

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION OF THE WINE CELLAR AT HAZENDAL

Prepared for

**Hazendal Wine Estate**

July 1995



Prepared by

**Archaeology Contracts Office**

Department of Archaeology

University of Cape Town

Private Bag

Rondebosch

7700

Tel (021)650 2357

Fax (021)650 2352

E-mail DJH@Beattie.uct.ac.za

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Archaeology Contracts Office has investigated the structure of the existing old wine cellar at Hazendal to establish the sequence of building and whether or not any original apertures could be located. The study has showed that the north and south halves of the barn show differing building techniques. The east wall of the northern half originally had two windows and a door indicating that this section may at one time have served a different purpose to its later use.

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

The Archaeology Contracts Office at the University of Cape Town was appointed by Dennis Fabian, Berman and Hackner on behalf of the client, Hazendal Wine Estates to conduct an investigation of the old wine cellar on the estate. Of primary interest was the building sequence and particularly the presence of any previously existing apertures. The client undertook to remove the plaster from the interior of the barn in preparation for the investigation. No documentary research has been included as this is to be compiled as part of the history of the entire estate at a later stage.

## **2. METHOD**

On arrival at the estate plaster had been removed from the interior of the east wall. The central doorway had been partially demolished and a large cavity was present in the west wall in the northern section of the barn. This cavity was the result of an accident during the demolition of cast concrete structures which were built in this part of the interior of the barn. Two of these partially demolished structures were still present abutting the north wall. One of these partially obscured a section of the east wall.

A careful inspection was made of the exposed structure paying attention to the building materials, particularly the bricks, and the type of mortar used. The various aspects have been photographed and noted and features have been measured.

## **3. RESULTS OF THE INVESTIGATION**

A plan of the wine cellar is presented in Figure 1. This plan shows the existing situation and the various features that were uncovered are indicated. The features will be discussed in terms of the northern and southern halves. This convenient break is justified by the varying building techniques which have been noted.

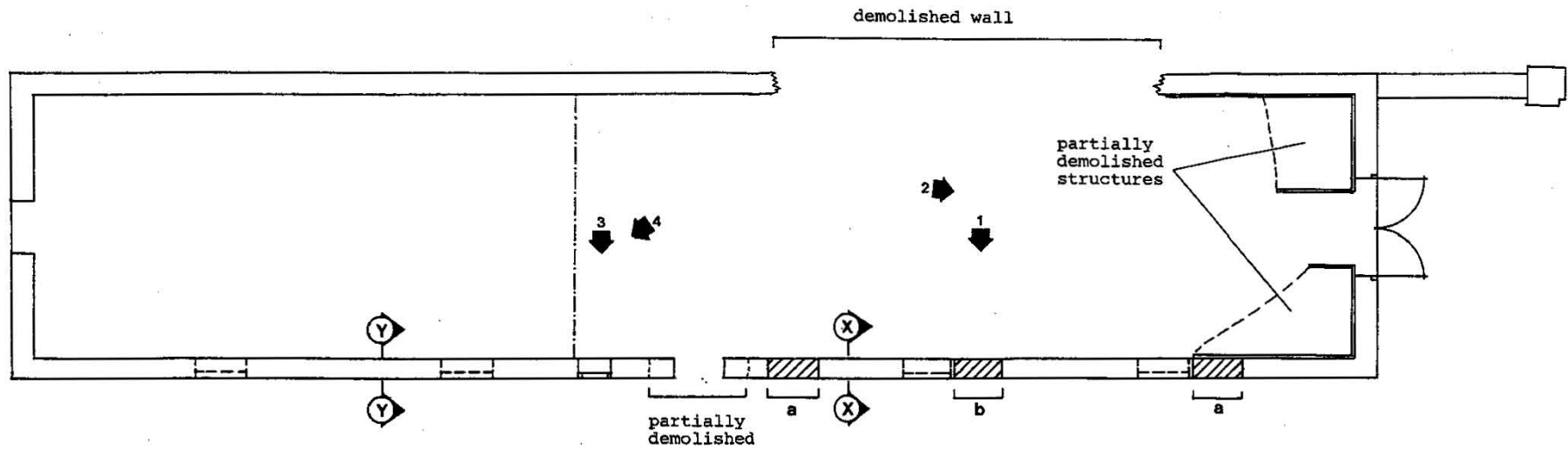
### **3.1 Wine cellar - general building sequence**

Before addressing features which are specific to the different sections of the wine cellar, it would be worthwhile to have a brief overview of the building sequence as we understand it.

There appear to be three events which show up. Firstly, a structure originally existed only at the northern end. Bricked up apertures were utilised at this time. The southern end of this original structure was more than likely situated in the vicinity of the existing central door and small window in the east wall. A second phase probably saw this wall demolished and an extension made increasing the dimensions of the building. It was at this point that use changed from a modest "residential" building to a much larger wine cellar or barn. At this time the roof was probably raised above the level of what had existed on the structure in the northern half and the semi-circular windows added. Both these previous roofs were likely to have been thatched. The last change was made when the roof was changed from thatch to corrugated iron and concrete structures were built inside.

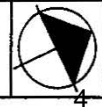
### **3.2 Wine cellar - northern half**

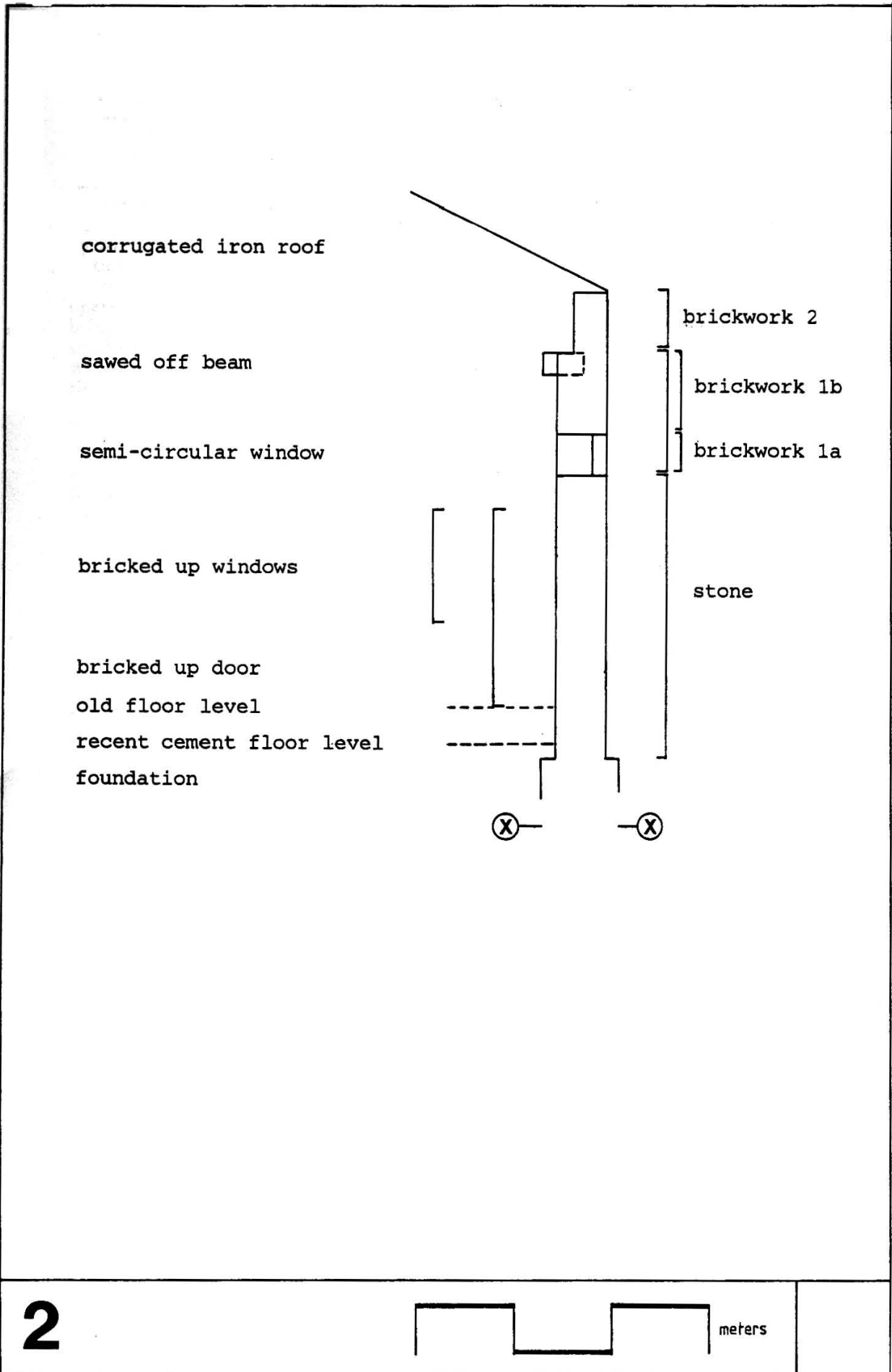
A schematic diagram showing the various building materials used in the east wall is presented in Figure 2.



- ➡ photographic view
- a bricked up windows
- b bricked up door

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The foundation and most of the upper wall is made of stone. This appears to be granite and is undoubtedly of local origin. Resting atop the stone is a section of brickwork which can be divided into two types, namely three courses of unusually large bricks (230x120mm) immediately on top of the stone, and then seven courses of "standard" bricks (average 230x80mm). On top of these and set slightly back are another five courses which are still covered by modern plaster. This sequence can clearly be seen in Plate 1. A bricked-up door, centrally placed in this half is bordered by windows at either side, also bricked-up. These features are located in the stone section of the wall. The neatness of the northern edge of the door is an indication that the stone wall phase and the door are contemporaneous. The southern edge has some unevenness in which brick infill has been used to even out the edge prior to the frame being fitted and may indicate that the door was widened at some stage. Only the southernmost of the two windows is entirely visible (one is obscured by a concrete structure - Plate 2) and though the edges are not even, was probably built at the same time as the door.

The brickwork lying on top of the stone consists of two types as already described. In our opinion the three courses of large bricks are contemporaneous with the stone wall and may have been used to seat cross beams. The upper courses of brickwork appear to have been added later to raise the height of the building overall as the sawed-off tie beams were seated in the upper part of this brickwork. The semi-circular windows were added at the same time and the door and windows bricked up. This may not have been completed immediately as the brick size of the infill (average 235x60mm) is different to those in the other brick alterations. This phase of work was probably conducted when the building was extended and enlarged for use as a wine cellar.

### **3.3 Wine cellar - southern half**

The building pattern as described in the northern half of the barn extends as far as the small existing casement window to the south of the now demolished main entrance. Details of the structure at this point can be seen in Plates 3 and 4. Of note is the change in the height of the stone portion of the east wall at this point and the accompanying increase in the amount of brickwork. Particular note should be made of the discontinuation of the use of large bricks. The small casement window is clearly a later addition and may have been inserted into an existing wider aperture but this is not clear.

A schematic diagram showing the various building materials used in the east wall is presented in Figure 3.

In our opinion this part of the cellar is later in age than most of the northern section. The similarity in the stonework between the two halves is probably due to the fact that at least a portion of the stone was derived from the demolished southern wall of the original structure. While we cannot entirely rule out the possibility that a low stone wall was in existence at the same time abutting the building in the north section (kraal or low roofed building), it would be unusual and we consider this to be an unlikely scenario.

The fact that stone is used at all may have something to do with the proximity of ground water to the surface. Stone is often used as a means of preventing rising damp. The continued use of stone may also have been an attempt to reduce the amount of bricks which were to be used.



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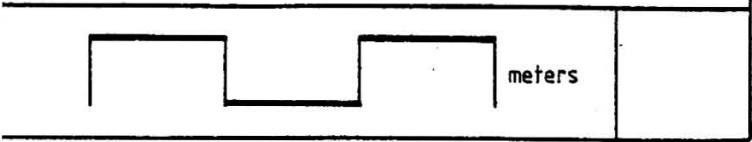
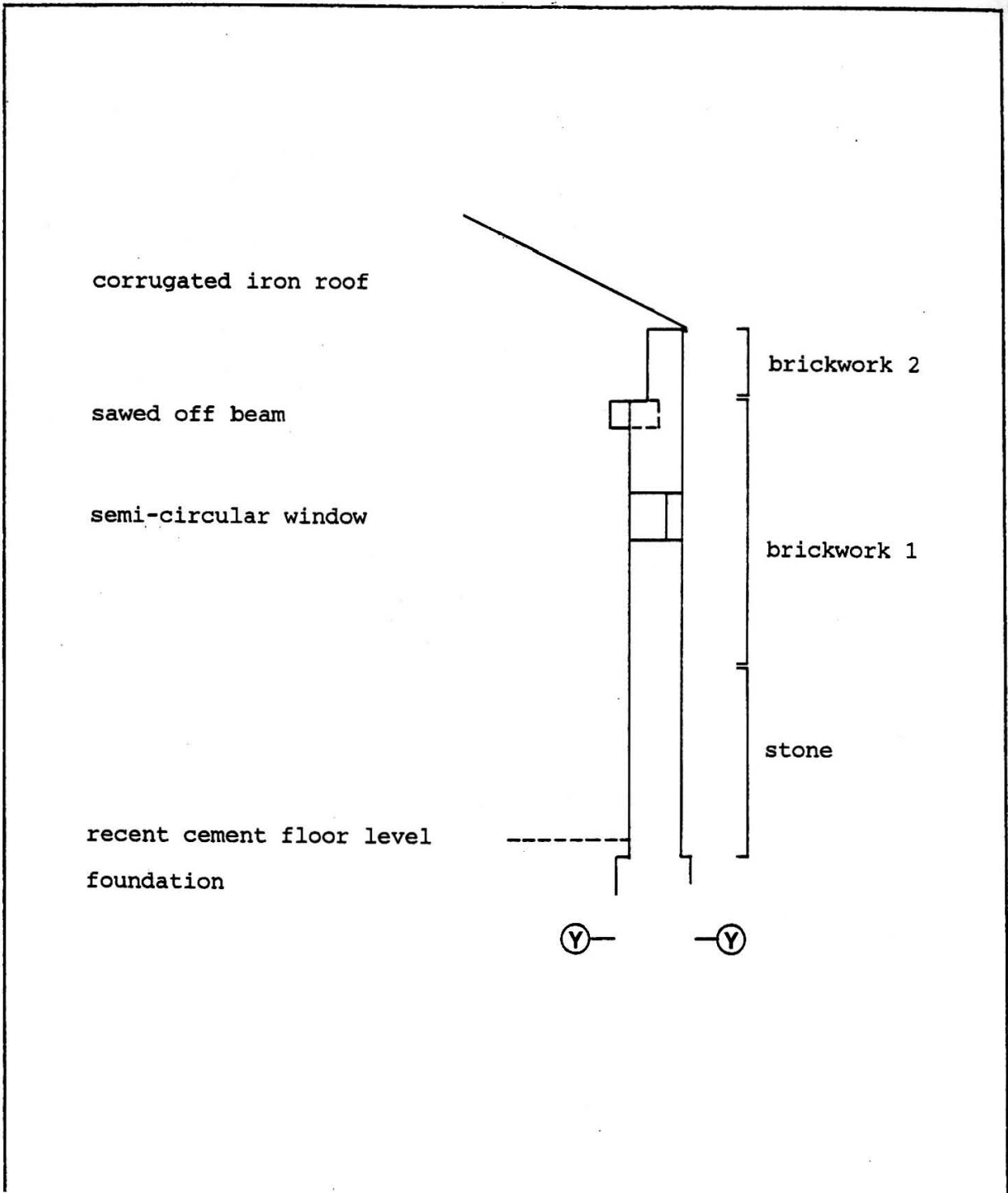


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**3**

The plaster had not been removed from the west or southern walls of the barn apart from patches where it had fallen off of its own accord. We can therefore not comment fully on the structure at these points other than that it appeared to replicate the sequence on the east wall, except that no semi-circular windows were visible.

#### **4. DISCUSSION**

The study of the wine cellar has resulted in a number of potentially very interesting observations. These observations ultimately have relevance for the history and use of the other buildings on the werf. The existing brief historical overview of the estate<sup>1</sup> states that the slave quarters are believed to have served as the main house prior to the construction of the existing H-shaped dwelling erected by J.R. Van As sometime between 1762 and 1790. The observations from the wine cellar indicate that another dwelling house, previously unrecognised, may have been in existence and may in fact have served as the main house. The date of 1812 on the wine cellar<sup>2</sup> could therefore date the enlargement of an existing building, rather than the erection of a completely new one.

This hypothesis must however remain preliminary at this stage since to place the wine cellar in temporal context would require some insight into the structural components of other buildings on the estate. Of particular interest would be the use of the large bricks in other buildings. Perhaps these enquiries can be addressed as the restoration of the werf continues.

#### **5. RECOMMENDATIONS**

5.1. If plaster is removed from other buildings observations should be made regarding the building materials

5.2. The client may wish to consider leaving some exposures of the original structure on the interior of the wine cellar to heighten the historic nature of the building particularly as this may be the forum for wine tastings.

#### **6. PROFESSIONAL TEAM**

Fieldwork and report

Dave Halkett

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<sup>1</sup> Supplied by the architects

<sup>2</sup> In architects historical summary