

# Heritage Survey: Stellenbosch Rural Areas

by Penny Pistorius and Stewart Harris - June 2004

## Sub Area Name

Jonkershoek

## Catalogue Number

02.12

## Property Name

Pontrieux, Jonkershoek, Stellenbosch District

## Alternative Names

## Farm Number

350, 350/3, 350/4

## Linkages

Old Nectar Historical Property.

## Heritage Resource Name

Pontrieux

## Type of Resource

farm

## Composites

Watermeadow  
Werf



## Photo Date

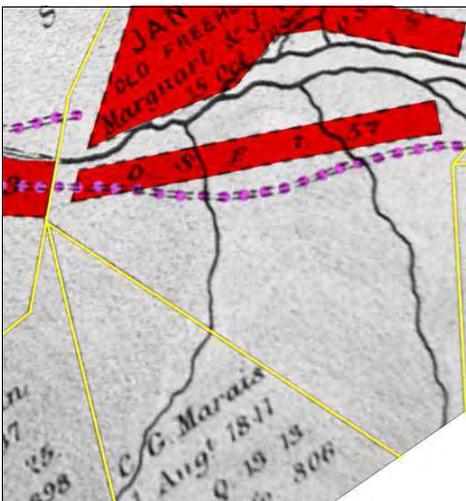
1980

## Photographer

Chief Director: Surveys & Mapping

## Photo Title

Orthophoto with added cadastrals



## Photo Date

1902

## Photographer

CAM2-409

## Photo Title

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



**Photo Date** 1938  
**Photographer** Chief Director: Surveys & Mapping

**Photo Title**  
1938 aerial photo

## Description

### Visual Description

Smallholding on the south bank of the Eerste River, which include the steep lower slopes of mountainside and the plain alongside the Eerste Rivier -- the characteristic cross section of South Bank farms. It consists of three portions of land (see Orthophoto).

The northern portion (350/4) is part of the watermeadows, bounded by the Eerste River in the north, Watervliet in the west, the south bank road in the south and Swiss Club in the east (See Composite1). The route of the old south bank road (02.00/02) and the south bank waterleiding (02.00/03) cross this piece.

South of the road are two portions, which are bounded by Assegaibosch in the east: 350/3 is a sloping section adjacent to Waterfalls (Property 02.11, farm 350/2, which has been cut from this property), which has buildings on it (see Composite 2). The top portion, farm 350, is rocky mountain veld on the lower slopes of Stellenboschberg, with Waaiwinde (Property 02.09) west of it. This portion is undeveloped except for water catchment and distribution. From two kloofs above it a stream descends through the middle of this portion. There is a complex network of water channels: one enters the south boundary of Waterfalls, another runs near the west boundary of portion 350/3 below, and crosses into Waterfalls lower down.

### Notes

350 = 16.4558 Hectares  
350/3 = 4.2839 Hectares  
350/4 = 3.1242 Hectares  
The present owners are J van Zyl and Prof RP Perold, father and son-in-law.

## History

Part of the watermeadow was granted in 1792 to Jan of Ceylon, a free black man. He and succeeding farmers used all the arable land around "as of right" and it was finally officially granted in 1817 (and more mountainside in 1841). Original grants in this area were amalgamated and when portions re-emerged in the 20th century their boundaries often bore little resemblance to the original cadastrals. The south and east boundaries relate to 1817 and 1841 grants but the others seem to arise from landscape features. For a fuller history of the entire original farm see Old Nectar Historical Property.

Early farmers dug ditches to drain the water-logged soil adjacent to the Eerste River. To irrigate the rising land, they took a water channel behind it, as close as they could to the suddenly steeper slope (See 02.00/03). This still exists though its construction has changed radically over the years. It is taken off the Eerste Rivier at Swiss Camp (02.13) crosses Pontrieux water meadow, the corner of Waterfalls and Waterhof. It then continues to Glen Connor. The old road from Stellenbosch to Jonkershoek farm and Assegaibosch ran somewhere close to this line. The nearby bridge across the Eerste was made in the early 20th century when a new road was made on a different alignment.

In 1938 the various portions of farm 350 were one property. The original buildings seem to be on adjacent property Waterfalls 350/2, with terraced orchards to the east on what is now portion 3. See Composite 2. The old south bank road to Jonkershoek and Assegaibosch had a different alignment from the present road: its route is shown on the 1902 map. See Composite 1.

The property's history should be studied further and the above outline confirmed.

### Historical Notes

Deeds Office search not attempted.

### Associated People

See Old Nectar Historical Property

## ***Associated Events***

### ***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. Its topography is typical, with water meadow and mountain slopes, watered by a stream and irrigated by a network of water channels. The route of the old south bank road and water channel cross the property.

### ***Significance Category***

A, C,D, E

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***

Already subdivided, each portion has some development rights. The watermeadow and upper slopes are visually sensitive. The old south bank water channel is also very sensitive.

### ***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.  
The water channels merit further study.

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

## ***Maps***

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

<b><i>Property Name</i></b>	<b><i>Composite Name</i></b>
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Pontrieux, Jonkershoek, Stellenbosch District	Pontrieux farmstead
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<b><i>Catalogue Number</i></b>	<b><i>Type of Resource</i></b>
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02.12/02	farmstead
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### ***Objects***

stone terraces

guest cottage



***Photograph Date***

04/05

***Photographer***

Penny Pistorius

***Photo Title***

Pontrieux east house



***Photograph Date***

2000

***Photographer***

Chief Director: Surveys & Mapping

***Photo Title***

Pontrieux werf, 2000 colour aerial. Two modern houses have green and red roofs; behind them are the orchard terraces, above them guesthouse cottage is at a slant with worker's house east of it.



***Photograph Date***

04/05

***Photographer***

Penny Pistorius

***Photo Title***

Pontrieux west house



***Photograph Date***

04/05

***Photographer***

Penny Pistorius

***Photo Title***

Pontrieux worker's house



***Photograph Date***

04/05

***Photographer***

Penny Pistorius

***Photo Title***

Pontrieux store



***Photograph Date***

1938

***Photographer***

Chief Director: Surveys & Mapping

***Photo Title***

Pontrieux werf, 1938 aerial photo

***Composite - Description***

***Visual Description***

The farmstead is on portion 3 of farm 350. There are two main dwellings, both modern, each reached by a separate driveway (photos 3 and 4) and with gardens in front. Behind them are the stone terraces (Object 01), and behind them are two further dwellings, reached by a third roadway up the east boundary. One is an old workers' cottage converted to guest accommodation (Object 02) and the other is a modern worker's house (photo 5). There is a ruined pigsty nearby. Off the east access road, in the north east corner of the property, are two modern store buildings (photo 6).

*Condition*

**Composite - History**

*History*

See Property. In 1938 (see photo 2) farm 350 included the adjacent property Waterfalls, where the house was located, and this portion was part of an extensive farmstead associated with the house. When the property was subsequently subdivided into four portions (date not known), the one with the house on was alienated and is now separately owned. Except for the terraces (Object 01) it is difficult to make out any structures on the 1938 aerial photo. Mr Booie, who has worked on the farm since the 1980s, told us that his house (photo 5) was built on the foundations of an older dwelling and that the guest cottage (Object 02) was the only other old building.

*Associated People*

*Associated Events*

*References*

See Property.  
Pers. comm.. Mr Booie

**Composite - Assessment**

*Significance Statement*

The current farmstead was previously part of a larger property and had structures on it which were associated with the house on Waterfalls, next door. Modern buildings were constructed when the properties were separated, and a new layout overlaid on the old. Apart from those described as Objects, the buildings are not historical.

*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*

*Recommendations*

*Official Grading*

*NHR Act Status*

*Date of Gazette*

**Composite - Objects**

*Property Name*

Pontrieux, Jonkershoek, Stellenbosch District

*Composite Name*

Pontrieux farmstead

*Heritage Resource Name*

Pontrieux stone terraces

*Catalogue Number*

02.12/02.01

*Type of Resource*

Earthworks and waterworks



***Photograph Date***

04/05

***Photographer***

Penny Pistorius

***PhotoTitle***

Retaining wall at top of terraces



***Photograph Date***

04/05

***Photographer***

Penny Pistorius

***PhotoTitle***

Retaining walls and stepped cross-walls dividing orchards



***Photograph Date***

04/05

***Photographer***

Penny Pistorius

***PhotoTitle***

Water channel along western edge of terraces

***Objects - Description***

**Visual Description**

The slope behind the modern houses is terraced, with 1m wide random stone retaining walls along and across the contour, dividing the land into roughly rectangular, level fields which step up to a particularly high and substantial wall which curves along the contour in the south. The tops of the walls are plastered and form paths, with steps up and down to other walls and the fields where required. The upper terraces are orchards in which several old fruit trees may survive from earlier owners, while that nearest the west house is a kitchen garden. Along the western edge of the terraces is a plastered water furrow which runs from a furrow above the top wall down to the house and thence across to Waterfalls. We did not find sluices and side channels which would have enabled the orchards to be irrigated; they may have been destroyed, or be buried.

**Condition (short)**

fair, some crumbling

**Architectural Style***Objects - History***History**

The terraces were associated with the homestead which is now on the adjacent property Waterfalls. These were in place by 1938 and were probably made early in the 20th century or late Victorian times. (Since the farm had much better arable land and they were quite an effort to build they may have had a special purpose, perhaps exotic fruit?). The homestead was subsequently alienated and is now separately owned.

**Construction Date**

Pre-1938

**Associated People**

See Property

**Associated Events****References**

See Property

*Objects - Assessment***Significance Statement**

The elaborate stone terraces are an unusual and innovative feature which merit further study.

**Significance Category**

A, B, C, F

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D = characteristic of type	I = slavery
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**Proposed Grading**

3 heritage register (S. 30)

**Vulnerabilities**

Decay

**NHR Act Status**

older than 60 years (S. 34)

**Date of Gazette****Official Grading****Recommendations**

Should be preserved. Further research necessary.

**Composite - Objects****Property Name**

Pontrieux, Jonkershoek, Stellenbosch District

**Composite Name**

Pontrieux farmstead

**Heritage Resource Name**

Pontrieux guest cottage

**Catalogue Number**

02.12/02.02

**Type of Resource**

dwelling



***Photograph Date***

□04/5

***Photographer***

Penny Pistorius

***PhotoTitle***

Pontrieux guest cottage

***Objects - Description***

**Visual Description**

Simple cottage with iron double-pitched roof and verandah facing east, with steps edging the platform on which it sits. On the west side it has a timber deck overlooking the stream along the boundary. It accommodates two guest units with timber casement windows.

**Condition (short)**

Good

**Architectural Style**

vernacular

***Objects - History***

**History**

A photograph in the cottage shows that prior to its conversion it was workers' accommodation of five rooms, each with an external door and double casement window. It was altered to two guest units after the 1980s, apparently re-using the windows.

**Construction Date**

Unknown

**Associated People**

**Associated Events**

**References**

Mr Booi, personal communication

***Objects - Assessment***

**Significance Statement**

A simple workers' cottage, converted to guest accommodation.

**Significance Category**

A, E

**Proposed Grading**

3

A = course / pattern of history	F = creative / technical
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D = characteristic of type	I = slavery
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**Vulnerabilities**

**NHR Act Status**

May be older than 60 years (S. 34)

**Date of Gazette**

**Official Grading**

## Recommendations

Further research necessary.

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

#### ***Property Name***

Pontrieux, Jonkershoek, Stellenbosch District

#### ***Composite Name***

Pontrieux watermeadow

#### ***Catalogue Number***

02.12/01

#### ***Type of Resource***

Landscape and waterworks

#### ***Objects***

none



#### ***Photograph Date***

1938

#### ***Photographer***

Chief Director: Surveys & Mapping

#### ***Photo Title***

Pontrieux watermeadow, 1938 aerial photo. Note the diagonal texture (vineyards?) and the curved irrigation channel.



#### ***Photograph Date***

04/05

#### ***Photographer***

Penny Pistorius

#### ***Photo Title***

The irrigation furrow. The south bank road previously ran along the right side of the furrow and into what is now the Swiss Club.



***Photograph Date***

2000

***Photographer***

Chief Director: Surveys & Mapping

***Photo Title***

Pontrieux watermeadow, 2000 colour aerial.



***Photograph Date***

04/05

***Photographer***

Penny Pistorius

***Photo Title***

View towards the north east from the south bank road across the watermeadow.

***Composite - Description***

***Visual Description***

A typical Jonkershoek watermeadow: flat, fertile and well-watered. It is currently rough pasture, divided by fences into camps. The northern Eerste River edge has a fringe of riverine forest, including introduced trees such as oaks, gums, and poplars. An irrigation furrow from the stream (possibly man-made) along the east boundary crosses it and passes under the south bank road, continuing through the above-road properties to the west.

***Condition***

***Composite - History***

***History***

See Property. The old road to Jonkershoek farm and Assegaibosch crossed this water meadow (see 1902 map and 02.00/02), probably along the line of the irrigation furrow, which was certainly in place by 1938 (see also 02.00/03).

***Associated People***

***Associated Events***

***References***

## ***Composite - Assessment***

### ***Significance Statement***

This water meadow, typical of Jonkershoek, was part of a 1792 grant to Jan of Ceylon, a free black man. It may have been farmed before, and has been in agricultural use ever since. The old (pre-1902) road to Jonkershoek and Assegaaibosch crossed it, and it has an ancient irrigation furrow across it which distributes water to other south bank smallholdings.

### ***Significance Category***

A, C, D, E, I

### ***Proposed Grading***

3

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***

Visually sensitive. Possible archaeology.

### ***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.

### ***Official Grading***

### ***NHR Act Status***

### ***Date of Gazette***

road and furrow s.34, 36

## ***Composite - Objects***

### ***Property Name***

### ***Composite Name***

### ***Heritage Resource Name***

### ***Catalogue Number***

### ***Type of Resource***