

FROM WAARBURG TO MATJIESKUIL: INVESTIGATING AN OLD CAPE FARM

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Van Waarburg tot Matjieskuil: 'n ondersoek na 'n ou Kaapse plaas

Probleme en wanopvattinge ontstaan telkens rondom ou Kaapse plase, as gevolg van veronderstellings en afleidings wat gemaak word na aanleiding van huidige plaasname. Die wyse waarop plase onderverdeel of vergroot is en die belangrike saak watter deel die oorspronklike naam dra en geboue huisves, lei dikwels tot hierdie probleme. In dié artikel word die plaas Matjieskuil, geleë in die distrik Paarl, as 'n gevallestudie gebruik om die gevaar van ongegronde afleidings uit te wys, maar ook om aan te dui watter rykdom inligting met die ontginning van argivale bronne blootgelê kan word. Die artikel fokus op die eienaarskap van die plaas en die argitektuur van die herehuis, as deel van die totale geskiedenis van die plaas Matjieskuil, voorheen bekend as Waarburg. Die grond is in 1701 vir die eerste keer uitgegee aan Hercules van Loon, wat dit Waarburg genoem het. Sedertdien het die opeenvolging van eienaars, die wisseling in die grootte van die plaas, die boerderybedrywighede en die geskiedenis van die geboue op die eiendom 'n verhaal vertel wat tipies is van die nedersetting aan en ontwikkeling van die Kaap die Goeie Hoop.

Sleutelterme: gewels, gronduitgifte, Kaaps-Hollandse boukuns, Kaapse plase, Matjieskuil, oordrag-aktes, Waarburg

From Waarburg to Matjieskuil: investigating an old Cape farm

Problems and misconceptions with regard to old Cape farms are often the result of assumptions made on the basis of the present names of those farms. The way farms are divided and added to and the crucial matter of which part contains the original name and the original buildings, result in these problems. In this article an investigation of the farm Matjieskuil, situated in the district of Paarl, serves as a case study to illustrate the danger of assumptions, but it also illustrates the wealth of information

that can be exposed when archival sources are scrutinised. The focus of the article is on the ownership of the farm and the architecture of the manor house, as part of the total history of the farm Matjieskuil, previously known as Waarburg. The land was granted to Hercules van Loon in 1701, who called the farm Waarburg. Since then the sequence of owners, the variation of the size of the land, the farming activities and the history of buildings on the property have formed a story typical of the settlement at, and development of the Cape of Good Hope.

Keywords: Cape Dutch architecture, Cape farms, gables, land grants, Matjieskuil, transfer deeds, Waarburg

Research problem and methodology

The history of old farms and farmsteads in the Western Cape often unveils a large volume of information on the general cultural history of the early days of colonisation. Information on farming activities, the economic development of the colony and mere lists of subsequent owners are themes expected to be covered by a historical survey. A thorough investigation into a single farm can, however, reveal far more about early colonial life: an intricate network of the ownership of more farms in the area, family ties between owners, relationships between neighbours and family members, attitudes amongst farmers, officials and slaves, the changing of the size and form of the original land grant, and critical information on the tangible and intangible culture of the farm.

For the benefit of Cultural History it is therefore worthwhile to analyse the ownership of a specific property together with the tangible and intangible culture that was created on that farm. Problems and misconceptions that arise today with regard to these properties are often the result of assumptions made on the basis of the present name of the farm. The way farms are divided and added to and the crucial matter of which part contains the original name and the original buildings, lead to these problems. An investigation into the cultural history of the farm today known as Matjieskuil, illustrates this phenomenon. The focus of this article is on the ownership of the farm and the architecture of the manor house, as part of the total history of this farm, previously known as Waarburg.

The most important sources for any historical research are the relevant primary sources, in this case documentation in the Deeds Office, Cape Town and the Western Cape Archives Repository, as well as structures, which comprise the buildings on the property. Secondary sources are also invaluable and in this respect the most useful sources were the books of Fransen, *A guide to the old buildings of the Cape* (2004), Fransen & Cook, *The old houses of the Cape* (1965) and the *South African Genealogies*,

vols 1-5, compiled by Heese & Lombard (1986-1999). In the analysis of information one of the most important guidelines in cultural historical research, namely the holistic approach was followed: to read and interpret all information within a wider context and realising the connections and associations between the various facets of culture that were discovered.

Introduction

The present farm Matjieskuil, situated in the district of Paarl, Western Cape Province, has a long history. The land was granted to Hendrik van Loon in 1701, who called the farm Waarburg. Since then the sequence of owners, the variation of the size of the land, the farming activities and the history of buildings on the property have formed a story typical of the settlement at, and development of the Cape of Good Hope. These stories are however never quite the same and Waarburg has its own distinctive tale. Presently the old manor house at Matjieskuil serves as a five star guest house, called Hawksmoor. It was renovated and converted in 2004 by the latest owner, Mark Borrie.

Historical background

Prior to the settlement of free burghers in this region of the Cape of Good Hope, the land was inhabited by the Khoi-Khoi. According to a map in the publication *Buiteposte* by Dan Sleight (**Figure 1**), the specific area where Waarburg was situated, was probably occupied by the Gorachouqua tribe.¹ Another map points this group (here spelt *Gourachouqua*) out as part of the so-called “Peninsulars”, inhabiting the wider Peninsula area together with the Goringhaiqua and the Goringhaicona.² The map of Elphick & Giliomee indicates that the Peninsulars roamed the area just south of Saldanha Bay southwards towards the Peninsula and eastwards towards Klappmuts.³

In 1652 the Dutch East India Company (Vereenigde Oost Indische Compagnie or VOC) started a refreshment station at the Cape, which only became a colony when land was granted to the first free burghers in 1657.

By 1683 the VOC experienced problems at the outpost of Hottentots-Holland where between 30 and 40 cattle died each month, apparently due to unhealthy grazing. Governor Simon van der Stel had to look for new pastures and found grazing near Klappmuts, halfway between Stellenbosch and the later Paarl. The name ‘Clappmuts’

¹ D. Sleight, *Die Buiteposte* (Cape Town, 1993), p. 145.

² H. Giliomee & B. Mbenga, *The new history of South Africa* (Cape Town, 2007), p. 20.

³ R. Elphick & H. Giliomee, *The shaping of South African society, 1652-1820* (London, 1979).

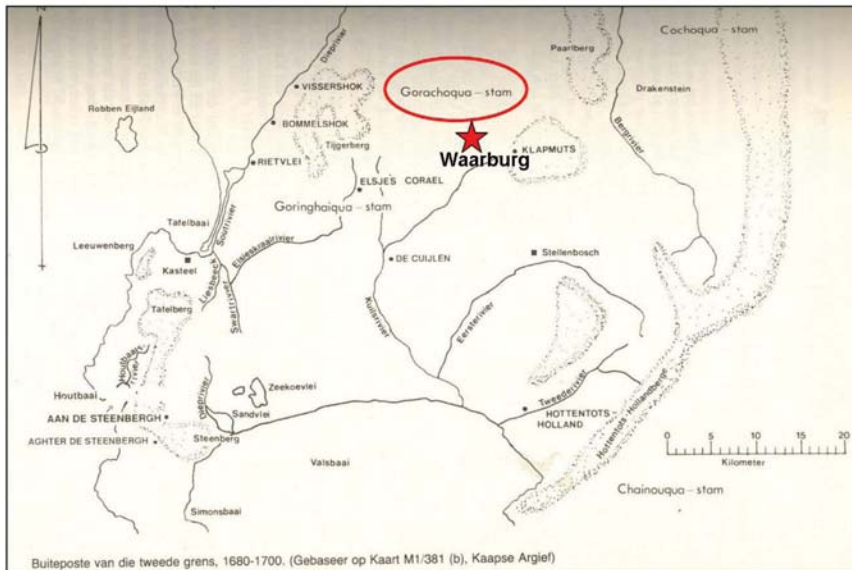


Figure 1: Map showing the grazing area of the Gorachoquas and indicating the location of the farm Waarburg

(From: D. Sleight, *Die Buiteposte* (Cape Town, 1993), p. 145)

is derived from the Dutch word for the head-dress worn by 17th century Dutch farm women and referred to the hills in the vicinity.⁴

The outpost at Elsjes Corael (Elsieskraal) in the Tygerberg was established in the early 1680s. After 1686 the free burghers, who already had land on loan in the vicinity, were asked to move away to make the land available to the VOC.⁵ From about 1690 onwards land was granted to free burghers further eastwards,⁶ between Elsieskraal and Clapmuts. This is the region where the farm Waarburg, later Matjieskuil, lies.

The way in which this specific area between the present Durbanville, Clapmuts and Stellenbosch became inhabited by settlers, was therefore a result of grazing problems at the Hottentots-Holland outpost and Company (VOC) development (which implies expansion and therefore confirmation of the policy of colonisation) at the Elsieskraal outpost. The fact that the area was previously roamed by the Gorachoqua or Peninsulars, meant that these tribes had to move elsewhere in search of grazing.

⁴ D. Sleight, *Buiteposte* (1993), p. 197.

⁵ D. Sleight, *Buiteposte* (1993), p. 170.

⁶ C.M. Stimie, *Durbanville – drie eeue van wellewendheid* (no place, 2006), p. 6.

Cultural historical context

Nationalities at the Cape

For the early period of VOC rule at the Cape there were four categories of inhabitants, namely Khoi-Khoi and San, Company servants, free burghers and slaves. The servants of the VOC were soldiers, sailors, artisans and ship's doctors (*chirurgyns*). In 1685 the number of Company servants totalled 332,⁷ but gradually many other immigrants came to the Cape and settled here.

Because the VOC was a Dutch company and the Dutch set the trends in most facets of society, the perception developed that they outnumbered all other nationalities by far. In fact there were far more Germans at the Cape in the Dutch period. In 1762 the *secundus* at the Cape, Jan Willem Cloppenburg, made the comment that he did not like the large-scale employment of foreigners in the Company, but at the same time he had to admit that these foreigners were indispensable because of the *luiheid en min applicatie onder haar eygen natie* (the laziness and lack of dedication amongst his own nation).⁸ Giliomee confirms the fact that most European immigrants of the 18th century were Germans. Most of them arrived as single men, being sailors or soldiers.⁹ JA Heese has calculated that the "blood composition" of the Afrikaner at the beginning of the Second British Occupation consisted of 36 % Dutch, 35 % German, 14 % French and the rest made up of all other nationalities, including Khoi-Khoi and slaves.¹⁰ The majority of the owners of Waarburg/Matjieskuil were also of German descent.

The statement of Giliomee & Mbenga that the Cape was a multi-racial and multi-lingual city, even early in the 18th century,¹¹ is confirmed by the observation of the Dutch reverend and traveller Francois Valentyn who visited the Cape in the late 17th and early 18th century. He wrote: ... *all nations are found here, Dutch, English, French, Germans from all parts, Savoyards, Italians, Hungarians, Malays, Malabaris, Sinhalese, Macassar-folk, Banians, Amboinese, Bandanese, Buginese, Chinese, men of Madagascar, Angolese, inhabitants of Guinea and the Salt Islands...*¹²

⁷ A.D. Biewenga, *De Kaap de Goede hoop. Een Nederlandse vestigingskolonie, 1680-1730* (Amsterdam, 1999), p. 22.

⁸ G.J.P. Trümpelmann, *Die Duitse bydrae tot die ontwikkeling van Suid-Afrika*, in P. de V. Pienaar (red.), *Kultuurgeskiedenis van die Afrikaner*, hers. uitg. (Cape Town, 1968), p. 45.

⁹ H. Giliomee, *Anderkant die sandvlakte*, in H. Giliomee & B Mbenga: *The new history of South Africa* (2007), p. 60.

¹⁰ J.A. Heese, *Die herkoms van die Afrikanervolk* in P.W. Grobbelaar (red.), *Mens en land* (Cape Town, 1974), p. 52.

¹¹ H. Giliomee & B. Mbenga: *The new history of South Africa* (2007), p. 48.

¹² F. Valentyn, *Description of the Cape of Good Hope with the matters concerning it*, I (Cape Town, 1971), p. 171.

Land grants

From the outset the Company's policy towards the free burghers was aimed at benefiting the Company and not the burghers themselves. Apparently Van Riebeeck was of the opinion that the burghers had to be thankful for their freedom, and therefore their own interests should be secondary to those of the Company. The Company had first claim to all their products, including wheat, wine and meat, which led to the impoverishment of the farmers.¹³ Burghers were forced to move further away from the Cape, as their live-stock increased and the need for food in a growing colony increased. In turn the Company was forced to grant more and more land. *If it had been up to the VOC, Huigen writes, the colony would have remained confined to a small part of the Western Cape [...] The intention was to appropriate no more land than was necessary to provide the ships calling in Table Bay with food. However, after 1657 the VOC needed the help of independent colonists to achieve this goal [...] These colonists caused the colony to expand further, especially in an eastern direction.*¹⁴

Because the VOC could no longer retain their original reluctance to expand the colony, the free burgher population had grown considerably since the beginning of the 18th century. The new land grants that were made in this period, usually consisted of about 60 morgen.¹⁵ Amongst these were for example Kromme Rhee, Simonsvlei, Muldersvlei, Hazendal and Groenfontein,¹⁶ all lying to the north of Stellenbosch. It is therefore not surprising that the original grant of Waarburg, just a little further north but still within the district of Stellenbosch, also comprised 60 morgen.

Architectural styles

The European architectural style in which Jan van Riebeeck and his contemporaries were schooled, was the Renaissance-Classicism. Consequently that was the style that they brought to the southern point of Africa in 1652. But the buildings erected during the first six decades at the Cape did not survive, therefore it is very difficult to determine exactly what they looked like. There are a few pictorial sources that help a little, but sadly no tangible evidence remained.

¹³ H. Giliomee & B. Mbenga: *The new history of South Africa* (2007), p. 48.

¹⁴ S. Huigen, *Knowledge and colonialism: eighteenth-century travellers in South Africa* (Leiden, 2009), p. 10.

¹⁵ A.D. Biewenga, *De Kaap de Goede hoop. Een Nederlandse vestigingskolonie, 1680-1730* (1999), pp. 22 – 23.

¹⁶ H. Franssen & M. Cook, *The old houses of the Cape* (Cape Town, 1965), pp. 78, 81, 83, 76, 69, 76.

The Baroque style had already started developing in Europe by the 1650s, but was too young at that stage to be transplanted to a new continent. It took a number of decades before the small community at the Cape of Good Hope became aware of this new overwhelming style that took Europe by storm and reigned for almost a century. By the time that the Cape farmers introduced Baroque elements in their gabled houses, the Rococo style had already replaced Baroque sentiments in Europe. At the Cape the two styles were seen as complementary and were often used simultaneously in gable designs.

At the Cape the initial features of Baroque were very simple and a lot less complicated and decorative than in Europe. The first gables designed in this style round about 1760, are today known as simple Baroque *holbol* (concave/convex) and consist of curved elements divided by horizontal or vertical steps. Later in the 18th century the style became more decorative and heavy in design and displayed thick, strong profiled mouldings and extensive decorations on the tympanum (the flat field or face of the gable).

From the mid 1770s Rococo elements, especially the fluent S-form, also called an ogee, had influenced the Baroque outlines of the gable. A few gables that are predominantly Rococo are found at the Cape and Barry Biermann claims them to be a unique Cape contribution to gables, as they were not really found in Europe or elsewhere.¹⁷ He does however admit that they were very seldom pure Rococo.¹⁸

In c 1790 the Neo-Classical style was introduced at the Cape and for almost a hundred years gables were designed in one or other version of the Cape Neo-Classical style. The style manifested itself in gables with small triangular pediments on top and sometimes two, but mostly four pilasters on the tympanum. The outlines often still contained Baroque or Rococo elements in the form of curves.

Owners of the property

Chronology of owners

In the Deeds Office in Cape Town, a Register of Deeds usually supplies the references to the actual deeds, and sometimes it is so complete that it is not even necessary to consult the deeds themselves for a list of successive ownership. If the register is not complete, the deeds can be consulted from the very first one successively, as the reference number of the next transaction appears on every deed of transfer. In the case

¹⁷ B.E. Biermann, *Boukuns in Suid-Afrika* (Cape Town, 1955), p. 50.

¹⁸ B.E. Biermann, *Boukuns in Suid-Afrika* (1955), p. 48.

of Waarburg the register of deeds is totally incomplete, as there are no entries between the first owner in 1704 and 1892 – a gap of almost two centuries. In addition, the volume containing the second deed is missing, so that the chain was initially broken here and the information on further deeds' numbers had to be found in other sources.

On 28 June 1701 Willem Adriaan van der Stel, Governor of the Cape of Good Hope, signed a document by which a piece of land, the size of which was 60 morgen, at Joostenberg in the district of Stellenbosch, was granted to Hercules van Loon.

[...] aan den Eerw predikant Hercules van Loon, woonende aan Stellenbosch op zijn E. versoecken in een vollen en vrijen eigendom vergund ende gegeven hebben, [...] mits deesen seker stuck landt gelegen onder Joostenberg int district van Stellenbosch voornt [...] uijtmakende alsoo ter samen een inhoud van sestig morgen rijnlantsch maat [...].¹⁹

Although the land was granted in 1701, the title was only registered in 1704 (26 September), by which time the reverend Hercules van Loon had died and the title was granted to his widow, called Juffrouw van Loon.²⁰

Hercules van Loon was born in the Netherlands in 1668. He stayed at the Cape for 14 months on his way to the East in 1694/95, while he acted as temporary minister for the Cape. After a short stay in the East he returned to the Netherlands and in 1700 the VOC sent him to the Cape where he became the first reverend of the Dutch Reformed Church of Stellenbosch.²¹ He served in this capacity from March 1700 to June 1704, while he stayed in a house called “Kolonieshuis” at the corner of Ryneveld- and Dorp Street, Stellenbosch.²²

On 26 June 1704 Van Loon travelled on horseback from his other farm Hercules Pilaar, adjacent to Waarburg, to Stellenbosch, and somewhere in the veld, according to the traveller Peter Kolbe, he “zich zelve met een pennemes den hals afgesneden, zonder dat iemand ooyt heeft geweten, waar door hy tot wanhoop vervallen is”²³ [he cut his throat with a pen knife, without anybody knowing why he was so desperate].

According to A.M. Hugo, Van Loon named this farm De Waarburg after the Wartburg Castle²⁴ near Eisenach in Germany, where Martin Luther stayed in isolation

¹⁹ WCAR (Western Cape Archives Repository), CTD (Cape Title Deeds) 16, pp. 143-144.

²⁰ SGO (Surveyor General's Office), Map 3/1704.

²¹ W.J. de Kock (Hoofred), *Suid-Afrikaanse Biografiese Woordeboek I* (Cape Town, 1976), p. 867.

²² A.M. Hugo & J. van der Bijl, *Die kerk van Stellenbosch* (Cape Town, 1963), pp. 29, 143.

²³ A.M. Hugo & J. van der Bijl, *Die kerk van Stellenbosch* (1963), p. 33.

²⁴ W.J. de Kock (Hoofred), *Suid-Afrikaanse Biografiese Woordeboek I* (Cape Town, 1976), p. 867.

from May 1521 in order to translate the Greek New Testament into German.²⁵ Hugo claims that Van Loon also wanted to be able to withdraw himself as theologian at Waarburg.²⁶

It is unlikely that Van Loon ever lived on Waarburg, as he lived and worked in his house in the town of Stellenbosch. Nevertheless the very first map of the property, drawn by JK Slotzboo on 26 September 1704, already shows a house²⁷ (Figure 2). It is therefore possible that he went there sometimes just to withdraw from society for a while.

The widow Van Loon had the farm registered in Hercules's name in September of 1704 and then sold both Van Loon's farms in the same year to the widow Mensingh (Transfer deed T640) for 3000 gulden. The amount was for both the farms that had belonged to Hercules van Loon, namely Waarburg and Hercules Pilaar.²⁸ On

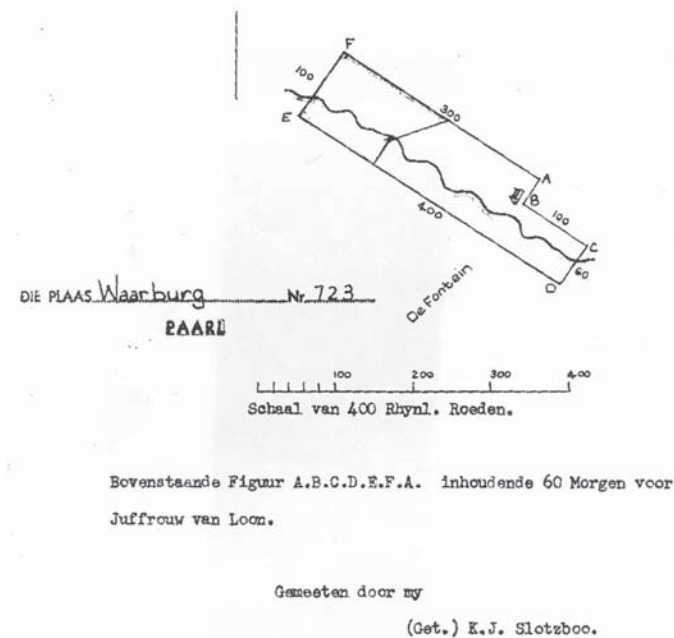


Figure 2: The first map of Waarburg, dated 26 September 1704
(SGO, Map 3/1704)

²⁵ www.luther.de/en/wartburg.html.

²⁶ W.J. de Kock (Hoofred), *Suid-Afrikaanse Biografiese Woordeboek I* (Cape Town, 1976), p. 867.

²⁷ SGO, Map 3/1704.

²⁸ L. Guelke & R. Shell, *The deed's book: Cape cadastral calendar 1677-1731* (New Haven, 1990), p. 39.

the original registration in the name of Hercules van Loon that forms part of the Stellenbosch Freeholds Vol 1 in the Deeds Office, the transfer is written at the top of the document as: *Transporteer aan G. Berdens, 1 Des 1704*. It seems like two different people, but in fact the widow Mensing was Gerbregt Berdenes, who married Rutger Mensing [spelling according to Heese & Lombard] in the Netherlands (date unknown). Rutger Mensing was a beer brewer at the Cape. They had two children: Willem, who was born in the Netherlands and Maria Margaretha, baptised in Cape Town in 1699.²⁹ Willem married Johanna Maria Tas, a sister of the well-known Stellenbosch farmer, Adam Tas. Johanna came to the Cape with her sister Sara Wilhelmina in 1694, three years before their brother Adam.³⁰ Maria Engelbrecht, who was the widow Van Loon, did not like the Tas family at all. As Penn puts it: *The farms she had been left she sold to Menssink but this did not make her a family friend*.³¹ It was clear that the feeling was mutual, as Tas wrote in his diary that she was a ‘grootse leppige wijf’, translated by AC Paterson as ‘supercilious, sour-stomached slut’,³² while a later translation by J Smuts refers to her as ‘that haughty, sour-faced woman.’³³

Ten years later, in 1714, Gerbregt Mensing (Berdenes) sold Waarburg and Hercules Pilaar to the widow Diepenow (Transfer deed T973), this time for 6100 gulden.³⁴ The widow Diepenow was Sara Wilhelmina Tas, sister of Johanna and Adam Tas,³⁵ who married the farmer Claus Heinrich Diepenow, originally from Barsfleth in Germany, in 1707.³⁶ Gerbregt therefore sold the farm to the sister of her daughter-in-law. By this time (December 1713 when the auction took place), however, Johanna Tas had already died.

The next owner was the widow Engels, who bought the farm from Sara Diepenow (Tas) in 1722 (Transfer deed T 1478).³⁷ She was Maria van Staden, widow of Lambert Engels who came from Lochem in the Netherlands. They married on 4 February 1714.³⁸ Maria was the daughter of Maarten van Staden and Margaretha Ernst

²⁹ J.A. Heese & R.T.J. Lombard, *Suid-Afrikaanse Geslagsregisters V* (Pretoria, 1999), p. 526.

³⁰ D.W. Krüger (Hoofred), *Suid-Afrikaanse Biografiese Woordeboek II* (Cape Town, 1986), p. 749.

³¹ N. Penn, *Rogues, rebels and runaways. Eighteenth century Cape characters* (Cape Town, 1999), p. 62.

³² L. Fouché (ed), *The diary of Adam Tas (1705-1706)* (London, 1914), p. 121.

³³ L. Fouché (ed), *The diary of Adam Tas (1705-1706), editing revised by A.J. Böseken* (Cape Town, 1970), p. 169.

³⁴ L. Guelke & R. Shell, *The deed's book: Cape cadastral calender 1677-1731* (New Haven, 1990), p. 65.

³⁵ D.W. Krüger (Hoofred), *Suid-Afrikaanse Biografiese Woordeboek II* (Cape Town, 1986), p. 749.

³⁶ J.A. Heese & R.T.J. Lombard, *Suid-Afrikaanse Geslagsregisters II* (Pretoria, 1989), pp. 86-87.

³⁷ L. Guelke & R. Shell, *The deed's book: Cape cadastral calender 1677-1731* (1990), p. 106.

³⁸ J.A. Heese & R.T.J. Lombard, *Suid-Afrikaanse Geslagsregisters II* (Pretoria, 1989), p. 205.

van Amerongen from Haarlem in the Netherlands. Her first husband was Nicolaas Ras.³⁹ She held the property only for one year.

In 1723 she sold Waarburg to a well-known farmer, Jacob Cloete,⁴⁰ who lived on the farm Nooitgedacht in the Stellenbosch district,⁴¹ after his marriage to Sibella Passman, widow of Johannes Albertus Loubser⁴² in 1722.⁴³ According to Fransen Cloete died in c1761.⁴⁴ The fact that the exact date is not known, is confirmed by the genealogy of the Cloete-family that does not supply a date of death either.⁴⁵ In February 1762 his wife was already called “the widow of the late Jacob Cloete”. Cloete bought both farms for 7325 gulden.⁴⁶

Dirk de Vos, who lived at Kromme Rhee, then bought the farms in 1762 for 7400 gulden. He died in 1773 and his widow, Geertruy Woutrina Lourens, then married Christiaan Frederick Hop, who died in 1790.⁴⁷ Subsequently she married Christiaan Frederick Laprento and after his death in 1794 she sold both farms.⁴⁸ Up to this date all the owners had possession of Waarburg and Hercules Pilaar simultaneously,⁴⁹ both comprising 60 morgen each.⁵⁰ Dirk de Vos was the son of Wouter de Vos from Groenlo in the Netherlands and Maria Sophia van der Byl.⁵¹ Dirk became a well-known and respected burgher who served as heemraad for Stellenbosch.

From 1794 onwards Waarburg alone became the property of Johan Gerhard Cloete, son of Hendrik Cloete of Groot Constantia and grandson of Jacob Cloete, a previous owner, but he co-owned the farm with Jacobus Christiaan Faure. They paid 6 300 gulden for Waarburg alone.⁵² Fransen is of opinion that Cloete did not live on Waarburg, but that it is possible that Faure did.⁵³ There was however, not a house on Waarburg at that time, but possibly on an adjacent piece of land that later became

³⁹ C.C. de Villiers & C. Pama, *Geslagsregisters van die ou Kaapse families 2* (Cape Town, 1981), pp. 916, 918.

⁴⁰ DO (Deeds Office) 1723: T1555.

⁴¹ H. Fransen, *A guide to the old buildings of the Cape* (Cape Town, 2004), p. 211.

⁴² <http://www.nooitgedachtestate.co.za/pages/14972>.

⁴³ J.A. Heese & R.T.J. Lombard, *Suid-Afrikaanse Geslagsregisters I*, (Pretoria, 1986), p. 593

⁴⁴ H. Fransen, *A guide to the old buildings of the Cape* (2004), p. 211.

⁴⁵ J.A. Heese & R.T.J. Lombard, *Suid-Afrikaanse Geslagsregisters I* (1986), p. 593

⁴⁶ DO 1723: T1555.

⁴⁷ J.A. Heese & R.T.J. Lombard, *Suid-Afrikaanse Geslagsregisters III* (Pretoria, 1992), p. 473.

⁴⁸ J. van der Bijl, *Eienaars van erwe in die dorp Stellenbosch, 1693-1860 en eienaars van plase in die distrik Stellenbosch, 1680-1860* (Unpublished manuscript, 1963, Stellenbosch Museum Library).

⁴⁹ H. Fransen, *A guide to the old buildings of the Cape* (2004), p. 211.

⁵⁰ DO 1762: T3720.

⁵¹ C.C. de Villiers & C. Pama, *Geslagsregisters van die ou Kaapse families 2* (1981), p. 1080.

⁵² DO 1794: T6861.

⁵³ H. Fransen, *A guide to the old buildings of the Cape* (2004), p. 211.

part of Waarburg. In 1801 J.C. Faure became the sole owner.⁵⁴ Jacobus Christiaan Faure was a brother of A.A. Faure, landdrost of Swellendam and the father of the later well-known Abraham Faure, reverend of the Dutch Reformed Church. Jacobus was a respected resident of Stellenbosch and at one stage acting landdrost. He was married to Aletta Hendrina Blanckenberg.⁵⁵

From 1810 to 1812 Waarburg was owned by Johannes Cornelis Hertz. The farm was transferred to him on the 1st of June 1810 by Transfer Deed T123 for the sum of 14 000 gulden.⁵⁶ Between 1794 and 1810, the price of the farm therefore increased by more than 100 %. Hertz, a son of Jewish parents, came from Heilbronn in Germany. He arrived at the Cape in 1786 as soldier, but became a free burgher in 1791. In 1803 he lived in Swellendam where he was a general dealer. His first wife was Pyle Roven, and his second wife, whom he married in Swellendam, was Catharina Sophia vdK⁵⁷ (van de Kaap).

On 19 June 1812 two transactions concerning Waarburg took place: firstly it was transferred from J.C. Hertz to Pieter Retief (Jac zn) and immediately after that Retief transferred it to Petrus Michiel Eksteen. At that stage the size of Waarburg was still the original 60 morgen.⁵⁸ This Pieter Retief was the son of Jacobus Retief and Debora Joubert and later became the well-known leader of the Voortrekkers in Natal who was murdered by the Zulu. At this stage, however, he was involved in a number of land transactions that brought about great financial loss for him and encouraged him to leave for the eastern frontier.⁵⁹ He sold the farm to Eksteen for 14 000 gulden, after he had bought it from Hertz for 16 375 gulden.⁶⁰

In 1823 P.M. Eksteen sold the 60 morgen that comprised Waarburg to Michiel Hendrik van Niekerk, once again for 14 000 gulden, although it was eleven years later.⁶¹ After Van Niekerk was declared insolvent, the farm was sold to Willem Daniël Hoffman on 13 January 1826 for the sum of £300, which equaled 12 000 gulden.⁶²

In the next year the size of Waarburg had changed for the first time. Surveyor W.B. Rowan surveyed a large piece of land, which was added to Waarburg, while at the same time one third of the original grant was cut off for the use of an *uitspan*

⁵⁴ J.G. le Roux & W.G. le Roux, *Ons Drakensteinse erfgrond: Agter-Paarl* (Paarl, no date), p. 25; DO 1801: T246.

⁵⁵ D.W. Krüger (Hoofred), *Suid-Afrikaanse Biografiese Woordeboek II* (Cape Town, 1986), p. 233.

⁵⁶ DO 1810: T123.

⁵⁷ J.A. Heese & R.T.J. Lombard, *Suid-Afrikaanse Geslagsregisters III* (Pretoria, 1992), p. 350.

⁵⁸ DO 1812: T92; DO 1812: T93.

⁵⁹ D.W. Krüger (Hoofred), *Suid-Afrikaanse Biografiese Woordeboek II* (Cape Town, 1986) pp. 601, 604.

⁶⁰ DO 1812: T92.

⁶¹ DO 1823: T209.

⁶² DO 1826: T8.

(outspan). The wording on the map that supplies the particulars about the new grant of land, reads as follows: *The above Diagram A to H represents the Freehold place called Waarburg, situated at the Joostenberg in the District of Stellenbosch, containing 760 Morgen 343 Square Roods, from which deduct the remaining part of the Freehold, leaves 720 Morgen 493 Square Roods intended to be granted...*⁶³ (Figure 3).

These 720 morgen 493 roods are described as *common arable uncultivated land (32 morgen 450 roods) and grazing ground (688 morgen 43 roods)*. The fact that it is described as “intended to be granted”, means that this land had not been granted before

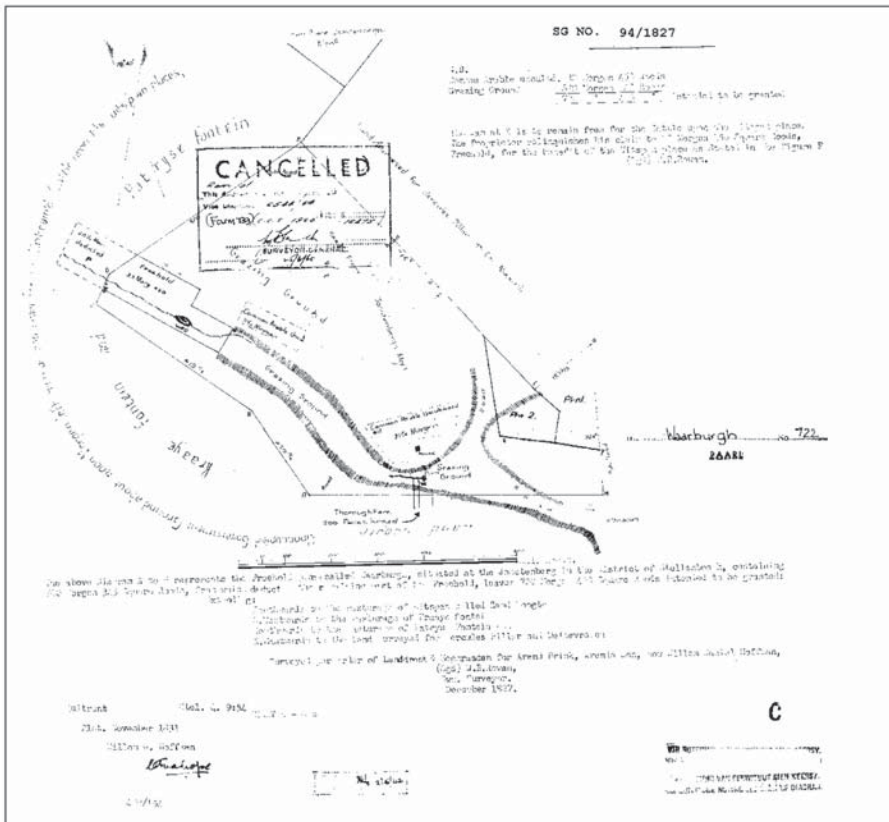


Figure 3: Map of 1827, showing the piece of 20,25 morgen cut off from Waarburg (indicated by the dotted line, top left) and the large piece of land added at the same time (SGO, Map 94/1827)

⁶³ SGO (Surveyor General’s Office) Map 94/1827.

and did not form part of any farm at that stage. Map 94/1827 states: *Surveyed per order of Landdrost & Heemraaden for Arend Brink, Arends Son, now Willem Daniel Hoffman, (Sgd) WB Rowan, Surveyor, December 1827.* Willem Daniël Hoffman was the brother-in-law of Arend Brink, son of Arend Brink (sr), because Brink (jr) was married to Hoffman's sister, Clara Elizabeth.⁶⁴ It is not clear why Arend Brink had that specific piece of land surveyed and what gave him authority to do so.

Le Roux and Le Roux identified the owner of Waarburg from 1830 to 1851 as Abraham Benjamin de Villiers.⁶⁵ No Transfer Deed to AB de Villiers could however be traced. In fact, the sequence of owners forms a continuous line, allowing no gap for an AB de Villiers.

By 1835 WD Hoffman had already died and on the next transfer deed his widow was described as *the insane Johanna Susanna Minnaar*. For that reason a curator, Christiaan Carel Mocke, acted on behalf of the minors to transfer the property to Tristram Charnley Squire, who bought the total of 760 morgen for £ 280 (1 1200 gulden), which is less than Hoffman had paid for the 60 morgen of Waarburg alone. This deed also refers to *the quitrent lease likewise with a diagram thereon granted to him on the 21 November 1831*.⁶⁶ This is the first deed that refers to the name *Matjeskuil*, although the first actual reference is found on the quitrent of 1826, which states: *I do hereby grant on perpetual quitrent unto WD Hoffman a piece of 720 morgen 493 square roods of land situated in the district of Stellenbosch at the Joostenberg annex the freehold Matjeskuil or Waarburg*.⁶⁷

Squire owned the farm for only two years, because in 1837 it was transferred to Petrus Johannes Schabord (jnr).⁶⁸ The next owners, Daniël Hendrik Willem Wessels, Jacobus Christoffel Wessels and Petrus Johannes Redelinghuijs bought the farm for £700 from Schabord in 1846. Each of them owned one third of the farm *called Waarburg or Matjeskuil, now called The Hope*, the size of which totals 760 morgen 343 square roods.⁶⁹ After only one year Redelinghuijs transferred his one third to Jacobus Christiaan Wessels and he in turn passed his two thirds on to Daniël Hendrik Willem Wessels in 1848.⁷⁰

In 1873 Waarburg/Matjeskuil/The Hope once again changed owners, when Wessels sold it to Francois Daniël de Villiers for £1500. Philippus Albertus Briers

⁶⁴ J.A. Heese & R.T.J. Lombard, *Suid-Afrikaanse Geslagsregisters* III (1992), p. 424; J.A. Heese & R.T.J. Lombard, *Suid-Afrikaanse Geslagsregisters* I (1986), p. 443.

⁶⁵ J.G. le Roux & W.G. le Roux, *Ons Drakensteinse erfgrond: Agter-Paarl* (Paarl, g.d.), p. 25.

⁶⁶ DO 1835: T383.

⁶⁷ DO Stellenbosch Quitrent vol 9: 54.

⁶⁸ DO 1837: T3.

⁶⁹ DO 1846: T67.

⁷⁰ DO 1847: T339; DO 1848: T1238.

bought the farm from De Villiers on 18 January 1881⁷¹ and in 1913 it was transported to his son Philippus Albertus Briers (jr).⁷²

Philippus Albertus Briers (sr) was born on the farm Eenzaamheid (Paarl district) as the son of Petrus Franciscus Melchior Briers and Hester Anna Briers.⁷³ In 1693 Eenzaamheid was granted to Claus Heinrich Diepenow (spelling by Heese & Lombard) [Claas Hendriksz Diepenauw, (spelling by Fransen), and Claas Hendrik Diepenaar, (spelling by De Bosdari)], who later married Sara Wilhelmina Tas,⁷⁴ third owner of Waarburg. After his death in 1715, Adam Tas bought the farm and in 1764 it came into the possession of Johannes Albertus Myburg (sic).⁷⁵ According to De Bosdari the farm was since then in the possession of the Myburgh family.⁷⁶

In 1965 Philippus Albertus Briers (jr), who owned the farm since 1913, died. At the time of his death he owned the whole of Matjieskuil that was formed by the consolidation of the two portions consisting of the remainder of Waarburg (size 39,75 morgen) and the land added to Waarburg in 1827 (size 657,8972 morgen). Up till 1965 this total of 697,6472 morgen was considered one farm, but it consisted of two separate parts as indicated on the map of 1964 (SGO 6544/64) (**Figure 4**). Although the section marked A on figure 4 and consisting of 140,2281 morgen was still part of the farm in 1965, it was already surveyed as a section in 1964. Transfer Deed 8362/1966 transported it to PAB Loftus. The section marked B is the only part of the original grant of Waarburg that remained part of Matjieskuil after 1966.

In his will PA Briers (jr) created a huge dilemma for his heirs. He had six daughters of whom five were still alive at the time of his death. Each one of them received one fifth of the farm, which is indicated in the Register of Deeds as one fifth of 477,4473 ha. The problem was that the divisions were not indicated in any way. That apparently caused a lot of trouble and discord amongst the siblings.⁷⁷ It was only in 1971 that the Deed of Transfer was filed at the Deeds Office, that transported one fifth of the farm Matjieskuil (that is one fifth of 477,4473 ha) each to Johanna Beatrix van der Bijl, Beatrix Maria Loftus, Phyllis Anne Danks, Hester Anna Maria Briers and Helene Emilie Raymonde Louw.⁷⁸

⁷¹ DO 1873: T456; DO 1913: T7864.

⁷² DO Register of Deeds, Paarl, Folio 723/1.

⁷³ Death Notice of PA Briers, filed with DO T7864/1913.

⁷⁴ C. de Bosdari, *Cape Dutch houses and farms*, 3rd ed (Cape Town, 1971), p. 90.

⁷⁵ H. Fransen, *A guide to the old buildings of the Cape* (2004), p. 291.

⁷⁶ C. de Bosdari, *Cape Dutch houses and farms*, 3rd ed (1971), p. 90.

⁷⁷ A. Louw, previous owner, 2011: interview.

⁷⁸ DO 1971: T16689.

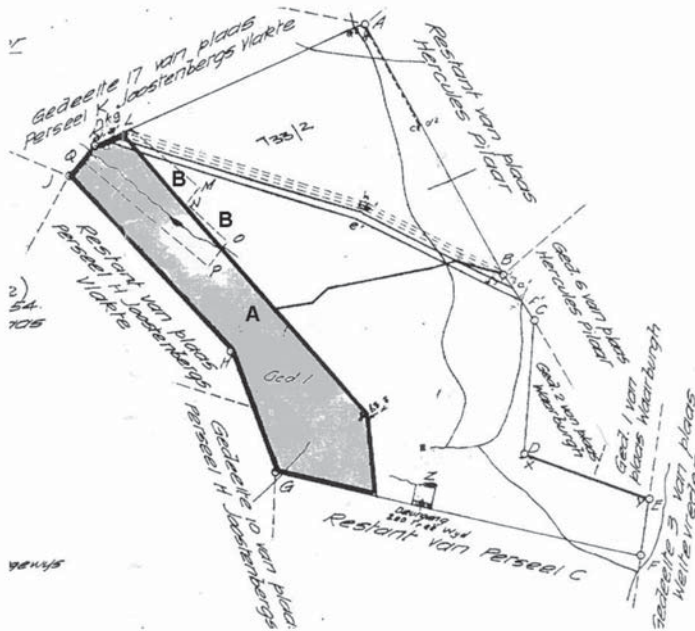


Figure 4: Map of 1964
(SGO 6544/1964)

Cornelius Johannes Louw, spouse of Helene Emilie Raymonde Briers, inherited the fifth that belonged to Hester Anna Maria, who had already died by the time that the deed of transfer was issued in 1971. He also inherited the fifth part owned by his wife at her death in 1981. After his death, which occurred on 25 December 1992, these two fifths were transported to his son, Philippus Albertus Briers Louw, by deed number 46099/1996. P.A.B. Louw gradually also obtained the other parts of the farm (that, as mentioned previously, was never legally divided and surveyed in five parts), with the result that at the time of his death he owned the complete portion of 477,4473 ha. He died in 1999 and left the farm in a testamentary trust which his son Cornelius Johannes (Neil), would eventually have inherited.⁷⁹

In 2003 the 477,4473 ha was again divided into two parts of approximately 240 ha (marked A on **Figure 5**) and 237 ha (marked Remainder on **Figure 5**) respectively.⁸⁰

⁷⁹ A. Louw 2011: interview.

⁸⁰ Ref 37072 dated 31/03/2003, part of documentation of Hellig & Abrahamse.

married Clara Susanna Groenewald in 1775.⁸⁴ According to the *Opgaafrolle* in the Western Cape Archives Repository, they settled in the district of Stellenbosch where he started farming. By the year 1805 he had 4 cattle, 50 goats and 2 pigs. He also owned 9 adult slaves and 4 slave children and in the same year he had 30 000 vines.⁸⁵

Petrus and Clara had eleven children, of whom the eldest, Petrus Franciscus Melchior, married Hester Anna Myburgh, daughter of Johannes Albertus Myburgh and Magdalena Maria Roux of the farm Eenzaamheid.⁸⁶ Myburgh obtained the well-known farm Meerlust in the Stellenbosch district in 1757 and Eenzaamheid in 1764.⁸⁷ Petrus and Hester lived on Eenzaamheid. They had nine children, of whom the youngest was named Philippus Albertus, born in 1845. He married Johanna Jacoba Beyers, daughter of Johan David Beyers and Anna Elizabeth Beyers.⁸⁸ Johan Beyers was the grandson of Jan/Johann David Beyers, ancestor of the Beyers-family in South Africa, who came from the town Erfurt in Germany.⁸⁹ Erfurt-*huis*, named after the birthplace of the ancestor, is a conspicuous landmark in Stellenbosch and houses the administrative headquarters of the Stellenbosch Museum. In 1881 this Philippus Albertus was the first Briers to obtain the farm Waarburg.

The next generation Philippus Albertus, fifth and youngest child of Philippus and Johanna, was born in 1886. He married Jacoba Aletta Geertruida van Niekerk⁹⁰ and was the next owner of Waarburg. They had six daughters, of whom five were still alive when Philippus died in 1965. As explained previously, all of them inherited one fifth of the farm, which was not surveyed. Cornelius Johannes Louw, the husband of Helen, the youngest daughter, obtained two fifths of the farm which he bequeathed to his son, Philippus Albertus Briers Louw. He then gradually obtained the other parts of the farm from the rest of the family and left it in trust. In 2003 the farm was divided into two parts, one of which was sold and the other became the property, from the trust, of Cornelius Johannes (Neil) Louw, son of Philippus Albertus Briers Louw and Adrienne Green. Neil is therefore the fifth generation who owns a part of Waarburg/Matjieskuil, which is the section not containing the manor house and outbuildings, but the only part of Matjieskuil that still contains a section of the original grant of 60 morgen, granted to Herculesvan Loon in 1701.

⁸⁴ J.A. Heese & R.T.J. Lombard, *Suid-Afrikaanse Geslagsregisters I* (1986), p. 436.

⁸⁵ WCAR, J 232: 84.

⁸⁶ J.A. Heese & R.T.J. Lombard, *Suid-Afrikaanse Geslagsregisters I* (1986), p. 436.

⁸⁷ H. Fransen & M. Cook, *The old houses of the Cape* (1965), pp. 86, 130.

⁸⁸ Death Notice of JJ Briers, filed with DO T7864/1913.

⁸⁹ J.A. Heese & R.T.J. Lombard, *Suid-Afrikaanse Geslagsregisters I* (1986), p. 295.

⁹⁰ J.A. Heese & R.T.J. Lombard, *Suid-Afrikaanse Geslagsregisters I* (1986), p. 437.

Summary of owners

1701	Hercules van Loon
1704	Widow Mensingh
1714	Widow Diepenow
1722	Widow Engels
1723	Jacob Cloete
1762	Dirk de Vos
1794	Johan Gerhard Cloete & Jacobus Christiaan Faure
1801	Jacobus Christiaan Faure
1810	Johannes Cornelis Hertz
1812	Pieter Retief
1812	Petrus Michiel Eksteen
1826	Willem Daniël Hoffman
1835	Tristram Charnley Squire
1837	Petrus Johannes Schabord (jnr)
1846	Daniël Hendrik Willem Wessels, Jacobus Christoffel Wessels & Petrus Johannes Redelinghuijs
1847	Daniël Hendrik Willem Wessels & Jacobus Christoffel Wessels
1848	Daniël Hendrik Willem Wessels
1873	Francois Daniël de Villiers
1881	Philippus Albertus Briers (sr)
1913	Philippus Albertus Briers (jr)
1965	Property remains in the estate of Philippus Albertus Briers (jr)
1971	Johanna Beatrix van der Bijl (U!), Beatrix Maria Loftus (U!), Phyllis Anne Danks (U!), Hester Anna Maria Briers (U!) and Helene Emilie Raymonde Louw (U!)
1996	Philippus Albertus Briers Louw
1999	Testamentary Trust (with the ultimate heir of one section Cornelius Johannes Louw)
2004	Mark Borrie (the other section)

Architecture

Manor house: history

On the oldest diagram of Waarburg, drawn by surveyor Slotzboo in 1704, a small sketch of a house appears on a corner where a small rectangle is cut out of the larger rectangle which comprised the 60 morgen of the original farm⁹¹ (**Figure 2**). As mentioned earlier, it is possible that Van Loon had erected this small house to use as a refuge from his work in Stellenbosch, where he resided permanently. Penn mentions that, when the two farms were sold in December 1713, Hercules Pilaar was the most important of the two, because it was cultivated and contained buildings (*huys, hok en craalen*).⁹² No mention is made of any buildings on the farm Waarburg, so presumably the little house sketched by Slotzboo was by this time either demolished or in a very dilapidated state.

Fransen makes the statement that Jacob Cloete, owner from 1723 till c 1761, perhaps built a house, “or more likely repaired, improved and perhaps enlarged the original house built c 1700.” He continues to speculate that this might have happened in 1755, coinciding with the second rethatching, and that the gable appeared in 1810 during the fourth rethatching.⁹³ Fransen therefore assumes that the present house is an enlargement of the “original” building of 1700. This could however not be the case. If the diagram of 1704 (**Figure 2**) is compared with the subsequent plans of 1827 (**Figure 3**) and 1964⁹⁴ (**Figure 4**), it is clear that the present manor house is not situated on the same spot as the little house of 1704.

Before the date of the house can be discussed, it is important to point out that, as the house was definitely built before 1810, it was built on land that at that stage did not belong to the owner of Waarburg. It was government land that was only granted in 1827 for the first time, but was probably used as grazing by the owners of Waarburg. It must therefore be assumed that whoever built the house, was at that stage the owner of Waarburg. If not, it is almost impossible to determine who built the house, as it was built on no-man’s land.

As there are no plans or sketches of the property between 1704 and 1827, the date of the present manor house can only be estimated. Fransen says that Johannes Cornelis Hertz built the front-gable in the year he acquired the farm, namely 1810⁹⁵

⁹¹ SGO Map 3/1704.

⁹² N. Penn, *Rogues, rebels and runaways. Eighteenth century Cape characters* (Cape Town, 1999), p. 63.

⁹³ H. Fransen, *A guide to the old buildings of the Cape* (2004), p. 211.

⁹⁴ SGO Map 94/1827; SGO Map 6544/1964.

⁹⁵ H. Fransen, *A guide to the old buildings of the Cape* (2004), p. 211.

(Figure 6). Hertz could however not have built (or renovated or adapted) the gable, because the date on the gable does not only indicate the year, as is usually the case on dated gables, but a full date, namely 2 April 1810 (see Figure 7), and Hertz only acquired the farm on 1 June 1810. The gable was therefore either built, renovated or adapted during the ownership of Jacobus Christiaan Faure.



Figure 6: Front-gable of Matjieskuil manor house

(Photograph: M. Burden, 2010)

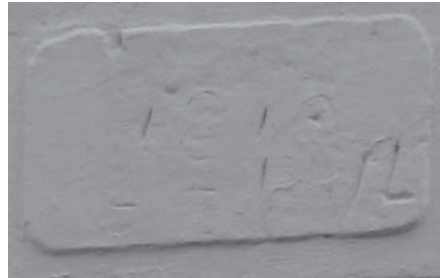


Figure 7: Date on the gable, 1810, 2 April

(Photograph: M. Burden, 2010)

Another point of argument is that it was not necessarily the first gable on the house and therefore not necessarily *built* by Faure. Fransen's arguments for the house dating from the middle 18th century are convincing, but the fact is that many H-shaped houses of that time had front gables and it is possible that in 1810 Faure just renovated or rebuilt the gable that was originally erected at the same time as the house or a few years after that. If the gable and the house were erected simultaneously, the house could easily date from the late 1750s, as Fransen says that the popularity of the *holbol*-gable was *borne out by its increasing complexity between 1756 and 1791*.⁹⁶ The mid 1750s is a little early, though, for the *holbol*-type of gable. Referring to the gable of Joostenberg, a five-lobed gable consisting only of convex curves and dated 1756, Fransen states elsewhere that this type *preceded the conventional holbol-gables*.⁹⁷

Another fact influencing the argument is that this gable dated 1810 is not typical of the early 19th century, when most new gables were built in the Neo-Classical style with triangular pediments and pilasters. This style, the simple *holbol* (concave-convex)

⁹⁶ H. Fransen, *Classicism, Baroque, Rococo and Neoclassicism at the Cape* (Unpublished PhD dissertation, University of Natal, 1987), p. 80.

⁹⁷ H. Fransen & M. Cook, *The old houses of the Cape* (1965), p. 76.

was in fact very typical of the mid-18th century. Fransen's remark that *the whole arrangement smacks of the mid-18th century* (that is the H-shaped ground-plan, the casement windows and the half-width windows beside the front door),⁹⁸ is probably fairly accurate. The style of the gable (early Cape-Baroque) and especially the *holbol*-gabled built-in cupboard, also in the Baroque style (see **Figure 16**), in my opinion strengthens the argument that the house was probably built between 1758 and 1765, with the gable either built with the house or added within the next 15 years.

In theory, the above arguments sound plausible, but there is another problem. If it is accepted that the house was built by the then owner of Waarburg, and if it happened between 1758 and 1761, the owner of Waarburg was Jacob Cloete; if between 1762 and 1765, the owner was Dirk de Vos.⁹⁹ Both these gentlemen were wealthy and lived on other farms that they possessed – Cloete on Nooitgedacht and De Vos on Kromme Rhee. It is therefore not clear why they would have built a house of considerable size on a piece of land that was not legally their property. One possibility is that it was for a *bywoner* (more or less a foreman, but not exactly with the same status). Giliomee maintains that the *bywoners* of the early 18th century were not associated with any dependence or inferiority,¹⁰⁰ so it is possible (though not probable) that the owner could have built a good, solid house for his *bywoner*. If the fact that De Vos had built a Cape Dutch gabled house on Kromme Rhee in 1759 is considered, it is not likely that he would have built a similar house within the next few years. Jacob Cloete therefore seems the more likely of the two candidates.

The fact that Faure sold the farm only two months after the date on the gable backs the suspicion that the gable was probably renovated at this time and not built from scratch. It is more probable that he would have spent money on renovating a gable when planning to sell the farm, rather than spending far more money on building a new gable.

To summarise: The present manor house (**Figure 8**) was probably built between c 1758 and 1765 and there are three possibilities with regard to the gable; (1) the gable was built simultaneously with the house, c 1760 (for the reason of the early Baroque *holbol*-style), and renovated in 1810, keeping the same style; (2) the gable was built somewhere between 1760 and 1780 and either renovated or replaced by a completely new one, in the same style, in 1810; or (3) the house had had no gable for the first five decades, this one being added in 1810. In the author's opinion the first option is the most likely.

⁹⁸ H. Fransen, *A guide to the old buildings of the Cape* (2004), p. 211.

⁹⁹ H. Fransen & M. Cook, *The old houses of the Cape* (1965), pp. 73, 78.

¹⁰⁰ H. Giliomee, *The Afrikaners – biography of a people* (Cape Town, 2003), p. 26.

Exterior

The *holbol*-gable is in an early Baroque style, with a simple unprofiled moulding defining the edge and an undecorated tympanum. The later Baroque at the Cape usually had thick profiled mouldings and fairly extensive decorations on the tympanum, like the gable of the now demolished Wesleyan parsonage in Stellenbosch (date unknown, but probably built between 1775 and 1785).¹⁰¹



Figure 8: Façade of the manor house, 2010

(Photograph: M. Burden, 2010)

Apart from the gable the house has a typical 18th century appearance (see **Figure 8**): complete symmetrical façade, casement window in gable, thatched roof, chimney end-gables, casement windows with shutters on the lower half, two full width and one half-width window on each side of front door, *bo-en-onderdeur* (horizontally divided) front door with fielded panels, a square fanlight with 20 small panes (four rows of five each), stoep with built-in end seats, *holbol*-shaped (Baroque) low walls siding the end seats and white-washed walls. The straight end-gables (see **Figure 9**) called a chimney gable (which was in fact a false chimney), were common in the mid-18th century, but did appear in later periods as well.

¹⁰¹ H. Fransen, *Argitektuur in F. Smuts, Stellenbosch Drie Eeue* (Stellenbosch, 1979), p. 108.



Figure 9: Chimney end-gable of manor house, 2010
(Photograph: M. Burden, 2010)



Figure 10: The cross-effect of the fixed upper- and casement lower-windows on the façade of Matjieskuil manor house
(Photograph: M. Burden, 2010)

Fransen also mentions the fact that the cross-windows of Matjieskuil are frequent in the Netherlands, but extremely rare at the Cape. He describes them as follows: *The other windows are in fact also ordinary side-hung casements, but they have fixed upper lights with wooden mullions that are continuations of those between the casements; here we have proper cross-windows [...].*¹⁰² This means that the effect of the vertical

¹⁰² H. Fransen, *A guide to the old buildings of the Cape* (2004), p. 211.

line of the wooden framework between the left and right sides of the window and the horizontal line between the lower and upper parts, form a cross (see **Figure 10**).

A search in the well-documented book of Phillida Brooke Simons, *Cape Dutch houses and other old favourites*, indeed produced no more examples of double casement windows with fixed upper lights. Casement windows of the single row type without upper lights are found in examples like Groot Paardevlei, Mont Pellier, Bien Donne, Roggeland and Joostenberg.¹⁰³

The other unique phenomenon on the Matjieskuil façade is the fact that the upper parts of the half-width windows flanking the front door are imitations (**Figure 11**). Fransen attributes that to the possibility that tall half-width frames were not available at the time,¹⁰⁴ but there seems no reason why the builder could not have used two frames on top of each other as in the full-width casements. So the reason remains “obscure”, as Fransen calls it.

In Fransen & Cook’s book *The old Cape houses of the Cape* (1965), a photograph of Matjieskuil appears with a veranda at the front. It is not the typical Victorian veranda with a curved corrugated iron roof, cast iron decorations and cast iron pillars that were often added to Cape Dutch houses. It appears to be a flat roof that rests on concrete columns with classical capitals.¹⁰⁵ It can therefore be assumed that it was added on



Figure 11: The fake upper lights of the half-width windows
(Photograph: M. Burden, 2010)

¹⁰³ P.B. Simons, *Cape Dutch houses and other old favourites* (Cape Town, 2000), pp. 79, 219, 172, 201, 146.

¹⁰⁴ H. Fransen, *A guide to the old buildings of the Cape* (2004), p. 211.

¹⁰⁵ H. Fransen & M. Cook, *The old houses of the Cape* (1965), p. 75.

in the mid-20th century. Adrienne Louw, who lived in the house from 1981 till 2004, attested that the house had the veranda all those years. It was taken down during the renovations in 2004, after she sold the house.¹⁰⁶ On an old undated photograph of the house there is no sign of a veranda (**Figure 12**). It is very difficult to estimate the date of the photograph, but judging by the clothing of the female figure, it could have been taken in the 1870s or 1880s.



Figure 12: Matjieskuil manor house, possibly in the 1880s
(Collection: Adrienne Louw, De Zalze, Stellenbosch)

The back of the house also underwent changes with a veranda attached on the back stoep (which still remains) and the loose standing *soutkamer* (salt room – name supplied by Adrienne Louw) that was later connected to the main building. A picture of c 1900-1920 shows the *soutkamer* as a free standing building with a thatched roof (**Figure 13**). On the recent photograph taken in 2011, the building has a flat roof and is connected to the main building (**Figure 14**). It is also evident that the back door was replaced. In the place of a *bo-en-onderdeur* (like the front door) that it must have had, a vertically divided Late Victorian panelled door was installed with a semi-circular

¹⁰⁶ A. Louw: interview, Stellenbosch, 2011.

fanlight with spoke mullions (**Figure 13**). The veranda that was added, possibly at the same time as the front veranda, was kept intact during the recent renovations.

Interior

The casement windows open towards the inside of the house and not outwards like modern windows. The iron hinges are of the peg-type where a peg, pointing downwards, fits into a sheath (**Figure 15**). When closed, the windows are held in position with a wooden swivel.



Figure 13: Back of the house, showing the loose standing thatched roof “soutkamer” (date unknown)

(Collection: Adrienne Louw, De Zalze, Stellenbosch)



Figure 14: “Soutkamer” in its present form, flat-roofed and attached to the house, 2011

(Photograph: M. Burden, 2011)

The built-in cupboard referred to previously (**Figure 16**) has a simple *holbol*-gable with a strong profiled cornice and a keystone centrepiece, an undecorated drum or tympanum and a less common feature in Old Cape furniture, namely two straight rectangular top doors where the upper part of the door frame does not follow the contour of the gable (which is the more general appearance). The cupboard is made of teak.¹⁰⁷



Figure 15: Iron peg-hinge
(Photograph: M. Burden, 2011)

¹⁰⁷ A.M. Obholzer, M. Baraitzer & W.D. Malherbe, *The Cape house and its interior* (Stellenbosch, 1985), p. 135.



Figure 16: The built-in cupboard in the mid-18th century Baroque style
(Photograph: M. Burden, 2011)

Conclusion

Despite the second volume of Stellenbosch Freeholds being lost, which initially caused a number of gaps in the sequence of owners, it was eventually possible to trace a few deeds' numbers in another source. That resulted in the sequence of deeds and therefore owners being reconstructed from 1701 to 2011, without any gaps. There were 24 owners (if the five Briers sisters are counted as one, as the farm was not divided) in a period of 310 years.

The farm was called **Waarburg** for about 125 years, as the name **Matjeskuil** appears in a document of 1826 for the first time. Less than ten years later it was called **The Hope** – the length of time is not known, because on the deeds all the previous names are mentioned every time. The name probably reverted to **Matjeskuil** in the time of Philippus Albertus Briers (sr), because on the last deed before he took transfer, T456 of 1873, when Francois Daniël de Villiers bought it from Wessels, it was still described as ...*now called The Hope*. Today the old Dutch spelling of **Matjeskuil** is dropped and the Afrikaans spelling **Matjieskuil** is used.

When the genealogies of the families and extended families of the owners were explored, an intricate network of ownership of the various farms between Stellenbosch and Cape Town was established.

Further analyses of the interior of the manor house is possible, though it will require uncovering of walls, ceilings and floors at selected spots. Such research can contribute to determining age and identifying building materials and adaptations over time.