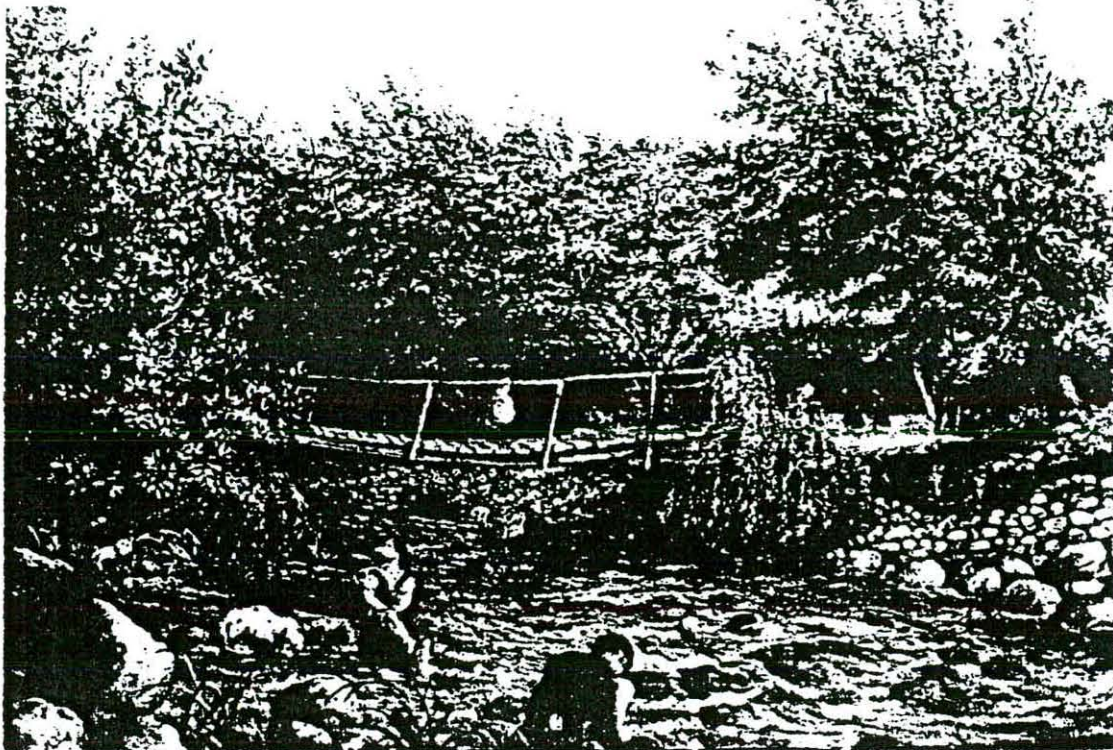


SUBMISSION TO COUNCIL MEETING: 30 NOVEMBER 1999

**PROPOSED PROVISIONAL DECLARATION AS A NATIONAL MONUMENT:  
KOLONIESLAND, AN AREA BETWEEN EERSTE RIVER AND OLD MILL  
STREAM, STELLENBOSCH**

**PROPERTY:** Farm Nos: 313, 314, 315, 316, and Servitude Nr 317, Stellenbosch  
**OWNER:** Stellenbosch University, Private Bag X1, MATIELAND, 7602



Oil Painting by Otto Landsberg dated c.1850 titled *An old bridge at Stellenbosch* shows a few swimmers as well as a woman doing her washing (held at Potchefstroom Museum)

**CULTURAL/HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

Koloniesland is an historical and natural area of beauty which is bounded by the Eerste River, Lover's Lane and the historical Mill Stream in Stellenbosch. The Mill Stream is a national monument which has formed a significant part of the cultural history of the town since the early 1700's, when this life-artery fed up to three mills at a time. Koloniesland, which is situated adjacent to the Mill Stream, is part of the heart of this town which was laid out in 1685. This piece of land used to form part of the Drostdy farmlands. The town grew to the north and to the west of the church and drostdy, but the tree-lined area to the east, later known as Koloniesland, remained uninhabited until the end of the 19th century.

With the growth of the town and the greater need for water in the 19th century, a reservoir was built in 1882, which was used until 1910, when they started taking water directly from the river. Along with the dam water wells were also constructed, which now form part of an informal path. The drift of Mostersdrift is also still visible and the ruins of the G2 structure, where Italian convicts lived during the Second World War are still there.



Today remains of these cultural elements form beacons that relate to the history of the area. Most importantly, however, a portion of Koloniesland, a forest of trees which is the remainder of the "bosch" of Stellenbosch, has survived. Within this forest there is also a plant which is listed on our Red List of Rare and Threatened plant types, *Cryptocarya angustifolia*, commonly known as the blue laurel ("bloulourier"). These shrubs are apparently the last to be found along the Eerste River and should be protected.

#### RECENT HISTORY OF EVENTS

Earlier this year the Heemkring from Stellenbosch requested the NMC to protect Koloniesland from being subdivided into fifteen erven, as was advertised by the University. All the conservation groups in Stellenbosch support the concept of preserving the site and not allowing development to take place there. The matter was referred to the Western Cape Regional Committee on 7 October 1999, when it was decided that the process of provisional declaration be started. The NMC's first letter was then sent to the University to inform them that the NMC was thinking of provisionally declaring the site. The University replied with their first letter of appeal on 15 November 1999. Their letter explained that they had taken all the concerns from the public into consideration and that they had consequently placed an advertisement in the local paper, asking interested parties to make alternative proposals for the site. The University wants adequate compensation for the ground. The public has until 30 June 2000 to present their proposals.

#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Koloniesland with its forest of indigenous trees and shrubs is an aesthetically pleasing and culturally important public open space that is the only undeveloped portion of what used to be a large forest. This piece of land to the east of the Eerste River is the remainder of the historical "bosch" of Stellenbosch. The historical Old Mill Stream, which is a declared a national monument, and which borders Koloniesland to the north, the remains of the old water works and the drift (of Mostertsdrift) through the river, together with Koloniesland form a cultural historical unit which needs to be preserved as an entity.

#### RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve that the process of provisional declaration as national monument of Koloniesland, being a piece of land bounded by the Eerste River, Lover's Lane and the Old Mill Stream in Stellenbosch, situated on Farm 313, 314, 315, 316 and Servitude 317, Stellenbosch be continued and that the NMC's second letter of intent be sent to the owner.

#### SOURCES:

- Hofmeyr, A. 1982, Die Laan en sy Mense, Stellenbosse Heemkring, 144 pp  
 Hofmeyr, A. 1990, Van Riebeeckstraat, Stellenbosch, Stellenbosse Heemkring, pp 86  
 Hugo, A M. 1963, Die Kerk van Stellenbosch 1686-1963, Tafelberg, Kaapstad, pp 258  
 Smuts, F. (red) 1979, Stellenbosch Drie Eeue, pp 448  
 Vos, H N. 1998, Koloniesland, Stellenbosch: 'n Histories-argeologiese ondersoek na water-voorsieningselemente in die omgewing van die Pipe Track, Stellenbosch Museum, 57 pp

COMPILED AND SUBMITTED BY: Kirstin van Tonder  
 24 November 1999

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