

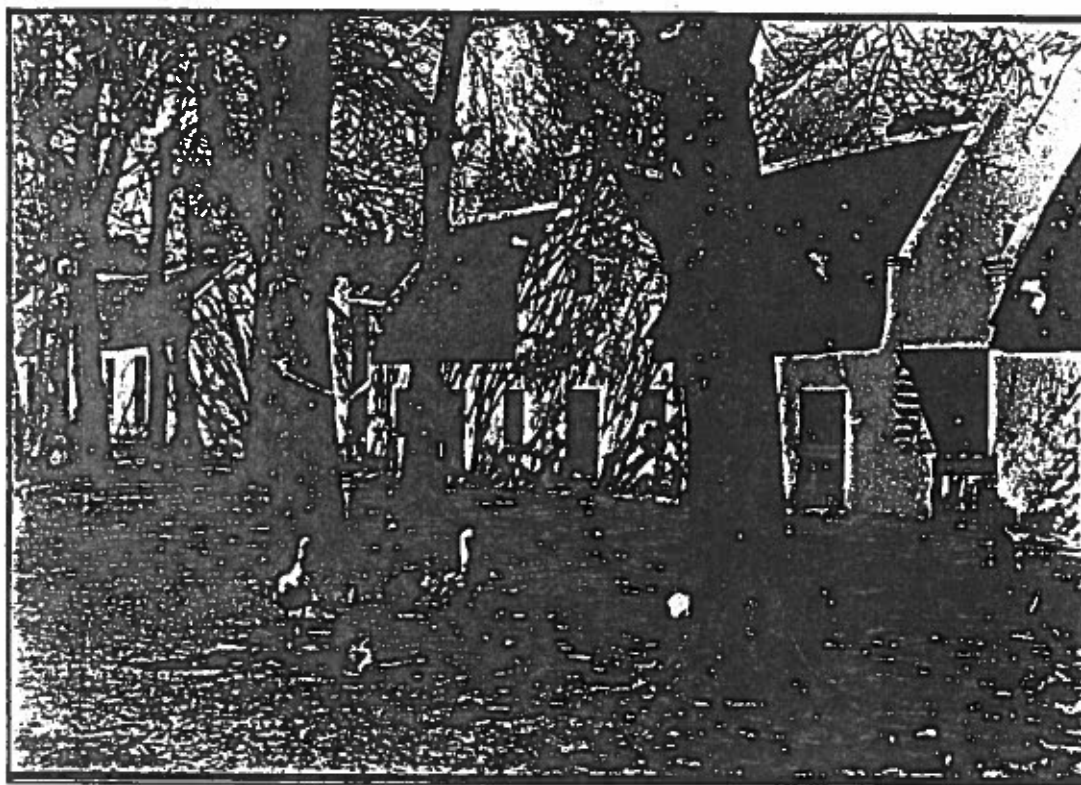
APPENDIX B

SPIER FARM

A SURVEY OF ITS EARLY HISTORY

Report compiled for client

JUNE 1998



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1 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

In his search for arable land where grain (not grapes!) could be cultivated, Commander Simon van der Stel discovered the fertile valley of Stellenbosch in 1679. Within a year eight families had settled there and by 1683 the number had increased to more than 30 families single and married freeburghers (Guelke 1974:119). As an encouragement, farmers were allowed to claim as much land as could be cultivated in three years. Unimproved land was to be handed back (Ibid.:117).

In the absence of proper surveying, disputes soon arose concerning land, boundaries and water rights. Commissioner Hendrik van Reede tot Drakenstein visited the Stellenbosch area in 1685 and labelled the colonists greedy and selfish, since they claimed the best land along the Eerste River for themselves. This action prevented later farmers from gaining access to water. Van Reede recommended that a local magistrate (*landdrost*) be appointed in the proposed "town" for settling disputes and accurately surveying the farms. Most of the farms promised in 1683 were only granted officially in 1692 (Guelke 1974:118). The grant of Spier with its number of distinct, localised tracts of land along the Eerste River fits the above picture.

2 OWNERS

2.1 ARNOUT JANSZ 1683-1712

Arnout (Arnoud, Aarnout) Jansz was originally a German soldier from Emmerik in the service of the Dutch East India Company. Lured by the promise of free land, he became a freeburgher and was amongst the first grantees to whom land was promised in 1683. In a close-up (FIG.1) of a map of c.1695, the early grants are roughly shown as regular, portioned parcels of land. This is of course far from what happened in actual practice! Jansz, nicknamed Aarnout Tamboer (was he a drummer while a soldier?), is squeezed in between the Germans "Hennink Huizen" (Henning Huysing) of Welmoed and Hendrik Elbertz of Vredenburg, near Vlottenburg.

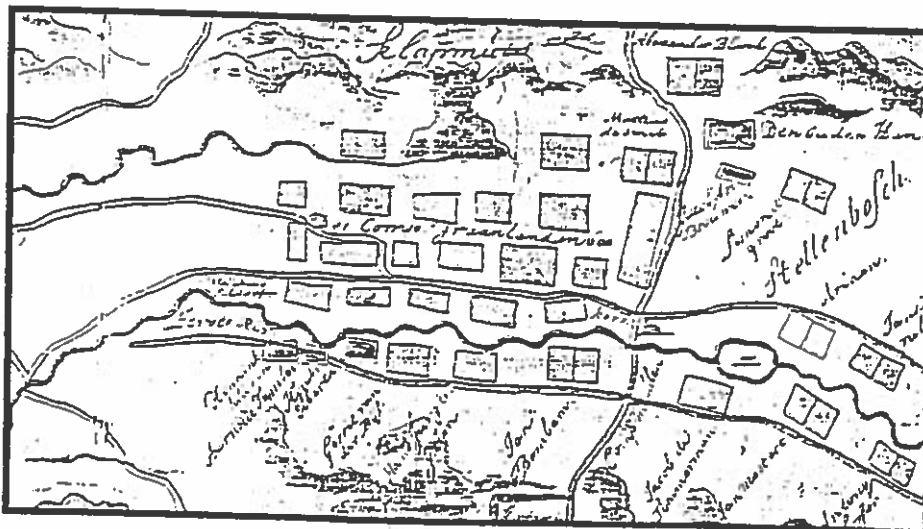


FIG.1 A section of a 1695 map clearly depicts the farmers along the Eerste River. Note the farm of Aarnout Tamboer (Cap Archives M1/273).

Grants were usually in sets of three and generally differ slightly (FIG.2). In the grant of 1692 (Deeds Office, OSF Vol 1,no.53) (FIG.3) a number of large tracts of land are shown on either side of the river. North of the Eerste River on the document is a rectangular section allocated as a *tuijn* or vegetable/herb garden. Walton (1989:13) suggests that it was walled, but this would have been highly unlikely during such an early pioneer period. The double lines probably indicate a trench intended to keep stray animals out (FIG.4). His diminutive house on the southern banks looks like a typical two-roomed dwelling with a hipped roof. It was situated about 180 *roede* or about 660 m east of the present Spier werf.

From the income tax returns of the farm (TABLE 1), we see that he cultivated 2000 vines by 1692 and by 1700 he produced a staggering 4 leaguers of wine.

At Jansz's death in 1706, his industriousness was testified to in his estate inventory. His farm was labelled as "koorn land" of 40 morgen, with stock including 76 cattle and 352 sheep. Structural improvements included a dwelling and a barn, a wine-cellar (*parshuijs*) and corn store (*corenhuijs*). The farm was inherited by his son, who sold it to Hattingh in 1712.

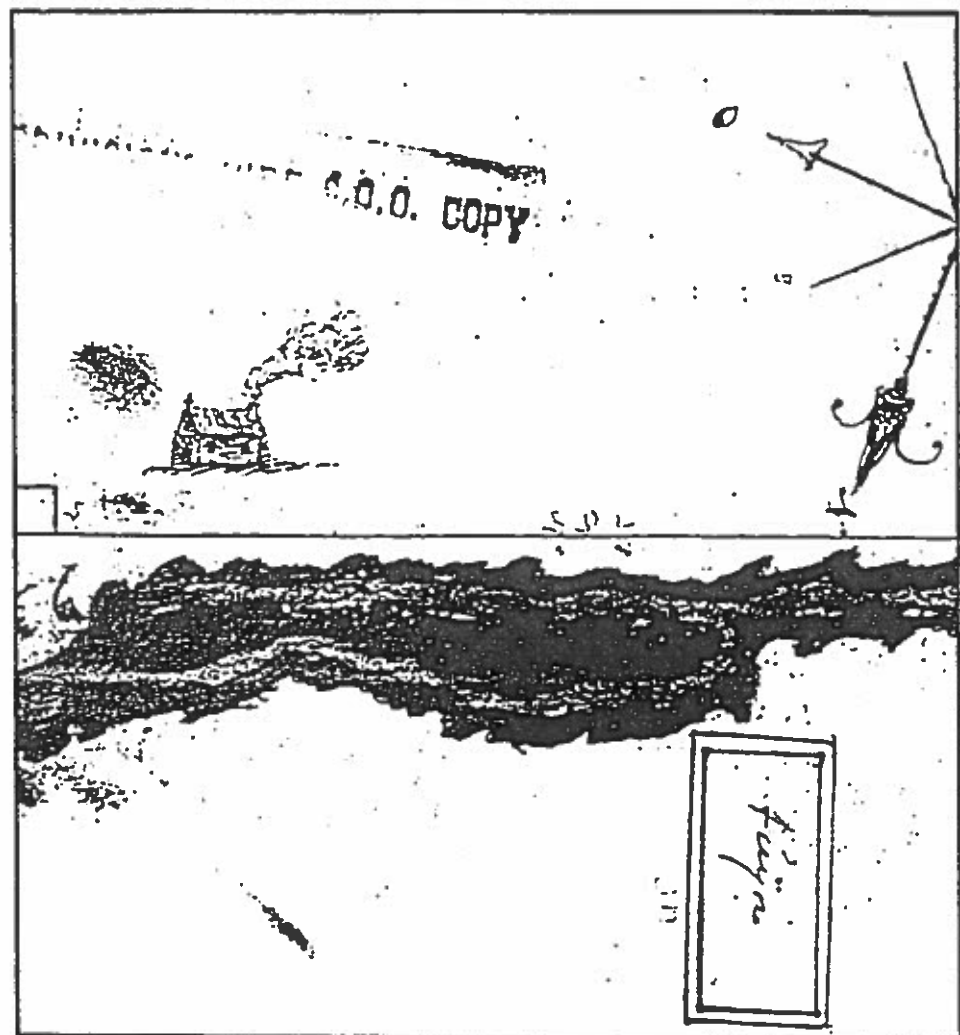


FIG.4 A close-up shows the dwelling on the southern banks of the Eerste River and the garden site on the north.

DATE	NO	NAME	MEN	WOMEN	BOYS	GIRLS	KNIGHTS	SLAVE MALE	SLAVE FEMALE	SLAVE BOY	SLAVE GIRL	HORSES	CATTLE	SHEEP	PIGS	VINES	WINE(LEAGUES)	SOWED WHEAT	REAPED WHEAT	SOWED RYE	REAPED RYE	SOWED BARLEY	REAPED BARLEY	MUSKET	PISTOL	SWORD	DISTRICT	
1. 1688	189	JANSZ	ARNOUT	1	2	1						1	19	170	10		7	40				1	1	3	1	1	C	
2. 1692	234	JANSZ	ARNOUD	1	1							2	34			2 000	5	30	1	5			2	1		S		
3. 1695	9	JANSZ	ARNOLD	1	1	3	1	1	1			2	40	200	4	7 000	3	20	1	5			1	1	1	S		
4. 1700	16	JANSZ	AARNOUD	1	1	2	1	2	4	60	300	5	5 000	4	3	30	2	20						1	1	4	S	
5. 1709	7	JANS	AARNOUT									1	2	1	1	8	55	400	10	000	3	12	200	1	3	2	3	S
6. 1712	8	HATTINGH	HANS HENK	1	4	2	6					20	130	600		12 000	7	12	140			1	20	10	1	2	S	
7. 1719	423	HATTINGH	HANS HEND	1	1	3	2	10	1			8	80	300	4	3 000	1	20	130			2	40	1	1	1	S	
8. 1723	2	HATTINGH	HANS HEND	1	1	4	2	9				11	26	150	3	7 000	2	9	39			2	14	1	1	1	S	
9. 1741	141	GROENEWALD	JOHANNES	1	1	2	3	25	2	3		60	115	550		12 000	5	10	140			1	20	1	1	1	S	
10. 1752	109	GROENEWALD	JOH	1	1	1	9	F	3	1	2	30	130	500		20 000	12	10	50			1	36	1	1	1	S	
11. 1761	164	HOFMAN	JAN BEKND	1	1	5	3	1	A	1	1	20	15	200		30 000	25		40					1	1	1	S	
12. 1773	237	MYBURGH	ALBERT JO	1	1	3	1	15	5			30	40	400		80 000	40	10						1	1	1	S	
13. 1782	0023	VANDERBYL	ANDRIES C	1	1	2	2	A	3	3	3	20	40	100		50 000	30							1	1	1	S	

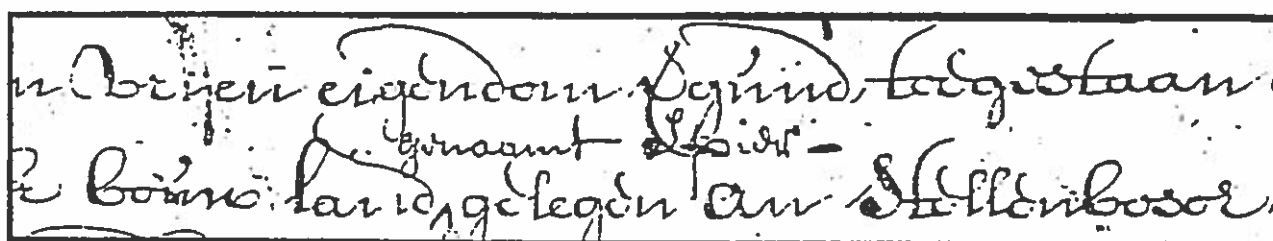
TABLE 1

A summary of the tax rolls (*opgaafrolle*) for Spier in the Cape Archives. In a few instances (e.g. slave male) the figures were not always supplied. Sometimes the numbers are a combination of more than one farm. Please see text.

2.2 HANS HENDRIK HATTINGH 1712-1736

The next owner of Spier was another German, Hans Heinrich Hattingh, from Speyer (Van der Bÿl 1963:66A). He was known as Hans Hendriks and farmed initially at La Roche in Drakenstein. In 1712 Hattingh acquired Spier.

There has been speculation on where the name Spier came from (De Bosdari 1953:71). Farmers generally called their farms after themselves; with *-burgh* or *-hof* added, as indication of their manorial status (Vredenburg, Neethlingshof); the view from the farm (Uitkyk); their acquired freedom (Libertas); or state of mind (Welmoed), or according to topographical features (Groen Rivier) (Brink 1992:168-169). In rare instances a farm was named after the town from whence the owner came, like Spier from Speyer, a German city where the Hohenstaufen emperors were crowned (Van Huyssteen & Meiring 1983:82,83). This is borne out by his 1731 inventory where *Spijer* still contains the "y"-sound. But it appears that in Dutch the word *spier* may also refer to a marsh of reeds. On the 1692 grant, such a swamp with "fluitjiesriet" appears to be indicated towards the east. Furthermore, the name Spier apparently predates Hattingh (1712), for the name appears on the 1692 grant. A close scrutiny of the text however reveals the later addition of "genaamt Spier" above the line, written in another hand. FIG. 5



The image shows a close-up of a handwritten Dutch document. The text is written in a cursive script. The main line of text reads: "in Breien eigendom. Spier, te gastaan". Above this line, the word "Spier" is written in a different hand, indicating it was added later. Below the main line, the text continues: "te gastaan. Spier - Stellenbosch".

Initially all farms were known by their owners' names, even till deep into the 18th century. When Hattingh bought the property, he simply had the name added to the original Old Stellenbosch Freehold.

His first year (1712) was apparently an exceptionally good year for wine, since his 12 000 vines produced 7 leaguers of wine (Table 1). Hattingh prospered and there are indications that on Spier he erected a dwelling north of the Eerste River. On an early map of c.1720 there are indications of buildings near the present ones. Domestic refuse, mostly in the form of ceramics such as Chinese porcelain and bottle glass dating from the second quarter of the 18th century, was concentrated behind the so called slave bell-tower. Refuse from the kitchen was generally dumped near the house, and the original dwelling may therefore have stood in the vicinity of the 1822 homestead.

In 1731 Hattingh died and an inventory of the estate "hofsteede gent. Spijer" was drawn up on November 28. Unfortunately no buildings are mentioned, but the farm was valued at f3800, which indicates the existence of substantial structures. His 7 leaguers of wine, three casks each containing half a leaguer and 3 vats for the skins of the grapes, and a funnel, all point to the existence of a wine-cellar. The next few owners all concentrated increasingly on wine production (see Table 1).

FIG.6 The original grant of 1692 is superimposed on this 1892 map by Brink. Note the portions added by A. C. van der Byl (Stellenbosch Museum).

2.3 ALBERTUS J. MYBURGH 1765-1781

Myburgh was a man of substance and when he bought Spier "he took over five slaves, nine wine-vats, one teak rice-barrel, two wooden vats and one grape case" (Fairbridge 1922:116). As one of the chief wine producers (and exporters) he was responsible for the construction of a number of buildings, or at least erecting their gables. These include the wine-cellar dated 1767, Building I (1778) and probably the coach-house/stable, with its undated gable of c.1770-1775. A fuller history of the farm and buildings is to be found in Vos 1994a and 1994b.

2.4 THE VAN DER BÏL FAMILY 1781-1919

For about the next century and a half the farm Spier was owned by the Van der BÏl family. Andries Christoffel van der BÏl, Gerrit zn (1749-1830) bought Spier (9 February 1781) and farmed here for nearly 50 years.

According to Fairbridge (1922:116) he added a part of the adjacent "farm of Vlottenburg and a large tract of land on the Eerste River". From his tax roll for 1783 (Table 1), it is obvious that he continued the tradition of his predecessors of scaling down stock and fodder and concentrating on wine. The quoted 50 000 vines would refer solely to Spier, and yielded an impressive 30 leaguers of wine. Van der BÏl was also quite a prodigious builder and it is to him that we owe the rest of the old gables and structures at Spier. According to the 1892 Brink map (FIG.6) he twice expanded the farm. First, north of the Eerste River on 2-1-1816 and then southwards on 15-12-1818.

The 1822 homestead was also his handywork. Whether it incorporates portions of an older structure could not be established with certainty, but it is likely. The slave bell along the Eerste River would also date from his ownership. In 1825 the farm yielded over 48 leaguers of wine and 2½ leaguers of brandy from 80 000 vines (Van Zyl 1975:338).

Another proof of the existence of an earlier dwelling was the excavation of a refuse deposit, scattered over an area adjacent to the central outcrop of granite. Here hundreds of artefacts from the late 18th century (Chinese porcelain, stoneware, smoking pipes and bottleglass) were recovered.

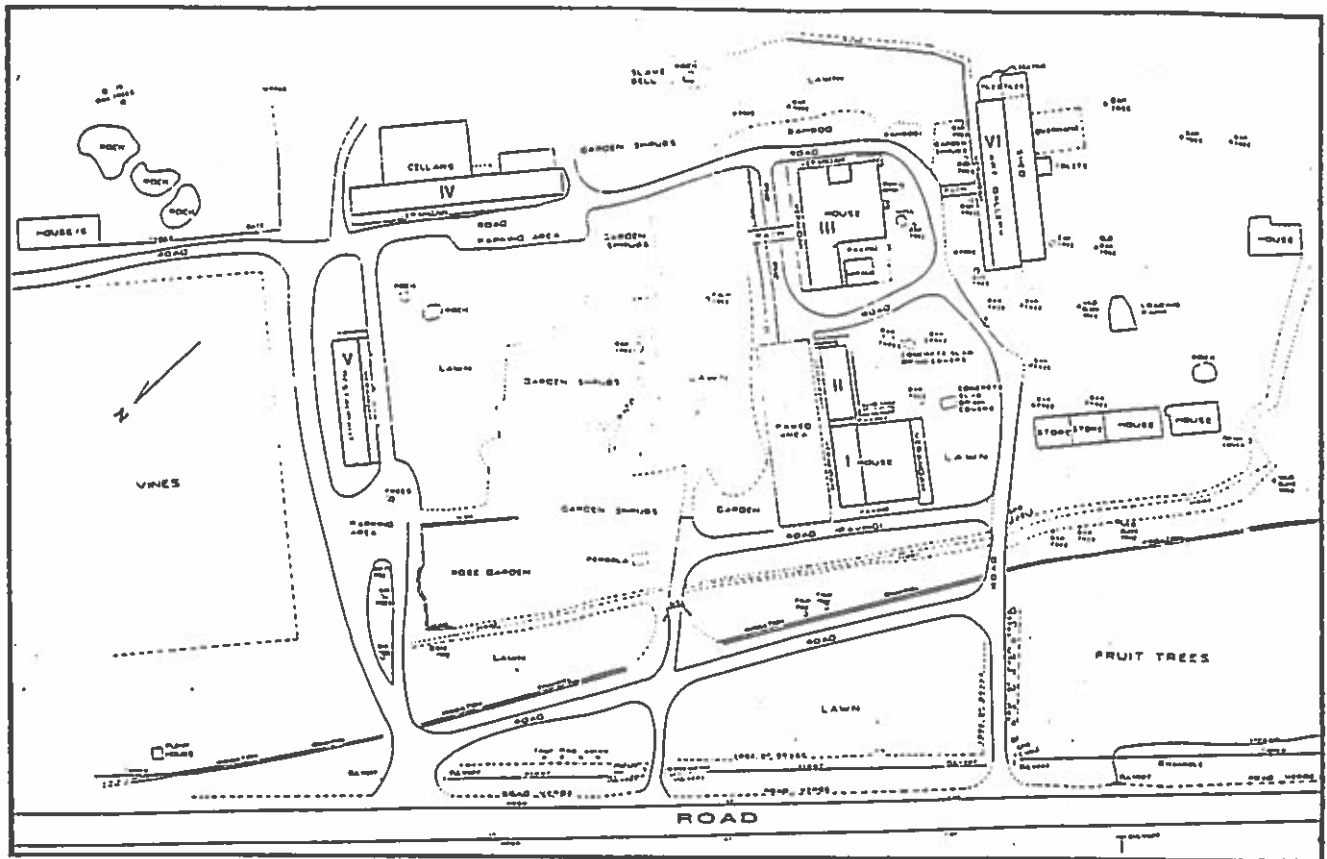
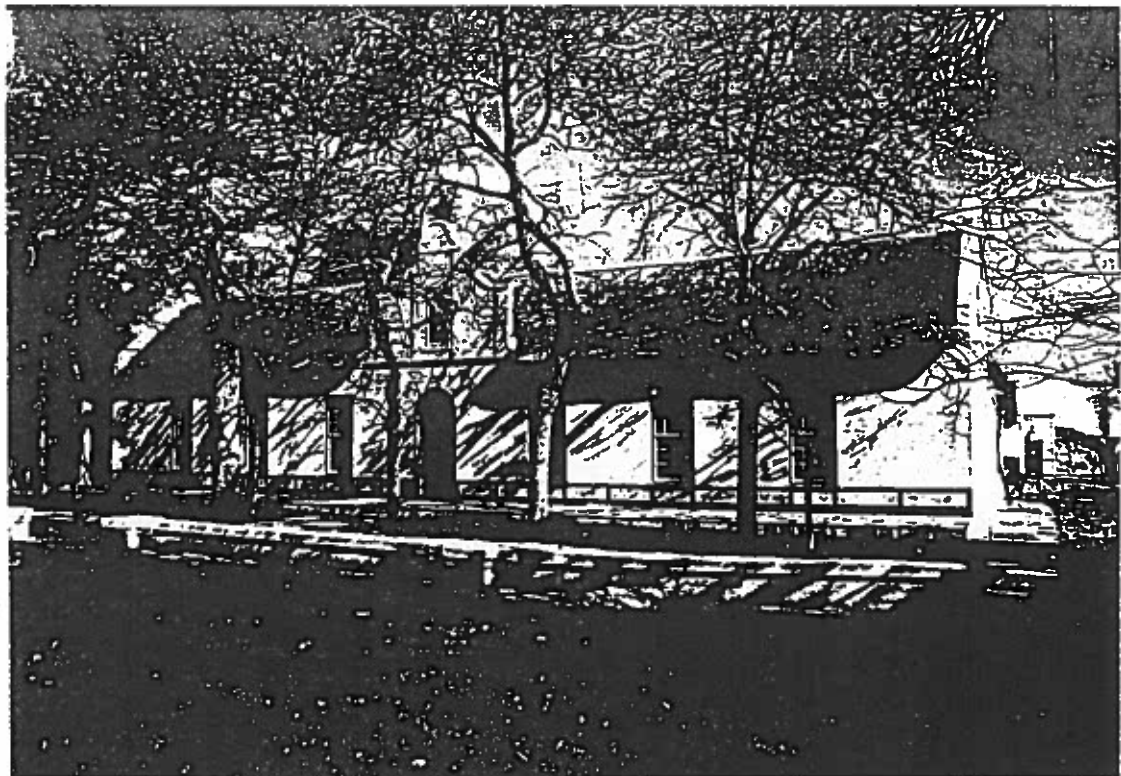


FIG.7 The present layout of the werf and buildings have been thoroughly surveyed in 1993 by D. Hellig & Abrahamse, Cape Town. The original buildings are accentuated and numbered as they have been researched by the author (Reference L4437, sheet 5).



The magnificent manor house has been well-restored.

3 CONCLUSION

1. Spier is one of the oldest and best known wine-estates in the Stellenbosch district, as authenticated by authoritative writers (De Bosdari, Farbridge, Fransen & Cook, Simons, Walton) and especially the tax returns from the late 17th to 19th centuries.

2. It is important to note that farm names are more intimately connected with the werf and its arrangement of buildings, than with the land grants, as the latter could vary through time.

3. The name *Spier* appears in writing on the original freehold document, which dates from before Hattingh's ownership in 1712. He started building new structures in the context of the present werf layout.

4. A well-established series of 18th and early 19th century buildings authenticates the establishment of a permanent werf here (FIG.7). The 1767 wine-cellar (VI) is the oldest dated one of its kind in the Cape. Then follows an undated wine-cellar of c.1775 (IV) and two outbuildings from the late 18th century, dated 1778 (I) and 1817 (II). The old slave quarters of 1812 (V) and the prestigious manor house of 1822 (III) complete the series (FIG.8).

5. Archaeological excavations and structural analysis have confirmed the existence of earlier dwellings and kitchen refuse deposits dating from at least the first quarter of the 18th century.

6. The name Spier has been linked for generations to its present location and it would be highly confusing (and unethical) if the name should be appropriated by anyone else.



Archaeological excavations revealed an 18th century refuse deposit in the central area.

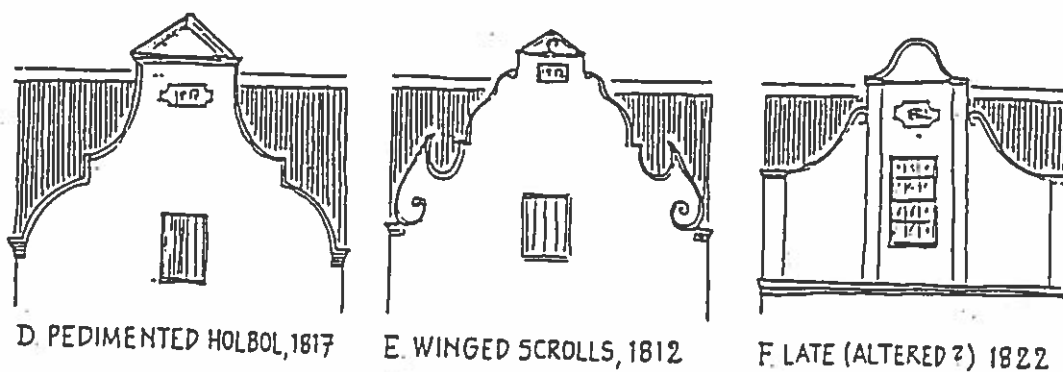
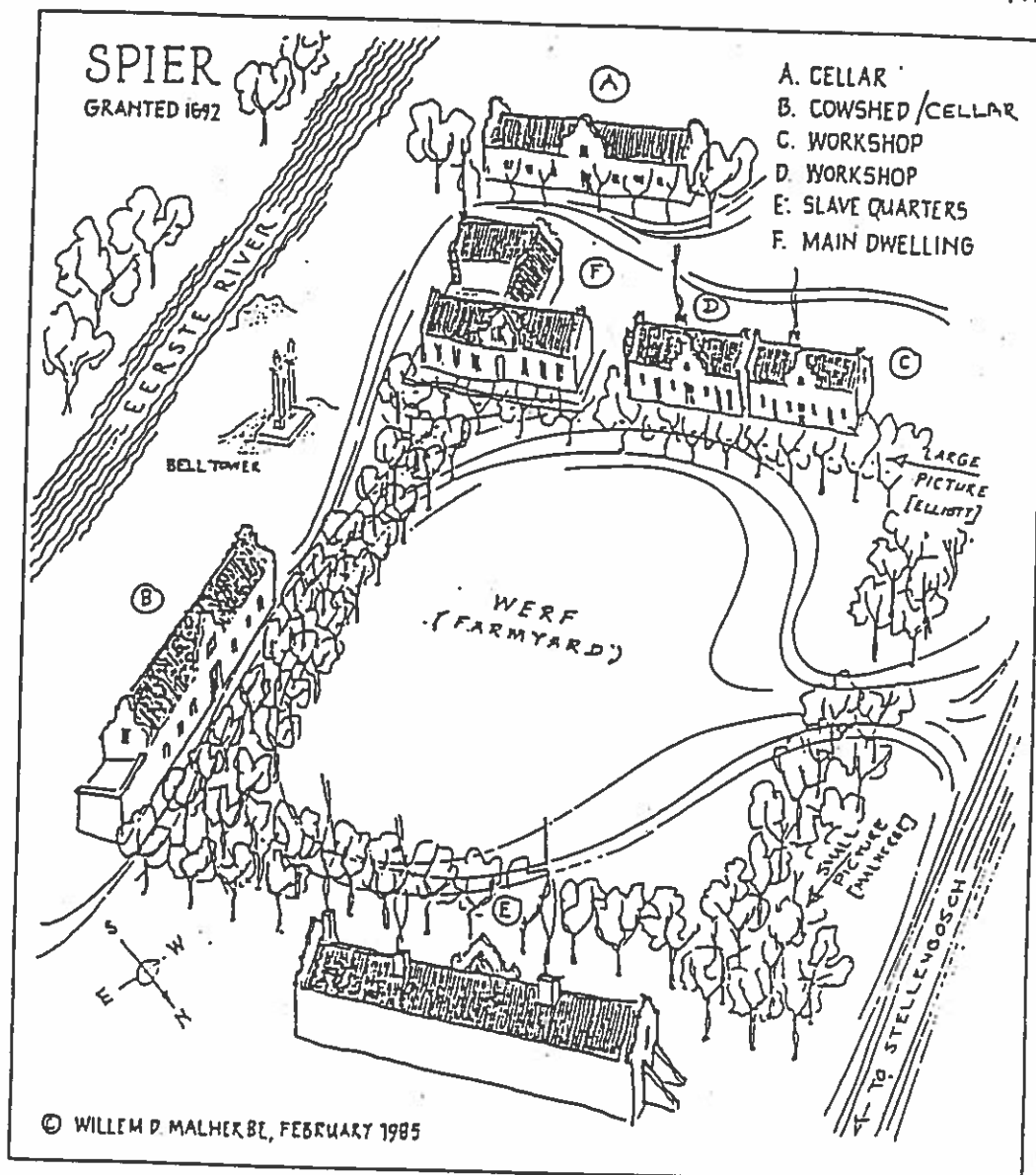
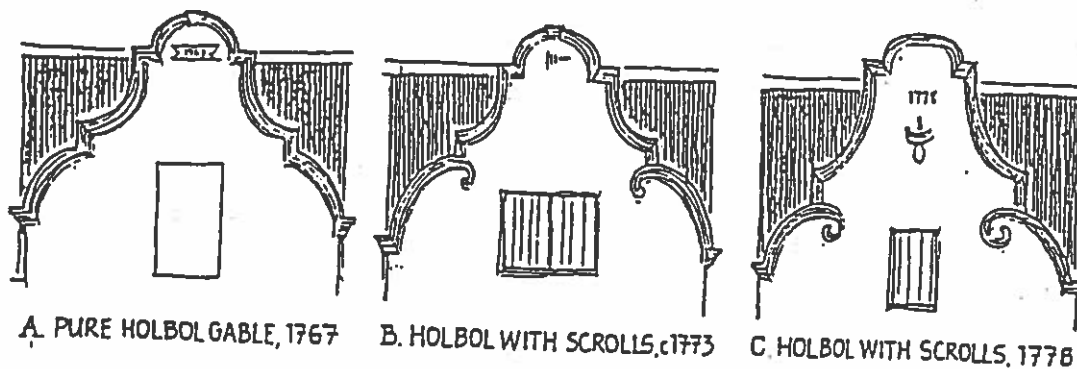


FIG.8 A striking bird's-eye view of the farm has been made by W. Malherbe in 1985. He has also provided an effective summary of the 18th and 19th century gables

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APPENDIX A**LIST OF TRANSPORT DEEDS OF THE FARM SPIER (VAN DER BÿL 1963:66A).**

1683	:	ARNOUD JANSZ (IN PROMISE)
17-09-1692	I,53 :	ARNOUD JANSZ (TAMBOER)
12-10-1712	T909 :	HANS HENDRIK HATTINGH
	:	WILLEM RIEBEECK marry widow HATTINGH
13-07-1736	T2326:	JOHs GROENEWALD from W. RIEBEECK
28-12-1748	T2807:	JOHs GROENEWALD JR.
30-07-1754	T3090:	JOHAN BERNHARD HOFFMAN
31-12-1765	T4088:	ALBERTUS JOHs MYBURGH
09-02-1781	T5323:	ANDRIES CHRISTOFFEL VAN DER BÿL, GERRIT ZN.
09-12-1831	T434 :	PAUL ANDRIES VAN DER BÿL A.C. ZN., from estate A.C.
22-08-1896	:	ANDRIES CHRISTOFFEL VAN DER BÿL (LOT) P.A. ZN.
01-10-1919	10805:	ESTATE A.C. VAN DER BÿL (AMENDED TITLE TO SPIER)