

Heritage Survey: Stellenbosch Rural Areas

by Penny Pistorius and Stewart Harris - June 2004

Sub Area Name

Jonkershoek

Catalogue Number

02.15e

Property Name

Jonkershoek Nature Reserve, Jonkershoek, Stellenbosch District

Alternative Names**Farm Number**

358

Linkages

Jonkershoek historical property

Heritage Resource Name

Jonkershoek Nature Reserve

Type of Resource

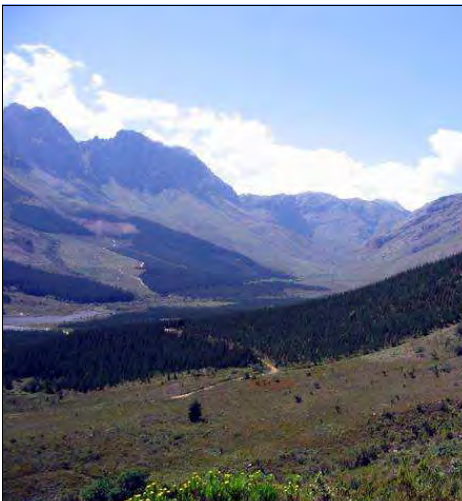
nature reserve

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

Chief Director: Surveys & Mapping

Photo Title

Jonkershoek Nature Reserve. Detail of 1:50 000 map

**Photo Date** **Photographer**

10/04

Penny Pistorius

Photo Title

Looking up the valley from Bavaiaanskloof, Assegaaibosch.



Photo Date **Photographer**
06/05 Penny Pistorius

Photo Title
Typical Jonkershoek nature reserve mountainside.



Photo Date **Photographer**
CAM2-409

Photo Title
1902 map, upper Jonkershoek

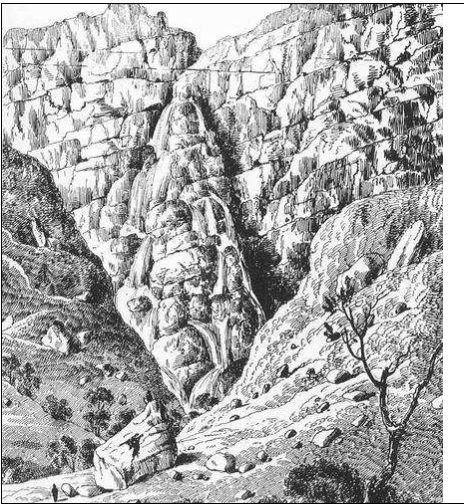


Photo Date **Photographer**

Photo Title
Tweedewaterval (?) by Charles D'Oyly, 1832.

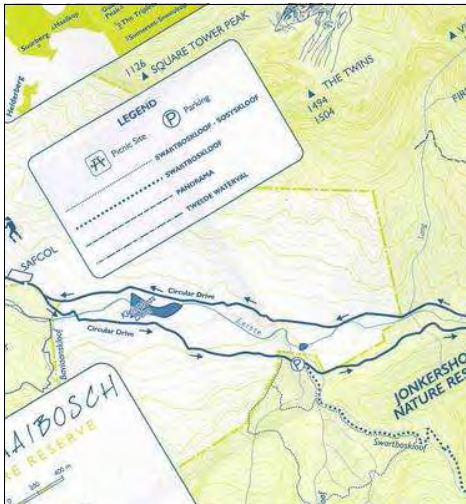


Photo Date **Photographer**

CapeNature

Photo Title

Detail of CapeNature pamphlet on Jonkershoek Nature Reserve, showing hiking trails.



Photo Date **Photographer**

early 20th C

Arthur Elliot

Photo Title

Early 20th C photo from the bottom of the valley towards the head: the upper valley as backdrop.

Description

Visual Description

The nature reserve comprises the entire upper valley, taking in the catchment area of the upper Eerste River. The boundary runs approximately along the ridges of the Jonkershoekberge in the north and Stellenboschberg in the south. In the east it extends over the ridge and includes the headwaters of Riviersonderend, which runs eastward in the opposite direction to the Eerste River. West is Jonkershoek Plantation (02.15b). A large part of the western portion of the nature reserve is used by SAFCOL and planted with pines. Access to the reserve is via the SAFCOL entry gates and the Circular Drive, a one-way gravel road that crosses to the south bank of the river at Swartbrug and runs through plantations before entering the 'wilderness' part of the reserve past the western portion of Intake House (see 02.15d). It re-crosses the river at a (modern) bridge called Witbrug and returns on the north bank, soon re-entering the plantations at the eastern end of Intake House and looping back to the gate. Access to several of the hiking trails through the reserve is off the Circular Drive (photo 2).

Notable features of the nature reserve are the framing mountain ridges and peaks: Haelkop and Pic-Sans-Nom and The Triplets in the south, Guardian Peak at the head of the valley, The Twins, Virgin Peaks, First Ridge, Second Ridge, Third Ridge and Banghoek Peaks in the north. The fynbos-covered slopes are crumpled by the valleys of the tributaries to the Eerste River: anti-clockwise from the end of the plantation area on the south bank they are Sosyskloof, Swartboskloof, Eerstewaterval and

Notes

3941.4461 ha (Jonkershoek SDF) or 11 000 ha (CapeNature brochure)
Owner: CapeNature

Tweedewaterval, the headwaters of the Eerste River itself, known as Kurktrekker, Bergriviernek, the pass to the valley of the Berg River headwaters in the north east, Jakkalsvlei, Langrivier and Tierkloof

The Jonkershoek nature reserve is part of the much larger Hottentots Holland Nature Reserve, which includes the Hottentots Holland, Groot Drakenstein and Franschhoek mountain ranges. One of the routes of the Boland Hiking trail runs through Jonkershoek Nature Reserve and ends at the SAFCOL entry gate.

History

The present cadastral boundary between the portions of farm 352 and property 358 dates from the mid 19th century. The upper valley eastwards, which had limited arable land but plentiful wood, was granted in 1832 and '33 to a newcomer to the Valley, Christiaan Ackerman -- a massive area totalling 4345 morgen. Charles D'Oyly's 1832 drawing of the waterfall (with one guide wearing a typical 'Malay' hat) shows that by this time the scenic value and recreational use of the valley was established. Ackerman sold it to Jonkershoek owner PG Neethling shortly thereafter, in 1836. It passed to the Watermeyer family in 1877. By 1902 there was a house on the property which may have had its origins in Ackerman's time. A map of c1932 and the 1938 aerial photo show a second house near the first one (CA M3-2836, 5). These buildings no longer exist --see O2.15d. The only other signs of human intervention by the 1930s were some firebreaks and paths up into the mountain wilderness; by that time the upper valley was a popular and established destination for picnics, strolls and mountain climbing, with the First and Second waterfalls as particularly well-known attractions. The Circular Drive was not in place: a road became a track after the Intake House.

The whole Jonkershoek estate was acquired by Stellenbosch Municipality in 1932, which passed it to the Government in 1934 (Deeds Office summary folio). The stated purpose was for a "bird sanctuary, game reserve and cultivation of wild flowers" (CA ACLT 441-17375-1932).

Historical Notes

Deeds Office search not attempted

Associated People

See Jonkershoek Historical Property

Associated Events

References

1902 Brink Map CA M2-409 shows location of grants
1932 maps CA M3 2834, CA M3-2836, 5
1938 aerial photograph.
1980 orthophoto
2000 aerial photograph.
Stellenbosch 1679-1929
Hey 1995
CA ACLT 441-17375-1932

Assessment

Significance Statement

The upper valley is the backdrop to the cultural landscape of the lower valley, the end point of the gradual transition from town, through farmland and plantations to remote mountain wilderness. Granted in the 19th C, the land was never intensively farmed -- its historical and cultural significance is as a natural, scenic and recreational area.

Significance Category

A, C, D, E, 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 (s. 31)

Vulnerabilities

Recommendations

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

Catalogue Number

Type of Resource

Objects