

Granite Quarry

Paarl granite was mined at Diamant farm for over 40 years. Paarl Granite Quarry (Pty) Ltd operated the quarry from the 1950's until about 2000. The company was under the leadership of Piet Muller and his father. Their workshop, Jacobs & Muller Grafsteenwerke, was located in Paarl.

Large blocks of granite (weighing between one and seven tons) were cut from the groove. These were used as building materials and for the manufacture of grave stones. After cutting, the waste material was transported back to the quarry where it was crushed, and sold as aggregate. The Paarl Taal monument was built out of in-situ cast concrete, utilising crushed granite from Diamant Farm's quarry. The company exported granite to Germany and Japan, and locally their granite was used in projects such as: The Golden Acre, Shell House and external works at the Parliament in Cape Town, various First National Bank buildings (including in Strand), and the Paarl municipal building on Berg River Boulevard.

The company undertook rehabilitation work on the quarry site and environs, and planted many indigenous trees in the area during the 1970's and 80's, so that no scarring is visible on the mountain side.

Some remnant tools (rigs, etc.) remain in the quarry area. Large pieces of cut granite can also be found lying in the area. Some of which were used in the building works and gardening during the restoration project.