

Heritage Survey: Stellenbosch Rural Areas

by Penny Pistorius and Stewart Harris - June 2004

Sub Area Name

Jonkershoek

Catalogue Number

02.15/00

Property Name

Jonkershoek historical property, Jonkershoek, Stellenbosch District

Alternative Names

Wynand, Uitvlugt

Farm Number

352 (all portions) 358 (all portions)

Linkages

Catalogue nos 02.15

Heritage Resource Name

Jonkershoek historical property

Type of Resource

historical farm

Composites

none.

See 02.15a, b, c, etc.

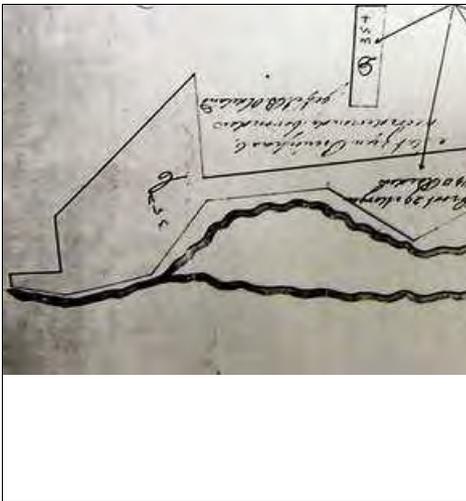


Photo Date **Photographer**

Photo Title

1692 grant OSF1-59

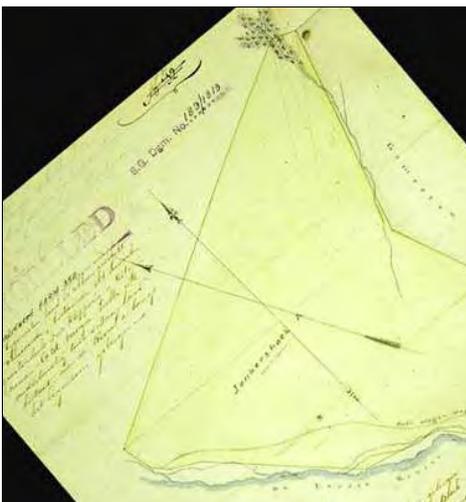


Photo Date **Photographer**

Photo Title

1858 consolidation diagram of 'Jonkershoek A', the portion of the farm once called 'Wynand'. SQ14-32

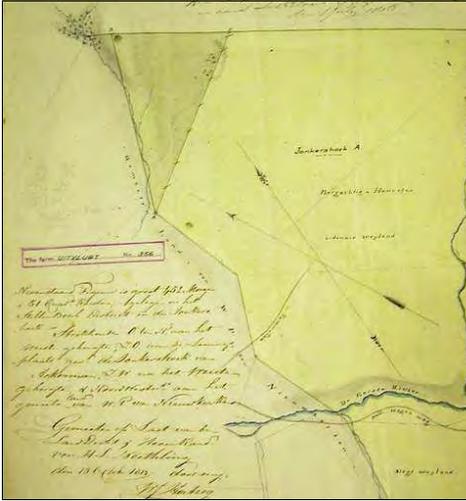


Photo Date **Photographer**

Photo Title

1844 grant of the portion of the farm once called 'Uitvlugt'. SQ14-17



Photo Date **Photographer**

Penny Pistorius delt

Photo Title

Jonkershoek historical growth. 1902 base with 1692 grant red, 1840s- 50s grants to PG Neethling pink, 1830s grants to CG Ackerman orange. Briefly, 1860s to 1874 it included Assegaibosch (yellow).

Description

Visual Description

Notes

At its greatest extent in the 19th century Jonkershoek was an enormous farm which spanned both banks of the Eerste River from the Jonkerhoekberge to the Stellenboschberge. It extended eastward as far as the headwaters of the Eerste River and included most of the upper catchment area both sides of the river, and westward as far as Old Nectar Historical property (02.20/00), where the edge is a prominent ridge. See photo 1. See current Properties for further descriptions of the various modern portions.

History

Among the first farmers to settle in the Stellenbosch area was Johann Andriesz, commonly called Jan de Jonker, whose farm was the most remote in the Valley. He who cultivated a string of fields along the north side of the river, about 29 morgen. As elsewhere, the strange scattered pattern of the parts of the grant suggest that he was utilizing land already modified by Khoi pastoralists. He was granted the land in 1683 and within a few years he had planted 3000 vines and put irrigation in place. He also had fields of wheat, ten cows and a herd of 150 sheep. He built a small house -- possibly virtually a shack made of locally available materials and with mud floors -- and must have had outbuildings for his produce. The Valley was a wild place with predators like leopards and many antelope so he had kraals for his herds and hedges around his fields. He died in 1698 and the land passed to his neighbour, the Free Black Jan of Ceylon who owned it till 1701. Though the buildings may have been of frail construction, the essence of the werf must have been in place by this time and irrigation systems well established.

In the next hundred years there was scarcely any development at Jonkershoek. It first had a rapid sequence of absentee owners. Then it was bought by Anna Hoeks in 1714; she owned all except one of the grants in the valley and Jonkershoek was farmed in combination with them (see Lanzerac). It was the back of beyond, and land values were extraordinarily low.

In the 1760s a typical Boland farm like Simonsvlei cost f1309 per morgen. At the same time, Jonkershoek cost f17 per morgen.

It continued as part of the Lanzerac land holding for the rest of the 18th century. It slumbered; though because it was such an awkward place to get to (you had to cross the river twice) the buildings at the werf were probably kept passably shipshape. It stirred in its sleep in the 1760s when it and Old Nectar were unbundled from the Lanzerac conglomerate for the benefit of a son, Jacob Groenewald, who soon passed it to two of his brothers. In 1787 one of them, Christoffel Groenewald 3rd, acquired his brother's half share and this deal was confirmed in 1801. The land value had doubled since 1761 but was still a paltry f35 per morgen. During his ownership between 1801 and 1813 its value jumped 24-fold -- dramatic improvements are indicated to both agriculture and buildings. Even then it was under-priced: it was sold in 1817 for f30,000 to a property speculator who re-sold it the same day for f41,920 (see Historical Notes). Then again, between 1817 and 1821 when Arend Brink owned it, it doubled to f74,017. So the first 20 years of the 19th century -- associated with the boom years of the wine trade -- saw great enhancement of the farm and werf and both these men must have played large roles in its physical development, as well as Pieter Gerhard Neethling who owned it 183-61. The werf and building clusters lasted in this form till the end of the 19th century (see 02.15a/01 Composite) and is substantially in place today.

Neethling and the farmers before him used all the farmable land round the original patchwork of fields 'as of right' though it had never been formally granted. The upper reaches of the valley, not arable land but with plentiful wood, were granted in 1832 and '33 to a newcomer, Christiaan Ackerman -- a massive area totalling 4345 morgen. Neethling bought this from him in 1836 and then, between 1843 and 1858, was granted all the land between upper Jonkershoek and Old Nectar giving him a total of 5164 morgen. Only the flat lands around the original grant were good for arable farming which included vineyards. The upper slopes were good for grazing and also had a plentiful supply of wood. In 1861 the farm passed to his son PP Neethling who also acquired Assegaaibosch across the river but who went bankrupt in 1877.

Jonkershoek then came into the hands of the Watermeyer family 1877-1932. Godfreid Watermeyer passed it to his sons FG and AP Watermeyer in 1884 in joint ownership and their shares passed in 1911 and 1921 to Miss MMJ Watermeyer. In this period there were many changes to the buildings, keeping them up-to-date (bathrooms, Italian roof tiles, decorative dormer windows) and possibly the west farmstead had been built.

Meanwhile, in 1892 the Government had leased some land west of the werf and established a trout hatchery to stock the Eerste River. This became a popular tourist attraction, not least because of the scenic drive it offered to new-fangled motor cars. The curator, Mr FG Chaplin 1907-1937 improved the hatchery facilities and landscaped the grounds. The whole estate was acquired by Stellenbosch Municipality in 1932 which passed it to the Government in 1934. The stated purpose was for a "bird sanctuary, game reserve and cultivation of wild flowers" (CA ACLT 441-17375-1932). From this time Jonkershoek became a popular venue for picnicking and hiking (leisure use worthy of further study, mostly in last 60 years). In 1964 Assegaaibosch, across the river, was acquired and developed into a research centre for nature conservation from its original fishery mandate. Douglas Hey is strongly identified with Nature Conservation at Jonkershoek.

The shortage of timber during the war prompted afforestation of the upper slopes which are such a feature of the valley today. The principal plantations, today owned by SAFCOL, are on the slopes north of the werf and extend eastwards up the valley as far as the intake house. There are workers villages in pockets throughout these regions, cycle tracks and a notable viewpoint on the Jonkershoekberge ridge.

A continuing theme with other parts of the valley is the exploitation of its water potential. The Eerste Rivier, rising in these reaches, was always the principal source of water for Stellenbosch. The Municipality acquired pieces of land in Upper Jonkershoek in 1911, where an intake house and weir were built and a pipeline made along the north bank to Stellenbosch. During the rest of the 20th century there were continual improvements, culminating in the construction of the large Kleinplaas Dam which draws its water from the Theewaterskloof Dam across the mountains.

Historical Notes

There is great confusion about the genealogies of the Groenewald family who owned Jonkershoek but whose main base was at Lanzerac. See Lanzerac Historical Property People for a discussion.

There is conflicting Deeds Office transfer data concerning the ownership of PJ du Toit. He is said to have taken transfer of the properties in 1790 but this volume of bound deeds is missing from the Deeds Office. The transfer is known because hand-written cross-writing on the previous transfer of 1774 states that the next transfer was to him in 1790. [Transfer deed T4642/1774: hand-written note: Jonkershoek and Old Nectar from Christoffel & Johannes Casparus Groenewald to Petrus Jacobus du Toit on 26 Nov 1790 by T6521.] This ownership chain is followed by Fransen 2004 and by Fagan 1979. However, this data is in conflict with the following transfer of 1801 in which the farms were still owned by Christoffel & Johannes Casparus Groenewald. [1801 Old Nectar and Jonkershoek: the half share of these farms owned by Johannes Caspar Groenewald transferred to Christoffel Groenewald (confirming a private contract of 1787), by T297 of 1 May 1801 for f1900 (transfer deed T297/1801).] We conclude that the sale to PJ du Toit was aborted for some reason and that the Groenewald brothers continued to own the farm. See Associated People.

JJ Albertyn bought the farm on 11 Apr 1817 by T65 for f30,000. He sold it for f41,920 and Fransen 2004 and Fagan 1997 conclude that he made great property improvements. However, recent research shows that he bought and sold it the same day. We conclude that he was a property speculator: see Associated People.

Jonkershoek farm is not a declared Provincial Heritage Site. However, it is on the SAHRA data base, marked as "pending". Though SAHRA took all of the preparatory steps in c1990, and the owner was willing, the declaration was never finalised. The SAHRA files are full of documentation, eg the Fagan report, evaluation, etc. A problem, however, is that the SAHRA data base gives its erf number as 352 (the Plantation) instead of 352/4. Also, the limits of the declared area might need revision in the light of recent research.

Note also that there is an error in the 1994 declaration of the Trout Hatchery building, which is described as being "on the farm Assegaaibosch" and lists that farm's number, 361 and its transfer no and date.

Associated People

** Before 1680s

Unknown Khoi people

Khoi herders passed through this area in January each year, moving on when the grazing diminished. Their villages were

assemblies of matjieshuise, portable architecture that sat lightly on the ground and left no trace behind. But they modified the ecosystem and the landscape form. The paths they cleared through dense bush established routes. They set fire to hillsides and dense bush to encourage new growth, clearing fields. Their herds cropped back the grasslands and water meadows each year, keeping them clear. We interpret the patchwork of field claimed by settlers (by no means the only or even the best land) as being areas already cleared by the Khoi. (Worden et al 1998, Boonzaier et al 1996.)

** 1682-1697

Johann Andriesz (Jan) de Jonker aka Johan Andries aka Jan Andresen

Born about 1660, he came to the Cape in 1680 and was among the first farmers to settle the Jonkershoek valley. He was present in Stellenbosch in 1682, the year he was made a Free Burgher, and was granted a patchwork of fields at the top of the valley in 1683; the grant was confirmed in 1692, just over 29 morgen. By then he had established the werf and there was a small 'huysje'. Married a Free Black, Lysbeth Janz of the Cape (qv) in 1684, and had three children. Died 1697. (De Villiers and Pama 1981:488, Van der Spuy 1969:29-31, Fagan 1979:3, Fransen and Cook 1965:62, Boeseken 1977:97, Simons 2000:122).

** 1682-1698

Lysbeth Jansz of the Cape aka Lysbeth Jansen of the Cape

Born c1670s, daughter of a slave. Married Jan de Jonker (qv) in 1684 and had three children by him. After his death she sold Jonkershoek in 1698 to her neighbour Jan of Ceylon (qv) for the small sum of f400. She next married Hinrich Loos and had two daughters 1701-04 who were the ancestors of notable Cape families, eg Albertyn, Groenewald. (De Villiers and Pama 1981:488, vd Spuy 1969:30, Deeds Office transfer deed T442). According to van der Spuy (his source is unknown) she "was a woman of some beauty, determined character and a decided sense of humour, at one time employed as a servant in Governor van der Stel's household (most likely a slave, or the child of a slave, in one of the later transports from Batavia)" (vd Spuy 1969:30).

** c1698-1712

Jan of Ceylon

Freed slave of Sri Lanka descent who was granted Old Nectar (with a partner, Marquard of Ceylon) in 1685 or 1692, sized 24 morgen 407 square roods. The grant was called Jan Lui which appears to have been his nickname, meaning Lazy Jan. However, while he owned Old Nectar, he bought the adjacent farm Jonkershoek in 1701 and sold it three years later for twice the price – implying hard work or astute business sense. He married a Free Black woman Dina van Coeleran; one known son. "One of the best known Free Black couples in Stellenbosch" (Hattingh 1980:13) they were frequent godparents between 1704 and 1712. According to Fagan 1979:1, when he sold Jonkershoek in 1701, Jan of Ceylon kept a piece for himself which 'hebbende de vorm van een krom' – was curve shaped – and was kept separate from the rest of the property till 1761. (Van der Spuy 1969:31, De Bosdari 1953:62, Smuts ed 1979:68, Fransen and Cook 1965:60-2, Hattingh 1980:13, 19, Fagan 1979:1).

** Marquard (Marguart) of Ceylon

See Old Nectar Historical Property.

** 1701-06 and 1710-11

Jan Stevensz Botma b1

Son of one of the first Free Burgers at Mowbray and pioneer Stellenbosch settler who owned Jonkershoek from 1701 to 1706 and again 1710-11. He did not live there (he also owned a Stellenbosch house (later Morkel House), Welgevallen, Moddergat at Somers West, Zonquasdrift at Riebeeck West and many other properties for short amounts of time). He married Christina Stans from Giessendam; they had no children. He was a Stellenbosch Heemraad in 1711 and held the first liquor licence in 1714. It is speculated that the first church service, attended by Simon van der Stel, was held at his home at Welgevallen which lay across the river from the little island where van der Stel had pitched his tent in 1679 (implying it was there prior to Stellenbosch being opened up). Later, in 1710 when the church burnt down, a wine cellar he owned in town was used for services. (Smuts ed 1979:68, 153, 177-8, 209, 245, 249, Fransen and Cook 1965:60-2, De Villiers and Pama 1981:89, Fagan 1979:1, Fransen 2004:188a, 199a, 243b, 327c.)

** 1706-1707

Jacobus van Driel

Not in the standard genealogies, he bought Jonkershoek in 1706 and sold it the next year. (Fagan 1979:1).

** 1707-1710

Hans Jacob Conterman

He owned Jonkershoek between 1707 and 1710. De Villiers and Pama have him as Jan Jacob Conterman, originally called Gundermann from Hadamar in Hesse-Nassau. Born 1656, he came to the Cape in 1696 as a soldier and was made a burgher in 1698. He was a smith (besides shoeing horses and making ploughs, he built bridges over the Palmiet and Bot Rivers), ran a transport service and, besides Jonkershoek, owned the farm Vryburg in the Bottelary and a town house in Church Street. He was a Heemraad of Stellenbosch in 1706 and held the wine and brandy licence. He married Anna Catharina Cleef in 1700 (5 children) and was married again in 1720 to Maria Beyers (one child). He died in 1734. (De Villiers and Pama 1981:157, Smuts ed 1979:204, 207, 411, Fagan 1979:1.)

** 1710-1711

Jan Botma

See 1701-1706. Seems to be the same man as above, judging from his signatures in the transfer deeds (T668, T863).

** 1711-1714

Wynand Wynands

Owned Jonkershoek 1711-14. He bought for f1200 and sold for f800. Despite this indication of decline and his short ownership, his name persists as the official name of the farm. (Deeds Office transfer summary, Fagan 1979:1, Fransen

and Cook 1965:60-2).

** 1714 - c1719

Anna Hoeks

See Lanzerac. She bought Jonkershoek in 1714 -- and then owned all the properties in the Valley. She had probably died by 1719. She had no children and the properties passed to her husband Schryver's daughter by his first wife, Maria Elisabeth van Coningshoven and her husband Jacob Hasselaar.

** c1715 -1719

Jacob or Jan Hasselaar a1

Settler from Middelburg, Netherlands who married Maria Elisabeth van Coningshoven [qv]. They had four children between 1705-13. He acquired Old Nectar from his mother-in-law Anna Hoeks in 1715 and the other five farms in the Valley may soon have followed. However, he died in August 1719 (De Villiers and Pama 1981:287, vd Spuy 1969:34).

* 1715-1755

Maria Elisabeth van Coningshoven or van Koningshoven

Following her husband's death in 1719, she owned all the farms in the Jonkershoek Valley till about 1755. She did not live at Jonkershoek but at Lanzerac. She was born in 1687, the daughter of Dirk van Koningshoven and Jannetje Bort van de Kaap who was of slave descent. She married Jacob (or Jan) Hasselaar of Middelburg [qv] and had four children by him between 1705 and 1713. She is said to have been Isaac Schryver's granddaughter by his first marriage but this is not substantiated. Whatever the relationship was, Schryver's widow, Anna Hoeks, donated Old Nectar to van Coningshoven's husband in 1715, and they acquired all the other farms in the Valley from Anna when she died soon after -- Lanzerac, Klein Gustrouw, Mostertsdrift and Jonkershoek. Maria's husband died in 1719. In 1723 she is recorded in the census as a widow with two sons and a daughter (the other daughter was alive but not present). To help on all the farms in the Valley she had 8 male slaves, 1 female slave, 2 youths and 3 girls, and to protect themselves and hunt, she had a musket, a pistol and a sword. As indicated by the tiny workforce, during her management the farms underwent a steady decline. Between 1719 and 1752, vines declined from 30,000 to less than 6,000. (Besides the withdrawal of preferential export tariffs, Cape wines had a (deservedly) poor reputation and no ready market in either Europe or Batavia). Cattle declined from 200 to 20. Other farming activities show similar decreases, with the exception of sheep which went up from 400 to 900. She passed her farms at the end of the valley, Old Nectar and Jonkershoek, to her daughter Anna Hasselaar in 1755. The others may have followed at about this time but transfer deeds are missing. Her date of death is not known. (Albertyn c1997:17-19, De Villiers and Pama 1981:287, 417, Fransen and Cook 1965:60-2.)

** 1755-1761

Anna Hasselaar b1 (Mrs Groenewald)

Daughter of Jan Hasselaar and Maria Elisabeth van Coningshoven from whom she inherited all six of the Jonkershoek Valley farms. She was born in 1705 and married Christoffel Groenewald when she was only 14 years old. Her first child was born in 1720 and she had eight children before 1743. There is then confusion in the genealogical records. Her husband died before 1754, but de Villiers and Pama state that she had a further seven children after this -- none of them recorded by the more modern genealogies of Heese and Lombard. Her mother gave her the two upper farms, Old Nectar and Jonkershoek, as a gift in 1755 and she seems to have acquired the other four soon after this. She sold Jonkershoek and Old Nectar to her son Jacob Groenewald in 1761 but retained the others till she died, aged 85, in 1790. She was then living at Lanzerac and among the many precious possessions were four-poster beds, curtains to all the windows, paintings, silverware, etc, etc (a full list is in Albertyn c1997:19-26). She had 10 male slaves, 4 women (who were to be emancipated with their children), 4 boys and 7 girl slaves. On the Valley farms were 10 horses, 9 pigs and 54 cattle. There were 24 more cattle and 400 sheep kept on other farms in the Platteland. (Anna Hasselaar's Testament CA MOOC7/1/33 quoted in Albertyn c1997:19-26, Deeds Office records, De Villiers and Pama 1981:268-9, 287, Heese and Lombard, Fransen and Cook 1965:60-2).

Historical Notes: There are extreme differences in the genealogical tree as given by de Villiers and Pama as compared to Heese and Lombard. According to deV&P, Groenewald had 15 children whereas the more recent Heese and Lombard lists only 8. There are also several differences in marriage dates. Fransen and Cook erroneously state Anna Hasselaar predeceased Christoffel Groenewald and he married a second time.

** 1761-1774

Jacob Groenewald b1c5

Called "den land bouwer", he was a son of Anna Hasselaar and Christoffel Groenewald 2nd. Acquired Old Nectar and Jonkershoek from his mother in 1761 and transferred them to two of his brothers in 1774 for the same price he paid, which indicates that he had not made improvements. In 1763 he acquired numerous properties that stretched across Stellenbosch: Kromme Rivier, Dwars in den Weg, Aan het Pad, Bergzicht and Watergang.. Born 1734, married three times: to Martha Susanna Conterman in 1766, to Susanna Durand in 1774, to Wilhelmina Catharina van Gent in 1783. Six children 1767-77. Probably the same J Groenewald, a church elder who argued in favour of the re-establishment of the Genadendal (Baviaanskloof) mission in 1793 and who was a member of the church group who evangelised slaves, starting religious instruction for them on Sunday afternoons and evenings and who set up a school for slave children at their own expense (Deeds Office transfer data incl T3675/1761, Fransen and Cook 1965:60-2, De Villiers and Pama 1981:268, Smuts ed 1979: 257, 273, Fransen 2004: Kromme Rivier 193c, Aan het Pad 193c, 202b, Watergang 193c, Dwars-in-den-Weg 193c, 221a, Bergzicht 193c, 194ab, Nektar 198c, Jonkershoek 199a).

** 1774-1801-1813

Christoffel Groenewald 3rd b1c9? (1774-1813)

Acquired a half share (with half-brother Johannes Caspar Groenewald) in Old Nectar and Jonkershoek from his brother Jacob in 1774. In 1787 he, by a private arrangement, bought Johannes Caspar's half share of both farms -- confirmed in 1801 -- for f1900. In 1813 he sold Jonkershoek for f24,251 and Old Nectar for f15,000. These massive increases in price indicate considerable property improvements -- certainly in wine production and very probably either he or his brother had built a house at Old Nectar (the core of the present house) and another at Jonkershoek (now an outbuilding). There is

disagreement in the genealogical records about who his father was, but his mother seems to have been Anna Hasselaar. He married his cousin Maria Groenewald in 1786, and they had four children 1787-93 (De Villiers and Pama 1981:269, Deeds Office transfer data, Fransen and Cook 1965:60-2).

** 1774-1787

Johannes Caspar Groenewald b1c7

Son of Christoffel Groenewald 2nd and Anna Hasselaar, born 1740. No record of marriage. He acquired a half-share (with his half-brother Christoffel Groenewald 3rd) in Old Nectar and Jonkershoek from his brother Jacob in 1774. Either he or his brother possibly built a house at Old Nectar and another at Jonkershoek. In 1787 he, by a private arrangement, sold his half share of both farms to partner Christoffel Groenewald 3rd -- confirmed in 1801. In 1787 he was Lieutenant of the Stellenbosch Burgher Dragoons but, suffering from various ailments, asked for his discharge. Date of death not known but possibly soon after (Liebbrandt 502c, Fransen and Cook 1965:60-2, de Villiers and Pama 1981:269, Deeds Office transfer data.)

** 1790

Pieter Jacob du Toit

Confusing Deeds Office data suggest that he might have acquired Old Nectar and Jonkershoek in 1790 and owned them till 1813 but this seems incorrect. (Cross-writing on T4642/1774 but no deed, Fransen and Cook 1965:60-2).

** 1813-14

Willem Petrus van Niekerk possibly b3c6d8

He was born in 1780, married Maria Geertruida Esterhuyzen and had a daughter born in 1812. He bought Jonkershoek in May 1813 but died aged 24 in December of that year. It was bought by his uncle, perhaps out of sympathy (Fransen and Cook 1965:62, De Villiers and Pama 1966:638, Fagan 1979:2.)

** 1814-1817

Sybrand Coenraad Vermeulen

He bought Jonkershoek from the estate of his nephew who had suddenly died in 1813, and sold it in 1817 for slightly more than he paid: the next owner transferred it the same day for 40% more. (Deeds Office transfers T103/1814, T65/1817, T68/1817, Fagan 1979:2.)

** 1817

Jacob Johannes Albertyn b1c11d3

Property speculator who in 1817 bought Jonkershoek for f30,000 and sold it the same day for f41,920. He knew the Valley well as his father owned the four lower farms at the time and members of his wife's family owned Assagaibosch. Born in 1792, he married Emerentia Jacoba Wium and had four children 1819-1832. (Deeds Office transfers T65/1817, T68/1817, De Villiers and Pama 1981:8.)

** 1817- 1821

Andries Brink (Arend's son)

Owned Jonkershoek from 1817 to 1821. He bought for f41,920 and sold for f74,017. This suggests he may have made property improvements. Fagan thinks* that at this time 'the buildings took the form seen in old photographs from the end of the 19th century: a homestead with thatched roof and straight end- and front gables, consisting of two wings joined into an H with a flat roof over the passage and pantry; a slave house with thatched roof and wolwe-end gables; a wine cellar perhaps with gables and thatched roof like the homestead; and an older homestead with outside rooms under a thatched roof, built in line with the newer homestead and slave house'. He was the son of the man who owned Schoongezicht in Ida's Valley, born 1790, died 1853, married Adriana Jacoba Voltelen and had two children 1815-16. (Property transfers T68/1817, T158/1821, Fagan 1979:2, De Villiers and Pama 1981:104.)

* Though Fagan attributes the work to JJ Albertyn [qv] who only owned it for a few hours.

Slaves

In 1821, when Andries Brink sold Jonkershoek to Johanna Domus, the price included slaves. They were Jacob of the Cape, Adam of the Cape, Abraham of the Cape, Louisa of the Cape, Maria of the Cape, Mentor of Madagascar, Laurant of Madagascar, Silvia of the Cape, 2nd Louisa of the Cape, Maritogo of Madagascar (transfer deed T158/1821).

** 1821-1823

Johanna Margaretha Domus

The widow of Rev Petrus Johannes van der Spuy, she bought Jonkershoek in 1821 and sold it two years later for a little less than she paid. (Deeds Office transfers T158/1821, T92/1823)

** 1823-1861

Pieter Gerhardt Neethling b1c6

Member of an important Cape property-owning family -- his wife's siblings were at Lanzerac, Klein Gustrouw and Old Nectar. He acquired Jonkershoek in 1823; Fransen and Cook suggest he built the present house (but previous owner Andries Brink [qv] seems more likely). Over the years he considerably increased the size of the estate. In 1836 he bought the upper Jonkershoek farm from Christiaan Ackerman [qv]. In 1843 he was granted a strip abutting Old Nectar in the west and possibly the river. Next year, 1844, he acquired the 352 morgen Uitvlugt portion below upper Jonkershoek. But he was not granted the middle of the jigsaw around the original grant until 1858 though he had certainly been using it 'as of right' well before then. Born 1792, married 1826 to Elisabeth Geertruida [or Petronella] Roux, three children 1827-33. In the Jonkershoek graveyard there is a memorial which includes his name and gives his year of death as 1860. The farm was transferred to his son Pieter Paul Neethling [qv] in 1861. (Fransen and Cook 1965:62, De Villiers and Pama 1966:621, Fagan 1979:2, 1902 map, Deeds Office transfer T284/1861, Jonkershoek graveyard memorial).

** 1832-1836

Christiaan Ackerman b3c3d3

Granted large tract of land in the upper Jonkershoek Valley in 1832 and '33, at the head of the valley well above the old grant -- it is marginal farming land, today the heart of the wilderness area, but was rich in fuel wood. He sold the land to Jonkershoek owner PG Neethling in 1836. A house there is marked on the 1902 map which may have had its origins in his time. He is uncertainly identified as Christiaan Johannes Godlieb Ackerman b3c3d3 who was born in 1800, the son of a Stellenbosch burgher. He married Magdalena Christina Justina Wium in 1821. The couple had six children 1822-34 (1902 map, de Villiers and Pama 1981:3-4). Not significant enough to be mentioned in Drie Eeue (Smuts ed 1979).

** 1861-1877 (at Jonkershoek) and 1871-1874 (at Assegaibosch)

Paul Pieter Neethling b1c6d?

Acquired the huge 5,163 morgen Jonkershoek farm from his father PG Neethling in 1861, and added Assegaibosch ten years later for which he paid £775. He and his father were responsible for planting many of the old oak and gum trees and much agricultural development in the Jonkershoek Valley. CNC History reports that he bought Assegaibosch on behalf of his brother-in-law AC van der Byl Cloete, to whom he sold it in 1874 for £800. The CNC History cites this as an example of the kind-heartedness of the man, 'who, by signing many securities in favour of others, suffered severe financial losses.' He went insolvent 1861-78. AC van der Byl Cloete adopted ('took in') his children Anna Elizabeth and Paul Pieter Neethling junior. His Inventory describes Jonkershoek house with 5 bedrooms, living room, dining room, pantry, kitchen and passage -- the present H shaped house. There was also a wine cellar with vats and a smithy. Birth, marriage, death and cause of death not known; Jonkershoek Graveyard Memorial has dates 1834-1918 (Deeds Office transfers T232/1871, T406/1874, re insolvency CA MOIB 2/1449 (33), CNC History, Fagan 1979:2, Jonkershoek graveyard memorial, biography not in de Villiers and Pama or Smuts.)

** 1877-1884

Fredrik Godfried Watermeyer senior

The Watermeyer family is associated with the Jonkershoek farm in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Fredrik Godfried Watermeyer (senior) bought it for £3,350 in 1877. He died before 1884 and left it to two sons, neither of whom could sell without offering it to the other for £2,500. It stayed in the family until 1932. (Fransen and Cook 1965:62, Fagan 1979:2, 9).

** 1884-c1911

Andries Pieter Watermeyer

Son of FG Watermeyer senior [qv], he inherited the Jonkershoek farm with his brother Fredrik Godfried Watermeyer junior [qv] in 1884. He died before 1911 when his half share was divided among his heirs Hendrik Godfried Watermeyer, Christiaan Johannes Watermeyer, and Maria Magdalena Johanna Watermeyer [qv]. (Deeds Office summary folio T5569-5572, Fransen and Cook 1965:62, Fagan 1979:2, 9).

** 1884-c1921

Fredrik Godfried (Godfrey) Watermeyer junior

Son of the man of the same name, he inherited the Jonkershoek farm with his brother Andries Pieter Watermeyer [qv] in 1884. He died before 1921. It was probably in this period that the thatch replaced by a Italian tiled roof and dormer windows (which served no purpose as the roof space was not used). The straight front gable was replaced with a curved one resembling the end-gables and a new window inserted to match the dormers. The notable pillars of the werf wall were probably installed at this time and possibly even the bell-tower which had similar decorative panels. (Fransen and Cook 1965:62, Fagan 1979:2, 9).

** 1911-1932

Maria Magdalena Johanna Watermeyer

She inherited a third of Andries Pieter Watermeyer's [qv] half of the Jonkershoek farm in 1911 and all of Godfrey Watermeyer's [qv] half in 1921 which she owned till it passed into public ownership in 1932. Fagan mentions that she continued to have occupational rights after that (Fransen and Cook 1965:62, Fagan 1979:2, 9).
c1892-c1940s

Adam Adams

Prior to 1937, the curator of Jonkershoek Trout Hatchery's 'sole assistant was the elderly factotum, Adam Adams who had worked at the hatchery since the early days. He was a gentle endearing character who claimed descent from slaves imported from Mozambique. ... He was succeeded by his son-in-law John Sebastians who rose to the post of general handyman.' (Hey 1995:50-1).

** 1907-c1943

FG Chaplin

Curator of Jonkershoek Trout Hatchery 1907-37. Hey 1995:48-50 writes, 'An Englishman through and through, who was appointed to Jonkershoek Hatchery in 1907 after a short spell at the Pirie Trout Hatchery, where he met his wife. He improved the hatchery considerably by enlarging many of the ponds and devising a new system of raceways with waterfalls and rapids ... Over the course of the next thirty years, he landscaped the hatchery grounds with flowering tress and shrubs, lawns and pathways and planted the embankments and margins of the ponds with violets, wall flowers, ferns and lilies which provided colourful displays throughout the year. The Jonkershoek hatchery became one of the major tourist attractions of Stellenbosch ... Mr Chaplin was a skilled and innovative technical man [with] a great deal of practical knowledge of carpentry and mechanics ... [He] enlarged my vocabulary for Mr Chaplin could give a remarkable personification of 'hopping mad' when [work] was not being done to his satisfaction'. When Douglas Hey was promoted to Curator, Chaplin, 'by then well beyond retirement age, was retained as assistant curator thus creating a difficult situation for us both.' (Hey 1995:48-50).

** Unknown dates

Prof Christiaan Lodewyk Wicht

Chief Forest Research Officer, Department of Forestry, 1940s (Hey 1995:57). A memorial plaque to him in the front werf

of Jonkershoek reads, under his name (in both languages): '1908-1978. Pioneer in forest hydrology, ecology and conservation research. Teacher of forest science. Founder of this research station.' A smaller plaque to his wife reads: 'Margaret Lucy Wicht, 1910-1990'. [Activities should be researched and recorded.]

** 1937-1979

Douglas Hey

Born 1914. Appointed assistant curator of Jonkershoek trout hatchery in 1937 and curator in 1941, he changed the public appreciation of nature conservation in the 1950s, '60s and '70s -- along with his own 'awakening awareness' about the wise use and protection of nature. He travelled widely addressing groups of farmers and the public. He had the 'common touch' and brilliantly exploited the media: in the 1960s and 1970s hardly a week went by without the SABC regional service mentioning his work. His catchy phrase 'keep our roadsides bright with flowers', at a time when overpicking had drastically reduced the display, resulted in a change in public attitudes. His powers of persuasion resulted in the legal protection of most birds. In 1977 Die Burger newspaper ran a cartoon celebrating 25 years of the Department of Nature Conservation: Hey's face was shown carved out of Jonkersberg Twin Peaks. 'For several decades, Dr Hey was the department and the department was Dr Hey'. He retired in 1979. (W Roy Siegfried, foreword to Hey 1995)

Associated Events

References

Deeds Office transfers
Deeds Office summary folios
Hey 1995
Fransen and Cook 1980: 156-8.
Fransen, in Smuts ed 1979:142
Fransen 1993:131
De Bosdari 1953:62-3
Fransen 2004:198-9
1902 Brink Map CA M2-409 shows location of grants
1938 aerial photograph.
1980 orthophoto
2000 aerial photograph.
1986 Neil Sutherland
1950 Lockley
1832 D'Oyly
Re 'bird sanctuary' Cape Archives ACLT 441-17375-1932
See also sources specified under 'People'

Assessment

Significance Statement

See modern properties

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

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