

“The Venue” – Historically a Wine Cellar

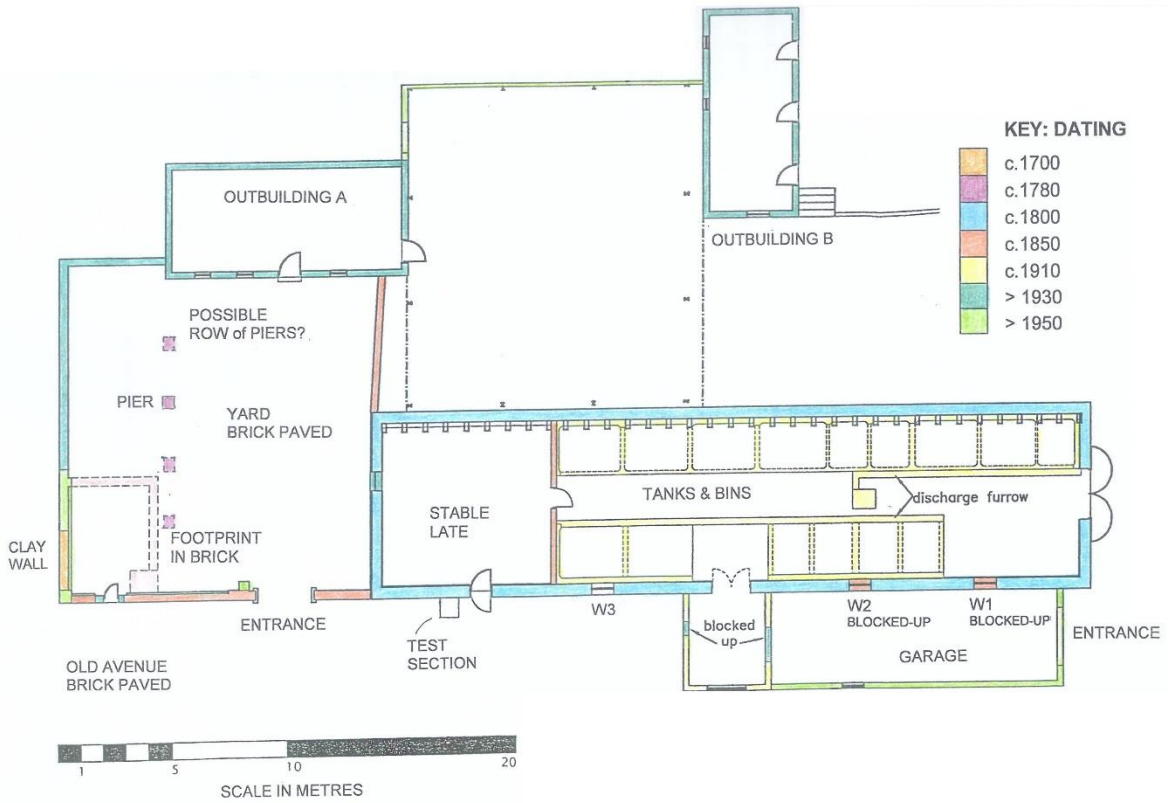
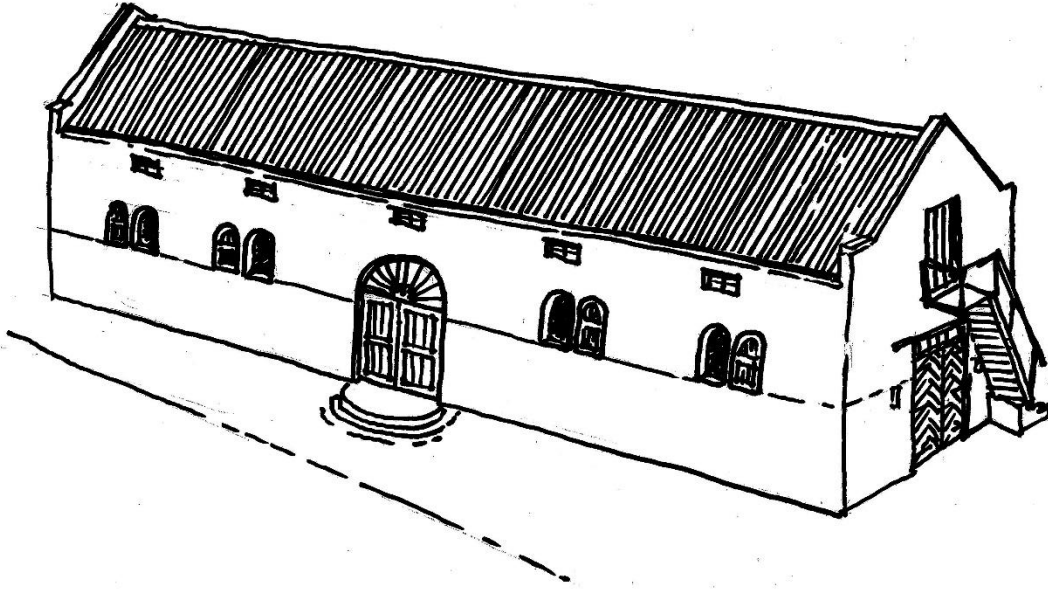
This large building was erected specifically for wine-making activities, such as grape pressing and wine storage. It originally had a thatched roof which burnt down in the late 19th century. The roof was replaced with cast-iron corrugated sheeting, and the clerestory walls built up, with ventilation slits, to accommodate the new lower roof pitch. It is likely that the building originally had decorative end- and front gables. The walls of this building are supported on slate/hornfels* foundations of 66cm depth (with 10cm above surface). The walls are constructed of fired orange bricks which vary in height from 75-80mm, with yellow-ochre-like clay mortar, and grey lime plaster. The northern end gable has interesting old features, such as cross-shaped wall anchors, and a bricked-up old loft-access.



*Slate is a fine-grained, foliated, homogeneous metamorphic rock derived from an original shale-type sedimentary rock composed of clay or volcanic ash through low-grade regional metamorphism. (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/slate> 2021-09-08)

Hornfels is a group name for a set of contact metamorphic rocks that have been baked and hardened by the heat of intrusive igneous masses and have been rendered massive, hard, splintery and in some cases exceedingly tough and durable. (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/hornfels> 2021-09-08)

Reference: Archaeological findings: Hennie Vos: Historical Survey and Structural & Archaeological Investigations of the Historic Buildings of Diamant, 2010.



Archaeological Analysis and dating of fabric, by Hennie Vos.