

Archival study: Evolution of the historic werf – Mount Happy/ Jonkersdrift (Farm 1308)

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1. Brief

Additional archival research was requested by Stephen Townsend to better understand the evolution of the historical werf of the farm Mount Happy, now Jonkersdrift. A preliminary archival study of the history of the property, focusing mainly on the transfer history was undertaken by Dr Antonia Malan (1996) for the Dalings, the then owners. This study consists of a collation of the research undertaken by Malan (2006), Clift (2010) and additional archival research. The historical overview below is, largely, a synopsis of Malan's report.

The detailed description and analysis of the buildings will be dealt with in Townsend's report. Here a few comments have been added only in an attempt to root the documentary evidence in the reality on the ground.

2. Historical overview

Mount Happy has its roots in the 17th century freehold grants to the free blacks¹, Manuel and Anthony van Angola and Louis van Bengal. The farms were granted to these men in 1692. Louis van Bengal sold his land to Anthony van Angola in c1696. The latter died in 1696 and the estate inventory² lists a small thatched roof house on his land (Boekesen 1977:89). The location of this structure is unknown. A previous study (Clift 2010) to identify historical structures in the path of a proposed sewerage line, did not find *documentary* evidence of structures on either of these early freehold grants.

The land previously owned by Anthony van Angola and Louis van Begal was acquired by Isaac Schrijver in 1696. He was the owner of the neighbouring farm Schoongezicht (later Lanzerac), granted to him in 1692 (Figure 1). By 1712, virtually all the farm land in the Jonkershoek valley was owned by Isaac Schrijver, or rather his widow, Anna Hoeks

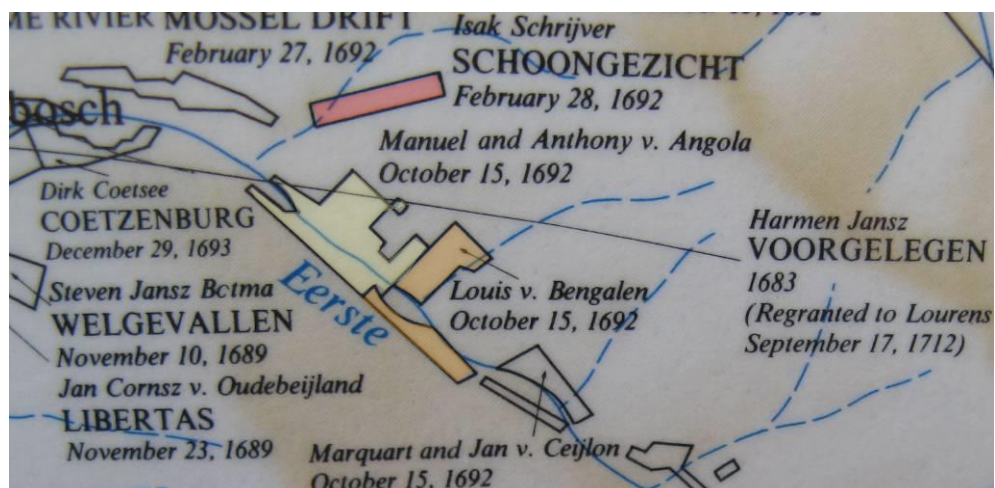


Figure 1: Guelke's map of the Southwestern Cape 1657-1750 showing the early freehold grants (Guelke 1982). OSF 1.61 and OSF 1.63 are shaded yellow and orange respectively. The farm Schoongezicht, granted to Isaak Schrijver, later became known as Lanzerac is shaded red.

In 1761, Jacobus Groenewald³ acquired a portion of Schoongezicht including the 17th century

¹ People who came to the Cape as slaves and who either bought their freedom, or were manumitted by their owners. They had the same rights as the freeburghers eg owned property, carried arms etc (Malan 1996:1)

² Movable property listed as 1 bed, 2 pillows, a chest with clothing, large box with carpenter's tools, 2 iron pots, a tin plate, spade, 2 chairs and a tea table. Farm implements 7 oxen and a cow are also listed. (Boeseken 1977:89).

³ He was the great-grandson of Anna Hoeks through her son Jacob Hasselaar (from a previous marriage) and Maria Elizabeth van Coningshoven. Their daughter, Anna married Christoffel Groenewald in 1729.

freehold grants to Manuel and Anthony van Angola and Louis van Bengal. In 1790 the farm was acquired by Petrus du Toit. In 1813 the farm, then known as Weltevreden⁴, was acquired by Isaac de Melander. During this time, De Melander increased the extent of the farm through a number of quitrent grants. De Melander lived at the homestead known as Leef op Hoop (now a part of Klein Gustrouw).

In 1830 the farm was divided⁵ along the Eerste River. PC van Blommestein acquired the portion along the southern bank (Mount Happy), while Pieter Daniel Grundeling acquired portions on the northern banks of the Eerste River (Leef op Hoop). Van Blommenstein increased the extent of the farm by further quitrent grants. According to Malan (1996:3) the name 'Mount Happy' was in use by 1847.

Mount Happy changed hands several times until it was acquired by Roelof de Leeuw in 1872. The De Leeuw family retained ownership of the farm until 1974 when the farm was sold to Dirk Zandberg. In 1996 Mount Happy was acquired by the Dalings. The property is currently owned by Uhambo Property Investments (Pty) Ltd and is known as Jonkersdrift⁶.

3. Historical werf

The historic werf of Mount Happy includes the remains of an oak avenue, a werf wall, a stream/channel as well as the building complex.

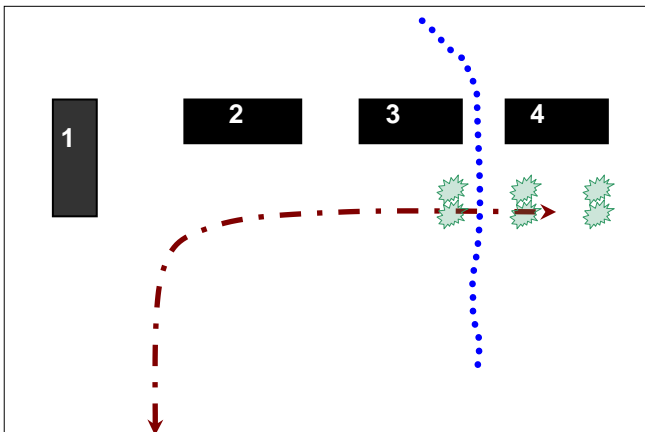


Figure 2: Sketch of werf layout. The buildings are numbered as follows: (1) Main dwelling, (2) Guest house (3) Store and (4) Outbuilding converted to guest cottage.

3.1 Buildings/Structures

On the 1813 survey diagram (filed with an additional quitrent lease to de Melander) three buildings are shown representing the historical werf of Mount Happy (Figure 3): One building is shown to the north of the stream and two on the southern side. According to Malan (1996) the current Main dwelling (1) is not shown. The diagram attached to Stel Q 11.25 No 250/1833 shows a very similar alignment (Malan 1996).

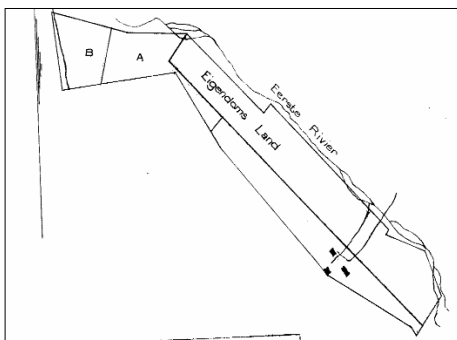


Figure 3: Detail of Survey diagram 199/1813 showing the alignment of the three structures. A stream is shown flowing into the Eerste River and the access road linking the homestead to the main access route across the river is also shown. The accuracy of the diagram has been questioned with regards to the alignment of the structures. Be that as it may, the diagram still confirms the existence of structures on the Mount Happy werf by 1813.

⁴ Incorporating what would later become Leef op Hoop/Klein Gustrouw and Mount Happy.

⁵ De Melander died insolvent, and the estate was auctioned off. He lived at Leef op Hoop (MOIB 2/491)

⁶ The original Mount Happy was subdivided into 3 portions viz 1440, 1441 and Rem 1308. These portions form part of the Jonkersdrift 'estate'.

According to Hans Fransen (2004), the main dwelling (1) stylistically dates to the 1830s, but with older elements, which may not be in their original positions. The wall thickness averages at 550mm and the older portion has a roof span of just over 5m (measured on Google Earth). As with the other buildings, a closer inspection of the fabric of the building as well as possibly archaeological exploration would be needed to more fully understand the evolution of the house and werf.

The guest house (2), appears to be much altered with extensions to the back obscuring the original roof span. Wall thicknesses appear to be about 450mm (access to openings limited). Additions to the rear of the building obscures the original roof span. The building is visible on the photograph (Figure 4).



Figure 4: View of the main dwelling possibly dating to the end of the 19th century (left) (Le Roux 1984:66) and the current view (right).

Structures 3 and 4 (Figure 2) may correspond with the two aligning structures shown on the 1813 survey diagram. These buildings have walls of an average thickness of 550mm and a roof span of approximately 5m (measured on Google Earth); suggesting an 18th century construction date. Archaeological exploration and fabric analysis of the walls themselves would be required to try and understand these structures better. Structure 4 has been much altered with its remodelling as a guest cottage. Structure 3 appears to be more intact, consisting of a number of small rooms with openings onto the stoep.

The Burnard family owned Mount Happy from 1856 to 1872, but according to Le Roux (1984), the family was still resident on the farm in 1886 (However, according to the title deeds, the property was sold to Roelof de Leeuw in 1872). An oblique view of the homestead (Figure 4) shows the front façade of the dwelling house (1) and the corner of one of the outbuildings (2) situated along the oak avenue.

3.2 Werf wall

The werf wall encloses the group of buildings forming the historic werf, including the dwelling house and extends to the northern most of the outbuildings (Figure 5). Parts of the wall appears to be fairly intact and shows evidence of repair and remodelling: it seems as if it may have been a simple low structure, which had subsequently been raised and pilasters added. In some places a cobble foundation is visible. As the wall encloses the entire werf, it is likely to be contemporary with the main house (1) and the extension of the oak avenue (poss early mid 19th century). Closer inspection of the werf wall required to confirm.



Figure 5: Selection of images of the werf wall.

3.3 Oak avenue

In Figure 4, the oak avenue appear to be fairly, possibly giving an indirect clue to the date of construction of the main dwelling and the extension of the oak plantings, perhaps creating the avenue. Individual trees closer to structures 3 and 4 (Figure 2) appear to be much older.



Figure 6: Selection of photographs of the oaks illustrating the remains of the parallel planting pattern.

4. Findings

With the exception of the reference by Boeseken (1977:89) to a simple dwelling constructed by Anthony van Angola, there is no other documentary evidence of a structure on the Mount Happy property dating to the 17th century.

The estate inventories of Anna Hoek (widow of Isaac Schrijver) and Anna Hasselaar (Hoek's great grand daughter and widow of Christoffel Groenewald) all indicate that during most of the 18th century, when the Jonkershoek valley was held under the same ownership, that the main homestead was situated at Schoongezicht (Lanzerac). There are no descriptions of structures on any of the freehold portions which comprised the greater Schoongezicht during this period.

A survey diagram dated 1813 shows three structures on what would become the historical werf at Mount Happy. These buildings probably were constructed at the end of the 18th century/early 19th century. This would have to be confirmed by additional archaeological and fabric analysis.

The expansion of the werf in the early mid 19th century c1830 (identified by Fransen (2004) as the stylistic date for the main house) may correspond to the development of the homestead under the ownership of Peter Canzius van Blommestein. (The supposition supported by the increase in price for which the farm was sold after his death in the 1840s).

5. Conclusions

The first concrete evidence for the werf at Mount Happy is the 1813 survey diagram showing the two aligned structures with a third set back towards the foothill of the mountain. These structures would have already been constructed by the time the survey drawing was executed. While reference is made of a simple dwelling erected by Anthony van Angola on his property, it is unknown where this structure would have been located. Additional archaeological investigation and fabric analysis of the structures on the werf may shed some more light onto the evolution of the werf and of the buildings themselves.

The ownership of nearly the whole Jonkershoek valley by Scrijver and his widow Anna Hoeks as well as the tight familial network of the subsequent owners especially during the 18th century has implications to the development of individual homesteads across time and space, as well as land use patterns. More research would be required to fully understand this pattern, but it appears as if individual homesteads only develop in the early 19th century, although incorporating earlier structures which may have been used as accommodation for knegts/labourers.

Sources

MOIB 2/491 23	Liquidation and Distribution account Insolvent Estate IJ de Melander
MOOC 6/9/253 301	Death notice MM Burnard
MOOC 7/1/312 147	Will JFF Burnard filed 1870
MOOC 7/1/499 313	Will MM Burnard filed 1888
MOOC 6/9/61 1810	Death notice PC van Blommestein
MOOC 6/9/133 6627	Death notice JFF Burnard
MOOC 7/1/33 47, 48	Inventory Anna Hasselaar Wid Christoffel Groenewald

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Appendix 1: Deeds Summary: MOUNT HAPPY (from Malan 1996)

FARM No	Diagram	Deed	Date	Extent	From	To	Price	Neighbours	Comments
338 + 339	32/1693	OSF 1.63	15/10/1692		Grant	Freeblack Louis van Bengal		Both sides Eerste River SE: Jan van Ceylon SW & NE: Mountains NW: Anthony van Angola	Also incl 339
338 + 339		406	24/11/1696	2 pieces of land 29 M 219 SR	Louis van Bengalen	Government of Cape of Good Hope (Orphan Chamber)	f400	Both sides Eerste River SE: Jan van Ceylon SW & NE: Mountains NW: Anthony van Angola	According to Hattingh 1981 the farm was acquired by Anthony van Angola
338 + 339		408	31/12/1696 ?	29 M 214 SR	Government of Cape of Good Hope	Isaac Schrijver		Both sides Eerste River SE: Jan van Ceylon SW & NE: Mountains NW: Anthony van Angola	(Malan 1996)
338 + 339		983	13/04/1714	29 M 214 SR	Est Isaac Schrijver	Anna Hoeks Wid I Schrijver	f800		
338 + 339		3674	29/09/1761	A: 29 M 114 SR B: 24 M 407 SR	Anna Hasselaar Wid Christoffel Groenewald	Jacobus Groenewald	f900		Granddaughter of Anna Hoeks through son from previous marriage.
338 + 339		4642	3/10/1744	A: 29 M 114 SR B: 24 M 407 SR	Jacobus Groenewald	Christoffel Groenewald & Johannes Casparus Groenewald	f900		Subdivided: A TD 6521/1790 B: TD 297/1801
338		6521	26/11/1790	A: 29 M 114 SR	Christoffel Groenewald & Johannes Casparus Groenewald	Petrus Johannes Du Toit	f30 100		"Anthony van Angola and Louis van Bengalen"
339		267	24/03/1801	B: 24 M 407 SR	Johannes Casparus Groenewald	Christoffel Groenewald	f1 900		
337?	65/1802	239	13/08/1830	19M 400SR	Petrus Jacobus du Toit	Isaak Johannes de Melander		SE I de Melander MW Coenraad Joh Albertyn	Only the owner can cut wood from his side of

								NE Eerste Rivier	the river
363	202/1813	StQ 2.58		52M 232SR	Grant	Izaak Johannes de Melander	13 Ryksdalders	SE NE Eerste River NW Weltevreden W SW mountains SSE ?	
364	199/1813	StQ 2.54		18M 408SR	Grant	Izaak Johannes de Melander		N Eerste Rivier W Mountains SW adjoining lands	Showing 3 structures
		239	13/08/1830	24M 204SR 71M 130SR	Izaak Johannes de Melander	Petrus Canzius van Blommenstein			
364	250/1833	StQ 11.25	20/04/1837	215M 23SR	Grant	Petrus Canzius van Blommenstein	£1		Showing 3 structures
		87	18/01/1842	24M 204SR, 286M 153SR	Trustees of Est Petrus Canzius van Blommenstein	Christiaan Ludolph Neethling Frederick's son	£1887 10s		
		195	28/02/1843	24M 204SR, 286M 153SR	Christiaan Ludolph Neethling Frederick's son	Jan Christiaan Nielen Marais Charles' son	£2075		
		1456	28/10/1847	24M 204SR, 286M 153SR	Jan Christiaan Nielen Marais Charle's son	Andries Christoffel vd Byl	£1750		
		2661	24/04/1856	24M 204SR, 286M 153SR	Andries Christoffel vd Byl	Joseph Frederick Fry Burnard	£2000		
320		263	13/09/1860	3M 337 SR 29M 177SR	Joseph Frederick Fry Burnard	Jacoba Eliza de Villiers	£750		
		228	26/04/1872	20M 466.5SR 240M 212.5SR	Marie Magdalena Burnard (Wid JFF Burnard)	Roeloef Johannes de Leeuw Jnr			
		5671	28/04/1920	20M 466.5SR 240M 212.5SR	Roeloef Johannes de Leeuw Jnr	Johan Wilhelm de Leeuw and Andreas Hendrick de Leeuw T/A De Leeuw and Brother	£3000		"The seller reserves unto himself and his wife Margaretha Louisa de Leeuw ... the free and undisturbed

									use and occupation of that part of the dwelling house as at present occupied by them”
		10944	7/09/1943	20M 466.5SR 240M 212.5SR	Johan Wilhelm de Leeuw	Andreas Hendrick de Leeuw	£5000.00		
		20441	23/12/1960	20M 466.5SR 240M 212.5SR	Andreas Hendrick de Leeuw	Roelof Johannes de Leeuw	£5000.00		
		3322	13/02/1974	20M 466.5SR 240M 212.5SR	Roelof Johannes de Leeuw	Dirk Johannes Albertus Zandberg	R230 000.00		
362-364, 337, 339		70428	23/04/1996	223,5 ha	Dirk Johannes Albertus Zandberg	Marinus Huig Daling	R8 000 000.00		