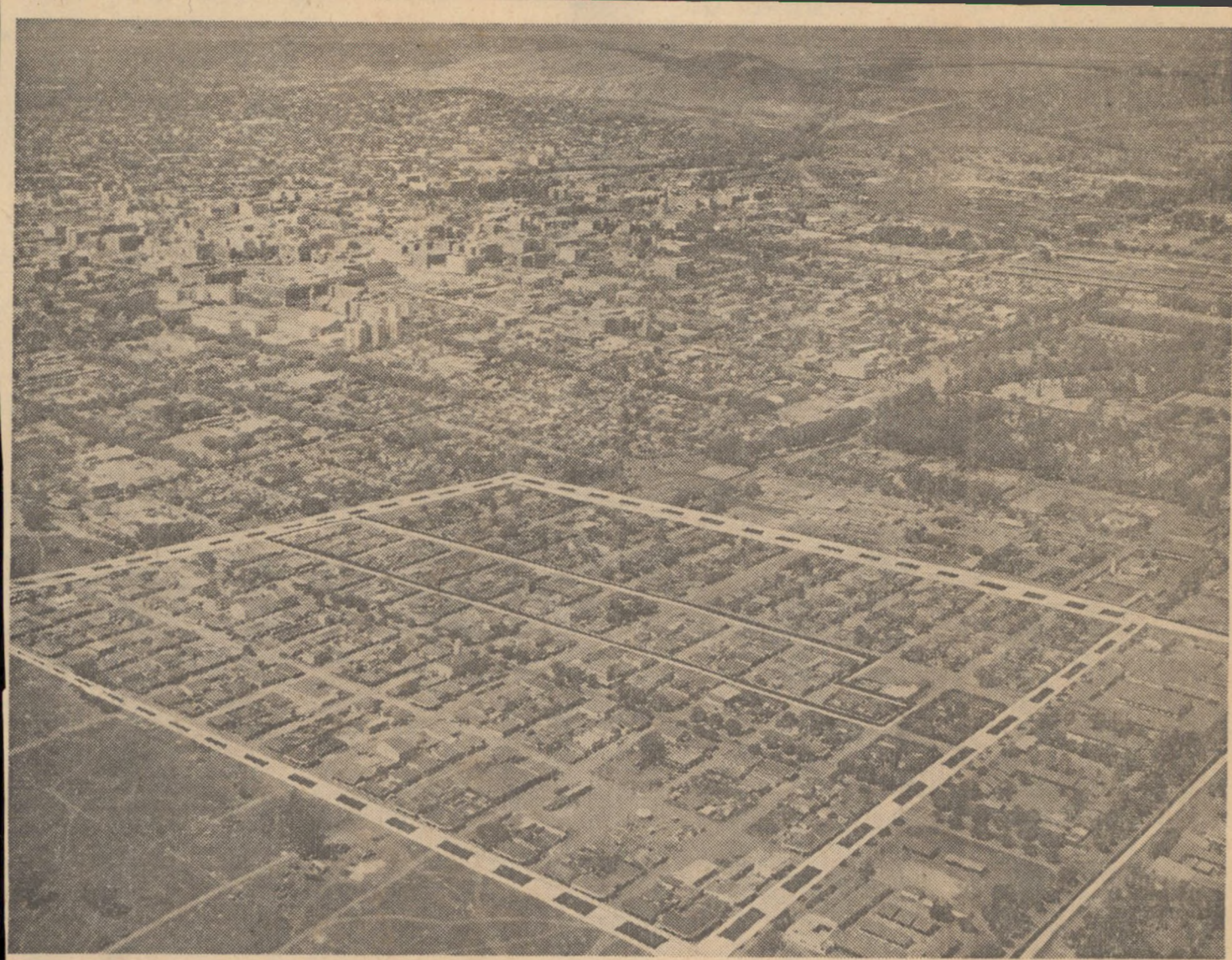
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JOHANNESBURG

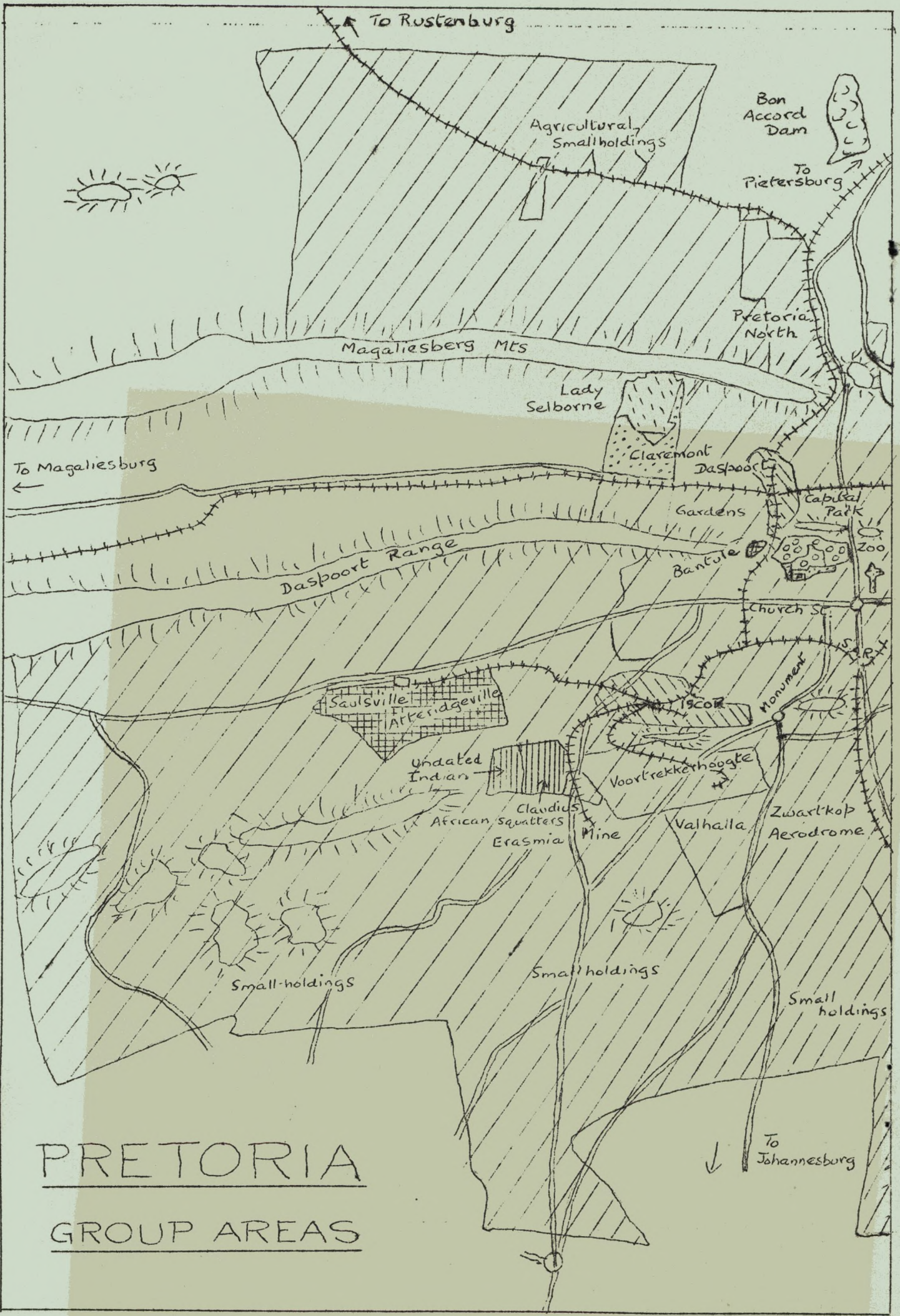
P R E T O R I A

GROUP AREAS

PROCLAIMED ON 6 JUNE 1958



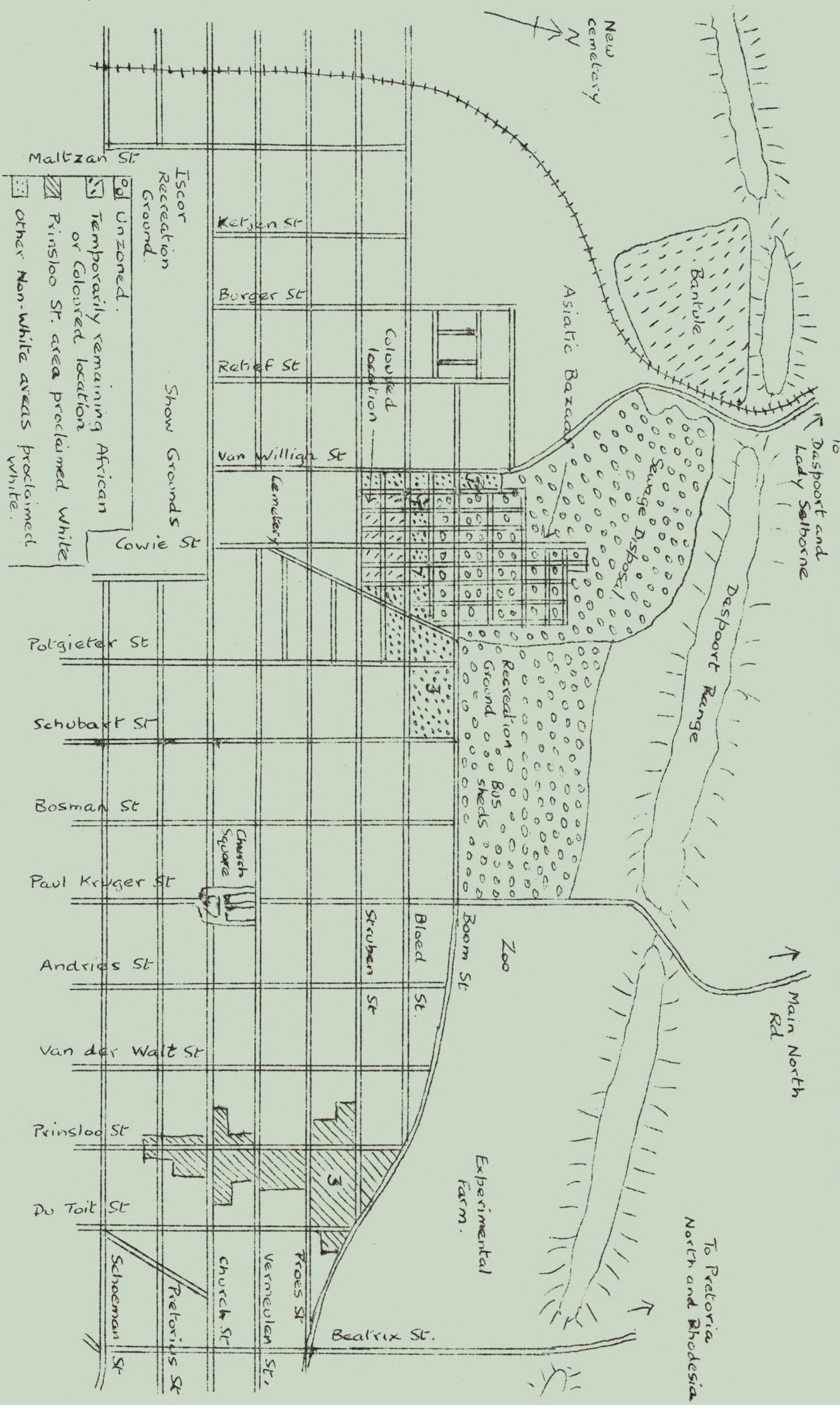
The Asiatic Bazaar in Pretoria, of which only a small area has been proclaimed a European area, as seen from the air. The area within the dotted line includes the Asiatic Bazaar and the Cape Coloured location. The small strip inside this area, indicated by a black line, has been proclaimed White, as well as the strip on the right of the picture where the Indian and Coloured schools are situated.



PRETORIA
GROUP AREAS



NORTH-WEST PORTION OF CENTRAL CITY AREA



- Unzoned.
- ▨ Temporarily remaining African or Coloured location
- ▧ Prinsloo St. area proclaimed White
- ▩ Other Non-white areas proclaimed White.

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GROUP AREAS PROCLAIMED IN

PRETORIA

In terms of proclamation 150 of 6 June 1958, the entire built-up area of Pretoria, with the exception of parts listed below, and much of the surrounding peri-urban land, has been proclaimed an area for immediate White ownership and White occupation within one year - i.e. by 6 June 1959.

The exceptions are as follows:

- a) Various industrial areas, as shown on the map.
- b) Lady Selborne is an undated White area.
- c) Claremont (northern part) and Booyens, adjoining it, are areas for White ownership and for White occupation within 3 years.
- d) Bantule has not been zoned. It remains a proclaimed African location, and will be deproclaimed as such when the Africans have been moved.
- e) The northern half of the Asiatic Bazaar, and land adjoining this to the east (undeveloped except for bus-sheds, etc.) has not been zoned, and remains a controlled area, in which inter-racial transfers of ownership and occupation of property are prohibited except under permit, the basis for control of occupation being the racial group of the owner.
- f) Strips along the centre and along the west of the Asiatic Bazaar are for White ownership and White occupation within 7 years.
- g) A small piece of land adjoining the Asiatic Bazaar to the east, around the north end of Potgieter St., is for White ownership and White occupation within 5 years.
- h) The Coloured location, to the south of the Asiatic Bazaar, is unzoned. It remains a proclaimed African location (the old Marabastad) although it is now occupied by Coloured people; and it will be deproclaimed as such when the Coloured families have moved, and probably then set aside for Whites.
- i) Blocks around Prinsloo St. between Pretorius and Boom Streets, which form the more profitable of the two main Indian trading areas, are proclaimed for White ownership and White occupation within 3 years.
- j) Part of the farm Derdepoort 469 (undeveloped), to the west of Vlakfontein, is proclaimed for Coloured ownership and occupation within one year.
- k) Vlakfontein remains an African area.
- l) So do Atteridgeville and Saulsville.
- m) Part of the area Claudius, south east of Atteridgeville and between 7 and 8 miles from the centre of the city, is proclaimed for Indian ownership and Indian occupation within one year.

- n) Part of the farm Mooiplaats 69, adjoining Claudius, is an undated Indian area.
- o) Highlands and Eastwood, in the south-east of the Pretoria area, which are mainly occupied by Non-Whites, are proclaimed as undated White areas.

HOW THE PROCLAMATION WILL AFFECT MEMBERS OF THE VARIOUS RACIAL GROUPS.

1. WHITES

A very few White families may have to move from the area proclaimed for Indians.

Apart from this no Whites will have to move, and the White group gains solidly at the expense of Coloured people, Indians and Africans.

2. CHINESE

No group area has been proclaimed for Chinese people. They will probably be allowed to continue to trade in their present premises under permit; but as most if not all of their properties have been made defined areas, they cannot make any extensions or alterations to their premises except under permit.

3. COLOURED PEOPLE.

The Office of Census and Statistics estimates that there are at present 7,900 Coloured people in Pretoria.

Their exact geographical distribution is not known; but probably well over half of them live in and around the Coloured location. Those in the unzoned area there are not immediately affected, but will eventually have to move. Those living around this area are affected, and will have to go within five or seven years, depending on where their homes are situated.

The next largest number of Coloured people lives in Claremont, and to a lesser extent Lady Selborne. Some Coloured own properties in Claremont which are let to Indians. All Coloured people in Claremont will have to move out within three years. Those in Lady Selborne will have to go eventually, as will also the Coloured families now living in Bantule, Highlands and Eastwood.

Coloured families living in other areas, such as East Lynne, Eersterus, Newlands, Parkmore, Pretoria North, Waterkloof, Silverton, etc., will have to move within one year.

The group area proclaimed for Coloured people at Derdepoort is at present undeveloped. Water and light could be provided without much difficulty, from the mains to Vlakfontein. A railway line forms part of the southern boundary of Derdepoort; but as this is the main line to Witbank and on to Lourenco Marques, main line fares at present have to be paid, and these are very expensive.

Derdepoort is about 9 to 10 miles from the centre of Pretoria.

4. INDIANS

The most grievous blow for Indians will be the loss of the central Prinsloo St. area, which they have to vacate within three years. Many of their families have owned prosperous businesses there for generations, and a very high proportion indeed of the trade is with Whites. There are about a hundred colourful, crowded, well-patronized Indian stores in this small area. In general, the families live in overcrowded conditions in the yards behind the shops. Perhaps one-tenth of Pretoria's estimated Asian population of 7,300 lives here.

It is said that the business of these traders has already fallen off since (following the bus boycott) the Non-White bus termini were moved further out from the centre of the city. It is also said that the Indians in the valuable Prinsloo St. area will be highly unlikely to sell out at a loss. But will they be able to make a living elsewhere?

Another matter of major concern to them is the likely loss of their central mosque.

About one-half of the Indians lives in the Asiatic Bazaar. The dwellings in the Bazaar, which vary enormously in standard, are quite shockingly overcrowded because, mainly, of restrictions on building and land-purchase. But, despite the misery thus caused, the Bazaar is an area of many attractions - well-designed mosques, highly decorated temples, music, ranging from the traditional to swing, played on a variety of instruments, brightly coloured saris and blankets displayed outside the stores, cheerfully chattering young people on street corners.

Indians living in the south and along the eastern and western borders of the Bazaar will have to move out within five to seven years. The future of the rest is most uncertain, as their area is as yet unzoned. Indians may be permitted to hire trading sites in this area on long leases, moving their homes to the Indian group area of Claudius. But a small proportion only of the present traders could continue to earn a living there, since the neighbouring Africans and Coloured people, who form their main clientele, are to go. Certainly the area could not support, in addition to the present traders, those forced to leave the Prinsloo St. and other areas.

Over thirty Indian traders with premises scattered in the central part of the city other than in the Prinsloo St. area will have to move within a year. Nearly forty Indian traders will have to leave Claremont within three years. All those who trade in the peri-urban areas will have to move, too; from De Beers, Despatch, East Lynne, Eersterus, Parkmore, Pretoria North, Riverside, Silverton, etc. within one year, and from Eastwood and Highlands at some date still to be determined.

They may or may not be allowed to set up trading premises, highly unlikely to be profitable, in the northern part of the present Asiatic Bazaar. Their only alternative is to move some seven or eight miles out of town to the undeveloped Indian group area at Claudius - an area which will certainly not be patronized by White or Coloured shoppers, and which is out-of-the-way even for the Africans of Atteridgeville, to the north.

One of the very few points to be said in favour of Claudius is that a railway line between Pretoria and a small dolomite mine skirts its border.

Both the Indian and Coloured communities of Pretoria is in urgent need of housing. Little valid opposition could be raised to the erection of housing schemes for them in their new group areas. But there is a vast difference between the provision of housing for those in need of this, and the forcible ejection of whole communities from areas where they have lived legally for generations, and from which their livelihoods are derived.

5. AFRICANS

Africans are to lose the only two areas in Pretoria - Lady Selborne and Claremont - where they have freehold rights. Possibly about 1,000 Africans own property in the former, and 200 in the latter, township.

For some time the policy has been to move all Africans to the strictly-controlled locations at Vlakfontein in the east, and Saulsville/Atteridgeville in the west. All rentals in these townships have been placed on an "economic" basis: there is no subsidized housing as exists for the poorer African families of Johannesburg. Transport costs, especially from Vlakfontein, are excessive.

This policy has by no means been fully implemented. There are perhaps

50,000 Africans still living in Lady Selborne and 8,000 in Claremont. Many thousands more live in Bantule near the Asiatic Bazaar; in Eastwood, Riverside, Eersterus, Highlands and Silverton to the east of the city; and in scattered squatter camps to the west. Large numbers of Africans are still living in the area now set aside for Indians.

Comment on the equity or otherwise of the proclamation is superfluous.

Muriel Horrell

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