Heritage Survey: Stellenbosch Rural Areas
by Penny Pistorius and Stewart Harris - June 2004

Sub Area Name: Jonkershoek
Catalogue Number: 02.26

Property Name: Bergsig, Jonkershoek, Stellenbosch District
Alternative Names:

Farm Number: 334/5
Linkages:
Klein Gustrouw historical property, Leef op Hoop

Heritage Resource Name: Bergsig farm
Type of Resource: farm

Composites:
Werf
Workers' housing
waterworks

Orthophoto with added cadastrals.
1980 Chief Director: Surveys & Mapping

Photo Date: 1950s
Photographer: Studio Lockley

Photo Title:
1950 photograph. Bergsig is the high valley with two streams running behind the foreground ridge, and a wedge of the rounded hill in the foreground. The homestead is in the nearest U of trees above the road.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Photo Date</th>
<th>Photographer</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1938</td>
<td>Chief Director: Surveys &amp; Mapping</td>
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<tr>
<td>2000</td>
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<tr>
<td>1980</td>
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</table>

**Photo Title**

1938 aerial photo, southern portion of Bergsig.

Aerial photo, southern portion of Bergsig.

Orthophoto, southern portion of Bergsig.
Bergsig from Mount Happy. It comprises the vineyards, centre, a corner of the hill above and the valley behind. Homestead in trees, R foreground.

**Photo Title**

1902 map: Red blocks 17th century grants, yellow lines early 19th c, pink dots roads. Grey/black rivers.

**Description**

**Visual Description**

A large farm that extends from the ridge of Jonkershoekberge in the north to the Jonkershoek road in the south. Konstanz is to the east, and Bo Gustrouw, Leef-op-Hoop and Topas run north to

**Notes**

99.757 ha

The owner is JP Marais (who also owns Leef op Hoop)

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**Photo Date** 06/04  
**Photographer** Penny Pistorius

**Photo Title**


**Photo Date** CAM2-409  
**Photographer** Penny Pistorius

**Photo Title**


**Photo Date** CAM2-409  
**Photographer** Penny Pistorius
south down the west boundary. Le Giliers is cut out of the south east corner. The northern part is the valley of the Kleinplaaskloof stream (called Klein Begin on the 1902 map); the mountainside is bush and regrowth from previous plantations.

The lower part of the farm extends westward from the stream to include part of a gently-sloping foothill (this part was substantially Louis of Bengal’s grant). The hillside is mostly planted with vineyards (photo 4). The farmstead is part-way up this slope in the centre of the property (see Composite 1) and there is a village of workers’ houses just above the road along the east bank of the Kleinplaaskloof stream (see Composite 3).

The southern portion of the Kleinplaaskloof stream has been straightened, and now runs in a deep channel. There are also water channels to the werf. See Composite 2, waterworks.

At the werf, next to the steps to the loft of the south barn are placed a pre-colonial grinding stone and the weight from a digging stick, which were presumably collected on the farm. See Object 02.26/01.03.

The gently-sloping south-west portion of the farm roughly coincides with an 1683 grant to Louis of Bengal which was confirmed in 1692. He was a colourful figure and an important member of the Free Black community (see People in Klein Gustrouw Historical Property). He is recorded here in 1688 with his wife but no crops are noted, and he seems to have given up the enterprise by 1696. However, he did have an efficient knegt who must have lived on site and undertaken agricultural improvements. The chief of these would have been to capture water from the stream and lead it across the hill to irrigate the fields on the gentle slope.

The 1680s grants were soon absorbed into a common ownership (See Klein Gustrouw Historical Property). The upper part of the farm was granted in 1817 to Pieter Daniel Grundling and was a consolidation of land long since used ‘as of right’. The grant followed the land each side of the Kleinplaaskloof stream; the area between its two upper branches is called Klein Begin on the 1902 map, and there was a track leading there; it is not known why such a remote part of the Valley should require one nor why the area justified a name.

By the time this farm re-emerged in the 20th century its shape was apparently a response to landscape features. In 1938 the farm evidently included Topas, and the boundary with Leef op Hoop ran down its western border. There were extensive fields on the slopes above the house (probably grain), with orchards running north east from the werf along the upper water channel, and west of the werf to the stream. Below the werf were more fields.

On the south boundary is the Jonkershoek road: the original route may have been a little north of it.

The present owner Mr JP Marais, who also owns Leef op Hoop, is the 5th generation of the family that farmed Klein Gustrouw/Leef op Hoop from 1852.

See also Klein Gustrouw historical property. The property's history should be further studied and the above outline confirmed.

**History**

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**Associated People**

See Klein Gustrouw Historical Property for more about Louis of Bengal, William Teerling, the efficient knegt, Pieter Daniel Grundling, Maynard Onkruydt Marais, etc.

**Associated Events**

**References**

1902 Brink Map CA M2-409 shows location of grants
1938 aerial photograph.
1980 orthophoto
2000 aerial photograph.
Site inspections, 06/04, 05/05.

**Assessment**

**Significance Statement**

This farm incorporates the original 1692 grant to Louis of Bengal, a freed slave, and has a deep history associated with Leef op Hoop/Klein Gustrouw and the various owners thereof. It is a significant part of the cultural landscape. See also Composites.
Significance Category
A, C, D, E, H, I

Proposed Grading
3 heritage area (s. 31)

Vulnerabilities

Recommendations
Further research recommended.

NHR Act Status          Date of Gazette          SAHRA File ref.          Official Grading

Maps

Number of Ortho Photo          GPS X

Date of Ortho Photo          GPS Y

Aerial Photograph Date          GPS Model

Aerial Photo Number          GPS Setting

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

Property Name          Composite Name
Bergsig, Jonkershoek, Stellenbosch District          Bergsig waterworks

Catalogue Number          Type of Resource
02.26/02          waterworks

Objects
none

Photograph Date
05/05

Photographer
Penny Pistorius

Photo Title
The water channel from the curve in the previous photo, heading straight for the dam above the werf.
Overlay of 1902 map on orthophoto (with added cadastrals). Note that because the 1902 and current map projections differ, the image had to be manipulated and should not be relied on.

Southern part of Bergsig, 1980 orthophoto

Chief Director: Surveys & Mapping

Southern part of Bergsig, aerial photo. 1938.

Chief Director: Surveys & Mapping
Comparing natural topography to the course of the Kleinplaaskloof stream, it is apparent that the course of the stream has been modified. This is confirmed by the 1902 map which (although of questionable topographic accuracy) shows a curve in the stream that does not occur on the ground (photo 4). It appears that this curve was channelled to supply the werf, the main stream being diverted to the east, to run alongside the track drawn on the 1902 map: this is clearly a man-made channel — according to the contours it is along a slight hump and on the ground it is in a deep cleft.
There is evidence of early water-leadings from the Kleinplaaskloof stream to the werf. On the ground, there is a diagonal channel from the stream north east of the werf which runs through the grassy area below the vineyards and into the dam behind the werf (photos 5-7). We surmise that the upper part of this channel may have been the original stream bed, straightened and lengthened (see contours, photo 2), and the lower part a man-made channel. It can be faintly seen on the 1938 aerial, and the 1980 contour map shows its route as slight hooks diagonally across the gently sloping land.

There is also some evidence of a second diagonal channel lower down. The field below the shed (just above and right of centre, photo 1) is wet and a faint diagonal is visible on aerial photos. There is a drainage channel from the south west corner of this field down the south side of the road to the werf. There is a row of fig trees here with a parallel line of heaped stones. On the 1938 aerial photo this line is thickly vegetated, which may indicate abundant water.

Condition

Composite - History

History

If the course of the stream on the 1902 map is reasonably accurate, it would indicate that the channelling occurred subsequently -- probably when the werf was established in the 1920s. However, Louis of Bengal and subsequent farmers would certainly have built channels to irrigate the arable lands on the slope; moreover it may be that the present werf was the location of Louis of Bengal’s werf or a subsequent dwelling site (werfs seldom change location if water supplies have been established.). Further research necessary.

Associated People

See Klein Gustrouw Historical Property.

Associated Events

References

See Property and Klein Gustrouw Historical Property

Composite - Assessment

Significance Statement

Water works are an insufficiently studied aspect of the historical rural landscape and are of outstanding significance since they shaped the formation and use of the landscape. Further study of the channelling on this farm has the potential to reveal significant information about historical agricultural water engineering.

Significance Category

A, B, C, F, (G, H, I?)

Proposed Grading

3 heritage register

Vulnerabilities

Recommendations

Archaeological study.

Official Grading

NHR Act Status

Date of Gazette

Structure older than 60 years (S. 34)

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**
Bergsig, Jonkershoek, Stellenbosch District

**Composite Name**
Bergsig workers' housing

**Catalogue Number**
02.26/03

**Type of Resource**
housing cluster

**Objects**
none

**Photograph Date**
06/04

**Photographer**
Penny Pistorius

**Photo Title**
Bergsig worker's house
In the south east corner of the property, between the Kleinplaaskloof stream and the boundary with Lingen, is a cluster of 6 worker's cottages, shaded by trees including large stone pines and oaks. They are similar to those on neighbouring Lingen (02.27), with corrugated iron roofs covering one room depth in front and two rooms depth behind, protruding hearths and chimneys, and standard steel casements. They have solar panels and electricity. Many of them have neat gardens enclosed by fences or hedges.
Good

**Composite - History**

**History**

Four of the six houses are clearly visible on the 1938 aerial photo. The present owner of Bergsig, Mr Kobus Marais, undertook considerable improvements to the houses, including providing services.

**Associated People**

See Klein Gustrouw Historical Property.

**Associated Events**

**References**

See Property and Klein Gustrouw Historical Property.

**Composite - Assessment**

**Significance Statement**

Typical vernacular-style worker's cottages, modernised and improved; they form a charming cluster in a fine setting. Contribute to the variety of the cultural landscape, and may have social associations.

**Significance Category**

A, D, E, (G?)

**Proposed Grading**

3C heritage register

**Vulnerabilities**

The present inhabitants are not employed by Mr Marais and have questionable rights to occupy the houses. Their continued maintenance is not assured.

**Recommendations**

**Official Grading**

Some houses may be older than 60 years (s. 34)

**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**

**Composite Name**

17 October 2006
Bergsig, Jonkershoek, Stellenbosch District

Catalogue Number
02.26/01

Type of Resource
Farmstead

Objects
House
2 outbuildings

Photograph Date
2000

Photographer
Chief Director: Surveys & Mapping

Photo Title
Bergsig werf, 2000 aerial photo

Photograph Date
1980

Photographer
Chief Director: Surveys & Mapping

Photo Title
Bergsig werf, 1980 orthophoto

Photograph Date
05/05

Photographer
Penny Pistorius

Photo Title
Entrance to Bergsig. The werf is set in trees beyond the vineyards.
Visual Description

The farmstead is centrally situated in the southernmost portion of the property, on the 185m contour. The approach is from a simple gateway in the south west corner (photo 3); the road runs up the western boundary, then crosses between vineyards. It continues as a farm track in front of the house (Object 1); the main approach turns to run up the western side of the werf and enters at the north west corner between two outbuildings (see Objects 3, 4). The Victorian buildings are geometrically arranged with the house in front, facing south with its main garden on the west side, an outbuilding to the west at right angles to the slope, and another behind the house and parallel to the slope. There is also a (contemporary) triple garage behind the house on the east side of the farmstead. Behind the werf, to the north east, is a contemporary house (photo 4). There are roads on all four sides of the werf. The garden includes large oak trees and a period retaining wall.

Condition

History

The three main buildings of the werf were built in the 1920s (pers. comm. Mr Marais). By 1938 the werf was surrounded by a thick growth of trees behind and to both sides. The approach was a road that ran from the south west corner, diagonally though the lower fields below to Jonkerhoek road. See Composite 2 regarding water supply to the werf. It may be that the present werf was the location of Louis of Bengal’s werf (werfs seldom change location if water supplies have been established.). Further research necessary.

Associated People

See Klein Gustrouw Historical Property.

Associated Events
References
See Property and Klein Gustrouw Historical Property

Composite - Assessment

Significance Statement
A fine example of a late 19th/early 20th C werf, which may be on a much earlier dwelling site (this aspect should be studied further). It demonstrates the ongoing historical evolution of the valley and makes a significant contribution to the cultural landscape.

Significance Category
A, C, D, E, (G, H, I?)

Proposed Grading
3A heritage register (2? further investigation)

Vulnerabilities

Recommendations
The werf may be situated at or near a previous dwelling site and is archaeologically sensitive. Further research and building fabric/ archaeological studies recommended.

Official Grading | NHR Act Status | Date of Gazette
--- | --- | ---

Composite - Objects

Property Name
Bergsig, Jonkershoek, Stellenbosch District

Composite Name
Bergsig farmstead

Heritage Resource Name
Bergsig house

Catalogue Number
02.26/01.01

Type of Resource
house

Photograph Date
05/05

Photographer
Penny Pistorius

PhotoTitle
Bergsig house from the south west
Objects - Description

Visual Description
An L-shaped Victorian style house with hipped corrugated iron roof and a verandah on the south and west sides. The south east corner has a south-facing projecting Cape Dutch Revival gable, and there are covered gables with shuttered sash windows opposite each other on the "tail" of the L (facing west and east) and on the east end of the short wing, with an external (modern metal) stair to a door to the loft. The north facing covered gable at the end of the "tail" also has shuttered sashes. The house has fine varnished period woodwork, including sashes, French doors to the verandah, panelled doors, and louvered shutters (including separate shutters for the fanlights). The verandah is supported on precast columns and is brick paved, with steps up to the doors on the west and south sides.

Condition (short)
Good

Architectural Style
Victorian

Objects - History

History
The house was built c1925 (pers. comm. owner). There may have been an earlier building, incorporated into the present house.

Construction Date
Late 19th/early 20th C

Associated People
See Property

Associated Events
Objects - Assessment

Significance Statement
A fine example of a Victorian farmhouse, with typical period detailing and woodwork, which is part of a farmstead of the same period.

Significance Category
A, D, E

Proposed Grading
3A heritage register (2? further investigation)

Vulnerabilities

NHR Act Status
older than 60 years (S. 34)

Recommendations
Further historical research and building fabric/archaeological study.

Composite - Objects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property Name</th>
<th>Heritage Resource Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bergsig, Jonkershoek, Stellenbosch District</td>
<td>Bergsig west barn</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Composite Name</th>
<th>Type of Resource</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bergsig farmstead</td>
<td>outbuilding</td>
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| Catalogue Number | Photograph Date \n02.26/01.02 | 05/05 |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Photographer</th>
<th>PhotoTitle</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Penny Pistorius</td>
<td>Bergsig west barn, south east</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Objects - Description**

**Visual Description**

Behind and west of the house is an outbuilding at right angles to the slope, which encloses the werf on the west side. It has a corrugated iron roof and covered end gables: that on the south side has a round metal ventilator with the date 1927 in plasterwork above it, and a timber carriage door below. There is a covered gable on the east side with a door to the loft, accessed by a (contemporary, steel) stair; below is a timber door. There are rectangular metal vents under the eaves. A verandah with masonry columns and wall has been added to the north east end, and the north side has been altered with an open-sided extension. North of the building are two tall palm trees.

**Condition (short)**

Good

**Architectural Style**

Victorian

**Objects - History**

**History**

Dated 1927 (on gable), but may incorporate earlier fabric

**Construction Date**

1927

**Associated People**

Associated Events

References

**Objects - Assessment**

**Significance Statement**

The Victorian style outbuilding is an integral part of the fine period farmstead ensemble, and may incorporate earlier fabric.

**Significance Category**

A, D, E

**Proposed Grading**

3B heritage register

**Vulnerabilities**
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**Recommendations**

See Werf

### Composite - Objects

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<tr>
<td>Bergsig, Jonkershoek, Stellenbosch District</td>
<td>Bergsig north barn</td>
<td>02.26/01.03</td>
<td>outbuilding</td>
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<td>Bergsig north barn from south west</td>
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<td>Penny Pistorius</td>
<td>Bergsig north barn from south east</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Photograph Date
05/05

Photographer
Penny Pistorius

PhotoTitle
Pre-colonial grinding stone and digging stick weight, placed near stair to loft

Objects - Description

Visual Description
Outbuilding behind the house, with hipped corrugated iron roof, rectangular vents under eaves, stone foundation/plinth. Covered central gable on the south side, with loft door accessed by (contemporary, steel) stair rising from a plastered masonry base. Two doors to the south side; the one on the left is wide and has open ventilation slots in the top half. The east side has a wide doorway with timber sliding doors. There is a lean-to extension to the north side, with garage doors. Placed next to the base of the stair are pre-colonial stone artefacts, presumably collected on the farm (photo 3).

Condition (short)
Good

Architectural Style
Victorian

Objects - History

History
Presumably contemporary with the house and west outbuilding, said to be 1920s, but could be earlier and may incorporate earlier fabric.

Construction Date
Late 19th/early 20th C, may incorporate earlier fabric

Associated People

Associated Events

References

Objects - Assessment

Significance Statement
The Victorian outbuilding is an integral part of the fine period farmstead ensemble. The stone tools placed here are significant (and rare, in this valley) pre-colonial archaeological artefacts.

Significance Category
A, D, E

Proposed Grading
3B heritage register

Vulnerabilities
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<td>older than 60 years (S. 34) tools</td>
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<td>S. 35 archaeolo.</td>
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**Recommendations**

See Werf. The stone tools should be investigated and coordinated with studies of other pre-colonial inhabitants of the Stellenbosch region.