# **GARDEN WALL & STORE**

BABYLONSTOREN, FARM 1740, PAARL

Accompanying Document to NID application



Prepared by Anja Lareman for Malherbe Rust Architects.

November 2019

	8   ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL SIGNIFICAN	ICE AS PER PREVIOUS
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## 1 | Preamble & Application Form

This document contains information from, and should be read in conjunction with documents prepared by **Andre Pentz** from Urban Design Services cc:

- The Heritage Impact Assessment, January 2009
- Heritage Statement (Revised), July 2014

## 2 | Executive Summary

### 2.1 | Site Name

Babylonstoren, Farm 1740, Klapmuts-Simondium Rd, Simondium

## 2.2 | Location

33°49'27.14"S 18°55'33.90"E

### 2.3 | Locality Plan

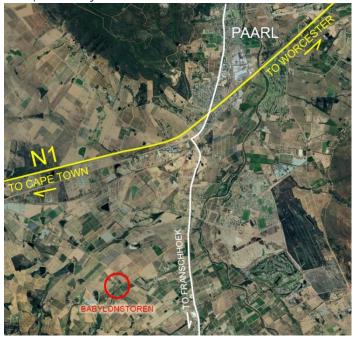


Figure 1 See Section 4 for detailed Locality Plan

### 2.4 | Description of Proposed Development

The client's brief is for a new farm store (163m², for garden tools and to store equipment and farm vehicles under shade), to enclose an existing section of agricultural land with a garden ring wall (198,2m²) and a new pond (78m²).

### 2.5 | Heritage Resources Identified

Former Grading: none

SAHRA Grading: none

Drakenstein Heritage Survey Grading: Provincial Heritage site (Grade II) - No formal gazetted grading.

Heritage Impact Assessments done by Andre Pentz in 2009 identifies the historic werf "grade 1 – exceptional significance, and the buildings vary between grade II and grade III". Significant axial relationships between buildings and landscape. Significant in terms of historical, architectural and contextual value, and has landmark quality.

#### Previous studies consulted:

- **HIA** by Andre Pentz (Jan 2009)
- Heritage Statement (Rev) by Andre Pentz (Dec 2014)
- Cultural Historic Research by Steward Harris ('Babylonstoren The story of a Drakenstein Farm' April 2007)
- Archaeological Impact Assessment: Stable Buildings by Katie Smuts & Harriet Clift (May 2010)
- Historical Background, Significance and Structural Analysis by Malherbe Rist Architects (Sept 2010)

### 2.6 | Anticipated Impacts on Heritage Resources

The proposed development will have a low impact on the heritage resources and surrounds, with a medium impact on the spatial relationship between the historic werf and what's happening outside the werf.

The proposed development is in line with the HIA's development indicators, stating that 'new development should not encroach on the historic werf and garden and should be set back from the historical development' and 'new development should respect established development patterns including the existing framework of fields, roads, axes and the resultant geometry'

### 2.7 | Recommendations

Recommended that the existing Heritage Impact Assessment on the farm be consulted in order to measure the application against the development indicators identified, confirm the impact on the significance of the cultural resource and no further studies be required.

## 2.8 | Authors and Date

This document was prepared in November 2019 by Anja Lareman for Malherbe Rust Architects.

### 2.9 | Client

Malherbe Rust Architects have been appointed by the owners to assist with the application in order to obtain approval for the proposed work.

## 3 | Introduction

## 3.1 | Purpose of Application

This application regards the proposed development on Babylonstoren farm, in terms of \$38(1)(a) Construction of a road, wall, powerline, pipeline, canal or other similar form of linear development or barrier over 300m in length.

The proposed garden ring wall is 478,2m long (note that it is not a linear development in one direction only).

## 4 | Location, Size and Use

Babylonstoren is located on the Klapmuts-Simondium road, Simondium and is zoned as Agriculture I & Agriculture II.

33°49'27.14"S 18°55'33.90"E

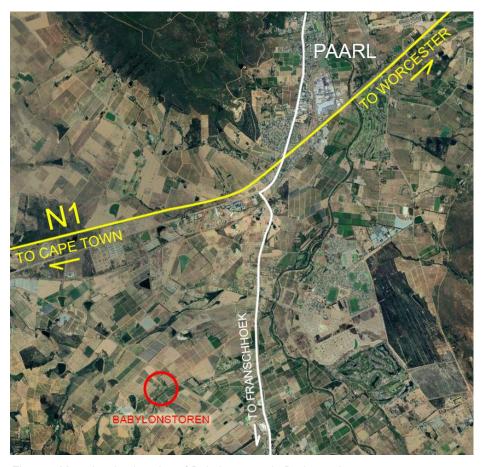


Figure 2 Map showing location of Babylonstoren in Drakenstein area.



Figure 3 Map showing Babylonstoren on Main Road 205, between Klapmuts and Simondium

## 5 | Historic Background and Development

Previous studies (listed in the executive summary) covers the analysis of historic resources on the farm extensively.

The historical werf incorporating the farmhouse and its significant grouping of outbuildings is located on the lower northern slopes if the Simonsberg. Between the 'toring' (a rocky outcrop) and the werf, runs a small watercourse. The Klapmuts-Simondium provincial road lies a couple of hundred metres north of the farmyard.

#### 5.1 | Historical Overview

#### Settlement

There was a Khoi presence in the area from 1000AD but no remnant material cultural artefacts have been found.

Settlers from Europe established agriculture in the Drakenstein Valley in 1687. Pieter van der Byl, occupied the Babylonstoren farm in 1690 and received a grant in 1692. This lay along the stream to the east of the present werf, reaching up the hillside to the source of a string spring. The werf itself lies off the grant – this was not unusual. Van der Byl modified the landscape, moving the watercourse higher up the bank so that the natural valley bottom could be planted and irrigated. The spatial framework of the werf was established.

#### **Historical Buildings**

The old building fabric is of two kinds: stone construction with dark clay bricks (earliest structures) and construction of soft orange bricks (later structures).

Stables/ wagon house, long house section at the rear of the fowlhouse, parts of the West barn are among the oldest structures.

The house, outbuildings, east and west barn are discussed in detail in the short history.

#### **Ownership and Events**

- Pieter van der Byl (Grant) 1692-1723
- Hester ter Winkel, widow P van der Byl, 1723-1743. Farm placed on auction 1744
- Johannes Louw, 1744-1762
- *Petrus Johannes de Villiers*, 1762-1784. Major building episode (1777 gable date)
- Johanna Barbara van Biljon 1784-1831 (widow of de Villiers).
   Married to CE Ponty 1787-1814)
- Willem Adolph Marais 1834 bought farm at auction and sold to Jan Daniel de Villiers same year.
- *Jan Christoffel Bosman* 1837-1841. Deduction Klein Babylonstoren to GL Steytler 1841.
- *Dirk Hamman* 1841-1843 when declared insolvent. Public auction held 1844.
- Johannes Wynand Louw 1844-1873
- Adriaan Jacobus Louw & Marthinus Smuts Louw 1873-1919;
   Buildings Victorianised. Lot C & F of Signal Hill and Lot A & B of Simon's Valley were added to the farm.
  - CL Back purchased Klein Babylonstoren from BR Greenhalgh and Lot E Signal Hill.
- Dirk van Velden Louw 1919-1951. Restoration includes new homestead gable. Water rights agreement with CL Back.
- Jan Christiaan Louw 1951-1981
- Barry David Louw 1981-1998
- Babylonstoren Estates (Pty) Ltd 1998-2005
- Babylonstoren (Pty) Ltd current owners.

### 5.2 | Historical Development

The essential fabric of the first werf was built by Johannes Louw, the third owner of the farm after Pieter van der Byl and his widow Hester Terwinkel.

When Louw died in 1762, there was a **T-shaped house**, an outbuilding with three small rooms and a cellar-stable. Babylonstoren was used for wine-making (no record of wheat or sheep recorded).

Between 1762 and 1834 nothing was recorded in transfer deeds, but it is during this time that front werf was created (since the date 1805 is on the gable of the west barn in the forecourt). Du Toit (2008:3) refers to this as the 'second werf layout' of Babylonstoren. This werf with its complete symmetrical layout included the historical garden at the back of the manor house. The werf walls and entrance gates form part of this symmetry.

Quitrent land around the streams that feed the farm was acquired in 1813. In 1819 further quitrent grant covering all the traditionally used area around the original grants was acquired.

In 1831 the estate included a foyer, room on the left, room on the right, gallery, bedroom, scullery, kitchen, attic, cellar, cellar attic, carpenter's shop, blacksmith's workshop, flour room, outside dispensary and stables.

Klein Babylonstoren (145 morgen) was split from the main farm in 1841.

Johannes Wynand Louw bought the farm from auction in 1844. In this time, he improved the land and its irrigation systems and bought 147 morgen at Bloemendal, downstream towards the Berg River in 1857. He also made major changes to the house, the most striking was how the rooms were used.

For the first time a lounge was noted, with four individual bedrooms and a dining room where there was previously a gallery. Outside rooms were used as milking sheds and meat rooms so the farm had an active livestock component. Its other big feature was wine. In the werf were four brandy stills.

The Phylloxera plague devastated the Cape vineyards. The problem was solved in two ways, both transforming the landscape: first, all the vineyards were rooted out and new varieties (on American stocks) on the higher slopes were grafted. Secondly, peaches, plums and pears were planted where vines have been. **More fruit orchards were introduced, replacing the livestock.** 

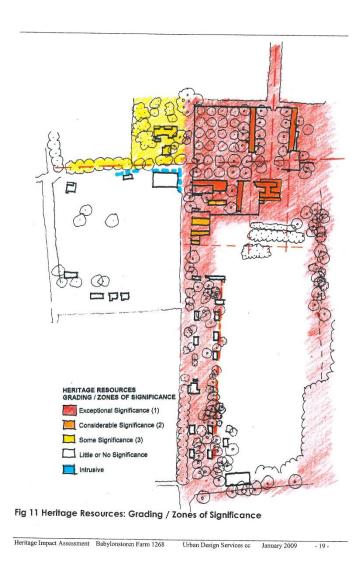
During the 1890s there was a big increase in demand from Europe which refrigerated ships made possible. Exports increased x26 fold from 1900 to 1914. Both wine and fruit farming at Babylonstoren were given a huge boost in 1903 with the introduction of a branch railway line to Franschhoek with a station at Simondium nearby.

Fransen writes that "Towards the end of the 19th c. Babylonstoren house was Victorianised and stripped of all its external architectural character". The property was expanded. By this time Klein Babylonstoren had been established as a separate farm in 1841. In 1912 several pieces of land above it was bought and became part of the farm, including small parts of Simonsvlei.

The house was restored in 1931-2 which was insensitively expanded some 40 or 50 years before.

The farm underwent another major restoration and renovation process in 2007. A 'new werf' was established to the south-west of the existing werf, on an axis informed by the existing werf, alongside the watercourse.

## 6 | Heritage Resources



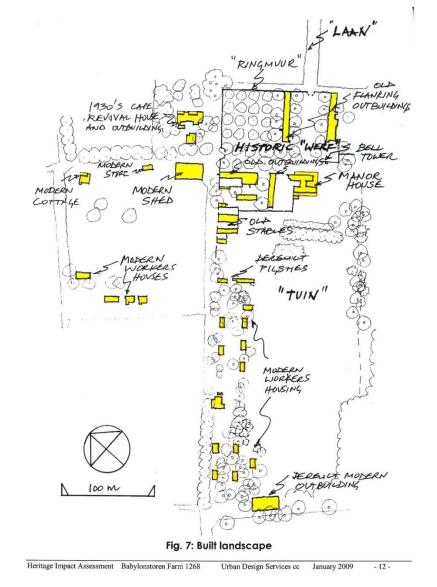


Figure 4 Sketches (left and right) from the 2009 HIA by Andre Pentz

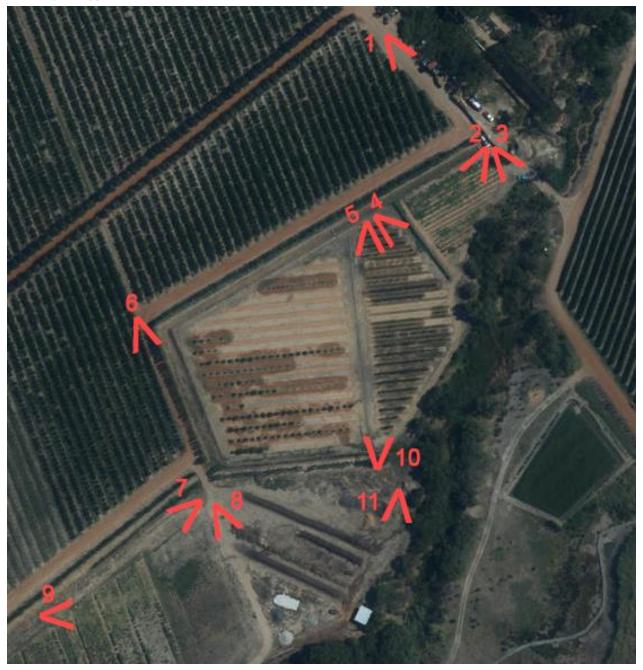


Figure 5 Aerial photograph indicating where photographs were taken from



Figure 6 View 1







Figure 8 View 3













Figure 11 View 6







Figure 13 View 8



Figure 14 View 9



Figure 15 View 10



Figure 16 View 11



Figure 17 Aerial view indicating where photographs were taken from



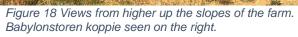




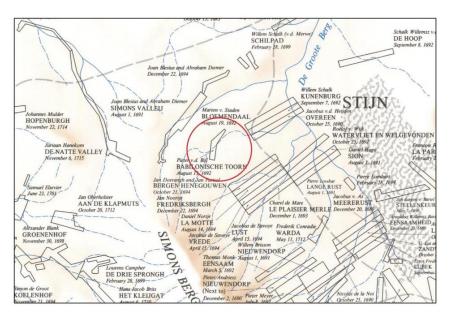






Figure 20 Close-up view with area that will be enclosed, shown in red

## 7 | Historical Maps

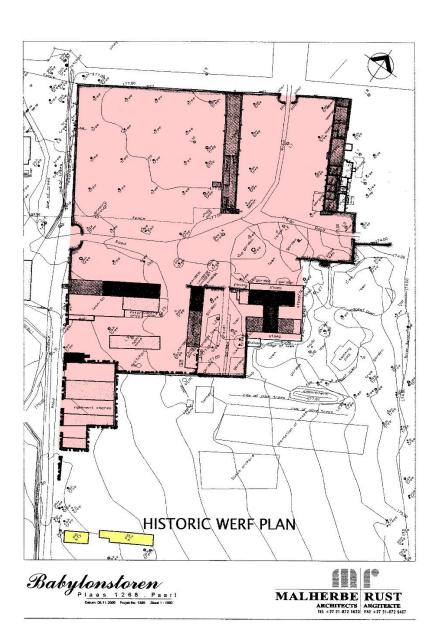


Babylonstoren, Guelke Cape Colony 1657-1750. Babylons Toren is an old cape farm granted in 1692.

Figure 21: 1692 Farm grant



Figure 22: Southern districts 1880-1900



## 8 | Assessment of Cultural Significance as per previous HIA done on Babylonstoren Farm

Babylonstoren has high intrinsic, associational and contextual significance. The site falls into an area nominated as a Grade 1 World Heritage Site Status because of its cultural significance.

This status reflects the importance of the complex as an outstanding example of Cape farmstead architecture, although when viewed individually, none of the elements making up the composition are in themselves of exceptional heritage significance (Pentz, 2009:18).

### 8.1 Natural & Cultural Landscape

The rectangular patchwork of fields and orchards of the district, defined by The architectural fabric is of considerable significance. Individual buildings farm orchards, furrows, avenues, windbreaks and boundary fences, reflects the changing pattern of ownership, agricultural practices and landuse over time (Pentz 2009: 10).

The central block of existing development forms the hub of the farm, giving physical structure and form to the landscape. The vineyard layouts and gardens in blocks are symmetrical with the werf forming the main axis. The strong geometry is modified by the natural features such as the water courses and peak, and sloping topography of the land.

Upon this underlying layer is another more detailed and complex layer of axes and spatial compositions, generated by the arrangement of features on the werf.

Pentz states that "it is the overall composition of the built landscape, rather than the individual built elements within it, that is the underlying heritage resource".

### 8.2 Important Views

Important views associated with Babylonstoren, it's setting and the broader landscape identified in the Heritage Impact Assessment by Pentz (2009: 16).

- 1. Views from the scenic route, including long distance and panoramic views over farmland to the Simonsberg, middle distance views to features such as Babylonstoren Peak and foreground views to the werf complex.
- 2. View from approach along Babylonstoren road, aligned along the axis of the historic werf.
- 3. Views looking out from Babylonstoren, including views to the surrounding mountain ranges and granite dome of Paarl Rock.

### 8.3 Aesthetic, Historical and Scientific significance

are not the best examples of their type. The whole ensemble making up the werf and spatial qualities if the place, is of high significance.

Prominent Dutch and Huguenot families are associated with the farm. Included in this history is the story of Manisa, a slave born at Babylonstoren in 1824.

Stone Age tools have been found on the farm, and the buildings contribute to the knowledge of farming and building practices in the region at a specific time.

## 09 | Development Indicators

The following indicators are identified in the 2009 Heritage Impact Assessment done by Pentz:

- 1. Maintain as much as possible of the 'working farm' character, with tourism playing a secondary role.
- 2. Agricultural land and existing vineyards/ orchards should be retained.
- Observe setbacks from the scenic route and screen new development with trees.
- 4. New buildings should be kept as low as possible.
- 5. New development should not encroach on the historic werf and garden, and should be set back from the historical development.
- 6. New development should respect established development patterns including the existing framework of fields, roads, axes and the resultant geometry.
- 7. Architecture form, materials and finishes should complement the historical aesthetic without attempting to copy, mimic or reproduce historic features.
- 8. Parking areas should be informal. Additional vehicular traffic should not impinge on the werf.

## 10 | Impact Assessment

### **Description of Proposal**

The client's brief is for a new store (for garden tools and to store equipment and farm vehicles under shade), new pond as landscape feature and to enclose an existing section of agricultural land with a garden ring wall.

### Impact on Cultural Significance

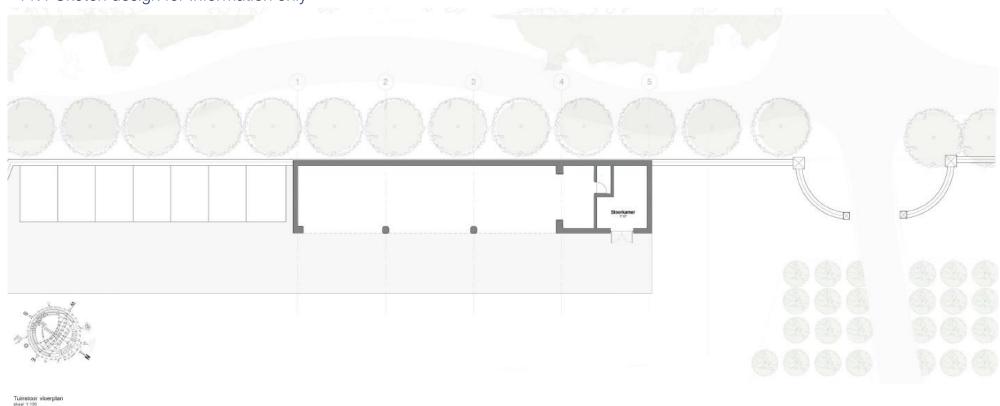
The client's brief is for a new store (for garden tools and to store equipment and farm vehicles under shade) and to enclose an existing section of agricultural land with a garden ring wall.

- The proposed structures places emphasis on the layout of an existing agricultural piece of land, defined by existing farm roads and tree avenues.
- The proposed structures are for bona fide farming activities and enhances the 'working character' of the farm.
- The 'shape' emphasised in the landscape, corresponds to the man-made watercourse rather than the spatial arrangement of the werf and is therefore a result of a natural progress of building development.
- The spatial relationship of the proposed development to the remaining structures as a whole (enforced by strong underlying geometry) appears arbitrary.
- The new development is a single storey structure and does not encroach on the historic development.
- The form, materials and finishes follow the same aesthetic used for new structures elsewhere on the farm and enforces the idea of a coherent whole.

The proposed building and alterations will have a low impact on the significance of the farm complex.

# 11| Layout Drawings

## 11.1 Sketch design for Information only



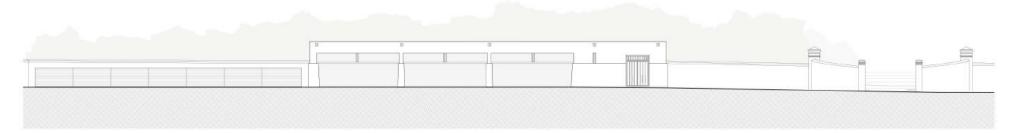
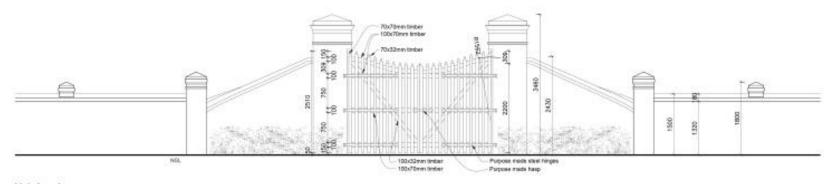




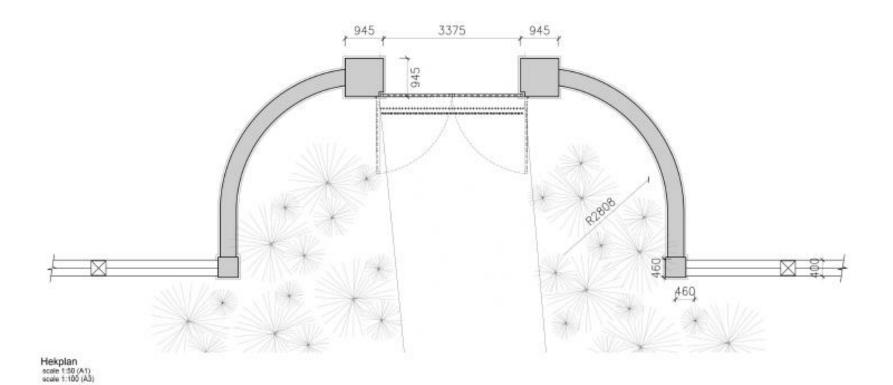
Figure 23 View from east elevation, from inside the new garden ring wall.



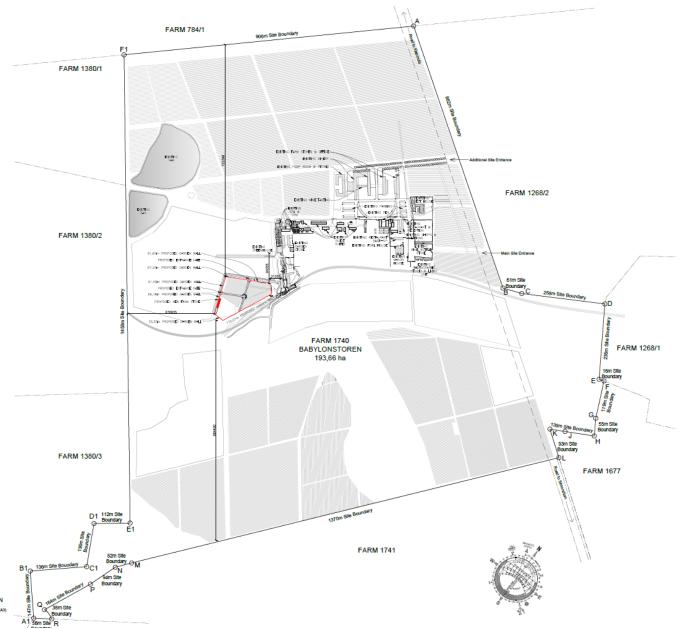
Figure 24 View of south-west elevation, from outside new garden wall.







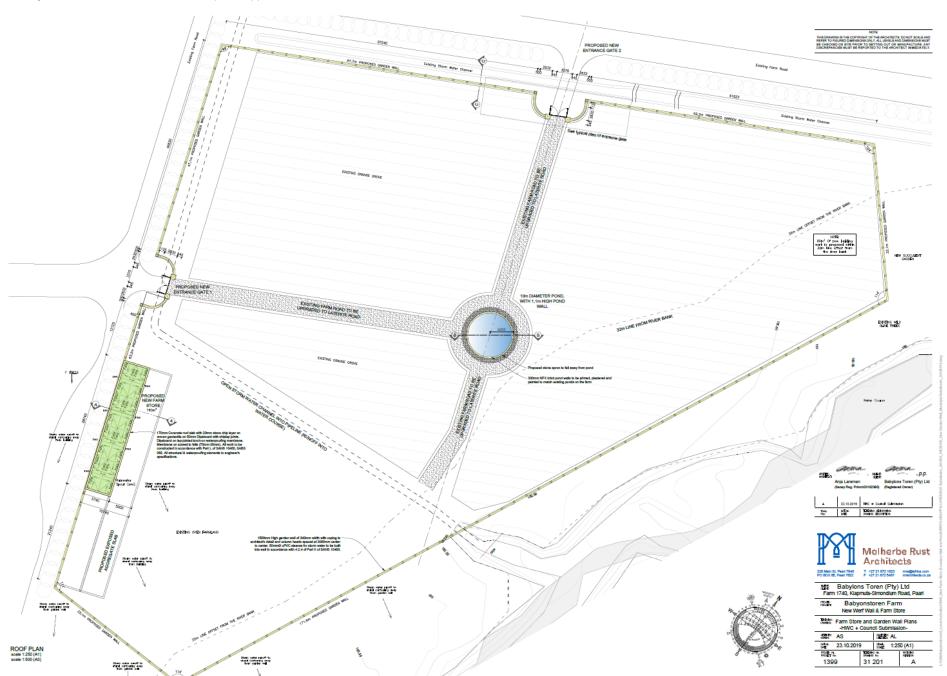
## 11.2 Drawings prepared for Approval



HORSE THIS GRAWMS IS THE COPPRISED OF THE ARCHITECTS, CO NOT SCALE AND REFER TO PICKING DIMENSIONS ONLY. ALL LEWIS AND DIMENSIONS MUST BE CHECKED ON SITE PRIOR TO SETTING OUT OR MANUFACTURE, ANY DISCREPANCIES MUST SE REPORTED TO THE ARCHITECT IMMEDIATELY.		
Occupancy Classification	:J2	
Climatic Zone	:4	
AREA SCHEDULE		
Site Area	:193.66 ha/1936600r	
Wine Bottle Store	:395m²	
Photographic Studio & Living Unit	:458m²	
Manor House	:455m²	
Fowl House	:225m²	
Shops & Ablutions	:376m²	
Restaurant & Reception	:346m²	
Restaurant Back-up	:352m²	
Pen	:N/A	
Gerden Store	:485m²	
Guest Suites	:1282m²	
Spa & Gym	:476m²	
Pump Room & Stores	:1110m²	
Farm Stores & Office	:1881m²	
Winery	:2170m²	
Wine Testing	:400m²	
Guest House	:630m²	
TOTAL EXISTING BUILT AREA	:11.001m²	
Proposed New Garden Store	:163m²	
Proposed New Garden Wall	:198.2m²	
Proposed New Pond	:78m²	
TOTAL BUILT AREA (including propo	sed):11 164m²	
COVERAGE	:0.58%	







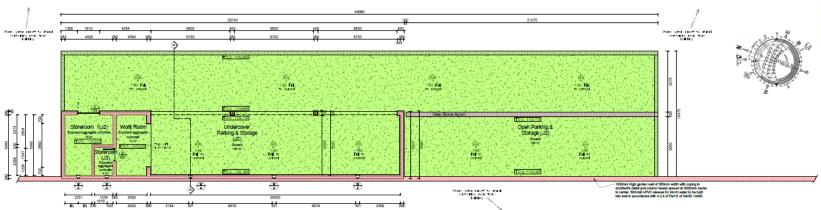






T.D.Corden Well 111500 \* 110,200 103,905

EAST ELEVATION (FARM STORE) scale 1:100 (A1) scale 1:200 (A3)



PLAN (FARM STORE) scale 1:100 (A1) scale 1:200 (A3)

BUILDING SEALING:
Permissible at heatage (AL):
Maximum permissible AL for operable glacing shall be 2,0 Litrim' with a pressure difference of 75 Pc.
Maximum permissible AL for non-operable glazing shall be 0,31 Litrim' with a

\_ D.D. - 1567

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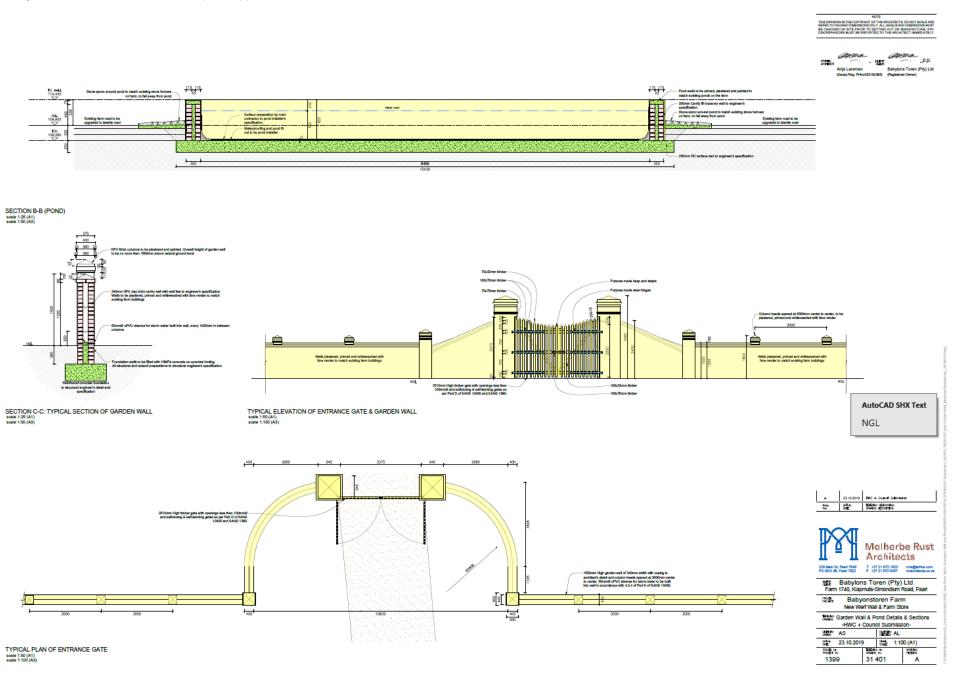
#### Malherbe Rust Architects

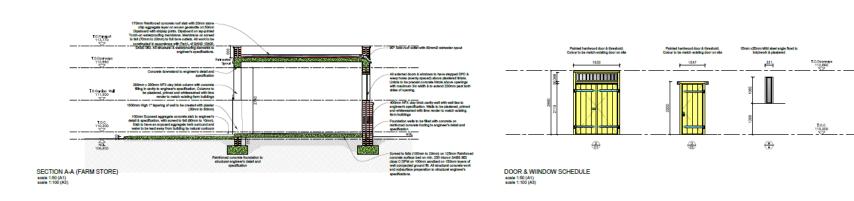
228 Main St, Paarl 7646 T +27 21 672 1622 mms@laftics.com PO BCX 65, Paarl 7622 F +27 21 672 5467 mmsrchitects.co.z

Babylons Toren (Pty) Ltd Farm 1740, Klapmuts-Simondium Road, Paarl Babyonstoren Farm

Farm Store Plan & Elevations

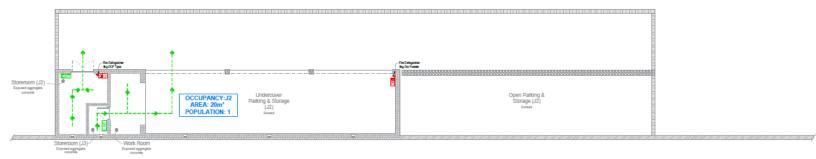
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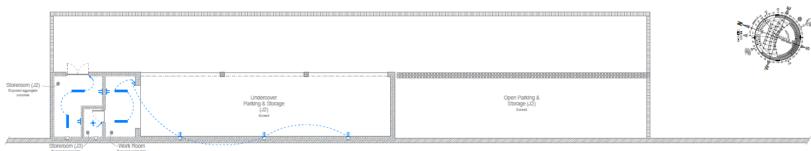




Anja Larennan (LDT Bebylons Toren (Pty) Ltd
(Seaso Rec. Princh2016280) (Reclaimed Owner)



FIRE PROTECTION PLAN (FARM STORE) scale 1:00 (A1) scale 1:200 (A3)



ELECTRICAL LAYOUT (FARM STORE) scale 1:100 (A1) scale 1:200 (A3)

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Babylons Toren (Pty) Ltd Farm 1740, Klapmuts-Simondium Road, Paarl RASK Babyonstoren Farm New Werf Wall & Farm Store

New Werf Wall & Farm Store

19 6 No. 10 Farm Store: XA + Fire Plans & Section

-HWC + Council Submission| Council Submiss

## 12| Recommendations

Recommended that the existing Heritage Impact Assessment on the farm be consulted in order to measure the application against the development indicators identified, confirm the impact on the significance of the cultural resource and no further studies be required.

## 13| References

PENTZ, A.

2009 Heritage Impact Assessment.

HARRIS, S.

2007 A Short History of Babylonstoren.

DU TOIT, D.

2008 Motivation for the Modern Werf of Babylonstoren, Drakenstein