

SAAO History Symposium 7 March 2018

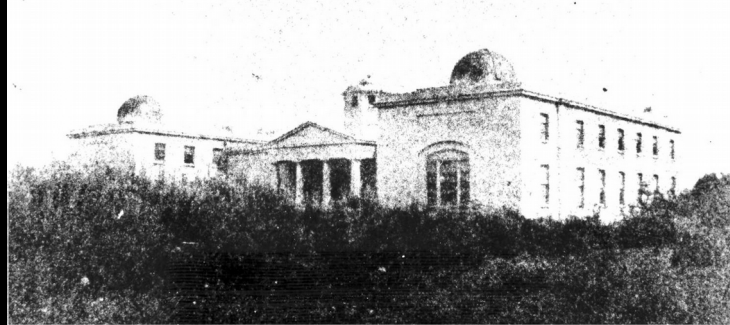
Tour of the Royal Observatory Site



7-
in/Photoheliograph



Astrograph
nic



Main Bldg – Smyth photo ca
1842



McClean bldg – Baker
design



Lyo
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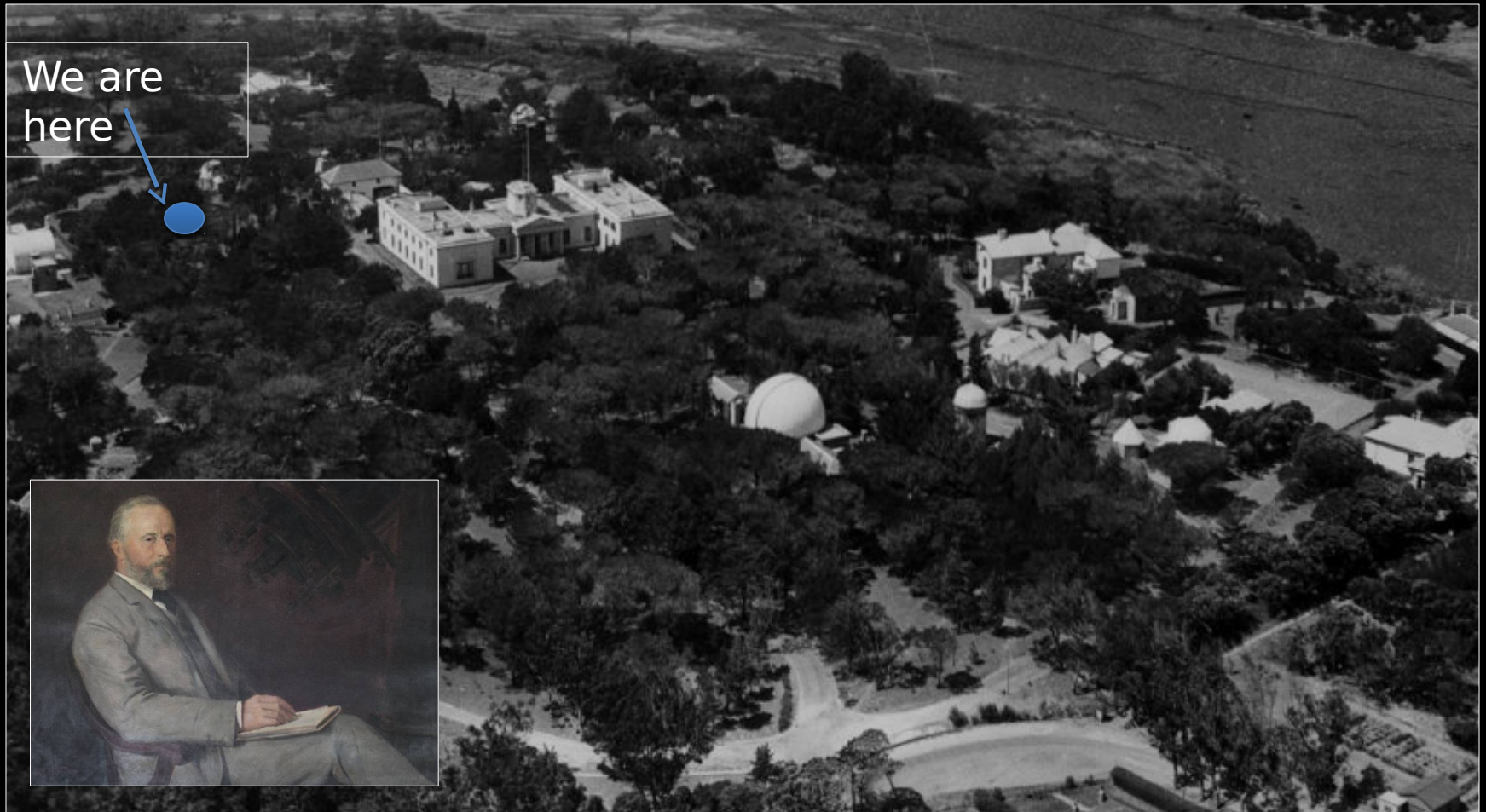


RT
C



18-
inch

The Royal Observatory as Gill left it



Main Building - Library



Photoheliograph dome (1848)



Built during Maclear's time

Dome runs on cannon balls

Originally held 7-inch refractor

First permanent all-sky telescope at
RO Cape

Photoheliograph (1870s)



Originally in a wooden dome near Astrographic – foundations still visible.

Moved here in 1929.

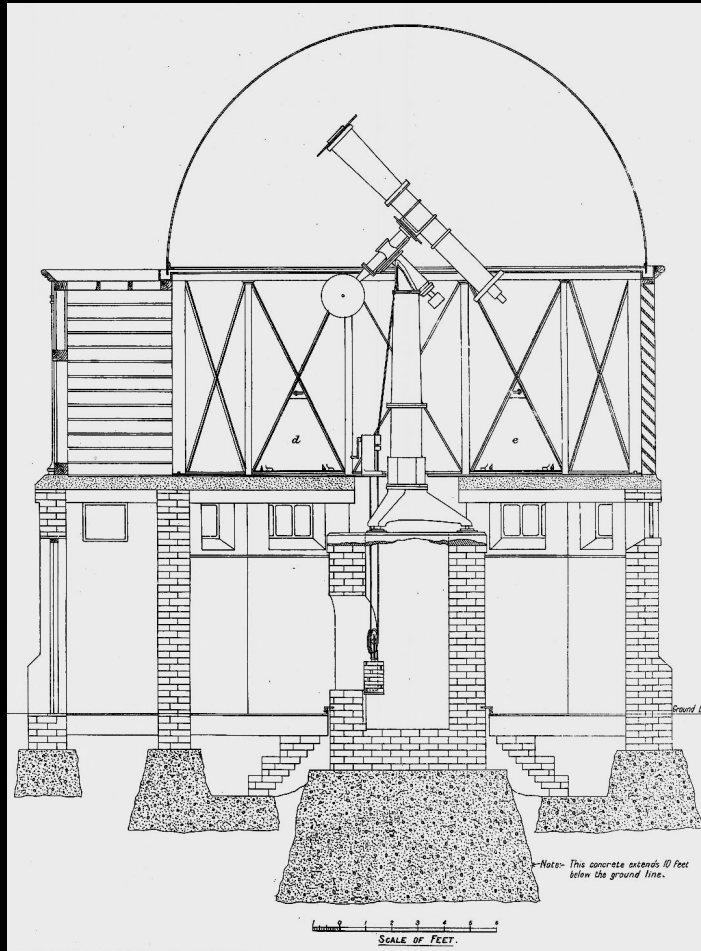
Can still use it to view sunspots.

Used to take photo plates of Sun twice daily for sunspot numbers.

Heliometer/18-inch 1887/1955



Heliometer/18-inch building cross-section



Changed to 18-inch in 1955.

Only reflector (mirror telescope) on site, since 1m went to Sutherland.

Used louvres to keep dome cool and improve seeing.

Cousins with 18-inch reflector

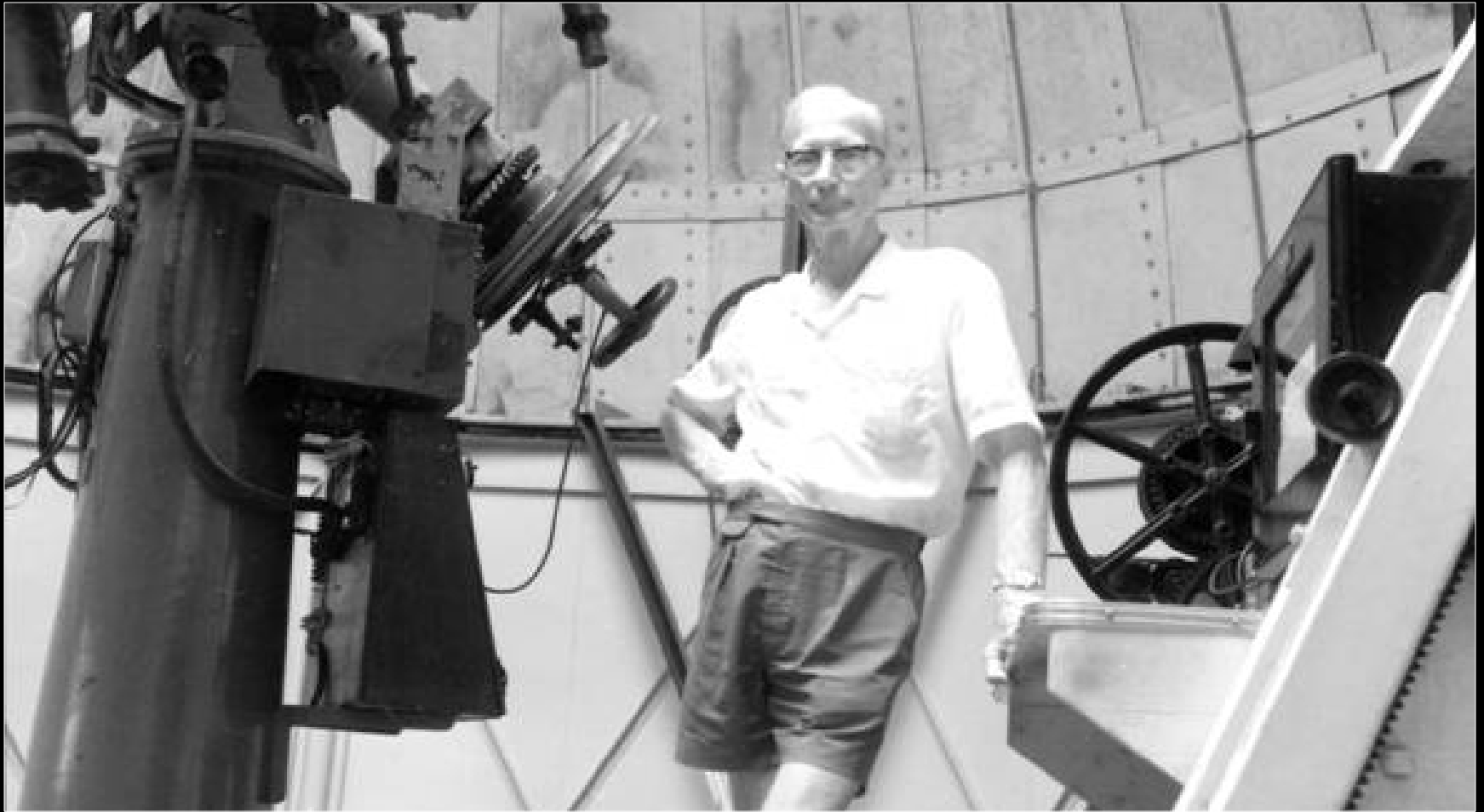


Photo: CD
Laney

Used as junk store until recently



Astrographic Telescope (1890)



Present sad state - OAD storage



Gill Transit Circle Building



Photo by G Roberts, ca
1965

Gill Transit Circle (1905)



McClean Telescope and Dome



Astronomical Museum





The Royal Observatory at the Cape of Good Hope
History and Heritage

I. S. Glass

Book Available from shop for R150 – Please see Ms Thembela Matungwa

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Tour of the Royal Observatory Site



7-

in/Photoheliograph



Astrograph
h11c



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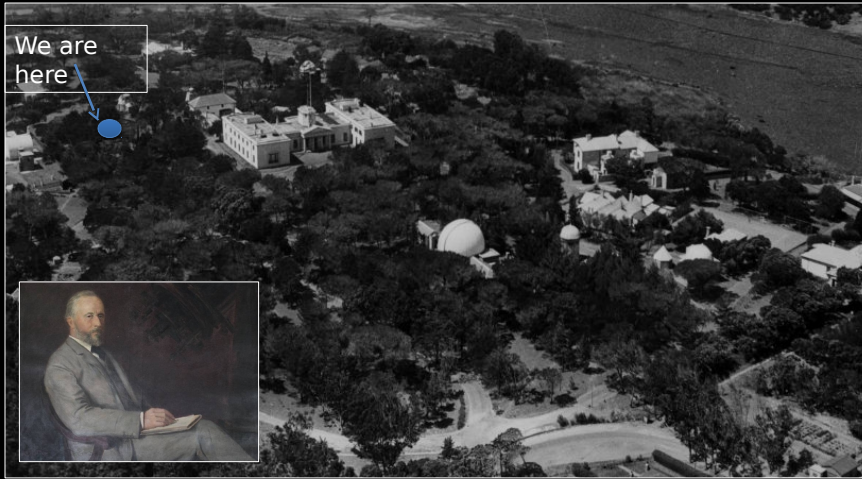
RT
C



18-
inch

----- Meeting Notes (03/11/2017 12:19) -----
people not familiar
200th anniversary
many discoveries
innovative instruments
national heritage

The Royal Observatory as Gill left it



----- Meeting Notes (23/09/2017 16:19) -----
The Obs as Gill left it. Most buildings still there.
Poorly looked after.

Main Building - Library



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Heliometer/18-inch 1887/1955



----- Meeting Notes (23/09/2017 16:19) -----

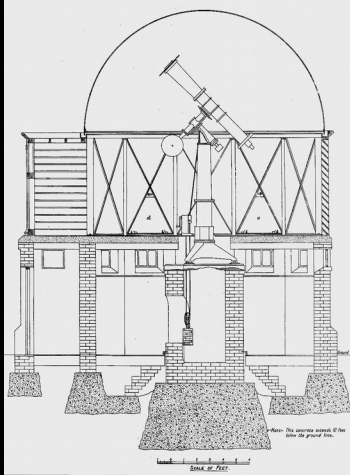
Gill's building programme

New ideas about domes and telescopes

----- Meeting Notes (03/11/2017 12:19) -----

unique ventilation

Heliometer/18-inch building cross-section



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Only reflector (mirror telescope) on site, since 1m went to Sutherland.

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----- Meeting Notes (23/09/2017 16:19) -----
Slats for cooling - steadiness of atmosphere.
Heliometer
Measuring distances to stars

Cousins with 18-inch reflector



Photo: CD
Laney

Used as junk store until
recently



Astrographic Telescope (1890)



----- Meeting Notes (23/09/2017 16:19) -----
Organised with Admiral Mouchez the first big
International programme
Carte du Ciel
More than 12 observatories involved.

Present sad state - OAD storage



Gill Transit Circle Building



Photo by G Roberts, ca
1965

----- Meeting Notes (23/09/2017 16:19) -----
Special dome with stable foundations and
thermal stability

Gill Transit Circle (1905)



----- Meeting Notes (23/09/2017 16:19) -----
Gill's instrumental skill leads to improved
positional measurements
His ideas widely copied.

McClean Telescope and Dome



Astronomical Museum





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