

2022



AAPRAVASI GHAT
World Heritage Site

AAPRAVASI GHAT (MAURITIUS) C1227

STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORT 2022

Ministry of Arts and Cultural Heritage
Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund

November 2022

STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORTS BY THE STATES PARTIES

(in compliance with Paragraph 169 of the *Operational Guidelines*)

Aapravasi Ghat (Mauritius) (C1227)

Executive Summary

The present State of Conservation Report for the Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Property in Mauritius is submitted following the request of the World Heritage Committee during the 44th session of the World Heritage Committee (Fuzhou, China, 2021).

The State of Conservation report provides an update on the World Heritage Committee's Decisions (44 COM 7B.119) requesting the State Party to:

- i. Welcomes the submission and adoption of the updated Management Plan (2020-2025), and the adoption of the "Area Action Plan for Urban Heritage Area: Buffer Zone of the Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Property (AAP 01)", which includes provisions for impact assessments where development proposals may negatively impact the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;*
- ii. Also welcomes the commitment of the State Party to undertake and submit for review an overarching Heritage Impact Assessment and Visual Impact Assessment (HIA/VIA) on the buffer zone developments, as well as constituent HIA/VIAs on the individual developments before projects are implemented;*
- iii. Reiterates its request to the State Party to develop a framework for stakeholder consultation in all matters that may affect the OUV of the property, including for impact assessment procedures;*
- iv. Requests the State Party to provide information to the World Heritage Centre on future archival and archaeological research on the Parc à Boulets;*

The Ministry of Arts and Cultural Heritage has enlisted the services of consultants to prepare an overarching Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) and Visual Impact Assessment (VIA) Report to meet the request of the World Heritage Committee in July 2019. After an unsuccessful bidding exercise and national lockdown that ended in June 2020, the State Party was able to proceed with the enlistment of the consultants to prepare the overarching Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) and Visual Impact Assessment (VIA) Report.

The development projects in the buffer zone have not yet reached construction stage considering that individual HIA and VIA will be first undertaken. This process will be initiated after the adoption of the overarching HIA and VIA report.

The archival research on Parc à Boulets has already been initiated and the interim report is submitted together with the State of Conservation Report to UNESCO World Heritage Centre. The services of an archaeologist have already been enlisted and the archaeological survey at Parc à Boulets is expected to start in January 2023.

Response to the Decision of the World Heritage Committee

- i. Welcomes the submission and adoption of the updated Management Plan (2020-2025), and the adoption of the “Area Action Plan for Urban Heritage Area: Buffer Zone of the Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Property (AAP 01)”, which includes provisions for impact assessments where development proposals may negatively impact the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;

The Area Action Plan for Urban Heritage Area: Buffer Zone of the Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Property (AAP 01) was adopted in December 2019. The AAP 01 was used in conjunction with the Planning Policy Guidance for the preparation of the overarching HIA/VIA report. Moreover, the AAP 01 provides guidelines for individual HIA and VIA.

- ii. Also welcomes the commitment of the State Party to undertake and submit for review an overarching Heritage Impact Assessment and Visual Impact Assessment (HIA/VIA) on the buffer zone developments, as well as constituent HIA/VIAs on the individual developments before projects are implemented;

Preparation of an overarching HIA/VIA for the Buffer Zone

In 2020, the Ministry of Arts and Cultural Heritage initiated actions to develop an overarching HIA/VIA for the buffer zone of the Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Property. The Ministry of Arts and Cultural Heritage launched a tender procedure to enlist the services of Consultant(s) for the preparation of a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) and Visual Impact Assessment (VIA) Report on 9 January 2020 with a closing date on 26 February 2020. This tender exercise was not successful and led to a second national and international open advertised bidding launched on 3rd July 2020 with a closing date on 3rd August 2020.

The bid was awarded to an international consultant on 05 February 2021. Due to sanitary restrictions related to Covid 19, stakeholder consultations were carried out mainly by online meetings. A draft report of the Overarching HIA and VIA report was submitted on 10 May 2022.

Ms Liana Jansen, Heritage Planner and Landscape Architect from Eco Africa Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd travelled to Mauritius with a view to discussing further on the recommendations of the final report regarding the location of the

Aapravasi Ghat Station and the Immigration Square Urban Terminal project. She was in Mauritius from 03 to 05 July 2022.

A meeting was organised by the Ministry with stakeholders including representatives of the Metro Express Project and the Immigration Square Urban Terminal Project on 04 July 2022 followed by a site visit at the Victoria Urban Terminal up to the Immigration Square to enable Ms Liana Jansen to better understand our vision for developments in the buffer zone of the Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Property as well as the implications on traffic if ever the recommendation to have the Aapravasi Ghat Station within the Immigration Square Urban Terminal Project is maintained.

A workshop was thereafter organised with all stakeholders on 05 July 2022 at the request of Ms L. Jansen to enable her to get additional information on the projects namely an Integrated Traffic Master for Buffer Zones 1 and 2, vibration and noise mitigating measures, position of electric poles on the railway track, to inform on the Aapravasi Ghat Station and an urban design masterplan for the development projects which should include the Cultural Heritage Precinct.

The final report for the HIA and VIA has been received on 17 November 2022 and is currently under consideration.

The individual HIA and VIA for the development projects in the buffer zone

The joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission visited the property in May 2018 and examined the following large-scale development projects in the buffer zone for which it made a number of recommendations including the need for individual Heritage and Visual Impact Assessments. As part of the Overarching HIA and VIA report, the following projects were identified for further individual assessments in line with the existing regulations in the country:

- (i) Redevelopment of the Granary building and associated infrastructure by Landscape (Mauritius) Ltd;
- (ii) Redevelopment, Modernisation and Operation of the Immigration Square Urban Terminal at Port Louis, by the Ministry of National Infrastructure and Community Development;
- (iii) The Metro Express project by Metro Express Ltd and an end station at the Immigration Square;
- (iv) The Intercontinental Slavery Museum by the Ministry of Arts and Cultural Heritage;
- (v) The Beekrumsing Ramlallah Interpretation Centre – Phase II by the Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund;
- (vi) Upgrading/ Reconstruction of the Fish, Meat and Poultry Section of the Central Market at Port Louis by the Municipal City Council of Port Louis; and
- (vii) Public Walkway project by Landscape (Mauritius) Ltd.

The individual HIA and VIA for the development projects will be carried out and sent to the UNESCO for technical review once completed. So far, the large-scale projects have not started their construction works in the respect of the Decisions adopted during the 43rd session of the World Heritage Committee for the Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Property.

iii. Reiterates its request to the State Party to develop a framework for stakeholder consultation in all matters that may affect the OUV of the property, including for impact assessment procedures;

As part of the preparation process of the Planning Policy Guidance 6 and the Development Plan for the Buffer Zone (2011), a Consultative Committee met to discuss the issues related to the World Heritage Property and its Buffer Zone. The Consultative Committee comprises members from the local community and governmental institutions. A total of 96 members are part of the Consultative Committee and take part in the process of consultations for issues related to the preservation, management and promotion of the World Heritage Property and its surroundings. It represents 3.2% of the total number of people working and living in the Buffer Zone. The Management Plan of the AGWHP of 2020-2025 (3.1.1) makes provision for the consultative committee to meet at least once every year at the time of the anniversary of the inscription of the Aapravasi Ghat on the World Heritage List on 16 July 2006. This Consultative Committee will be enhanced in order to provide a platform that will enable more frequent and enlarged stakeholder consultations in matters relating to the protection and preservation of the OUV of the AGWHP.

Moreover, provision was made in the Management Plan 2006 for the creation of a **Management Plan Committee (MPC)**. The role of the MPC was consolidated in the Management Plans of 2013-2018 & 2020-2025. The Management Plan Committee is chaired by the Ministry of Arts and Cultural Heritage, also representative of the State Party to UNESCO's World Heritage Centre. Ultimately, the Ministry of Arts and Cultural Heritage refers matters to the Cabinet of Ministers if they require the endorsement of the Government of Mauritius.

The prime role of the Management Plan Committee - as defined by the Management Plan 2006 - is to 'monitor the implementation of the Management Plan'. The MPC is also in charge of its review in accordance with the World Heritage framework. Both implementation and review of the MP imply that the decisions taken by UNESCO's World Heritage Committee on Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Property be considered and addressed.

The mandate of the MPC was defined as follows as part of the Management Plan (2013-2018):

- Monitor, review and reformulate (if necessary) critical management policies for the AG WHS Management Plan and its implementation;
- Take decisions regarding the implementation of the Management Plan and the management of the World Heritage Property based on the recommendations of the World Heritage Committee and other international and local sub-committees;
- Monitor and evaluate the implementation of the Management Plan;

- Monitor the state of conservation of the World Heritage Property and discuss any threats that may affect the World Heritage Property;
- Consolidate or elaborate further policies and guidance to ensure the retention of the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Property;
- Monitor the implementation of the Management Plan and of the World Heritage Committee's decisions;
- Discuss management issues and promote integrated management;
- Direct the review the Management Plan and update the plan regularly in accordance with the international principles and guidelines of UNESCO and ICOMOS;
- Provide a forum for debating the key issues and management priorities addressed in the plan; and
- Guide government bodies in their respective projects in the Buffer Zone.

In addition to these key tasks, the Management Plan Committee, based on the Management Plan of 2020-2025, is entrusted to act as a steering and coordination agency pending the setting up of a dedicated agency to execute and monitor the Action Area Plan (AAP 01) to implement the Action Area Plan for the buffer zone as follows:

- Monitor the implementation of the AAP 01;
- Assess and make recommendations regarding large scale development projects;
- Examine and assess Cultural Heritage Impact Statement /Heritage Impact Assessment / Visual Impact Assessment;
- Coordinate large scale development projects within the precinct of the World Heritage Property and make recommendations thereon; and
- Advise on the development in the Buffer Zones of the World Heritage Property.

The MPC has a crucial role: it monitors, evaluates and reports on the implementation of the Management Plan and of the AAP 01. The MPC will establish a yearly plan of meetings with different stakeholders that could also include the nature of the issues to be discussed. In addition, the MPC should encourage the committees to develop tools helping the monitoring of their actions and results.

iv. Requests the State Party to provide information to the World Heritage Centre on future archival and archaeological research on the Parc à Boulets;

The Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund (AGTF) is the parastatal body mandated to preserve, manage and promote the Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Property. Since its creation in 2001, the AGTF has led a number of research projects that included an investigation at Parc à Boulets initiated in 2007. This investigation, which comprised a preliminary archeological survey and a historic study aimed to investigate this area which is

adjacent to the Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Property and which was formerly an extended area of the Immigration Deport (former Aapravasi Ghat).

As part of the preparation of the Action Area Plan (01), the Parc à Boulets was identified as one of the attributes of the World Heritage Property and is now protected under the provisions of this planning document adopted in December 2019.

In the Management Plan 2020 – 2025, provision has been made for the continuation of research on Parc à Boulets to be conducted by the research team of AGTF in post since 2003. As such, the AGTF initiated procedures for archival and archaeological research on Parc à Boulets in 2022. The project is conceived as a collaborative venture between the Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund and the National Heritage Fund and it is twofold: first to provide improved understanding of the Parc à Boulets by study of archival sources and secondly to enhance our knowledge and understanding of archaeological heritage of this area. The interim report on the archival research is enclosed to the State of Conservation Report.

The archaeologist will be expected to conduct intensive (locational) archaeological survey of the Parc à Boulets. The Scope of works for archaeological research is as follows:

The assignment for the archaeologist consists of the following tasks:

1. Preparing the archival and archaeological research proposal;
2. Undertaking and coordinating the archaeological excavations at Parc à Boulets;
3. Guiding the archival research being undertaken by AGTF research team; and
4. Preparing a concise report on research and findings that will be submitted to the World Heritage Committee.

The Archaeological survey is expected to be completed by the 2nd quarter of the year 2023.

6. Signature of the Authority

Name: I. Pudaruth Ruchaia

Designation: Acting Permanent Secretary

Ministry of Arts and Cultural Heritage

Signature:

AAPRAVASI GHAT TRUST FUND

**Project: Research on the History of
Parc à Boulets
INTERIM REPORT**

Report submitted on July 2022, and prepared by
Christelle Miao Foh and Ashvin Nemchand – Research
Assistants, AGTF

Head project: Mr. Renganaden Andiapen



View of Parc à Boulets, Port Louis, 2022

Acknowledgements

We would like to acknowledge the support of Government institutions for granting free research access, namely: the National Archives Department and the Registrar-General Department.

We also would like to thank and acknowledge the guidance and help of Mr. Satyendra Peerthum, Historian at the AGTF, Dr Vijaya Teelock and Dr Clare Anderson.

Thank you also to Hansley Chavrimootoo (M.A Architecture, France) who provided the AGTF with some maps of Trou Fanfaron from the *Archives Nationales d'Outre-mer* (ANOM).

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Background

At its extended 44th session (Fuzhou, China/Online, 2021), the World Heritage Committee examined the State of Conservation Report of the Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage property. As per the Committee Decision **44 COM 7B.119** (6), the World Heritage Committee requested the State Party to provide information to the World Heritage Centre on future archival and archaeological research on the Parc à Boulets.

The Parc à Boulets is located on M2 Motorway tow on the eastern side of Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Site and forms part of the Buffer Zone 1 of the World Heritage Property. The Parc-à-Boulets history is connected to the Aapravasi Ghat and based on the decision of the World Heritage Committee, an archival and archaeological study of Parc à Boulets is being proposed in order 'to safeguard the potentially valuable archaeological residue in this area'.

This interim report, therefore, presents the outcomes of archival research conducted on the Parc à Boulets from April to June 2022.

Introduction

Parc à Boulets is located on the shoreline of the Bay of Trou Fanfaron, near the site of the former Immigration Depot now the Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Site. The site has been occupied since the French period and has shown various conversions as to its use and utility until the British period. Its last use was associated with Immigration Depot for the functioning of indentured immigration. Today, no physical remnants of the former site can be seen, with the exception of monument in honour of lost seamen and fishermen at sea. The research conducted for this project shows that Parc à Boulets is particularly interesting for the history and transformation of the Bay of Trou Fanfaron into the island's harbour and its transformation as a commercial hub.

French Period

In the French period (1715-1810), Mahé de Labourdonnais was known to have engineered the Port Louis harbour into a major naval base for French fleet as well as a port of call for "*la Route des Indes*" during his governorship (1735-1741). He established together with the French East Indian Company, several buildings and workshops particularly for military purpose. Following the plan of the French Engineer Charentier de Cossigny, it seems that the area of le Caudan, La Place d'Armes and the Water Front was the point of focus in terms of development at that particular period.¹ Ship yards, fortifications, a military hospital and an administrative area were built. By 1740, Port Louis was transformed and its harbour was well-known as a port of call for ship building and ships' repairs, particularly during the Seven Years' War (1754-1763).

By the late 1760s, with the bankruptcy of the French East Indian Company and a devastating hurricane which led Port Louis to a deplorable state, the French Government took control of the island. The then newly appointed Governor François Julien du Dresnay Desroches and his Intendant, Pierre Poivre initiated projects to improve the town and the harbour. French engineers Chevalier de Tromelin and Thoreau de la Martinière were commanded to achieve the project. The project was to enlarge the port area to the Bay of Trou Fanfaron which was found more advantageous to anchor ships. Among the various works, a Forges (now Parc à Boulets) was built in 1770s on the coastline of Trou Fanfaron bay and was used mainly for the manufacturing of materials needed for the repairs of ships. The gradual constructions of landing places and dry docks, clearly infer the purpose of the area as an area for ships' repairs and maintenance.

¹ Maps and plans of Port Louis' harbour do not show much development in the area of Trou Fanfaron Bay where Parc à Boulets is found until the 1760s.

During the French revolutionary period (1789-1799), a map of Douville dated 1791 shows that the Forges were replaced by a Parc à Boulets. The site was used to store cannon balls, probably preparing for an imminent war. Additionally, from the research of August Toussaint (1935), it is understood that only part of the site was converted into à Parc à Boulets and that the Forges were still present.

British period

In the British period, the site had several transformations in terms of use and physical structure. The site was first used as a Convict Barrack, probably between the year 1815 and 1849. From the research of Dr Clare Anderson (2000), convicts from South East Asia were transported to perform construction works in Mauritius. The practice of sending convicts to remote areas was a common one as it was believed that by removing the Convicts from their corrupt environment, they would discipline themselves. During their stay in Mauritius, some convicts were lodged at the 'Parc à Boulets Convict Barracks' (Anderson, 2000: 51). According to her research, as an increasing number of Indian indentured immigrants arrived in the country, the Parc à Boulets Convict Barracks was divided into two portions so as to be able to lodge the convicts and the indentured immigrants, but mostly to avoid contact between these two groups. The fear was that the Convicts might or would corrupt the indentured labourers. The convict system ended in 1853.

The portion of land of the Parc à Boulets was then leased to the Mauritius Dock Company which was a commercial trading company. Though the exact date has not been found yet, it is apparent that the lease happened probably between 1850 and 1858. As from the year 1859, it was noted that several works were being undertaken in the surrounding of the Bay of Trou Fanfaron which include dredging works at the wharf and the enlargement of the former immigration Depot of the Aapravasi Ghat. During that time, the limits of the former Immigration Depot was extended on the portion of land of the Parc à Boulets for its expansion. Additionally, some of the old workshops of the Parc à Boulets were being repaired and used as a blacksmith workshop. In 1864, the Parc à Boulets as well as the Immigration Depot were divided in two portions because of the railway line, resulting in the demolition of some workshops and dwellings on the Parc à Boulets side. The destroyed workshops were re-constructed on the available space on the wharf-side of the Parc à Boulets. It seems that during most of indenture period, the Parc à Boulets was a workshop area where materials required for construction of Government property were manufactured or stored.

Post British

In the 1980s, in view of the construction of the motorway, part of the Parc à Boulets and the former Immigration Depot were again destroyed. However, the research did not come across any report yet regarding that period. From pictures dated to that period, it was assumed that the Immigration office and part of the workshop of the Parc à Boulets were demolished. Today, only one-third of the former Immigration Depot remains as well as a small portion of the Parc à Boulets. Further research is required for that period.

Below are the outcomes of the archival research.

Objectives

The objectives of this project are to:

1. Provide further archival documentation on the history of Parc à Boulets, regarding:
 - a. the different uses of the site;
 - b. the different stages of construction;
 - c. its significance and connection with the former Immigration Depot; and
 - d. to help and support archaeological survey.
2. Research for potential archaeological residue.

Methodology

Research was mainly conducted at the Mauritius National Archives and the Registrar-General Department. The catalogue below was consulted:

1. Maps and Plans of Port Louis;
2. Blue Books;
3. Travellers' account;
4. Catalogue of the Surveyor General Department;
5. Notarial Deeds.

RESEARCH OUTCOMES

Maps and Plans

The Mauritius National Archives owns an extensive collection of maps and plans of the Port Louis' area which dates at the earliest to the French period. The earliest map consulted for this project dated to the year 1759 and the latest was dated to 1902. Maps of the Trou Fanfaron bay from Les Archives Nationales d'Outre-Mer (ANOM) were also consulted. In total, 16 maps and plans were examined.

Out of the 16 maps and plans, ten were from the French period and ranged from the years 1759 to 1794. It is to be observed that the area of the present site remained undeveloped until 1772, where a Forges can be seen on a map by Le Chevalier de Tromelin. From the 1780 to 1795, the Forges were mainly used for the repairs and maintenance of vessels. The workshops built on the Forges served for the manufacturing of materials needed for ships' repairs such as the *gagale*. In addition, in 1791, a map by Douville shows that the Forges were replaced by a *Parc à Boulets*.

Six maps and plans from the British period were consulted and spanned from the years 1854 to 1902. It is to be observed that the maps and plans of the British period show several changes as to the use of the site. It seems that the area of the Parc à Boulets was leased to the Mauritius Dock Company as shown by Russell in 1854. It also seems that the area was also used as a Convict Barracks as shown in Ducan's map of Trou Fanfaron in 1856. Although, there is no evidence yet as to when the area has been used as a Convict Barrack, it is probable that it was used as such between the 1815s-1849s (Anderson. C, 2000). Below are the list of maps and plan consulted:

NB	Year	Archival Reference	Description
1	1759	<i>Plan du Port Louis de l'Isle de France et distribution des terrains lesquels la compagnie à des établissements de ceux concèdes a divers particuliers et de ceux sur lesquels d'autres se sont établis sans concessions</i> Reference: MNA B1A/A 3.1/3 Year 1759	The map was drawn to establish land concession to individuals. A landing structure (marked q) can be seen near the present location of the Aapravasi Ghat as well as a building marked a. The area of the actual site of the Parc à Boulets is unmarked and empty. This may indicate that this area was perhaps unoccupied/undeveloped at

		Note: There are two maps quite similar (one having legends and the other one doesn't) with the same archival reference	that time. Map in annex no. 1
2	1769	<i>Plan du port de NO de l'île de France - Tromelin, J.M.B Ms 24 Janv. 1769</i> Reference: MNA B1A/ A3.1/4 Year 1769	Same as the plan of Port Louis in 1759 (MNA BIA/A 3.1/3), the area of the Parc à Boulets is unmarked and empty. The landing structure and the building (marked a and q in MNA BIA/A 3.1/3) can still be found on the map. The structure marked q previously is now marked as 2. The map provides a description of the structure as being: "Bâtiment en bois sert à mettre les boillons et contenant du Magasin aux grains tant pour le Roy que pour la compagnie. » Map in annex no. 2
3	1772	<i>Plan de Trou Fanfaron près le Port Louis de l'île de France – levé par M. Le Chevalier de Tromelin</i> Reference: ANOM /Isle de France (p/7A) 22 DFC 555A Year 1772	The legend map shows three rectangular structures, where two of them are labelled as S. S signified "forges pour les radoubs des vaisseaux". In comparison to previous map (year 1759 and 1769), where a landing structure was drawn near the compound of the present location of the Aapravasi Ghat, another landing structure can be seen near the compound marked S. This might indicate that the area was being fully utilised. Map in annex no. 3
4	1780	<i>Plan de Port Louis de l'île de France</i> Thoreau de la Martinière	The map shows the present site as labelled Forges. The Forges contains four large rectangular structures and 2 small square structures.

		Reference : MNA B1A/ A3.1/5 Year 1780	Furthermore, at the area of the present site of the Aapravasi Ghat, a second magasin could be seen on the map. This might indicate that the area was being utilised. In annex no. 4
5	1781	<i>Carte de Port Louis de l'île de France et de ses environs</i> Thoreau de la Martinière Reference : MNA B1A/A3.1/6 Year 1781	A large rectangular structure can be seen at the location of the present site and is marked Y on the map. The marking Y is described as Les Nouvelles Forges. Map annex no. 5
6	1786	<i>Plan du Port Fanfaron</i> Reference : ANOM Year 1786	The map describes the area of the present Parc à Boulets as follows – “C – Magasin et a... pour les Carénage” Map in annex no. 6
7	1786	<i>Plan du Port Fanfaron - Delamothe</i> Reference : ANOM/ Isle de France (p17c) 22 DFC 524C Year 1786	The map describes the area of the present Parc à Boulets as follows – “E – atelier pour la composition de la galgale et sarangously et pour la préparation de la plante contre la pique des vers” Map in annex no. 7
8		<i>Plan de sureté appelé vulgairement Trou Fanfaron pour servir de comparaison a ceux de M de Solmimac sur lequel on a placé les sondes portés sur le procès-verbal du 9 février 1789</i> Reference: ANOM Year 1789/Isle de France (p/7A) 22 DFC 555A	<i>The area of the Parc a Boulets contains several rectangular structures similar to map MNA B1A/ A3.1/5 Year 1780</i> Map in annex no. 8
9	1791	<i>Plan de la ville et du Port Louis dans l'isle de France</i> Douville	The map shows and marked the location of the present site under the name of Parc à Boulets. It is to be observed that it is the first time the

		Reference: MNA B1A/ A3.1/22 Year 1791	name appears on a map. The area showing Parc à Boulets indicates that there are what looks like 3 large rectangular structures, 1 long rectangular structure and 2 small squared structures. Map in annex no. 9
10	1795	<i>Le Port Nord-Ouest</i> Reference : MNA B1A/A3.1/8 Year 1795	The map shows mention of the Forges at the location of the present site. The site of the Forges seems to consist of 4 rectangular structures and one almost u-shape structure. Three of the structures are nearer to the almost u-shape structure while the other structure is further away near the shoreline. Map in annex no. 10
11	1854	<i>Rough Plan of the Trou Fanfaron showing the portions of the canning hulks as at present-moored marked in black and the proposed portions marked in red</i> Russell T Reference: MNA B1D/ A3.4/21 Year 1854	The map shows present site labelled under the name of the Mauritius Dock Company. Map in annex no. 11
12	1856	<i>Trou Fanfaron</i> Ducan Reference: MNA B1D/ A 3.4/21 Year 1856? (question marked placed by MNA)	The name of Convict Barrack appears at the location of the Parc à Boulets. The portion of land labelled Convicts Barracks seem to be relative large and seems to contain several structures. The different portions of the Convict Barracks are numbered as no. three, no. four and no. five. However, the map does not provide any description on the numbers. Map in annex no. 12
13	1858	<i>Plan de Port Louis and its environs by J.L.F Target sworn land surveyor, Mauritius</i>	At the shoreline of Trou Fanfaron, the legend map indicates at No. 16 the Immigrant Depot. Next to the Immigrant

		Reference: MNA B1A/A 3.1/15 Year 1858	<p>Depot, moving towards the northwest, a straight dark line marked the demarcation between the Immigrant Depot and the actual site of the Parc à Boulets.</p> <p>The legend map indicates that the straight dark line specifies the approximate boundaries of private proprietors, which infer that the plot of land was privately owned.</p> <p>The plot of land shows two rectangular shape structures, one larger than the other.</p> <p>Map in annex no. 13</p>
14	1859	<i>Trou Fanfaron</i> Th. Corby Reference: MNA B1D A3.4/21 Year 1859	<p>The area of the actual site of Parc à Boulets is Lease Dock Company –.</p> <p>A large compound structure as well some stand-alone structures can be seen in the plot of land of the Dock Company.</p> <p>Map in annex no. 14</p>
15	1860	<i>Plan of the Quay improvements. Recommended by the Committee appointed by His Excellency the Governor on the 23rd March 1860. Surveyor General Office –</i> Th. Corby Reference: MNA B1D A3.4/44 Year 1860	<p>The area of the Parc à Boulets is clearly marked on the map next to the Immigration Depot. The area seems to be empty as no structures are outlined on the map.</p> <p>Map in annex no. 15</p>
16	1902	<i>Plan of Port Louis reduced by L. Pombart Lithpher</i> Reference: MNA B1A A3.1/16 Year 1902	<p>The outline of the area of the Immigration Depot and the Parc à Boulets can be seen on the map. However, they are both unlabelled.</p> <p>Map in annex no. 16</p>

Secondary Sources

Traveller's Accounts

A numerous number of Traveller's accounts were consulted as these provide a great insight into the physical and social sense of a place at particular period in time. However, information regarding the site of Parc à Boulets was very limited.

Travellers' accounts of the early 1800s provided some description of the site like Grant (1810) and Milbert (1812). Grant's (1810) description of the port area is particularly interesting as he provided a very good description of the topography and the geology around the site. This might help in the analysis of archaeological residue. Further to the early 1800s, no description of the site was found in the list of Traveller's Accounts consulted.

Below is the list of travellers' accounts consulted:

NB	Year	Reference	Quote from reference and notes
1	1801	Vaux, C. G. d., 1801. <i>The History of Mauritius or Isle of France and the neighboring Islands: from their first discovery to the present time; composed and principally from paper and memoirs of Baron Grant, who resided 20 years in the Island.</i> London: Nicol	Examined – Quote and Notes below. P. 89. 'Here the Forges of the port have been erected. This kind of cape is composed of large rocks of quartz from four to five feet high, which rest on a bottom of reddish sand. This sand, or earth, which is of the same nature as that of the island when put in aqua fortis, does not produce an ebullition. The bank of coral, which is about four, or five feet thick, rests immediately upon one of rock. The same circumstance is visible at the powder mill, near the hospital.' P. 470. "The two most considerable establishments that M. de Labourdonnais erected in this island were the iron forges and sugar works..."

			Note: Interesting geological description of the area which corroborates with the analysis of Dr. Calaon during the research on the Military Hospital. We can also find geological description of the area of the Military Hospital.
2	1812	Milbert, M., 1812. <i>Voyages pittoresque a l'ile de France au Cap de Bonne-Esperance, et a l'ile de Teneriffe.</i> Paris: A. Nepveau Libararie.	<p>Examined – Quote below.</p> <p>P. 130. ‘Sur la droite du port on voit le bassin aux tortues(r), au-delà un moulin à vent: il ne sert pas à moudre du grain, mais à exprimer l’huile des noix de cocos. Cet endroit se nomme Codan’.</p> <p>J’ai remarqué, sur les deux rives, divers établissements particuliers, tels que ceux de MM. Piston (i) et Monneron (k) ; des chantiers vastes et commodes pour le radoubage et autres réparations des navires. Derrière sont l’hôtel de l’Artillerie, celui du dépôt des Cartes et des Plans et quelques magasins appartenant à l’Etat ou à des particuliers (a).</p> <p>Les ateliers des charpentiers, la corderie, la voilerie, la tonnellerie, la serrurerie et les forges, sont tous à l’intérieur du port, à l’abri d’une insulte de la part de l’ennemi. Sur la gauche est le bagne des noirs détenus à la chaine et employé aux travaux publics. Près des murs de l’hôpital, sont situés le magasin au riz, et les hangars pour les maîtres et chaloupes.</p> <p>L’enceinte de l’hôpital (b) occupe un très vaste emplacement : elle consiste en un mur de pierres, qui commence à la pointe des forges et suit la droite du</p>

			<p>Trou Fanfaron, jusqu'au canal qui aboutit à la chaussée de Tromelin. Là se trouvent une porte et un petit corps-de-garde placé sur une élévation.</p> <p>Le parc d'artillerie, pourvu en abondance de canons, de Boulets, de bombes, d'ancres, etc, est aussi compris dans cette enceinte.'</p>
3	1838	<p>Unienville, B., 1838. <i>Statistique de l'île Maurice et ses dependances, suivie d'une notice historique sur cette colonie et d'un essai sur l'île de Madagascar.</i> Tome Premier ed. Paris: Gustave Barba Libraire.</p>	<p>Mention only of Parc à Boulets as a Government building in Port Louis.</p>
4	1844	<p>Backhouse, J., 1844. <i>A narrative of a visit to the Mauritius and South Africa.</i> London: Hamilton Adams and Co, Paternoster Row.</p>	<p>Examined – no information</p>
5	1858	<p>Rev. Patrick Beaton, M., 1858. <i>Creoles and coolie or Five Year in Mauritius.</i> London: James Nisbet and Co.</p>	<p>Examined – no information</p>
6	1822	<p>Billard, A., 1822. <i>Voyages aux colonies orientales ou lettres ecrites des îles de France et de Bourbon pendant les années 1817,1818,1819 et 1820.</i> Paris: Imprimerie de David.</p>	<p>Examined – no information</p>
7	1830	<p>Bartman, L., 1830. <i>Recollections of Seven</i></p>	<p>Examined – no information</p>

		<i>Years Residence at the Mauritius or Isle of France.</i> London: James Cawthorn.	
8	1849	Pridham, C., 1849. <i>An Historical Political and Statistical Account of Mauritius and its dependencies.</i> London: T. and W. Boone.	Examined – Description of Convicts P. 199. « ... I cannot refrain from calling attention to the miserable fate of the Indian convicts engaged in the repair of the roads in the Mauritius. These wretched men were first introduced under the government of Sir R.T Farquhar and being dispersed over the country in parties under the control of English soldiers, they contributed with the military, towards the formation of the lines of road by which the island is on every side reticulated. A small ring is placed round their ankles as a mark of their condition. They are lodged in huts like thatched roofs or in other inferior dwelling near the road.”
9	1859	Palmer & Brashaw, 1859. <i>The Mauritius Register: Historical, official & Commercial.</i> Mauritius: L.Channell.	Examined – no information
10	1864	Ryan, V. W., 1864. <i>Mauritius and Madagascar: Journals of an eight year's residence in the Diocese of Mauritius, and of a visit to Madagascar.</i> London: Seeley Jackson and Halliday.	Examined – no information
11	1897	Twain, M., 1897. <i>Following the Equator: A journey around the World.</i> New	Examined – no information

		York: American Publishing Company.	
12	1899	Le Comité des Souvenirs Historiques, 1899. <i>Mahe de Labourdonnais: Documents réunis par Le Comité du Bicentenaire de La Bourdonnais</i> . Port Louis: E.Pezzani.	Examined – no information
13	1908	Rauville, H. d., 1908. <i>L'île de France Contemporaine</i> . Paris: Nouvelle Librairie Nationale.	Examined – no information

Government Reports

Blue books of the Colony of Mauritius were consulted from the 1850s to the 1879. This source particularly makes mention of the public works undertaken on any Government Buildings, which allow to trace any changes/construction or demolition made to a Government building, in this case Parc à Boulets. It is to be noted that as from 1877, no public works are being listed in Blue Books.

Furthermore, the catalogue of the Surveyor General Department was also examined.

Below are the list and reports found in the Blue Books and the Surveyor General Department.

NB	Year	Blue Books: References and Notes	Surveyor General Department: Reference and Notes
1.	1851	Blue Book Year 1851 Part I and II Examined – no information	RA 1118 Examined – no information
2.	1853	Blue Book Year 1853 Part I and II Examined – no information	
3.	1854	Blue Book Year 1854 Examined – no information	RA 1250 Examined – no information
4.	1856	Blue Book Year 1856 Part I and II Examined – no information	
5.	1857	Blue Book Year 1857 Examined – no information	
6.	1859	Blue Book Year 1859 Examined – Notes below P. 98. “Building Quay wall round Trou Fanfaron – 30 th September 1857 and of Sec. Desp. – Ordinance No. 9 of 1856 and 1 of 1859 – Legislation Laws & proclamations which have been promulgated in the colony during the year 1859 – 14 th July 1859 “ Allowing the formation of the anonymous society and co- partnership under the style of Albion Dock Company”	RA 1502 no. 1617 “with reference to the construction of the quay wall and erecting of a travelling crane in front of Parc à Boulets” Note: Document missing RA 1502 no. 2469 “Recommends that a certain price of land req. for enlarging the Immigration Depot & now held in jouisance be resumed” Note: The boundary wall of the Immigration Depot was being carried further back on the Parc à Boulets. The prolongation of the wall will cut into two the house of

			Dr. Pernaud in jouissance. The dwelling is of 19'.4" * 14'.2" nine feet high, with a back veranda 8 feet wide covered with tin and a range of outhouses 8 feet by 26. State of dwelling: decay. A compensation of £60 proposed.
7.	1860	<p>Blue Book Year 1860 Examined – Notes below</p> <p>P 103. "Return of public works, civil roads, bridges, building, military nature which had been undertaken during the year 1860 – Quay wall, Trou Fanfaron – 23rd September 1859 – ordinance no. 19 of 1859 & 37 of 1860"</p> <p>P 109. " Ditto to forge, Parc à Boulets – 3rd August 1860, ordinance no. 37 of 1860"</p> <p>P 111. "Temporary enclosure and gate at Parc à Boulets – Governor by letter of col. Secretary dated 30th Nov. 1860, ordinance no. 37 of 1860." – "Fitting up stores at Parc à Boulets with shelves – 29th March 1860"</p>	<p>RA 1552 no. 1091 "Shelves at Parc à Boulets" Note: Nothing significant – construction of shelves is required in one of the building at Parc à Boulets.</p> <p>RA 1552 no. 1610 "Loose earth at Parc à Boulets" Note: Earth and mud was removed at Parc à Boulets</p> <p>RA 1552 no. 3218 "Blacksmith's shop at Parc à Boulets" Note: Repairs and alterations are to be made at the Blacksmith shop at Parc à Boulets.</p> <p>RA 1552 no. 3505 "Privies at Parc à Boulets"</p>
8.	1861	<p>Blue Book Year 1861 Examined – Notes below</p> <p>G 1. "Enclosure and gates to Parc à Boulets, 30th November 1860" – Ordinance 37 of 1860 and 18 of 1861." Note: The ordinance was checked but there was nothing relevant to the site.</p>	<p>RA 1615 no. 393 "Removing earth in front of Quay wall, Parc à Boulets" Note: The work started on 3rd December 1860 by 100 prisoners. The quay walls where earth was removed was located near the Immigration Depot and Parc à Boulets.</p> <p>RA 1615 no. 2709 "Stores at Parc à Boulets" Note: Nothing significant</p>

			<p>RA 1615 no. 2859 “Government workshop to be built at Parc à Boulets” Note: The workshop was to be built on one of the enclosure walls of the Govt. premises at the Parc à Boulets.</p> <p>RA 1615 no. 3956 “Blacksmith shop, Parc à Boulets, expenses incurred in fitting” Note: it seems in the document that the Blacksmith shop previously housed the old forge.</p> <p>RA 1615 no. 4054 “Department yard Parc à Boulets, expenses incurred in enclosing.” Note: It concerns the construction of the entrance gates – material required was stone, sundries and lime.</p>
9.	1862	Blue Book Year 1862 Examined – Notes below G.7. “Levelling ground, Parc à Boulets” – work started in January 1862	<p>RA 1658 No.1119 – 14 March 1862</p> <p>“Materials at Parc à Boulets to be handed over to Mr. Jane, storekeeper” Note: Mention of handing over of materials from a storekeeper to another storekeeper.</p>
10.	1863	Blue Book Year 1863 Examined – no information	<p>RA 1707 No. 3462 – 18 Sept. 1863 “Fund required for railway purposes” Note: For the building of a fence and gate</p> <p>RA 1707 BIS No. 4769 – 30 Dec. 1863 “Improvements in the Parc à Boulets- machinery to be obtained</p>

			from England” Note: Type of machinery – A travelling 2 ton crane and a post wharf 5 ton crane.
11.	1864	Blue Book Year 1864 Examined – notes below p.135. “In aid of the reconstruction of Government Workshops and Parc à Boulets – Balance on account of reconstruction of Forge”	RA 1763 No. 502 – 11 th Feb 1864 “Wall to be built by Railway Dept. at Parc à Boulet” Note: A wall is to be built by the Railway Department between the ground taken for the Railway and the New Forge in the Parc à Boulets. Specification of wall: not to be higher of window sills of the forges, fence 8 feet high.
12.	1865	Blue Book Year 1865 p.131. “on account of construction of Government workshops Parc à Boulets”	RA 1816 no. 2880 “Balance required to continue the improvement in Parc à Boulets” Note: Regards the reconstruction of the Government workshops at Parc à boulet. A sum of £3000 earned marked of which 678 expended.
13.	1866	Blue Book Year 1866 Examined – Notes below “Works and Building: New Works – Port Louis; Completion of workshops & at Parc à Boulets £4000.”	RA 1867 and RA 1868 Examined – no information
14.	1867	Blue Book Year 1867 Examined – Notes below “Works and Building: New Works – Port Louis; Completion of workshops & at Parc à Boulets £4000.”	
15.	1868	Blue Book Year 1868 Examined – no information	
16.	1870	Blue Book Year 1870 Examined – no information	
17.	1871	Blue Book Year 1871 Examined – no information	
18.	1872	Blue Book Year 1872 Examined – no information	
19.	1873	Blue Book Year 1873	

		Examined – no information	
20.	1874	Blue Book Year 1874 Examined – Notes below “Hurricanes damages Parc à Boulets workshops – estimate expenses £167 – 25 June 1874”	RA 2212 no. 628 “Absence on account of illness of Mr Raddock Time-keeper, Parc à Boulets” Note: Nothing significant RA 2212 no. 1716 “Allowance requested for repair of damage caused by the hurricane of Govt. Building” Note: An estimate of £ 167 for the repairs at Parc à Boulets was submitted.
21.	1875	Blue Book Year 1875 Not examined – not available at MNA	RA 2253 Examined- no information
22.	1877	Blue Book Year 1877 Examined – Notes below No public works listed in Blue Book	
23.	1878	Blue Book Year 1878 Examined – Notes below No public works listed in Blue Book	
24.	1879	Blue Book Year 1879 Examined – Notes below No public works listed in Blue Book	

Timeline

This section presents a timeline in changes occurred on the site of Parc à Boulets.

Year	Notes
1770s	Construction of a forges which served for the manufacturing of materials needed for repairs such as <i>gagale</i> and <i>sarangousty</i> . The construction occurred during the development of Trou Fanfaron into a port area.
1791	The forge was replaced by <i>Parc à Boulets</i> . The conversion probably occurred because of the French revolution.
1800s 1812	- The present site is still being referred to as Les Forges in Travellers' account. The area surrounding the site is of great geological interest as it is described to have massive coral formation.
1815- 1849s	The site was used as a Convict barrack. The convict barrack was also divided into two portions to lodge indentured workers as well.
1852 -1858	The site was leased to the Mauritius Dock Company
1859	With the enlargement of the Immigration Depot, the boundary wall was moved further in the compound of the Parc à Boulets. Along this development, some dwellings found within were demolished. A travelling crane in front of Parc à Boulets was constructed
1860-1865	Between these years several works were done to improve site, as follows: 1. Building a temporary enclosure and gate at Parc à Boulets; 2. Repair of a workshop in the old Forge to house a blacksmith workshop; 3. Removal of earth (dredging) in front of the quay wall; 4. Levelling of the ground; 5. Purchase of 2 and 5 ton cranes; Demolition of some dwellings, privies and workshops for the construction of the railway line.

1980s

Demolition of part of the Parc à Boulets for the motorway.

Way Forward

Research conducted on the Parc à Boulets has collected a great amount of information regarding the history of the site from the French to the British period. However, research is required to fill in the gap from the indenture period to the post –British period.

We therefore recommend carrying forward the archival research along with future archaeological excavation.

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Mauritius National Archives

RA series

OA series

Blue books

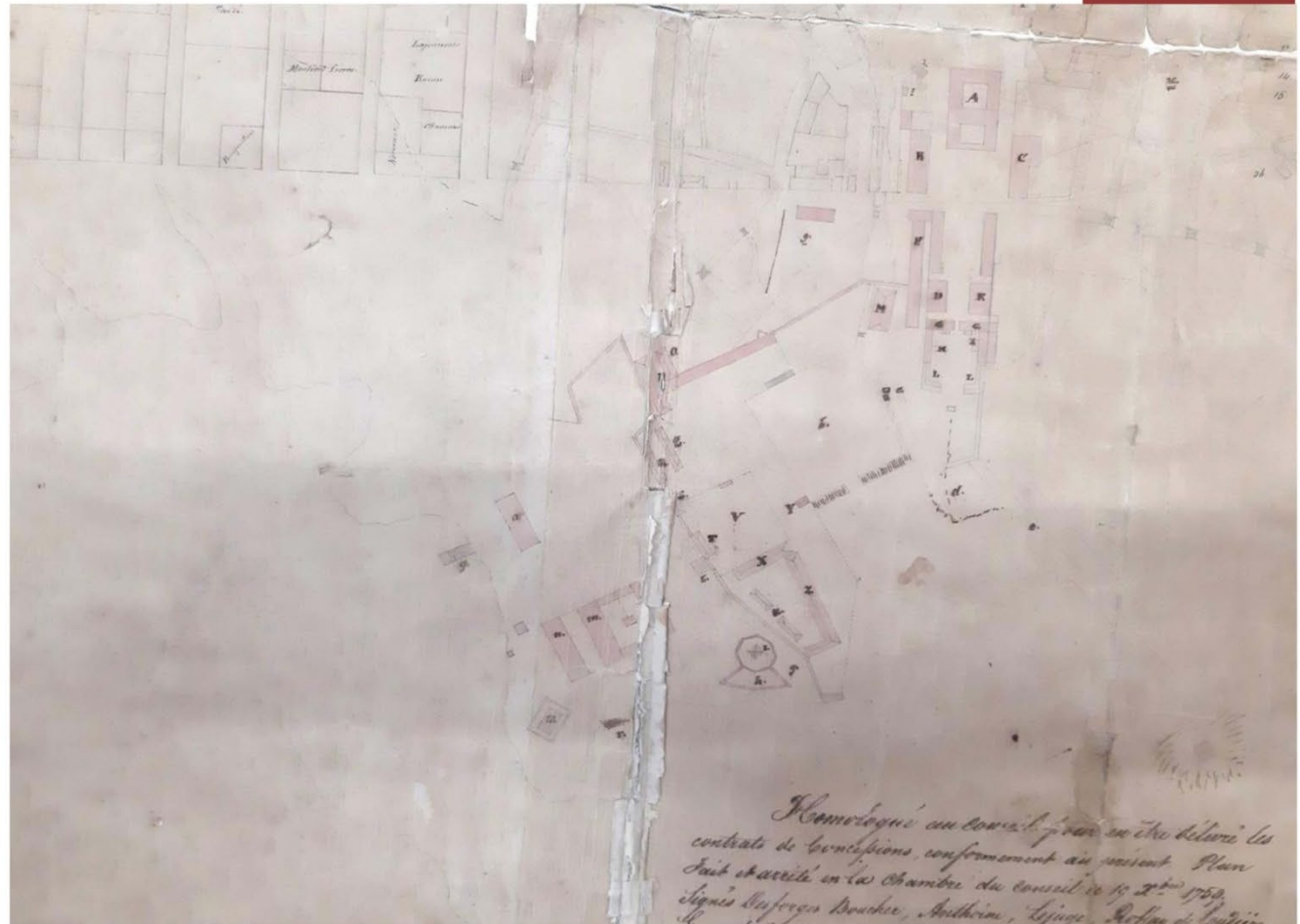
Annexes

Annexe 1: Plan du Port Louis de l'Isle de France et distribution des terrains lesquels la compagnie à des établissements de ceux concèdes a divers particuliers et de ceux sur lesquels d'autres se sont établis sans concessions

Reference: MNA B1A/A 3.1/3
Year 1759

Description: The map was drawn to establish land concession to individuals. A landing structure (marked q) can be seen near the present location of the Aapravasi Ghat as well as a building marked a. The area of the actual site of the Parc-à-Boulets is unmarked and empty.

This may perhaps indicates that this area was unoccupied/undeveloped at that time.



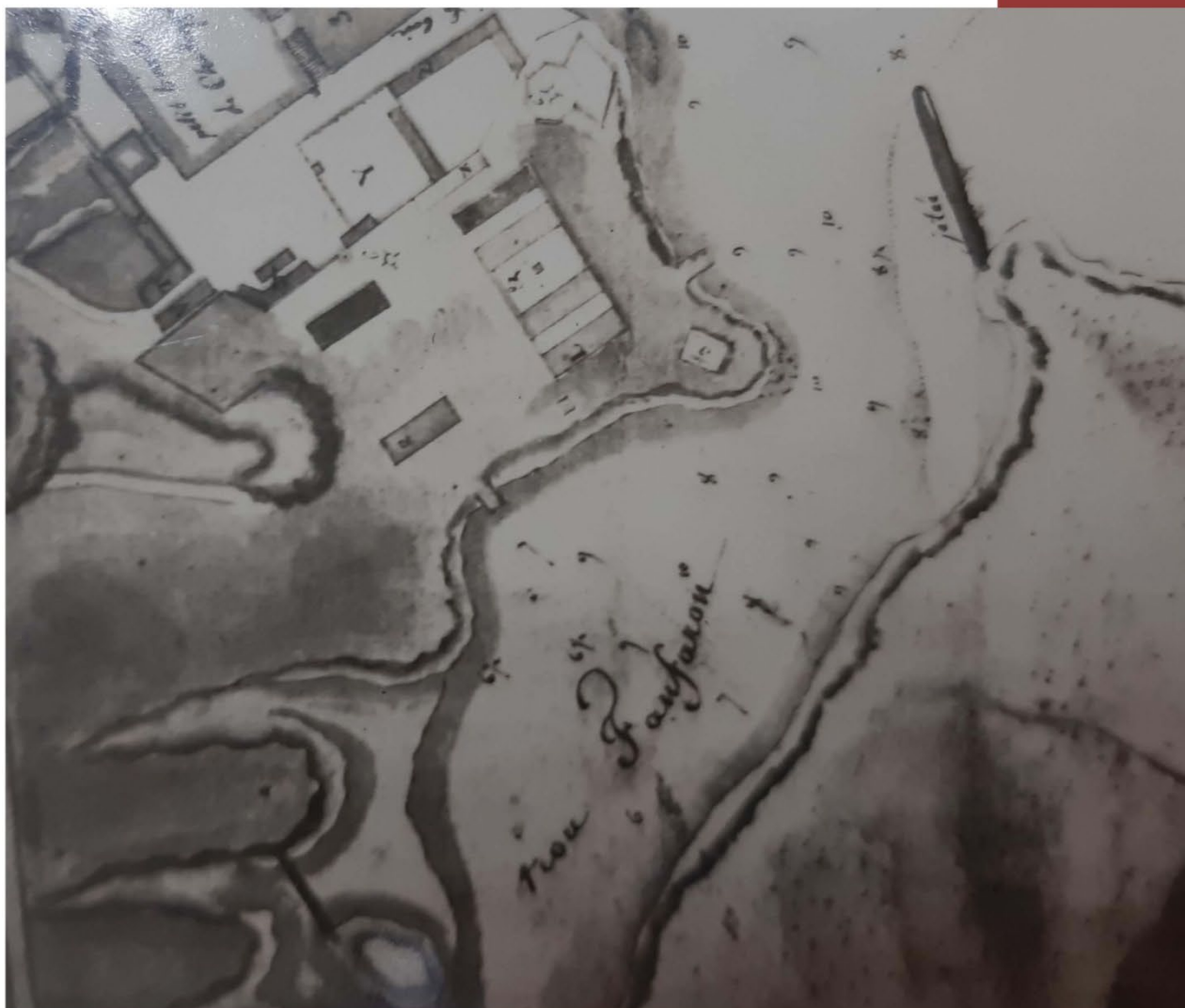
Annexe 2: Plan du port de NO de l'île de France Tromelin, J.M.B Ms 24 Janv. 1769

Reference: MNA B1A/ A3.1/4
Year 1769

Description: Same as the plan of Port Louis in 1759 (MNA BIA/A 3.1/3), the area of the Parc-à-Boulets is unmarked and empty. The landing structure and the building (marked a and q in MNA BIA/A 3.1/3) can still be found on the map.

The structure marked q previously is now marked as 2. The map provides a description of the structure as being:

“Bâtiment en bois sert à mettre les boillons et contenant du Magasin aux grains tant pour le Roy que pour la compagnie.”



Annexe 3: Plan de Port Louis de l'Isle de France
Thoreau de la Martinière

Reference: MNA B1A/ A3.1/5
Year 1780

Description: The map shows the present site as labelled named Forges. The Forges contains 3 large rectangular structures, 1 semi u-shape structure and 2 small square structures.

Furthermore, at the area of the present site of the Aapravasi Ghat, a second magasin can be seen on the map. This may indicate that this area is being utilised.



YEAR 1781

Annexe 5: Carte de Port Louis de l'île de France et de ses environs Thoreau de la Martinière

Reference: MNA BIA/A3.1/6
Year 1781

Description: A large rectangular structure can be seen at the location of the present site and is marked Y on the map. The marking Y is described as Les Nouvelles forges.



Annexe 6: Plan du Port Fanfaron – Chevalier de la Martinière

Reference: ANOM/22 DFC B 481
Year 1786

Description: The map describes the area of the present Parc-à- Boulets as follows – “C – Magasin et a... pour les Carénage”



Annexe 7: Plan du Port FanFaron

Reference: ANOM/ Isle de France (p17c) 22 DFC 524C
Year 1786

Description: The map describes the area of the present Parc-à-Boulets as follows – “E – atelier pour la composition de la galgale et sarangousty et pour la preparation de la plante contre la piqure des vers”

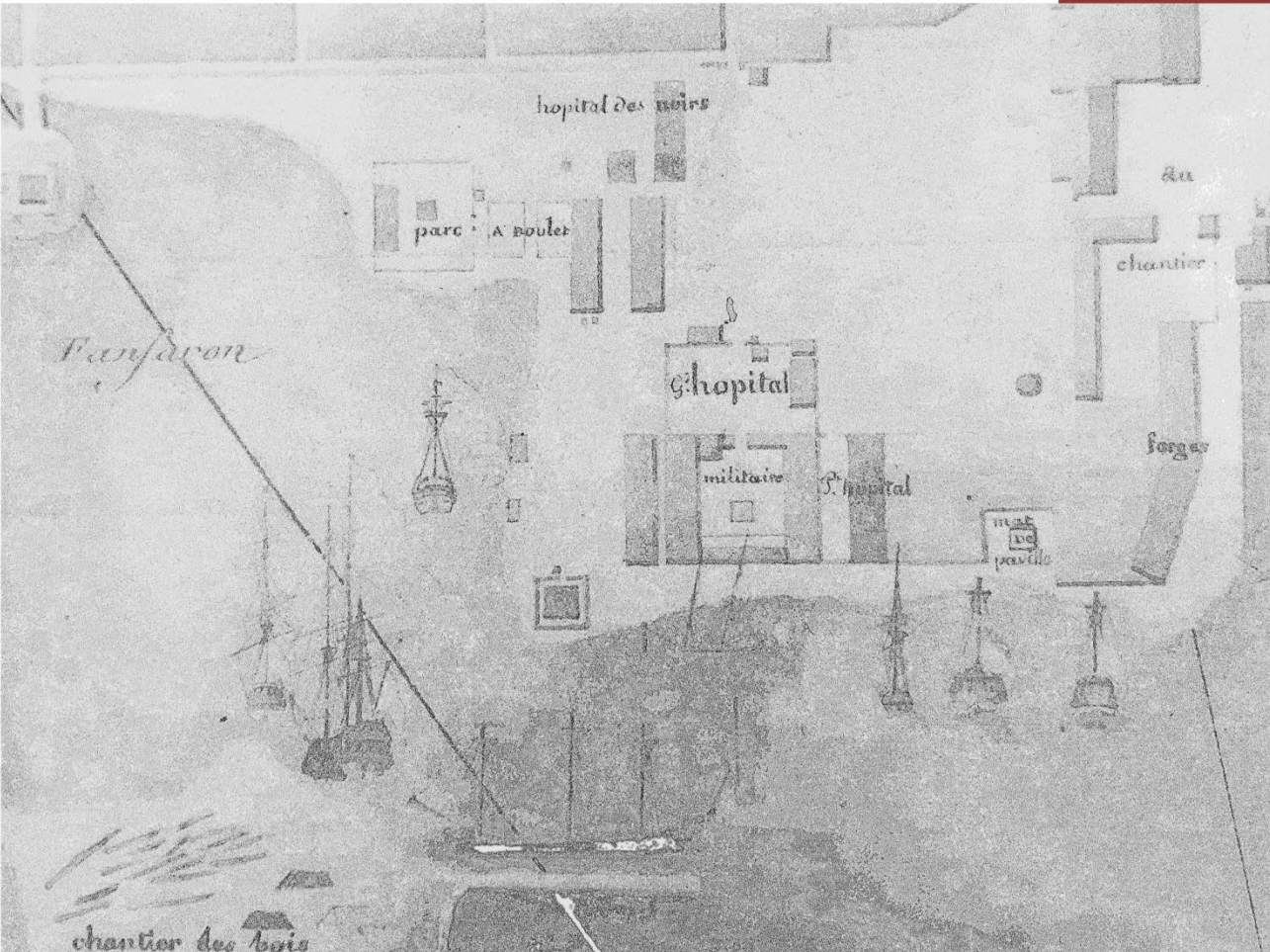


Annexe 9: Plan de la ville et du Port Louis dans l'isle de France - Douville

Reference: MNA B1A/ A3.1/22
Year 1791

Description: The map shows and marked the location of the present site under the name of *Parc A Boulet*. It is to be observed that it is the first time the name appears on a map.

The area showing *Parc A Boulet* indicates that there are what looks like 3 large rectangular structures, 1 long rectangular structure and 2 small squared structures.



Annexe 10: Le Port Nord-Ouest

Reference: MNA B1A/A3.1/8
Year 1795

Description: The map shows mention of the Forges at the location of the present site. The site of the Forges seems to consist of 4 rectangular structures and one almost u-shape structure. Three of the structures are nearer to the almost u-shape structure while the other structure is further away near the shoreline.



YEAR 1856

Annexe 12: Trou Fanfaron
Ducan

Reference: MNA B1D/ A 3.4/21
Year 1856? (question marked placed
by MNA)

Description: The name of Convict
Barrack appears at the location of the
Parc-à-Boulets. The portion of land
labelled Convicts Barracks seem to be
relative large and seems to contain
several structures.

The different portions of the Convict
Barracks are numbered as no. three,
no. four and no. five. However, the
map does not provide any description
on the numbers.



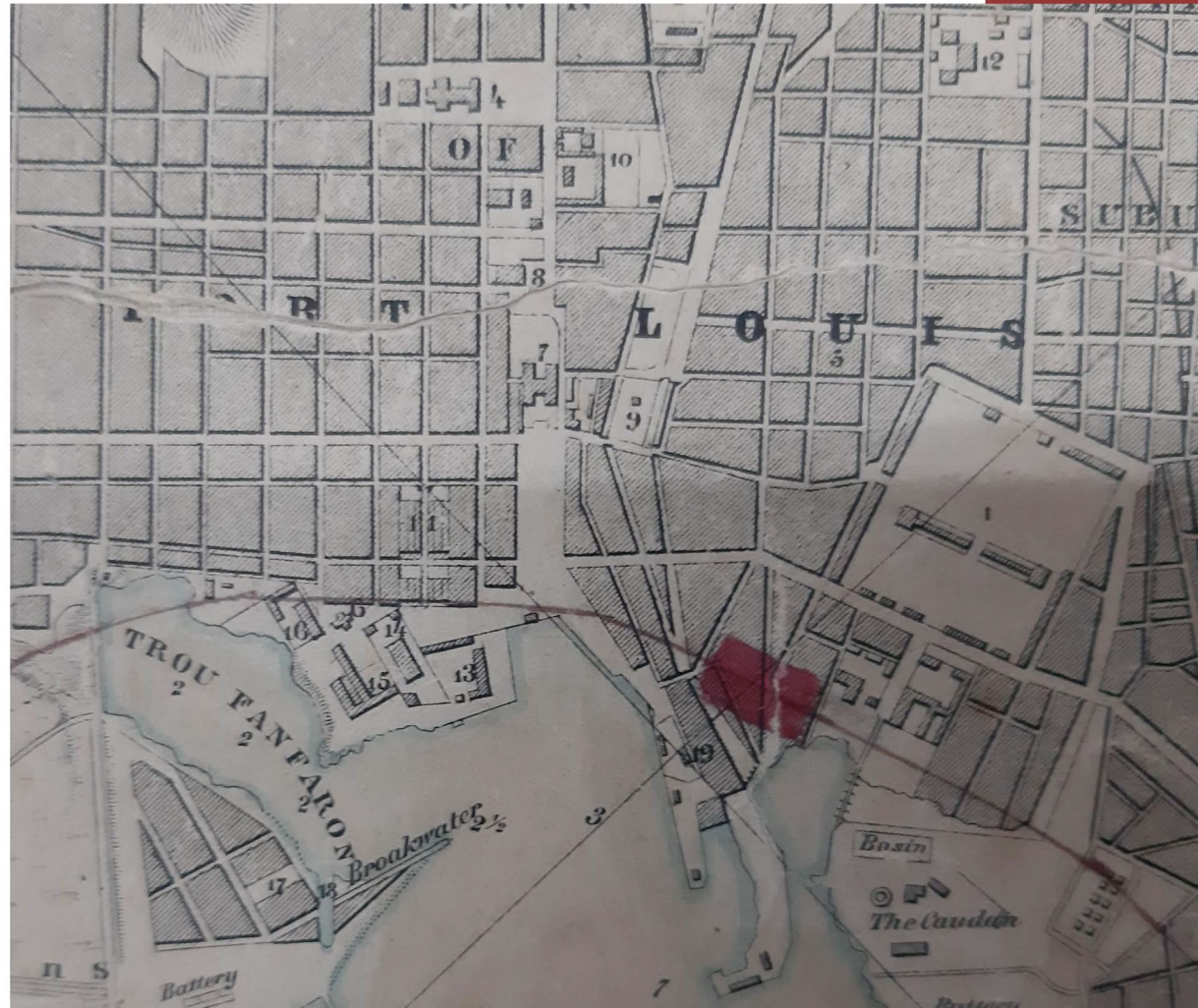
Annexe 13: Plan de Port Louis and its environs by J.L.F Target sworn land surveyor, Mauritius

Reference: MNA B1A/A 3.1/15
Year 1858

Description: At the shoreline of Trou Fanfaron, the legend map indicates at No. 16 the Immigrant Depot. Next to the Immigrant Depot, moving towards the northwest, a straight dark line marked the demarcation between the Immigrant Depot and the actual site of the Parc-à-Boulets.

The legend map indicates that the straight dark line specifies the approximate boundaries of private proprietors – which infer that the plot of land was owned privately.

The plot of land shows two rectangular shape structures, one larger than the other.

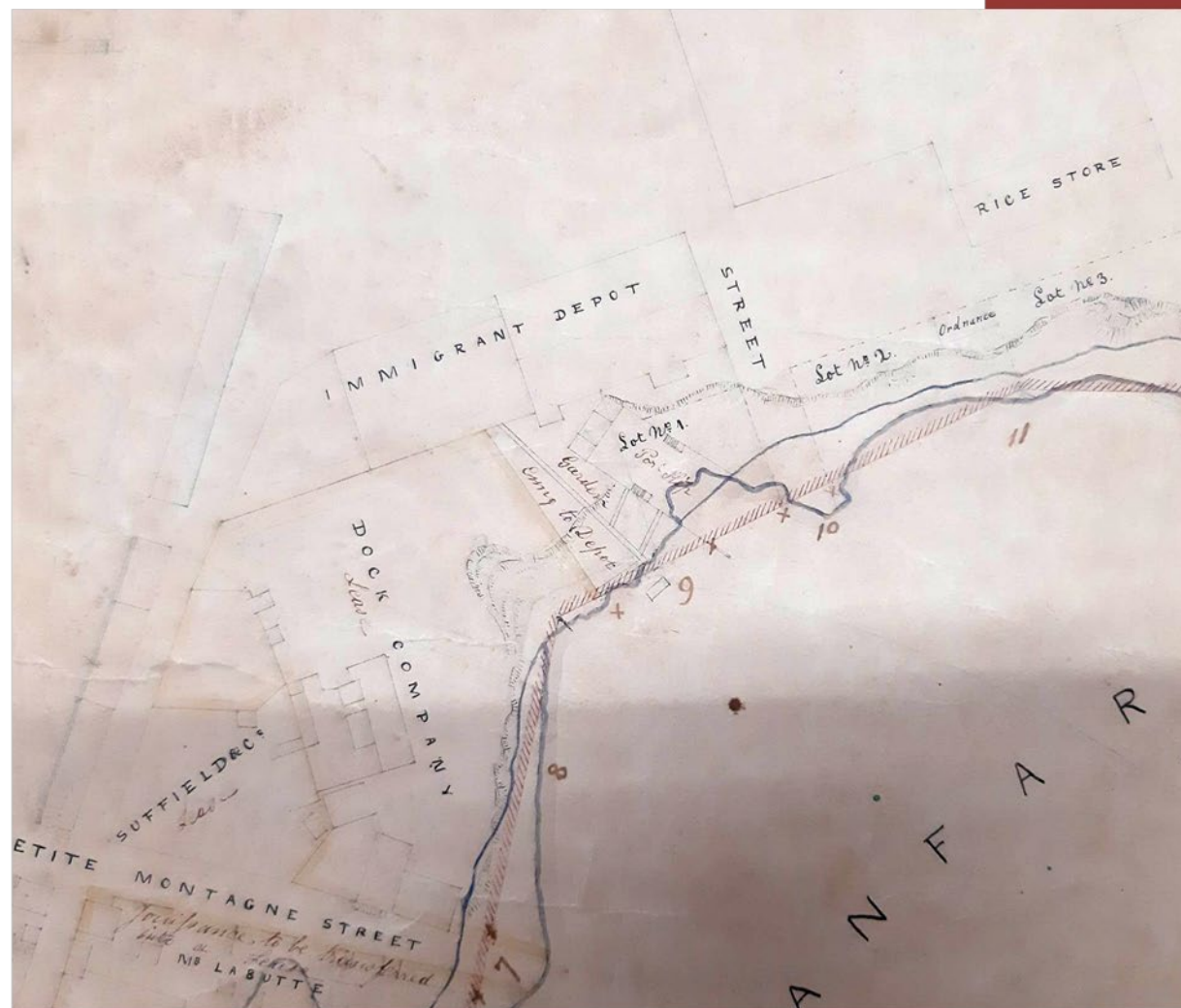


Annexe 14: Trou Fanfaron -
Th. Corby

Reference: MNA B1D A3.4/21
Year 1859

Description: The area of the actual site of Parc- à- Boulets is Lease Dock Company -.

A large compound structure as well some stand-alone structures can be seen in the plot of land of the Dock Company.



Annexe 15: Plan of the Quay improvements. Recommended by the Committee appointed by His Excellency the Governor on the 23rd March 1860. Surveyor General Office – Th. Corby

Reference: MNA B1D A3.4/44
Year 1860

Description: The area of the Parc a Boulets is clearly marked on the map next to the Immigration Depot. The area seems to be empty as no structures are outlined on the map.



Annexe 16: Plan of Port Louis reduced by L. Pombart LITHpher

Reference: MNA B1A A3.1/16
Year 1902

Description: The outline of the area of the Immigration Depot and the Parc-à-Boulets can be seen on the map. However, they are both unlabeled.

