

# *Heritage Survey: Stellenbosch Rural Areas*

*by Penny Pistorius and Stewart Harris - June 2004*

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***Sub Area Name***

Jonkershoek

***Catalogue Number***

02.31

***Property Name***

River House, Jonkershoek, Stellenbosch District

***Alternative Names***

***Farm Number***

334/17

***Linkages***

Klein Gustrouw Historical Property

***Heritage Resource Name***

River House

***Type of Resource***

smallholding

***Composites***

none



***Photo Date***      ***Photographer***

04/05

Penny Pistorius

***Photo Title***

River House, dam enlargement



***Photo Date***      ***Photographer***

06/04

Penny Pistorius

***Photo Title***

River House, workers' cottage



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

**Photo Title**  
River House, main house



**Photo Date** CAM2-409  
**Photographer**

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



**Photo Date** 1980  
**Photographer** Chief Director: Surveys & Mapping

**Photo Title**  
Orthophoto with added cadastrals



**Photo Date**      **Photographer**

04/05                      Penny Pistorius

**Photo Title**

River House, reservoir, north east corner



**Photo Date**      **Photographer**

1938                      Chief Director: Surveys & Mapping

**Photo Title**

1938 aerial photo with added (current) cadastrals

## Description

### Visual Description

A large, gently-sloping field on the north bank of the Eerste River, south of the Jonkershoek road. It extends from the approach field to Mount Happy to Mount Happy's north bank housing. Two streams enter the property from the north. Centre is a minor stream captured in a large dam in the north west segment (being deepened 04/05); the Kleinplasskloof stream (from Bergsig) is captured in a round cement reservoir in the north east (photo 7). The north boundary is planted with olive trees which screen the property from the road and pedestrian path alongside it. A mixed farm with vineyards, fruit trees and cows in 2004, in 2005 it was apparently undergoing changes (photo 6). The main house and workers' cottages along the river just east of the centre of the property are 20th C (see photos 5, 5 and History).

### Notes

16.4725 ha  
In 2002 the owner/main shareholder was NF Lotterie. In 04/05 it had been bought by the owners of Mount Happy, Mr & Mrs Frikkie Nel (pers. comm., resident of Mount Happy north bank housing).

### History

Cadastral boundaries and shapes of this farm do not align with the earliest grants in the area. This is because 1680s grants were soon absorbed into a common ownership which was divided, subdivided and consolidated in a complex way. By the time this farm re-emerged in the 20th century it had a new shape, mostly dictated by landscape features. (See Klein Gustrouw Historical Property). This was principally land granted in 1683 to the Free Blacks Anthony and Manuel of Angola. (See Klein Gustrouw Historical Property for more details of them and their successors.) It is typical of the gently sloping plain that they irrigated from north bank tributaries. The present road was made in the 20th century; the old road may have run somewhat north of it. The old ford across the river has not been confidently located: it may have been close to the east boundary.

In 1938 the property does not appear to be a separate farm; it was a checkerboard of fields crossed by two watercourses: one in the middle and one near the east boundary. There were no buildings. In the second half of the 20th century a dam was built in the middle of the property, alongside the road. Its history should be studied further and the above outline confirmed.

### ***Historical Notes***

Deeds Office search not attempted.

### ***Associated People***

See Klein Gustrouw Historical Property.

### ***Associated Events***

### ***References***

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

### ***Assessment***

#### ***Significance Statement***

A field next to the Jonkershoek road, sloping down to the Eerste River; part of land granted in 1683 to the Free Blacks Anthony and Manuel of Angola, and farmed ever since. The old road crossed the river somewhere in the eastern part. It is a visually sensitive part of the rural landscape of the valley and a foreground to longer views. The post-1938 buildings are unobtrusive and sensitively located near the trees lining the river.

#### ***Significance Category***

A, D, E, I

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***

Visually sensitive; any inappropriate development here would affect views from the road.

<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>
No buildings older than 60 years (S. 34)			

### ***Maps***

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

### ***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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*Catalogue Number*

*Type of Resource*

*Objects*