

SITE NAME: ELSENBURG

LANDSCAPE UNIT NUMBER: A09
LANDSCAPE UNIT GRADE: Grade II

ADDRESS OF THE SITE		PROTECTION AND GRADING	
PROPERTY NO		Curr.NHRA Protection	S27
SITE ADDRESS	Muldersvlei Road	>60YRS?	Yes
CURRENT USE	Stellenbosch University Department of Agr	PROPOSED GRADING	Grade II
ORIGINAL USE	Agricultural werf		

SIGNIFICANCE		ARCHITECTURAL STYLE
Associational	Representivity	Cape Dutch, Cape Revival, Modernist
Age	Rarity	
Scientific	Archaeology	
Symbolic	Intangible	
Architectural		ARCHITECT/BUILDER

SITE DESCRIPTION
 A U-shaped homestead set within a rectangular werf, comprising barn-like structures of various ages (some modern student residence structures), and with a very fine walled mill stream and mill to the south. A bell tower is also located within the werf space. The entire werf is set on a gentle rise of the Klapmuts peak, facing southwards over the rolling farmland. To the east of the historic werf are several working, agricultural structures, some being Victorian and Cape Revival / Edwardian in age and style. To the west is the academic campus, with some notable buildings, including the Cape Revival structures.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE
 While altered, this remains one of the finest werf spaces in the Cape. The site has a high degree of historical significance, being a buiteposte site because of its natural pasture lands used for herding by the first inhabitants (early stone age tools has been recorded), and then being associated with people of significance at the Cape in the fields of agriculture and architecture. This is the site where the wine varietal, Pinotage, was first developed, and therefore has high scientific significance related to this, and similar achievements. The site retains significance as an agricultural college with a 100 year history, and has high architectural, contextual and scenic significance as a layered and complex werf, and campus space. The site is a proclaimed National Monument, and remains deserving of its PHS status.

INTERIOR DESCRIPTION

GROUPING WITH OTHER SITES

EVIDENCE OF DEMOLITION

Yes - the front door was remained by Herbert Baker in the late 19th century, and the house was gutted by fire in 1916.

REFERENCES



LATITUDE/LONGITUDE
 -33.85551274 18.83655113

SITE HISTORY
 Granted to Samuel Elsevier, Secunde, in 1698. Martin Melck took ownership in 1752, and he constructed the main house. In 1898 the site was first used as an Agricultural training college - the first of its kind in South Africa.

LANDSCAPE SIGNIFICANCE
 There are some mature oaks within the werf, but the primary landscape element is the extremely fine, walled mill race that defines the one edge of the werf. There are additionally some very old orchards on the site.

CONTEXTUAL DESIGN
 The werf, although altered, remains an extremely fine example, retaining its form, edging elements and its overall sense of place.

INVASIVE ELEMENTS
 Institutional structures

HERITAGE VULNERABILITY



DATE