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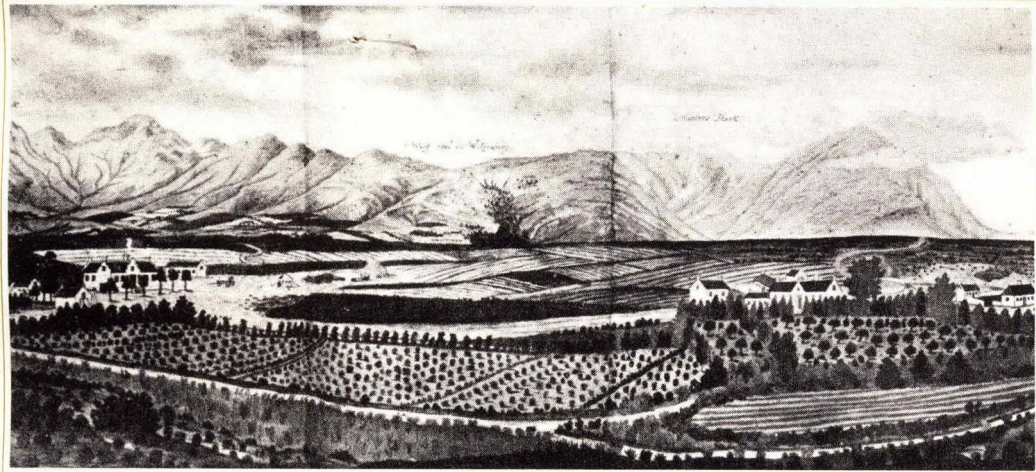
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Restourasie van Kerkstraat Tulbagh Restoration of Church Street Tulbagh





Kerkstraat in't Land van Waveren

„Een Schoone Valeije” het Jan van Riebeeck se landmeter, Pieter Potter, die Tulbagh-kom in 1658 beskryf. Maar sy soektog was na inboorlingstamme om handel mee te dryf en die onbewoonde vallei is dus nie verder verken nie.

Die volgende reisiger na die uithoek was niemand minder as Goewerneur Willem Adriaan van der Stel nie. Diep beïndruk deur die vallei, vernoem hy dit na die Amsterdamse familie Waveren en besluit om nedersetters daarheen te stuur – landbouers uit Nederland asook Franse Hugenote wat nie meer in Drakenstein en Franschoek 'n heenkome kon vind nie.

In Julie 1700, agt maande na Van der Stel se terugkeer na die Kasteel, vertrek die gelaaide waens van die Land van Waveren se eerste boere. Veertien jaar later word eiendomsreg reeds op die eerste leenplase toegeken.

'n Geslag later, toe Goewerneur-Generaal Von Imhoff in 1743 'n inspeksiereis deur die land maak, vind hy die Land van Waveren goed bevolk. Maar hy vind ook dat die boere, weens hul afsondering 'n merkbare gebrek aan godsdiensoonderrig toon en beveel aan dat twee nuwe gemeentes gestig word – een by die Swartland en een by Roodezand in die Land van Waveren. Die Roodezandkerk is nog dieselfde jaar gebou en ds. Arnoldus Mauritius Meiring as eerste predikant aangestel. Vandag is die kerk 'n museum en nasionale monument.

Digby die kerk is 'n kosterhuisie gebou en die pastorie amper 'n halfmyl verder. Langs die wapad van die predikant na die kerk is die eerste private huisie (nou no. 12) omstreeks 1754 deur chirurgyn Nikolaus Fuchs gebou.

Toe die vierde predikant, ds. M. C. Vos, in 1795 by Roodezand aankom, vind hy dat die gemeente reeds die kerkie ontgroei het. Daar word besluit om die ooste-vleuel te verleng, 'n kloktoring te bou en die kerkhof met 'n swierige ringmuur te omsluit. Maar die Roodezand-gemeente was nog diep in die skuld by die Kaapse Diakony, en die kerkgrond tussen kerk en pastorie word verkoop – vyf erwe diep tuingrond langs die rivier. Verdere staatsgrond is toe toegestaan sodat elke eienaar ook 'n bou-erf hoër op kon bekom en Kerkstraat sodoende tussen die tuin- en bou-erwe ontstaan het.

Die eerste vyf eienaars het elk 'n woonhuis gebou, hul erwe onderverdeel en afverkoop sodat, na twintig jaar, daar reeds 'n ry wit rietdak-huisies in Kerkstraat gestaan het, en daaragter 'n ry wat aan Achterstraat gefront het. Die huisies aan Kerkstraat se kant (no's 22 tot 42) bestaan nog, nou na hul oorspronklike bouvorm gerestoureer, maar die ry aan Achterstraat (nou Van der Stelstraat, vroeër ook Middelstraat) is nie meer volledig nie, alhoewel drie geboue hier ook gerestoureer word.

Die suidelike gedeelte van Kerkstraat het later eers ontwikkel, want alhoewel meeste van die grond tussen die kerk en pastorie nou kerkeiendom was, het die kerk en pastorie self steeds op staatsgrond gestaan! 'n Versoek van die kerkraad dat die grond aan die kerk toegestaan word, is in 1852 goedgekeur en die kerkraad verkoop toe verdere erwe om die landmeterskoste vir die opstel van kaarte en bakens te betaal. Tuinerwe en huisierwe is afsonderlik opgeveel en Kerkstraat is vanaf huis no. 22 tot by die kerk verleng.

In 1853 nog is die eerste nuwe huise hier opgerig (no. 21 en moontlik ook no. 17) en daarna word die oop erwe geleidelik tot die eeuwending gebou, sodat Kerkstraat vandag 'n ryk erfenis van ons volksboukunde van bykans 200 jaar verteenwoordig.

Roodezand in 1785 soos deur die reisiger Gordon gesien. Roodezand in 1785 as seen by the traveller Gordon.



Church Street in the Land of Waveren

"A beautiful valley" wrote surveyor Pieter Potter of the Tulbagh bowl in 1658. But Commander Jan van Riebeeck had sent the expedition to barter with native tribes, and the uninhabited valley was not explored.

The next traveller to this remote valley was no less a personage than Governor W. A. van der Stel himself. Impressed by its grandeur, he named it "Land of Waveren" after a prominent Amsterdam family, and determined to have it settled – by Dutch farmers and French Huguenots for whom farms could not be found in Drakenstein and French Hoek.

In July, 1700, merely eight months after Van der Stel's return to the Castle, loaded wagons trundled off with the first farmers of the Land of Waveren, and by 1714 the farms, which had first been issued as loan properties only, were given as grants.

Settlement was rapid, so that when Governor-General Von Imhoff inspected the outlying districts in 1743 he reported that the Land of Waveren was well populated, but due to the lamentable lack of religious instruction he likened the inhabitants to "a blind heathen community". Two new congregations were thus proposed – Swartland and Rodezand in the Land of Waveren. Rodezand church was built that same year, and the Rev. Arnoldus Mauritius Meiring appointed as first preacher. Today this church is a museum and a declared national monument.

A sexton's house was added close to the church, and the parsonage, erected some half mile away, stood isolated until the next house (now number 12) was built in 1754 along the wagon road between church and parsonage, for surgeon Nikolaus Fuchs.

By 1795 when the Rev. M. C. Vos arrived in Rodezand as the fourth preacher, the church was already too small and he resolved to extend the east wing, add a free-standing bell tower and enclose the churchyard with an elegant "ringmuur". In order to discharge the resulting debts to the Cape consistory, church property between the parsonage and church was sold – five erven of deep fertile soil along the river. A further grant of state land then enabled each owner to acquire a building site above his garden plot, and Church Street was formed between the houses and their gardens below. Having each built a house, the first five owners duly subdivided their erven for resale so that within two decades Church Street presented a neat row of whitewashed thatched cottages, backed by a second row facing "Achterstraat" behind. The Church Street houses are now all restored, mostly to their early forms, and on "Achterstraat" (now Van der Stelstraat, formerly also Middelstraat) three buildings also are to be restored.

Strangely enough both church and parsonage still stood on state land, and it was only in 1852, after this land was granted to the church, that further subdivision took place and erven towards the southern length of Church Street were sold to defray survey costs. Garden and building plots were separately auctioned, and boundaries established as far as the church.

By 1853 new houses were already being built (number 21 and possibly also number 17) until, by the turn of the century, Church Street was fully built up, and today represents our rich heritage of vernacular architecture over almost two hundred years.

Bestel nou hierdie unieke kunsboek: Kerkstraat in 't Land van Waveren

VERSKYN EERSDAAGS IN BEPERKTE OPLAAG. UITGEGEE DEUR DIE TULBAGH-RESTOURASIEKOMITEE.
SKRYWERS: GAWIE EN GWEN FAGAN

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- 2 Die aardbewingramp van 29 September 1969. Realistiese beskrywings en dramatiese foto's van die verwoesting wat dit gesaai het, veral aan historiese geboue.
- 3 Kan die hele Kerkstraat, Tulbagh, vir die nageslag gered word? Stigting van die Tulbagh-Restourasiekomitee, sy samestelling, werksaamhede, probleme – en uiteindelijke sukses: die eerste en enigste ten volle gerestoureerde geskiedkundige straat in die Republiek van Suid-Afrika.
- 4 Amptelike inwyding van Kerkstraat, Tulbagh, deur die Eerste Minister, Sy Edele B J Vorster, op 14 Maart 1974. Inhoudigingsprogram en geleentheidsrede van die Eerste Minister en foto's van die heuglike gebeurtenis.
- 5 Hierdie pragboek sal deur versamelaars, kunsliefhebbers, argitekstudente en kultuurhistorici verwelkom word – dit sal 'n waardevolle aanwinst op enige boekrak en vir alle biblioteke wees.

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1 Kerkstraat nr 42 na die aardbewing in 1969.
No 42 Church Street after the earthquake in 1969.

Prag uit die puin

Op 29 September 1969 het 'n hewige aardbewing, wat 6,5 op die Richter-skaal geregistreer het, Tulbagh en die omliggende dorpe getref.

Eers was dit net 'n veraf rammeling – 'n voelbare trilling. Dit was 22h 04 en reeds donker. Toe 'n harde dreuning, gevolg deur 'n onheilspellende stilte. En toe kom die verwoestende skudding, die aarde bewe, die grond golf en skeur en die mensgemaakte strukture begin meegee. Eers is dit pleistering en stene wat af val, toe begin die mure self tuimel, en toe is dit gewels, plafonne, swaar balke en selfs hele dakkappe wat in stofwolke na benede stort.

Teen die berghange het dit gelyk asof die sterre na benede geval het. Reuse rotsblokke is los-geskeur en het teen die hellings verwoesting gesaai en vuurballe geword. Vonke het in duisende rigtings gespat en oral het die droë struik in vlamme opgegaan.

Die rotsstortings het damwalle laat bars en het lelke littekens op die fraai berge van die omgewing gelaat. Bergbrande het verwoesting gesaai en pyleidings het gebreek, sodat kosbare water wegvloei het. Daardie 30 sekondes het die gemeenskap na raming R20 000 000 gekos.

Waardevolle erfgoed het in die slag gebly. Historiese geboue is die swaarste getref . . . opstalle van tot 200 jaar oud het kwaai knoue opgedoen en in enkele gevalle het net hope rommel oorgebly.

By die aanskouing van die werklike omvang van die skade aan geboue: opgebarste mure, gapende openinge, geskeurde plafonne, ingetuimelde gewels, geknakte dakke en die hope rommel op vloere, stoepe en in die strate, was die eerste reaksie: sloop en begin dan heropbou.

Byna al die huise in Kerkstraat het deur die jare verskillende grade van verandering ondergaan: sinkdakke, verandas, aanbouings het aanplaksel is deur baie geslagte bygevoeg, meestal ten koste van die sierlike eenvoud, die harmoniese skaalverhouding van dié huise. Maar die hewigheid van die aardskudding het groot oppervlaktes pleister laat afval en, asof met X-strale en 'n ontledmes, die posies van ou deur- en vensteropenings ontbloom en so die geskiedenis van talle ou huise blootgelê.

Die aardbewing het 'n unieke geleentheid geskep om die hele Kerkstraat in Tulbagh, vanweë sy



2 In die oorspronklike suidoostegewel is die helling van die ou rietdak nog te bespeur.
The slope of the old thatch roof can be seen in the original south-east gable.

besondere karakter in sy geheel te restoreer – dit sou die verwesenliking van 'n droom wees: 'n volmaakte straatbeeld uit die agtiende en negentiende eeu.

Om dit te bewerkstellig is die Tulbagh-Restourasiekomitee binne enkele weke na die aardbewing in die lewe geroep met die Eerste Minister, Sy Edele mnr. B. J. Vorster, as Hoofbeskermheer, die Administrateurs van die vier Provinsies en Suidwes-Afrika as Provinsiale beskermhere, mnr. Frans Conradie L.U.K. Voorsitter, mnr. Imker Hoogenhout Sameroeper en mnr. Gerhard Froneman Sekretaris. Lede van die Breë Komitee was die S.A. Instituut van Argitekte, Stigting Simon van der Stel, Vereniging van Raadgewende Ingenieurs, Historiese Huise van Suid-Afrika Beperk, Raad vir Nasionale Gedenkwaardighede, Volksboukundige Vereniging, Departement van Gemeenskapsbou, Burgemeesters mnr. A. du Toit (Tulbagh) en Dr. H. Reinach (Ceres), Dr. Anton Rupert, mnre. N. C. Krone, Eric Vertue, Hans Fransen, Dr. Mary Cook en Dr. André du Toit.

Onmiddellik na die stigting van die Tulbagh-Restourasiekomitee het sy werkskomitee 'n uitgebreide fondsinsameling geloods om Kerkstraat in sy geheel te kon restoreer; argitek Gabriël Fagan en sy helpers het, na deeglike ondersoek en navorsing ter plaatse, die nodige gedetailleerde restaurasieplanne voorsien en enkele maande later was bouaannemer Rino Brochetto reeds besig met die restaurasiebouwerk. 'n Foto van Kerkstraat uit die jaar 1861 en sketse gemaak deur die ontdekkingsreisiger Burchell in 1811 het waardevolle argitektoniese besonderhede aangevul. Om onoordeelkundige slooping te voorkom is met die Raad vir Nasionale Gedenkwaardighede gereël om alle geboue in Kerkstraat te bevries.

Gedagtig aan die aansienlike koste van volledige restaurasie, was die aanvanklike idee van die Tulbagh Restourasiekomitee om slegs die straatfasades van die huise in Kerkstraat te restoreer. Maar soos die aanvoorkom begin vorder het, het, die besef tot die Komitee deurgedring dat die huise in hierdie straat so 'n waardevolle kultuurskat vorm dat die straat vir sover prakties moontlik in sy geheel noukeurig gerestoureer moes word.

In Februarie 1974, vier jaar nadat die restaurasiewerksaamhede begin het, is die droom van 'n noukeurige straatbeeld uit die agtiende en negentiende eeu toe verwesenlik – danksy die onverpoosde werk van die Werkskomitee en die ruime bydraes van die Staat, die Provinsiale Administrasies, goedgesinde maatskappye en instansies, aan wie dankbare erkenning verleen word op 'n bronsgedenkplaat wat in die straat opgerig is.

Die grootste restaurasieprojek wat ooit in Suid-Afrika aangepak is, is voltooi: Kerkstraat, Tulbagh, is vir sy volle lengte keurig tot sy eertydse glorie gerestoureer. Met die grootste konsentrasie van Nasionale Monumente in Suid-Afrika vorm dit 'n lewende kultuurerfenis aan die nageslag en 'n unieke toeriste-aantreklikheid wat almal wat dit moontlik help maak het tot eer strek.

Op 14 Maart 1974 is die amptelike inhuldigingsplegtigheid van die gerestoureerde Kerkstraat, Tulbagh deur die Eerste Minister, Sy Edele B. J. Vorster, waargeneem.



- 3** Ou deur- en vensteropeninge kan in die oorspronklike baksteenmure gemeet word.
The original door and window openings can be traced in the exposed brickwork.

Resurrection from ruins

On September 29th, 1969 a severe earthquake, registering 6,5 on the Richter Scale struck Tulbagh and the surrounding towns.

At first it was merely a far-off rattling, a perceptible vibration. It was 22h 04 and already dark. Then came a loud rumbling, followed by an ominous silence. And then, devastating tremours as the earth shook; the ground undulated, crevices appeared and man-made structures started to give way. At first plastering and bricks came down, then walls started crumbling, and then gables, ceilings, heavy beams and even roof trusses tumbled down in clouds of dust.

Against the mountain sides it seemed as if the stars had started falling. Huge boulders were torn loose and rolled down the slopes in balls of fire. Sparks flew in all directions and set fire to the dry scrub, which went up in huge flames.

The rock-falls caused dam walls to crack and left ugly scars on the beautiful mountain-faces of the neighbourhood. Mountain fires caused extensive damage and pipelines snapped with a resultant loss of valuable water.

Precious items of cultural heritage were lost or extensively damaged. Historic buildings were especially hard hit – homesteads up to 200 years old were severely damaged and in a few instances collapsed into heaps of rubble.

The first reaction on beholding the full extent of the devastation: cracked walls, gaping holes, torn ceilings, collapsed gables, broken-backed roofs and mounds of rubble on floors, stoeps and in the streets, was that the majority of homes had been irreparably damaged, that they should be demolished forthwith and reconstructed later.

Through the years nearly all the homes in Church Street had undergone various degrees of alteration: corrugated iron roofs, verandahs, various additions, incongruous and otherwise, had been added by many generations, mostly at the expense of the simple grandeur, the harmonious proportion of scale of these homes. But the severity of the earthquake had torn loose large patches of plaster, thereby exposing as if by X-rays and a dissecting scalpel, the positions of old door- and window-openings and thus revealing the history of many an old homestead.



4 Die gewels is herbou en die rietdak word nou weer gedek.
Gables have been rebuilt and the roof is being thatched.

The earthquake created a unique opportunity to restore, in view of its distinctive character, the entire Church Street – it could be the realisation of a dream: a perfect street image from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

To implement this, the Tulbagh Restoration Committee was formed within a few weeks after the earthquake with the Prime Minister, the Hon. B. J. Vorster, as Patron in Chief, the Administrators of the four Provinces and South West Africa as Provincial patrons, Mr. Frans Conradie Chairman, Mr. Imker Hoogenhout Convenor and Mr. Gerhard Froneman Secretary. Members of the Broad Committee included the S.A. Institute of Architects, the Simon van der Stel Foundation, S.A. Association of Consulting Engineers, Historical Homes of South Africa Limited, National Monuments Council, Vernacular Architectural Society, Department of Community Development, Mayors Mr. A. du Toit (Tulbagh) and Dr. H. Reinach (Ceres), Dr. Anton Rupert, Messrs. N. C. Krone, Eric Vertue, Hans Franzen, Dr. Mary Cook and Dr. André du Toit.

Immediately after the inauguration of the Tulbagh Restoration Committee its Works Committee launched an extensive fund-raising campaign to meet the costs of restoring the entire Church Street; the architect, Gabriël Fagan and his assistants supplied, after thorough investigation and research *in situ*, the required detailed restoration plans and a few months later a building contractor, Rino Brochetto started restoration operations. A photograph taken in 1861 and sketches drawn in 1811 by the explorer Burchell filled in valuable architectural details. To prevent injudicious demolition, the Historical Monuments Council agreed to "freeze" all buildings in Church Street.

Mindful of the considerable cost of complete restoration, the Tulbagh Restoration Committee initially intended restoring only the street facades of the homes in Church Street. But as the spade-work began taking shape, the Committee realised that the homes in this street formed such a valuable cultural heritage that, as far as practicable all the buildings in the entire street, should be restored to their original form.

In February, 1974, four years after commencement of restoration work, the vision of a perfect street image from the 18th and 19th centuries had materialised – thanks to the unstinted efforts of the Works Committee and generous contributions by the Government, the Provincial Administrations, well-disposed Companies, organisations and private persons, to whom grateful acknowledgement is given on a bronze plaque erected in the street.

The largest restoration project ever undertaken in South Africa had been completed: the entire Church Street, Tulbagh, has been expertly restored to its pristine glory. With the largest concentration of Historical Monuments in South Africa it forms a living cultural heritage for posterity and a unique tourist attraction redounding to the credit of all who helped to make it possible.

On March 14, 1974, the official inaugural ceremony of the restored Church Street, Tulbagh, was performed by the Prime Minister, the Hon. Mr. B. J. Vorster.



5 Kerkstraat nr 42 lyk vandag weer soos dit gebou is in 1795.
No 42 Church Street restored as it appeared in 1795.

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van die Tulbagh-
Restourasie-
komitee

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