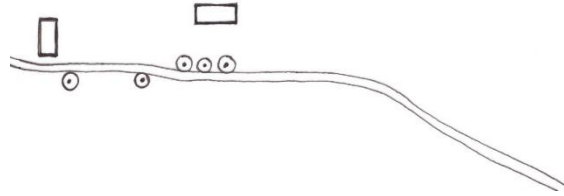


The Development of the Farm

FIRST PHASE OF DEVELOPMENT - PIONEER WERF



The farm was originally granted to Coenraad Cloete in 1693 by Simon Van der Stell, governor at the Cape of Good Hope. Cloete had begun farming the land in 1692. The first farmer settlers arrived from Europe with very little material possessions, and upon receiving a wild piece of land, had to create shelter and provide in their most basic needs from what was available to them locally. The most basic needs were the housing of the family, housing of slaves, and protection of any animals owned, such as horses, donkeys, mules, cattle, sheep, goats, chickens, etc.

The first dwelling on Diamant would have been a simple flat-roofed, rectangular longhouse built out of clay. This type of dwelling (known as a *Pioniershuis*) was usually so hurriedly constructed that it was later replaced by better, more permanent and larger dwelling structures, or if it was of sound construction, incorporated into larger dwellings. Although this building could not be identified on site with absolute certainty, archival records suggest that Cloete may have had a dwelling with two bedrooms and a kitchen. The remnant wall (which is the oldest portion of wall on the farm) located in outside covered space of the current “The Venue”, may represent a portion of the first house, or it may have been a part of a first barn. It is also possible that the original *pioniershuis* was incorporated into the larger northern dwelling house (today named “The Pioneer House”). Fabric analysis and site measurements reveal an older core building with much thicker walls within this structure. It also may have been incorporated into the back wing of the “Manor House”.

The first outbuilding on the werf was a barn with a kraal wall. This building likely served to house both the slaves and protect the animals. The first barn may have been constructed at the northern

end of the werf. This is not the same structure as “The Barne” on the southern end of the werf, but was located north of what is now “The Venue”.

Cloete owned the farm for 11 years until his death in 1704. For the next two decades the farm was owned by farmers who had their primary farms on neighbouring land grants of the 1690s. Diamant was used for additional grazing and grain fields. No further werf development is evident under their ownership. These were Johann Schöpping (1704) who also owned Hoogstede, Brandenburg and another farm also named Diamant; and Andreas (Andries) Krügel (1713) who also owned Blomkool.