

"The Manor House" - Southern Homestead c.1750-1821

The homestead underwent four development phases between c.1750 to 1821. The back wing dates slightly earlier (c.1750) than the front portions. (c.1770) The first dwelling would have been a simple rectangular structure with hipped end gables, while the full H-plan was complete by 1770.

Additional internal divisions were made around 1800 to 1810. The 'Cape Georgian' style features were added in 1820/21 (Gables ornamentation, doors and windows).

Interesting Features of the house:

Gables:

The front gable is dated 1821. It has a palm tree on the pediment, which comes from the Dutch Reformed Church's emblem and seal which has a similar Palm tree. ("The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree" Psalm 92:12) The mouldings on the gables appear sharp and some of them may have been remoulded in the 1970s.

The back gable is a 2010 reconstruction. The original gable collapsed around the turn of the 20th century, and was lost due to water damage.

An earlier chimney stack can be discerned by soot blackened brickwork on inside of the kitchen end-gable (in the loft space).

Timber elements:

The yellowwood beams and ceilings are contemporaneous, imprints of earlier internal division walls can be seen on them.

Fine, rounded beading details are found on all beams (typical to c.1790-1810)

The lintels all have 18th century quarter round beading; and early olive green to grass green lead paint residue.

The hearth beam, in the kitchen, has rounded beading as per the ceiling beams.

The original 1820 eight-panelled front doors were found in the loft and reinstated.

Brickwork:

The back wing of the house has older brickwork than the front. The interior of the end-gables, which are un-plastered in the loft, has long thin orange bricks (220x70mm) laid in Flemish bond, which date to c.1770.

Roof:

The timber framework of the roof for the full H-plan, appears to all date from the same period. The timber trusses have wooden peg fastenings. The loft had a 'brandsolder' of clay tiles, in a fairly unique format. It has been replaced with lightweight concrete due to dust shedding. Clay lofts were a fire protection measure to spare the lower house from destruction.

Phased development of the "Manor House":

Phase 1: 1750s

The back wing formed an earlier 3-4 room dwelling, possibly built by owner, Hauman, in the 1750s. It would have been a simple thatched dwelling with hipped end-gables.

Dating by archaeologist, Hennie Vos, is based on the following aspects found: relieving arches in brickwork above openings, grey mortars of the bricks (although yellow and brown are also present), great colour variety in brickwork due to different firing methods, flat brick of 70mm, standardised 53cm walls, 2.9m wall height according to government regulations at the time, double and single casement windows, and quarter round beading on lintels.

Phase 2: 1770s

The full H-plan was completed around 1770-1775. End-gables were built. These may have been in the 'Cape Dutch' style, or as simple chimney ends. Owner, Kleinhans may have made these changes; this is deduced from the information regarding the sale to Lüttig, which lists thatching, roof timbers and lime. The value of the farm had also doubled at that point.

Phase 3: 1800

Owner, Botha, invested a large sum of money in the farm during the transition period from Dutch-Batavian to British government. Soot-remains on the old fabric, as well as a deficit in sales prices between 1793-1800, perhaps indicate a fire to the building during that time, and Botha's partial reconstruction during that transitional period, gives an architectural manifestation to the times, in its 'Georgian Cape Dutch' form.

British influence can be found in the doors which are double leaved and 6 & 8 panelled, as well as in the narrow hallway, In the new timber (deal) architrave surrounds, and vertical doors in the hallway, and the very tall proportion of the western fenestration. Dutch influence can be found in the (re)use of quarter round mould lintels, and the use of teak for some doors. The screen between the entrance and the middle room (since removed), was solid above, and had 3 doors below, is was a Dutch-British hybrid element. The green paint found on timber elements are from the Dutch tradition. The Cape Dutch style was retained at the back wing of the house.

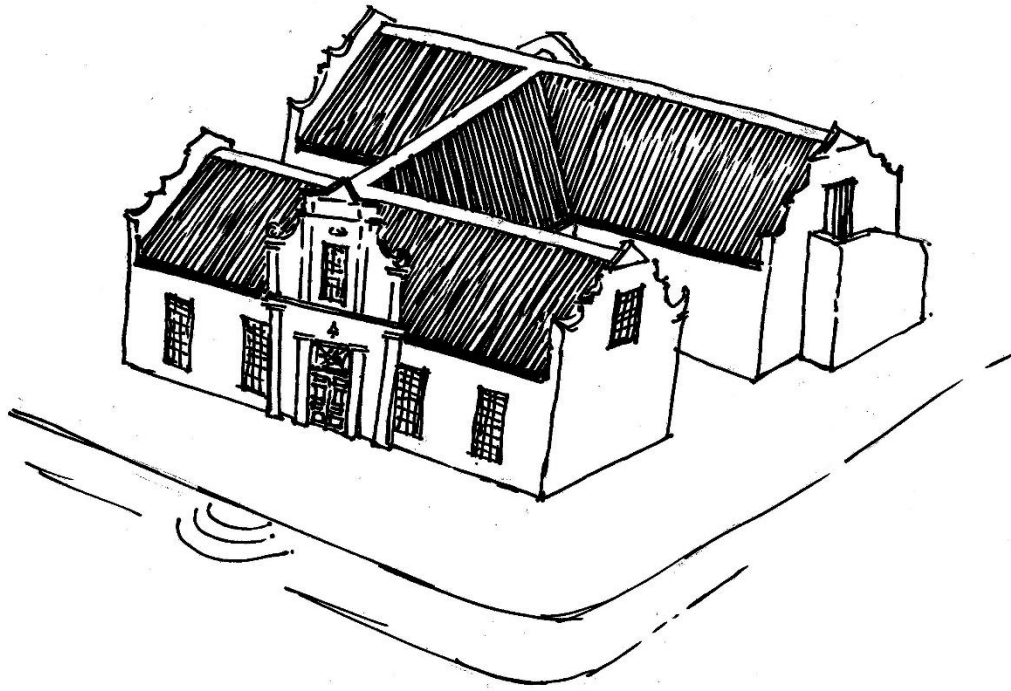
Phase 4: 1810-1820

Owner, Jan S de Villiers, made a number of alterations to the house. The most notable changes were the gables, that were transformed from the older 'Cape Dutch' style to 'neo-classical' elements, above the thatch line. He installed an eight panelled front door with a timber architrave in a pilaster motif surround. Other changes include internal wall divisions in order to accommodate his very large family, and strangely, and for an unknown reason, the blocking up of all the back façade openings.

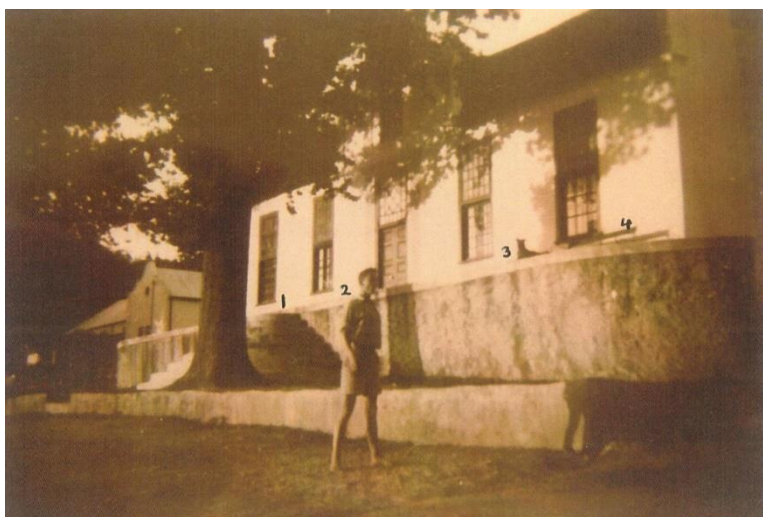
(Reference: Archaeologist, Hennie Vos: Historical Survey and Structural & Archaeological Investigations of the Historic Buildings of Diamant, 2010)

Store Outbuilding behind Manor House - L.1700s/E.1800s

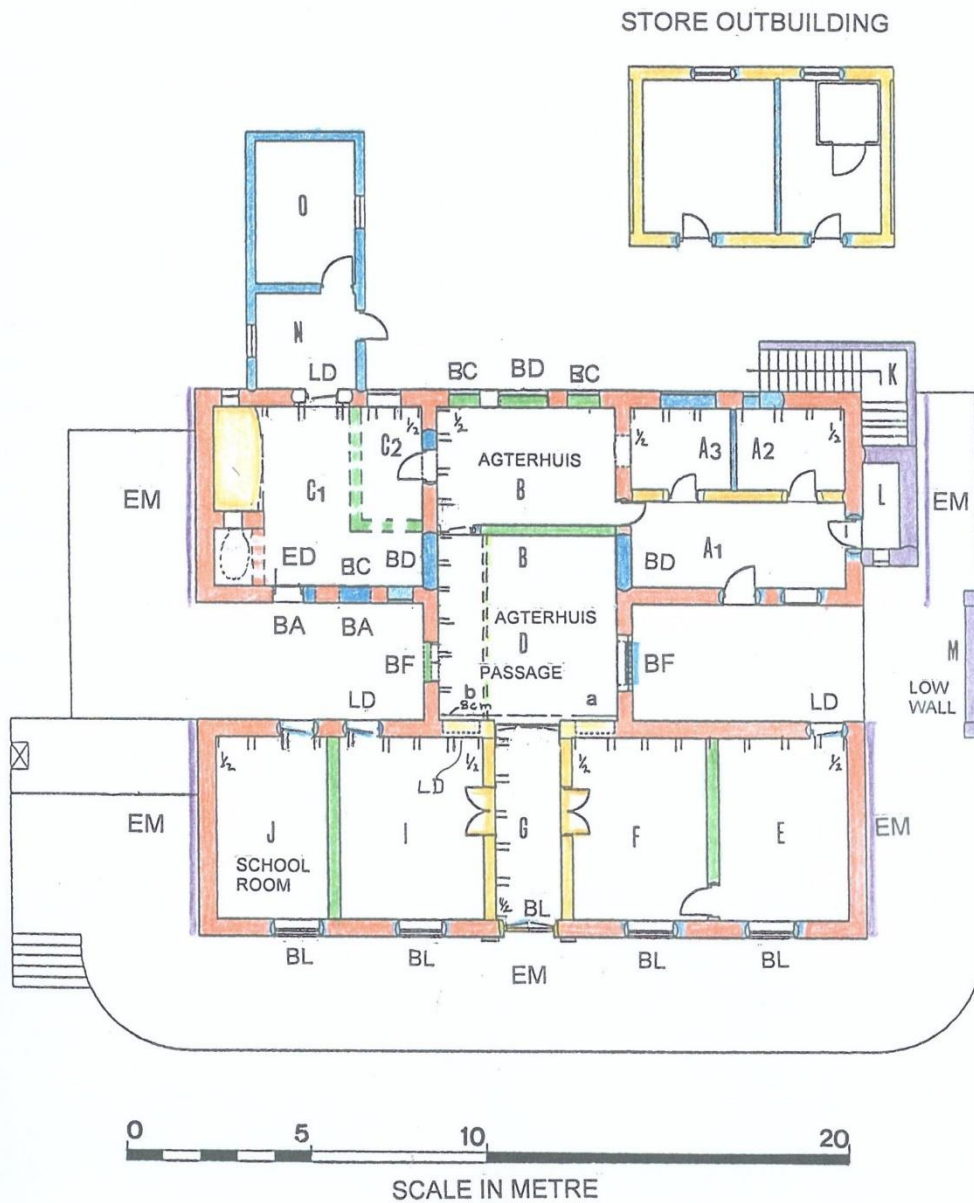
The walls of this small outbuilding are only 380mm thick and built on a 600mm high stone base. It possibly housed labourers or servants in earlier times. More recently it was a fire wood storage building.



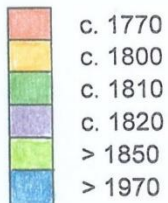
Photograph of the Manor House dating to c1964. (Fransen & Cook 1965)



Small (6x8cm) photograph (taken before 1965) of the Manor House (courtesy of D. & J. Hugo, 2010)



KEY: DATING



KEY SYMBOLS

BA	BLOCKED-UP ARCH
BD	BLOCKED-UP DOOR
BC	BLOCKED-UP CASEMENT
BL	BLOCKED-P LINTEL
BF	BLOCKED-UP FANLIGHT
EM	ENDGABLE MOULDING
ED	EARLY DOOR
LD	LATER DOOR

Archaeological Analysis and dating of fabric, by Hennie Vos, 2010.



Original roof timbers have been conserved.



The tiled clay blocks forming the “brandsolder” on the ceiling, as fire proofing for the house below.