

# The Development of the Farm

The farmlands in the Boland were reached via a wagon route from the settlement at the Castle of Good Hope in Table Bay. The distance was such that the journey lasted several days, with the need to camp out and overnight along the route, in areas that later became known as 'outspannen'. The wagon routes became structuring elements in the landscape that somewhat loosely translated into modern road networks later. The wagon route connecting the Agter-Paarl farms, branches out from the old Cape Town/Paarl route (Ou Paarl Pad) in about the vicinity of Simonsvlei, and travels uphill to Diamant and from there along the contour along the mid-slopes of the back of Paarl Mountain, where it led directly from one farm werf to the next. It is still visible today, albeit as a somewhat hidden layer of the cultural landscape, in the position and form of the various farmyards and the mature trees (mostly oak) which are located linearly along the mountain slope. A route such as this is known in Afrikaans as a "wa pad" or wagon road. Diamant's flagship red wine is named after this.

Diamant farm werf is a group of seven historic buildings, arranged in a linear formation in a mature oak tree setting. The linear werf typology is typical of farms along a through-road, a river, a steep contour, or other such linear constraint. In this instance, the historic 'wapad' was the major influence and generator of form.

The werf developed over a long time period, and the stages of development are related to the succession of owners, corresponding to- and influenced by their prosperity, farming practices, and cultural traditions, as well as to the local conditions, such as the natural landscape and the availability of materials.

Archival research, done by Ms Dicey du Toit in 2007, have revealed five major stages of development on the werf, on to which is added the sixth, restoration phase. The stages of development are a deduction of the information gathered from births and baptism dates, death notices, tax returns, auctions, deeds of transfer and surveyors' drawings, as well as fabric analysis done on site by specialist heritage architect, Johan Malherbe, and archaeologist, Hennie Vos. The first five stages

that are discussed below are therefore an interpretation of the available information. It should be noted that the earliest phases of development offer almost no physical fabric for analysis. Certain types of structures, that are less permanent, are notional and exact placement is speculative, others may have been incorporated into later structures. The archival research gives clues regarding the use of structures on site at certain points in time. Uses of buildings also do change over time, and buildings were often physically altered to better serve new purposes. This combination of factors creates grey areas in the analysis, and leaves it open to informed interpretation.