

Remains of an early clay building (c.1700), kraal (c.1800) and labourer's cottage (c.1850)

A remnant of a c.1685-1700 construction, clay wall of 3.1m long x 2.1m high x 35cm wide was found encapsulated in a later structure. It is built up in layers of 22-28cm of yellow clays found on the farm. It was constructed without any stone foundations. Due to its height, it probably formed part of an earlier building.

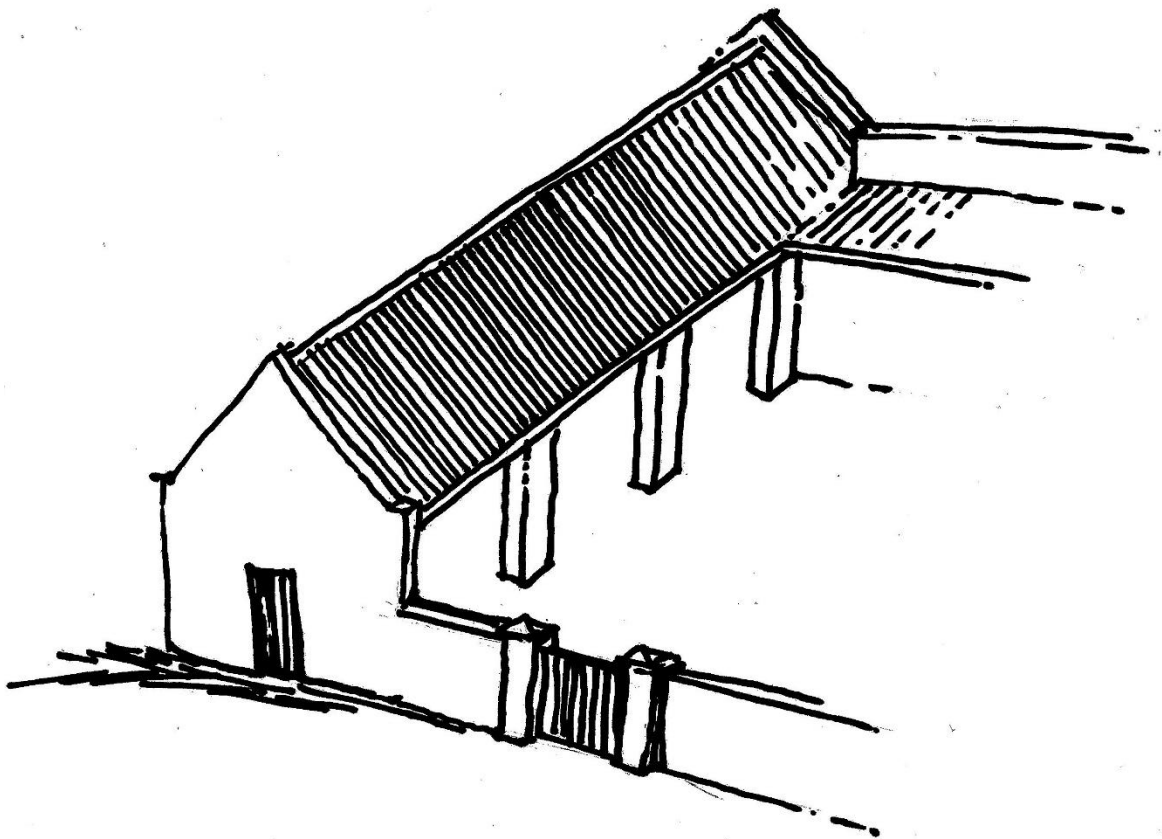
A 7m portion of 1800s wall construction remain of an earlier kraal wall and cottage. The 1.5m plinth portion of the wall (40cm thick) dates to c.1800 and had a shaped top, as of a kraal wall. There is a wide gateway opening giving access from the lower wagon road. The upper portion of wall is thinner (30cm) and date to c.1850, and represents an earlier cottage with a hearth. These walls are of a medium fired brick in orange mortars, with old lime or cement plaster.

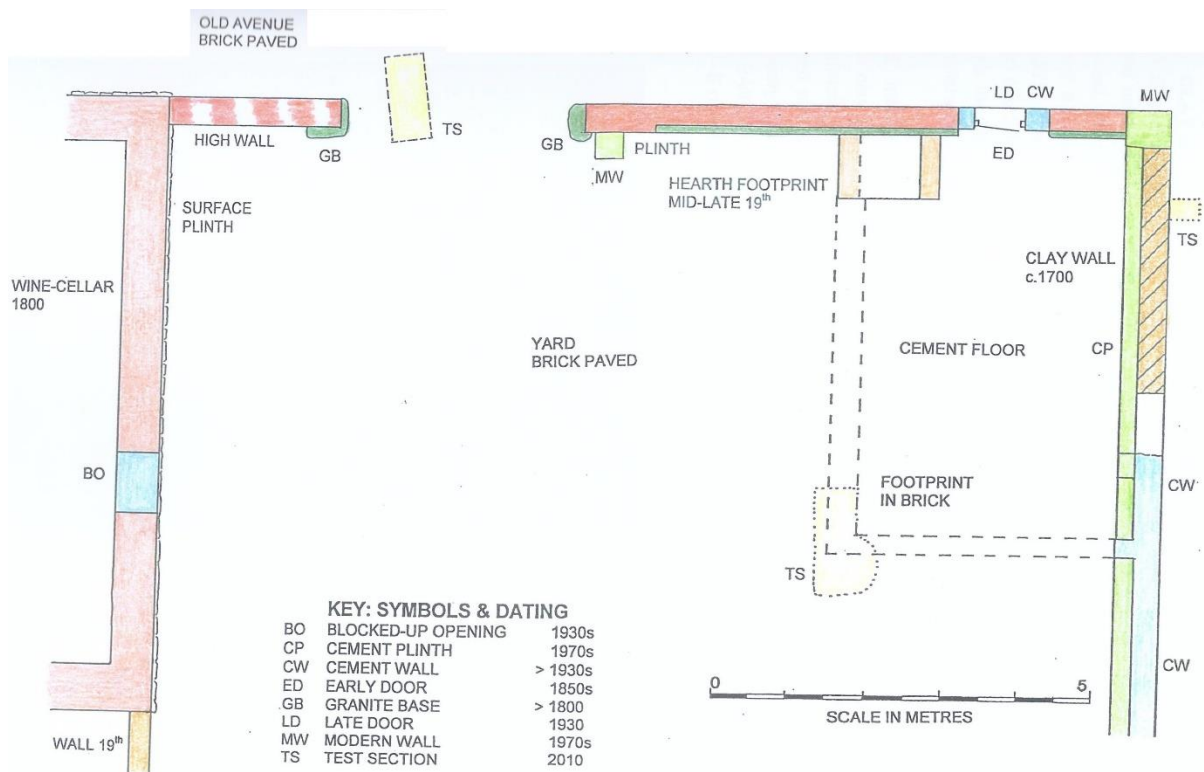
A single column c.1790-1800 was found remaining in the old kraal. It was of the same construction as the columns at the Southern Barn. It has collapsed since.

All this remaining old fabric was enclosed in new plaster and infill brickwork, and now forms part of the roofed outside space at the Northern end of "The Venue." The gateway from the courtyard to the old wagon road below was kept. The building has been reconstructed to fill in the gaps (such as the columns, roof and gables) and has been given a simple long form which approximates the scale, placement and form of the earlier building.

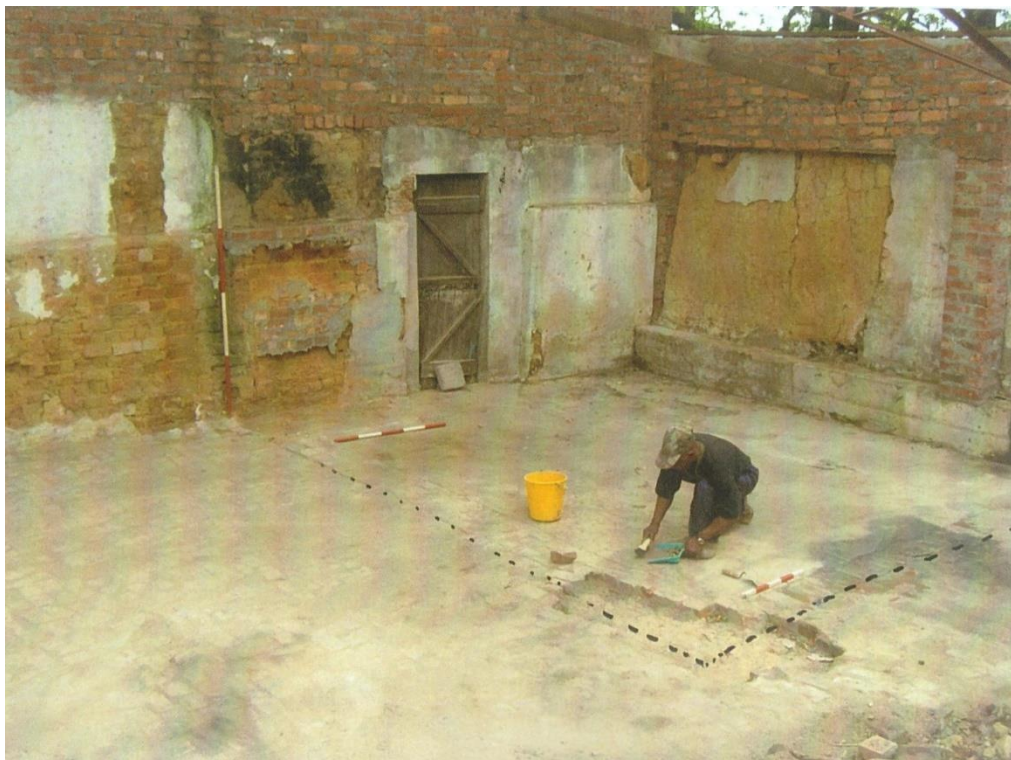
Reference: Archaeological findings:

Vos, Hennie; 2010, Diamant Farmyards No700/1279 Agter Paarl Historical Survey and Structural and Archaeological Investigations of the Historic Buildings; Unpublished.



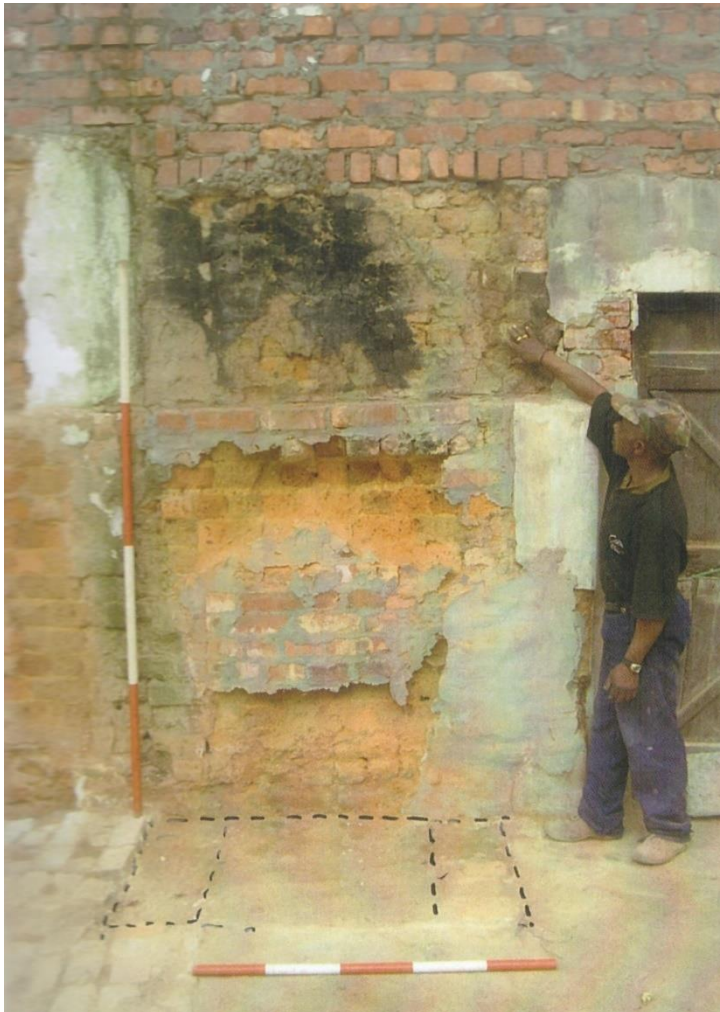


Archaeological Analysis and dating of fabric, by Hennie Vos.



Archaeologist's assistant at work in a section of the covered outside space of "The Venue" (most northern corner) which would have been an earlier cottage (note the soot from the kitchen chimney) with the oldest portion of wall on the farm in yellow clay behind him. This piece of wall is

constructed directly out of clay (rammed/ layered construction), and not built from formed and dried clay bricks and mortar.



Archaeologist's assistant indicating the remains of a fire place that was discovered here.



The oldest piece of wall on the farm, which dates to c1685-1700, was constructed with layers of compacted clay. This wall was covered in fresh plaster during the renovation, and is preserved in position.



Prior to the reconstruction of a long building with a pitched roof and courtyard space north of “The Venue”, this area had been altered significantly in modern times. The historic building remains found were part of a barn, kraal and cottage. In this photo one can still see the last of what would have been a row of square columns, of the same construction as those at “The Barn.” This column had collapsed prior to the restoration project. All columns present in this location today are reconstructions.