

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING: DEVELOPMENT ON ERF 16044  
(ADJOINING D'OUWE WERF), CHURCH STREET, STELLENBOSCH,  
WESTERN CAPE**

(Archaeological Monitoring conducted in terms of the requirements of  
Permit Number 2011/06/001).

Prepared for:  
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## Executive Summary

The Archaeology Contracts Office at the University of Cape Town was appointed by Mr G Petousis, the owner of D'Ouwe Werf Hotel in Stellenbosch, to undertake archaeological monitoring during the excavation for basement parking and additional hotel rooms on portions of Erf 16044 and 14602, which adjoin the hotel. D'Ouwe Werf is a declared Provincial Heritage site and a portion of the present hotel is situated on the ruins of the oldest church in Stellenbosch. Historic records suggest that burials were located around the church during its use between 1687 and 1710. Concern was expressed that excavations for the basement parking might uncover human remains.

The ACO applied for an archaeological permit to undertake monitoring work during the excavation of the basement. There were some limitations on the monitoring due to collapse of sections and water seepage along the north-western corner of the property.

Monitoring took place over the course of a six week period. During this time, the mechanical excavator removed soil along the perimeter of the property to a depth of 3m, to build the concrete walls for the underground parking garage. The soil profile (Stratigraphy) suggests that the soil in this central courtyard has been undisturbed with the exception of the top 70cm which includes builder's rubble, ceramics, glass and iron debris. The ceramics date between the late 18<sup>th</sup> century and the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The base of the excavation penetrated an earlier river terrace of the Eerste River.

A single short section of stone walling is wedged up against the basement of the adjoining Erf 1258, and the demolished building on Erf 1261. This stone walling may relate to the structures observed by Harriet Clift during her excavations on Erf 1258 in 2004, or to a more recent outbuilding. A section of the stone wall has been retained and will be a feature in the new development.

Despite the evidence from the archival sources (Pistorius & Harries 2003; Vos 1993) no human remains or associated grave material such as headstones or coffin handles were discovered during the removal of the soil from the property. Further, no stone foundations relating to earlier structures on the property were recovered. It is concluded that this piece of land has not been transformed by colonial settlement.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Archaeology Contracts Office at the University of Cape Town was appointed by Mr G Petousis, the owner of D’Ouwe Werf Hotel in Stellenbosch, to undertake archaeological monitoring during the excavation for basement parking and additional hotel rooms on portions of Erf 16044 and 14602, which adjoin the hotel. D’Ouwe Werf is a declared Provincial Heritage site and a portion of the present hotel is located on the ruins of the first permanent church in South Africa. Historic records suggest that burials were located around the church during its use between 1687 and 1710.

The proposal to excavate the courtyard for underground parking and for the construction of additional hotel accommodation was considered to have a potential significant impact on a vacant portion of land dating from the original 17<sup>th</sup> century graveyard (Pistorius & Harris 2003). The reference by Fransen (2004) to gravestones leaning against the wall of the Arcadia/D’Ouwe Werf suggested that graves could be recovered from the area. For this reason, Heritage Western Cape insisted on archaeological monitoring of this sensitive open space within the historic “Ou Kerkhof”. The ACO was required to apply for a permit to Heritage Western Cape to undertake the monitoring.

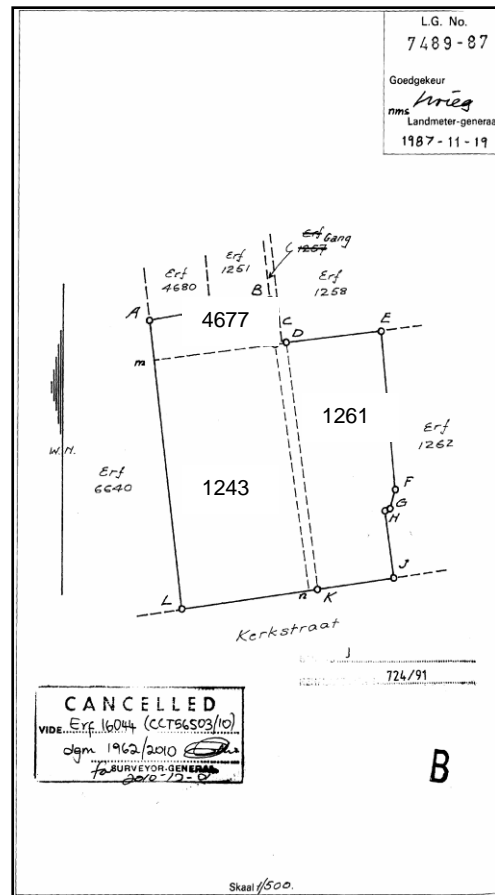


**Figure 1:** The location of the development area off Church Street in Stellenbosch and adjoining the hotel “D’Ouwe Werf”.

## 2. DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

The development is scheduled for a portion of Erf 16044 which consists of the consolidation of Erven 4680, 9439 and 1262. However, the land which is affected will be Erf 1261 (a portion of Erf 9439) and a portion of Erf 1262 (see Figures 2 & 3 below) and comprises the courtyard to the north of Number 32 Church Street (Columbo Building) and Number 34 Church Street (Spice Cafe). The developers will

excavate the soil in the courtyard to a depth of 3m to allow for the construction of underground parking for hotel guests. Additional hotel rooms will be constructed on top of the parking garage. They also intend to construct a swimming pool on portion of Erf 1262, behind the building known as the Spice Café.



**Figure 2:** The proposed development area falls within the area delineated by the red hatched line. The solid black square enclosed by the green hatched line represents the core of the D'Ouwe Werf Hotel. The Spice Café (hatched in green) is described as a 19<sup>th</sup> century Cape house of Grade 2 significance. The area enclosed by the blue hatching was excavated by Cliff in 2004, and the area enclosed by the purple hatching is the foundations of the old 17<sup>th</sup> century Church. Map supplied by client. **Figure 3:** Consolidated Erf 16044, with Erf 4677 representing the old church, Erf 1243 as D'Ouwe Werf and Erven 1261 and 1262 comprising the development area.

### 3. LEGISLATION

The National Heritage Resources Act, No 25 of 1999 (Section 38 (1)) makes provision for a compulsory notification of the intent to development when any

development exceeding 5000 m<sup>2</sup> in extent, or any road or linear development exceeding 300m in length is proposed.

The NHRA provides protection for the following categories of heritage resources:

- Landscapes, cultural or natural (Section 3 (3))
- Buildings or structures older than 60 years (Section 34);
- Archaeological Sites, palaeontological material and meteorites (Section 35);
- Burial grounds and graves (Section 36);
- Public monuments and memorials (Section 37);
- Living heritage (defined in the Act as including cultural tradition, oral history, performance, ritual, popular memory, skills and techniques, indigenous knowledge systems and the holistic approach to nature, society and social relationships) (Section 2 (d) (xxi)).

*The development will take place immediate adjoining D'Ouwe Werf Hotel. The two erven (Erf 1243 and 4677) both being part of the property known as D'Ouwe Werf (Figure 3), at 30 Church Street Stellenbosch, were declared a National Monument in 1979 (Gazette Number: 6378 and date: 1979-03-30). The declaration reads as follows: "This property initially formed the boundary of the original Stellenbosch cemetery which fell into disuse in 1710. In 1783 the plot came into the ownership of J.B. Hoffman who was presumably responsible for the erection of the original Cape Dutch house. This building was thereafter used as a boarding-house for many decades. By 1889 an additional story had been added, which gave the building its present imposing Georgian appearance". The building is currently used as a hotel.*

In terms of current legislation, all sites declared National Monuments under the old legislation, automatically become Provincial Heritage Sites under the NHRA.

#### **4. TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The ACO brief was the monitoring of the site during the excavations of the underground parking and this was also specified with the permit application. The terms of agreement expressly noted that "if any human remains or sub-surface archaeological structures are found, we will need to re-negotiate the rates as the work will potentially become more complicated and may require additional archaeologists on site".

#### **5. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT**

The "Ou Kerkhof" is bounded by Plein Street to the north, van Ryneveld Street to the east, Church Street to the south and Andringa Street to the west.



**Plate 1:** View of D' Ouwe Werf, No 30 Church Street. **Plate 2:** View of the more recently constructed annex to the hotel termed the "Columbo Building" (No 32 Church Street). The development is taking place in the garden behind the annex, with the access through the garage.



**Plate 3:** View from the Columbo Building northward across Erf 1261, with D'Ouwe Werf building to the left. **Plate 4:** View from the Columbo Building north-east toward Erf 1262, note the excavation for the swimming pool on the far right, and the tree which has been retained in the centre of the property.



**Plate 5:** View northward, with the boarded doors and windows of D'Ouwe Werf on the left, and the plastered, red brick walling of Erf 1258 at the back of the property. **Plate 6:** View southward, to the rear of the Columbo Building. Plates 3 & 4 were taken from the top verandah.

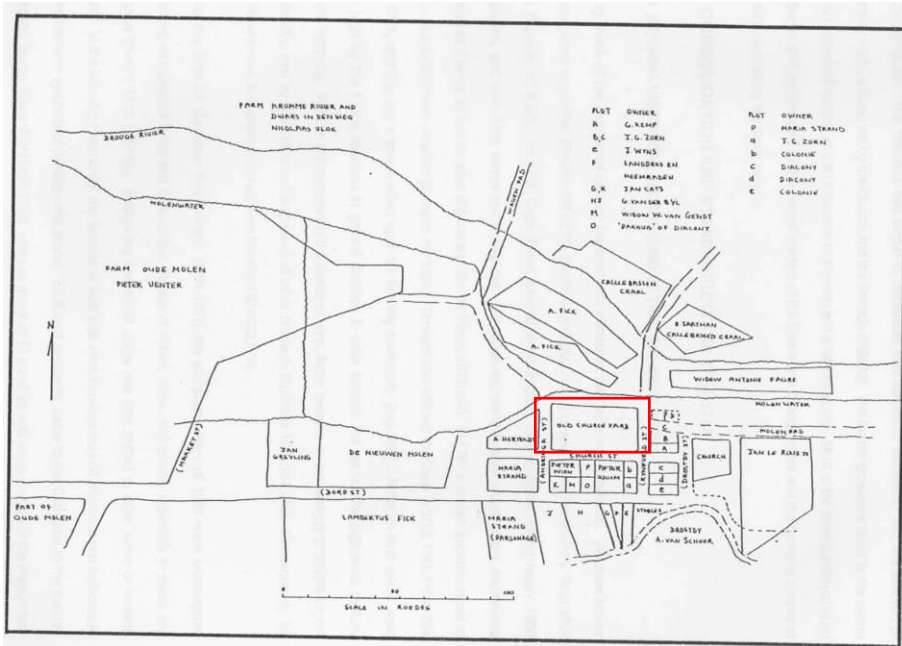


**Plate 7:** View south-eastward towards the back of the Spice Café, only the roof is visible behind the boarding. **Plate 8:** View eastward, excavations for the swimming pool behind the Spice Café on Erf 1262.

## 6. HISTORY OF OU KERKHOFF

After the completion of the Drostdy in Stellenbosch, the first stone of the church was laid in the centre of the property bounded by Plein, van Ryneveld, Church and Andringa Streets, in 1687. “Ou Kerkhof” is one of the oldest town blocks of Stellenbosch (Figure 4). About a hundred people could be seated in the church whose dimensions were given as 12.2 m x 6.7 m. It seems that the floor was initially paved with brick “stene” but these were replaced in 1709 with small, reddish tiles which were observed during archaeological excavations. The only pictorial representation of the early church that has survived is the Stade drawing of 1710. The church was destroyed in the fire of 1710. The church was not rebuilt until 1717, but the interim burials continued in the old graveyard. In 1717 the Moeder Kerk was built in its present location and it is assumed that burials on the Ou Kerkhof were discontinued. It is unclear whether the old graves were exhumed and moved to the new cemetery situated at the Moeder Kerk.

In August 1719 the preacher Beck was permitted to break out the granite from the 1687 church ruins for the construction of the new one. There were obviously still graves inside the old church for he was cautioned that “geen lijken of gebeenderen gemoveert of verstrooidt raken”. In 1720 the square, reddish floor tiles were also removed from the ruin. Master builder Beyleveld was commissioned to construct a wall on the foundations of the 1687 ruin and also a “Beenhuijsje” (or charnel house) within its confines. Within the latter were to be interred all the unclaimed bones and skeletons that lay scattered over Block 5.

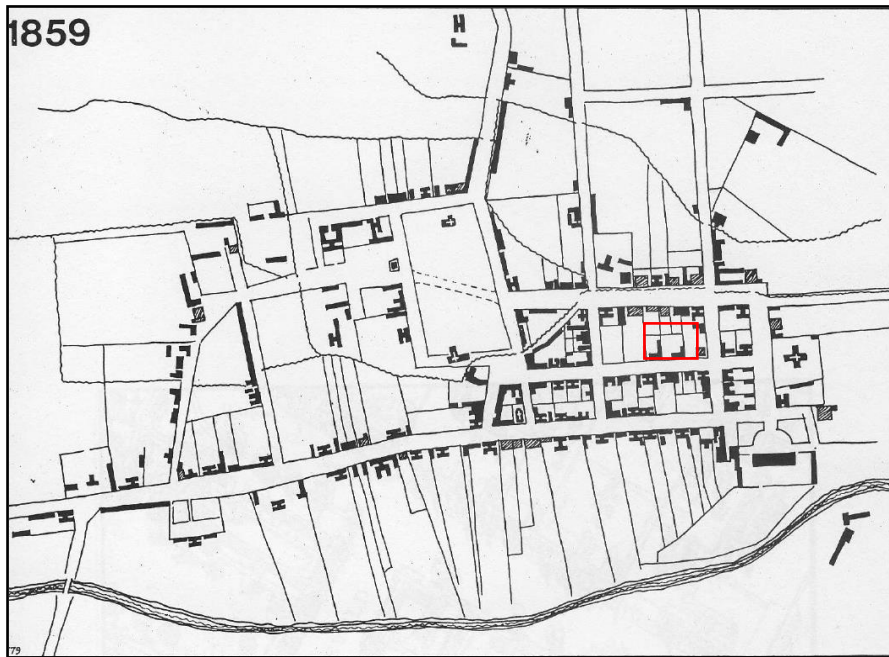


**Figure 4:** From Vos (1993) a map of Stellenbosch circa 1750, showing the ownership of properties within the village. The old church yard (Ou Kerkhof) has not yet been sub-divided.

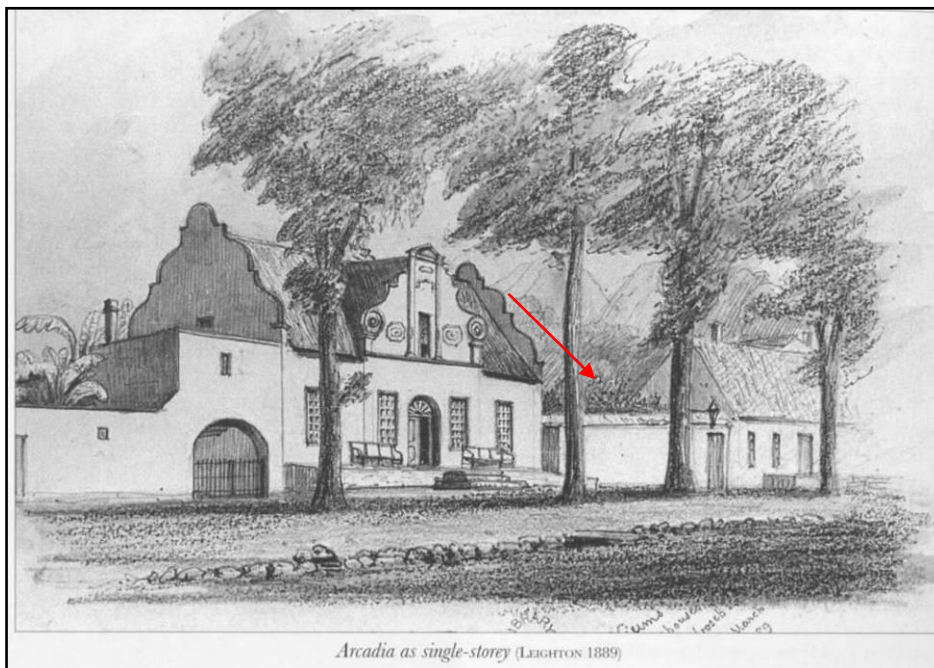
In order to supplement the church funds the old churchyard (Block 5) was to be subdivided and sold as ten private plots by 1783 (Van der Byl 1963:14). Clift (2004) reported that Portion 8 was purchased by Paulus Johannes Fick in 1783. The further subdivision of Portion 8 took place in 1820. The survey diagrams show the existence of a communal passageway which gave access from the street to the garden behind the house (Figure 3).

Towards the end of the eighteenth century the graveyard block (Figure 4) had been subdivided into profitable building plots (Figure 5), while the newly enclosed central area was thoughtlessly used for dumping rubbish. “After the churchyard block was abandoned as a graveyard, plots were allocated and the ruins of the church site were enclosed with a boundary wall and a small house. Before long it became a convenient depository for rubbish and building debris” (Vos 1993: 237).





**Figure 5:** Map of Stellenbosch, circa 1859. The old Church yard has been subdivided into a number of Lots. The area within the red rectangle shows the location of two buildings, one being Arcadia (D'Ouwe Werf), the other in the position of the present Spice Café (Erf 1262).

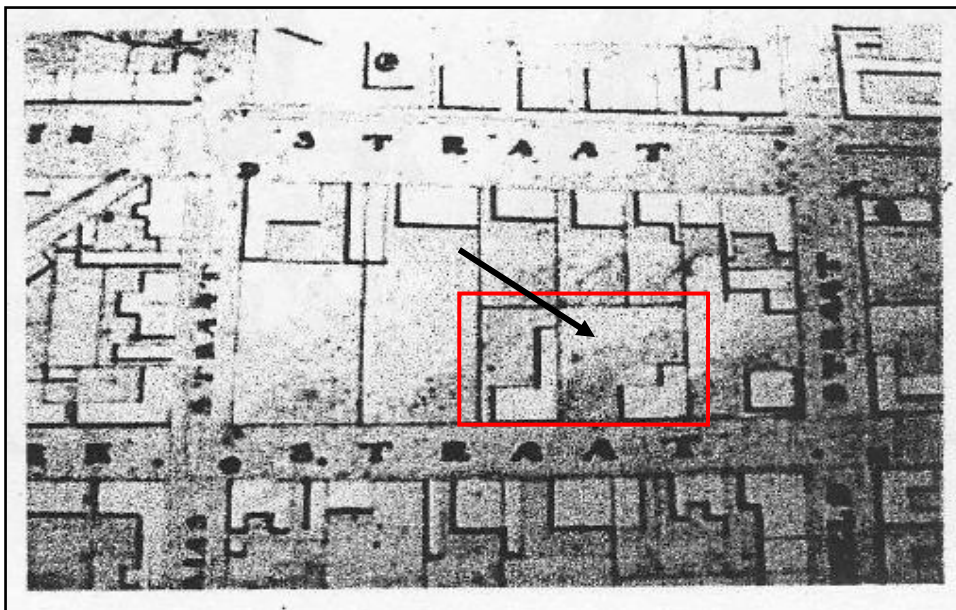


**Plate 9:** A sketch of Arcadia (D'Ouwe Werf) prior to its renovation into a double storey house (see Plate 1) in the 1880s (from Fransen 2004:184). Note the wall separating it from the adjoining property and the garden behind the wall. The development is taking place in the garden indicated by the red arrow. The adjoining property (No 34 Church Street also known as the Spice Café) is still standing and has been given a Grade 2 grading by Pistorius & Harris (2003).

After subdivision, access to the churchyard was gained through a number of passageways of which only the gateway (c.1785) in Plein Street still exists, albeit as a reproduction. However, the servitude (Erf 4678) still exists on the survey diagram and separates Erven 1243 and 1261 (Figure 3).

Number 30, Church Street, now known as D'Ouwe Werf, was initially called Arcadia and located on Erf 1243. According to Franssen (2004) Arcadia was built in 1802 and was a rectangular, single storey H-shaped house under thatch (Plate 9). However, the map of 1859 (Figures 3 & 4) does not show the building as an H-shape, but rather as an L-shape. Its conversion into the five-bay double storeyed house took place in the 1880s, probably soon after the drawing by Leighton dated 1889 (Plate 9).

The house was then known as "Mrs Wium's boarding house". It was a tavern and boarding house, the earliest in Stellenbosch, and was established by Jan Bernhard Hoffman. It remains a hotel to this day. Arcadia was built on Erf 1243. Erf 4677 which is located in the centre of the property, houses the ruins of the church. Erf 1261, adjoining D'Ouwe Werf, appears to have remained vacant until the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century when a simple two-room deep cottage was constructed on the Church Street portion of the land (Vos pers comm.).



**Figure 6:** From the Hager map of 1859 (Clift 2004) showing the position of the development in the garden behind the two properties which front onto Church Street. The property on the left is presumably Arcadia/D'Ouwe Werf and the one on the right is situated in the position of the Spice Café (see Plate 5 above).

This cottage was subsequently demolished in the 1980s to make room for the Columbo building (No 32 Church Street). The interior courtyard which is enclosed by the buildings on Erf 1243 and Erf 1258 therefore appears to represent vacant land (Figures 6 & 7).

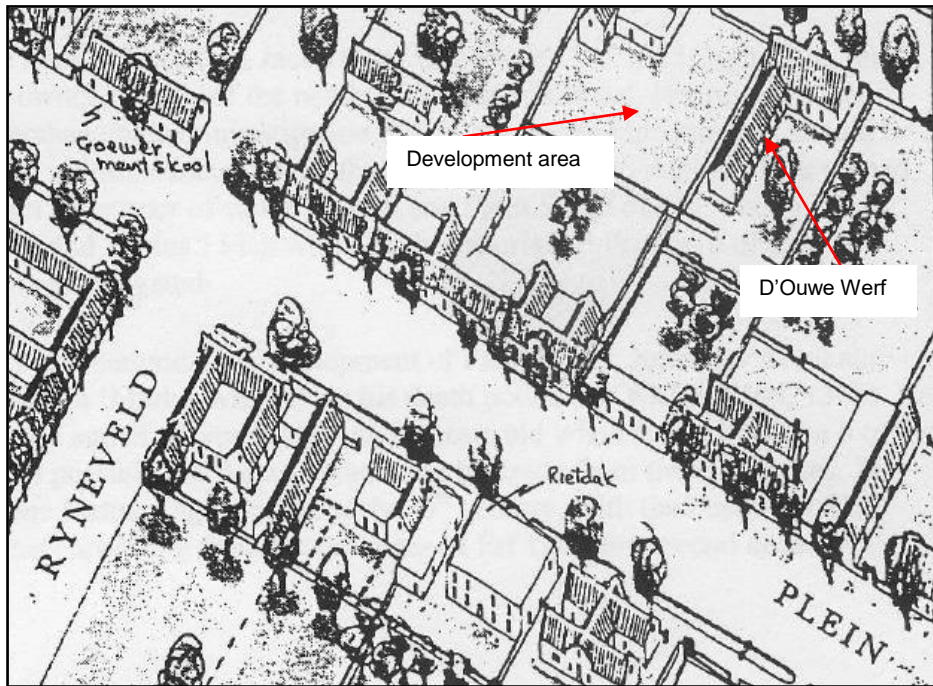


Figure 7: A 'Birds Eye view' reconstruction of the 1859 map by Fransen (Clift 2004).

## 7. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND TO THE AREA

During archaeological excavations of D'Ouwe Werf in the 1970s and 1980s, Hennie Vos discovered the (Vos 1993) eastern end of the first church constructed in South Africa (Vos 1981a) as well as many late eighteenth century features which clearly belonged to Beyleveld's charnel-house, such as crudely constructed granite foundations and four pillar bases of granite and cobbles that together formed part of a rectangular building. From between the central pillars a number of early nineteenth century brick stairs led down to a pre-fabricated passage-way, the boards of which were tied together with threaded iron rods and nuts. A cache of artefacts was carefully concealed below the pine floor-boards near the eastern end of the gangway. The assemblage consisted of numerous bottles, a Chinese bowl and some drinking glasses, all dating from the end of the eighteenth century.

The oldest feature on the site is a grave, built of soft-burnt, orange brick and dating to between 1690 and 1710, which was buried inside the walls of the original church. The wooden coffin was probably removed for reburial in the second church which was inaugurated in 1723. Clift (2004) reports; "As far as it is known, no other graves were found during excavations by Mary Patrick and Hennie Vos which took place in 2003 in the parking area behind the Edgars Building in Plein Street".

Erven 1258 and 1263 (facing Plein Street) and comprising Portion 8 of the original 1783 subdivision of Ou Kerkhof were excavated by Clift in 2004 (Figure 2). Clift's brief was to monitor the erven during the mechanical excavation of the properties for basement parking. She discovered stone foundations, cobbled floor surfaces, three wells and a possible water trough. A large cobbled floor, situated under a small cobbled floor, was estimated to date to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. One of the wells was situated under the wall which divided Erf 1258 and D'Ouwe Werf and

Clift observed that the artefacts in the well dated to the mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> century. However, ceramics above and below the large cobbled floor, was reported to date to the late 18<sup>th</sup>/early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

## 8. METHODS

Despite the urgency with which the application was made for a permit, work progressed slowly during the initial stages as the existing structures on top of the inside courtyard first had to be demolished and the rubble removed. Monitoring took place during the latter part of June, most of July and extended into early August 2011. The bulldozer was taken through the basement parking lot of the Columbo building (Plates 2 & 4) and the excavation of the basement parking garage took place in stages. The borders of the courtyard were excavated first and the soil accumulated into a heap, to form a ramp for the bulldozer.

### 8.1 Limitations

Monitoring was intermittent and depended on the schedule of the excavations for the basement parking. The excavations were affected by the collapse and water seepage along the north-western corner of the property. Steel rods were inserted into the walls of the construction site to assist with drainage and this impeded the excavation process.



**Plate 10:** Steel rods were hammered into the deposit to prevent soil collapse.

## 9. EXCAVATIONS

The Stratigraphy is discussed below.

### 6.1 Stratigraphy

The excavations reached a level of approximately 3m, terminating in rounded river cobbles (Layer 6) which appear to represent an earlier course of the Eerste River (Plate 12).



**Plate 11:** View of the east wall of the excavations for the parking garage; **Plate 12:** View of the excavation some 3m from the surface, showing the river cobbles and water table.

- 1) The top (Layer 1) approximately 70cm of deposit consists of builder's rubble such as red brick and old tiles, as well as bone, iron and ceramics;
- 2) Below this was Layer 2 consisting of brown sterile soil, with roots;
- 3) Beneath this was Layer 3, which consisted of a lens of rich dark, loam, also sterile;
- 4) Below this was Layer 4, which was a hard pale brown layer, also sterile;
- 5) Below this was Layer 5, a hard brown loam, sterile.
- 6) Excavations at 3 metres uncovered a dense layer (Layer 6) of river cobbles in a pale sandy matrix. It appeared that this represented an old river channel/old river terrace? Groundwater seepage occurred at this horizon.

## 6.2 Features

No sub-surface features were found but a single section of above ground stone walling was found along the northern edge of the development, abutting Erf 1258.



**Plate 13:** View of the north boundary of Erf 1261 and the southern boundary of Erf 1258. Note the section of stone walling abutting the red brick wall. **Plate 14:** Close up of the stone walling.

The purpose of this small section of roughly packed stone walling is unclear. It seems wedged in between the basement of the adjoining Erf 1258, and the demolished building on Erf 1261 (Figure 3). It could relate to the structures observed by Clift (2004) during her excavations on Erf 1258.



**Plate 15:** Note the stone walling continues below ground level for a further 1.5m. **Plate 16:** After the wall started to collapse, a portion of concrete had to be cast to retain the lower section.

The owner of the property indicated an interest in retaining a portion of the stone walling for the benefit of visitors and efforts were therefore made to shore up the wall with boards. Further conservation of the stone wall lies outside the scope of the monitoring work.



**Plate 17:** View of the section under D'Ouwe Werf hotel in the north-west corner. The black soil with red brick rubble extends down to at least 1.5m, suggesting that there had been considerable re-working of the deposit prior to the construction of the new annex at the back of the hotel in the 1980s.

The soil in the north-west corner was very wet and because it was stabilised with steel rods prior to removal (Plate 10), it was difficult to follow the stratigraphic sequence in this corner (Plate 17). Where the disturbed soil with red brick extended down to 70cm in the site, in this corner the soil was disturbed to a depth of 1.5m.

## 10. ARTEFACTUAL REMAINS

### 10.1 Bone

A scatter of mammal bone was found particularly along the northern wall of the property, abutting the parking garage of Erf 14602. Although not examined by a faunal specialist, it consists of sheep and cattle bones.

### 10.2 Ceramics

The ceramics were randomly recovered from the top 70cm of the site and represent items collected by the foreman as well as the archaeologist. The ceramics appear to have been deposited in the northern and central portions of the site, but there was no indication of a historic rubbish dump or midden. The small collection was subject to a brief identification process according to the classification scheme proposed by Klose and Malan (1993). They divide ceramics into three broad classifications: porcelain, stoneware and earthenware before further sub-division (see plates at the end of the report).

The collection includes:

- A relatively small collection of Chinese export porcelain on underglaze blue, probably late 18<sup>th</sup> to early 19<sup>th</sup> century;
- A single fragment of Chinese export porcelain with brown glaze on the outside and underglaze blue on the inside of the sherd, dating to the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century;
- A single example of Chinese export porcelain with a Nanking border, late 18<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century;
- A selection of coarse, low-fired Chinese porcelain sherds – probably 18<sup>th</sup> century;
- A selection of undecorated European porcelain, including British bone china, as well as fragments with moulding and gilt;
- A single fragment of hand painted pearlware with blue glaze puddling or “gather” (Klose & Malan 2000). It dates to between the 1790s and 1820s;
- A single fragment of a tin-glazed earthenware “salt”. Tin glazed earthenware comprises a soft body covered in a thick white glaze which can be easily chipped;
- A selection of cream coloured whiteware, some could be creamware but it was not possible to be confident on this identification;
- A number of fragments of industrial slipware (whiteware with a banded slip decorated or “annular ware”), comprising of regular horizontal bands of clay slip, were recovered. Some of the earliest examples of annular ware are on pearlware. One fragment of a bowl, with bands of black and olive green, contains some blue pooling in the basin rim. Annular ware dates from the early 1790s to late middle 19<sup>th</sup> century;
- Transfer printing in underglaze blue and white on refined earthenware started after the 1780s, and mass produced refined earthenwares start being exported after 1815. A number of examples of blue-&-white underglaze transfer printed table ware were recovered. The most common pattern is Willow with examples of Asiatic pheasant and Rhine pattern also present.

Examples of green, sepia and mulberry printed wares become popular after 1835. There is one example of a green printed ware;

- A single fragment of whiteware with a mulberry design printed over the glaze of the vessel, may be represent a decal, probably dating from the late 19<sup>th</sup> C;
- There is only a single example of a moulded, shell-edged border to a vessel;
- A single fragment of spongeware with a blue design;
- Some examples of hand painted whiteware with bright floral decorations;
- Some examples of lined whiteware;
- Examples of green glazed, moulded whiteware;
- The biggest collection was that of whiteware with no decorative motif present. While these sherds may be from undecorated vessels, they may equally be from the undecorated portions of a decorated vessel. There are some large bowls and jugs, and one possible chamber pot. A number of cross mends indicates that the assemblage has not been significantly disturbed;
- Stoneware examples included a stoneware ginger beer bottle neck and small fragment of stoneware, from a very large jar, possibly a Martevan.

### **10.3 Glass and metal**

The small bottle collection is all machine-made bottles. They include a collection of dark green bottle fragments from circular bottles. They are probably for alcohol such as wine or beer. A single, partially complete aqua-coloured Codd bottle for carbonated beverage was found with its top and marble stopper missing. These date between 1870 and 1930. The bottles support a late 19<sup>th</sup> century date for the collection. A small fragment of a decorated glass sherd was recovered.

A single copper handle was found. It was not a coffin handle and may have been part of a cooking pot. A few large, rusted iron bands and bolt were also recovered.

## **11. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

The monitoring of the development adjoining D'Ouwe Werf hotel was triggered by the discussions in Hennie Vos's thesis (1993) regarding burials around the old church in the centre of the property and the comments made by Hans Fransen (2004) about gravestones at Arcadia/D'Ouwe Werf.

Monitoring took place over the course of six weeks. During this time, the mechanical excavator removed soil along the perimeter of the property to a depth of 3m, to build the concrete walls of the underground parking garage. The soil profile (Stratigraphy) suggests that the soil in this central courtyard has been undisturbed with the exception of the top 70cm which includes builder's rubble, ceramics, glass and iron debris which had clearly been discarded over the last 200 years. The base of the excavation penetrated an earlier river terrace of the Eerste River.

A single short section of stone walling is wedged up against the basement of the adjoining Erf 1258, and the building on Erf 1261 which was demolished to make way for the current development. This stone walling may relate to the structures observed



by Harriet Clift during her excavations on Erf 1258 in 2004, or to a more recent outbuilding.

Despite the evidence from the archival sources (Pistorius & Harries 2003; Vos 1993) no human remains or associated grave material such as headstones or coffin handles were discovered during the removal of the soil from the property. Further, no stone foundations relating to earlier structures on the property were recovered. It is concluded that this piece of land has not been transformed by colonial settlement.

## **12. REFERENCES**

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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

We would like to thank Gillie Kannemeyer who kept us informed of developments on site during the monitoring process. Antonia Malan kindly assisted with the identification of the ceramics. Harriet Clift and Hennie Vos shared their expertise of the area with us.

## PLATES OF ARTEFACTS RECOVERED FROM THE SITE



Plate 14: Blue-&-white, green and mulberry underglaze transfer printed table ware; Plate 15: Industrial slipware.



Plate 16: Hand painted whiteware with bright floral decorations; Plate 17: Stoneware fragment possibly from a Martevan.



Plate 18: Both Chinese export porcelain and coarse, low-fired Asian ware on underglaze blue; Plate 19: Hand-painted pearlware.