

Heritage Survey: Stellenbosch Rural Areas

by Penny Pistorius and Stewart Harris - June 2004

Sub Area Name

Jonkershoek

Catalogue Number

02.13

Property Name

Swiss Club, Jonkershoek, Stellenbosch District

Alternative Names

Farm Number

350/1

Linkages

Old Nectar Historical Property.

Heritage Resource Name

Swiss Club

Type of Resource

recreation area

Composites

none

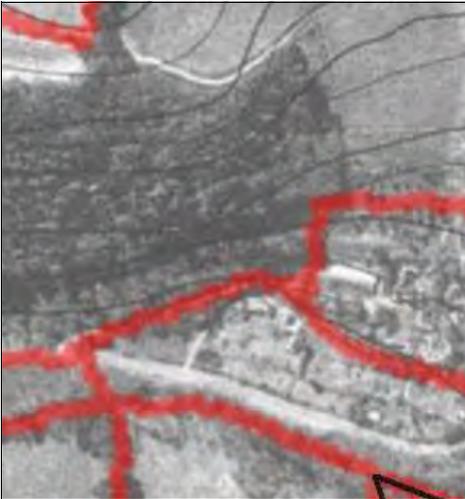


Photo Date

1980

Photographer

Chief Director: Surveys & Mapping

Photo Title

Orthophoto with added cadastrals



Photo Date

04/05

Photographer

Penny Pistorius

Photo Title

South bank water channel inlet from north bank



Photo Date ***Photographer***

04/05

Penny Pistorius

Photo Title

Eerste River near clubhouse



Photo Date ***Photographer***

1938

Chief Director: Surveys & Mapping

Photo Title

1938 aerial photo with added (current) cadastrals.

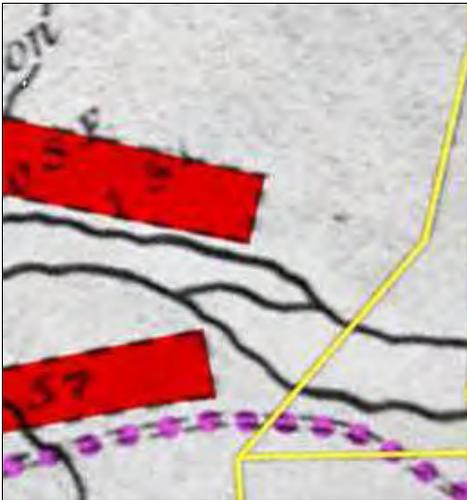


Photo Date ***Photographer***

CAM2-409

Photo Title

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



Photo Date 04/05
Photographer Penny Pistorius

Photo Title
Ablution block



Photo Date 04/05
Photographer Penny Pistorius

Photo Title
Swiss Club clubhouse



Photo Date 04/05
Photographer Penny Pistorius

Photo Title
Timber chalet near old road

Description

Visual Description

Triangular property on the south bank of the Eerste River, bounded by a curved stream and Pontrioux water meadow in the west and Assegaaibosch in the south. Accessed from the end of the south bank road, next to Assegaaibosch west gate. It is riverine woodland, with various old and seasonal sub-streams of the Eerste River and possibly man-made water channels dividing

Notes

3.2830 Hectares
In 2002 the owner was the Swiss Club Helvetia, Cape Town.

it into islands. The off-take to the South Bank Waterleiding (see 02.00/03) starts here (photo 6) . The Eerste River along the north side is broad and sparkling; on the far bank is the meadow of KJA Camp with the Jonkershoekberge framing the prospect.

The path of the old road to Assegaibosch can still be traced near the south boundary, marked by a line of grand oaks (see History and 02.00/02). The entrance road crosses the stream by a modern bridge to a loose cluster of mid-late 20th C recreational structures on the central 'island' - a split timber clubhouse (memorial plaque to an extension dated 1959) with wide eaves and porch supported on brick columns, ablution block, play equipment and braai spots are connected by rough paths and plank bridges. There is an outlying timber chalet near the eastern end of the old road (close to where it crossed into Assegaibosch) and camping places.. See photos 2-5 for structures.

History

The property is basically the shifting bed of the Eerste Rivier, land that the Company did not grant when the Jonkershoek valley was opened up for development. Jan of Ceylon's (Old Nectar) 1692 grant was on the watermeadow west of here; the bulk of this land was granted to CG Marais in 1841 (photo 7); but original grants in this area were amalgamated and when portions re-emerged in the 20th century their boundaries bore little resemblance to the original cadastrals. The south boundary relates to the 1841 grant but the others relate to landscape features. The main bed of the Eerste Rivier is on the north. There is a curving watercourse marking the west boundary – its curious shape (drainage ditches are generally straight) suggests it may have a special history. The main river flows in a very demarcated bed nowadays (helped by gabions) but in the olden days it might have been much more devious, with the evidence of overflow channels in the criss-crossing dry stream beds in the property. The old road to Jonkershoek farm and Assegaibosch ran near the south boundary – a line of grand oaks marks the route today. The date of the Swiss Club development is not known: the layout idea and core of the social centre (extended 1959) may be approaching 60 years. The property's history should be studied further and the above outline confirmed. (For a fuller history of the entire original farm see Old Nectar Historical Property.)

Historical Notes

Deeds Office search not attempted.

Associated People

See Old Nectar Historical Property
Swiss community of Cape Town.
Swiss Club social centre extension is named after Jack Muller, active c1950s.

Associated Events

Swiss Club gatherings and social history -- the social centre extension is named after Jack Muller.

References

1902 Brink Map CA M2-409 shows location of grants.
1938 aerial photograph.
1980s orthophoto
2000 aerial photograph.
Site inspection April 2005.

Assessment

Significance Statement

Part of a group of south bank smallholdings that form a distinct morphological area in Jonkershoek. The dry stream beds are indicators of the Eerste River's old, shifting history. The take-off of the south bank water channel is apparently on this property. A riverine woodland with fine environmental qualities, sympathetically developed for recreational/community use. The old (pre- 1902) route to Assegaibosch can still be seen with very old oaks along it. There are no buildings older than 60 years, but there is a social association with the Swiss community in SA.

Significance Category

A, C, E, F, G

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	

Proposed Grading

3 heritage area

Vulnerabilities

Recommendations

South bank water furrow and old road across the property are older than 60 years (S.34) and archaeological (S. 36). The route of the water furrow is historical and it should not be modified. See Catalogue nos 02.00/02 and /03.

<i>NHR Act Status</i>	<i>Date of Gazette</i>	<i>SAHRA File ref.</i>	<i>Official Grading</i>
furrow and road ss. 34, 36			

Maps

<i>Number of Ortho Photo</i>	<i>GPS X</i>
<i>Date of Ortho Photo</i>	<i>GPS Y</i>
<i>Aerial Photograph Date</i>	<i>GPS Model</i>
<i>Aerial Photo Number</i>	<i>GPS Setting</i>

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

<i>Property Name</i>	<i>Composite Name</i>
<i>Catalogue Number</i>	<i>Type of Resource</i>

Objects