

## **Historical significance of Pinelands**

The structure was built by the government, which was named Manston court. In her memoirs Joan de Jager states that she vaguely remembers noticing a stone that had the date 1879 inscribed on it during her time living there. Blamey, a later owner describes that they found army and navy magazines stuffed between the walls and roof dated 1879. The building was originally constructed from stone with mud between the walls, however over the years there have been additions made to the house from clay bricks, with some sections plastered and others not.

The house originally was a police block then later used when the Basutos fought the Zulus. Thereafter it became a postal agency, mail being bought to and from the premises by a native runner.

In 1910 the property was bought by Mrs. Robinson from England she changed the name to Manston Court. She farmed beef and sheep on the land and imported American bramble from the UK to make jam, subsequently the bramble has invaded millions of acres of KZN land and is considered an invasive species.

In 1924 Manston Court was bought by the two Hammond brothers from England. They apparently added a bathroom onto the veranda and installed 'modern' windows with shutters. In 1931 the de Jagers moved in, Joan de Jager mentions large oaks growing to the left of the house which would have been planted 40-50 years prior to their arrival suggesting that the structure was built in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. During their tenure the de Jagers made further changes to the house, (noted by Joan) being the removal of an internal wall and adding on two rooms to the side of the house.

In 1951 the farm was sold to G.H. MacIntosh and then in 1969 sold to the Blameys, by then the name had changed from Manston Court to Pinelands.