

BINNETUIN PARK

STELLENBOSCH

SPATIAL NETWORK OF GARDENS SOUTH AND WEST OF THE BRAAK

HERITAGE STUDY

For the Municipality of Stellenbosch

April 2005



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BINNETUIN PARK, STELLENBOSCH: HERITAGE STUDY

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Cover: View of Rhenish Parsonage front lawn, 2004

INTRODUCTION

THE VISION OF A "SENTRALE BINNEPARK"

When Voorgelegen was faced with demolition in the 1970s, one of the people who vigorously opposed that was Prof Francois Smuts who was then an active member of the National Monuments Council, the forerunner of SAHRA and Heritage Western Cape. In addition to coolly describing and evaluating Voorgelegen, so that informed and wise decisions could be made about its future, he also had an inspired insight into the significance of the inner gardens of Stellenbosch – and their potential as heritage places.

The eventual 1977 declaration drew attention to this: “the old-world garden with its tranquil atmosphere, which is partly due to the mill-stream, is an aesthetic gem which fits in with the unique group of properties surrounding Voorgelegen” such as the Rhenish Complex.

During the heated debate about demolition vs declaration, Smuts set out his vision of what he called a “Binnepark” – which was realised when the Municipality bought the land and the pedestrian network was linked with the already restored Lutheran complex. In August 1976 Smuts wrote:

“Die [NMC] Raad voel sterk dat hierdie stuk grond as oop ruimte en as tipiese outydse tuin, saam met die historiese geboue bewaar moet word en dat dit eventueel inskakel behoort te word in ‘n **sentrale binnepark**. Die elemente van so ‘n binnepark bestaan reeds, naamlik die gronde van die Rynse Komplex ... Mnr Johnman se eiendom wat ‘n groot stuk outydse tuin bevat ... [die] grond van Ou Rynse Kosskool en die stuk grond begrens deur die Kunssentrum/Rynse Kerk/ou meulterrein/Ou Gimnasium en Voorgelegen. So ‘n binnepark in die historiese kern van Stellenbosch is potensieel van ongeëwenaarde skoonheid wat binne dekades onkoopbaar sal wees maar nou nog behou kan word.” (SAHRA Voorgelegen file).

THE STUDY

This is a heritage study of the principal elements of that park: the spatial network of "binnetuine" (inner gardens) which are threaded along the mill stream to the south and west of the Braak, and the buildings associated with them.

The study arises from the Municipality of Stellenbosch's ongoing Conservation and Development Programme. From the early stages of this programme these green spaces were identified as very significant components of the historical core of Stellenbosch (Stellenbosch Conservation Strategy: Development Guidelines, KrugerRoos, 1998) and part of a key precinct incorporating the Braak, Dorp Street and linkages to the Eerste River. An Urban Design Framework for the Braak itself, incorporating a historical study, was undertaken in 1997 (KrugerRoos, 1997) and some urban design improvements were undertaken around the southern end of the Braak as a consequence.

This heritage study is part of the Stellenbosch Spatial Linkages project (KrugerRoos, 2003/4, and continuing to date), which is an exploration of the ways that the town can develop and enhance key public spaces and precincts and link them together in a network of pedestrian routes, thus improving access to the historical core – and enjoyment of its facilities and amenities – by residents and visitors.

The initial focus of the study was the Voorgelegen garden, described above by Prof Smuts. It soon became clear to us, however, that the opportunities for linking Voorgelegen's "binnetuin" into the broader system of Spatial Linkages could only be properly understood (and realised) if it was seen as part of the system of gardens and spaces around it – as Prof Smuts recognised nearly 30 years ago. The study area was therefore expanded to include key gardens and open spaces around Voorgelegen, including the Old Mill garden, Rynse Hoek and the Rhenish Institute. The site is perceived as a linear park, which we have called Binnetuin Park – a series of green "rooms" and courtyards tucked behind and around historical buildings and urban landscapes. It is linked together by paths and gates through ancient walls, and by the winding thread of the mill stream.

This heritage study identifies the various cultural and environmental values on and around the site, and is the essential foundational component to inform and guide development in this sensitive area, and to ensure that it benefits and enriches the Historical Core as a whole. It is one in a series of

urban heritage studies in Stellenbosch in which our aim is to contribute insights into how the places that people made in the past can be understood, cherished and enjoyed, while also being incorporated meaningfully into the present and future activities of a vibrant, developing town. This understanding of heritage may confirm or refute planners' instincts, establish fixes that enrich urban design, reveal additional opportunities for development and show how lost meaning can be invoked. Previous studies include the Stadshuis urban block (between Plein, Ryneveld, Victoria and Andringa Streets), the Bloemhof site (between Plein Street, Ryneveld Street, the University and the Botanical Garden), and the Ou Kerkhof urban block (between Plein, Ryneveld, Church and Andringa Streets).

BRIEF

The heritage study is in the form of a report, with illustrations and maps, and includes:

- an analysis of the historical patterns and characteristics of the surroundings;
- the historical evolution of the precinct on a place-by-place basis,
- the identification and mapping of heritage resources and features on and around the site,
- investigation and explication of their essential character and qualities, heritage values and significance (in accordance with the criteria set out in the National Heritage Resources Act) through on-site inspection and archival research.

A key part of the report is the identification of clear and explicit “development indicators” arising from the heritage qualities and values, which will usefully inform conceptual and design proposals.

Examples of development indicators are the identification of those physical features that should be retained and restored, those which may be altered or removed without negatively affecting heritage values; and guidelines about appropriate siting, scale, form, landscaping, etc, to ensure that any new development is positively integrated with its context and that any negative impacts are minimized.

The work of the heritage consultants frequently reveals particular development opportunities arising directly (or through creative “visioning”) from heritage values and qualities – which are regarded as an especially rewarding part of their participation in projects such as this.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks are due to Bernabé de la Bat of the Department of Economic Development Services, Municipality of Stellenbosch, Martin Kruger and Vinita Dhume of KrugerRoos, Bridget Horner of Space Syntax Consultancy, staff at the Cape Archives and at South African Heritage Resources Agency, particularly Jane Ayres and David Hart.

METHODOLOGY OF HERITAGE ASSESSMENT

Each place is methodically discussed under the headings below.

Description

History

Heritage values and significance

Design and development indicators

Heritage Assessment

The assessment of heritage values uses the following categories of significance (from S. 3(3) of the National Heritage Resources Act).

Historical pattern

Importance in the course or pattern of South Africa's history – the sweep of history (e.g. associated with important events or developments).

Social history.

Strong or special association with life or work of a person, group, organisation of importance in SA's history.

Slave history

A site of significance relating to the history of slavery in SA.

Cultural and spiritual

Has a strong or special social, cultural or spiritual association with a particular community or cultural group.

Aesthetic eg architectural

Exhibits particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group.

Innovation

Demonstrates a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period.

Rarity

Possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of SA's natural or cultural heritage.

Typicality

Demonstrates principal characteristics of a particular class of SA's natural or cultural places or objects (e.g. is a good example of a type of building or place).

Information potential eg archaeology

Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of SA's natural or cultural heritage (archaeology, study of the building fabric, spatial arrangements and alignments, palaeontology, geology, patterns of flora and fauna, etc, may provide currently hidden information which is not immediately accessible).

NAMING OF PARTS

Generally well-known names are associated with the pedestrian network through and around the inner gardens of the area south west of the Braak: Vorgelegen, the Rhenish Parsonage and so on. The map below shows the significant parts in the study area, which we have called “Binnetuin Park”. We have given names to a few other places in order to keep the text as compact as possible. We have called the carpark behind Checkers “The Old Mill garden” and the lateral building at the north end of the Rhenish Parsonage is called “Long House”.



Naming of parts North is top. Study area is white

CONTEXT AND LOCATION

CONTEXT AND LOCATION

Location of the Binnetuine

The site is embedded in the historical village, and is part of the centre of Stellenbosch town. The gardens occupy the inner part of a large block which wraps around the south and south-west sides of the Braak, the "village green" of Stellenbosch, with its two churches.

Eastward is the oldest part of the village, with very small blocks, narrow streets and a tight-grained fabric focussed on the Moederkerk. To the south is Dorp Street, the old wagon road to the Cape and the historical "spine" of the village, with its characteristic oaks and white-walled buildings. Further south is the Eerste River, a ribbon of green space which forms a natural edge to the village.

Westward, the village fabric continues but generally has a somewhat looser grain and lower density than the oldest part.

Immediately to the north is Market Street and the Kruithuis (Arsenal) on Markplein. This is part of the most direct pedestrian route between the station and the town, and also houses the Tourist Information centre.

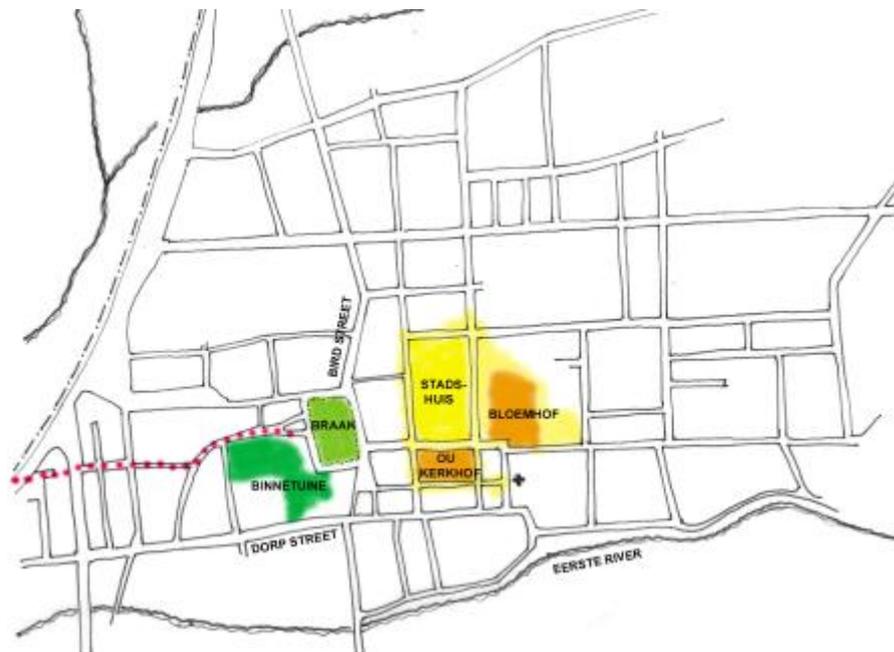


Diagram showing location of the Binnetuine in the town grid and in relation to the Braak (light green), the pedestrian route to the station (pink dots) and previous heritage studies in this series: the Stadshuis block heritage study was completed as part of the Spatial Linkages project (yellow) and there are prior heritage studies of the Bloemhof site and the Ou Kerkhof urban block (orange, with extent of context studies in a paler shade).

Access to parks in the historical core

Because of their central location, the Binnetuine are very accessible from other parts of the historical core, and are within easy walking distance of the station (under 1 km). The main points of entry are from the Braak, via the Old Mill garden (Checkers parking area), and from Market Street via the grounds of the Lutheran Parsonage. The lack of access from Dorp Street is one of the issues specifically addressed by the Spatial Linkages project and considered in this study.

As we are considering a park environment in a "museum" district, vehicular access is not as crucial as it would be if other uses were in question. The parking area in the garden of the (demolished) old mill, which is one of the binnetuine studied here, is easily accessible and very central. Traffic congestion is a problem in the historical core, and local authority policy is to progressively try to reduce traffic in the narrow streets and promote pedestrian-friendliness.

Note that although the Binnetuine are very close to the Braak, which is also a public green space, they are quite different in character and use. The Braak does not function as the kind of urban park which provides relief from the bustle around it; it is essentially a field with an edge of trees and parking, crossed by pedestrian short cuts and surrounded by roads. It is too open and exposed to surrounding traffic to be a quiet and restful oasis, and users tend not to linger on its open lawns. The other principal public green spaces are at some distance from the centre (see diagram overleaf) and are also not easily accessible "public parks" in the sense we are discussing. The van der Stel sports fields to the north operate essentially as a private sports club. The Eerste River has great potential, but is also at some distance from the shops and offices of the centre. Jan Marais Park is too far to be easily accessible on foot. The Voorgelegen garden is the only quiet, secluded green "park" of its kind

in the Stellenbosch historical core. The only comparable place is the University's Botanical Gardens, east of the Bloemhof site, which has a popular outdoor tea room.



The Voorgelegen/Rhenish block in context (KrugerRoos, 1998, from Louw and Kruger, 1995)

Block Characteristics

The block on which the site is situated is very large in relation to the village blocks to the east of it. For this reason, the pedestrian links through it are important. Without pedestrian permeability, the block would be a barrier to free movement – and in the case of Dorp Street, to the south, this is indeed the case: there are no northward links on Dorp Street between Herte Street and Bird Street, which is a fair distance on foot.

Vehicles are largely limited to the perimeter of the block, only penetrating at Schreuder Street cul-de-sac, off Herte Street, and the Old Mill garden parking area (apart from access to private properties); there are no through-routes. The inner part of the block is consequently secluded and tranquil, shielded from the traffic in the busy streets around it.

The northern part of the block is occupied predominantly by the various components of the historical Rhenish Complex, associated with the Rhenish Church on the Braak. The freed slave cottages facing the Parsonage across Herte Street reinforce the important slave history theme of the Rhenish Complex. The Rhenish Parsonage is used as a toy museum and the building and grounds are open to the public, but other parts of the complex such as the School and Institute are not freely accessible.

The Tourist Information Centre in Market Street is an important visitor destination, from which many tourists start exploring the town. Most head for the Kruithuis and the Braak. Those who find themselves at the Rhenish Parsonage may discover the link to Voorgelegen garden by accident (by following the mill stream or a local who is walking purposefully), but the link is not very clear at present and there is no directional signage. We encountered groups of tourists in the Voorgelegen binnetuin looking happily confused, admiring the garden while peering at their maps to try to work out where they were. The mill stream can be followed upstream, southwards from Market Street into the heart of the block before turning to continue eastward to Meulplein. It is a very important linear element which connects the green spaces at the centre of the block.

The south western quadrant of the block is predominantly residential in character: a mix of villas and infill flats behind the elegant buildings of Dorp Street.

The portion of Dorp Street edging the block on the south is particularly fine: noble and elegant buildings shaded by large oaks form a streetscape of strong character. This serene grouping comes to a somewhat ignominious end near Mill Street, where the activity associated with Checkers delivery yard – large trucks frequently hold up the traffic as they reverse out or in, while others idle in a cloud of fumes as they wait their turn – is disruptive and intrusive. At the Mill Street/ Piet Retief Street intersection the dignity and strong linearity of Dorp Street is broken down by modern traffic engineering – a fried-egg traffic circle and traffic island with historically uncharacteristic landscaping.

The south east corner of the block is occupied by the Checkers shopping complex, a large building with a massing uncharacteristic of the historical core (but very similar to the massing of buildings in the "commercial citadel" between Bird Street and Andringa Street). For the purposes of pedestrian spatial linkages, it is redeemed by the T-shaped mall that connects through it from the Mill Garden parking area to Meulplein in the east and Dorp Street in the south.

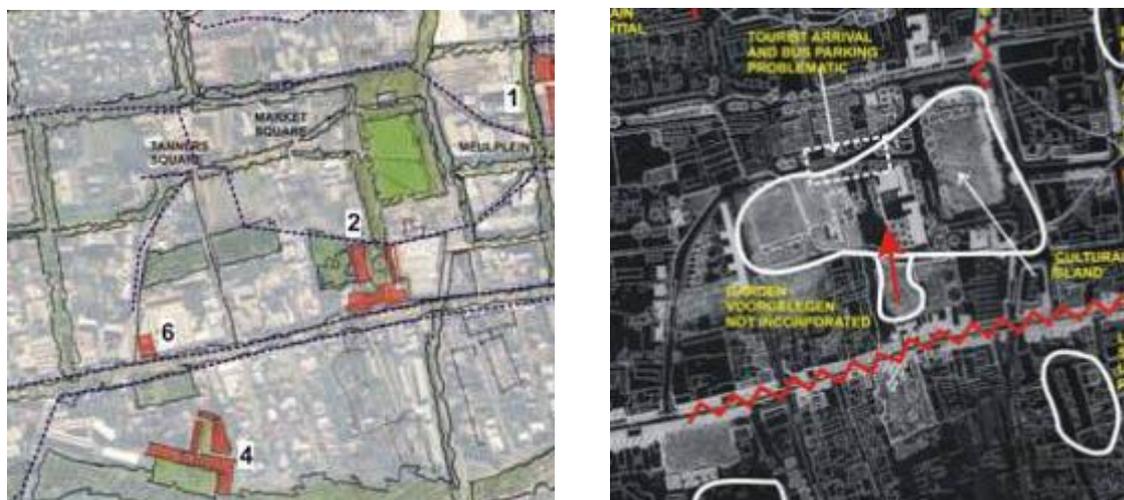
Policy context

The site is in the Historical Core of Stellenbosch. It was identified in the *Stellenbosch Conservation Strategy: Development Guidelines* by KrugerRoos (1997) as being a significant public green space which is part of two Key Precincts that require detailed Urban Design Frameworks "to facilitate proactive development, enhance the context of the conservation area, and provide opportunities for both public and private investment" (p. 26). These are Bergzicht/the Braak and the Dorp Street/Eerste River precincts.

More recently, the Spatial Linkages project (KrugerRoos, 2003/4) analysed *inter alia* the primary pedestrian linkages in the town in relation to the main transport nodes, available and possible future parking areas, and patterns of land use and land ownership, in order to identify key sites where appropriate development of publicly owned land could "unlock" development potential and enhance the network of spatial linkages in the town (see selected diagrams below).



One of the key sites identified was Vorgelegen garden (No. 2 on the diagram below left): the analysis shows that it is part of the existing network of east-west spatial linkages, but with potential to improve connections north-south (to Dorp Street and thence to the Eerste River); and that it is part of an area of important cultural institutions, but not well integrated with it (below right).



Conceptual proposals for Voorgelegen in the first phase of the Spatial Linkages project included

- improving pedestrian linkages by opening a path through the garden to Dorp Street: this would not only make the garden itself more accessible and better used, but would also improve linkages between Dorp Street and the Braak and make the important group of buildings along this part of Dorp Street (including La Gratitude) much more easily accessible to tourists; it would also improve access to the Eerste River to the south – with the potential long-term benefit of linking the river more effectively into the network of green spaces in the town;
- transforming the Mill Garden (known as Checkers car park but apparently owned by the Municipality) into an urban square (still accommodating some parking) linked to a series of pedestrian-oriented urban spaces around the Braak, in front of the Rhenish Church and Rhenish Institute, and including Meulplein;
- the development of a cultural facility such as a library or art gallery along the edge of the new Mill Garden square, adjacent to and overlooking the Voorgelegen garden; conceptual sketches show a light, airy but robust structure.



It is the purpose of this heritage study to provide the essential historical and qualitative cultural foundation to test these proposals, and to provide additional insights and heritage-based guidelines to enable the Municipality's planners and urban designers to prepare an urban design framework for the Binnetuin precinct.

GENERAL DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT INDICATORS

GENERAL DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT INDICATORS

- **We recommend that the Municipality of Stellenbosch establishes a public park on this urban block, consisting of the publicly-owned inner gardens and courts, linked by a pedestrian route and incorporating the mill stream.** Most of the components of such a public park are already in place, and it already forms part of the pedestrian network. The spaces which are initially to be included in the park are: the grounds of the Rhenish Parsonage, Voorgelegen garden and the Old Mill garden (Checkers car park). The formal designation of these spaces as a park, and the introduction of a policy to promote and develop it, is recommended. We suggest that the name "**Binnetuin Park**" is appropriate to establish its special identity in the public mind. The establishment of the park would extend and enrich an existing theme in Stellenbosch: the penetration of pedestrian routes into and through the inner spaces of the urban blocks, as in the Stellenbosch Museum from Ryneveld to Drostdy Street, the Ou Kerkhof development, and the potential development of the Bloemhof and Stadshuis blocks (as outlined in previous studies). As the trend towards densification and intensification of use in the Historical Core continues, the need for an easily accessible, central park for relief and passive recreation will increase. The Binnetuin Park is ideally located to serve this purpose, and will be a great asset to the quality of life of inner city residents, workers and visitors.
 - The park should not be regarded as a homogenous entity, but as a series of linked spaces, each of which has a different history, identity and character. This variety is a positive characteristic of the park and should be recognised and enhanced.
 - The identity of the park should be strengthened and enhanced by the introduction of an appropriate "park language" of signage and furniture (lighting, benches, bins, etc.) in all the linked spaces. However, the introduction of these common elements should not overwhelm the special character of each of the various spaces or result in standardisation of elements which are particular to specific spaces (such as the different kinds of paths, the various bridges over the mill stream, the different materials and construction along the length of the mill stream, and differing planting patterns and layouts in the gardens).
 - In other projects we have recommended that pedestrian routes and self-guided walking trails be introduced along the routes of the mill stream. The portion of the mill stream in the Binnetuin (and through to the site of the old mill off Meulplein) would be a most appropriate place for a pilot project as the design of a "language" for the mill stream pedestrian network could be co-ordinated with the design of an identity for the park and spatial linkages network. See page 33.
 - Directional signage for the circulation routes through the park should not be too aggressive, which would take away some of the excitement of exploration and discovery. The provision of simple, stylised maps at the main entrances to the park would be appropriate, similar to the one in the Mill Garden car park that shows the way to the Toy Museum (shown alongside).
- 
- The creation of the proposed pedestrian link through the Voorgelegen garden to Dorp Street is strongly recommended as a short term project that should be undertaken immediately. This would considerably extend the pedestrian network, enhance the movement patterns of residents and enrich the experience of tourists by improving the link between Dorp Street and the attractions around the Braak. It would enable tourists who start from Oom Samie se Winkel or the Tourist Information centre to return to their coach in a loop. It would also increase the accessibility of the Voorgelegen garden and encourage more people to use the proposed park for passive recreation. See further indicators on page 37.
 - There are also opportunities to extend the pedestrian network by clarifying the existing link from the rear of the Rhenish Parsonage to the Leipoldt House courtyard (see page 51). Although not

likely to become a main route, this link is useful for tourists examining historical buildings and as a short cut to Market Square.

- Wherever possible a positive relationship should be established between the buildings alongside the Binnetuine and the park itself, as is presently the case with the toy museum in the Rhenish Parsonage. This is particularly strongly indicated for the rear of Voorgelegen House, which we understand is to house a museum, and the garden which historically belonged to it. See further discussion on page 38. The relationship of the Checkers mall building to its car park in the Old Mill garden should also be improved. See page 44. In the longer term, similar options should be explored with regard to other buildings such as the Gymnasium and the Rhenish Institute.
- The possibility of incorporating at least part of the Rhenish Institute garden into the pedestrian route network should be explored as a longer term option. See the place studies on page 62.
- The scar in the middle of this series of sylvan spaces is the garden of the Old Mill, currently used as Checkers carpark. An urban design is required to improve this space and integrate it into the pedestrian network and park. We recommend that it continues to accommodate parking, but support proposals to transform it into a positive space. It should be a multi-purpose place with a character that combines and harmonises "garden" elements (reflecting its historical use as the binnetuin of the mill, its location next to the Voorgelegen binnetuin, and the existing pedestrian link and mill stream along its northern edge) and its present "urban" functions. Recommendations in the place studies include planting trees with a low, spreading canopy so that the impression is transformed: from being a parking lot with a few trees, to being a grove of trees with parking under them. See page 43.
- We have strong reservations about the concept proposal for a new building on the Checkers carpark alongside Voorgelegen garden. Historically, this was the garden of the Old Mill and it has always been an open space, separated from the Voorgelegen garden alongside only by a low wall, over which the canopies of the two gardens flowed and combined. In addition, one of our recommendations in the Stadshuis heritage study was that "civic" functions such as the town library should be consolidated in the area around the Town Hall, in order to strengthen the image and function of that precinct. See page 38.
- Slave route markers. We have suggested elsewhere that lost slave history needs to be deliberately invoked, and have proposed a trail of paving stones through Stellenbosch (see the Stadshuis Heritage Study, 2004). One of its important moments is at the Rhenish Church, especially at the Meulplein end which was the original entrance and where a redesigned square is proposed. The school was probably in the rear quarters of the Parsonage, also a neighbourhood worth marking. Another part of the area strongly associated with "Free Blacks" is Herte Street, where they occupied the row of cottages soon after emancipation, from at least 1866.
- Throughout the properties there are places with archaeological potential. When work is proposed these should be examined and interpreted but otherwise should remain undisturbed.
- See place studies for detailed requirements and opportunities, e.g. the terrace behind the Rhenish Institute, its swimming pool area, and the possible use of its outbuilding for a coffee shop.
- Further design and development indicators for specific parts of the precinct are in the place studies that follow.

IMAGES OF TIME

In this section we fly into Stellenbosch from Papegaaiberg, sweep through time in a series of maps and views taken between 1785 and 1998.

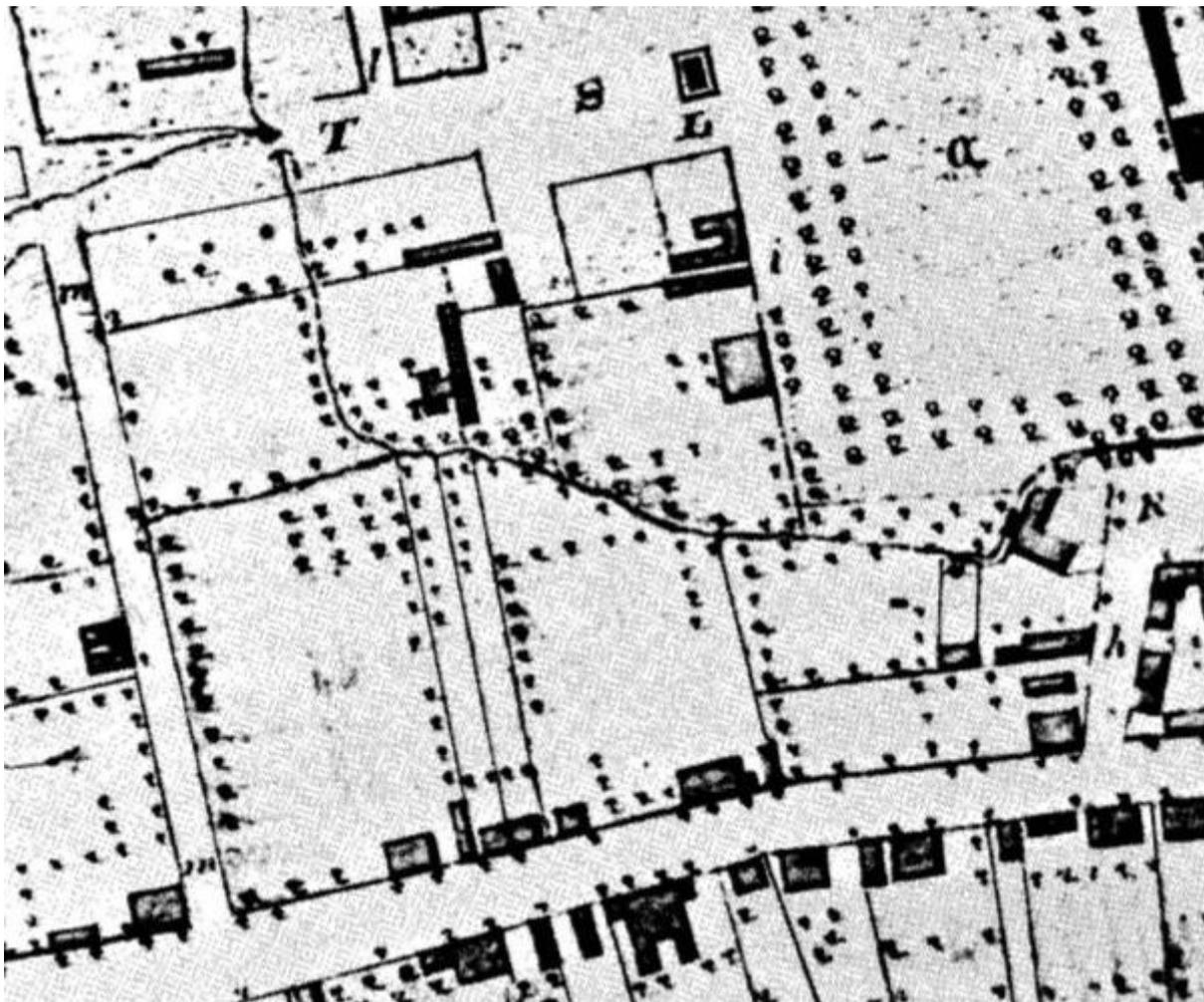
- 1785** Schumacher panorama
- 1817** Hertzog map
- c1822** Kuys map
- 1859** Hager map
- 1860** Stellenbosch at its most picturesque
- c1880** Naude photograph
- 1905** Panorama from Papegaaiberg
- 1905** Map reconstructed by Hans Fransen
- c1908** TD Ravenscroft panorama
- 1950** Lockley aero photo
- c1960** Municipal Survey
- 1998** Conservation Survey
- 2005** Proposed spatial network

1785 Schumacher panorama from Papegaaienberg



Upper L shaped building is the 1750 mill, with millstream flowing in foreground. The building in front of it is thought to be Kronlein House (site of Rhenish School) with the core of the Rhenish Parsonage on its right. The fields behind the Parsonage include Voorgelegen (olive colour) and the Old Mill garden now Checkers carpark. (Illustration from Smuts ed 1979:56).

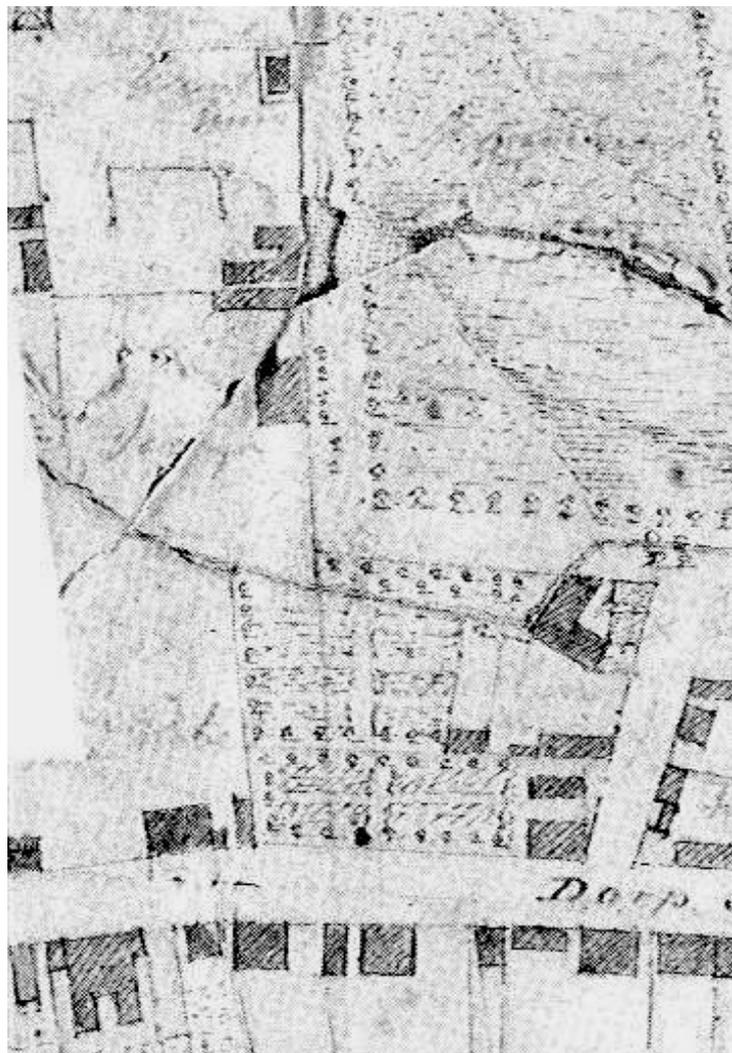
1817 Hertzog map



“a” is the Braak. Left (west) of it L is the Powder Magazine. Below it (south) is the U-shaped Kronlein house and outbuilding. Below that is the core of the Rhenish Institute. To the left is a cluster of buildings. Rhenish Parsonage is an exaggerated H-shape with the front short and the rear buildings long. The enclosure behind it is probably its werf. The short building above is Leipoldt House and the long building above that is the Victorian double storey (not yet raised) and Long House. Cranking across the middle of the map is the millstream, coming from the L shaped mill W with N Meul Plein on its right. At the bottom of the map is Dorp Street. At the crank in the street is Vorgelegen (block shaped but actually an H) with its outbuilding, and left of it is Merweda. The wedge shaped property reaches northwards to the millstream. Very many of the property boundaries shown had walls on them which exist today. (Map from Stellenbosch 300 1974:6).

1822 Kuys map

Note that the Kuys map is uncertainly dated – but the Rhenish Church is not shown. It was built in 1823 so the map must be before that.



Left hand side of map not completely drawn by Kuys. (Map from Smuts ed 1979:54).

1860 Stellenbosch at its most picturesque
from *Stellenbosch, Ons Oudste Dorp, Our Oldest Village*
Stellenbosch 300 Action 1974

- 28 Mill, Nieuwe Molen
- 29 Rhenish Church and corner of Braak
- 38 Kruithuis, Powder Magazine
- 39 Kronlein House
- 40 Dwelling, later Rhenish Institute
- 41 Leipoldt House
- 42 Rhenish Parsonage
- 43 Voorgelegen
- 44 La Gratitude



c1880 Naude photograph from Papegaaiberg



From the left: Powder Magazine, Kronlein House and neighbour (site of Rhenish School). The long white building right of that is Rhenish Institute (the Rhenish Church above it). Below Rhenish Institute is the cluster buildings forming the Rhenish Complex with the gabled Parsonage the rightmost. Voorgelegen garden is above the Parsonage stretching right to Dorp Street on the right. (Illustration from Smuts ed 1979:97, 99).

1905 Panorama from Papegaaiberg



From the left: Powder Magazine, newly-built Rhenish School. In the centre of the picture is Rhenish Parsonage without gables. Voorgelegen garden is above the Parsonage stretching right to Dorp Street on the right. (Illustration from Smuts ed 1979:99).

1905 map reconstructed by Hans Fransen



Map reconstructed by Hans Fransen from the 1905 panorama and other contemporary records. Hatched buildings are double storey. (From Smuts ed 1979:100).

After 1908 TD Ravenscroft panorama



Courtesy Cape Archives CA AG1077.

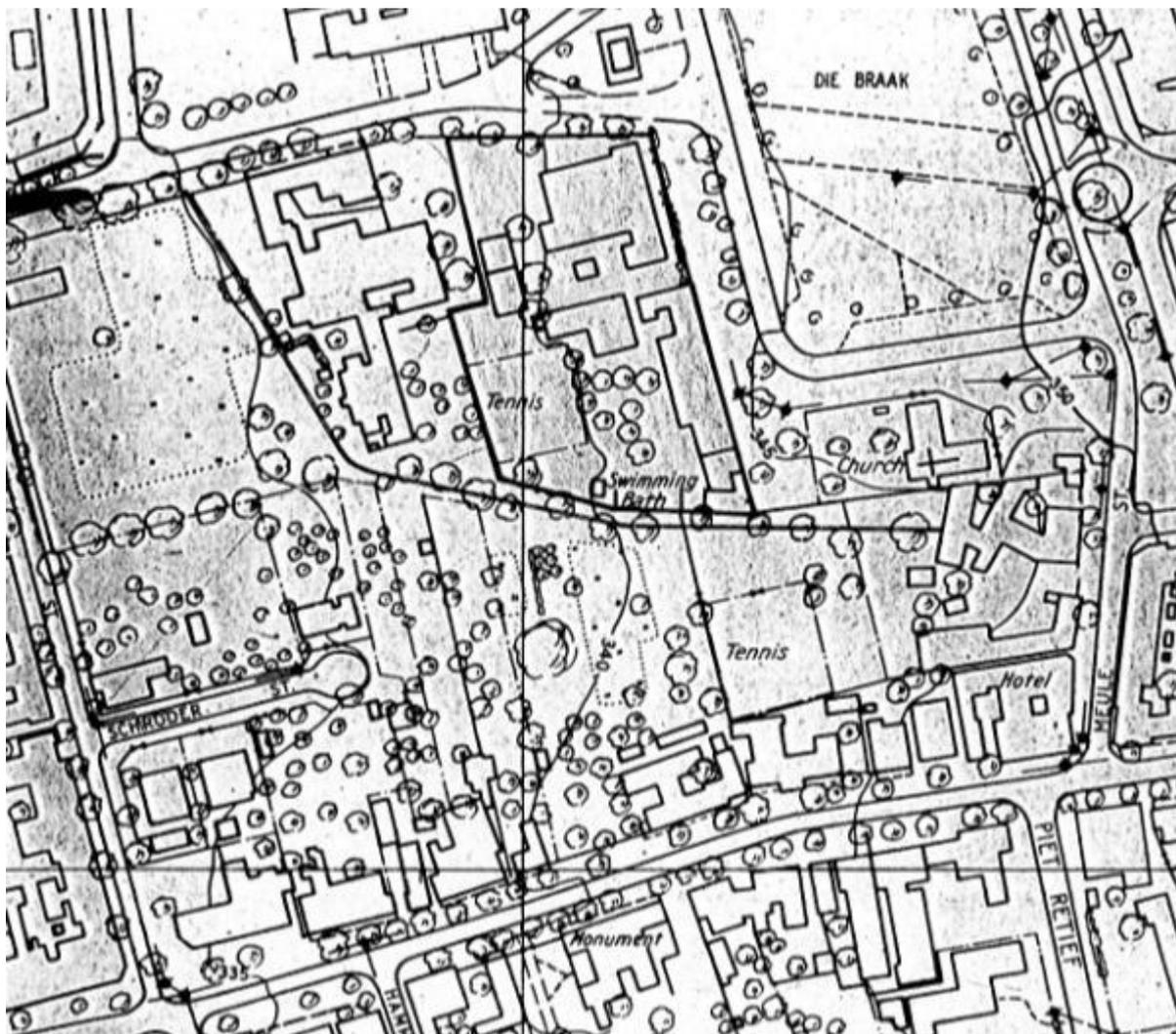
1950 Lockley aero photo



Aerial photograph Studio Lockley from Smuts ed 1979:106-7.

The first subdivision has occurred in the hitherto uninterrupted swathe of green gardens and a building has appeared – the house at the end of Schroder Street cul-de-sac.

c1960 Municipal Survey



Map believed to be c1960 from SAHRA Rhenish Institute file.

1998 Conservation Survey



KrugerRoos, *Stellenbosch Conservation Survey*, 1998. (Base map drawn by Dennis Moss, date unknown, probably 1980s).

Further subdivision and infill of apartment buildings has occurred in the gardens along the west edge of Voorgelegen. To the east, a large commercial building and supermarket on the corner of Dorp Street and Bird Street occupies the sites of the mill and hotel. The Rhenish Parsonage complex has been restored.

Proposed 2004



KrugerRoos Spatial Linkages study. 2003/4

The proposal is to strengthen pedestrian linkages through the Voorgelegen garden by re-opening an access route through the lane to Dorp Street, and to animate the garden by the construction of a cultural facility – a library or art gallery – along the western edge of an improved urban square on the Old Mill garden (Checkers car park).

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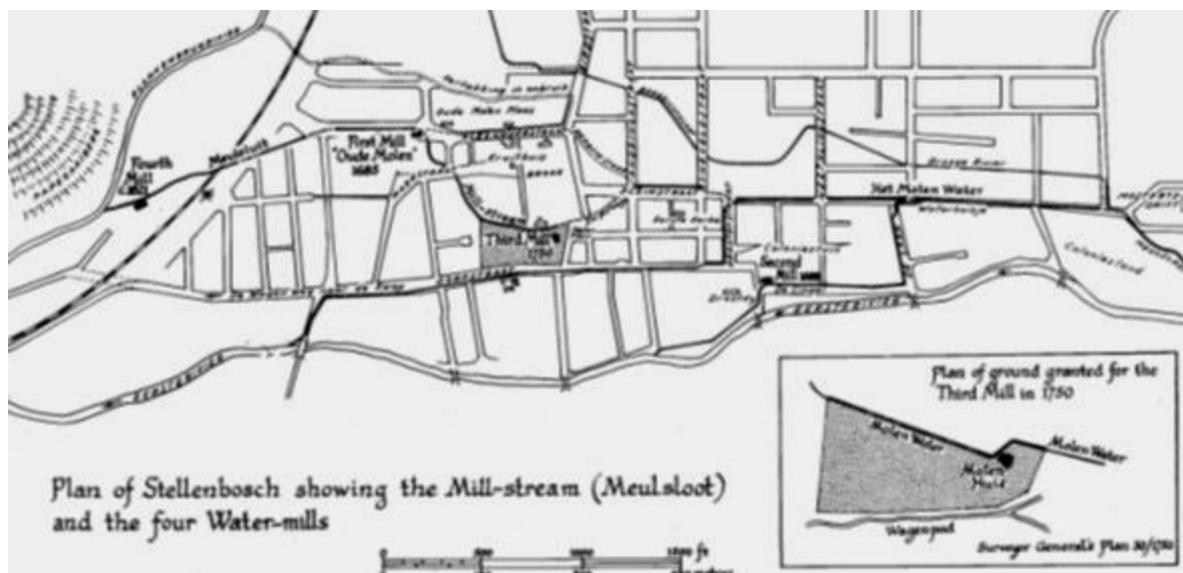
MILLSTREAM

MILLSTREAM

The millstream runs through and connects the three binnetuine which we propose should be regarded as a public park – the Old Mill garden carpark, Voorgelegen and the Rhenish Parsonage grounds. It has a different character in each of the spaces, but is also a very strong and characterful linking element.

Description

The mill was on the site of Checkers supermarket (see page 73). Though the mill is gone, the millstream still runs in a curve across Meul Plein to the Mill site, then in a dank channel between the supermarket and the rear of the Rhenish Church. At the carpark it cranks along the rear façade of the supermarket, hidden behind a high wall. It emerges for a short stretch, runs underground, and emerges to run in a pebble-lined channel along the north edge of the Old Mill garden carpark and Voorgelegen garden. It then enters the Rhenish complex where it runs down the south side of the Parsonage, then curves in front of the Parsonage to connect eventually to Alexander Street; a secondary branch ran down the south edge of the Rhenish front lawn. More detailed descriptions of particular parts of the millstream are given, with development indicators, in the detailed place studies.



Mill-stream routes by J van Schoor, redrawn Walton 1974:42

History

A millstream down Plein Street was established in 1685 to feed the Oude Molen in Alexander Street. In 1750 a new mill was built on the south edge of the Braak and a branch of the millstream taken down (later) Mill Lane. From the mill the stream ran on in a number of routes to irrigate farmland and provide drinking water. The construction of the millstream has changed several times during its existence. In the centre of town it was reconstructed in river pebbles with straight sides and a flat base (out of town it was simply a ditch). Old photographs show that it had raised edges next to the pavement and was regularly repaired with lime mortar. The whole length was declared a provincial heritage site in 1973. Restored in a series of building episodes, eg 1975, based on archaeological evidence but with the very visible use of cement. In the late 1970s bronze panels memorialising the millstream were erected by public subscription and placed at the junction of Plein and Van Riebeeck Streets. (Walton 1974:38-43, Hofmeyr 1975:34-6, Smuts ed 1979. See also Pistorius and Harris heritage study of Bloemhof 2003).

Values and significance

Scientific/Technical: demonstration of the manipulation of water, sluice gates, advance in agricultural methods, drove the mills.

Aesthetic: Water flowing in streetside channels is a characteristic of Stellenbosch – a piquant addition to the trees and buildings. Millstream the chief of these.

Abundant historical significance – demonstrates the origins of the settlement which, without water, would not have been possible.

Typicality: "leiwater" is a feature of many old Western Cape towns, for example Worcester, Robertson, McGregor, Prince Albert, etc.
Archaeological potential.

Design indicators

PROPOSED MILLSTREAM AND DROOGE RIVER TRAILS

During our investigation of the millstream and Drooge Rivier courses in previous studies, it became clear to us that there is great potential to develop walking trails along these urban water courses. There are two aspects to the water trails idea.

One is that the historical water channels which thread their way through the urban fabric of Stellenbosch offer particular opportunities as part the development and upgrading of a network of pedestrian linkages in the town. Walking alongside water is a particular delight.

The other is that the channels run past (and thus connect) many buildings and places that are already (or are potentially) of interest to tourists. The publication of a brochure (or brochures) with maps and information would enable the trails to be self-guided. With the addition of *in situ* interpretation boards (as at the Victoria and Alfred Waterfront, for example), what a wonderful asset the trails would be to Stellenbosch tourism!

Part of the delight of the millstream is its varied and changing character as it wends its way through Stellenbosch: formal in front of the Town Hall, urban down Mill Lane, sylvan in the Voorgelegen garden, rural through the Rhenish Complex.

- Do not attempt to standardise the millstream, its varied construction, or the fences and bridges associated with it (except where indicated in the detailed studies to follow).
- We have suggested that discreet directional signage be provided to help people follow the paths which form part of the spatial linkages network through the park. Simple, stylised maps at key entry points would help to emphasise the role of the millstream as a "pathfinder" and landmark of the binnetuine.

There are a few places where the sense of continuity and variety of the millstream breaks down, and it becomes almost incoherent. Alongside and behind Checkers is one such space. This should be a key moment for the millstream, a place where its historic function of driving the millstones is celebrated and remembered: where at the very least the water should rise up and fall back down, splashing and spilling, demonstrating its energy and power. Instead, at Meulplein it is almost lost.

- a competition should be held for the design of a fountain which expresses the work of the millstream; it should be constructed near the site of the old mill.



Possible site for the mill fountain.

Once it passes out of Meulplein the stream becomes a neglected "back" channel, sandwiched between Checkers and the church and pushed underground before emerging abruptly in the car park. See the indicators for the millstream in the Mill garden, page 45.

See also indicators affecting Voorgelegen garden (page 40), and Rhenish Complex (page 53).

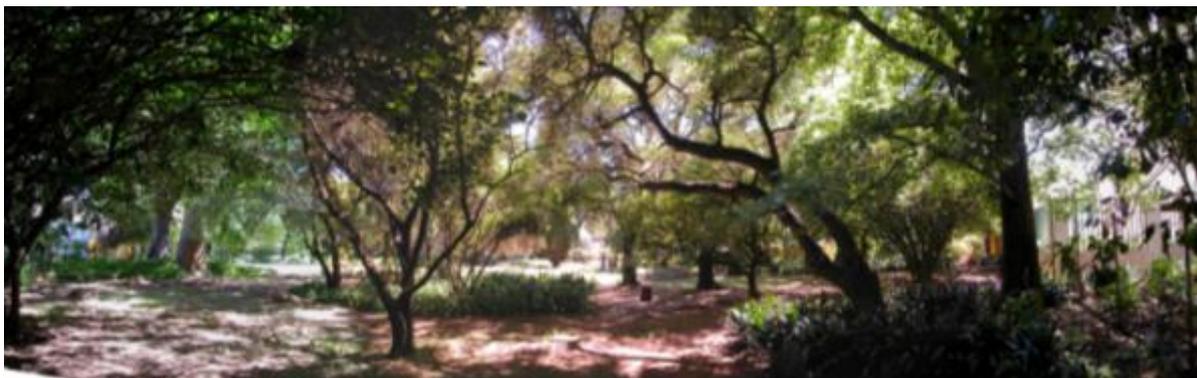
VOORGELEGEN BINNETUIN

VOORGELEGEN BINNETUIN

This garden is the heart of the network of linked paths and spaces which, together, should be recognised as a public park consisting of, and connecting the "Binnetuine" along the millstream west of the Braak.

Description

Large garden behind Voorgelegen House owned by Stellenbosch Municipality and used as a public park. The principal feature is a more or less circular lawn with a large cypress tree in the middle. Just to the south of this is a brick paved circular feature, like a herb garden but overshadowed by a tree canopy. The lawn and brick circle are surrounded by well-established trees (including a gigantic camphor of great age) and the edges of the garden are rimmed by shrubbery of varying density. There is a low wall on the east, separating it from Old Mill garden car park and another higher wall on the north behind which is Rhenish Institute garden. Here, at the bottom of a bank, the Millstream runs along the northern boundary. In the north west corner a bridge crosses the millstream, linking it to Rhenish Parsonage grounds, and nearby is an isolated bench/grotto. The eastern edge has fencing and intermittent walls: beyond it are two-storey modern buildings. On the south side of the garden runs a wire fence separating it from the house Voorgelegen (south east) and a side garden, now accommodating some parking, (south west) which has a wall on the far side and Dorp Street beyond.



History

We are used to the idea that buildings are layered objects, and that they experience a succession of building episodes. Much of their character at any one time is transitory. This is even truer of gardens where the very fabric is alive and constantly changing. The Voorgelegen garden today is quite unlike any of its previous incarnations but certain spatial fixes persist.

The essential ingredients that link these layers are the geographical form (with a bank at the north, the millstream) and the cadastrals of early grants and subdivisions which are usually reinforced by garden walls that form the frame. Trees too, with their very long lifespan, give a place-making character, and persist in a mature state for up to a century.

It is thought that this garden was made after the Municipality acquired the land c1978. The brick path that encircles the lawn and the brick paved circle have a continuity that suggests this. So does the low-maintenance character of lawn and shrubs. The Rhenish Parsonage bridge was probably made at this time as well, linking the once-private garden into a public pedestrian circulation route – something quite new in its history. There are presently proposals to extend this pedestrian spatial linkage with Dorp Street as well.



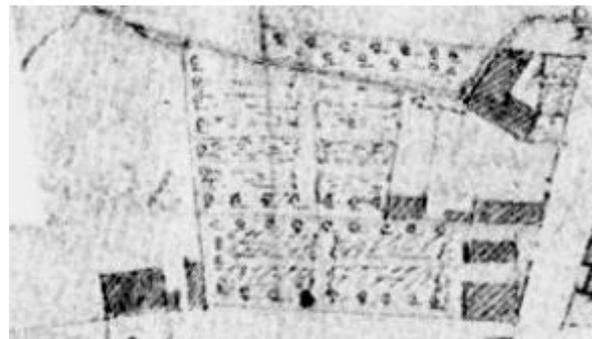
In the 1960s when the garden was in private ownership, the central lawn seems to have been in place though it was not so circular as now, and there were sundry hedges and other localised features including a bench/grotto. From the c1960 map (right) the large camphor and gum trees on the east side seem already huge. Margaret Hoskyn remembers that before 1946, “Dr Macpherson lived in a beautiful old Georgian house in Dorp Street. The large garden at the back adjoined that of the Rhenish [Institute]. It was an enchanting place; not only were there many rare and beautiful trees such as the cork oak and the camphor tree, but there was a wonderful deep maroon camellia and many exotic shrubs and flowers; the garden was particularly famous for its massive and many-hued hydrangeas. The garden also contained a miniature zoo in which intrepid little ‘Mrs Mac’, the doctor’s wife, kept a lion cub as well as lemurs, marmosets, monkeys, tortoises and snakes.” (Hoskyn 1979:30)



Late 19th century photographs taken from Papegaaiberg are indistinct and detail is hard to see. Voorgelegen garden seems to always have been clear land in the middle with a succession of large trees including many cypresses at one time. The long building in the 1905 photograph, right, is Victorianised Rhenish parsonage; Voorgelegen garden lies to the right and above it. Amid the spiked tops of the cypresses is a large round-head tree, probably the camphor.



The buildings along Dorp Street were built in the 1790s: how their rear gardens were used is not known. The Kuys map of c1822 (right) does not draw Voorgelegen garden (the extreme left building). But surrounding gardens are laid out in a cruciform pattern, and, since Voorgelegen was an H shaped building with a significant rear gable, it seems reasonable to conclude that Voorgelegen had a similar cruciform layout.



Before that, from 1750, it was part of the Nieuwe Molen land and was a large field on which crops were grown – vegetables for the owner's consumption and possibly even grain for the mill. It is identified as the olive-green field in Schumacher's 1776 drawing, right. See Voorgelegen house study, page 77, for a further history of the place.



Values and significance

Great aesthetic qualities as a quiet, secluded urban oasis and as part of spatial linkages between the Braak via the Old Mill garden carpark on the east and the Rhenish complex on the west. Unfortunately it does not presently link into Dorp Street as the garden once did.

Many of the trees are of great size and historical interest.

The garden walls along Dorp Street, alongside the Mill garden carpark, and north of the millstream are of historic interest as aesthetic objects and manifestations of the historical pattern of inner Stellenbosch. The walls are specifically mentioned in the 1977 declaration of Voorgelegen as a Provincial Heritage Site. They incorporate fabric of great age. Part of their significance (and much of their charm) derives from random patching – the patina of age.

The millstream is of great importance for similar reasons, and forms its own liquid network with other parts of Stellenbosch (see page 32).

Socially, the owners of Voorgelegen played significant roles in Stellenbosch's history, especially the succession of medical doctors who lived there: Dr Macpherson and his predecessor Dr Cornelis Smuts (see Who's Who, page 90).

There is information potential in the walling fabric, the millstream, and other archaeological artefacts may survive under ground.

It is rare to have a pedestrian route that penetrates into the back gardens of a town, and one that is such a complete linkage. In the last 20 years there have been a number of developments that link public streets through the secret inner world of back yards and gardens: the Stellenbosch museum complex that links Ryneveld Street and Drostyd Street is an outstanding example; and recent inner linkage initiatives on the Ou Kerkhof urban block is another way of doing it: but neither have the landscape softness, the sylvan qualities of the Voorgelegen spatial linkage.

The Voorgelegen binnetuin is the only quiet, secluded green "park" of its kind in the Stellenbosch historical core. The only comparable place is the University's Botanical Gardens.

Design indicators

There is a marvellous opportunity to link the garden with Dorp Street and thus extend the network of pedestrian linkages, as proposed in the KrugerRoos Spatial Linkages project (illustrated alongside). The existing circulation pattern through Voorgelegen binnetuin should be retained and the new route connected to it in a firm way. The fenced side garden of Voorgelegen should be incorporated with the binnetuin (it is unused; a smaller private area should be made adjacent to the house). On Dorp Street runs the famous old wall. At its west end is a recessed vehicle entrance to the buildings behind Merweda which also has a sliding metal gate to Voorgelegen's garden (see illustrations next page).

How should the pedestrian entry from Dorp Street be made? If the old wall is considered of such heritage value that it should not be touched, the obvious way to access the binnetuin would be from the Merweda recessed vehicle entrance. A suitable pedestrian gate would be needed in the fence. If it is thought that the Dorp Street entry to the pedestrian network needs to be firmly established spatially, an entrance with a gate would be appropriate through the old wall – sympathetically designed but undeniably modern – with an interpretation panel and map of the routes. Deconstruction of the wall must be undertaken by an archaeologist.





Dorp Street 2004. Left is Merweda, then recessed side entrance, then old wall, with Voorgelegen right



Left: Sliding gate from lane to side garden. Right: Looking from binnetuin through a gate into the side garden, beyond which is the green railing fence to the Merweda lane.

Essential character and use. Voorgelegen binnetuin is essentially a *garden* and should be retained as such. The tentative suggestion in the Spatial Linkages project to site a cultural facility (library or art gallery) along the boundary with the Mill garden car park is not considered appropriate. However light and transparent the structure, it would disturb the historical relationship between the Voorgelegen garden and the Mill garden: adjacent open spaces separated (and connected) by the ancient low wall. Though buildings are often essential parts of a landscape and form the backdrops to the Rhenish Institute and Parsonage gardens, Voorgelegen is a different experience in that spatial linkage. It is not broken: don't try and fix it. Keep it different.



The deep shrubberies around the edges of the garden effectively screen surrounding buildings and activity and contribute to its sense of peace and seclusion. Apart from some pruning of low branches across paths and perhaps the provision of some benches and bins in appropriate clearings, the edging shrubberies are appropriately soft and informal and do not require intervention.

Possible linkage of Voorgelegen house to the binnetuin. It is said that the remnants of a gable can be seen on the rear of Voorgelegen house which shows that it once connected in a meaningful way with the garden behind. We have not studied the configuration of the house or its outbuildings in detail but there may be an opportunity to reconnect it, or at least recognise the past connection through spatial relationships and visual connectivity. It is intended to convert the house into a public museum and there is the enticing possibility that it could open once again at the rear and its relationship with the garden be restored.



Security may be needed but there is the potential to remove the wire fence behind the house that cuts it off from the garden and permit visitors to enter at both ends. [The Rhenish parsonage grounds are open; security is presumably at the building.] Museum-related use of the adjacent garden (e.g. A restaurant/tea room, outdoor displays) would help to animate the binnetuin and attract visitors (as was intended with the proposed library/gallery, discussed above). Worthy of detailed study.



Remarkable trees. An inventory of trees should be made and their positions plotted and ages estimated. There are various "traditional" garden trees which may have survived from previous periods and provide clues and information about historical landscape layouts. Old specimens such as the very large, twin camphor and gum trees and the central cypress seem in good health but may require periodic maintenance. Appropriate labelling of trees would add a layer of interest for visitors.

Garden walls need tender loving care and maintenance. When they are repaired, the plaster should bridge to the original, incorporating lime in the mix, and not be unmitigated cement plaster. Dampness in their very soft fabric needs to dry out, so they should not be painted with "sealed surface" paints. The varying textures and obvious patching is part of their patina and the walls should not be stripped and replastered as has been done on the Checkers car park side of the wall.



The millstream. See page 32 for a description of the overall millstream, its character, values and design indicators. In the Voorgelegen garden it runs a little away from the path, is not visible in detail except at the bridge and adjoining the car park. Beautifully choked with water-loving indigenous and exotic planting. Treasure it, explore and enjoy. "Secret" paths made through the shrubbery to the edge of the stream would add to the enjoyment and variety of the garden.

There is presently no intention of incorporating the Rhenish Institute rear garden into the network of paths, but the opportunity exists for a link at some future time. There is the potential to make an exciting and useful link across the millstream and up a flight of stairs through the undergrowth to a new door in the high wall. Not studied further.



Small bridge. At the Rhenish Parsonage corner of the Voorgelegen garden the millstream is crossed by a small bridge. A good example of late 20th century design it is made of simple and restrained materials that are entirely at home in the ageless garden.



Near the bridge is a crazy **urban sculpture**, so rare and unusual as to be unique, its original purpose indeterminate. Perhaps it was once a pond? Semicircular surround wall about thigh height with rough cast plaster surface embedded with and topped by polished pebbles, with a gasping mask central. Plain stub end-pillars with plaster jelly moulds (melting) on top of them may indicate lost vases. Across the middle is a quarry tile platform (too low for comfortable sitting). To one side is a poorly located standard Municipal rubbish bin (cast concrete, stone chippings surface). The use of cement suggests a 20th century origin, and it is so idiosyncratic it must have been built before Municipal ownership. The Macphersons, who owned the property till 1946, had at one time a menagerie and may have been eccentric enough to have built this peculiar object.

The object is weakly located *just* off a pedestrian route, and the directional pattern of the brick paving is at odds with the axis of the sculpture. The path should be moved, the planting beds facing the sculpture should be redesigned to reflect and enhance its implied form. From the litter it is obvious that people eat here, so an adjacent rubbish bin is welcome. The present one, substantial and well-designed in itself, should be relocated centrally behind the "bench".

OLD MILL GARDEN CARPARK

East of Voorgelegen garden is a Municipal carpark, principally used by customers of Checkers supermarket. It set in a dell below the Mill stream bank, concealed by buildings, and connects to the Braak above by a steep lane.

Old Mill Garden Carpark. See page 42.



Link to the Braak. See page 47.



OLD MILL GARDEN CARPARK

Description

A convenient, centrally located car park with a distinct feeling of place because of its geographical form, a hollow or dell in the ground. In the north east corner, traffic to the car park comes down a steep bank from the Braak. The parking is effectively laid out and there are three or four large trees on islands near the entrance and along the edge of the millstream, but beyond them it is bare of planting. On the east is the high, blank rear façade of Checkers supermarket where an entrance is reached up a flight of steel stairs or a ramp behind a 2m high plastered wall in front of the façade. A similar wall runs along the south boundary separating it from the delivery yard off Dorp Street and the rear of Stellenbosch Gymnasium. Along the west boundary is an old waist-height wall which has a pedestrian entrance between low pillars connecting it to Voorgelegen garden. The millstream runs along the north side, below a high bank and a wall to the Rhenish Institute garden. (See also Millstream, page 32.)



Panorama of car park from the bank on the north – 180 degree view causes photographic distortion. In the foreground runs the millstream. On the left is the entry from the Braak, then the wall of Checkers supermarket. In the middle is the rear of Stellenbosch Gymnasium. On the right is the wall to Voorgelegen garden.

History

It was its physical form of a dell that gave significance to this place when the Burgherraad was searching for a good location for its new mill in 1749. The mill was to have an overshot wheel – be driven by water from the top – so a change in level was required. This place fitted the bill perfectly and the mill was built on top of the bank and the water taken away in a channel through the dell and on to irrigate the fields of farms further downstream. (More about the mill, see page 73.)

In 1797 the land of the mill downstream from the building was sold off and several houses were built along the Voorgelegen Dorp Street edge – single storey, thatched Cape cottages – but the dell remained the principal Mill garden. The Kuys map (above, right) shows that in c1822 it was a garden with the millstream along the north boundary, laid out in a double-cruciform pattern of beds and with trees along the west and south edges. The land south of it on Dorp Street was also a garden on which the Gymnasium was later built.



The mill was sold in 1932 to Abraham Gelb who sold the old garden to the Stellenbosch District School Trustees in 1938 – the Rhenish Institute's plot of ground "across the millstream". The ground was levelled and two tennis courts were built which are seen on the c1962 map and on the 1998 conservation survey. No further transfers: it is shown on the KrugerRoos spatial linkages plan, page 11, as Municipal land.

The mill was demolished in 1963 and a supermarket erected in its place that completely covers the adjacent erf. The millstream was shifted to the eastern edge and it presently flows in a dank channel between the supermarket and the back of the Rhenish Church. Early in the 21st century the dell was converted into a car park accessed from the Braak, the millstream was put partially underground, and new street furniture installed around it. At this time the eastern wall on the

Voorgelegen boundary was replastered and painted. (Walton 1974:40-3, Meiring et al 1993:56, *Rhenish* 1960:76, Fransen and Cook 1965:46, 1980:135, Smuts ed 1979:54, 167, Deeds Office transfers, KrugerRoos 2004/5).

Values and significance

Historical pattern of the use of water, and growth of Stellenbosch. Social history not studied in depth but plentiful associations with adjacent mill, Rhenish and Gymnasium property owners and characters. The Millstream and the garden walls (Rhenish Institute, Voorgelegen, Gymnasium), which incorporate fabric of great age, have aesthetic qualities and rich information potential. Scientific interest in the geographical configuration of the dell, and in the way it can demonstrate principles of water power.

Design indicators: carpark as a whole

The urban design of the car park was evidently carried out in a great hurry and is characterised by confused street furniture, makeshift arrangements and lost opportunities.

- An archaeologist should be appointed to identify potential archaeological remains throughout the carpark, if this was not done at the time.

- Plant more trees. The strong spatial quality of the dell is enhanced by the few great trees near the entrance, and by the way you first view them from a higher position. Shade for cars and effective landscape improvements to the desert of cars would be gained by planting more trees, particularly at the intersections of the parking bays and around the edges. Though there may be a need for robust kerbing detailing at the entrance, the nether regions of the car park need much less aggressive kerbing; the trees need not be planted on islands but could be at grade to give the effect of being in a glade of trees. See illustration from Stellenbosch *Development Guidelines* alongside. Species, drought resistance, etc not studied further.



Design indicators: Voorgelegen wall

See page 39 for a detailed assessment of the wall.

- On the car park side it has been replastered and painted, giving it an even texture without any patina of age or showing evidence of building fabric differences or periods of building. A good example of what not to do.



Design indicators: Gymnasium wall

The circa 2m high wall that runs behind the Gymnasium. Incorporates fabric of various periods but has been replastered and evened out. Not studied further.

- If the use of the Gymnasium permits open access, there is an opportunity to link through it to the car park and thence to join the network of pedestrian spatial linkages.
- Study fabric prior to any intervention.



Design indicators: Checkers wall and façade

The significant point here is that the flight of stairs and ramp into the supermarket connect with an arcade that is part of Stellenbosch's spatial network. Yet this feels like a back door or service entrance, rather than an entry. The ramp is hidden behind a high wall and the entry to it is a hole in the wall, rather than a legible gateway. The stair is made of steel with metal railings; it has an industrial, rather than civic (or even proudly commercial), character. The canopy is similarly lightweight and tawdry.

- The design of this entry should be reconsidered as part of the redesign of the car park landscaping and street furniture. For the arcade to be "read" as part of the spatial linkages of Stellenbosch, the entrance should be much more dignified, robust and welcoming – an architectural feature rather than a clip-on element.
- The building itself and this side of the car park space would benefit greatly from more animation. If the car park becomes a shady, green parking court, as suggested, it will create opportunities for uses that would benefit from such a pleasant view (and such easy access and passing trade). Adding a "screening layer" of small shops or booths for small and start-up businesses such as tailors, shoe repairs, key-making, biltong supply, florists and coffee-and-muffins could be considered.



Design indicators: Rhenish wall

Not examined in detail but clearly of historic interest.

- Do not replaster but give tender, loving care and maintenance.



Millstream fence poles, bank, Rhenish wall ... Rhenish outbuilding from the car park

Design indicators: Millstream

Once the millstream passes out of Meulplein it becomes a neglected "back" channel: driven underground, in the Mill garden it emerges abruptly from a high, blank wall as a deep sloop, lined with pebbles in cement and fenced like a cattle crush, in an expanse of paving. It then disappears underground again, buried beneath the driveway of the traffic entrance. It gains some quality as it runs through an unpaved area across the northern end of the Mill garden: the construction, if new, has taken on the patina of age and cement joints are less evident; the bank behind, the old oaks and the wall to Rhenish Institute are charmingly scruffy and sylvan. However, these qualities are overwhelmed by uncoordinated, incoherent street furniture and detailing: more timber pole fencing, plastics materials in the little pedestrian bridge that crosses it, and an additional line of bollards at the edge of the tar.



North west: little pedestrian bridge, timber poles, entrance from Braak ... emerging from Checkers



Pebble construction, little bridge ... Millstream on the left, entrance from Braak on the right



- The link between the millstream in the Old Mill garden and the main run is completely hidden. Not only does it run underground, there is no *sign* that it runs underground. The channel emerging from Checkers should be extended as much as possible (the stream seems to emerge from a pipe at right angles to the channel, and could perhaps be opened up along the edge of the wall).
- The millstream edge of the car park should be re-landscaped as a *garden*, through which the millstream runs and with a comfortable "garden" path along its edge for pedestrians crossing to the Voorgelegen garden gate or the bridge and path to the Braak.
- The landscaping around the east "sloot" should be redesigned and softened to relate to the landscape west of the entrance to the carpark and to re-introduce some sense of the continuity of the millstream – paving should be removed (the paved area does not seem to serve any purpose) and some indication of the earth bank re-instated, with appropriate planting: perhaps low-maintenance agapanthus and indigenous bulbs, an oak or two to extend the existing line of oaks along the bank, and some climbers to screen and soften the walls.
- The traffic entrance down the bank should clearly cross a bridge over the millstream, rather than burying it.
- The pedestrian bridge, railings and street furniture around the millstream should be resigned to be simple and consistent using compatible materials and avoiding the "stud ranch" character of the timber pole fence, or aggressive theming. Wherever possible, planting should replace fencing as a protective edge.

LINK TO THE BRAAK

Description

Access to the Mill garden from the Braak is through a narrow “neck” between the side of the Rhenish Church grounds and the Rhenish Institute’s outbuilding, down a bank. It has separate pedestrian and vehicular portions.



The pedestrian entrance runs alongside the Rhenish Institute outbuilding, through a wall and down a flight of stairs, and bridges the millstream



The vehicle entrance from the Braak runs past the side of the church where a substation is located behind a high, plain wall with spikes on it.

History

Created late 1990s when the car park was made.

Values and significance

Environmental values.

Design indicators

- The pedestrian linkage is a special Stellenbosch moment: plain brick paving, dense planted beds, an abundance of trees. No work required. See page 69 for possible use of the Rhenish Institute outbuilding.
- Directional signage (possibly in the form of stylised maps) should be erected at suitable locations to indicate onward linkages to the pedestrian network through the Binnetuine.
- The roadway has the attractive pedestrian route on the west but the east wall to the Church is stark. The row of spikes along the top is unpleasantly aggressive – are they really necessary? The light colour of the wall attracts the eye; if it were painted a darker colour (say, dingy olive), the eye’s attention would be directed to the wonderful trees you are passing under, and the voluptuous pedestrian route that runs alongside.
- It is suggested that as the road crosses the route of the millstream buried under it, a bridge is made: see Millstream discussion, page 45.

RHENISH COMPLEX

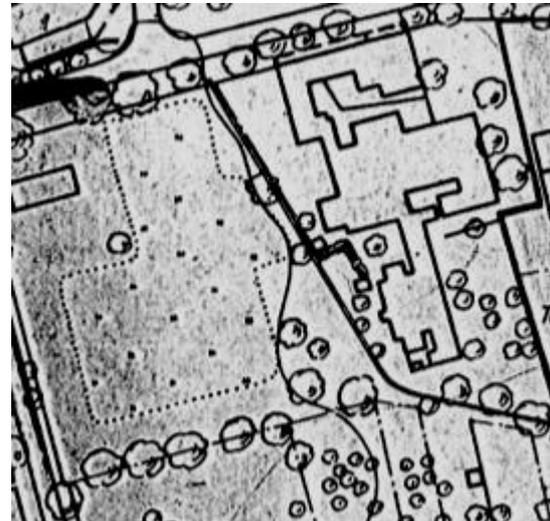
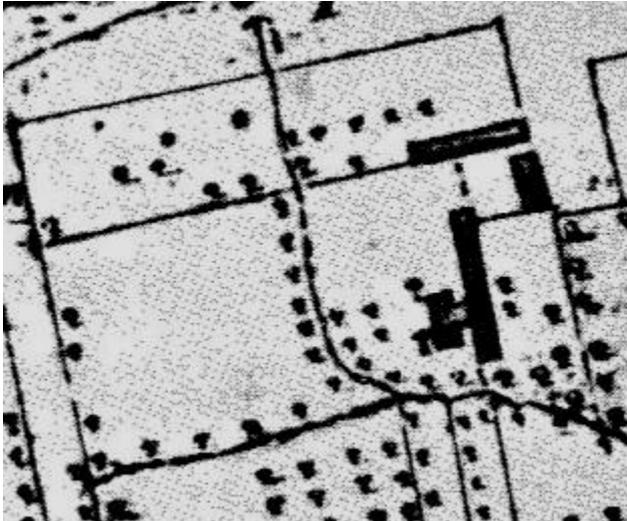


Illustration (Stellenbosch 300), viewed from the north west, shows
42 Rhenish Parsonage
41 Leipoldt House

The Rhenish Complex is a collection of notable buildings which have been restored to their early 19th century state, only neater. In the process, the former landscape of the working farm was transformed into a public garden, with an unequivocally minimalist 1960s character. The grounds consist of a series of connected spaces that wind behind and in front of the chief building, the Rhenish Parsonage. There are also spatial linkages to a connected cluster of houses north and east of it and thence to Market Street. In the south east corner, a bridge has been made across the Mill Stream linking it to Voorgelegen garden.

The spaces are described in sequence entering across the bridge from Voorgelegen garden.

- **Behind the Rhenish Parsonage.** See page 50.
- **Courtyard behind and beyond the Rhenish Parsonage.** See page 52.
- **Rhenish Parsonage Front Garden.** See page 53.
- **Long House courtyards.** See page 56.
- **Leipoldt House Court.** See page 57.



1817 map by Hertzog ...c1960 map.

History

Land granted in 1785 to Martinus Beyleveld. There was probably already a house on it, thought to be the rear section of the Parsonage. On the west side Beyleveld built the new homestead soon after he was granted the land. Virtually the whole complex of buildings appears on Hertzog's 1817 plan. The entire complex was acquired by the Rhenish Mission Society in 1832. Through the rest of that century and the first half of the 20th century gradual changes came about, especially after it was gutted by fire c1900. The Parsonage lost its gables, windows and doors, and had a verandah added; surrounding buildings similarly changed; but all kept fundamental parts of their original construction such as walls, ceilings and even window frames. The c1960 map (above right) shows that large extensions were made on the north side, extending the building line well in front of the line of the homestead. In the

1960s the complex was purchased by the Cape Provincial Administration and restored by Revel Fox and Partners in consultation with Henry Villet.

Values and significance

Historical pattern of building elements, of the way a farm on the edge of town became incorporated in urban fabric, abundant social history of owners and residents, mission to slaves, spiritual connections with Rhenish church, aesthetic values of buildings as a group and as individual artefacts, typical 18th/19th century building forms (but disconnected from land functions), good example of 1960s restoration theory and practice, outstanding information potential in building fabric and under ground.

Design indicators

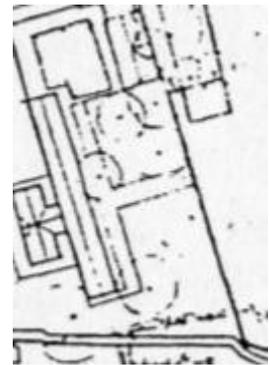
- See detailed indicators affecting parts of the complex in the following sections, pages 50 to 57.
- One of Architect Revel Fox's characteristic was his clarity of expression – both in built forms and in spatial progressions – and the flow of space, the opening up of views in his layer of restoration is a very enjoyable experience which should be respected and incorporated into the spatial network.

BEHIND THE RHENISH PARSONAGE



Description

Coming from Voorgelegen garden the route crosses a small bridge (page 40) and enters the rear garden of the Rhenish Parsonage. The roughly worn footpath divides at the corner of the house; one branch follows the millstream round the west side to the front garden (see page 53) but an alternative route is between the rear stoep of the house and the little water channel just beyond it. The back garden is a long, wide, plain grassed space with scattered trees and the odd hydrangea bed. The long rear wing of the H-shaped house forms one edge. It has a stoep running the full length with a lightweight vine-covered pergola over part of it. The house has a central rolled thatch gable and another one a little further on. Opposite the house, the edge of the rear garden is a much-patched, head height wall. On axis with the gable a path with pebble edging leads to a gateway in this wall, through which the Rhenish Institute carpark can be glimpsed.



Northwards, the garden is subdivided by a low wall with piers, differentiating a minor space beyond, which connects to the courtyard in front of Leipold House. Just beyond it is a cross wall in line with the side of adjacent Leipoldt house with a timber slat gate which leads to an enclosed courtyard (see page 52).



History

It is believed that the rear part of the Rhenish Parsonage was the first to be built, before or soon after 1785. The Rhenish Institute garden wall is built on the boundary of that time, and the wall to the end courtyard is also shown in place by 1817. How this garden was used over the centuries is not known. It is not clear from the present configuration of the building after restoration where the slave quarters were, nor which rooms are likely to have been used by the slaves who attended school at the Parsonage¹. An educated guess is that these could have been in this rambling rear wing of the building. Not studied further. The present plain, stripped-back appearance of the space is a result of the 1960s restoration of the complex by Revel Fox and Partners and Henry Villet.

Values and significance

Pattern of history seen (but not clearly) in growth and conversions of building and changing use of land, social history of owners, mission to slaves, spiritual associations with Rhenish church, aesthetic values, typically “Cape Dutch”, rich archaeological and building fabric potential.

Design indicators

- We have suggested elsewhere that lost slave history needs to be deliberately invoked, and have proposed a trail of paving stones through Stellenbosch. The school was possibly in the rear quarters of the Parsonage, or if not was certainly in the close vicinity. A place worth marking. Research needed; not studied further.
- At the north end there is an almost unnoticeable gate connecting to Leipoldt House court. The binnetuin and its connections retain some of the haphazard spatial ramshackleness of a real farmyard, inviting you to explore for yourself. A well-sited "map" sign somewhere near the division of the paths would encourage exploration.
- Though there is no present intention of converting the Rhenish Institute carpark into a garden or connecting it to the spatial network, it has tantalising potential. A re-established connection to it through the gate-in-the-wall would add diversity and richness to the spatial network. In the meantime, the present metal gate is perfectly adequate – invitingly visually penetrable.
- General note on walls: Garden walls need tender loving care and maintenance. When they are repaired, the plaster should bridge to the original, incorporating lime in the mix, and not be unmitigated cement plaster. Dampness in their very soft fabric needs to dry out, so they should not be painted with “sealed surface” paints. The varying textures and obvious patching is part of their patina and the walls should not be stripped and replastered.
- Potentially rich archaeological evidence for future exploration.

¹ In 1832 the Rhenish Church initiated a slave school run from the complex of Rhenish building which the Mission bought that year. Education took a variety of forms: a school with 140 pupils, religious instruction five nights a week, a Sunday School with 100 pupils, adult education classes for coloured women five days a week, and four nights of the week adults of all sexes were taught from 18:30 to 20:30. See Who's Who, page 91.

COURTYARD BEYOND THE REAR OF RHENISH PARSONAGE

Description

Enchanting small courtyard at the rears of Leipoldt House, the double storey and the Long House which enclose the place with a rich skyline. An oak stands in the central patch of grass. The eastern edge is a pebble-paved, brick edged stoep onto which shuttered French windows open from Leipoldt house and a parapetted room connecting it to the double storey, which also has an arched doorway onto the stoep. Along the north side are windows and a door at the back of the Long House, partly screened by a bed of strelitzias set into pebble-cobbled paving. The end of the Parsonage's rear wing protrudes into the south west corner, and there is a slatted gate with a path of delightfully tiny pebbles on the south, from the rear garden of the Parsonage. Under a lean-to extension to the Parsonage on the west, a slatted door leads to the Parsonage front garden.



Slatted gate with pebble floor ... rear of Long House/double storey/Leipoldt House ... exit to front lawn

History

It is not known how the courtyard was originally used: it is the “back yard” of three separate dwellings, whose occupants were all involved with the Rhenish mission. The present restoration gives no clue to where support functions of the place were – the stables, the storage spaces, the accommodation of domestic and field workers, nor if some of the rooms were used for the active slave school that was somewhere on the premises. All building footprints were in existence by 1817 as were the courtyard walls. Over the years there was adaptation and addition, and functions changed. In c1860 the corner building was made double-storeyed. Before 1905 Leipoldt House had acquired a rear wing that cut right through the courtyard². By 1960 the yard had been substantially built upon and extended into. The late 1960s restoration stripped away later accretions and re-established (rebuilt?) the old garden walls with a new gates. It is not known if the tiny pebble flooring was also made at that time or whether it had survived from a previous landscape episode.

Values and significance

Pattern of history vividly seen in buildings of various periods, social history of owners, mission to slaves, spiritual associations with Rhenish church, aesthetic values of authentic fabric, of masterly restoration, rich archaeological and building fabric potential.

Design indicators

- Give it an Oscar for best supporting performance.
- Potentially rich archaeological evidence for future exploration.

² This is not seen on Hager’s 1859 map but is discernable on the 1905 panorama as a typical Cape cottage with thatched roof and end gables: it is illustrated in the reconstructed “Stellenbosch at its most picturesque” (page 21). Interestingly, in the 1960s restoration it was decided to eliminate this wing, parts of whose fabric must have survived in the jumble of buildings that had grown up by then.

RHENISH PARSONAGE FRONT GARDEN



Description

Following the main path from Voorgelegen (instead of turning off to explore the rear garden, page 50), the path is a track across the lawn. It is roughly parallel with the millstream, which runs along the boundary past the side of the Rhenish Parsonage, with modern flats on the south side. The millstream then turns northward, to run in a straight line past the front of the house to a gateway in Market Street. Along this stretch there is a formal, surfaced pathway alongside the stream, which is flanked by narrow beds of agapanthus.



Millstream running past the side of the flats ... looking back ... in front of the Parsonage

To the west of the millstream is a large piece of open land, enclosed by a continuous waist-height wall down Market Street and along Herte Street. It is divided in two by an oak avenue on the axis of the house, which leads to a gateway in Herte Street: south of the avenue is a small lawn, north is a large lawn. East of the millstream, the area in front of the buildings is also lawned, with a few specimen trees (including some old fruit trees), and a large circular flower bed. Immediately in front of the house is a fyntuin garden enclosed on two sides by a low wall with piers.





History

The garden was created in the late 1960s. At this time the millstream was restored as well as the long enclosing wall that runs down Market and along Herte Street, and the axial gate in it. Ad hoc buildings near Market Street were demolished. The design laid a framework of paths along the millstream and within the surrounding wall that defined a number of lawns. It seems that these were initially intended to be rough grass, but the mowing regime has shaved them more evenly. Soon after this the axial path was emphasised by an avenue of trees and the fyntuin was created (not seen on 19th century or post-restoration photographs but possibly based on archaeological evidence).



The c1960 map (right) shows the millstream cutting diagonally in front of the house and also, east of it, the ad hoc buildings near Market Street that were demolished. The main field across the millstream appears to be open grass, perhaps with scattered trees. The indistinct 1950 aerial photo (below) shows there was a dense line of trees along the two street edges.



c1950 ... c1905 ... c1880



Photograph from Elliott collection taken before house was damaged by fire in c1900.

From the time the land came into agricultural use in 1785 and right through the 19th century, it was a patchwork of fields, mainly vegetables and not vineyards or grain judging from the photograph (previous page) which was taken before the building was damaged by fire in c1900. It was perfectly suited to this use. The millstream with its convenient supply of water, and the very gentle slope east-west meant that water could be taken off it (the sluice gates survive intermittently along the millstream's route) and channelled in furrows to any of the patches of garden. The 1817 map (right) shows that there was an important branch of the millstream along the south edge of today's garden.



Values and significance

Pattern of history seen in growth and conversions of building and changing use of land, social history of owners, mission to slaves, spiritual associations with Rhenish church, aesthetic values, typically "Cape Dutch", rich archaeological and building fabric potential.

Design indicators

- No intervention required except TLC.
- If the toy museum moves from the Parsonage to Voorgeleggen, an appropriate use (assuring public access) should be found for the Parsonage.
- General note on walls: Garden walls need tender loving care and maintenance. When they are repaired, the plaster should bridge to the original, incorporating lime in the mix, and not be unmitigated cement plaster. Dampness in their very soft fabric needs to dry out, so they should not be painted with "sealed surface" paints. The varying textures and obvious patching is part of their patina and the walls should not be stripped and replastered.
- Rich archaeological potential in building fabric of buildings and walls, as well as under ground.

LONG HOUSE COURTYARDS

Description

At the north end of the Rhenish frontage is a Long House at right angles. It has a curly end-gable, is single storeyed and thatched. Beyond it is the high wall around the service yard of the Information Centre. Between them runs a series of courtyards, roughly cobbled with pebbles. The first is a recess off the Parsonage lawns with an inviting door in it. Through the door is a courtyard in front of the Long House, partly subdivided by wing walls at the door. The east end of the courtyard is partly enclosed by wing walls, beyond which is the space beside the double storey (see page 57).



History

Not known. The footprint of the long house and double storey was in place by 1817 but there was nothing built beyond it.

Values and significance

Pattern of history seen in growth and conversions of building and changing use of land, social history of owners, mission to slaves, spiritual associations with Rhenish church, aesthetic values, archaeological and building fabric potential.

Design indicators

- No intervention required except TLC.
- archaeological potential in building fabric of buildings and walls, as well as under ground.

LEIPOLDT HOUSE COURT



Description

A long space extending from Market Street southward to an old garden wall of Rhenish School (page 60). Along Market Street there is a low wall with end piers. Entering, there are scattered trees in lawns both sides of the brick paved roadway. On the west is the side of the Information Centre. The Victorian double storey house steps into the space with a small court at the front screened by shrubs, which links westwards to the Long House courtyard (page 56). Beyond the double storey the space narrows and continues as a hard landscaped place along the front of Leipoldt House. The cul-de-sac is completed by the Rhenish School wall cranking across it: to the west there is a slatted gate to the rear of the Rhenish Parsonage (see page 50).



History

Early history not studied. By 1817 the garden wall along the east boundary was established and Leipoldt house had been built, separated by a gap from the footprint of the (present) double storey and Long House which were probably its outbuildings – a typical Stellenbosch configuration. The Rhenish Mission acquired the properties in 1832 and the gable of Leipoldt House dates from this time or soon after. The corner building was raised to two storeys in c1860 and probably the link between it and Leipoldt made at about this time. Restored late 1960s.

Values and significance

Pattern of history seen in growth and conversions of buildings and changing use of land, social history of owners, mission to slaves, spiritual associations with Rhenish church, aesthetic values, archaeological and building fabric potential.

Design indicators

- TLC
- The gateway into the rear of Rhenish Parsonage should be opened which would add diversity and richness to the spatial network. See the rear of the Parsonage, page 50.
- The wall-to-stoep brick paving in front of Leipold House and to the side of the double storey is a very hard, unrelenting surface. The space would benefit greatly from some softening, particularly at the edges of the buildings: even a narrow strip of grass or planting bed along the stoep would be a great improvement.
- General note on walls: Garden walls need tender loving care and maintenance. When they are repaired, the plaster should bridge to the original, incorporating lime in the mix, and not be unmitigated cement plaster. Dampness in their very soft fabric needs to dry out, so they should not be painted with “sealed surface” paints. The varying textures and obvious patching is part of their patina and the walls should not be stripped and replastered.
- Rich archaeological potential in building fabric of buildings and walls, as well as under ground.

RHENISH INSTITUTE BINNETUIN

Hidden behind high walls and concealed by buildings, the Rhenish Institute's binnetuin is a secretive and inaccessible place, disconnected from the network of pedestrian ways that encircle it. Even from the street only the first part can be seen: the remainder is half-glimpsed in an inviting way. Entering from the north off Market Street there is a sequence of spaces and character areas.

Behind the Rhenish School

The first stretch, seen from the road through railings, has the School on the east (left) and a wall on the west, beyond which is Leipoldt House. The principal surface is tarmac, with a fine row of plane trees parallel to the west wall, under which cars are parked in a haphazard way. The driving route runs along the west boundary. See page 60.



Rhenish Institute Garden

The garden behind the Rhenish Institute extends from the School southward to the Vorgelegen garden and the edge of the Mill stream bank, and from the wall behind the Rhenish Parsonage to the rear facades of the Institute buildings. It is divided into two terraces and has three distinct morphological areas, each described separately. See page 61.

Lower Terrace And Parking Lot

A parking lot on the lower terrace is a continuation of the parking behind the school. It extends eastwards to the wall behind Rhenish Parsonage where there is a gateway. Along the south boundary is a similar wall beyond which is Vorgelegen garden. In the north west corner of this area are some prefab garages. See page 64.



Upper Terrace And Garden

Directly outside the rear of the building is an upper terrace, an incoherent place chiefly unified by the absence of parked cars. See page 66.



Swimming Bath Area and Outbuilding

South of the rear terrace and extending eastwards to the Institute outbuilding is a derelict swimming bath on a raised platform. See page 68.



BEHIND THE RHENISH SCHOOL



2005 photograph: Looking southwards (over the railings and sliding gate) from the entry off Market Street. Plinth of school on the left (east), fine line of plane trees, generally tarmac surface, scattered parking in the shade, on the right (west) is wall of Leopold House. In the distance is the parking lot on the lower terrace behind Rhenish Institute.



2005 photograph: On the left is a loggia attached to the back of the school (part of the original design), with the high gable of the hall beyond. A garden area is in the foreground (along Market Street) and beyond it is the parking under the plane trees.

History

This was the rear land of a very old house that stood where the school is. It is not known how it was used in the olden days. Kuys c1822 (right) shows a wall along Market Street that connects to the existing wall adjoining Leipoldt House and this is also seen in the c1880 Naude panorama. When a new school was built in 1905, this area was probably playing space, overlooked from the loggia. Before 1968, two buildings had been put up at the south end but these are now demolished as they blocked access to the rear of Rhenish Institute. See School, page 85. See Kronlein House, page 86.



Values and significance

The walls incorporate fabric of great age. Part of their significance (and much of their charm) derives from random patching – the patina of age.

Information potential: There may be archaeological evidence in the ground below the tarmac surface layer, such as wall foundations or a rubbish tip.

Design indicators

- Tender, loving care and maintenance of walls. When they are repaired, the plaster should bridge to the original, incorporating lime in the mix, and not be unmitigated cement plaster. Dampness in their very soft fabric needs to dry out, so they should not be painted with “sealed surface” paints.
- Wasteful parking arrangement of cars on a largely tarmac area. Could be densified when appropriate, and the freed-up landscape softened.
- An archaeologist should be appointed to identify potential archaeological remains.

RHENISH INSTITUTE GARDEN

Description

The garden behind the Rhenish Institute extends from the School southward to the Voorgelegen garden and the edge of the Mill stream bank, and from the wall behind the Rhenish Parsonage to the rear facades of the Institute buildings. It is divided north-south into two distinct terraces, and has a derelict swimming pool in the southeast corner (each of these three sub places is described in detail in the following sections).

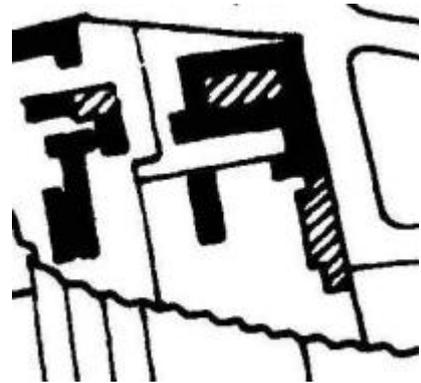
History

A piece of land bordering on the Braak was granted to Marthinus Beyleveld in 1787 and when he transferred it later that year it had a house on it, a thatched single storey – the H shape survives in the existing fabric. It was given an upper storey soon after 1872, and still later was extended on both sides (see page 87). There was a long outbuilding in the north east corner.

Kuy's map of c1822 gives no information about how its rear land was used except that the millstream flowed along the southern border. Being H shaped it would have had a rear central gable and there was probably a path on axis. This elevation remained important after it was raised to two storeys. The word Ebenezer was on the raised parapet: Hitherto the Lord hath helped us.

A late 19th century engraving shows the central path, edged with trimmed hedges, and a geometrical arrangement of parterres. There was a line of trees planted along the rear stoep; other trees in the garden included a palm.

Curiously, there was a Victorian house in the northern part of the garden. It has been demolished and little is known of it: see page 88. (*Rhenish* 1960:16, 24-5, Fransen and Cook 1980:137, Oberholster 1972:73). The house also appears in an 1890s photograph (overleaf), which also shows a free standing pergola over the central path, and that at some point a diagonal path led through the garden which was in those days much steeper because it was not terraced.



Above:1817, 1905



Engraving made before 1889 (*Rhenish* 1960:16)



1890s photograph possibly taken from the Rhenish Parsonage gate - which may be why the foreground path is there (alternatively, part of a radial arrangement). The pruned trees in the lower garden may indicate an orchard and the path seems to be edged with a quince hedge.



1905 panorama

Some time after the Provincial Administration acquired the property, perhaps in the early 1980s, the tennis courts and sundry buildings were removed and the surface generally evened out and terraced to allow parking. (*Rhenish* 1960:16, 24-5, 48, 76, 77, Stellenbosch Town Map c1968).

Values and significance

The garden landscape is the setting and a necessary part of the history and composition of Rhenish Institute and thus shares its values, see page 87.

Information potential: There may be archaeological evidence in the ground, and fragments of previous layers of landscaping (path layout and materials, planting patterns, terraces, etc) may provide clues about prior garden layouts.

Design indicators

- The Rhenish Institute garden is one of the historical "binnetuine" that creates a park-like swathe of green west of the Braak. However, unlike Voorgelegen and the Rhenish Parsonage it is not owned by the Municipality and it may consequently be difficult to incorporate it into a system of publicly accessible gardens and paths. Should the opportunity arise in the future to enable public access to the garden (or part of it), it should be seized. In the meantime, as experienced from the outside, it is an enticing "secret garden", shielded by historical walls. However there are a few opportunities to improve *visual* integration. The few points from which there are glimpses into the space (the gates off Market Square, the gateway behind the Rhenish Parsonage) reveal a disappointing reality of tarmac-covered parking and incoherent landscaping. The view from the gateway behind the Parsonage is particularly important because of the strong historical links between the properties. If a view of the rear façade of the Institute could be cleared from here and

the foreground more appropriately landscaped, it would greatly enrich the experience and understanding of visitors.

- See also indicators for the component parts of the garden on later pages.

RHENISH INSTITUTE: LOWER TERRACE AND PARKING LOT



180 degree panorama from the swimming pool enclosure. Left is wall to Voorgelegen garden, central is east wall with gateway, some distance behind the parked cars are garages, on the right is the approach from the School parking.

Description

The garden behind the Rhenish Institute consists of two terraces. The lower, western terrace is a large level area, most of which is tarred as a continuation of the School parking area on the north. At the Rhenish Institute the boundary steps to the east and three prefab garages are tucked into the corner, backing onto the south wall of the Leipold House court. Along the east boundary is an old wall to the Rhenish Parsonage which has a gateway aligned with its rear gable. Along the south is another high wall beyond which is a steep bank to the millstream and Voorgelegen garden. Some relic patches of lawn and trees have survived from previous garden layouts towards the south end of the terrace. Along the east is the upper terrace and garden and the retaining wall and steps up to the swimming bath.



2005 from the upper terrace. Ahead in distance is east wall with gateway and roof of the Parsonage, on the right are plane trees connecting to the School parking. Right photo, garages.



From Parsonage side: gateway and garages ... Junction between east and south walls from outside.

History

Although there is little information on how the garden was used historically, it is unlikely that there was such a strong division between upper and lower portions as there is now. An 1890s photograph taken from the bottom of the garden shows an even slope, with fruit trees in the lower garden and a (quince?) hedge edging a path that may have led to the Rhenish Parsonage gate.

In the first half of the 20th century there were tennis courts here. Some time after the Provincial Administration acquired the property, perhaps in the early 1980s, the tennis courts and sundry buildings were removed and the surface generally evened out to allow parking. (*Rhenish* 1960:16, 24-5, 48, 76, 77, Stellenbosch Town Map c1968).



Above, 1890s photograph. Alongside, c1950s (*Rhenish* 1960:48, 77)

Values and significance

The walls incorporate fabric of great age; some are random rubble, some are brick. Part of their significance (and much of their charm) derives from random patching – the patina of age.

Information potential: There may be archaeological evidence in the ground below the tarmac surface layer, such as wall foundations or a rubbish tip.

Design indicators

- Wasteful parking arrangement of cars on a largely tarmac area. Parking could be densified when appropriate and the landscape softened. New layouts should relate to the axis and upper terrace of Rhenish Institute and to the gateway to the Parsonage.
- Tender loving care and maintenance of walls is needed. When they are repaired, the plaster should bridge to the original, incorporating lime in the mix, and not be unmitigated cement plaster. Dampness in their very soft fabric needs to dry out, so they should not be painted with “sealed surface” paints.
- An archaeologist should be appointed to identify potential archaeological remains that may have survived the earthworks involved in levelling and terracing the garden.
- The garages have no heritage significance and may be demolished at will.

RHENISH INSTITUTE: UPPER TERRACE AND GARDEN



Description

Incoherent place faced by the rear elevation of the Rhenish Institute (cement slabs, gravel, small grass lawns, beds of agapanthus, other specimen planting, cement rainwater channels, slight changes of level, a variety of trees) chiefly unified by the absence of parked cars. Along the central 6 bays of the Institute is a pergola over a paved stoep. The stoep extends across the 3 bays of the south extension. Behind the north extension the garden becomes a flat terrace paved with cement slabs, which extends as far as the School.



2005 Rear elevation with 6 bay pergola and 3 bay south extension ... pergola c1950s (*Rhenish* p37)



Paved terrace between north extension and school ... North extension 2005

History

The H-shaped thatched house Marthinus Beyleveld built in 1787 would have had a rear central gable and there was probably a path on axis. Herzog's 1817 map shows a symmetrical arrangement of trees close to the rear of the house, which may indicate a formal garden related to the gabled elevation. This elevation remained important after it was raised to two storeys soon after 1872. The word Ebenezer was on the raised parapet: Hitherto the Lord hath helped us. A late 19th century engraving shows the central path, edged with trimmed hedges, and a geometrical arrangement of parterres. There was a line of trees planted along the rear stoep; other trees in the garden included a palm. This may be an idealised view – the Victorian house in the northern part of the garden is drawn a little *too* neatly to one side – but it is likely that the part of the garden closest to the building was a formal pleasure garden, with more utilitarian uses below.



Engraving made before 1889 (*Rhenish* 1960:16)

“There was to be a wedding *in* the Rhenish – the first ever to have as hostess the Alma Mater. ... on September the 7th, 1929, Florence Thresher and Arthur Shave were wed ... The glory of the reception followed in the garden beneath the old historic pergola of vines... Everyone had a finger in the pie... choirs were trained... sweetmeats were prepared... flowers arrived from homes of pupils... It was a wedding never to be forgotten.” Lou Liebenberg (nee Meiring), *Rhenish* 1960:50.

Values and significance

The garden terrace is a necessary part of the composition of Rhenish Institute and thus shares its values, see page 87.

Information potential: There may be archaeological evidence in the ground and fragments of previous layers of landscaping (path layout and materials, planting patterns, terraces, etc) may provide clues about prior garden layouts.

Design indicators

- This garden is longing to be redesigned. In its present form it is confused; indications of previous layers survive in a smudged form. Yet it is an essential part of and foreground to the important rear façade of Rhenish Institute. There were a succession of garden designs; the opportunity should be taken to make a 20th century garden terrace that expresses the spirit of our times – notably the wise use of water – while reinterpreting some of the formal qualities required by its relationship to the building. Heritage-inspired design fixes are that a central path is required on the axis of the building; that the three parts of the rear façade should be echoed in the terrace layout; that there should be a graceful transition to the general parking area below (page 64); that views of (and from) the building be opened up (notably from the Rhenish Parsonage gate); that established trees should be incorporated and a new generation of trees established.
- An archaeologist and landscape historian should be appointed to identify potential archaeological remains and historical plants and landscape features before re-landscaping starts. If significant design clues emerge they should be acknowledged in the new layout but care should be taken not to use these as an attempt to re-create one of the former garden designs, or re-erect the lost house.

RHENISH INSTITUTE: SWIMMING BATH AREA AND OUTBUILDING

Description

In the south east corner of the site is a derelict swimming pool at the top of a bank, with a retaining wall and steps up from the lower terrace on the west side, where there is a pump house and filtration plant. It is concrete lined, filled with debris and rubble and is surrounded by a border of cement slabs. The Voorgelegen garden wall is on the south. On the west is a wall connecting to the side of an L shaped outbuilding with a variety of steel windows and asbestos cement roof but with a façade to the Braak that is more sensitively modelled and suggests greater age. It is connected to the Institute building on the Braak side by a wall with an arched gateway.



2005 Rubbish-filled swimming bath, left ... c1950s (*Rhenish* 1960:79)



2005 Outbuilding and swimming pool ... outbuilding from Checker's car park



2005 East façade of outbuilding and linking wall with arched gateway.

History

History of outbuilding not known, not on Fransen 1905 reconstructed map (but was hidden in the panorama from which he drew). Outbuilding and wall indistinctly seen on early 20th century photograph (page 87). Possibly extended in 1936 to provide change rooms for the pool. Braak façade possibly gentrified during 1968 restoration of the Institute. Not studied further.

The swimming pool was built as a recreational facility for girls at the Rhenish Institute in 1936. Abandoned soon after 1960 when the school moved to new premises in Krigeville.

“Relays of water diviners, professional and amateur, had detected a strong flow of underground water and a bore-hole was duly drilled at a quite fantastic cost, as, will-o'-the-wisp-wise, the wretched stream seemed to recede whenever it was thought that bedrock had been reached. The water, when it was finally pumped into the goodly cement bath, presented a startling resemblance to rich pea soup. The sediment responsible for this consommé, having been frequently analysed, proved to be harmless but constituted a danger to daring youngsters who could easily disappear in its murky depths. This was partly rectified during the 1950s by the installation, at a cost of about #800, of a filtration plant [which was] frequently out of order owing to overwork! “ RE Denman, *Rhenish* 1960:76-7, 79.

Values and significance

Swimming bath has slight heritage significance. The pool itself is utterly derelict. It was located at a point where the ground started to slope more sharply and the slope has been exaggerated by cut-and-fill necessary for its construction.

Slight information potential in 1936 pool construction method. Since major earth moving was involved in building it, there are unlikely to be pre-20th century archaeological artefacts of significance.

Outbuilding not known: possibly mid-20th century incorporating an old wall. Not studied further.

Design indicators

- Imagine taking away the pool's building materials and debris: a very distinctive shape is left in the ground. Instead of levelling it, it could be made a feature in a redesigned garden, like a grotto. An echo of the 1936 cut-and-fill. The murky borehole water would be quite usable in a water feature.
- The outbuilding appears to be underutilised and is ideally situated to serve refreshments to tourists and weary Saturday shoppers: it has a side to the Braak, overlooks the Checker's car park, and could be opened to the swimming bath terrace at the rear.

KEY SURROUNDING BUILDINGS

These are some of the key buildings that surround the Binnepark which are encountered in the place-by-place studies that started on page 32. They are ordered clockwise around the Binnetuine, starting from the Rhenish Church.

- 71 Rhenish Church
- 73 Mill Nieuwe Molen (demolished)
- 74 Checkers Supermarket
- 75 Jubilee House
- 76 Stellenbosch Gymnasium
- 77 Voorgelegen
- 79 112 Dorp Street, Merweda
- 80 Rhenish Parsonage
- 81 Long House
- 82 Double Storey Victorian House
- 83 Leipoldt House
- 84 Information Centre
- 85 Rhenish School
- 86 Kronlein House (demolished)
- 87 Rhenish Institute
- 88 Unidentified Detached House behind Rhenish Institute (Demolished)

RHENISH CHURCH

Description

Small L shaped building under a thatch roof, which defines the southern perimeter of the Braak. Originally a plain rectangle with the gable, modelled on the original Moederkerk, facing Meul Plein with pilasters, straight sloping sides and a pediment. A side wing added 1840 facing the Braak has a curly-sided gable with a winged crown, a 2-leaved door under large half-round fanlight. The double-arched bell-tower is 1920s work. The site is surrounded by railings between piers except on the west where there is a wall. At this end there is an electricity substation with flat roof and plaster mouldings.



Southern end of the Braak, mid 20th century. Church on left, Rhenish Institute right. CA AG17642



1840 entrance facing the Braak



1823 entrance facing Meul Plein ... Substation



History

Missionary work among slaves and Khoi people has been carried out in Stellenbosch since 1801, when Het Stellenbosche Meedewerkende Zendelings Genootschap was established. A church was completed in 1824. In 1829 the congregation was placed under the care of the Rhenish Missionary Society, and the Rev D Luckhoff became its first full-time minister. Expanded 1840 (tradition has it that it was built by coloured congregation without builder's plans). Fine pulpit originally in Moederkerk.

Bell tower designed by W Blerish (town clerk) in 1920s. Restored 1978 by Gawie Fagan. (Fransen and Cook 1980:136, Smuts ed 1979:283-88). The church is a provincial heritage site (1963) and the pulpit is also separately protected as such (1948).

Values and significance

Historical pattern of urban development around the Braak, spiritual significance, social history of Rhenish missionaries, important slave history, aesthetic values of building and its urban location, typical early 19th century architecture incorporating a copy of the original Moederkerk elevation, rich information potential in fabric and under ground.

Design Indicators

- We have suggested elsewhere that lost slave history needs to be deliberately invoked, and have proposed a trail of paving stones through Stellenbosch. One of its important moments is at the Rhenish Church, especially at the Meul Plein end which was the original entrance and where further urban improvements are contemplated from time to time, such as re-erecting the mill wheel from Bachelors/Wilgenhof. An information panel should be erected explaining slave associations. (There should also be an information panel about the mill which stood adjacent to Meul Plein.)
- Matters affecting the west wall, see page 47.
- Not studied further: see KrugerRoos Braak study 1997.

MILL NIEUWE MOLEN
Demolished



Above left: location (Walton 1974:42). Above right: mill with overshot wheel (Mill memorial plaque). Below, right: reconstruction in 1860 (Stellenbosch 300).

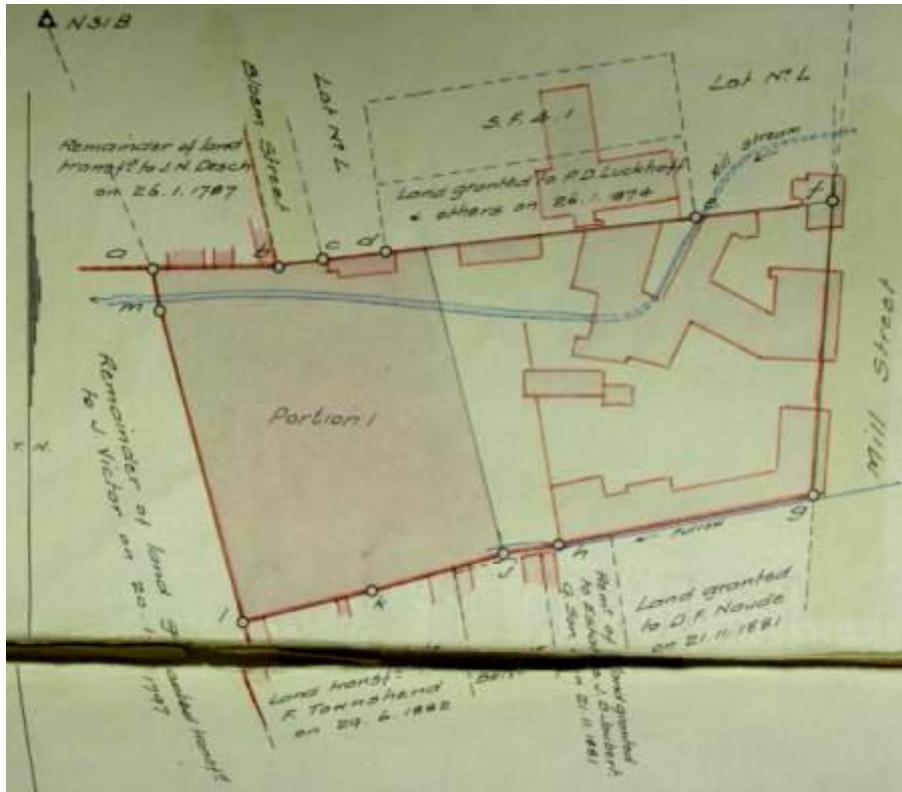
The mill was built in 1750, partially reconstructed after a fire in 1804 (when the millstream was rebuilt in its present pebble-lined form), replaced by a three-storeyed mill over the millstream in 1870. The iron overshot wheel and some millstones are in the garden of Bachelors, Ryneveld Street.

The water for the mill was brought in a channel from Plein Street down what is now Mill Lane (Dorpsteeg) to the mill which lay where Checkers supermarket is today. This location was chosen because the mill had an overshot wheel – it was driven from above – so it was built where there was already a bank.



It was demolished in 1963.

Detailed histories in Walton 1974 40-43, Smuts ed 1979:165-8, 205-7, 345, 409-11.)



Plan in 1932 (Deeds Office transfer 5086 of 17.08.1932). Note route of mill Stream. Portion 1 is the Old Mill garden.

CHECKERS SUPERMARKET

Description

Large footprint to the edges of its site in a prominent Stellenbosch position. High single storey, anonymous 1963 architecture. Penetrated by a T shaped arcade that links the Old Mill garden carpark (and Vorgelegen garden) with Meul Plein (and Bird Street and Mill Lane etc) and also links into Dorp Street. The Dorp Street elevation may be a new pastiche but appears to be the façade of an old building which has had its innards (and meaning) ripped out. It has a delivery yard on the west side, off Dorp Street. See also detailed description of rear carpark elevation, page 44



KrugerRoos map shows building, Meul Plein right ... Meul Plein entrance ... with popular coffee shop



Arcade through supermarket ... arcade to Dorp Street ... Dorp Street elevation

History

Built 1963 for OK Bazaars, now Shoprite-Checkers.

Values and significance

Though the internal fabric of the Dorp Street building has been demolished, slight heritage interest remains in the façade.

The arcade through the building, though of no heritage significance in itself, is an important spatial linkage to other heritage sites.

Design indicators

Not applicable but see Old Mill garden carpark, page 44.

JUBILEE HOUSE

126 Dorp Street

Description

"A three-bay two-storeyed house of a type peculiar to Stellenbosch, c1890: square in plan under a wide and flat-pitched roof expressed by a full-width pediment in front. A central passage running from back to front separates two rows of rooms." It has rusticated corner quoins, 2x2 sashes and a double door with geometric fanlight; on the ground floor they have hood mouldings. Brick stoep. There is a narrow walled lane between it and Checkers delivery yard. Single storey extension towards the rear?. Backs onto Checkers carpark, from which it is separated by a high modern wall.

History

Built c1890 (Fransen and Cook). "The house has recently been well restored and now houses a textile museum." (Fransen 2004:182). Provincial Heritage Site (1979)

Values and significance

Aesthetic: fine example of its type, part of a group of significant buildings in Dorp Street.

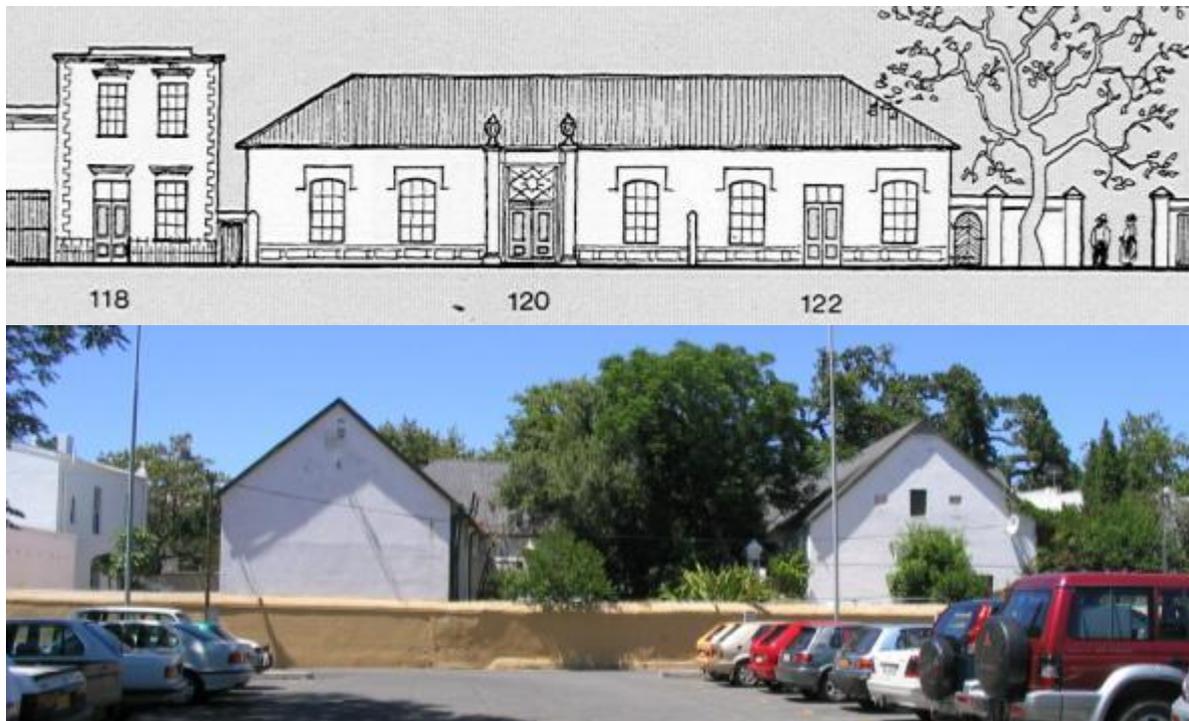
Design indicators

Not applicable but see Old Mill garden carpark page 44.

STELLENBOSCH GYMNASIUM

120-122 Dorp Street

Part of continuous Dorp Street architecture, the only building still single-storeyed in the row. U shaped building: the rear wings back onto the Checkers Car park (page 44).



History

Built in 1866 as Stellenbosch Gymnasium, forerunner of the Victoria College, which in turn became the University of Stellenbosch. It served as a school until 1874. People who founded it and taught there include Japie Joubert (see Meiring p56), Rev Charles Anderson (see Smuts p358), many others including notable pupils. It has a long façade on Dorp Street, broken by a porch with neo-gothic tracery, but it is 2 rooms deep. Restored by Historical Homes of South Africa in the 1960/70s, when it was converted into dwelling units. Declared a Provincial Heritage Site 1968. (Fransen and Cook 1980:142, Meiring et al 1993:56-7, Smuts ed 1979:307-9, 358-65).

Values and significance

Historical pattern of schooling and urban development, social history of pupils, founders, teachers, aesthetic values in the building and townscape relationship to Dorp Street, porch is typically neo-Gothic, information potential in the building fabric and rear garden, including wall to Checkers Park.

Design indicators

Matters affecting the north wall, see page 44.

If the building were used for public purposes, it could be linked to the network of spatial linkages via Old Mill garden carpark. See Voorgelegen discussion of this issue, page 38.

Not studied further.

VOORGELEGEN HOUSE
116-118 Dorp Street



Above: Late 19th century Dorp Street, Voorgelegen on right (Smuts p121). Below: in 2005



Description

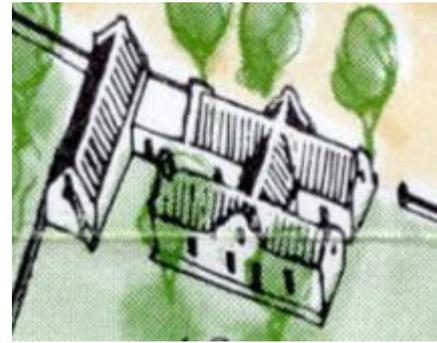
116 is a double storey H shaped house with flat roof. 118 is a double storey flat roofed building that stretches back into the site. They are linked by a partially enclosed yard access through an archway from Dorp Street. All buildings incorporate late 18th century fabric in an 1880s remodelling with Neo-Georgian styling. A notable garden wall extends westwards along Dorp Street and at the back and side is a garden, see detailed study page 35.



Street Elevation (Stellenbosch 300)

History

Fransen and Cook 1980 write, "This is the most important house in the unique group nos 100-122 Dorp Street. Together with no 108-112, it once formed part of the farm De Nieuwe Molen, granted in 1750 to Landdrost and Heemraden, who decided in 1796 to divide it up into plots and to sell them; each plot had to be built upon within a year of purchase. The erven on which nos 112 and 116 [and 118] stand today, were bought by Johannes Victor in 1797, who must have built houses on it within a year. No 116 was built as (and still is) an H shaped house; one or two casement in the side-courts, 43cm Batavian tiles in the voorhuis (laid in a diagonal pattern), several doors, as well as all the ceilings of this first stage survive in the present house." Picture above right shows this stage in 1860 (Stellenbosch 300).



"In 1824 Victor's widow sold no 112 [Merweda] to her son Jacobus Daniel Victor ... In 1836, no 116 [Voorgelegen] went to another son, Wynand Victor, and in 1851 it was acquired by Gysbert JC Reitz. The ground floor windows (which, however, retain the old pattern of fenestration, with half-width windows beside the door, usual for single-storeyed H and T shaped house) date from Reitz's time. The fact that the upper storey windows are of a later date, c1880, might be an indication that the addition took place about then, perhaps carried out by Reitz's son-in-law, Cornelis Smuts MD [who acquired the property in 1882]. Unlike most H houses that were given upper storeys, the H-shape of this house was retained. A door with extremely elaborate glazing-bars, mid 19th century, leads to one of the side courts. At the back of the house traces of a former gable can be seen in the upper-floor walling. A lovely garden behind leads to the old Mill stream." (Fransen and Cook 1980:141-2).

The property stayed in three generations of women, passing from Reitz to his daughter's husband Dr Smuts and from him to his daughter's husband Dr Macpherson. Margaret Hoskyn 1979:30 remembers, "Dr Macpherson lived in a beautiful old Georgian house in Dorp Street. ... Intrepid little "Mrs Mac", the doctor's wife ... was keenly interested in fishing and when engaged in the sport in the Eerste River used to wear her husband's waders, which came up almost to her armpits."

In the 20th century it was sold to Morna Sim in 1946 and in 1964 to JP de Vries (Voorgelegen (Eiendoms) Bpk). De Vries struggled with the upkeep of the old place and proposed demolishing it but after an outcry it was bought by Stellenbosch Municipality in 1979. In 1977 the whole property (including garden and garden walls) had been declared a Provincial Heritage Site. "The building is now in use by the Stellenbosch Museum, but it was at one stage threatened with demolition." (Fransen 2004:180). It is proposed as the new venue for the Stellenbosch Toy Museum.

Values and significance

Outstanding, "the most important house in a unique group".

Historical pattern of urban development of Dorp Street and Stellenbosch, notable owners and residents, aesthetic values of building cluster and streetscape, typical of Dorp Street, significant information potential in building fabric and under ground.

Design indicators

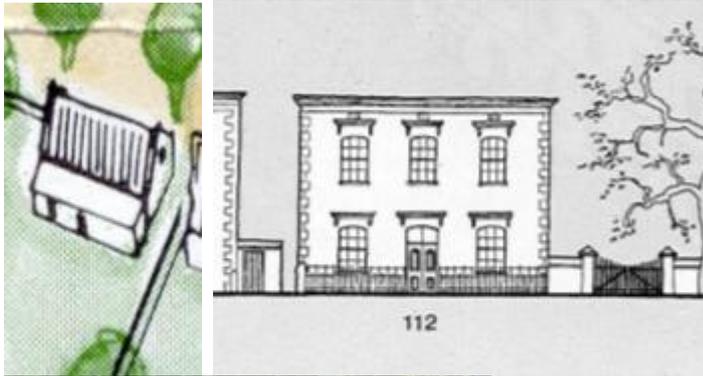
- Care for and maintain.
- If the security of the proposed toy museum allows it, it could be opened up at the back to enjoy and perhaps connect to the Voorgelegen garden to which it was once intimately linked.
- See also Voorgelegen garden, page 35.

112 DORP STREET

Merweda

Description

Rectangular 3 bay, double storey, flat roofed house with narrow stoep behind railings along the pavement. 2 rooms deep extending to L shape at rear. Late 18th century fabric with c1890s windows, doors, plasterwork. At the side is a recessed gate which leads to two 2-storey modern buildings. The very northern end of the strip has 3-storey flats, part of a complex that is accessed from a cul-de-sac off Herte Street.



Original form ... elevation (both from Stellenbosch 300 pp37, 49) ... 2005 photograph



Two storey buildings at the rear of the property, 2005



History

This strip of land was part of Voorgelegen and the house Merweda was built at the Dorp Street end in c1798 by Johannes Victor. In 1824 Victor's widow sold the strip to her son Jacobus Daniel Victor, a well know silversmith who carried on his trade here. Originally a single storey thatched building, it was raised to two storeys c1890. Not studied further.

Apart from a couple of small sheds, Merweda was the only building on the property until the 1980s. Since then several 2-storey buildings have been erected in its back yard.

Values and significance

Merweda is very significant, rear buildings have no significance.

Historical pattern of developing town, social history of Victor and others, cultural association with silver-smithing, outstanding aesthetic qualities as part of Dorp Street, significant architectural qualities, typical of mid-late Victorian double storey buildings, archaeological potential.

Design indicators

Not applicable but see Voorgelegen garden, page 35.

RHENISH PARSONAGE

Corner Market and Herte Streets.



Elliott Collection photograph CA E1117 probably before the c1900 fire ... 2004 photograph

History

Fransen and Cook 1980:150 write, "This complex has its original entrance in Herte Street with a simple, elegant gateway set in a long white wall, but its buildings abut on Market Street. They stand on ground granted in 1785 to Marthinus Beyleveld ... In 1793 it was acquired by PA Myburgh. [In 1832 the whole complex was acquired by the Rhenish Mission.] The nucleus of the complex is formed by an H shaped homestead, of which the back portion, lower and of greater age, has been extended and links up with Leipoldt House and other old buildings. ... The homestead had lost its gables; old photographs showed the front gable to have been very similar to the gables of Vredelust and Nectar, ie c1815. The windows and door had been replaced, but retained their old frames; the ceilings, thanks to a good brandsolder, survived the fire that gutted the place c1900. ... acquired by the Cape Provincial Administration, who found it in poor condition but decided to restore it in its entirety. This was done with great skill by Revel Fox and Partners, in consultation with Henry Villet, as architects, and proved to be one of the most outstanding restoration projects ever undertaken in this country. Luckily, the Elliott photographs provided useful information, as did the buildings themselves when subjected to closer scrutiny, so that a high degree of authenticity was ensured." The whole Rhenish complex is a provincial heritage site (1972).

Values and significance

Pattern of urban history, social history connections, spiritual associations with mission work, aesthetic qualities, information potential in building fabric and under ground.

Design indicators

Not applicable but see Rhenish Parsonage garden, page 53, and rear garden, page 50.

LONG HOUSE

Description

Single storey thatched house with curly end gable at the west onto the Rhenish parsonage front lawn, and abutting the double storey on the east.



History

The building and its neighbours were in place by 1817 – this was probably an outbuilding servicing Leipoldt House. During the 20th century it was thoroughly incorporated into a mass of ad hoc extensions. In the late 1960s the accretions were demolished and the long house restored to an 18th century appearance. The whole Rhenish complex is a provincial heritage site (1972).

Values and significance

Pattern of urban history, social history connections, spiritual associations with mission work, aesthetic qualities, information potential in building fabric and under ground.

Design indicators

Not applicable but see Long House courtyards, page 56.

DOUBLE STOREY VICTORIAN HOUSE

Off Market Street

Description

Double storey house with hipped roof, 19th century woodwork, linked to other Rhenish buildings.



History

It “was there in 1817, but must have been single-storeyed then. It was given its present double-storeyed appearance, with hipped slate roof, in c1860. The house makes an attractive front to the whole group” (Fransen and Cook 1980:150). The whole Rhenish complex is a provincial heritage site (1972).

Values and significance

Pattern of urban history, social history connections, spiritual associations with mission work, aesthetic qualities, good example of “Georgianised” building, information potential in building fabric and under ground.

Design indicators

Not applicable but see court, page 57.

LEIPOLDT HOUSE

Off Market Street

Description

In a cul-de-sac off Market Street with a parking court in front; backs on to Rhenish Parsonage rear courtyards. Single storey thatched house with holbol end-gables and a central Neo-Classical gable, Georgian fanlight and woodwork.



Elliott photo CA E2545 ... building restored 1960s ... rear ... rear shutters

History

“Leipoldt House, named after one of the Rhenish Missionaries ... had also lost its gable, but an Elliott photograph E2545 showed it as a narrow 4-pilaster gable with straight sloping sides, clearly dating from 1832 or very soon after. It is rectangular in plan, with a central room flanked by smaller rooms, one behind the other: the ‘condensed H-plan’ found frequently in Stellenbosch. Its depth is 8,5m as against the normal 6m roof span; this shows in the great height of roof and gable and the extra steps or curves of the end-gables. The fine woodwork is 19th century.” (Fransen and Cook 1980:150). The whole Rhenish complex is a provincial heritage site (1972).

Values and significance

Pattern of urban history, social history connections, spiritual associations with mission work, aesthetic qualities, good example of condensed H plan, information potential in building fabric and under ground.

Design indicators

Not applicable but see court, page 57.

INFORMATION OFFICE

Market Street

Description

Single storey thatched building, rear courtyards enclosed by walls.

History

Built between 1817 and 1859. Social history not studied but it was part of Rhenish Missionary ownership. When the Rhenish complex was restored c1965, "the original appearance of the thatched building facing Market Street had to be conjectured; and though it does not appear on the 1817 plan, it was given flush casements, early-straight ends and a dormer gable" (Fransen and Cook 1980:151). Photograph right shows it in c1880. Now Stellenbosch Tourist Information Office.



Values and significance

Pseudo-Dutch period building, c1965.

Design indicators

Not applicable.

RHENISH SCHOOL

Description

Single storey, pitched roof school building with pseudo-brickwork façade, now painted white. Fine railing fence to sidewalk. Little altered or extended.



c1908 TD Ravenscroft photograph CA J9193



1959 from *Rhenish* 1960:42



2005 south side from Rhenish Institute terrace.

History

Built 1905, architect John Parker. Renovated and painted c1959.

"We lived in the 'Next House' [the Kronlein homestead] which was demolished in 1903 to make way for the new school. What fun we had while this was being built; we played hide and seek under the foundations, and were often chased away by the builders." Olga Baumbach (nee Weber), *Rhenish, Our Century* 1960:48. The facade is a provincial heritage site (1988).

Values and significance

Historical pattern of schooling and urban development, social history of pupils (see esp *Rhenish*) and notable architect (See Picton-Seymour 1989:17), aesthetic values in the building and townscape relationship to the Braak which it faces, typical of the wave of school buildings across the Western Cape 1900-1908 and typical of this architect's work.

Design indicators

The original paintwork and stonework colours should be restored – as has been done at Bloemhof/Sasol Art Gallery which is of the same period – because the fine and interesting architectural detailing and modelling is smothered by the universal white. Not studied further.

KRONLEIN HOUSE (DEMOLISHED)



19th century photographs courtesy Stellenbosch Museum from Smuts ed 1979:420-1.

Description and history

Demolished. In c1822 the main building was U shaped, set close to the Institute boundary with a longer leg along that boundary and with a parallel outbuilding. Single storey, thatched with rolled central gable, 5 bays with curved fanlight over central door; each end of the façade were further bays with steep doors, separated by pilasters which also appeared at the corner. A much layered house. Between 1822 and 1859 outbuildings were erected on the corner of Market Street with wolve-end gables.

The land grant was early. Martinus Beyleveld already owned it before he was granted the Rhenish Parsonage land in 1785 ("annex dezelfs oude erf"). The Rhenish School history reports that in the 19th century it, "belonged to Elizabeth Zuikersman, a widow to whom Rev G Terlinden was married in 1850. They lived in the house for many years. ... At his death in 1872 ... the house in which he and his wife had lived was bequeathed to his sister, Mrs Sophie Kronlein who left it to the Rhenish Mission at her death in 1899." The building was used by the School Manager whose daughter remembers that the girls called it "The Next House". It was demolished in 1903. (*Rhenish*, 1960:24, 48, Fransen and Cook 1980:150-1, Smuts ed 1979:420-1).

RHENISH INSTITUTE

Description

Long white building edging the Braak, double storey with a flat roof. Central is a porch and flat-top projecting parapet/gable.



1905 view across Braak from church (left), Rhenish Institute, Rhenish School. (*Rhenish* 1960:31)



Early 20th century (Smuts ed 1979:420) ... 2005

History

A piece of land bordering on the Braak was granted to Marthinus Beyleveld in 1787 and when he transferred it later that year it had a house on it, a thatched single storey – the H shape survives in the existing fabric. It became Rhenish property in 1872 to house the school for Missionaries' daughters founded in 1860. It was soon given an upper storey under a flat roof with a central raised parapet with the words Rhenish Institute. The rear is similar with the word Ebenezer ("Hitherto the Lord hath helped us"). Later the building was extended on both sides. The woodwork on the front is all 19th century but at the back and internally are original 18th century sashes and doors. It was restored in 1968 and turned into an art centre. Proclaimed Provincial Heritage Site 1969. It is now the PG Olivier Art Centre. (*Rhenish* 1960:24-5, Fransen and Cook 1980:137, Oberholster 1972:73).

Values and significance

Historical pattern of schooling and urban development, of how buildings grow, social history of pupils (see esp *Rhenish* 1960), spiritual association with Missionary work, aesthetic values in the building and townscape relationship to the Braak which it faces, some archaeological potential.

Design indicators

Not studied; see Rear Garden pages 61-68.

UNIDENTIFIED DETACHED HOUSE BEHIND RHENISH INSTITUTE (DEMOLISHED)



Description and history

This detached house stood in front of the north wing of the Rhenish Institute. It was built after 1859 and is seen on Naude's c1880 panorama. It was a 7 bay single story building, 3 bays deep. It had a pitched roof (probably corrugated iron) and a verandah along the front which faced westwards. It is not known when it was demolished, possibly as late as the 1970s.

Values and significance

Slight significance of archaeological remains.

Design indicators

Archaeological search for material and interpretation of meaning.

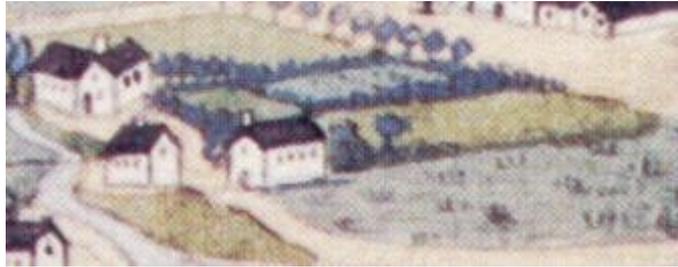
WHO'S WHO

WHO'S WHO

Before 1785-c1793

Beyleveld, Marthinus

Original owner of all the properties in the Rhenish quarter. In 1785 he already owned a house on the Braak (later called Kronlein House, site of the 1905 school). In 1785 he was granted more land north of it and that year built the core of the Rhenish Parsonage which is at the back of the present H shape. In 1787 he was granted the Rhenish Institute site and



when he sold it the same year there was a house on it. All these buildings were single storey and thatched. The 1785 Schumacher panorama (above right) shows two substantial but simple buildings in the area (below the L shaped mill). They are possibly Kronlein House and the core of the Rhenish Parsonage. It is not known if Beyleveld increased the Parsonage to the present H shape – he sold the property in 1793 and it has a c1815 period gable. He was born in Amsterdam, came to the Cape and became a Burgher, married Abigael Johanna Combrink in 1782, had 9 children 1785-98. (Fransen and Cook 1980:137, 150-1, de Villiers and Pama 1981:53).

1787-unknown

Von Desch, JN

Bought Rhenish Institute property in 1787 when it already had a house on it. (Fransen and Cook 1980:137, not in de Villiers and Pama 1981).

1793-unknown

Myburgh, Philip Albert

Born in 1747, he married Hester Anna van der Byl (14 children 1771-95). He was a Heemraad member who after his retirement in 1777 helped map the outlying districts of Swellendam. He acquired the property later called the Rhenish Parsonage in 1793. He died in 1813; Fransen dates the gable to the period 1815; so Myburgh might (just) have built it, and indeed might have extended the building to its present H shape. (Fransen and Cook 1980:150-1, Smuts ed 1979:160, de Villiers and Pama 1981:615).

1797- c1820

Victor, Johannes

Stellenbosch Burgher and fire-warden appointed to man a new fire-engine in 1780 – the beginning of an organized fire brigade. Acquired a portion of the mill's land in 1797 and immediately built single storey thatched houses on the Dorp Street edge, 112 Dorp Street and Voorgelegen (116-8 Dorp Street) which may have been H shaped from the beginning. Died before 1824 by which time his widow was owner.

(SAHRA file, Fransen and Cook 1980:141-2, Smuts ed 1979:170).

1797- c1820

Mrs Victor, Johannes

Her husband built several houses along Dorp Street in 1797 which she acquired after his death before 1824. She sold 112 Dorp Street to her son Jacobus that year and sold her home Voorgelegen to another son, Wynand, in 1836.

(Fransen and Cook 1980:141-2).

1804-

Palm, Jan Willem

Purchased the corn mill Nieuwe Molen from Landdrost and Heemraden in 1804 (by which time adjacent Voorgelegen section had been divided off). Among his responsibilities were keeping the millstream in good order below the mill. Palm's mill was sold in 1870 to William Hunt.

(Walton 1974:40-3).

Before 1823-1866-etc

Slaves and Free Blacks

The Rhenish Church was built in 1823 for a congregation of slaves, free blacks and Khoi Christians. Its location was convenient for its congregation, some of whom came from the countryside and others from the town. Clearly it was a part of Stellenbosch where great numbers of slaves gathered for religious – and social – purposes.

This became even more marked after 1832 when the Rhenish Church initiated a slave school run from the complex of Rhenish building which the Mission bought that year. Education took a variety of forms: a school with 140 pupils, religious instruction five nights a week, a Sunday School with 100 pupils, adult education classes for coloured women five days a week, and four nights of the week adults of all sexes were taught from 18:30 to 20:30. The church itself was very well-attended and was virtually doubled in size in 1840.

In the neighbourhood, Group Areas introduced under Apartheid removed coloured people from the area. This was so effectively carried out that it is impossible to sense that the Rhenish Church was a slave church, and that the area abounded with social diversity.

We have found only one specific reference to slave history, a legend told by Rhenish Institute schoolgirls. In the 1960s there was an almond tree in the old Rhenish garden, said to be planted on the grave of a murdered slave. "In October when the tree is in blossom and the wind moves softly through it, scattering the petals to the ground, there is a strange sighing sound which moves around the blossoms ... different from the sounds of other trees ... Legend has it that the ghost of the slave walks at that time, looking for something, restlessly, in the corner of the garden ..." (uncredited anecdote in *Rhenish* 1960:74).

(Japha et al 1993:18, Meiring et al 1993:72-4, *Rhenish* 1960:72-74, Pistorius and Harris 1994).



1824-

Victor, Jacobus Daniel

Bought 112 Dorp Street (Merweda) from his mother in 1824. He was a well know silversmith who carried on his trade there.

(Fransen and Cook 1980:141-2).

1828-

Leipoldt, Rev J

Rhenish missionary after whom Leipoldt house is named. He was one of the first group of four missionaries who arrived at the Cape in 1829 and was instrumental in getting Rev PD Luckhoff to establish a Stellenbosch mission.

(Fransen and Cook 1980:150-1, Rosenthal 1961:293, Smuts ed 1979:79, 282, 284, not in de Villiers and Pama 1981).

1836-51

Victor, Wynand

Acquired Voorgelegen from his mother in 1836 and owned it till 1851.

(Fransen and Cook 1980:141-2).

1840s-

Zuikersman or Suijkerman, Elizabeth

A widow who owned Kronlein House. In 1850 she married Rev G Terlinden and they lived there till her death in 1861.

(*Rhenish* 1960:24, Smuts ed 1979:305).

1850-72

Terlinden, Rev G

Minister of the Rhenish community who married widow Elizabeth Zuikersman in 1850. She owned Kronlein House where the couple lived. In 1860 he bought the outbuildings of the adjacent property to prevent it being sold as a railway hotel. His wife died in 1861 and in 1862 he bought the rest of the adjacent house which he gave to the Rhenish Institute for a school and boarding house. At his death in 1872 it was left by will to the Mission.

(*Rhenish* 1960:24, Smuts ed 1979:266, 305).

1851-82

Reitz, Gysbert Jan Carel

Acquired Voorgelegen in 1851 and sold it to his son-in-law in 1882. He put new windows on the ground floor but it was raised to two storeys after his time. He was born 1797, became a Cape Town notary, married twice: Geesje Wilhelmina Karnspek (3 children 1821-28); Hester Susanna Joubert (4 children 1831-41, the youngest of whom married the next owner Dr C Smuts). (Fransen and Cook 1980:141-2, de Villiers and Pama 1981:767).

1860

Luckhoff, Rev Paul Daniel

Head of the Rhenish Mission station at Stellenbosch who arrived as missionary 1829. He undertook teaching of slaves from 1832, expanded the church to its present size in 1840 and founded a school for Missionaries' daughters in 1860. Born in Elberfeld 1803, married Johanna Susanna Albertyn 1833 (4 children 1836-51), died at Stellenbosch 1891. Detailed account of his work in Smuts ed 1979:284-6 and in Meiring et al 1993:75-7.

(Smuts ed 1979:284-6, 305, *Rhenish* 1960:23, de Villiers and Pama 1981:512, Meiring et al 1993:75-7).

1860-1882

Voigt, Miss Bertha

First Principal of Rhenish Institute, under whose management the school prospered. By 1866 there were 29 boarders and 18 day girls and the school had become self-supporting. She introduced teacher training in 1874, retired in 1882.

(*Rhenish* 1960:22-8, Smuts ed 1979:305).

1866

Joubert, JD (Japie)

Owned an erf at 120 Dorp Street on which he built a school for boys, the running of which he helped fund. Meiring & van Huyssteen write, "Oom Japie Joubert must have been a remarkably generous person. In the beginning he received £75 a year in rent, but when the Gymnasium later experienced financial difficulties, he reduced the rental to £60 – a mere £5 a month – and still later to as little as £50 a year. Of one thing we can be sure: Oom Japie was not a greedy man and would never have become rich on the rent he collected"

(Meiring et al 1993:56-7, Smuts ed 1979:307-8).

1866-

Anderson, Rev Charles

Born Scotland. From 1867 a teacher at, then rector of, the Stellenbosch Gymnasium in Dorp Street which had 123 pupils by 1874 when it moved to a new location. Contributors to Smuts ed 1979:358 write that his pupils found him unpredictable, excessively strict one moment and unexpectedly tolerant the next. With his steel-rimmed spectacles up on his forehead – "just to look learned" – he was a source of amusement to his charges, who also found his Scots accent and odd mannerisms endlessly entertaining. The folk song *Wat Maak Oom Kalie Daar?* refers to him. But he was an excellent teacher, and he and his two assistants managed before the end of 1873 to put four of their pupils through the examination for the Second-Class Certificate, the later BA. Owned Faure House in Plein Street 1873-79. As a result of dissention, resigned and retired to Scotland in 1879.

(Vos et al 1992:6, Meiring et al 1993:57, Smuts ed 1979:308, 326, 358).

1870-

Hunt, William

Bought the Nieuwe Molen in 1870, replaced the original building with a three-storeyed mill over the millstream.

(Walton 1974:43).

1872-1899

Kronlein, Mrs Sophie

Sister of Rev G Terlinden who left her the Kronlein House in 1872. She bequeathed it to the Rhenish Mission at her death in 1899.

(*Rhenish* 1960:24).

1882-unknown

Smuts, Dr Cornelis

Medical doctor who practised in Stellenbosch from the 1850s. Married Johanna MF Reitz (born 1841) and acquired Voorgelegen from his father-in-law GJC Reitz in 1882. He was probably responsible for making it double storeyed. He sold it to his son-in-law Dr Macpherson. Prominent citizen, member of the first council of Stellenbosch College.

(Fransen and Cook 1980:141-2, de Villiers and Pama 1981:767, Smuts ed 1979:327, Hoskyn 1979:29).

1905

Parker, John

Prolific Cape Town architect and public citizen who designed the Rhenish School, built in 1905. See Picton-Seymour 1989:17.

Early1900s-1946

Dr Macpherson

“The little Scot”, Edinburgh-trained medical doctor who started practising in Stellenbosch in the early 1900s. Active in civic affairs, ambulance service, jointly responsible for starting Queen Victoria Hospital. He bought Voorgelegen from his father-in-law Dr C Smuts and sold it to his daughter in 1946. See also Mrs Macpherson, below.

(SAHRA file, Meiring et al 1993:58, Smuts ed 1979:238, Hoskyn 1979:29-31).



Unknown-1946

Mrs Macpherson

Daughter of Dr C Smuts, the previous owner, and wife of Dr Macpherson who bought Voorgelegen. Margaret Hoskyn 1979:30 remembers, “The garden also contained a miniature zoo in which intrepid little ‘Mrs Mac’, the doctor’s wife, kept a lion cub as well as lemurs, marmosets, monkeys, tortoises and snakes. [...] Mrs Mac was keenly interested in fishing and when engaged in the sport in the Eerste River used to wear her husband’s waders, which came up almost to her armpits.”

(Hoskyn 1979:30).

1946-

Sim, Morna I

Daughter of Dr Macpherson, she acquired Voorgelegen in 1946 and owned it till 1964. She was born in 1905, and married Prof James Taylor Robertson Sim.

(SAHRA file).

1964-c1978

De Vries, JP

Acquired Voorgelegen in 1964. Found the property too expensive to maintain and proposed demolition in the 1970s. Public outcry. Sold it to Stellenbosch Municipality c1978.

(SAHRA file).

c1965

Fox, Revel

Architect, town planner and politician who restored Rhenish complex in late 1960s.

(Fransen and Cook 1980:150-1).

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