

panes and rectangular fanlight. The eastern corner of the building has been cut away to join the 1932 Synagogue Hall on site.

There is a courtyard at the south side of the Skuinshuis, entered through notable gate pillars and paved in brick. A wing of the Skuinshuis projects into it on the north. On the east is a row of 18th century fowl houses. On the south is the side wall of the signage building. In the centre is a tall palm tree. Behind the Skuinshuis, alongside the development site, is a small vineyard, accessed from the courtyard.

History

The house derives its name ("skew house") from the fact that it is set at an angle to the street. In the 18th century Ryneveld Street had a bend just after crossing the Drooge Rivier³ and at that time the side of the house was aligned with this track, which continued past Bachelors. The present form of the house dates from the first half of the 19th century (the rectangular form is seen on 1817 and c1822 maps). It was a remodelling of an earlier building and involved making the side façade the principal frontage. The earlier farmhouse had its edge to the road and faced northeast into its land. It was built (or rebuilt from an even earlier house) in 1782 when Frans Siebrits owned the property. This is said to have been T shaped (difficult to reconcile with the disposition of thick internal walls which rather suggest a longhouse). The present leg to the T of the rectangle was added after Hager's 1859 map. The building was acquired in 1923 by the Hebrew Congregation and restored in 1979. It was declared a National Monument (Provincial Heritage Site) in 1980.

Fowl House courtyard: James Walton writes, "One of the best-preserved fowl-houses in the Cape is that associated with the Skuinshuis ... [which] stands in a courtyard close to the house. It is a rectangular building divided into three barrel-vaulted rooms, each with its own doorway closed by a slatted door. In each side wall there are two tiers of barrel-vaulted nesting-places. The barrel-vault was a method of construction fairly widely used in the Cape in the 18th century and even earlier ... it was the usual form of construction for the larger nesting-places. In Stellenbosch ... [this form of construction was] very popular between 1770 and 1782 ... [examples are] the Kruithuis on the Brak 1770 ... Utopia in 1779 ... Grosvenor House 1782 ... If the core of Skuinshuis was built in 1782, then it seems probable that the associated barrel-vaulted fowl-house dates from the same time ..." (Walton 1985:53-55). The fine capped walls around the courtyard predate the signage building and the rusticated gate pillars also seem of great age though the wrought iron gates seem more recent. At the rear of the fowl-house is a small vineyard. (Deeds Office erf register, Kuys map in Smuts 1979:54, F Smuts in SAHRA file, vd Bijl in SAHRA file, Walton 1985.)

Essential character and qualities

A fine and impressive historical building set at an angle to the street, and a charming courtyard to the side.

Values and significance

Electric townscape moment.

Archaeologically sensitive: 17th century middens and building fabric are possibly in the vicinity.

18th century buildings with great historical, social and aesthetic values.

Fowl-house very rare.

Design and development indicators

- Not part of the Conference Centre site but...
- new developments should not loom over it.
- the stream through the courtyard should be indicated as part of the Drooge Rivier.
- the Skuinshuis north façade is onto the Synagogue Hall fantail courtyard. Should this be developed as a pedestrian access to the Conference Centre (see following entry) there are opportunities to repair its face.
- Archaeological sensitivity in the vicinity; investigate prior to any excavation.

2.7 RYNEVELD STREET RIBBON: SYNAGOGUE HALL



Description

The hall has three components. At the rear is a large rectangular hall under a hipped corrugated iron roof; at its south end it has a small basement and mezzanine floor (previously the stage); there have been various office subdivisions proposed from time to time. Industrial section steel windows and external doors throughout. Between this hall and the Skuinshuis, under a lower hipped corrugated iron roof, is a foyer and lavatories; this has also been subdivided periodically; there are round-headed timber windows on the front; steel elsewhere. At the front is a projecting entrance porch with Cape Mediterranean qualities – parapet roof, arches on all sides, Doric columns inset at the front – plasterwork Stars of David and the date 1932. In front is a bleak and barren courtyard with the side of the Skuinshuis projecting awkwardly forward and competing for attention. There are pillars and wrought iron railing along the pavement which also step inward along the space left by the angled Skuinshuis. Though modest they unmistakably mark a division between public and private territory. Between the hall and the synagogue is an inviting glimpse of the trees on the conference centre site, but the way is closed by an outbuilding and walls.

History

The Hebrew Community bought the Skuinshuis and the land as far as Bloemhof School in 1923 and erected a hall (the porch is dated 1932). It was built right into the corner of the Skuinshuis so as to leave space on the site for the anticipated 1934 Synagogue. (Deeds Office erf register.)

Essential character and qualities

The forecourt is very barren and bleak. The building is set back and relatively discreet.

Values and significance

Associated with spiritual and cultural activities of the Jewish community in Stellenbosch though this use has now ceased.

Design and development indicators

- Should this site be incorporated into the Conference Centre development a pedestrian route to the site could beneficially be made between the hall and the Synagogue, and the building could readily be remodelled to suit a related conference or public function.
- Should this site be incorporated into the Conference Centre development there may be benefits in substantially remodelling the hall. The building has low architectural qualities except for the porch which is a charming feature, sufficiently accomplished to stand alone.
- The courtyard in front of the building would benefit from softening – for example, by planting trees in it.
- The fence along the street and at the side of the Skuinshuis has slight heritage values and could be reconsidered in making a route to the site.
- See also indicators for the Synagogue and proposed vehicular entry point, page 44.

2.8 RYNEVELD STREET RIBBON: SYNAGOGUE AND PROPOSED VEHICULAR ENTRY POINT



Description

Synagogue with double storey façade divided into three bays by rusticated pilasters. Central bay has triangular raised parapet and circular vent above a three-part arched window separated by pilasters. Below the window is a tablet with Hebrew writing and below that on the ground floor is a recessed entrance with columns. The side bays are surmounted by domes. The double storey rusticated pilasters come together at first floor to form an arch with, above them, a pronounced moulding with a triangular form. Set into the rusticated arch at first floor are paired arched windows, below them are round medallions with Star of David motif, and on the ground floor are paired windows with faceted pilasters. Granite plinth. On the side elevations the domes and rusticated arch turns the corner. The main run has three bays separated by buttresses with scrolled tops. Each bay has a double storey recess with ogee top; set into it at ground level are paired windows and at the top arch-headed windows with a horizontal moulding below. The rear has a straight gable with a louvred ventilator into the roofspace and a small projecting Aaronkodesh (apse) at ground level. At the front are wrought iron gates and fence with capped posts and plastered base. It is separated from the conference centre site by a facebrick wall.

History

The Hebrew community acquire the site in 1923 and built the Synagogue in 1934. The architect has not been established - a very accomplished work though old-fashioned for its time. (Deeds Office erf register)

Essential character and qualities

A noble building with endlessly fascinating detail.

Values and significance

Religious and cultural. The congregation is said to be shrinking. Reuse in these circumstances is common but alternative functions need to be suitably dignified.

Considerable design qualities, energetically modelled façade and notable townscape impact.

Architecturally it turns the corner well – not just a façade.

Eastern Mediterranean qualities expressing origins of Jewry. Not part of any contemporary trend.

Design and development indicators

- The proposed site entrance runs past the north side of the synagogue (see next section). This will make it a corner building – providing the opportunity to add to its dignity and urban impact in the redesign of its foreplace.

Proposed vehicular entrance to convention centre

A vehicular entrance (one way, either out or in) is proposed alongside the Synagogue.

- There is no objection to this from a heritage viewpoint; the land at the side of the Synagogue is unused and the boundary wall does not have particularly strong values and could be modified.
- The roadway should be sensitively designed in relation to the building (this should take precedence over the position of cadastrals). It should be a place in its own right, with the qualities of a quiet village lane or the courtyard entrances so characteristic of Stellenbosch. Appropriate planting should be incorporated.
- The possibility of accommodating two modest lanes (ie in and out) should be investigated. It would not only avoid the awkwardness of one-way-at-different-times (as has been suggested) but would reduce the number of vehicles having to use Plein Street to access the parking. If Ryneveld Street could also carry two-way traffic (see discussion under Context development indicators, page 12) this would provide the most direct access and egress point to the site and avoid taking more cars through the core of the village.
- The facebrick wall between the synagogue and the Bloemhof School building should be removed or replaced with a wall or fence more in keeping with the style and materials of both buildings, and more visually permeable – perhaps with plastered posts and vertical iron railings between, or even better, a neat, clipped hedge. The uncomfortable angles of the present wall should be changed to respond to the geometry of the buildings.
- The road should not descend to the basement parking until well beyond the buildings.
- The entrance from Ryneveld Street should be a gateway of sufficient clarity, dignity and standing to reflect the importance of the entrance function (if it is only an exit point, it could be more discreet – but this seems unlikely). The design of the entrance should communicate its function sufficiently clearly that a clutter of signage is not required in Ryneveld Street.
- The design of the entrance gateway should be integrated with the boundary treatment of the Synagogue (which could be improved – at present it cuts the building off from the street rather harshly) and the design themes and style of the conference centre itself.
- A pedestrian entrance to the site on the other side of the synagogue (see 2.7, above) offers the opportunity for a balanced and coherent design composition with the Synagogue as a central set-piece between entrances.

2.9 RYNEVELD STREET RIBBON: BLOEMHOF SCHOOL SASOL ART MUSEUM



Ryneveld Street front



Rear façade with south wing left



Back courtyard



North lane looking west



North lane looking east



Tower alongside Synagogue



Outbuilding

Description

Double storey building with slate roof with central ventilation turret, and projecting wings with Dutch Renaissance gables at each end of the façade. Walls are red-painted mock brickwork with profuse plaster decorations: quoins, rusticated window surrounds, pilaster gables, string courses and eaves decorations. On the front façade there is a single storey section between the wings which forms a first floor balcony with precast balusters, and with arched windows opening onto it. The central entrance has a small gable and arched doorway with double doors flanked by double pilasters. Other windows are double timber casements with fanlights. Along the street is a fine wrought iron fence with capped posts related to the overall design. It includes three pedestrian gates and a carriage gate, but only the central gate is used. A pathway across the pretty front garden and connects to paths on each side of the building.

The side elevations have a turret and verandah with cast-iron columns and brackets. The rear elevation is similarly ebulliently decorated and has a central Amsterdam gable and a line of grand windows at first floor. A continuous verandah at ground floor with a central open trussed gable continues across the inner face of a single storey wing which projects from the turret at the south corner, making the building L-shaped. The rear space has recently been turned into an enclosed courtyard by adding a high and (from the outside) aggressive wall with a gate on axis. The inner walls are softened by formal shrubbery and trees. The verandah on the south side is extended as a covered walkway that connects to two single storey outbuildings, one of the late 20th century, and the other part of the original design. It has a hipped roof and mock-brickwork with simple brick decorative effects. It was clearly a necessary part of the school's function – not established but probably ablutions and change rooms. This route is extensively used by pedestrians (and cyclists – it includes a ramp) moving between town and the university and eastern suburbs.

History

The Bloemhof Girls' Seminary was founded in 1875 by Rev Neethling, Prof Hofmeyr and other prominent citizens. It first occupied the Gymnasium with 46 pupils. Most of the teachers were from Mount Holyoke Seminary in the USA. The Seminary moved to Church Street in 1878 and the present building in 1907. Although teaching was initially in English, Bloemhof High School is the oldest Afrikaans-medium girls' school in SA. The school has now moved to the other side of the river. Ryneveld Street building

proclaimed 1976, restored by Munnik Visser Black and Fish. Now an art gallery housing the University's collection. (KrugerRoos 1997, Meiring et al 1993, Smuts 1979.)

Essential character and qualities

Powerful and vigorous architectural form.

Completeness from gutter to turret.

Townscape relationship to Erfurt House across the road – concludes the morphological area.

Rear courtyard relationship to Conference Centre site is very awkward.

Values and significance

Social: education of women.

Aesthetic: This is architecture of the first order. It is part of an international movement in the Dutch Renaissance style that included the Rijksmuseum and Railway Station in Amsterdam and the Netherlands Bank and Raadsaal in Pretoria where it was especially favoured. This late (1907) example of the style is particularly well-realised, modelled in three dimensions (fronts, sides, back, roofscape), and with the design theme carried through to the surrounding fence. Within the continuity of its ebullient detail, the front and back spaces are effective in different ways: the front addressing the street in a proper manner; the rear embracing an open ambulatory.

Social: All buildings have a meaning, a silent language of symbols⁴ (I am grand, I have good taste, I live at subsistence level, I made this myself, I am in charge). Though this is mostly unconscious nowadays it was a key design intention in the early 20th century when Baker, for instance, sought to give physical expression to the values of Imperialism. The Dutch Renaissance style identified with Holland – cf use in Transvaal – memories of the Boer War still fresh – seems a deliberate choice of style to identify with Transvaal values.

Environmental: major townscape event.

Design and development indicators

- The front wall and gateposts are intrinsic to the design and should not be altered. However, opening the north and south gates would facilitate pedestrian permeability from town to gown (and the conference centre). Both side paths are potentially charming.
- The outbuilding is the first old building encountered on entering the site proper from Ryneveld Street. It therefore needs to be addressed properly in the design of the approach area.
- Though the rear courtyard is a handsome space it is very rude and obstructive to the space beyond it. The high courtyard wall should be removed and the space integrated with the Conference Centre development and landscaping. Adjacent property Bachelors also addresses this place, op cit. Resolving the relationship between the right-angled geometry of this building and the strong diagonals of Bachelors (and the rows of plane trees behind) in the design of this space (and new buildings east of it) is a challenging and interesting urban design opportunity.

INDEX 3.0 AIRY EDWARDIANA

Morphological area characterised by large Edwardian buildings in their gardens; contrasts with the continuous urban streetscape of the Ryneveld ribbon.



Neethling House

Double storey 1908 Edwardian residence for female students of the Bloemhof school up the street, designed by architect Hesse. Presently Municipal use. Not studied further



Ryneveld Street Lawn and Town Hall parking

Significance: Opposite the entrance to the Conference Centre site is a lawn. Spatially important to the morphology of this part of Ryneveld Street. The Drooge River runs diagonally across it in a variety of channels. On its south is Neethling House; on its north is Erfurt House with airy double height verandah; on the west is the parking area behind the Town Hall, an empty site with potential for development. The parking area is identified in the Stellenbosch Development Guidelines as a key public space development opportunity, and as part of the same Precinct as the Bloemhof site.

Lawn and road to the parking is directly opposite the proposed Ryneveld entrance to the site: signage and traffic routing implications (see also Context and Location, page 9). The lawn and the road through it provides a handsome view of the site entrance and Synagogue in winter. Not studied further.

- The relationship (and potential relationships) between development of the Bloemhof site and the possible future development of the parking area behind the Town Hall should be taken into consideration and their respective roles clarified.



Erfurt House

Two storey Victorian house wrapped by double-storey verandah, sits in the middle of a period garden with light boundary fence. Restored by Stellenbosch Museum which has lecture rooms, library and offices there. Not studied further.

INDEX 4.0 CALLEBASSE KRAAL

The northern section of the site is the old farm Callebasse Kraal. It has no street presence and is surrounded by the Ryneveld Street Urban Ribbon on the west, by Wilgenhof Residence on the north and by the Botanical Gardens on the east. The south half of the site is discussed earlier: see Plein Street Frontage.



4.1 Callebasse Kraal

See detailed discussion page 50



4.2 Terrace Bank

See detailed discussion page 53



4.3 Drooge Rivier

See detailed discussion page 55

4.1 CALLEBASSE KRAAL

Description

The north half of the site proper is mainly the farm Callebasse Kraal⁵. It does not have a street presence. It is largely a parking lot, blending with the parking lot on the Faure property south of it (see Plein Street Frontage section 1.0). A wire mesh fence across the parking lot is roughly where the boundary was between the farms, though not with that geometry. The Drooge Rivier is underground here (discussed section 4.3). On the east is the Botanical Garden; there is a gate to it through shrubbery. Also in this area are various small fenced pieces of land. Diagonally along the north are University residences such as Bachelors and Wilgenhof Wing, which lie at a slightly higher level above terrace bank. On this boundary is a facebrick wall with lean-to roof providing shaded parking. A line of plane trees inside the site parallels this boundary. On the west is the rear of Bloemhof School, and the rears of the Synagogue, etc. The original west boundary of Callebasse Kraal, which flanked the old road to Ida's Valley, ran diagonally through these. The Bloemhof outbuilding is more or less in the centre of the old grant.

Photographic distortion is evident in all these panoramas.



Looking generally westward from near the Botanical Garden west entrance. Distant on left is Sanlam beyond the wire mesh fence. Centre are four plane trees near the proposed site entrance from Ryneveld. Right of them, behind blue car, is Bloemhof outbuilding. Right is line of plane trees along Wilgenhof boundary.



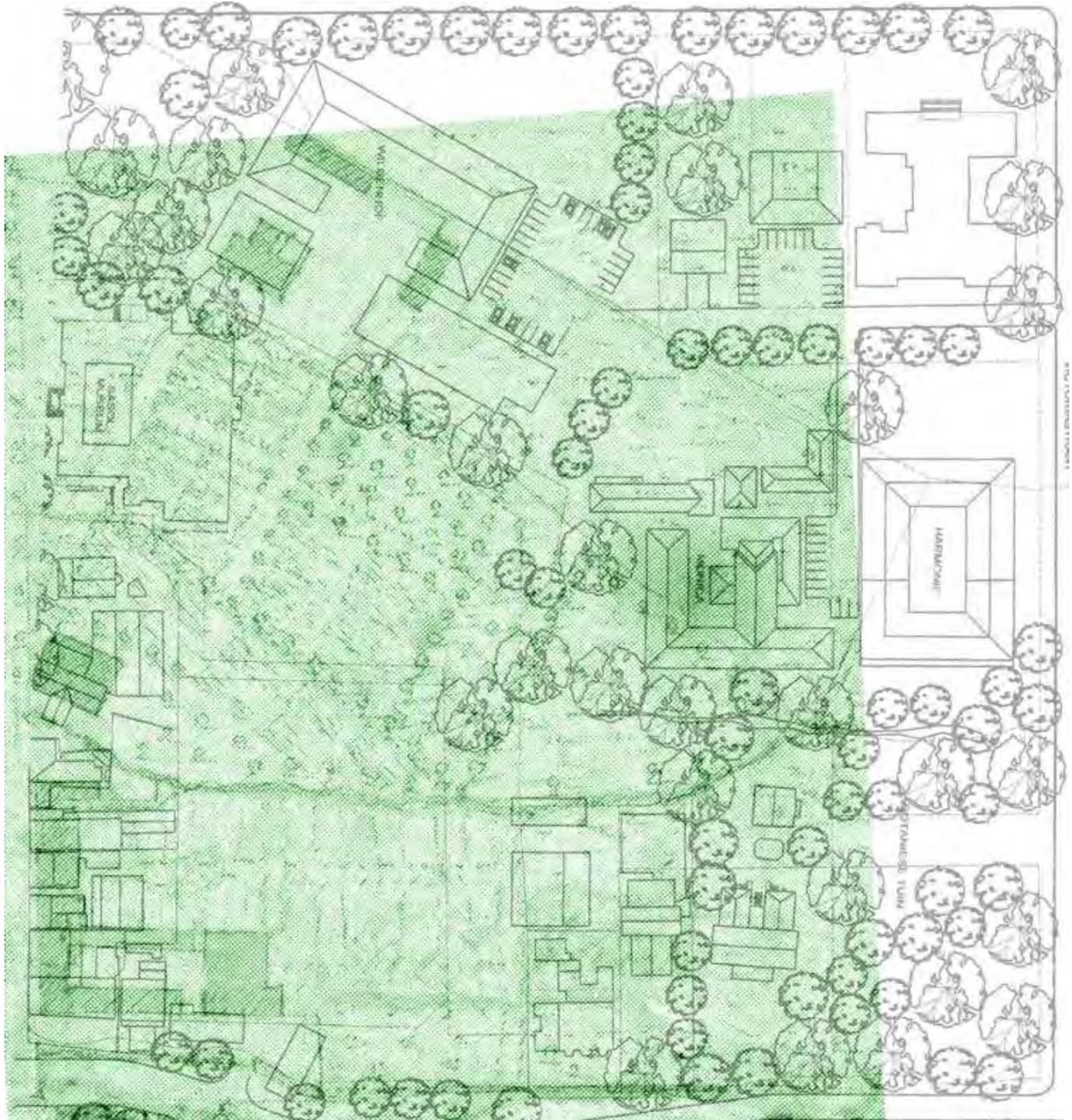
Place behind Bloemhof. Outbuilding is left, centre is school behind high wall, right is the line of plane trees along Wilgenhof boundary.



History

1698 grant diagram. Present Ryneveld Street is assumed to run up the left side of the picture. The Skuinshuis is in the corner below D. The longhouse existing in 1698 is shown. The Drooge Rivier runs along the lower boundaries of the site. Callebasse Kraal was granted to the late Anna Catharina van Swaanswyk in 1698 but it had already been occupied for a time and there was a house on the property by then. She had been married to the schoolmaster Sybrand Mancadan and it has been suggested⁶ that the 1 morgen of land was a gift to him when he retired: he became Secretary to the Landdrost and Heemraden in 1686 and is thought to have died in 1695: the gift was confirmed to his widow in 1698. As mentioned elsewhere, the land lay at an angle to the street grid of the town: Ryneveld Street had a bend just after crossing the Drooge Rivier and at that time the side of the property was

formed by this track, which continued past Bachelors (not yet built). The property was added to from time to time, notably in 1782 when the land north was granted and on which a new house (Bachelors) was soon built. Ryneveld Street was realigned to fit the town grid shortly before 1817 and in that year another grant was made of the triangle of land to the south-west up to the street: this included the Skuinshuis. Some people think the Skuinshuis was the original farmhouse of Callebasse Kraal which was built just off the site in error: that frequently happened. The location of the house shown on the grant diagram suggests it was roughly behind the Synagogue. (Deeds Office erf register, Deeds Office OSF 1:123, F Smuts in SAHRA file, vd Bijl in SAHRA file.)



North is top. Kuys map post-1822 overlaid on 2003 map. Compare this map with the illustration on the cover. Shows Ryneveld Street running up the page left, Drooge Rivier runs across the middle of the picture crossing Ryneveld Street south of the Skuinshuis. The avenue at an angle left of the Skuinshuis is believed to be the route of the old track to Ida's Valley; it continues north-eastwards past the side of T shaped Bachelors. Bachelors is on a later grant, built on the terrace bank above the early Callebasse Kraal site. The Kuys map shows an irrigation channel (leiwater) running along the edge of terrace bank with the Callebasse Kraal fields between it and the Drooge Rivier.

Essential character and qualities

The north and south parts have different qualities. The southern part is an extension of the red-earth car park on the Faure property, subdivided by mesh fences. The Bloemhof outbuilding and associated trees mark a change of morphology to the north part at the rear of Bloemhof where the line of young mature plane trees lends a sylvan character. This space flows around the back of the school but is cut into by a recent high wall enclosing the courtyard.

Important pedestrian movement patterns across the site – the west gate of the Botanical Garden, the covered way past the south side of Bloemhof School, a lane north of the school, and a gate to university residences in the north-west.

Values and significance

Pedestrian movement across the site.

Terrace bank along the north boundary of scientific interest.

Odd alignment with the Stellenbosch grid illustrates town growth.

Important archaeological remains possible. Early house may have been located behind the Synagogue.

Middens associated with it or the Skuinshuis may be encountered. Drooge Rivier op cit.

Back courtyard of Bloemhof forms part of the site – aesthetically very significant, op cit.

The Bloemhof outbuilding belongs intrinsically to the 1907 school and shares its high aesthetic and historical significance.

Education history: first owner Mancadan was first schoolmaster – of some interest given the theme of education at Bloemhof School, the University, and proposed conference use of site.

Established mature trees.

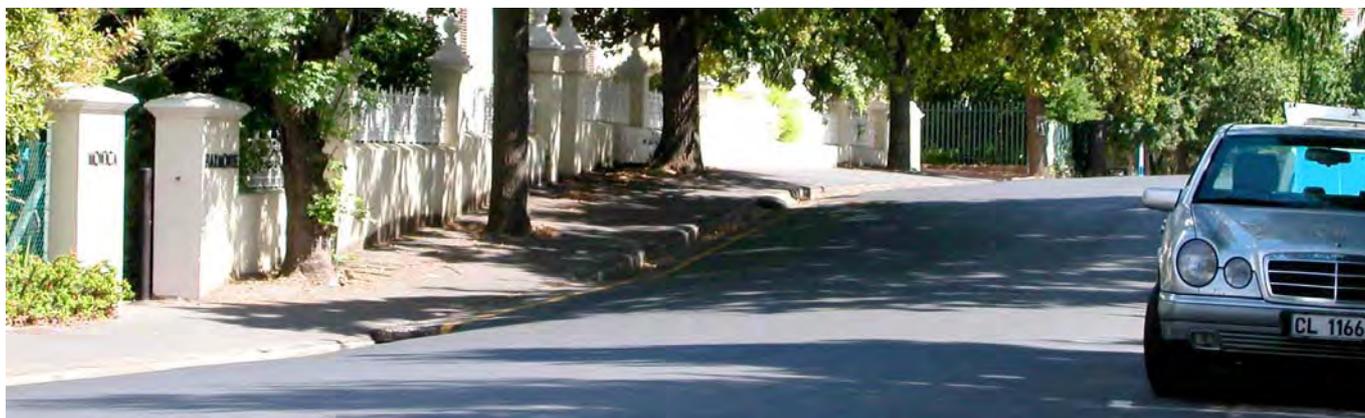
Design and development indicators

- Archaeological investigations. See also Drooge Rivier, section 4.3. Methodology of search for early house remains needs expert archaeological input. It should be undertaken at an early time. The grant drawing of the house has been taken by Walton and others to represent early Cape vernacular building: archaeological information to endorse or refute this hypothesis is of considerable importance.
- The 1907 outbuilding is part of the Bloemhof School and should be incorporated into the development. The covered walkway out to it and the new toilet block at the side have no heritage significance. However the pedestrian route should be celebrated and acknowledged in the design of routes through the development.
- The area behind Bloemhof has the ingredients to be a memorable space. Although the walled courtyard is harmonious from within, it aggressively disrupts the spaces outside it – the north lane, the terrace bank along the boundary, and especially the setting of Bachelors. Remove the Bloemhof courtyard wall and define that place more gently, in keeping with the sylvan qualities of the line of plane trees and the terrace bank. New buildings of a suitable scale and texture would more appropriately define and complete the space. See design indicators drawing page 14.
- The facebrick boundary wall and parking sheds between the site and the University are inappropriate. They should be removed and replaced with a more appropriate boundary treatment which enhances the terrace bank, and visually integrates the side of Bachelors and the more recent Wilgenhof Wing next to it into the setting.
- The diagonal of the north boundary is historically significant and needs to be resolved in the geometry of the urban design. The two rows of planes which reflect this diagonal should be incorporated into the development and landscape design.
- The eastern end of the path between the Bloemhof building and Bachelors should be improved and integrated with the site development and pedestrian movement system.
- Note that some of the necessary design work is beyond the boundary of the site proper.

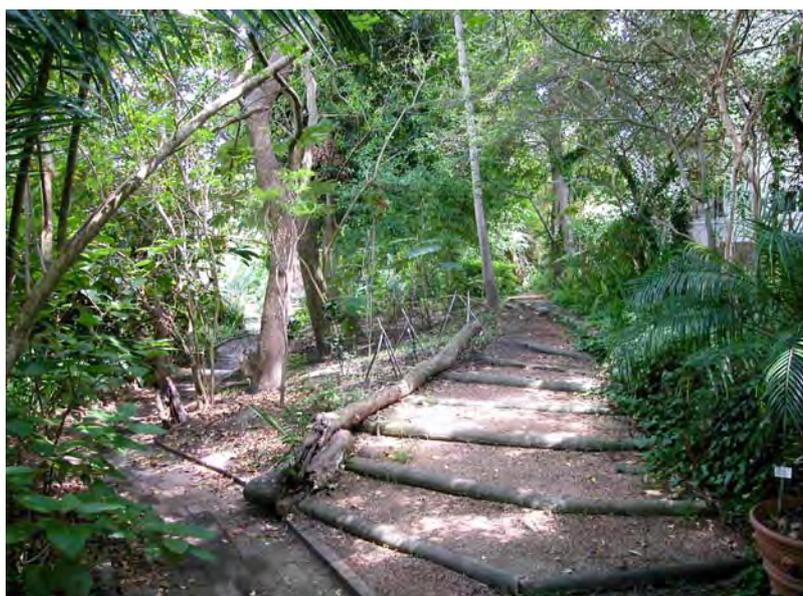
4.2 CALLEBASSE KRAAL: TERRACE BANK



North of Murray Street, near Bosman Street.



Terrace bank across Neethling Street north of the Botanical Gardens gate.

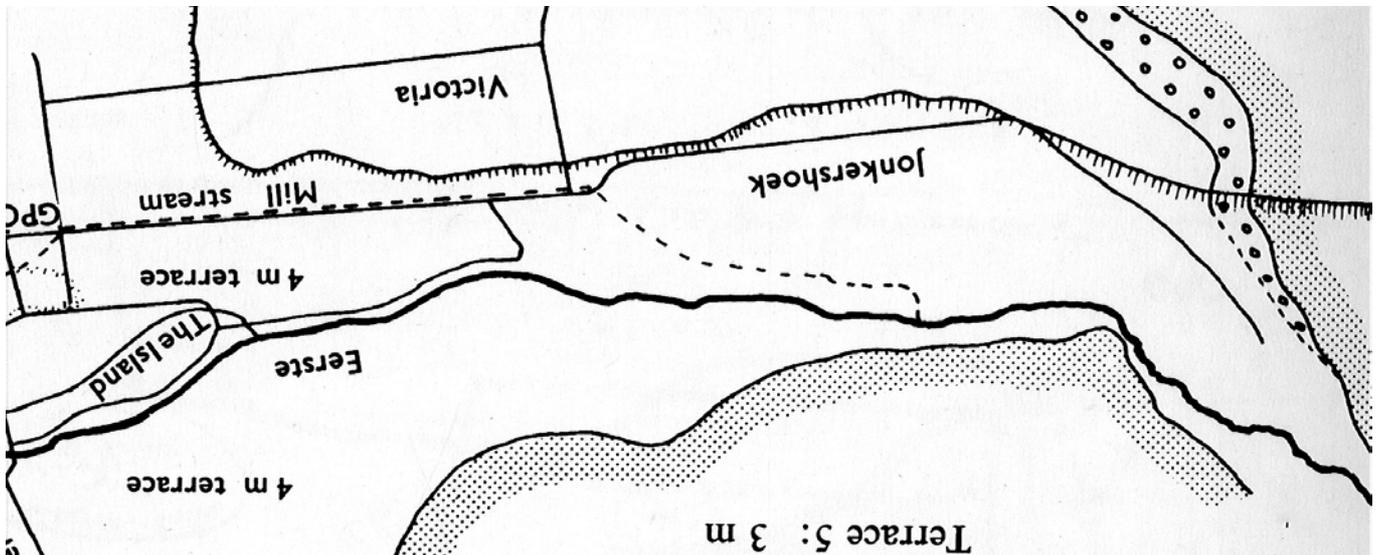


In the Botanical Gardens near the ponds.

Description

The generally flat floor of the Stellenbosch valley has a number of terraces – see Sohngé's detailed description in Smuts et al 1979:15-23. The bank between the 4 metre and 7 metre terraces runs over the

site, though in this area the height difference is only a metre or so⁷. Coming from the east, the bank can be seen alongside the waterchannel on the north of Murray Street, and on the north of the carpark at the junction of Neethling Street. It can be clearly seen crossing in Neethling Street, where the road rises sharply to the higher level. It edges the Botanical Garden where the student residences Monica and Harmonie are at the higher level. Sohngé's map shows it curving northwards in this area. The main bank seems to run past the west of Monica, but a minor bank can be perceived again from the Bloemhof north lane, where Bachelors is at a higher level.



Map by APG Sohngé in Smuts 1979:21. North is top. The hatched line is the bank between the 4m and 7m terraces. The rectangle drawn top left represents Andringa Street on the left, Victoria Street at the top; Marais Street right (east); the Mill stream along van Riebeeck and Plein is at the bottom of the rectangle.

History

Geological history: see APG Sohngé in Smuts et al 1979:15-23.

Essential character and qualities

Subtle but form-giving.

Values and significance

Great scientific interest of the bank and its geological implications.

Defines the edge of a space.

Design and development indicators

- Enhance where possible – see Bachelors and Wilgenhof Wing possibilities.
- Provide interpretive signage.

4.3 CALLEBASSE KRAAL: DROOGE RIVIER

The entire course of the Drooge Rivier has the potential to be a pedestrian “greenway” stretching from the Eerste Rivier to the Plankenbrug River – see boxed discussion, page 24. The course of the Drooge across the site should be designed to be a component of that future system. It is noted that there are strong pedestrian movements across the site which align with the route.

Description

A watercourse taken mostly underground across the site. East of the site and the Botanical Gardens it runs on the north side of Murray Street in brick channels as far as the carpark at the junction of Neethling Street. Through the Botanical Gardens it is mostly underground: on the surface there are various shallow brick-paved gutters. The water garden is an offshoot of its old route. It enters the site underground to the south of the greenhouses, emerges for a short stretch in a concrete canal, then goes underground again. Running westward it passes under the side of Ryneveld Plaza. It is delightfully glimpsed (twice) in the Skuinshuis courtyard. On the lawns across Ryneveld Street it emerges once again to run in a variety of channels in the open.



Murray Street near Bosman Street



Botanical Gardens water garden



Glimpses in the Skuinshuis courtyard

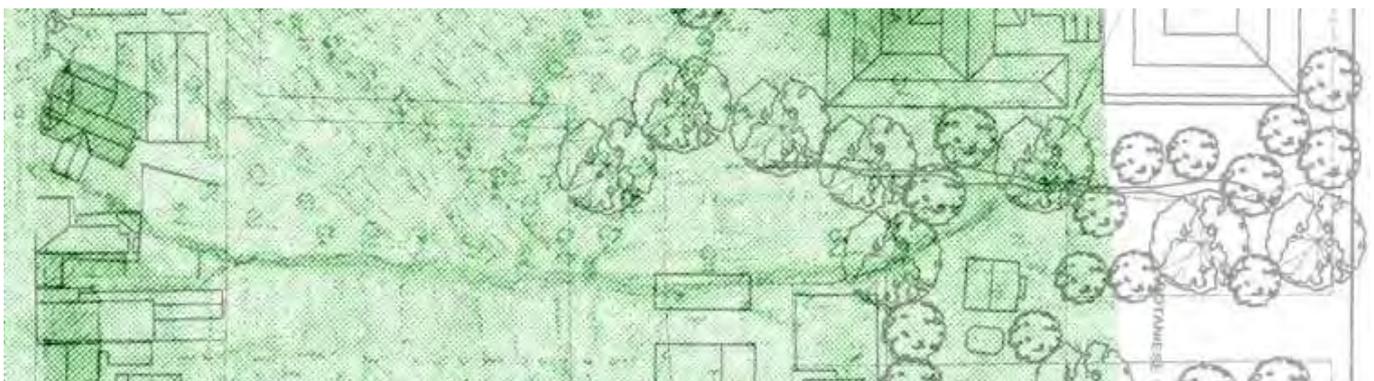




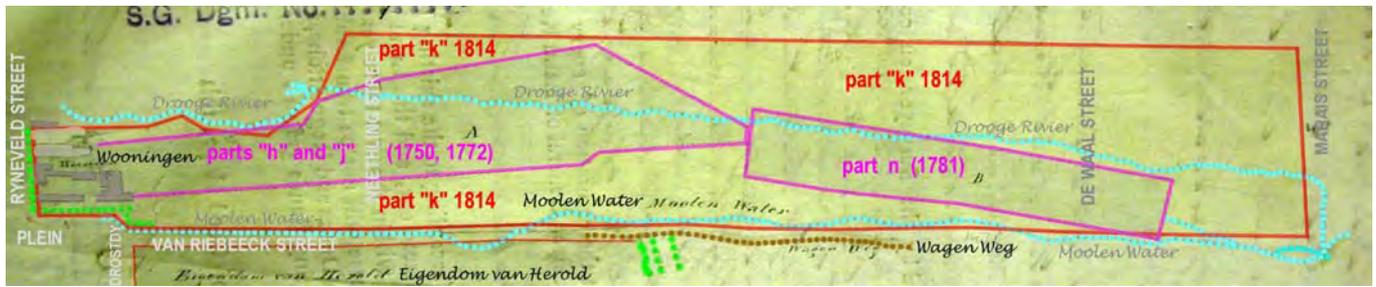
Crossing the Ryneveld Street Lawn

History

It is believed that the Drooge River was dug along the route of a secondary branch of the Eerste River – flattish land on the 4m terrace that was flooded when the Eerste overflowed during winter storms but which dried up at other times – hence its name. F Smuts quotes early documents that state that the first mill (c1685) and the third mill (1750) were supplied by the Drooge Rivier. This is hard to understand because van Schoor’s map shows that all were supplied by the millstream (section 1.1). However, the Drooge and millstream share the eastern stretch from the dam at the Eerste Rivier as far as Marais Street – in this sense the Drooge supplied the mills. Callebasse Kraal farm is thought to have been given at about the time the first mill was built. Its fields were watered by the Drooge which therefore had an agricultural function from the beginning. For most of its eastern route the Drooge runs just below the terrace bank. This is not a natural position for a watercourse and it is deduced that it was dug at the highest possible level along the edge of the 4 metre terrace. This would be optimal for irrigation: closing a sluice gate would allow water to flood across fields by gravity down to the natural valley bottom. (F Smuts in SAHRA file, Smuts 1979, Walton 1974.)



Overlay c1822 and 2003 maps. North is top. Ryneveld Street runs up left of picture past Skuinshuis. Drooge Rivier is the smudged line below Skuinshuis running across the page. In the centre of the picture it enters today’s Botanical Gardens. It passes through the office building behind the glasshouses (which are not shown on the drawing). Then it curves upwards (north east): this line coincides with cadastral boundaries of erven 1840 and 1820 – the dense line of cypresses that screen the back of United Church offices.



Deeds Office surveyors diagram 304/1814. The Faure property also benefited from this irrigation system. The eastern part of the route is shown on the 1814 grant, enhanced above. North is top. Ryneveld Street left, Van Riebeeck Street bottom, Marais Street right of picture. The upper dotted blue line indicates the Drooge Rivier. In the top left corner it crosses the site and the Botanical Gardens, where off-takes are indicated: this location is consistent with cadastral boundaries of erf 1820. Note that the irregular edges of the grant in the north-west are due to it following the course of the stream as it was at that time.

Essential character and qualities

Hidden across the site. Note the variety of water features exploited in the Botanical Gardens, the charming pastoral qualities along the villas of Murray Street and the accents the watercourse adds to the Skuinshuis courtyard.

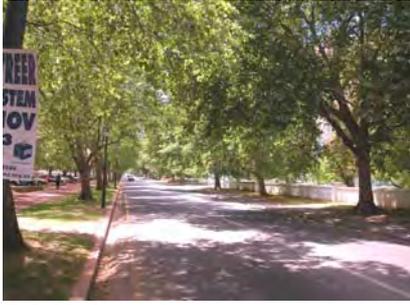
Values and significance

Essential ingredient in Stellenbosch's early agricultural and industrial history. Impact on town planning of the village north of the core – truly a pattern of history. Leiwater routes are a characteristic of Stellenbosch though are relatively rare in towns elsewhere. Potential to yield archaeological information. Adds value to the environment of the Botanical Gardens and Murray Street, and accents to the Skuinshuis courtyard. Unexploited potential across the site and the Ryneveld Street lawns. Potential for incorporation into network of pedestrian linkages and/or tourist walking trails.

Design and development indicators

- Archaeological investigations to establish early construction methods and its variety of early routes. Historical archaeology of primary sources to untangle its confused history.
- Great potential to form part of a pedestrian movement system from the Eerste River, along the meadows edging eastern Van Riebeeck Street, down Murray Street, through the Botanical Garden, across the Conference Centre site, and continuing westwards from the Skuinshuis courtyard across the lawns, through future developments behind the Town Hall. Detailed study of this strongly recommended. In the meantime, its route across the site should be celebrated and water features used as a component for this future pedestrian greenway.
- The design of the route across the site should exploit the memory of the watercourse, and capitalise on the potential of water: it should not be regarded as an archaeological reconstruction, but as a design inspiration. The Murray Street stretch has historical values related to its period brick construction. The Botanical Gardens gives a precedent of how the qualities of water can be celebrated.

INDEX 5.0 COMPOSITE: UNIVERSITY QUARTER



5.0 University Quarter

See detailed discussion page 60



5.1 Bachelors

See detailed discussion page 62



5.2 Wilgenhof Wing

See detailed discussion page 64



5.3 Wilgenhof Residence

Not relevant to Conference Centre development.



5.4 29 Victoria Street

Not relevant to Conference Centre development but a pedestrian lane past the side of it connects to the site.



5.5 Monica and Harmonie student residences.

Not relevant to the Conference Centre development. The way they overlook and relate to the Botanical Garden is a good example of a positive interface between sites. A road at the back of Monica is part of the pedestrian movement pattern across the site.

5.0 COMPOSITE: UNIVERSITY QUARTER



The University of Stellenbosch campus lies north of the site. It is a grid of tree-lined avenues that blends with the general Stellenbosch layout – the passage from town to gown is made by double speed humps and the proliferation of information boards. The characteristics of the streets are different from other parts of the town grid, almost boulevards. Because the street grid is multi-directional there is no focus to the campus and the chief building, the Ou Hoofgebou, is encountered quite incidentally along Ryneveld Street. The morphology is seen at its most handsome in Victoria Street which is along the northern edge of the Bloemhof site's urban block: the trees are generally planes, the verges are very wide, with wide pavements beyond the tree trunks. Beyond that are rectangular block buildings (usually three-storeys, usually painted white) set in gardens with parking clustering around their feet.

The site is an interface between this morphology and the urbanity of the town core. However, the University turns its back on the site. At the west end Bachelors faces the site, but is cut off by a high brick wall with spikes. Wilgenhof Wing, east of Bachelors, is also cut off by a high brick wall; and has a service yard and a low outbuilding on the boundary edge : a lost opportunity for a positive interface. Between the service building at the end of Wilgenhof Wing and the new parts of Monica residence there is a muddle: the buildings do not cluster together in any meaningful way, and the diagonal Wilgenhof and right-angled street grid geometries are unresolved. A neglected north corner of the Botanical Gardens further complicates the space.

Vehicular access to this part of the University is via a private road off Neethling Street, behind Harmonie and Monica. At the parking court east of Wilgenhof residence the road turns south. It passes between a fine row of cypresses behind the Wilgenhof Wing and some tennis courts to enter the small parking court west of Monica. Here it also slips off in an unresolved way down the bank, past the unused north gate of the Botanical Gardens, to enter the north east corner of the site through an opening in the facebrick wall. Pedestrian access is similarly unresolved in this area, although there is a well-made and pleasant pedestrian lane between Wilgenhof and 29 Victoria Street.

Further east, the old parts of Harmonie and Monica face the Botanical Gardens: here the interface is splendidly made with all parties benefiting.

Design and development indicators

- The most convenient route to the Conference Centre for delegates coming by car is up Merriman Street, turning right along Ryneveld. This passes the Ou Hoofgebou, the University's front door. Some attention to signposting and road humps is needed to clarify the spatial progression of the route. See Context and Location, page 9, for more on traffic impacts and indicators.
- There is a need to clarify and enhance the spaces of the campus in this block as well as linkages between the University Precinct and the site. In addition to detailed redesign of pavement surfaces, this could be done by adding infill buildings of student accommodation. There are potentials for densification of the rear of Monica and Wilgenhof Wing. Urban design study strongly recommended. It is strongly recommended that the University co-ordinate this with the conference centre development.