The Tongaat community health center is an example of Cape Dutch architecture. Cape Coast Dutch architecture appealed to white South Africans striving for heritage and drawn to the pseudo-aristocratic connotations of Baroque styling. In Tongaat, local ‘sugar barons’ including the the Saunders of Tongaat and the Campbells of Natal Estates, adapted Cape Dutch forms in their estates. Early twentieth century South African architects including ‘Gwelo’ Goodman sought to find a new architectural style particular to South Africa. While less gentile than these structures, the Community Health Center is an example of a larger pattern which Merrinton describes, noting that a “pattern had emerged, by the late 1920s, for wealthy, genteel, white South Africans to pursue the concept of ‘Africana’ in its various forms, from book collecting to art and antiques, and the establishment of homes (and gardens) in the approved new South African style.”

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Among other connections, Merrington notes that in 1917 Lionel Phillips bought van der Stel's celebrated estate Vergelegen, near Cape Town. Phillips and his wife were active in preserving the culture of South Africa (including Cape Dutch antique buildings) as well as champions of the Closer Union Movement that among other things secured British titles of nobility for South African elites.

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2 Merrington: 691.

3 Merrington: 691.

4 Merrington: 692.

5 Merrington: 694.