

## PROVINCIAL HERITAGE SITE NOMINATION APPLICATION IN TERMS OF SECTION 27 OF THE NATIONAL HERITAGE RESOURCES ACT (ACT 25 OF 1999)

This form precedes the submission of the 'Nomination Document' and is designed to assist with the grading of heritage resources in terms Section 3(3) of the National Heritage Resources Act, as part of the process of declaration as a Provincial Heritage Site (Section 27). Nominated heritage resources that are of special provincial significance will be graded as Grade 2 and considered for Provincial Heritage Site status.

HERITAGE WESTERN CAPE CASE NUMBER:

**PROPOSED PROVINCIAL HERITAGE SITE:** Vergelegen Estate

The boundaries of the proposed Provincial Heritage Site (PHS) site on the Vergelegen Estate include the historic precinct and arboretum, and the paddocks and surrounding working farm but excludes the portion (over 2000 hectares) already declared a Nature Reserve in terms of the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act. See section E of the draft Conservation Management Plan (CMP) prepared by Sarah Winter, Nicolas Baumann and Richard Summers Inc in support of the PHS nomination.

**Brief Statement of Significance: (A full statement of significance is required as an attachment)**

The heritage significance of Vergelegen is worthy of Grade I national heritage site status in terms of the grading system of the National Heritage Resources Act, which distinguishes between Grade I (national), Grade II (provincial) and Grade III (local) heritage significance. A row of stately camphor trees, planted by Willem Adriaan van der Stel in front of the homestead, were proclaimed a national monument in 1942, now a PHS. In light of the protected status of the camphor trees, it is the desire of the land owner to extend the protected status over the camphor trees to portions of the Vergelegen Estate as detailed above. See section B.3 of the draft CMP for the detailed motivation for declaration as a PHS.

Vergelegen possesses high historical value associated with the first decade of the 18th century, when the Cape of Good Hope was an emerging victualling station of the Vereenigde Oost-Indische Compagnie (VOC) servicing the Dutch commercial empire's maritime trade routes with the east, linking Europe, Africa and the East Asia. Vergelegen likely originated as a VOC outstation, one of a number positioned to control its trade interests between Table Bay and the hinterland. Vergelegen has strong associations with VOC officialdom, conceived under the ownership of a high ranking VOC official, William Adriaan van der Stel, Governor at the Cape between 1699 and 1706, having succeeded his father Simon van der Stel as Governor (1679 -1699), thus extending the influential van der Stel era of the VOC at the Cape spanning almost three decades.

Vergelegen is one of the earliest examples of an idealised farmstead established at the Cape. Influenced by European principles of a grand country estate, it predates the development of a rural vernacular at the Cape occurring later in the 18th century and the grand estates later developed by emerging prosperous free burghers.

Vergelegen epitomises the development of traditional rural agrarian land-use and settlements of Cape colonial farmers and the basis for a region-specific vernacular architecture on which other farms at the Cape and beyond were later modelled.

Vergelegen is strongly associated with the history of slavery at the Cape with van der Stel owning more than 200 slaves, the most ever in private hands on one property at the Cape. The archaeological remains of the slave lodge reveal living conditions of the slave inhabitants at Vergelegen dating from the early 17th century when its grandeur and self-sufficiency as an idealised agrarian settlement was dependent on slave labour.

Of special historical interest is the use of the Vergelegen as a place of exile for the Rajah of Tambora associated with the use of the Cape of Good Hope as an official place of confinement for eastern political prisoners of rank of the VOC, and his role in transcribing the Koran, possibly the first hand written Koran at the Cape.

**A comprehensive and detailed statement of significance, together with a description of the heritage resource is contained in section D.2 of the draft CMP. See also section C of the draft CMP for a short history of the heritage resource.**

**Proposed By:** Sarah Winter and Nicolas Baumann (care of Richard Summers Inc) **Date Proposed:** 3 May 2019

Telephone: 021 224 0943Cell: 082 534 0328E-Mail: [richard@summersinc.co.za](mailto:richard@summersinc.co.za)Name of Property: Vergelegen EstateStreet Number and Street: Lourensford Road, Somerset WestSuburb: Somerset WestTown: Cape Town, 7130**Cadastral Information**Erf/ Farm Number: Farm Rem 744; Farm 744/1 and Farm 744/2Registration Division: Helderberg Administration of the City of Cape TownLongitude: 34°4'34.88" SLatitude: 18°53'23.83" EMap Reference: \_\_\_\_\_ Recording Method: Google Earth**TYPE OF RESOURCE**

|                       |                                     |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Place                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Structure             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Archaeological Site   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Palaeontological Site | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Geological Feature    | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Grave                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Do moveable objects relating to the site form part of the Nomination? Serial nomination (Is more than one site being nominated as part of a 'Joint Nomination') *(For serial nominations, complete one form for each site, supply additional details about the information relating to the relation of the sites, and the management and phasing of proposed nomination be attached).*

Sphere of Significance

|                               | High                                | Med                      | Low                      |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| International                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| National                      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Provincial                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Regional                      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Local                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Specialist group or community | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**What other similar sites may be compared to the site? How does the site compare to these sites? (Please expand on separate sheet)**

Vergelegen has its own unique significance, yet in terms of comparisons, Vergelegen – along with other historical farmsteads of the Cape – is representative of the Early Cape Farmsteads. As such, both Vergelegen and Groot Constantia are included in the properties for the proposed World Heritage Site (WHS) nomination of the Early Farmsteads of the Cape of Good Hope, currently on the WHS Tentative List of the Republic of South Africa.

The Early Cape Farmsteads are the earliest examples of an idealised farmstead established at the Cape of Good Hope at the southern point of Africa in the late 17th and early 18th century during the onset of globalisation associated with international trade between Europe, Africa and East Asia (Dutch and British) when the Cape of Good Hope was a victualling station of the VOC, one of the most powerful instruments of the Dutch commercial empire.

Vergelegen and Groot Constantia were conceived under the ownership and aspirations of high ranking DEIC officials and existed in strong contrast to the typically modest farmsteads of free burghers at the Cape of Good Hope during the late 17th and early 18th century. With emphasis on the value of property as status markers, they served as likely models for aspiring freemen and the emergence of the "Cape Dutch" farmstead during the later 18th century and into the early 19th century.



Enriched by cultural influences accumulated from various continents, surrounded by natural elements suited for agriculture and more specifically viticulture, and situated in a dramatic natural environment, the Early Cape Farmsteads are the original idealised farm settlements established at the southern point of Africa. Since their establishment - Constantia in the late 17th century and Vergelegen at the beginning of the 18th century - these farmsteads have evolved as traditional agricultural settlements, but retain the elements that underlie their origins. With vineyards, orchards, gardens, fields, homesteads and outbuildings nestling on the slopes of the Cape's mountains and along water courses, these early farmsteads illustrate the irrevocable impact of human settlement, labour practices including slavery, and agrarian culture since colonisation in the mid-17th century on the natural landscape and environment. The resulting landscape of each farmstead contains characteristics that have contributed to the unique quality of both the built and cultivated environment.

**See draft Integrated Conservation Management Plan for the WHS Nomination – Early Cape Farmsteads as well as section D.1 of the draft CMP.**

Owner: Vergelegen Wines (Pty) Ltd

***If the nominator is not the owner, the owner as well as the registered conservation body/s, whom has registered their interest in the area/s, must be furnished with a copy of this form and other associated documentation. Proof thereof must accompany this form when submitting it to Heritage Western Cape.***

***(If state-owned; responsible department and official position of contact)***

Does the owner support the nomination?

Yes  (subject to the terms of a Heritage Agreement being agreed to between the owner and Heritage Western Cape)

Owners signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Address: PO Box 17, Somerset West, 7129

Telephone: 021 847 2105

Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: toothd@vergelegen.co.za

Web Page: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: ***(If different from above. Please supply contact details)*** Don Tooth

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Web Page: \_\_\_\_\_

- \* **Expanded statement of significance; (Refer specifically to significance criteria listed below)** (see section D.2 of the draft CMP)
- \* **Motivation for declaration as a Provincial Heritage Site, including potential, threat and vulnerabilities** (see section B.3 of the draft CMP);
- \* **Short history of the place** (see section C of the draft CMP);
- \* **Physical description of the heritage resource** (see draft CMP);
- \* **Locality plan (map) and Site Plan** (see Figures 1 and 2 of the draft CMP);
- \* **Photographs and plans** (see draft CMP);
- \*\* **List of moveable objects relating to site that are proposed as part of nomination, or for archaeological or palaeontological site; list of repositories where these are housed;**
- \*\* **Bibliography of documentation relating to the heritage resource** (see Annexure F of the draft CMP);
- \*\* **Statement of current protections and restrictions (e.g. previous national monument; register of immoveable property; conservation area; current zoning; servitudes)** (see section B of the draft CMP);
- \*\* **List any heritage organizations consulted and their comments on the proposed nomination.**
- \*\*\* **Site plan (with proposed site boundaries)** (see section E draft CMP);
- \*\*\* **Conservation or management plans (send immediately if any exist)** (see draft CMP attached);
- \*\*\* **Heritage Agreement (if required)** (To be submitted in due course).

***(Please supply those marked (\*) with this nomination form, as well as any others that are already available. Those marked (\*\*\*) will be requested when the proposal first goes to HWC Council for endorsement (Tentative List of Provincial Heritage Sites). Those marked (\*\*\*) will be required when the Nomination goes to the following Council Meeting for approval as a Provincial Heritage Site).***

#### 1. HISTORICAL VALUE

a. It is important in the community, or pattern of history

i. Importance in the evolution of cultural landscapes and settlement patterns

The exhibition in the Vergelegen homestead reveals and analyses the historical evolution of the Estate, the changing patterns of ownership and the role of slavery during the 18th and 19th centuries.

**See section D.2.6.5 of the draft CMP**

Vergelegen has historical significance as one the largest earlier colonial grants at the Cape, the largest in the Helderberg Region, with surrounding historical farms such as Morgenster and Lourensford and the establishment of Somerset West being rooted in the origins, subdivision and ownership history of the original grant.

**See section D.2.1 of the draft CMP**

- ii. Importance in exhibiting density, richness or diversity of cultural features illustrating the human occupation and evolution of the nation, Province, region or locality. X

Under various prominent and influential owners in the history of South Africa and the Cape, including, notably, Willem Adriaan van der Stel, Vergelegen also come under the ownership of Lionel and Florence Philips who were leading conservationists and instrumental in establishing the National Botanical Gardens at Kirstenbosch and the South African National Gallery. They were responsible for the strong early 20th century historical layering of the farmstead, during which period it underwent substantial restoration and rehabilitation. This work reflects an emerging conservation ethos towards Cape vernacular architecture and Cape Revival Architecture, influenced by the Arts & Crafts Movement, coinciding with a social cohesion strategy following the South African (Anglo-Boer) Wars and the establishment of the Union of South Africa in 1910.

**See section D.2.1 of the draft CMP**

- iii. Importance for association with events, developments or cultural phases that have had a significant role in the human occupation and evolution of the nation, Province, region or community. X

Vergelegen possesses historical elements and associations contributing to the Cape Winelands Cultural Landscape at a regional scale, and forms part of a domain of agricultural and settlement history spanning more than 300 years in the Helderberg Basin.

Vergelegen possesses high historical value associated with the first decade of the 18th century, when the Cape of Good Hope was an emerging victualling station of the Vereenigde Oost-Indische Compagnie (VOC) servicing the Dutch commercial empire's maritime trade routes with the east, linking Europe, Africa and the East Asia. It likely originated as a VOC outstation, one of a number positioned to control its trade interests between Table Bay and the hinterland.

**See section D.2.1 of the draft CMP**

- iv. Importance as an example for technical, creative, design or artistic excellence, innovation or achievement in a particular period X

Foremost is the rare use of the octagonal form at the Cape. Based on a combination of the scale, height and location at the centrepiece of the original layout of the farmstead, the octagonal walled structure represents a symbol of van der Stel's aspirations and is enduring iconic symbol of the estate. It is an early and seminal example at the Cape of a farmstead being enhanced by an 'enclosed werf' following a



European tradition.

**See section D.2.2 of the draft CMP**

**b. It has strong or special association with the life or work of a person, group or organization of importance in history**

- i. Importance for close associations with individuals, groups or organizations whose life, works or activities have been significant within the history of the nation, Province, region or community.

X

Vergelegen has strong associations with VOC officialdom, conceived under the ownership of a high ranking VOC official, William Adriaan van der Stel, Governor at the Cape between 1699 and 1706, having succeeded his father Simon van der Stel as Governor (1679 -1699), thus extending the influential van der Stel era of the VOC at the Cape spanning almost three decades.

Notably, Vergelegen was a place of exile for the Rajah of Tambora and it is therefore associated with the use of the Cape of Good Hope as an official place of confinement for eastern political prisoners of rank of the VOC.

**See section D.2.1 of the draft CMP**

**c. It has significance relating to the history of slavery**

- i. Importance for a direct link to the history of slavery in South Africa.

X

Vergelegen is strongly associated with the history of slavery at the Cape with van der Stel owning more than 200 slaves, the most ever in private hands on one property at the Cape. The archaeological remains of the slave lodge reveal living conditions of the slave inhabitants at Vergelegen dating from the early 17th century when its grandeur and self-sufficiency as an idealised agrarian settlement was dependent on slave labour.

The uncovering of the grave of a slave woman at the site of the slave lodge provides a tangible link with people who have worked the land for generations.

**See section D.2.1 of the draft CMP**

**2. AESTHETIC VALUE**

**a. It is important in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group**

- i. Importance to a community for aesthetic characteristics held in high esteem or otherwise valued by the community.

X

Vergelegen possesses high heritage value in contributing to the experiential qualities of the Cape Winelands Cultural Landscape. It forms part of a visual-spatial domain of agricultural and settlement history spanning more than 300 years within the Helderberg Basin.

**See section D.2.3 of the draft CMP**

- ii. Importance for its creative, design or artistic excellence, innovation or achievement.

The cultural landscape within which the Vergelegen farmstead is

embedded gives expression to a cross-section linking a wilderness landscape associated with the higher lying areas, an agrarian cultivated landscape at the mid-level and settlement at the lower lying level.

**See section D.2.3 of the draft CMP**

- iii. Importance for its contribution to the aesthetic values of the setting demonstrated by a landmark quality or having impact on important vistas or otherwise contributing to the identified aesthetic qualities of the cultural environs or the natural landscape within which it is located.

The impressive farmstead with its gabled architecture, octagonal walled structure, relationship with its riverine, agricultural and natural setting, formal landscaped gardens, ancient tree specimens including the giant camphors, axial relationships and focal points, has resulted in a place of high aesthetic value. Contributing to this aesthetic value is the consistency in the use of thatched roofs, the recessive nature of new interventions in terms of solid to void relationships, scale, massing, form and use of materials.

**See section D.2.3 of the draft CMP**

- iv. In the case of an historic precinct, importance for the aesthetic character created by the individual components which collectively form a significant streetscape, townscape or cultural environment.

Forming part of Vergelegen farm are the Altona and Harmonie farm complexes, which have historical significance in terms of their origins in a 1785 subdivision of the original 1700 grant to van der Stel with the historical barn being the only standing remains of the original Harmonie werf. Also, in terms of the presence of a historical route network with a north-south route connecting Vergelegen homestead and Harmonie/Altona which closely follows the original route from the homestead/outpost to the Hottentots Holland Pass. Also, in terms of a secondary north-south route which was well established in the early 20th century, situated on axis with the front gable of the main dairy building.

**See section D.2.1 of the draft CMP**

### 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

**a. It has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of natural or cultural heritage**

- i. Importance for information contributing to a wider understanding of natural or cultural history by virtue of its use as a research site, teaching site, type locality, reference or benchmark site.

Vergelegen contributes to an understanding of South Africa's natural heritage and biodiversity. It possesses rare and endangered plants within over 2000 hectares of natural vegetation recently declared a Nature Reserve with many endangered plant species occurring in localised pockets of unique vegetation.

**See section D.2.4 of the draft CMP**

- ii. Importance for information contributing to a wider understanding of the origin of the universe or of the development of the earth.

**N/A**



- iii. Importance for information contributing to a wider understanding of the origin of life; the development of plant or animal species, or the biological or cultural development of hominid or human species.

**N/A**

- iv. Importance for its potential to yield information contributing to a wider understanding of the history of human occupation of the nation, Province, region or locality.

The historic precinct has high archaeological and historical research, and educational value in terms of its ability to contribute to the understanding of South African and Cape history spanning more than 300 years including a history of slavery and labour and architectural history.

**See section D.2.4 of the draft CMP**

**b. It is important in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period**

- i. Importance for its technical innovation or achievement.

**N/A**

**4. SOCIAL VALUE**

**a. It has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons**

- i. Importance as a place highly valued by a community or cultural group for reasons of social, cultural, religious, spiritual, symbolic, aesthetic or educational associations.

The social value of Vergelegen lies in its visitor access to the historic precinct which enables the public appreciation of its high heritage value and which is further enhanced by the exhibition in the homestead on the farm's pattern of ownership and use, history of slavery.

**See section D.2.5 of the draft CMP**

- ii. Importance in contributing to a community's sense of place.

The relative ease of access to the historic precinct, and associated wine making operations enable public appreciation of the varying components of heritage value. Understanding is enhanced by the exhibition in the homestead which reveals and analyses the historical evolution of the Estate, the changing pattern of ownership and the role of slavery during the 18th and early 19th centuries.

**See section D.2.6.5 of the draft CMP**

**Degrees of Significance**

**5. RARITY:**

**a. It possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of natural or cultural heritage**

- i. Importance for rare, endangered or uncommon structures, landscapes or phenomena.

The extensive contribution to the understanding of the Cape's natural heritage, particularly with regard to the large number of rare and

endangered plant species, and tree specimens within the historic precinct, including the row of camphors in front of the homestead which date to circa 1700 and which contribute dramatically to place character.

**See section D.2.6.4 of the draft CMP**

Also of rarity value at the Cape are the archaeological remains of the three-aisled outbuildings based on the northern European vernacular design known as a loshuis / hallehuis. The circa 1780s front gable to the homestead is a rare type at the Cape with a double in-curve of mouldings.

**See section D.2.2 of the draft CMP**

- ii. Importance in demonstrating a distinctive way of life, custom, process, land-use, function or design no longer practiced in, or in danger of being lost from, or of exceptional interest to the nation, Province, region or locality.

X

Foremost is the rare use of the octagonal form at the Cape. Based on a combination of the scale, height and location at the centrepiece of the original layout of the farmstead, the octagonal walled structure represents a symbol of van der Stel's aspirations and is enduring iconic symbol of the estate. It is an early and seminal example at the Cape of a farmstead being enhanced by an 'enclosed werf' following a European tradition.

**See section D.2.2 of the draft CMP**

**6. REPRESENTIVITY:**

**a. It is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of natural or cultural places or objects**

- i. Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a range of landscapes or environments, the attributes of which identify it as being characteristic of its class.

X

As above, Vergelegen is an important representation of the Early Cape Farmsteads and evidences the characteristics of early settlement and agriculture, and more specifically viticulture in South Africa. The site is important in how it demonstrates the principal characteristics of the Cape farmstead framed against a dramatic natural landscape of exceptional aesthetic quality.

- ii. Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of human activities (including way of life, philosophy, custom, process, land-use, function, design or technique) in the environment of the nation, Province, region or locality.

X

As above, Vergelegen is particularly important example of the evolution of traditional agricultural settlements in South Africa, including the manifestation of the role of slavery and colonisation in the original development of traditional Cape farms in the late 17th and 18th century onwards. It also clearly demonstrates the strong and tangible link between the impact of human activities and settlement in framing the cultural landscape of the Cape Winelands.

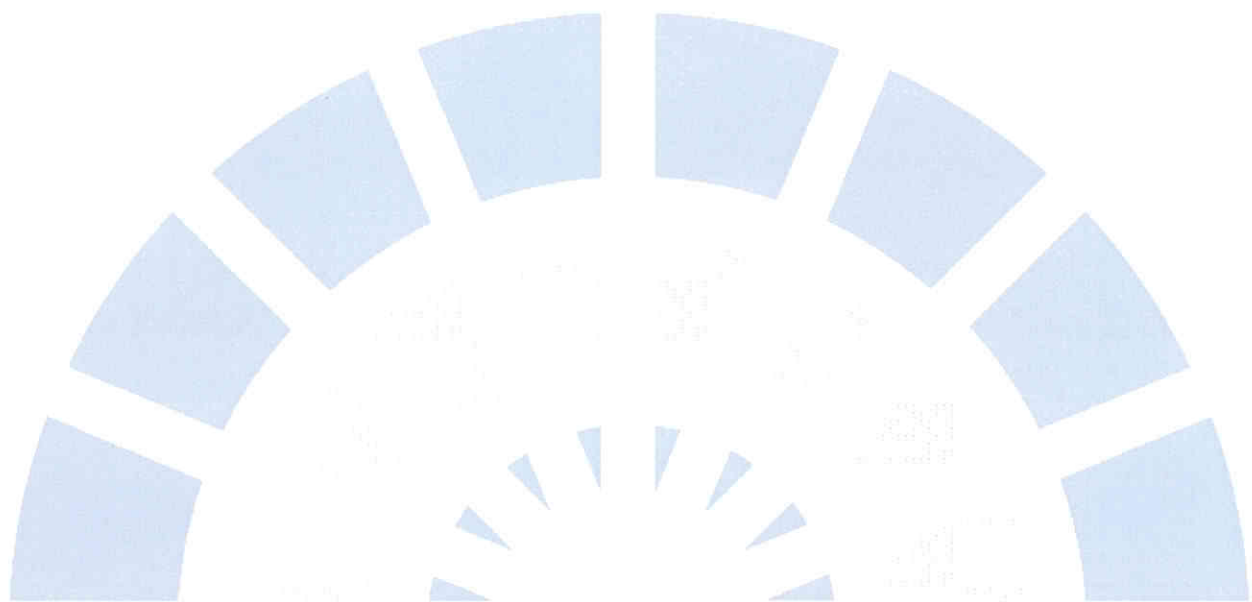
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Date: 24 April 2019



**PLEASE NOTE:**

Applications are considered to be public documents and are open to public scrutiny. Should you wish your application to be kept confidential, please motivate your request on a separate sheet.



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Erfenis  
Heritage