

AB2137 GRAY, SOPHIA, sketches, 1855-1867

1 sketch book and 48 leaves of sketches, 1855-1867

INTRODUCTION

Sophia Gray is often cited as South Africa's first woman architect. But her architectural endeavours had started much earlier in her ancestral home in England.

Sophia Gray was the wife of Robert Gray, who was the first Bishop of the Anglican Church in Southern Africa. Having arrived in the Cape province in 1847, the couple settled in Protea, later called Bishopscourt. From there Sophy Gray undertook long and straining trips, often on horseback, around the Cape up to KwaZulu Natal. She always carried her portfolio, sketching all the way. By 1861 she was managing 21 building projects in various parishes, with her favourite project being St Saviours in Claremont.

Even when her health began to deteriorate, she insisted on keeping up with her work as architect, estate manager, accountant and secretary to the Bishop. She died in 1871 and was buried in the church yard of St Saviours.

(Text from the article "Architectural greats: Sophy Gray", by Matthew Barac, published in the magazine "Elle Decoration", July 2005.)

The drawings in this collection were discovered at the St George's Cathedral in Cape Town, and have been restored and exhibited to the public.

COLLECTION

A SKETCH BOOK, 12 x 22 cm, 1863-1867

The sketch book relates to the Cape and Natal with pencil sketches and water colours of Newhaven Knysna, Karkloof, Bushman's River, St. John's River, Cape Point, Paarl from Sand Drift, Fransche Hoek, Grey Bridge at Michell's Pass, Umgeni, Springvale and Durban Harbour and Berea, Umzinto.

B 48 LEAVES OF SKETCHES, 1855-1859

The 48 loose sketches, c. 1855-1859, are in water-colour, pencil, pen and ink. They relate mainly to the Cape with a few English scenes and two by her husband, Bp. Robert Gray. The sketches are listed in no particular order.

Descriptions are used as inscribed on the image by the artist.

Also included are slides of the 20 sketches, which are stored in the Media Room.

B1 Protea (now Bishopscourt)
B2 Protea
B3 Weltevrede M. Frey's, 1855
B4 Knysna Forest
B5 Distant view from Station Bains Kloof
B6 Breede River Ferry
B7 Fransche Hoek
B8 Swart Vley

- B9 Bains Kloof from Paarl
- B10 Bergriver Paarl
- B11 Meirings Pass
- B12 Keiskamma Hoek
- B13 The Goukamma From the old road, 1859, 2 images
- B14 Seven weeks Poort, 2 images
- B15 Worcester, 2 images
- B16 Simonsberg & Franschhoek from Paarl
- B17 Bishop's Arch Bains Kloof
- B18 Bains Kloof
- B19 From Eerste Rivier
- B20 Descent to the Gamtoos River, 1855
- B21 Houts Bay, 1857
- B22 Gouritz River
- B23 Somerset West, 1855
- B24 Piketberg, 1859

- B25 Newhaven Church, and inscription on reverse side: St George's Church Knysna, coroneted 3 October 1855
- B26 Table Bay
- B27 Simon's Bay
- B28 Claremont Church
- B29 Amatola Basin Fort Cox
- B30 Riversdale, 1855
- B31 Zuurbraak, 1855
- B32 Dacre's Pulpit, 1855
- B33 Paarl, Marais
- B34 Genadendal, 2 images
- B35 Zurvogels
- B36 Tenby (Wales), 1858
- B37 No name, by Robert Gray
- B38 No name, by Robert Gray
- B39 No name
- B40 No name, 2 images
- B41 No name
- B42 No name
- B43 No name
- B44 No name
- B45 No name
- B46 No name
- B47 No name
- B48 No name