

Restoration and interpretation.

Official Grading

NHR Act Status

Date of Gazette

Composite - Objects

Property Name

Composite Name

Heritage Resource Name

Catalogue Number

Type of Resource

Composites (groups of clusters of heritage resources: sub-places and areas)

Property Name

Assegaaibosch, Jonkershoek, Stellenbosch District

Composite Name

Assegaaibosch ridge

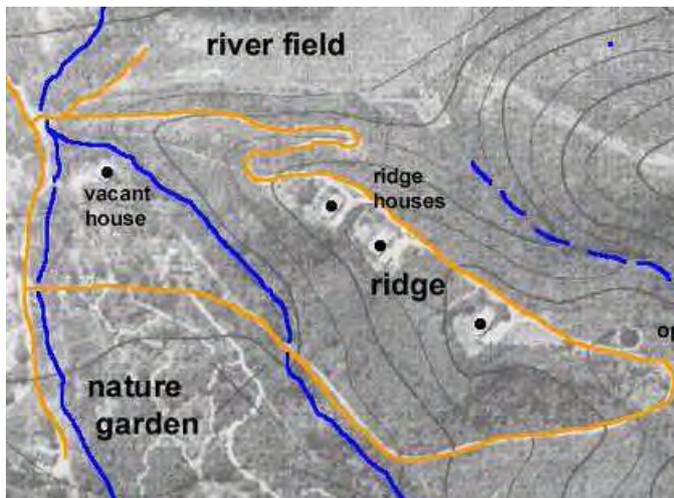
Catalogue Number

02.14/04

Type of Resource

landscape feature

Objects



Photograph Date

1980

Photographer

Penny Pistorius

Photo Title

Annotated orthophoto: Assegaaibosch ridge.



Photograph Date

1938

Photographer

Chief Director: Surveys & Mapping

Photo Title

1938 aerial: the top and south west slope of Assegaaibosch ridge is cultivated. At the head of the seasonal stream (w) are trees in rows - a possible dwelling site.

Composite - Description

Visual Description

East of the east branch of Assegaaibosch stream (Assegaaiboschkloof) and south of the river field, the Simonsberg foothills push forward as a steep-sided spur, separated from the more rounded foothills in the east by a seasonal stream. The top of the ridge is gently sloped and usable. Apart from the gardens around the houses, most of it is covered with a rich variety of proteas and fynbos.

Condition

Composite - History

History

In 1938 the top of the ridge was cultivated land. A clearing with trees in rows at the head of the seasonal stream west of the ridge may indicate a dwelling site, perhaps of farm workers.

The houses were built in 1965.

Associated People

Associated Events

References

Composite - Assessment

Significance Statement

A prominent land feature which contributes to the sense of enclosure of the werf and river field, and is highly visible.

Significance Category

E

Proposed Grading

Vulnerabilities

Recommendations

A = course / pattern of history	F = creative / technical
B = rarity	G = social / cultural / spiritual
C = information potential	H = assoc. NB person / group
D = characteristic of type	I = slavery
E = aesthetic	

Composite - Objects

Property Name

Assegaaibosch, Jonkershoek, Stellenbosch District

Composite Name

Assegaaibosch ridge

Heritage Resource Name

Assegaaibosch ridge housing

Catalogue Number

02.14/04.02

Type of Resource

houses



Photograph Date

05/04

Photographer

Penny Pistorius

PhotoTitle

One of the three similar staff houses on Assegaaibosch Ridge.

Objects - Description

Visual Description

Three undistinguished bungalows (beautifully sited for views) are sited along the crest of the ridge.

Condition (short)

Architectural Style

Objects - History

History

Built by Nature Conservation in 1965.

Construction Date

1965

Associated People

Associated Events

References

Objects - Assessment

Significance Statement

No heritage significance.

Significance Category

Proposed Grading

Vulnerabilities

NHR Act Status

Date of Gazette

Official Grading

Recommendations

A = course / pattern of history	F = creative / technical
B = rarity	G = social / cultural / spiritual
C = information potential	H = assoc. NB person / group
D = characteristic of type	I = slavery
E = aesthetic	

Composite - Objects

Property Name

Assegaaibosch, Jonkershoek, Stellenbosch DistrictAssegaaibosch, Jonkershoek, Stellenbosch District

Composite Name

Assegaaibosch ridge

Heritage Resource Name

Assegaaibosch ridge reservoirs

Catalogue Number

02.14/04.03

Type of Resource

reservoirs



Photograph Date

05/04

Photographer

Penny Pistorius

PhotoTitle

Covered reservoir, Assegaaibosch ridge

Objects - Description

Visual Description

There are two circular concrete reservoirs on the ridge. The first is to the north of the road on the crest and is uncovered. The second is beyond the curve of the road as it begins to descend. It is covered with a metal roof and has associated plastic tanks, piping and pumps equipment.

Condition (short)

Architectural Style

Objects - History

History

Construction Date **Associated People**

Associated Events

References

Objects - Assessment

Significance Statement

Significance Category

Proposed Grading

A = course / pattern of history	F = creative / technical
B = rarity	G = social / cultural / spiritual
C = information potential	H = assoc. NB person / group
D = characteristic of type	I = slavery
E = aesthetic	

Vulnerabilities

NHR Act Status

Date of Gazette

Official Grading

Recommendations

Composite - Objects

Property Name

Assegaaibosch, Jonkershoek, Stellenbosch District

Composite Name

Assegaaibosch ridge

Heritage Resource Name

Assegaaibosch ridge road

Catalogue Number

02.14/04.01

Type of Resource

road



Photograph Date

05/04

Photographer

Penny Pistorius

PhotoTitle

The ridge road on the west side.



Photograph Date

05/04

Photographer

Penny Pistorius

PhotoTitle

Assegaaibosch ridge road: the bridge over Assegaaiboschkloof stream.

Objects - Description

Visual Description

A single-car wide road winds up the north face of the ridge above the river field (offering panoramic views over the valley) and across the top of the ridge. It provides access to the ridge houses (see Objects 02.14/04.02) and reservoirs (see Objects 02.14/04.03) before running down a shallow valley south of the ridge and crossing a concrete bridge over the Assegaaiboschkloof stream. Then it runs through the nature garden to rejoin the main Assegaaibosch access road.

Condition (short)

Architectural Style

Objects - History

History

Built by Nature Conservation, second half of 20th C.

Construction Date

Associated People

Associated Events

References

Objects - Assessment

Significance Statement

Although not in itself significant, the road provides access to panoramic views of the valley.

Significance Category

E

Proposed Grading

A = course / pattern of history	F = creative / technical
B = rarity	G = social / cultural / spiritual
C = information potential	H = assoc. NB person / group
D = characteristic of type	I = slavery
E = aesthetic	

Vulnerabilities

NHR Act Status

Date of Gazette

Official Grading

Recommendations

Composites (groups of clusters of heritage resources: sub-places and areas)

Property Name

Assegaaibosch, Jonkershoek, Stellenbosch District

Composite Name

River field

Catalogue Number

02.14/03

Type of Resource

field

Objects



Photograph Date

1938

Photographer

Chief Director: Surveys & Mapping

Photo Title

Area east of Assegaaibosch werf, 1938 aerial.
The river field appears to be grain (or could be vineyard) and there is an orchard in the east part.



Photograph Date

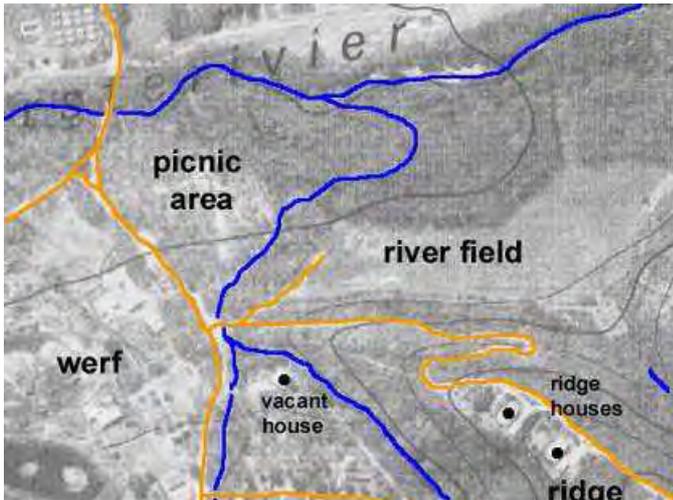
05/04

Photographer

Penny Pistorius

Photo Title

The river field, Assegaaibosch



Photograph Date

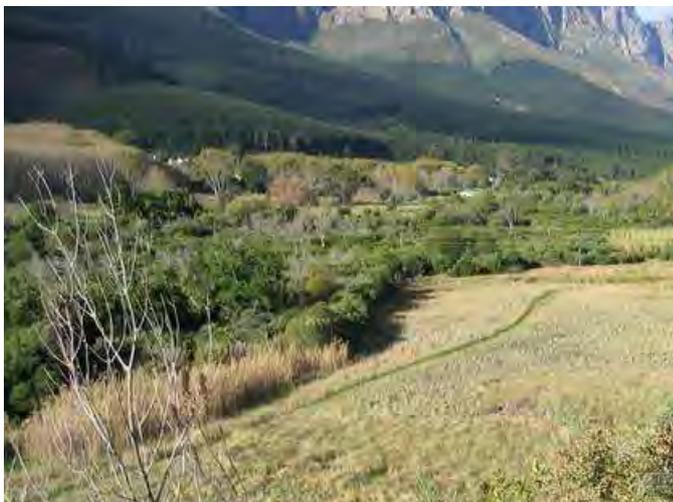
1980

Photographer

Chief Director: Surveys & Mapping

Photo Title

Annotated orthophoto: Assegaaibosch river field and environs.



Photograph Date

05/04

Photographer

Penny Pistorius

Photo Title

The river field, Assegaaibosch, is one of the few arable areas on the farm and was part of the earliest recorded grant

Composite - Description

Visual Description

One of the series of level riverside fields backed by steep hills which is so characteristic of the Jonkershoek valley. It is bounded by the Eerste River in the north, the Assegaaibosch streams in the west, and backed in the south by the steep slopes of the Assegaaibosch ridge and the rounded hill east of it. It is presently vegetated with rough grasses, edged with a thick band of reeds along the Eerste River.

Condition

Composite - History

History

Before Colonial settlement, this obviously-fertile alluvial field was probably burnt of bush by Khoi pastoralists to provide seasonal grazing, as was the common pattern. It was one of the two pieces of land of the original 1693 grant, regranted 1755 (see diagram in Property and Werf Composite photos). It has undoubtedly been farmed from the beginning; whether for grain or vines is not known. The 1938 aerial shows an orchard at the the eastern end.

Said to be in the valley with seasonal stream south of the field (not inspected) are disused Nature Conservation facilities for breeding water fowl. Hey (1995:121): " In an isolated ravine we excavated a pond for the propogation of dwarf geese, but they did not breed."

Associated People

Associated Events

References

Composite - Assessment

Significance Statement

A significant component of the cultural landscape, this field was probably cleared by the Khoi for grazing. It was one of the two pieces of land of the earliest land grant and was an important farming resource ever since.

Significance Category

A, C, D

Proposed Grading

2

A = course / pattern of history	F = creative / technical
B = rarity	G = social / cultural / spiritual
C = information potential	H = assoc. NB person / group
D = characteristic of type	I = slavery
E = aesthetic	

Vulnerabilities

Recommendations

Official Grading

NHR Act Status

Date of Gazette

Composite - Objects

Property Name

Composite Name

Heritage Resource Name

Catalogue Number

Type of Resource

Composites (groups of clusters of heritage resources: sub-places and areas)

Property Name

Assegaaibosch, Jonkershoek, Stellenbosch District

Composite Name

Picnic area

Catalogue Number

02.14/02

Type of Resource

landscape

Objects



Photograph Date

05/04

Photographer

Penny Pistorius

Photo Title

Ablution rondawel, picnic area, Assegaibosch



Photograph Date

05/04

Photographer

Penny Pistorius

Photo Title

Picnic area, Assegaibosch



Photograph Date

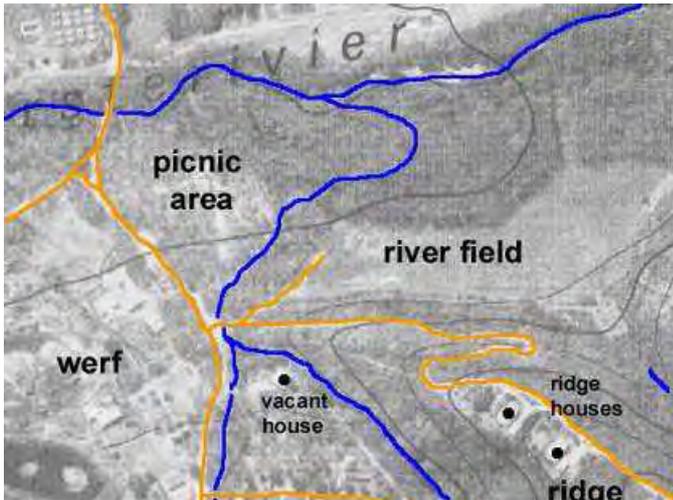
1938

Photographer

Chief Director: Surveys & Mapping

Photo Title

Area east of Assegaibosch werf, 1938 aerial.
The picnic area is in the area covered with trees
NE of the werf.



Photograph Date

1980

Photographer

Chief Director: Surveys & Mapping

Photo Title

Annotated orthophoto: area east of Assegaibosch werf: picnic area between Eerste River and Assegaibosch Stream

Composite - Description

Visual Description

The picnic area is laid out in a well-wooded, flat area bounded on the north by the Eerste River, on the east and south by the Assegaibosch stream, and on the west by the access road from Jonkershoek. Trees include indigenous species and many oaks. Undergrowth is cleared, making a series of "dells", furnished in part with picnic tables. Near the access road and main entrance to the picnic area is a thatched rondawel containing ablution facilities.

Condition

Composite - History

History

Laid out by Nature Conservation in the 1960s: "Another popular public amenity was the large picnic site in the oak forest on the banks of the Eerste River, also part of our programme of public education, which was well used by the public and youth groups." (Hey 1995:129)

Associated People

Associated Events

References

Composite - Assessment

Significance Statement

The oak forest (now supplemented by indigenous trees) is a characteristic and historical feature of the farm. The picnic area is one of the well-used passive recreational areas along the Eerste River, particularly popular with locals. Historically, it is associated with the establishment of Nature Conservation's third field station at Assegaibosch in the 1960s and its role in public education.

Significance Category

A, E, (G)

Proposed Grading

A = course / pattern of history	F = creative / technical
B = rarity	G = social / cultural / spiritual
C = information potential	H = assoc. NB person / group
D = characteristic of type	I = slavery
E = aesthetic	

Vulnerabilities

Recommendations

Maintain.

Official Grading

NHR Act Status

Date of Gazette

Composite - Objects

Property Name

Composite Name

Heritage Resource Name

Catalogue Number

Type of Resource

Composites (groups of clusters of heritage resources: sub-places and areas)

Property Name

Assegaaibosch, Jonkershoek, Stellenbosch District

Composite Name

Assegaaibosch werf

Catalogue Number

02.14/01

Type of Resource

farmstead

Objects



Photograph Date

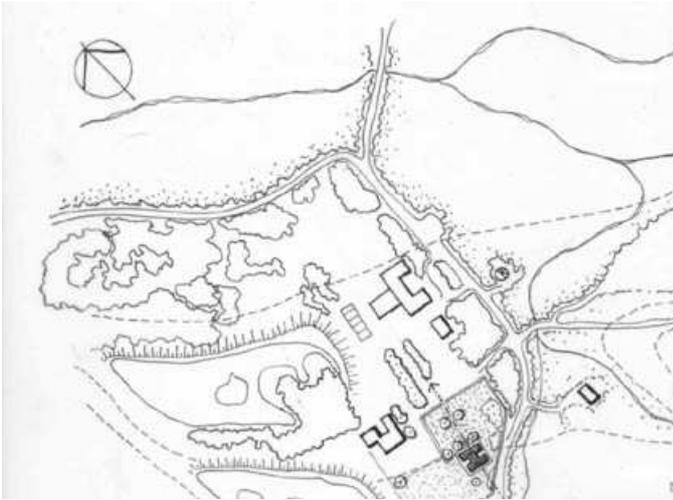
1938

Photographer

Chief Director: Surveys & Mapping

Photo Title

Assegaaibosch werf, 1938 aerial photo. H-shaped house just above centre, kraal and outbuilding (since demolished) behind it. Note the access road runs west of the house.



Photograph Date

05/04

Photographer

Penny Pistorius

Photo Title

Assegaaibosch werf, drawn from 1980 orthophoto



Photograph Date

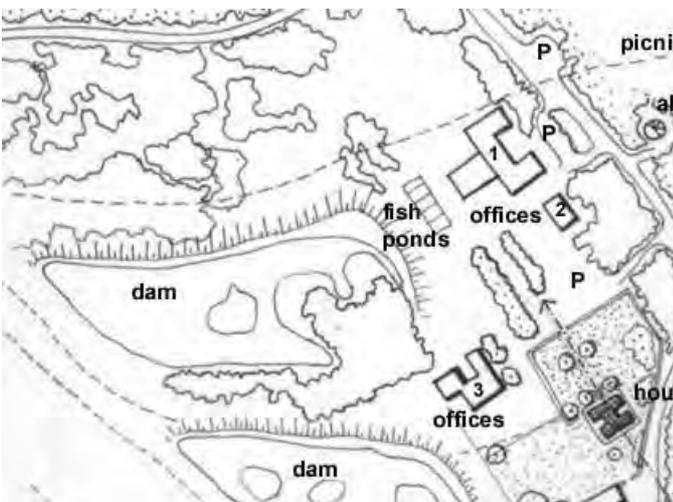
02/04

Photographer

Stewart Harris

Photo Title

Assegaaibosch 1817 grant, detail. The werf is situated south of the end of the "wagen pad" seen entering the diamond shape of the earlier grant from the west.



Photograph Date

05/04

Photographer

Penny Pistorius

Photo Title

Assegaaibosch werf, drawn from 1980 orthophoto, detail

Composite - Description

Visual Description

The historical werf at Assegaaibosch is situated on the diamond-shaped section of the original grant, west of the confluence of the two tributary streams, in a relatively level valley between the folds of the Stellenboschberg foothills. This valley is clearly defined by the 240 m contour. The main building at Assegaaibosch, the house, is

enclosed in a wall and has remnants of associated historical structures such as the "kraal". It is surrounded by 20th C administration and research buildings associated with the property's use as a nature reserve.

Condition

Composite - History

History

See Property and Object histories.

Associated People

See Property history.

Associated Events

References

See Property history.

Composite - Assessment

Significance Statement

The werf is the core of the historical farm, and illustrates its development over 3 centuries. It is beautifully sited in a sloping valley near water. Associated with people prominent in the development of the valley (see Property history) and with the development and research activities of Cape Nature Conservation.

Significance Category

A, C, E, G, H

Proposed Grading

2

A = course / pattern of history	F = creative / technical
B = rarity	G = social / cultural / spiritual
C = information potential	H = assoc. NB person / group
D = characteristic of type	I = slavery
E = aesthetic	

Vulnerabilities

WCNC is investigating commercial development potential of the farm (but this could result in improvement of the werf).

Recommendations

Official Grading

NHR Act Status

Date of Gazette

Composite - Objects

Property Name

Assegaaibosch, Jonkershoek, Stellenbosch District

Composite Name

Assegaaibosch werf

Heritage Resource Name

Assegaaibosch house

Catalogue Number

02.14/01.01

Type of Resource

house



Photograph Date

05/04

Photographer

Penny Pistorius

PhotoTitle

Assegaibosch house, front (north) façade



Photograph Date

05/04

Photographer

Penny Pistorius

PhotoTitle

Assegaibosch house, west side and rear façade



Photograph Date

05/04

Photographer

Penny Pistorius

PhotoTitle

Assegaibosch house, rear gable



Photograph Date

1960s?

Photographer

ex Fransen and Cook, 1965

PhotoTitle

Assegaaibosch, side and rear , probably 1960s, prior to restoration. Poorly maintained, side court filled in, part-enclosed verandah at rear, various windows and doors.

Objects - Description

Visual Description

H-shaped thatched Cape gabled house, facing north, towards the river. The front has a dormer gable with casement window, while the rear and side gables are holbol with pointed tops decorated with a tassel. The front has three tall sash windows, with two panelled double doors with spoke fanlights flanking the central window. The rear has shuttered double and single casements and a stable door. A timber stair at the east leads to the loft. It has a tiled stoep on all sides, raised in the front, with slightly splayed steps, at ground level at the back.

Condition (short)

fair

Architectural Style

Cape gabled, part-Georgianised

Objects - History

History

The history of the house is unclear and there is no agreement in published sources. Fransen and Cook (1965:61) state that Lambert Hendrik Fick "probably built the house . . . in or soon after 1792. Its front gable (which has fallen . . .) is said to have dated from about that time". The H shaped house with gables is the climax form of Cape Dutch architecture -- Ida's Valley was built at this time. Because Assegaaibosch gables are so much later in style than the baroque holbol Ida's Valley gables, Fransen and Cook's notion that they were later remodelled seems likely. This is a large house to build in such a remote place on a not-particularly productive farm. Quite an ostentatious thing to do -- an expression of (a) the economic boom bringing wealth, (b) deliberate conspicuous display, sometimes interpreted as defiance of the crumbling Company, (c) assertion of civilisation in the wilderness. Note that the attribution of the c1792 date is base on oral history. Further study needed.

Fransen and Cook think Wouter Eduard Wium added the pointed back gable about 1825 (though de Bosdari dates it "soon after the year 1800") and the front windows and doors in the 1830s. (Fransen and Cook 1965:61, de Bosdari 1953:62). A similar neoclassical gable and double-front-door arrangement was introduced at Libertas Parva in Stellenbosch c1838.

It is possible that the house was only built after 1806 -- almost all the other great houses of the Jonkershoek and Ida's Valleys date from 1804-1830. Wouter Eduard Wium is a likely candidate for such a substantial house. His grandfather had owned the farm, making it a possible object of familial pride. He was a sound operator -- his 1817 grant was 26 times the size of the original. A difficulty with this is that he also, according to Fransen and Cook, made the Georgian alterations in the 1830s. Would a man of advancing years, who had built the grand house, introduce such an unfamiliar style? An explanation could be that the Georgian alterations are much later than they seem. Taste trailed in the country districts : in Stellenbosch village de Ouwe Werf and Spice café were not "Georgianised" till after 1889.

When the Department of Nature Conservation bought the farm in 1960 the buildings were all neglected and in poor condition (see photo 4). It was arranged that Mrs AE van der Byl, then 97, retained usufruct of the house. It was subsequently restored by Cape Nature Conservation to its current appearance. See Fransen, 1967 and Hey 1995:129-131. Nearly all the woodwork had to be replaced. It was used as an educational and conference centre, and currently as visitor accommodation.

Construction Date

Associated People

1792?

See Property history.

Associated Events

References

Fransen, H (1967): "Restoration of Assegaaibosch Homestead", Restorica 15, pp22-24
Hey 1995:129-131.

Objects - Assessment

Significance Statement

A fine late 18th or early 19th century H-shaped gabled house, beautifully sited on the slope above the river. The varied styles of the front ("Georgianised") and the back (restored to an earlier "Cape" period) demonstrate the evolution and layering of Cape architecture. The double doors of the front are an unusual feature, peculiar to Stellenbosch during a particular period.

Significance Category

A, B, C, D, E

Proposed Grading

2

A = course / pattern of history	F = creative / technical
B = rarity	G = social / cultural / spiritual
C = information potential	H = assoc. NB person / group
D = characteristic of type	I = slavery
E = aesthetic	

Vulnerabilities

Cape Nature Conservation offices, research centres and carparks have already crowded the house and negatively affected its setting and aspect.

NHR Act Status

>60 yrs (S. 34)

Date of Gazette

Official Grading

Recommendations

- * Care should be taken not to overdevelop further around the house.
- * Appropriate landscaping could mitigate existing negative impacts of nearby buildings, particularly in front of the house.
- * Further study of history of house. Check sales prices in 1792, cf 1806 to see if there was a substantial rise. Inspection of building fabric by an expert could reveal more information on dating and evolution, possibly from a T shape to the present H.

Composite - Objects

Property Name

Assegaaibosch, Jonkershoek, Stellenbosch District

Composite Name

Assegaaibosch werf

Heritage Resource Name

Assegaaibosch werf wall and fowl ne

Catalogue Number

02.14/01.02

Type of Resource

wall, fowl nests