

ARCHIVAL SOURCES ON BEAUFORT WEST



The Western Cape Archives holds the memory of our province with more than 45kms of records. This flyer will help you identify some of the main sources of historical information available to researchers in the Western Cape Archives, specifically on Beaufort West.

1. Municipality of Beaufort West (3/BFW, Inventory 3A/25)

This group of records covers the period 1848-1990 and contains:

- Minutes from the Town Clerk of Beaufort West (including of the Sanitary, Health, Finance, Electric Lighting, Smallpox, Resident Householders and "Non-European Affairs" Committees)
- Correspondence (including on grazing, applications for trading, finances and sanitation)
- Reports (from Waterworks, Town Engineer, Grazing Overseer, Rat Catcher, "Location" Overseer, Sanitary Inspector)
- Valuation registers and rolls
- Financial statements and ledgers
- Leases
- Voters rolls
- Infectious Diseases Registers
- Maps, diagrams and plans (including on land granted to the Beaufort West Municipality 1887, 1911, 1924; Lighting, Boreholes)

2. Secretary, Board of Public Roads for the Division of Beaufort West (1845-1855) and Secretary, Divisional Council of Beaufort West (1856-1979) (4/BFW, Inventory 3/8)

The Divisional Council of Beaufort West was proclaimed on 2 August 1855. The division was divided into six districts comprising various field cornetcies. These records include:

- Letters despatched by the Secretary, Board of Public Roads
- Council Minutes of the Divisional Council (including on Road, Valuation Court, Vermin Extermination Committees)
- Valuation Rolls
- Applications for Crown Lands
- Financial statements and ledgers

3. Magistrate of Beaufort West (1814-1984) (1/BFW, Inventory 2/9)

Records include:

- Minutes of meetings
- Criminal cases
- Criminal notebooks and record books
- Inquests
- Civil cases
- Letters to Field Cornets
- Marriage Affidavits
- Slave Papers
- Apprenticeships and wages of "Hottentots"
- Agent for the Orphan Chamber
- Matrimonial Court
- Post Master
- Periodical Court: Rosedene and Merweville
- Baptismal, birth and death registers
- Land records



4. Photographs

The Western Cape Archives has over 80 000 photographs. There are photographs of Beaufort West in the AG; Jeffreys, Fitchett, Cobern and Elliot Collections.

5. Maps and plans

The Western Cape Archives has over 17 000 maps, plans and architectural drawings in the Cartographic Collection, including some maps and diagrams related to Beaufort West.

The Western Cape Archives and Records Service at 72 Roeland Street, Cape Town is free and open to the public Monday-Friday 8:00-16:00 and the first and third Saturday of the month, 8:00-14:00. Limited telephonic and email assistance can be provided. Tours and programmes can be booked on 021 483 0456

Some records on Beaufort West are listed in the National Archives database:

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.za/node/737> or scan the QR code to take you to the correct link:

