

Heritage Survey: Stellenbosch Rural Areas

by Penny Pistorius and Stewart Harris - June 2004

Sub Area Name

Jonkershoek

Catalogue Number

02.01

Property Name

Vergenoegd, Jonkershoek, Stellenbosch District

Alternative Names

Farm Number

321, 321/1, 1022

Linkages

Heritage Resource Name

Vergenoegd

Type of Resource

sportsfields, recreation area

Composites

1. approach
2. camping area
3. "werf"
4. Sports fields
5. Foothills



Photo Date Photographer

1938

Chief Director: Surveys & Mapping

Photo Title

Vergenoegd, 1938 aerial with approximate cadastrals added

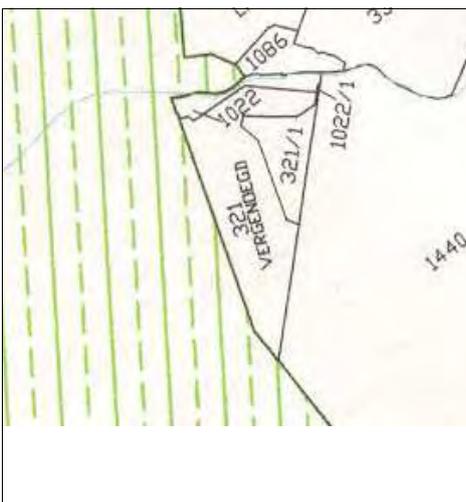


Photo Date Photographer

unknown

Photo Title

Vergenoegd, current cadastral map

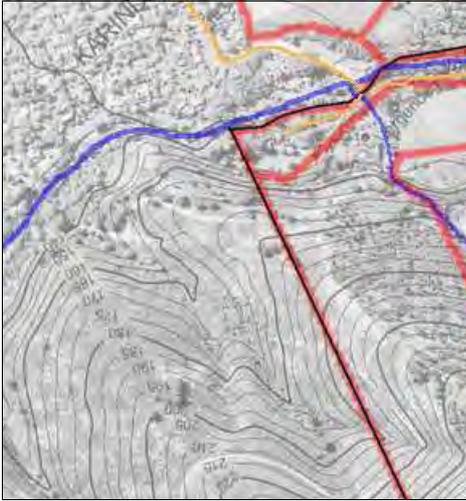


Photo Date ***Photographer***

1980

Chief Director: Surveys & Mapping

Photo Title

Vergenoegd, orthophoto with approximate cadastrals, water courses and road added. 1022 is the riverside portion, 321 the west portion and 321/1 the east portion.

Description

Visual Description

A triangular property on the north-facing slopes of the Stellenboschberg; bounded by the Eerste River in the north, Mount Happy in the east and Farm 320 (Coetzenberg) in the west. It consists of three land parcels (see photo 1), and is used by the University of Stellenbosch for recreational purposes. The northern part is a fairly narrow strip of water meadows at about 150m, behind which the ridges of the Stellenboschberg foothills rise steeply. The highest point is at 360m. The mid-slopes are covered with pine trees, while the upper slopes are natural bush. Footpaths cross the slopes to hiking trails on the Stellenboschberg. Two streams cross the property and are channelled across the flat land on either side of the sports fields on the eastern part of the water meadows. The entrance to the property is across a drift over the river (see Composite 1). A dirt road runs south of the river to the east gates of Mount Happy (no longer used).

Notes

321 = 25.887 ha

321/1 = 5.971 ha

1022 = 3.36 ha

In 2002 the owner was Stellenbosch University

History

The watermeadows on the northern part of the site were choice agricultural land, part of land granted in the 1680s to freed slaves Manuel and Anthony of Angola. In 1696 their grant came into the possession of Isaac Schriver and was farmed as part of Lanzerac till the early 19th century, when it was acquired by IJ de Milander. By then all the conveniently arable land around the grant was being used 'as by right', and in 1817 de Milander was granted this, running from the start of the steep escarpment northwards to include the old land near the river. In 1837 a later owner, PC van Blommestein, was granted (useless) land up the steep escarpment southwards, and also the land north along the river bank (till then reserved by the Government). All these grants were divided, subdivided and re-consolidated in a complex way. By the time this property re-emerged in the 20th century it had a new shape, partly dictated by landscape features.

Historical Notes

Deeds Office search not attempted.

Associated People

See Klein Gustrouw Historical Property and Mount Happy.

Associated Events

References

1902 Brink Map CA M2-409 shows location of grants

1938 aerial photograph.

1980s orthophoto

Smuts ed 1979

See also Klein Gustrouw Historical Property and Mount Happy.

Assessment

Significance Statement

Part of the cultural landscape of Jonkershoek; a "gateway" property, with highly visible upper slopes.

Significance Category

A, E, C

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 (s.31)

Vulnerabilities

Recommendations

The present low-key recreational use of the property by the University is appropriate to its landscape values and high visibility.

<i>NHR Act Status</i>	<i>Date of Gazette</i>	<i>SAHRA File ref.</i>	<i>Official Grading</i>
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Maps

<i>Number of Ortho Photo</i>	<i>GPS X</i>
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<i>Date of Ortho Photo</i>	<i>GPS Y</i>
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<i>Aerial Photograph Date</i>	<i>GPS Model</i>
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<i>Aerial Photo Number</i>	<i>GPS Setting</i>
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Composites (groups of clusters of heritage resources: sub-places and areas)

Property Name

Vergenoegd, Jonkershoek, Stellenbosch District

Composite Name

foothills

Catalogue Number

02.01/05

Type of Resource

landscape

Objects

none



Photograph Date

06/04

Photographer

Penny Pistorius

Photo Title

Vergenoegd foothills from Konstanz (centre), showing mid-slope forestry and natural bush on the steep slopes above.



Photograph Date

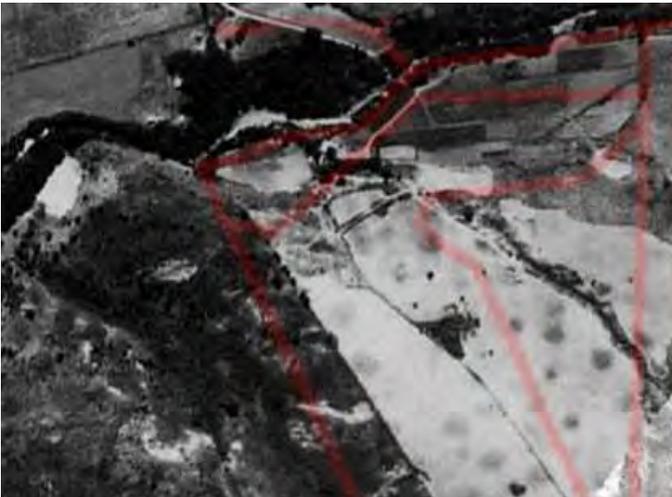
06/04

Photographer

Penny Pistorius

Photo Title

The foothills from the sports fields.



Photograph Date

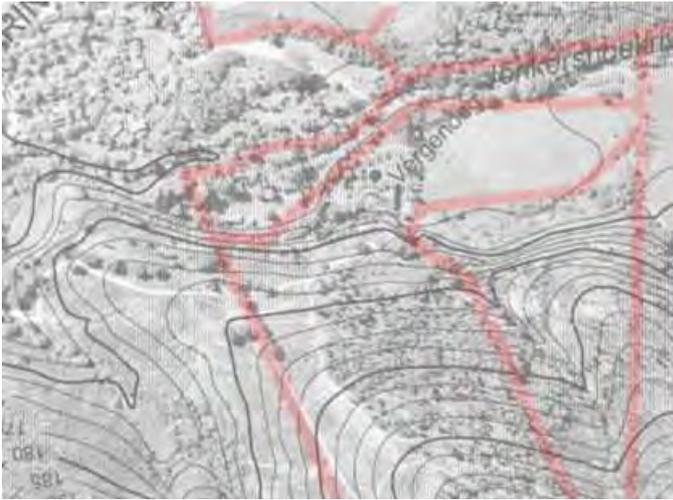
1938

Photographer

Chief Director: Surveys & Mapping

Photo Title

Vergenoegd foothills, 1938. The area now covered with trees was previously farmed



Photograph Date

1980

Photographer

Chief Director: Surveys & Mapping

Photo Title

Vergenoegd foothills, orthophoto showing mid-slopes covered with trees.



Photograph Date

06/04

Photographer

Penny Pistorius

Photo Title

Cross on the bank above the sports fields

Composite - Description

Visual Description

South of the water meadows is a steep bank, and above it the rounded foothills of the Stellenboschberg, with gently sloping crowns, form an intermediate horizon in front of the more distant, steeper mountain slopes. The foothills are covered with pines, through which are footpaths leading to the higher slopes (not inspected). At the top of the bank above the rugby field is a cross -- reason not known (see photo 5). A stream cuts diagonally across the middle of the foothills, emerging east of the "werf".

Condition

Composite - History

History

The tops of the foothills were cultivated in 1938.

Associated People

Associated Events

References

Composite - Assessment

Significance Statement

An intermediate zone between the fertile river meadows and the steep mountain slopes, the foothills are a prominent component of the overall cultural landscape -- presently characterised by forestry, previously cultivated.

Significance Category

A, E

Proposed Grading

3

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

Any development in this area could be highly visible, particularly from a distance, and should be avoided or carefully sited to reduce visibility.

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

Vergenoegd, Jonkershoek, Stellenbosch District

Composite Name

Sports fields

Catalogue Number

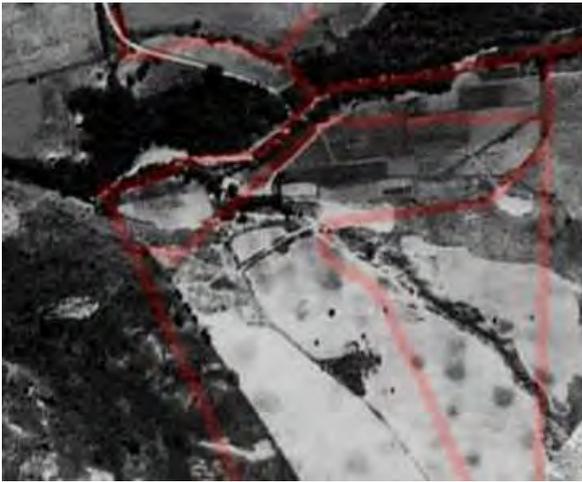
02.01/04

Type of Resource

landscape

Objects

none



Photograph Date

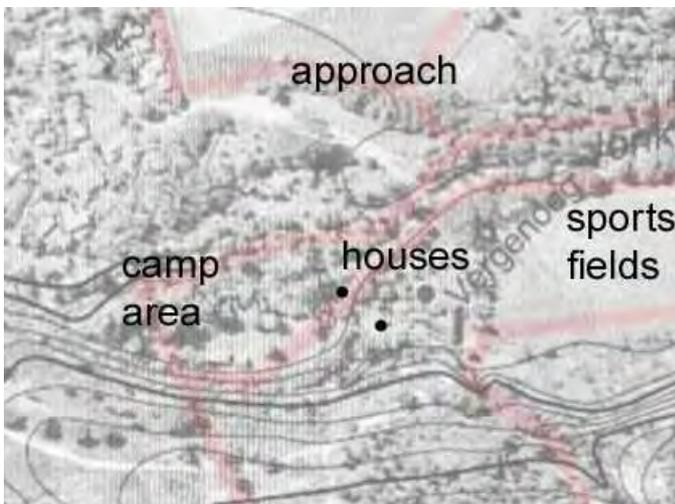
1938

Photographer

Chief Director: Surveys & Mapping

Photo Title

Vergenoegd meadows, 1938. The sports fields were farmed as a patchwork of fields



Photograph Date

1980

Photographer

Chief Director: Surveys & Mapping

Photo Title

Vergenoegd water meadows, annotated orthophoto



Photograph Date

06/04

Photographer

Penny Pistorius

Photo Title

Road past sports fields to Mount Happy west gate



Photograph Date

06/04

Photographer

Penny Pistorius

Photo Title

Sports fields, Vergenoegd

Composite - Description

Visual Description

The eastern part of the level river meadows has been developed as rugby and soccer fields. Water from the stream that would have crossed this area is channelled in a ditch along the eastern boundary. The old road to Mount Happy's western gate runs along the northern edge of the fields alongside the river.

Condition

Composite - History

History

Previously farmland.

Associated People

University of Stellenbosch students.

Associated Events

References

Composite - Assessment

Significance Statement

The level water meadows are likely to have been farmed for a long period. They are characteristic of the south bank of the Jonkershoek valley -- level, fertile lands enclosed by the foothills of the Stellenboschberg -- and have a strong sense of place.

Significance Category

A, E

Proposed Grading

A = course / pattern of history	F = creative / technical
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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

Vergenoegd, Jonkershoek, Stellenbosch District

Composite Name

"werf"

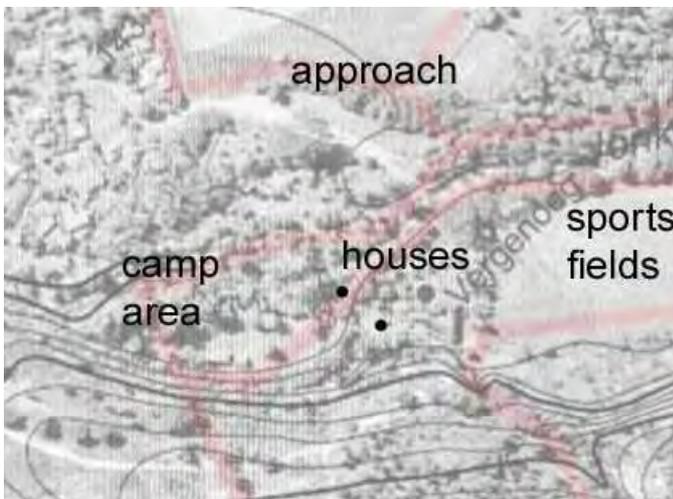
Catalogue Number

02.01/03

Type of Resource

Objects

1. House 1
2. House 2
3. Poultry yard



Photograph Date

1980

Photographer

Chief Director: Surveys & Mapping

Photo Title

The "werf" area at Vergenoegd is west of the drift and bridge.

Composite - Description

Visual Description

The central part of the narrow strip of water meadows, west of the drift, is the "domesticated" area, where habitation is concentrated. It has many trees. There are two houses in the western part, and a grassed area with a round reservoir (apparently used for swimming) in the eastern part. A road runs north of the reservoir and then curves upwards between the houses, branching to the camping area in the west and an insignificant worker's house above it, and curving to rise up the bank behind house 1-- the start of a trail up the Stellenboschberg.

Condition

Composite - History

History

Associated People

Associated Events

References

Composite - Assessment

Significance Statement

The level water meadows are likely to have been farmed for a long period. They are characteristic of the south bank of the Jonkershoek valley -- level, fertile lands enclosed by the foothills of the Stellenboschberg -- and have a strong sense of place.

Significance Category

A, E

Proposed Grading

3

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

Vergenoegd, Jonkershoek, Stellenbosch District

Composite Name

"werf"

Heritage Resource Name

House 1

Catalogue Number

02.01/03.01

Type of Resource

house



Photograph Date

06/04

Photographer

Penny Pistorius

PhotoTitle

House1, Vergenoegd

Objects - Description

Visual Description

North-facing house with low-pitched corrugated iron roof and central recessed entry porch. Appears to be older than 60 years -- high floor to ceiling height, some sash windows and period doors, but altered. Set in a well-treed garden.

Condition (short)

good

Architectural Style

domestic

Objects - History

History

Unknown. The house is much altered but has late Victorian plaster mouldings round narrow sash windows. The other appears to have been put together using reutilised materials (such as a deco panel door in the loft). It is impossible to distinguish on the 1938 aerial. Further research necessary.

Construction Date

Associated People

Associated Events

References

Objects - Assessment

Significance Statement

Architecturally undistinguished, but possibly older than 60 years. Contributes to the setting.

Significance Category

A, C

Proposed Grading

3

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

possibly older than 60 years (s.34)

Date of Gazette

Official Grading

Recommendations

Further research necessary if alterations/demolition proposed.

Composite - Objects

Property Name

Vergenoegd, Jonkershoek, Stellenbosch District

Composite Name

"werf"

Heritage Resource Name

House 2

Catalogue Number

02.01/03.02

Type of Resource

house



Photograph Date

06/04

Photographer

Penny Pistorius

PhotoTitle

House 2, Vergenoegd

Objects - Description

Visual Description

Long, narrow house facing east (ie at right angles to the river, with its back towards the camp site) with corrugated iron roof and verandah on cast iron columns with decorative brackets. Windows and doors appear to be replacements of the originals. There is a glazed door to the loft, reached by an external stair. Set in a pretty garden.

Condition (short)

good

Architectural Style

domestic

Objects - History

History

Unknown. It is visible on the 1938 aerial photo. The proportions indicate likely age; its present appearance includes reutilised materials (such as a deco panel door in the loft). Further research necessary.

Construction Date

pre-1938

Associated People

Associated Events

References

Objects - Assessment

Significance Statement

A typical turn of the 19th/20th C house; contributes to the setting.

Significance Category

D, E

Proposed Grading

3

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

older than 60 years (S. 34)

Date of Gazette

Official Grading

Recommendations

Further research necessary.

Composite - Objects

Property Name

Vergenoegd, Jonkershoek, Stellenbosch District

Composite Name

"werf"

Heritage Resource Name

poultry yard

Catalogue Number

02.01/03.03

Type of Resource

structure



Photograph Date

06/04

Photographer

Penny Pistorius

PhotoTitle

Reservoir-like structure in the poultry yard, Vergenoegd

Objects - Description

Visual Description

The bank behind the "werf" area has been partly cut away, possibly in previous quarrying activities. Set into a platform in the bank behind and between the two houses is a round concrete structure with "fins" radiating from the lower end. It appears to have been some kind of waterwork structure; now it is a feature of the poultry yard.

Condition (short)

Architectural Style

Objects - History

History

Unknown. May have been part of a prior water system. Purpose of radiating fins unknown.

Construction Date**Associated People****Associated Events****References*****Objects - Assessment*****Significance Statement**

Part of the farmyard ensemble, the previous use of this structure is unknown but it appears to have been a reservoir or water filter.

Significance Category

C

Proposed Grading

3

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**

Further research necessary.

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

Vergenoegd, Jonkershoek, Stellenbosch District

Composite Name

camping area

Catalogue Number

02.01/02

Type of Resource

open space

Objects

none



Photograph Date

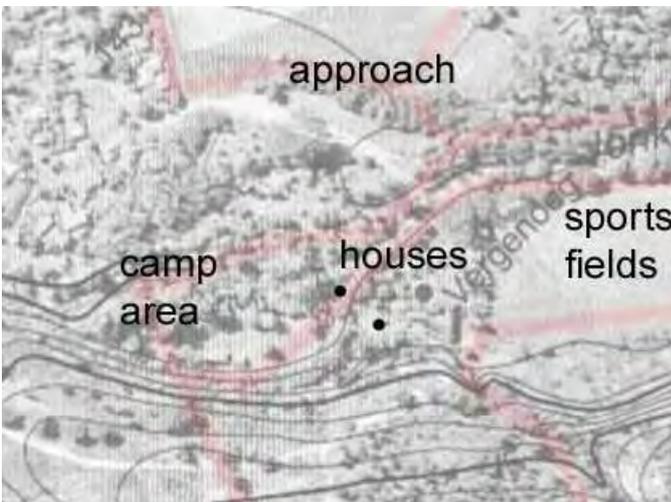
1938

Photographer

Chief Director: Surveys & Mapping

Photo Title

Vergenoegd meadow area, 1938 aerial photo.



Photograph Date

1980

Photographer

Chief Director: Surveys & Mapping

Photo Title

Vergenoegd meadow area, annotated orthophoto



Photograph Date

06/04

Photographer

Penny Pistorius

Photo Title

Camping area, Vergenoegd

Composite - Description

Visual Description

Level alluvial field near the west boundary; typical of the south bank water meadows of the Jonkershoek valley. It is grassed, with trees of various species and two contemporary buildings -- one an ablution block, the other locked at time of inspection -- close to the steep bank that encloses the field in the south. The field has a very strong sense of enclosure because a steep ridge of the Stellenboschberg pushes out towards the river and the river and west end are lined mature trees.

Condition

Composite - History

History

Probably previously farmed for a long period.

Associated People

Associated Events

References

Composite - Assessment

Significance Statement

The level water meadows are likely to have been farmed for a long period. They are characteristic of the south bank of the Jonkershoek valley -- level, fertile lands enclosed by the foothills of the Stellenboschberg -- and have a strong sense of place.

Significance Category

A, 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

Recommendations

The current use is appropriate.

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

Vergenoegd, Jonkershoek, Stellenbosch District

Composite Name

Approach

Catalogue Number

02.01/01

Type of Resource

approach

Objects

- 1. Vergenoegd drift
- 2. Suspension bridge



Photograph Date

06/04

Photographer

Penny Pistorius

Photo Title

The curved road approaching Vergenoegd drift



Photograph Date

06/04

Photographer

Penny Pistorius

Photo Title

Drift over the Eerste River, Vergenoegd

Composite - Description

Visual Description

Vergenoegd is approached through the suburb of Karindal, at the edge of which the road becomes dirt and the character rural. The curved road approaching the river passes either side of a large stone pine, and is edged with green on both sides - municipal land on the right, Lanzerac /Tricelle on the left. Ahead is the ridge of Stellenboschberg. The road crosses the river at a drift which has a small guardhouse, a boom over the road and a pedestrian bridge (see Objects). There is an old stone pine on the south bank.

Condition

Composite - History

History

The suspension bridge alongside the ford on the north of the property is a good example of engineering principles and modern design: there was an earlier suspension bridge in this area if not on this exact spot (see photograph). The need for such a bridge is not known since there are no important buildings on the far side of the river

Associated People

AssociatedEvents

References

Composite - Assessment

Significance Statement

Although largely outside the boundary of the defined area and the property, this approach contributes to the transition from suburban to rural and has a strong and pleasing character. The drift and suspension bridge are in the position of an old river crossing.

Significance Category

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

Vulnerabilities

Recommendations

The rural qualities of the approach should be conserved.

Official Grading

NHR Act Status

Date of Gazette

Composite - Objects

Property Name

Vergenoegd, Jonkershoek, Stellenbosch District

Composite Name

Vergenoegd approach

Heritage Resource Name

Vergenoegd drift

Catalogue Number

02.01/01.01

Type of Resource

river crossing



Photograph Date

06/04

Photographer

Penny Pistorius

PhotoTitle

Vergenoegd drift



Photograph Date

06/04

Photographer

Penny Pistorius

PhotoTitle

Vergenoegd drift construction



Photograph Date

06/04

Photographer

Penny Pistorius

PhotoTitle

View when crossing Vergenoegd drift

Objects - Description

Visual Description

The vehicular crossing of the river is levelled and the flow of water regulated by a concrete roadway and breakwaters.

Condition (short)

Architectural Style

Objects - History

History

Probably the site of an older ford to the south bank properties. Should be studied further.

Construction Date

unknown

Associated People

Associated Events

References

Objects - Assessment

Significance Statement

Probably the site of an older ford to the south bank properties. Contributes to the character of the approach.

Significance Category

A, E

Proposed Grading

3

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

Vergenoegd, Jonkershoek, Stellenbosch District

Composite Name

Vergenoegd approach

Heritage Resource Name

Suspension bridge

Catalogue Number

02.01/01.02

Type of Resource

bridge



Photograph Date

c1905

Photographer

Ravenscroft

PhotoTitle

Old photo labelled "Bridge over Eerste River near Lanzerac" may show predecessor of present suspension bridge. Smuts ed 1979:162



Photograph Date

06/04

Photographer

Penny Pistorius

PhotoTitle

Suspension bridge

Objects - Description

Visual Description

Narrow suspension bridge constructed of steel cable with timber flooring.

Condition (short)

Architectural Style

Objects - History

History

The present bridge is modern; prior history not known. It is a good example of engineering principles and modern design: there was an earlier suspension bridge in this area if not on this exact spot (see photograph 2). The need for such a bridge is not known since there are no important buildings on the far side of the river. Should be studied further.

Construction Date

Associated People

Associated Events

References

Objects - Assessment

Significance Statement

A good example of engineering principles and modern design that contributes to the character of the approach to Vergenoegd.

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