

### **An Ancient Construction Method**

A portion of clay wall found here, is the oldest constructed fabric at Diamant. It dates to c.1700. It was built in an age-old building method whereby layers of clay are laid on with a spade to a thickness of about 30 cm. Once a layer has half-dried, it is scraped smooth on its sides. Once completely dry, another 30 cm layer is applied on top. White washing is used to weather proof the walls. These walls are often built directly on the ground, or with very shallow stone foundations.

Very few of these early constructions remain, and no complete buildings. A remnant portion is sometimes found, encapsulated in a later structure, such as here. This construction method was commonly used by the early European settlers, as it was a method used for millennia in Europe, transported to the Cape Colony.

(Historical Survey and Structural & Archaeological Investigations of the Historic Buildings of Diamant, 2010)