

Babylonstoren Farm 1268
Archaeological Impact Assessment
Koornhuis



Prepared for:

Babylonstoren Pty Ltd
PO Box167
Simondium
7670
Tel: 0218631804
terry@babylonstoren.com

By:

Katie Smuts
Archaeology Department
University of Cape Town
Rondebosch, 7701
Tel: 021 630 2353
Cell: 072 7967754
Email: katie.smuts@uct.ac.za

&

Harriet Clift
7 Pypies Plein
Devils Peak
Cape Town, 8001
Tel: 021 4621996
Cell: 072 5305598
Email: harriet@hclift.co.za

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Executive Summary

An Archaeological Impact Assessment for the Babylonstoren Koornhuis was requested in a SAHRA ROD dated 8 September 2009. The Babylonstoren werf is in the process of being altered/renovated; the main dwelling and the fowl house has already been renovated; work on the wine cellar and animal shed associated with the kraal is in progress and the proposed plans for the Koornhuis are being submitted. A very tight time schedule was allowed for the archaeological testing, and seven test pits were excavated in strategically placed areas to try and extract as much information about the use and re-use of the building over time.

The forecourt of the werf, comprising the Koornhuis and flanking wine cellar are being remodelled to recreate the early 19th century phase of the werf evolution as represented by the neo-classical gable on the front of the wine cellar, dated 1805. Evidence in the cellar clearly shows that the gable was added onto an existing building, which was extended northwards sometime before the addition of the gable c1805 (Smuts pers comm. 2009).

Archaeological testing in the Koornhuis was limited to the northern end of the building, as the southern section of the building is currently being used as offices. The artefact assemblage is too small for meaningful analysis, but clearly indicates that there was a residential component in the central part of the building during the end 17th/early 18th century. Some shards of refined earthenware were found in the upper deposits of the structure, dating to the end of the 18th/early 19th century.

This report recommends archaeological monitoring of the service trenches. The archaeologist must be alerted in advance of when work is to be started. Should any *in situ* material be uncovered, the features will need to be mapped and recorded. If undisturbed archaeological deposit is uncovered, the archaeologist must be given the opportunity to sample the deposits and record the provenance.

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1. Introduction

An archaeological impact assessment (AIA) of the Koornhuis at Babylonstoren has been requested by the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) prior to the approval of the proposed alterations to the building (ROD dated 8 September 2009). The farm is located off the R45 in Simondium and the Koornhuis is at 33° 49'25.85"S 18°55'42.79"E (see Fig. 2). The werf is in the process of being renovated: the architectural firm and heritage consultant originally appointed are no longer involved in the project, and an unfortunate result has been that the analysis of the werf as a whole, which was undertaken by the previous consultants, is not available for reference or comparison. Smuts (pers comm. 2009) has done excavations in the wine cellar as part of an MPhil dissertation, and has made the preliminary results of this excavation available for comparison to the test excavations in the Koornhuis.

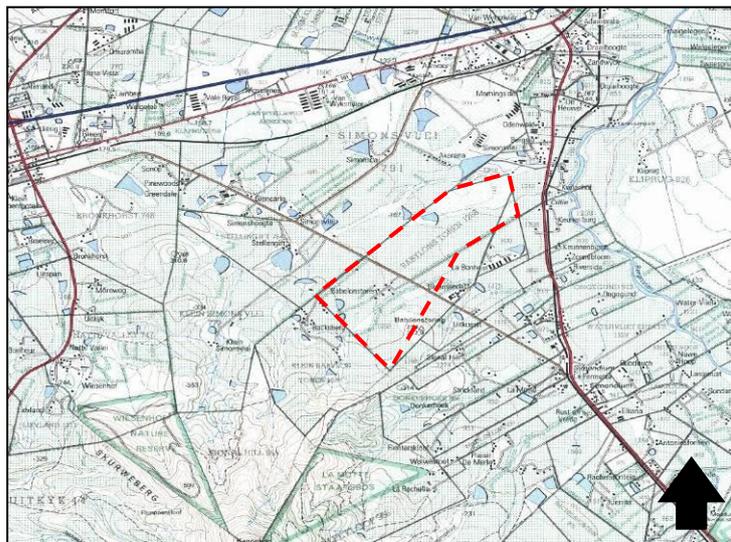


Figure 1: Map showing position of Babylonstoren Farm off the R45. The approximate boundaries are shown outlined in red (3318DD Stellenbosch. Mapping information supplied by Chief Directorate: Surveys and Mapping. Website: w3sli.wcape.gov.za)



Figure 2: Detail of the werf (Google Earth 2009). The approximate alignment of the furrow/stream is shown by the green dashed line.

The Koornhuis is the counterpart of wine cellar, together forming the forecourt to the main dwelling. According to Walton (1989:41) these buildings were deliberately designed at an angle, so creating a false perspective, focusing the viewer's attention on the main dwelling. The current proposal is to recreate the early 19th century aspect of the forecourt; replacing the current loft window with a replica of the front gable of the wine cellar. The Koornhuis is to be reused as a photographic studio, with a residential component.

2. Methodology

Babylonstoren is significant in terms of its historical layering, particularly as the development of the werf has been well documented in a number of estate inventories occurring at fairly regular intervals. It is of critical importance that the buildings comprising the werf are not viewed in isolation, but as a part of the whole. In order to understand the evolution of the werf and to contextualise the archaeological testing, the historical context has been summarised in Appendix 1.

Seven test trenches were made at the Koornhuis: six tests in the interior of the building and one on the exterior (see Fig. 3). The tests were made to check for pre-existing features, internal dividing walls, changes in floor levels and evidence of change of use of the building. Six labourers were employed, working in teams of two, under the supervision of Katie Smuts. Excavations were conducted using picks, spades, and trowels. As far as possible, layers were excavated stratigraphically. Trenches were excavated to the natural ground surface, and where possible, the foundation trenches of the walls exposed.

Owing to time constraints, it was not possible to lay out a grid, but the test trenches are plotted on the measured drawing of the building, provided by Chris Fick of MRArchitects. A selection of sections was drawn, chosen for their relevance in terms of better understanding the sequence of construction.

3. Koornhuis – archaeological testing

The Koornhuis has retained fewer of the original characteristics than its counterpart, the wine cellar. Evidence of the original front gable can be seen in the brick work of the façade, and it would, at this stage, appear as if the gable was built at the same time as that section of the building. The front gable was replaced by a loft window, possibly dating to the turn of the 20th century. Currently the Koornhuis has holbol-style end gables, recent replicas of the cellar's. The northern end wall had collapsed and was entirely rebuilt.

Archaeological testing was only possible in the three rooms to the northern end of the building, as the rest of the building was not accessible. A temporary benchmark was selected (the lowest string course of the northeastern gate post of the werf) and assigned an arbitrary value of 10m. All levels were taken from this datum point using a dumpy level and are given on the sections relative to this point. For simplicity, the building was taken as aligned north/south, although its layout is NNE/SSW.

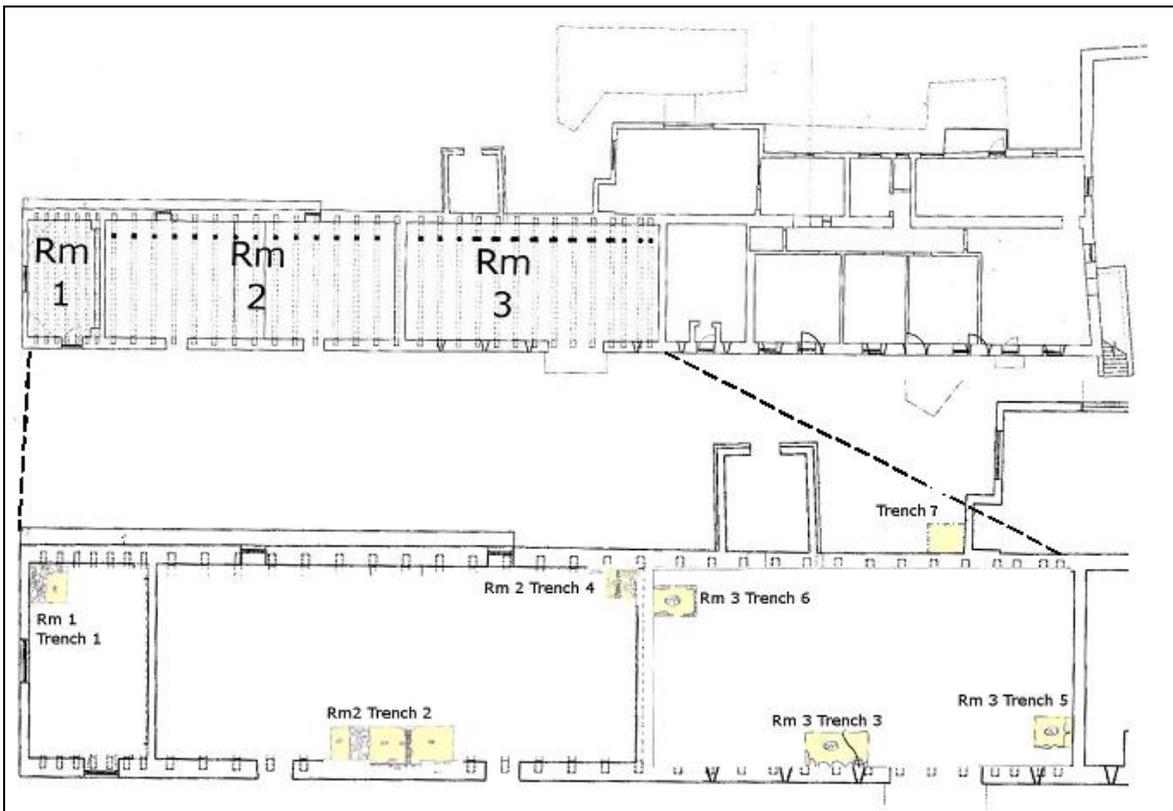


Figure 3: Location of rooms and trenches within the building

3.1. Room 1: Trench 1

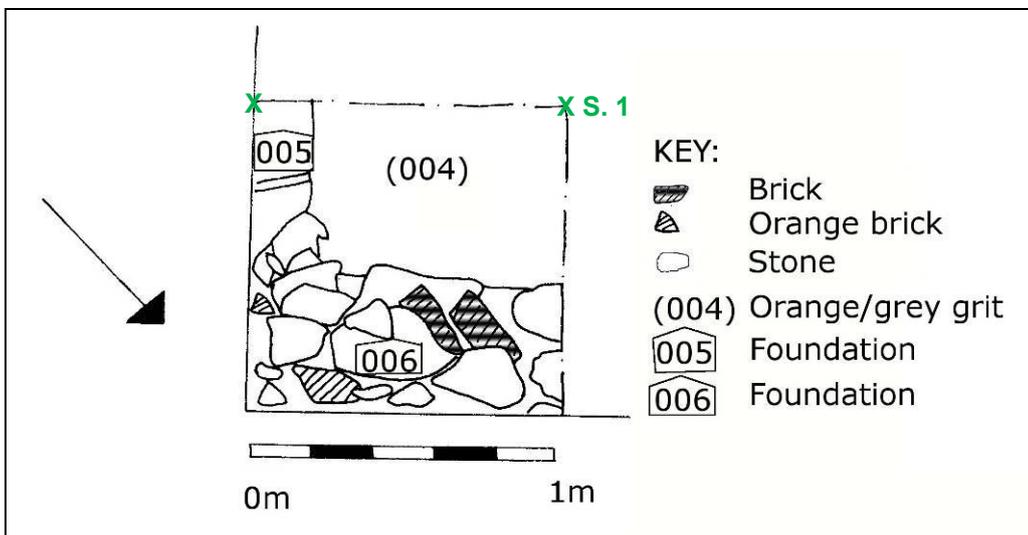


Figure 4: Plan 1 showing Trench 1 Room 1. Location of Section 1 indicated in green

A 1m x 1m square was excavated in the north-eastern corner of Room 1. The uppermost layer in this room is a floor surface consisting of crushed brick (01). This floor level represents the most recent floor level of the room and was still in use at the time of excavation. The floor was laid on a levelling layer of mottled light brown gritty sand with several broken brick fragments (02). This makeup layer in turn overlay a dark sandy silt layer (03) that probably constitutes a terracing event that occurred prior to the construction of the building. This deposit was cut by the foundation trench (67) and was used to backfill the trench (68). The foundations (05) for the north/south external wall of the building were overlain to the north by the modern east/west foundations (06) of the repaired north gable wall. This wall had collapsed at some point, destroying part of the north/south wall, and was rebuilt in modern brick. The foundations for this new wall are quite substantial and include

some modern brick in their fabric. Trench 1 was excavated down to the level of the upper natural (04), a layer of orange-grey, gritty sand.

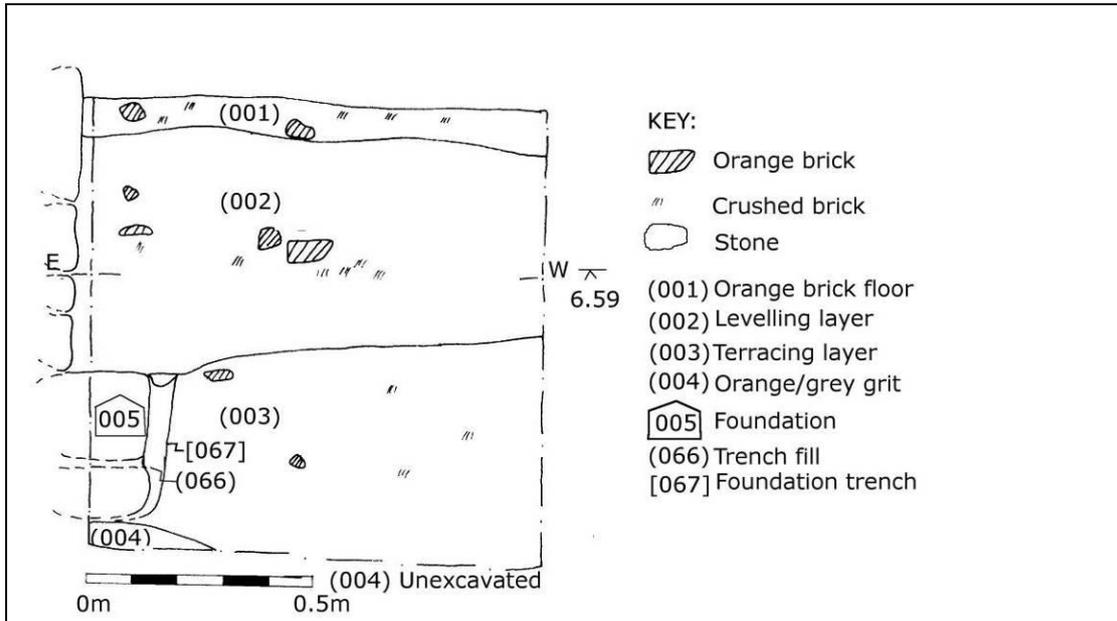


Figure 5: Section 1 Trench 1 north facing

3.2. Room 2: Trenches 2 & 4

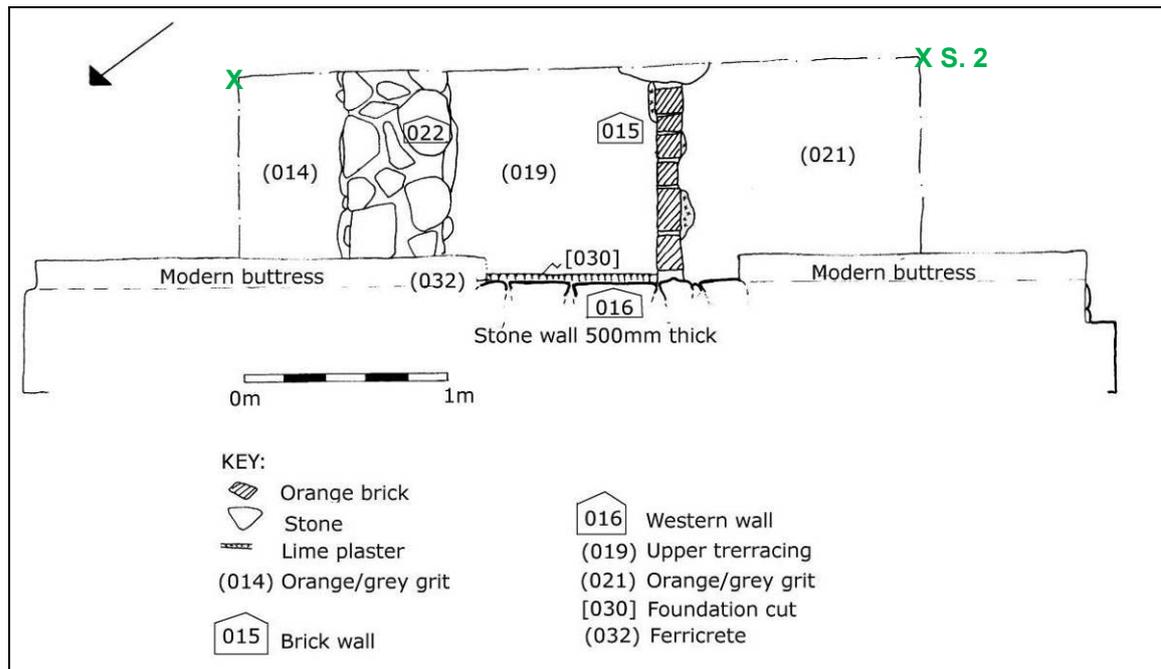


Figure 6: Plan 2 showing Trench 2 Room 2. Location of section 2 indicated in green

Two tests were excavated in Room 2: Trench 2 on the interior of the western wall, and Trench 4 in the south eastern corner of the room (see Fig. 3).

¹ Vredenburg and the adjoining Fleurbaai, just outside Stellenbosch; Babylonstoren; 2 farms near Riebeeck Casteel and 2 farms in the vicinity of 24-rivierien. The last two farms were held by her son Gerhard van der Byl.

² Possibly the widow of Wouter Vos, who owned Libertas, as well as Dassenheuvel outside Riebeeck Casteel. According to De Villiers and Parma (1966:501) she married Johannes Louw in 1732.

³ Based on the contents, Harris (2007) has suggested that this may have been a wood working shed/ general repair 'shop'.

3.2.1. Trench 2:

This trench measured 3.34m x 1m and tested for changing floor surfaces and for internal dividing walls. Two internal walls were uncovered: (22) was a substantial stone wall and (15) was a shallow brick wall with no foundation. Wall 22 is 500mm wide, and appears to have had a foundation of a single course of stone overlaid with four courses of smaller cobbles. As the wall was subsequently demolished, it is uncertain whether its superstructure had been brick, or whether, as with the outer walls, it was stone to sill height.

Deposits from Trench 2 were assigned individual context numbers north of wall 22, between 22 and 15 and south of 15, although it became clear that, with a few exceptions, the layers were consistent across the trench. Each part of the trench is, nevertheless, described as they were excavated and recorded.

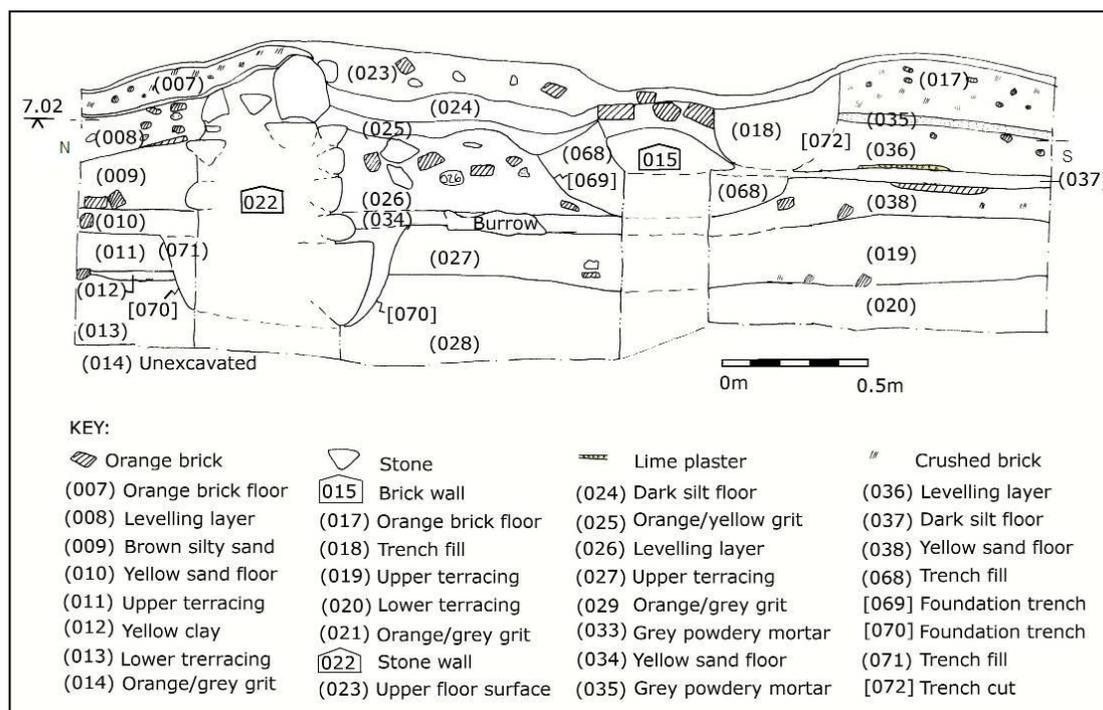


Figure 7: Section 2 Trench 2 west facing

The uppermost floor surface in the room (23) comprised compacted, mid-grey gritty sand. This floor surface directly overlay the remnants of a crushed orange brick floor (07 and 17) which survived towards the northern and southern ends of the trench, but had failed in the middle. Where the crushed brick floor had failed, its level had been raised by the upper surface 23. The crushed brick surface is equivalent to floor level 01 in Room 1. Both floor 07 and 17 are underlain by a thin layer of powdered grey mortar (33 and 35, respectively). Floor 07 to the north and its sub-layer of grey mortar (33), overlay wall 22, but to the south, floor 17 has been truncated by a trench (72) dug alongside wall 15.

Below floor 07 is layer 08, a mottled sandy silt levelling layer, and this in turn overlies 09, a mid brown layer of silty sand. Below this layer are the remnants of a badly degraded yellow silty sand floor (10). Although it is largely failed close to wall 22, this floor level would appear to be laid over the uppermost foundation level of the wall. This deposit represents the floor level of the building after the construction of wall 22. The northern face of the wall seemed disturbed and several stones were missing. The foundation cut for wall 22 (30) is cut from below floor level 10, through deposits 11, 12 and 13 and backfilled with a mid-brown, silty sand deposit (31). Layer 11 comprises dark sandy silt and represents the terracing of the ground prior to construction. Layers 11 and 13 appear to be two phases of terracing, divided by deposit 12, a thin, ephemeral layer of yellow clay with a fragment of unbaked brick. This layer could relate to the preparation of building materials in the vicinity prior to the commencement of construction. Both 11 and 13 are mid grey brown sandy silt. This northernmost part of Trench 2 was excavated down to the coarse orange-grey gritty sand of the upper layer of natural substrate (14).

From the limited plaster stripping possible inside the building – a modern concrete buttress supports the interior of north/south wall 16 at this point – it is difficult to assess whether wall 22 is part of the original construction of the building. It would appear to be keyed in to the external wall, but it is possible that a substantial part of the external wall might have been rebuilt when 22 was constructed.

The portion of Trench 2 between walls 22 and 15 has no surviving remnant of floor surface 7/17. The uppermost deposit here is the compacted mid-grey silty sand layer 23. This overlies wall 15. Below 23 is a well compacted layer of dark silt (24) that, while uneven for a floor surface, is very similar to the upper rammed earth floor in the Cellar building (Smuts pers comm.). Below 24 is a layer of firm orange-yellow gritty sand (25). These two surfaces combined make for a water-tight, damp-proof floor surface, indicating that this narrow space – just under a metre wide – could have been used for storing agricultural products such as grain or damp sensitive farm equipment such as tack and harnesses.

The cut for the foundation trench (69) for wall 15 is cut from below these floor layers and filled with a mottled, mid-brown deposit flecked with small fragments of brick and some plaster (68). The trench cuts a robust make up layer of mottled gritty sand (26) with some medium sized stone inclusions up to 100mm and several brick fragments. This, in turn, is laid over a yellow silty sand floor (34) that corresponds to the level of floor surface 10 to the north of wall 22. Again, this floor surface is poorly preserved and damaged by at least one rodent burrow. The foundation trench (70) for 22 is dug from below this floor surface, through terracing levels 27 and 28 and backfilled with a mottled mid greyish-brown silty sand (71) that represents a mixing of these two deposits. As shown on Plan 2 (see Fig. 6), the foundation trench (30) for the north/south external wall was located and the lowest course of the foundations exposed. The trench was dug through the upper natural (29), a coarse, gritty orange-grey sand, into the underlying ferricrete gravels (32) and backfilled with a mix of these materials (31).

Wall 15 survives as a single course of brick with fragments of plaster attached to the southern face. The most intact brick measures 200mm by 120mm by 80mm. A large boulder is evident in section, and this has several bricks overlying it, which would appear to be part of the structure of the wall. The compacted, mid-grey gritty sand layer 23 continues over wall 15 to the south. This layer overlies the orange, crushed brick floor (17) that corresponds with the continuing surface to the northern end of the trench (07). This crushed brick floor to the south of wall 15 is laid over a thin layer of powdered grey mortar (35) that could have been laid, like layer 25 as a means of further waterproofing the floor, or could simply be related to building activities taking place before the floor was laid.

These upper layers overlie a mottled mid-brown silty sand makeup layer (36). Although the deposit adjacent to wall 15 towards the south is very disturbed, it would appear that deposits 17, 35 and 36 are all cut by a trench (72) that is filled with a loose, dark silty material (18). It is very clear that floor 17 is truncated, and it is possible that the activity related to trench 72 was responsible for the failure of the orange brick floor in the centre of the room.

Below 36 and partially disturbed by 72 is a compacted dark, silty floor level (37), overlain in places by an ephemeral layer of white lime plaster. This could be the remnants of an upper mortar surface to the rammed silt floor in this area and could be a continuation of the plaster found on wall 15 itself. The layer below 37 is a yellow silty sand floor level (38) that corresponds with floor 34, north of wall 15 and is a continuation of the same floor level. This floor, unlike 34, is slightly disturbed by the foundation trench (69) for wall 15. The foundation trench fill (68) is of the same material as that north of 15, namely, a mottled, mid-brown deposit flecked with small fragments of brick and some plaster.

The lower two deposits (19 and 20) in the southern part of the trench are both representative of a terracing episode and are equivalent to deposits 27 and 28 between walls 22 and 15. The upper layer, 19 is mid-brown silty sand with some small brick fragments near the interface between this layer and 20. This could represent a lapse of time between two terracing events, allowing building debris to accumulate on the lower surface before the second terracing was conducted, as

suggested by deposit 12 north of 22. Layer 20 is a more homogenous layer of mid grey brown silty sand.

3.2.2. Trench 4:

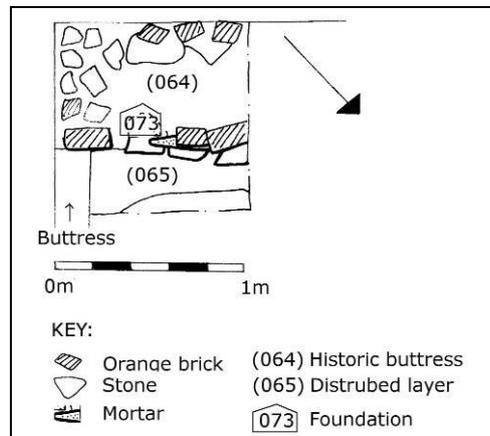


Figure 8: Plan 3 showing Trench 4 Room 3

Trench 4 was excavated in order to reveal the foundations of the internal east/west wall that divides Rooms 2 and 3. This wall was buttressed on the northern side by loosely packed stones and bricks in a light brown silty sand matrix (64). This material sloped down away from the wall and extended 700mm into the trench, across what would appear to be the foundations for the wall (73). A mottled, highly disturbed deposit (65) was removed from beyond the wall footings, but this cleaned off onto a large stone in the northern part of the trench. It was decided not to enlarge the trench, nor to disturb the footings of the wall. Given the shallow nature of the trench, it was planned, but no section drawings were made. A modern butress like that in Trench 2 runs along the eastern wall and stops at the point where the buttressing material 64 begins. This could indicate that, rather than simply being buttressing material, 64 is the remnant of some east/west structure that had abutted the wall and was removed after the concrete butress was built. This might have been a feeding trough, or some similar feature.

3.3. Room 3: Trenches 3, 5 and 6

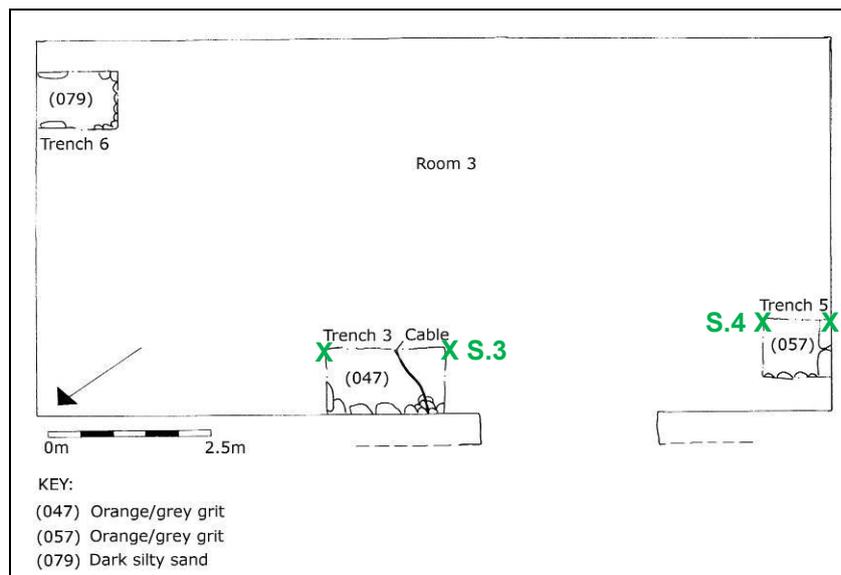


Figure 9: Plan 4 showing Trenches 3, 5 and 6 Room 3. Location of sections 3 and 4 indicated in green

Three trenches were opened in Room 3. Trench 3 was dug against the western external wall, and measured 1.75m north/south by 1m east/west. The trench was positioned at the corresponding

location of the trench in the Cellar that revealed the original north end wall of the earlier building, i.e. at approximately 29m from the southern end of the two buildings. Trench 5 was located in the south-western corner of the building to investigate the higher floor levels there. This trench measured 1.10m north/south by 0.90m east/west. Trench 6 was located in the opposite corner of the room, in the north-eastern corner and measured 1.25m north/south by 0.80m east/west. The dimensions of these last two trenches were limited by the large numbers of cobbles and boulders present that hindered excavation. In Trench 6 at least, some of these cobbles seem to be the remnants of a cobbled floor that might exist in patches throughout the whole room.

3.3.1. Trench 3

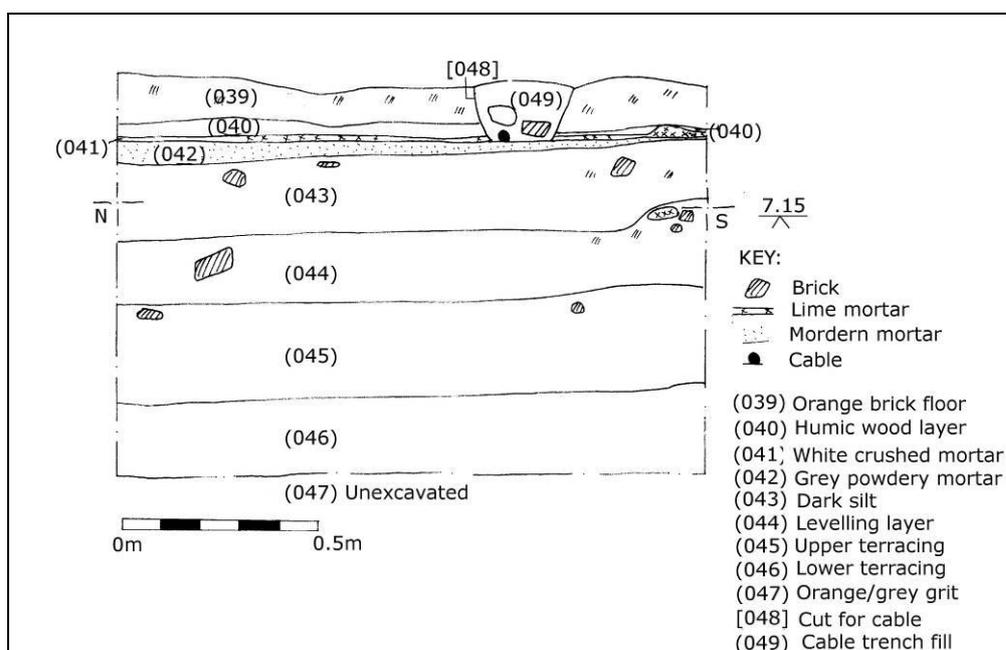


Figure 10: Section 3 Trench 3 west facing

The uppermost layer in Trench 3 was the orange gritty, crushed brick floor surface that is found throughout the building, assigned its own context number again (39). This overlay a band of dark humic silt with a large quantity of degraded wood (40). This layer, in turn, overlay a thin layer of white crushed mortar with some lime component (41). All of these layers were cut by a trench (48) for an electric cable that ran SW/NE through the trench. This trench was filled with loose dark silty sand (49) with stone and brick inclusions visible. Where the cable turns in from the western wall and runs across the trench, there is a pile of cobbles evident in Plan 4 of Room 2. Although this corresponds to the location of the wall in the cellar building, it could not be proved from excavations that these cobbles represent an earlier end wall of the Koornhuis. Rather, this would seem unlikely as no cobbles are apparent in the opposite trench section and the cable trench is not cut deep enough to have entirely truncated the wall. It is possible that these cobbles represent the upper foundation layers of the western wall that were disturbed or even a portion of a collapsed cobble floor.

Below the cable trench was a layer of grey mortar (42), this was darker and more fine and powdery than 41 above it. Below this layer was a thick, compacted layer of dark silt (43) similar to that of the Cellar, and layers 24 and 37 in Trench 2. Under this floor surface is a mottled mid-brown gritty sand make up layer with variable brick fragments up to 100mm, crushed brick and chunks of lime plaster up to 80mm (44). Below these layers again we see two layers of terracing. The upper layer (45) consists of dark brown sandy silt with some small brick fragments up to 60mm, while the lower deposit (46) is paler brown with a grittier sand component and no inclusions. The trench was excavated down to the upper natural (47) which, as elsewhere throughout the Koornhuis, is a gritty orange-grey sand (47).

3.3.2. Trench 5

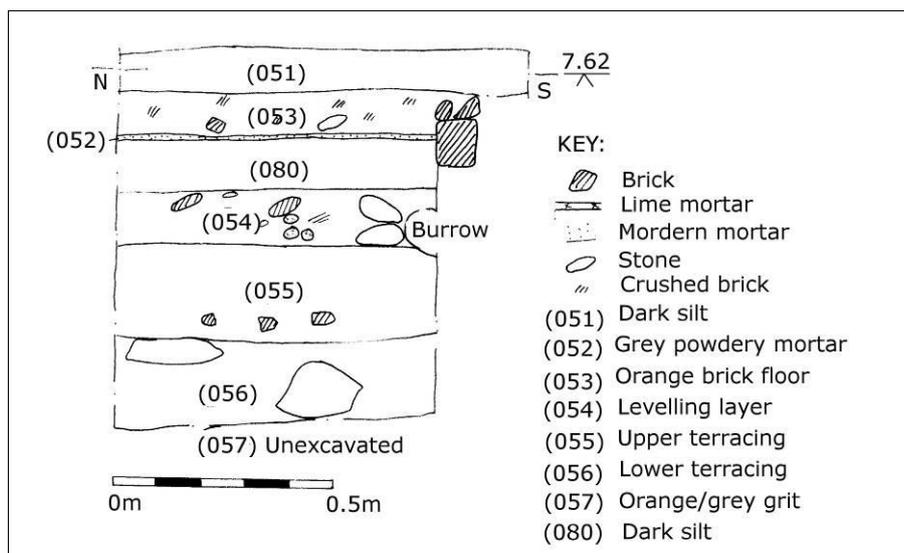


Figure 11: Section 4 Trench 5 west facing

The uppermost layer of Trench 5 is a floor surface of compacted, dark silty sand (51). This deposit overlies a crushed orange brick layer (53) that corresponds to the orange floor surface found throughout the building. As in Trench 2, this layer lies over a deposit of pale grey powdery mortar (52). Overlain by this grey deposit is another floor surface of compact dark silt (80). Below this floor is a mottled, dark brown gritty silty sand makeup layer (54). Below this layer are the two levels of terracing: the upper (55) consisting of loose, dark sandy silt with some clay or unfired brick fragments in it, the lower (56) a pale mid-brown gritty sand with two large boulders up to 0.20m within the deposit. The trench was excavated down to the gritty orange-grey sand of the upper natural substrate (57).

3.3.3. Trench 6

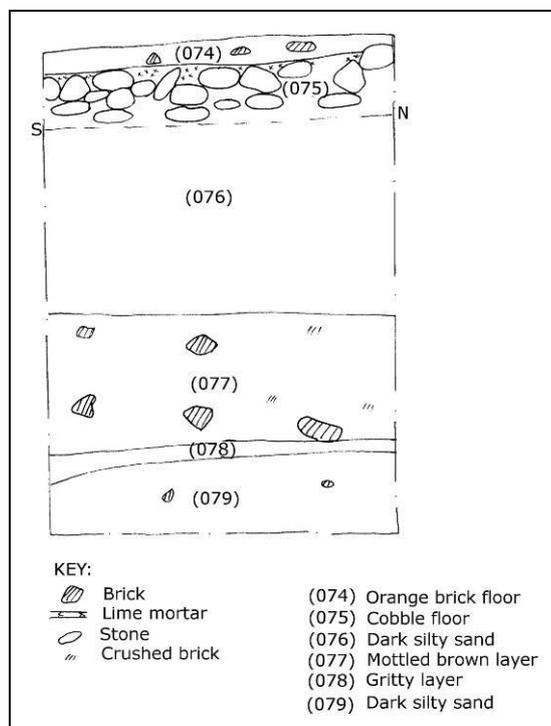


Figure 12: Sketch profile 1 Trench 6 east facing (not to scale)

Trench 6 was opened in order to test the foundations of the east/west internal dividing wall between Rooms 2 and 3. Excavations were hindered by the large number of substantial boulders and a thick band of cobbles encountered. Once through the cobble layer, there was no floor surface apparent in the deposit. The trench soon became too deep to continue safely and the natural substrate was never reached. Due to the depth of the trench, it was not feasible to draw a section of it, although a detailed sketch was made. In Trench 6, again, the uppermost level is the crushed brick floor surface (74). This overlies the cobbles which are embedded in gritty light brown sand (75) and show a white residue that could be the remnants of a lime capping. The cobbles overlie a thick, dark silty sand layer (76) that in turn overlies a mottled yellow brown layer with a high frequency of brick fragments and crushed brick (77). Between 77 and the lowest level excavated lies a layer of pale gritty sand (78) that could represent redeposited natural or a horizon between two terracing levels. The lowest level, only partly excavated, is a dark silty sand with small grit inclusions as well as some brick fragments (79).

3.4. East of the building: Trench 7

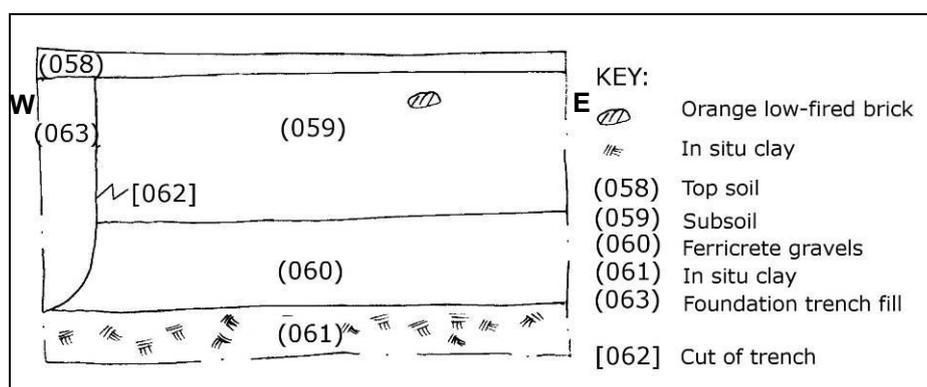


Figure 13: Sketch profile 2 Trench 7 south facing (not to scale)

Trench 7 was located to the east of the building beyond the external wall (see Fig. 3) in a corner created by a chimney abutting the Koornhuis and extending to the east, at a point roughly opposite the central doorway in the western facade. This area has been disturbed by more recent building work in the form of lean-tos, such as the chimney and a nearby silo built against the eastern wall of the Koornhuis. The trench measured 1m east/west and 0.97m north/south. As with Trench 6, a detailed sketch was made of the deposits, but no section drawing was made.

The upper deposit was formed by the topsoil (58), a dark, humic silty sand. Below this level was the subsoil, (59), a mid-brown silty sand with occasional small brick fragments. This deposit was cut by the foundation trench for the east wall of the Koornhuis (62) which was filled with a light brown silty sand backfill (63). This trench was cut through the two layers underlying the subsoil too. The upper of these (60) was a mid-grey-brown sand with a large grit component up to 2mm and a high frequency of small ferricrete nodules up to 4mm. This layer corresponds with the ferricrete layer 32 from Trench 2. Below this was a red-flecked yellow-orange clay (61) that was clearly undisturbed and constitutes the lowest level of natural bedding layers encountered during excavation.

3.5. Artefact analysis

The artefact assemblage is relatively small, and consisted predominantly of ceramics. Table 1 shows the distribution of artefact types in the different layers in the test excavations. Although the sample is small, the ceramics seem to indicate a deposition date spanning the late 17th century to the early decades of the 19th century.

Table 1: Distribution of artefact types throughout the test excavations.

Provenance	Layer	Bone	Shell	Glass	Pipe stems	Metal	Porcelain	REW	CEW	Stoneware	Other
Tr 1	002			*							
Tr 1	003				*		*		*		
Tr 2 N of (022)	019	*	*		*	*	*	* ⁴	*	*	Piece of ochre
Tr 2 (015)-(022)	026				*	*	*		*	*	
Tr 2 (015)-(022)	027	*	*				*	*	*	*	
Tr 2 S of (015)	011	*			*		*			*	Polished cobble
Tr 2 S of (015)	013	*	*	*			*		*	*	
Tr 3	044						*				
Tr 4	065							*			
Tr 5	054	*			*		*	*		*	

Table 2: Ceramic types found in test excavations.

Type of ceramic	Count	MNV	% MNV
Coarse earthenware	7	7	11.1
Asian Porcelain Export market ware	20	16	25.4
Asian Porcelain Domestic market ware	30	24	38.1
REW	1	1	1.6
REW pearlware	9	1	1.6
REW creamware	9	3	4.8
Tin glaze	1	1	1.6
Stoneware Asian	2	2	3.2
Stoneware European	12	8	12.7
TOTAL	91	63	100.0

4. Interpretation of archaeological findings

Our understanding of the site is necessarily limited by the testing being confined to the northern end of the building.

The exterior walls of the building are built in a combination of stone and baked brick. Room 1, has stone coursing extending to a height of 500mm above the current floor surface. The stone in Room 2 extends to a height of 1.10m to 1.40m and that in Room 3, to a height of between 0.90m to 1.05m. The remaining brickwork in the exterior walls appears to be similar throughout (with the exception of the northern end wall, which has been rebuilt recently). The exterior walls are on average 500mm thick. The foundation of wall 22 is 600mm, with the stone coursing measuring 500mm, suggesting that this dividing wall was probably contemporary with the external walls.

The internal wall between Room 1 and Room 2 appears to be constructed entirely of brick, and has a brick buttress extending to 800mm above the ground surface. (The dimensions of these bricks are 220mmx110mmx80mm and the coursing is predominantly rows of stretchers.) The internal wall between Room 2 and Room 3 has stone to a height of 600mm, and is buttressed with loosely packed stone to the same height. The remainder of the wall is built in brick, measuring 210mmx120mmx90mm and the coursing is predominantly rows of headers. The internal dividing wall between Room 3 and the rest of the building, has a baked brick base (3 courses) and extending further in unbaked brick with mud mortar, (baked brick: 210mmx110mmx80mm; unbaked

⁴ Probably contamination from later layers. It does not fit the overall pattern of the rest of the ceramics in the particular layer.

brick: of 230mmx13mmx80mm). Both these builds are constructed in alternating rows of headers and stretchers.

The natural substrate of the area, revealed in Trench 7 is red-flecked yellow clay overlain by a mid-grey-brown sand with a large grit component (>2mm) and a high frequency of small ferricrete nodules (>4mm). The overlying silty sands of the area have a high quantity of sharp sand, arising from wind erosion of the surrounding mountains. This sand makes for excellent building material and is widely used in the bricks and mortar for the farm's buildings.

There are at least three phases visible in the archaeology of the Koornhuis. The first phase relates to the construction of the original building, with substantial stone walls extending up to between 0.9m to 1.4m from the present ground surface. The remains of an internal wall (22) dividing Room 2 was uncovered and is associated with this phase. The artefact assemblage associated with this phase, points to a late 17th/early 18th century construction and occupation. The presence of bone and shell indicates that at least in Room 2, there was domestic occupation, possibly by servants or slaves.

The next phase relates to the construction of additional internal walls, consisting of baked brick foundations, with an unbaked brick superstructure, as per the example of the wall at the south of Room 3 and possibly wall 15. The artefact assemblage from the layers directly beneath wall 15 indicates a date spanning the late 18th century to early 19th century. The layers post-dating wall 15, are sterile, indicating that this portion of the building was no longer occupied or used for domestic purposes. This period may relate to the formalisation of the forecourt in the early 19th century, and the use of the building as a Koornhuis. The remains of a cobble floor surface in Trench 6 (Room 3) may be associated with this phase (see Fig. 12). There are no in situ artefacts found in the test trenches which post-date the first decades of the 19th century, and these most recent finds came from a discrete truncation in Trench 4.

An interesting preliminary comparison can be made with the Cellar building that forms the other arm of the splayed werf (Smuts 2009 pers comm.). Excavations here have revealed a far smaller artefact assemblage, despite a much larger area having been investigated. In the cellar it is clear that the building was constructed in at least two phases. It is abundantly clear, that the building was extended prior to the construction of the early 19th century neo-classical gable. It would not seem that these two buildings were both originally of similar dimensions. It is probable that by the time the Koornhuis was built, the Cellar had already been extended.

The following phase of the Koornhuis relates to the creation of a floor surface consisting of crushed orange brick and its underlying sterile levelling layers. This floor surface is found throughout all the rooms tested. The final phase established archaeologically consists of two episodes which relate to modern interventions and includes the rebuilding of the collapsed northern end wall and the reconstruction of the replica holbol end gable. The modern grain processing equipment in Room 3 and its associated silo may also date to the early part of this phase. Current renovation work constitutes the most recent phase.

5. Conclusions and recommendations

Based on the archaeological findings, the history of the Koornhuis appears to be more complex than is suggested by the structural analysis. Within the limited testing that was possible, it would appear that the Koornhuis was constructed earlier than was originally assumed and that it had at least in part, an occupation/domestic function prior to its re-use as a grain store/processing site.

In order to fully understand the evolution of the werf and to be able to recommend appropriate re-use and redesign of the component buildings, it is crucial to view the werf as a whole entity.

No testing was possible in the southern portion of the Koornhuis. If the example of the cellar can be taken, this section may indicate whether in fact, the building had an earlier core, or whether it was built in one phase as suggested by the structural analysis. Archaeological monitoring of the service trenches within the building is recommended as well as in the area to the east of the building where new work is being proposed.

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Appendix 1: Historical overview (predominantly based on the report by Stewart Harris):

Ownership

Babylonstoren is one of the earlier farms granted in the Drakenstein/Simondium valley. The earliest part of the farm was granted in 1692 to Pieter van der Byl, with an additional grant in 1698⁵. An overlay of the 1819 survey diagram onto the current cadastral boundary, although not giving a precise match, suggests that the homestead was located on the 1692 freehold grant. The 1698 grant appears to have been an attempt to formalize access to one of the perennial streams as the water course is shown clearly down the centre of the grant. Hester te Winkel, the widow of Pieter van der Byl, increased the holdings with an additional grant in 1732. It is clear from the estate inventory of Hester te Winkel that the van der Byls did not reside at Babylonstoren. In 1744, the farm was sold to Johannes Louw who had managed the farm since 1735. It is during this time that the farm became a primary residence.

In 1762 the farm was acquired by Petrus Johannes de Villiers. De Villiers had strong familial ties in the valley (See Harris 2007:4547 for details). PJ de Villiers was married to his cousin Susanna Maria de Villiers who died in 1762. PJ de Villiers married Johanna Barbera van Biljon in 1780 and died four years later.

Johanna Barbera married Cornelius Ponty⁶ in 1787, an educated man, who appears to have practiced as a doctor. In 1819, the Pontys increased the holdings of Babylonstoren through a quitrent grant. This grant essentially consolidated the earlier grants (Harris 2007:49, 60). At this stage, the farm measured 417 Morgan 530 Square Roods.

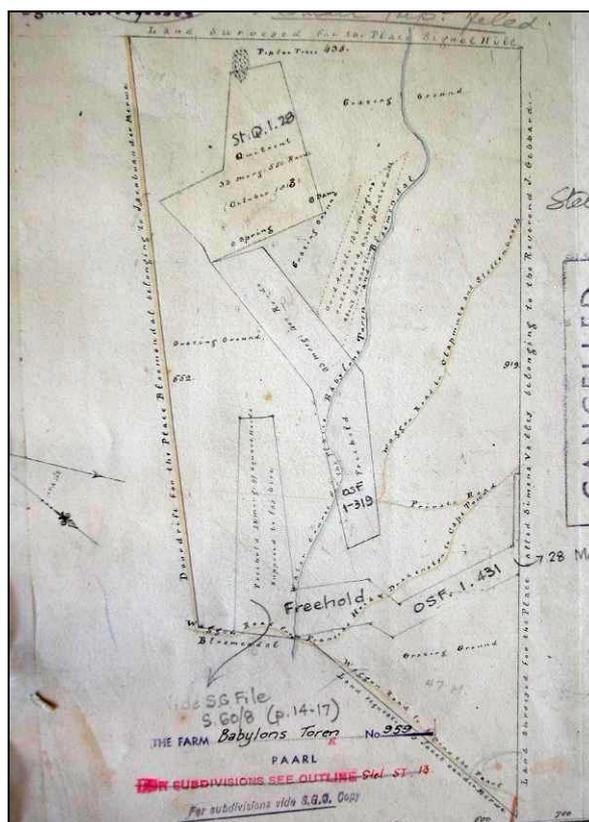


Figure 1: Detail of survey diagram 270/1817 included in the quitrent grant of 1819 to the Johanna Barbera van Biljon, the widow of CE Ponty. The freehold and quitrent grants comprising Babylonstoren are shown (the location of OSF 1.431 is uncertain). The wagon routes indicated on the diagram are no longer evident on the current landscape.

⁵ Van der Byl inherited his father's farm Vredenburg in 1701 and relocated there. He had remained at Babylonstoren for less than 10 years (Harris 2007).

⁶ Ponty was also 15 years younger than Johanna Barbera. According to Harris (2007) she was quite an enigmatic figure.

Johanna van Biljon died in 1831. She made it a condition in her will, that only her heirs (the children of PJ de Villiers) could acquire her property and her slaves. Her son-in-law, Willem Adolph Marias bought Babylonstoren, and less than a year later, sold it to his wife's sister's husband, Jan Daniel de Villiers (Harris 2007).

In 1837, the farm was sold to Jan Christoffel Bosman. He died in 1841 and the farm was acquired by Dirk Hamman. Hamman went bankrupt in 1844 and the farm was sold to Johannes Wynand Louw. The Louw family held the farm Babylonstoren for over 150 years (Harris 2007).

Within the context of the evolution of the werf, three major 'players' emerge: Pieter van der Byl, Johannes Louw and the de Villiers/van Biljon/Ponty ménage. The Louw family, while having had a significant impact on the werf through the Victorianisation of the main dwelling, the raising of the eaves in the outbuildings and the subsequent restoration of the dwelling house in 1931, don't appear to have contributed to the evolution of the werf layout as it stands today.

Evolution of the werf layout

The werf currently consists of a main dwelling house, the fowl house, stable, Koornhuis, wine cellar, and situated behind the formal werf, a kraal enclosure and the Kraal building/animal shed.

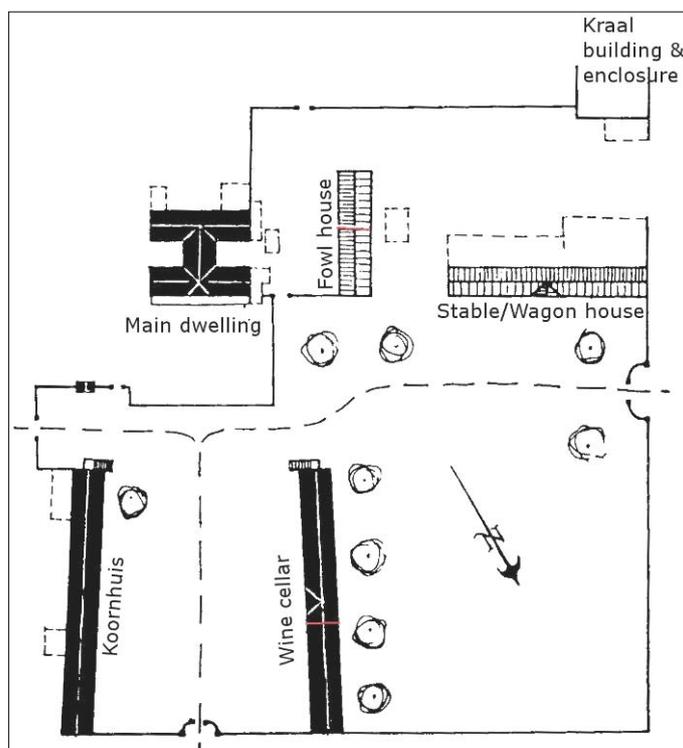


Figure 2: Werf layout as presented in Walton (1989:41) attributed to Hans Fransen. Red lines indicate approximate location of original end walls of buildings.

The main dwelling and the fowl house have been recently restored. The Kraal building is in the process of being remodelled as a restaurant. No archaeological testing took place at the kraal as by the time the archaeologist was asked to site, the floor surfaces had already been excavated and prepared for the laying of the modern floor surfaces. Based on the brickwork, it would appear that this structure may have dated to the 19th century. The kraal enclosure may have been considerably older, as according to the estate inventories, stock numbers on this farm were highest during the mid 18th century.

The wine cellar is in the process of being restored and permission for the redevelopment of the Koornhuis is currently being applied for.

The stable/wagon house has not yet been restored, but some reuse is being planned for the near future.

Phase 1:

This phase of the werf would have been constructed by Pieter van der Byl. It is associated with his short tenure on the farm before moving to the farm Vredenburg, outside Stellenbosch, and is likely to have been a very simple arrangement. It is unlikely that this building would have survived into the present time unchanged and Harris (2007:24) surmises that these buildings would have been incorporated in one of more of the existing buildings, having been altered through repairs and additions over time.

By 1744, this werf consisted of a fairly simple dwelling (the room by room description consistent with a rectangular structure consisting of 4 rooms), a wine cellar and a slave lodge. (A 'hok' is also listed. Based on its contents, it appears to have been a tool shed.) It is only through the analysis of the fabric of the existing buildings on the werf, that it would be possible to locate the remnants of this early phase. Conversation with the previous consultants suggests that evidence of these early buildings is visible, particularly within the buildings that have already been restored. As the early werf does not form part of the brief of the AIA, and evidence indicates that the Koornhuis does not form part of this early pioneer werf, this phase will not be explored further.

Phase 2:

Under the tenure of Johannes Louw, Babylonstoren developed as a primary residence and the werf expanded. The main dwelling may have been expanded to a T-shape. It has been generally accepted that farm dwellings evolved from rectangular through T- and then later H-shaped structures (Walton 1989), but there is always the exception to the rule, and, once again, the findings of the former consultants would have to be consulted to confirm this evolution. The outbuildings in 1762 consisted of a 'pakhuisjje' and winkel, the wine cellar and the stable, which housed 5 horses and 8 horse drawn wagons/vehicles. Evidence does not suggest that the Koornhuis dates to this period, and so this phase will not be explored further.

Phase 3:

During this phase, the main dwelling was expanded to an H-shape and the splayed/parallel werf developed. Malherbe (pers comm. 2009) and du Toit (DC Heritage Consulting 2009:9-10) refer to this phase as the 'De Villiers Period/Werf' and associate it with the ownership of PJ de Villiers. This appellation needs to be used with caution: the analysis of the fabric of particularly the wine cellar, which has retained the early 19th century front gable, clearly indicates that this phase consists of at least two episodes.

Phase 3a:

The development of the H-shape main dwelling is without a doubt associated with PJ de Villiers and his wife Susanne Maria. The rooms listed in the estate inventory of Susanna Maria, 1780, clearly indicate two wings linked by the galderij. The outbuildings listed are the wine cellar, wagon house, 'winkel', 'molenhuis' and 'dispens' (1/STB 18/31 2/6 IN Krzesinski-De Widt 2002:1062-1064). Petrus Johannes de Villiers died 4 years later, and his estate inventory (filed 1787) lists only the wine cellar, wagon house and 'winkel'. Harris (2007) has linked the expansion of the werf during this period with the economic boom which resulted from war between England and France. During this period, farmers were released from the obligation to sell all produce directly to the VOC, and were allowed to sell directly to the ships and so were able to realise better prices.

According to Smuts (pers comm. 2009), there is clear evidence that the cellar was built in two phases. The original building ended just to the north of the existing front gable (Refer to red line on wine cellar in Figure 2 above). The northern extension of the wine cellar abuts what would have been the end wall of the building. Like the original portion, the extension is constructed in stone to ceiling height, and may have been added soon after the earlier building was completed.

It is still unclear at this stage whether there is a component of the Koornhuis which dates to this phase, as testing was limited to the northern end of this building: the southern end was still occupied as office space and not available for testing. There is a possibility that there may be an earlier component to this structure, which could give credit to the association of the formal werf with de Villiers.

Phase 3b:

This phase relates to the formalization of the werf, the raising of the walls in the wine cellar and the simultaneous creation of the neo-classical gable dated 1805. Evidence suggests that the Koornhuis was built during this phase.

Appendix 2: Deeds Summary/Ownership (Harris 2007:5-6):

Farm 1268, Babylonstoren, comprising Portion 1 of Farm 796, Rem 959, 906 and Rem 961

FARM No	Diagram	Deed	Date	Extent	From	To	Comments
961	45/1692	OSF1.319	13/08/1692	33M 400 SR	Grant	Pieter van der Byl	
960	18/1698	OSF 1.431	7/08/1698	28M 97 SR	Grant	Pieter van der Byl	
?			1/09/1732	3 M 411 SR	Grant	Hester te Winkel	Widow P vd Byl
961 960 ?		2618	22/10/1744	33M 400 SR + 28M 97 SR + 3 M 411 SR	Est. Hester te Winkel	Johannes Louw Jaczoon	f8100 Sold at public auction
961 960 ?		3757	16/07/1762	33M 400 SR + 28M 97 SR + 3 M 411 SR	Est. J Louw	Petrus Johannes de Villiers Janzoon X his cousin Susanna Maria de Villiers (d 1780) Xx Johanna Barbera van Biljon	F21 450 1777 date on 1931 built gable main house
			1784			Johanna Barbera van Biljon	Married PJ de Villiers in 1780
			1787			Cornelius Ernest Ponty	Marriage to JB van Biljon w PJ de Villiers
			1814			Johanna Barbera van Biljon	Ponty dies
959 (which incl the above)	270/1816	SQ5.34	15/12/1819	417M 503SR	Grant	Johanna Barbera van Biljon Widow Ponty	Incl Freehold: 28 M 97 SR + 33 M 400 SR Quitrent: 33 M 550 SR
			20/01/1832	417M 503 SR	Public auction	Willem Adolph Marais	f6000 or £150 Was married to daughter of PJ de Villiers Janzoon
			27/11/1832	417M 503 SR	WA Marais	Jan Daniel de Villiers	Son of PJ de Villiers Janzoon
FARM No	Diagram	Deed	Date	Extent	From	To	Comments
959		130 (old 236)	11/03/1834	513M 352 SR	Est. JB van Biljon wid PJ de Villiers; wid CE Ponty	Willem Adolph Marais Pieterzoon	Harris (2007) lists 4% transfer fee as £120 = £3000
		Old 237	11/03/1834	513M 352 SR	WA Marais	Jan Daniel de Villiers Janzoon	f123000 = £3075
			1836			Johanna Margaretha de Villiers	Widow of JD de Villiers
		1	1/09/1837	513M 352 SR	Est. J de Villiers	Jan Christoffel Bosman Pieterzoon	£3300

Deduct Klein BT Fm 796	746/1857	137	16/02/1841	144M 500 SR	Jan Christoffel Bosman Pieterzoon	GL Steytler	£771 (incl 1M 198 SR of farm 961)
959		141 (old 77)	16/02/1841	848 M 450 SR	GL Steytler	Dirk Hamman Nicolaaszoon	£1537.10
			23/01/1844		Public auction Insolvent Estate D Hamman		
		127 (old 24)	2/02/1844		Public auction Insolvent Estate D Hamman	Johannes Wynand Louw Wynandzoon	f80 000 = £2000
796/1/1		317	26/02/1857	147M 332 SR		Johannes Wynand Louw Wynandzoon	Additional land acquired Lot 1 Bloemendal
		31 (old 81)	2/09/1873		Est. JW Louw	Maria Elisabeth Smuts Wid JW Louw	Widow JW Louw Victorianised c1880/90?
		32	2/09/1873		ME Louw	Adriaan Jacobus Louw and Marthinus Smuts Louw	£3500
		114	7/12/1878	274M 201 SR	MS Louw	Adriaan Jacobus Louw	£1750 (1/2 payment)
Lot C Signal Hill			12/11/1912				Additional
Lot F Signal Hill			10/12/1912				Additional
Lot A Simons Valley			12/07/1913				Additional
Lot B Simons Valley			27/03/1914				Additional

Appendix 3: Werf evolution based on inventories⁷

Voorhuis = V; KL = Kamer aan die linkerkant; KR = Kamer aan die regterkant; C = Combuis; S = solder' G = Gaandery/Gallerij; a = kamer agter ...; B = bottelarij (room/pantry/store); b = bottelarij (storage cupboard in room possibly a muurkas or recessed shelving); D= Dispens (Provision room/Pantry)

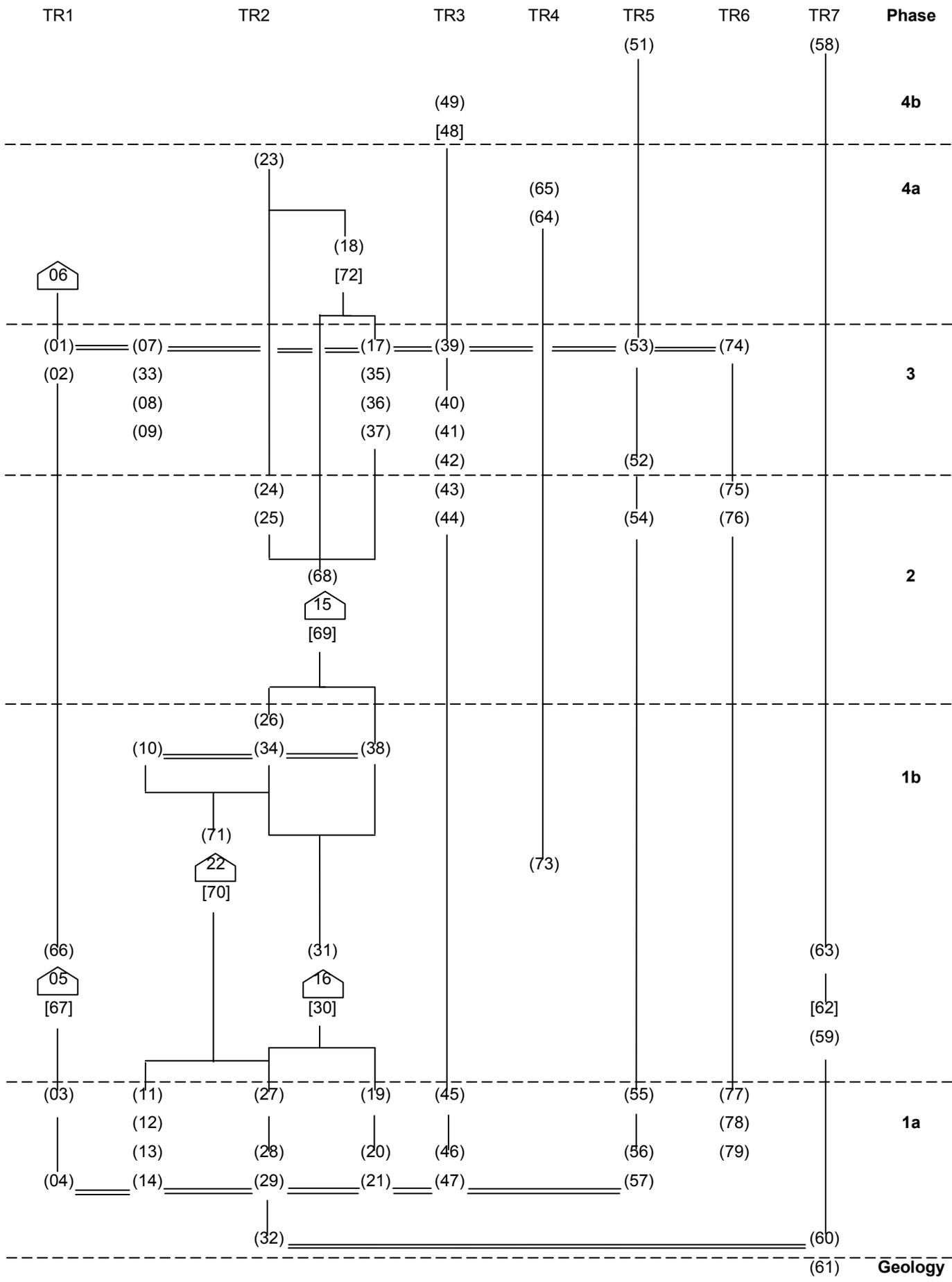
Owner: date	Main house (rooms in order as listed)									Outbuildings				Stock			Slaves			
															C	H	S/G	M	F	J
Hester te Winkel 1744	V + b in V	KL	KR	C + b in C	S					Wine cellar	Slave house				20	1	433			
Johannes Louw 1762	KR	KL	V	B	C	S				Pak- huisje	Winkel	Kelder	Stable		91			16	3	4
Susanna Maria de Villiers dec wife of Pet Joh de Villiers 1780	V	KR	KL	G + glas kasjes	B	C	S			Wine cellar	Wagen- huis	Winkel	Molenhuis	Dispens	63	29	436 ⁸	12	4	7
Pet Joh de Villiers /Johanna Barbera van Biljon 1787	V	KR	KL	G	a	B	S			Wine cellar	Wagen- huis	Winkel			38	7 23	63 ⁹	13	6	3
Johanna Barbera van Biljon Widow CE Ponty C1834 (Harris 2007:50)	V	KR	KL	G	Slaap kamer	D1	S	D2	C	Wine cellar	Timmer- winkel & Smits winkel	Meelkamer & Buite- dispens	Kelder solder	Stal				83		

⁷ Krzesinski-de Widt. (2002).and Harris (2007)

⁸ Incl 6 pigs

⁹ Incl 1 sow with 6 piglets

Appendix 4: Stratigraphic Matrix



Stratigraphic Matrix

The conventions on the diagram used to show cuts, deposit and structures are those used on the site plans and section drawings. They are as follows:

 Deposit number

[xxx] Cut number

 Structure number

Relationships between contexts are depicted by means of solid vertical and horizontal lines. Relationships can be read in one direction only, meaning, for instance, that trench 70 cuts deposits 11 and 27 but not 19, while all three are cut by trench 30. Double horizontal lines between context numbers indicate that these numbers represent the same deposits across the site. The dashed lines across the matrix indicate the divisions of the sequence into phases.

The relative position of the numbers vertically also depicts their relative chronology and relationship within that to one another, as far as it was possible to ascertain. Contexts at the same horizontal level on the diagram have therefore been interpreted as being contemporaneous. While contexts can move up and down between different phases, their position relative to one another in their particular stratigraphic sequence must remain unchanged, unless the site is re-examined archaeologically.

Appendix 5: Ceramics analysis

Excavation date	Provenance	Layer	Ware / Type	Region	Ware / Colour	Decoration / Makers mark	Form	Function	Count	MNV	MNV %
8/10/2009	Tr 2 N of (022)	019	?Refined earthenware	European	Creamware	Undecorated, modified	Uncertain		1	1	
8/10/2009	Tr 2 (015) to (022)	026	Coarse earthenware			Unglazed	Undiagnostic		1	1	
8/10/2009	Tr 2 (015) to (022)	026	Coarse earthenware			Green/yellow	Undiagnostic		1	1	
8/10/2009	Tr 2 (015) to (022)	027	Coarse earthenware			Pale yellow slip	Cooking pot		1	1	
8/10/2009	Tr 2 N of (022)	019	Coarse earthenware			Unglazed	Lid	Food preparation	1	1	
8/10/2009	Tr 2 N of (022)	019	Coarse earthenware	Dutch		Unglazed	Foot of pot	Food preparation	1	1	
8/10/2009	Tr 2 S of (015)	013	Coarse earthenware	Dutch		Yellow/brown slip glaze	Pot	Storage	1	1	
8/10/2009	Tr 1	003	Coarse earthenware			Yellow/green slip glaze	Uncertain		1	1	
									8	8	12.7
8/10/2009	Tr 1	003	Porcelain	Asian	Export	UG blue	Bowl	Food consumption	1	1	
8/10/2009	Tr 1	003	Porcelain	Asian	Export	UG blue	Plate	Food consumption	1	1	
8/10/2009	Tr 1	003	Porcelain	Asian	Export	UG blue	Cup?	Beverage	3	1	
8/10/2009	Tr 1	003	Porcelain	Asian	Export	White	Uncertain		1	1	
8/10/2009	Tr 2 (015) to (022)	026	Porcelain	Asian	Market ware	UG blue	Large bowl		1	1	
8/10/2009	Tr 2 (015) to (022)	026	Porcelain	Asian	Market ware	UG blue	Small bowl		3	3	
8/10/2009	Tr 2 (015) to (022)	026	Porcelain	Asian	Export	UG blue	Cup	Beverage	1	1	
8/10/2009	Tr 2 (015) to (022)	026	Porcelain	Asian	Export	UG blue	Plate	Food consumption	2	2	
8/10/2009	Tr 2 N of (022)	019	Porcelain	Asian	Market ware	UG blue	Platter	Food distribution	2	1	
8/10/2009	Tr 2 N of (022)	019	Porcelain	Asian	Market ware	UG blue	Bowl	Food consumption	7	5	
8/10/2009	Tr 2 N of (022)	019	Porcelain	Asian	Export	UG blue	Plate	Food consumption	2	2	
8/10/2009	Tr 2 S of (015)	011	Porcelain	Asian	Market ware	UG blue	Platter	Food distribution	2	2	
8/10/2009	Tr 2 S of (015)	011	Porcelain	Asian	Market ware	UG blue	Bowl	Food consumption	4	3	
8/10/2009	Tr 2 S of (015)	011	Porcelain	Asian	Export	UG blue	Cup	Beverage	4	2	

Excavation date	Provenance	Layer	Ware / Type	Region	Ware / Colour	Decoration / Makers mark	Form	Function	Count	MNV	MNV %
8/10/2009	Tr 2 S of (015)	011	Porcelain	Asian	Export	UG blue	Plate	Food consumption	2	2	
8/10/2009	Tr 2 S of (015)	011	Porcelain	Asian	Export	White, red enamel	Cup/small bowl		1	1	
8/10/2009	Tr 2 S of (015)	013	Porcelain	Asian	Market ware	UG blue	Platter	Food distribution	1	1	
8/10/2009	Tr 2 S of (015)	013	Porcelain	Asian	Market ware	UG blue	Platter	Food distribution	1	1	
8/10/2009	Tr 2 S of (015)	013	Porcelain	Asian	Market ware	UG blue	Undiagnostic		1	1	
8/10/2009	Tr 3	044	Porcelain	Asian	Market ware	UG blue	Platter	Food distribution	3	1	
8/10/2009	Tr 3	044	Porcelain	Asian	Market ware	UG blue	? Bowl	Food consumption	2	2	
8/10/2009	Tr 3	044	Porcelain	Asian	Export	UG blue	Cup	Beverage	1	1	
8/10/2009	Tr 5	054	Porcelain	Asian	Market ware	UG blue	Large bowl		1	1	
8/10/2009	Tr 5	054	Porcelain	Asian	Market ware	UG blue	Uncertain		2	2	
8/10/2009	Tr 5	054	Porcelain	Asian	Export	UG blue	Platter?	Food distribution	1	1	
									50	40	63.5
8/10/2009	Tr 2 (015) to (022)	027	Refined earthenware	European	Creamware	Undecorated, modified	Bowl		2	1	
8/10/2009	Tr 2 (015) to (022)	027	Refined earthenware	European	Whiteware	Hand painted harsh colour	Undiagnostic		1	1	
8/10/2009	Tr 4	065	Refined earthenware	European	Creamware	Undecorated, modified	Plate	Food consumption	6	1	
8/10/2009	Tr 4	065	Refined earthenware	European	Pearlware	Banded brown and black	Bowl	Food consumption	9	1	
									18	4	6.3
8/10/2009	Tr 5	054	Refined earthenware	Transfer printed			Uncertain		1	1	
									1	1	1.6

Excavation date	Provenance	Layer	Ware / Type	Region	Ware / Colour	Decoration / Makers mark	Form	Function	Count	MNV	MNV %
8/10/2009	Tr 2 S of (015)	011	Stoneware	Japanese	Donabe	Brown glaze	Rim	Food warmer	1	1	
8/10/2009	Tr 5	054	Stoneware	Asian		Brown	Container	Storage	1	1	
									2	2	3.2
8/10/2009	Tr 2 (015) to (022)	026	Stoneware	European		Grey salt glaze	Container	Storage	2	1	
8/10/2009	Tr 2 (015) to (022)	027	Stoneware	European		Grey	Container		3	1	
8/10/2009	Tr 2 (015) to (022)	027	Stoneware	European		Brown	Container		1	1	
8/10/2009	Tr 2 N of (022)	019	Stoneware	European		Grey salt glaze	Container		2	1	
8/10/2009	Tr 2 S of (015)	011	Stoneware	European		Grey salt glaze	Container	Storage	1	1	
8/10/2009	Tr 2 S of (015)	013	Stoneware	European		Grey salt glaze	Container	Storage	1	1	
8/10/2009	Tr 5	054	Stoneware	German		Grey/blue salt glaze	Container	Mineral water	1	1	
8/10/2009	Tr 5	054	Stoneware				Uncertain		1	1	
									12	8	12.7
TOTAL									101	63	100

Appendix 6: Site photographs



Trench 1 Room 1 looking east, showing foundations 05 and 06 of the east and north walls, respectively. Note the modern brick of the reconstructed north gable wall



Trench 2 Room 2 looking south, showing stone wall 22 and brick wall 15



Trench 3 Room 3 looking north, note the electricity cable



Trench 4 Room 2 looking south, showing modern and historic buttresses



Trench 5 Room 3, looking south, note change in brick of internal wall from baked to unbaked



Trench 6 Room 3 looking south west, note cobble layer with traces of lime capping



Trench 7 east of building looking north, showing foundation cut 62 indicated in green