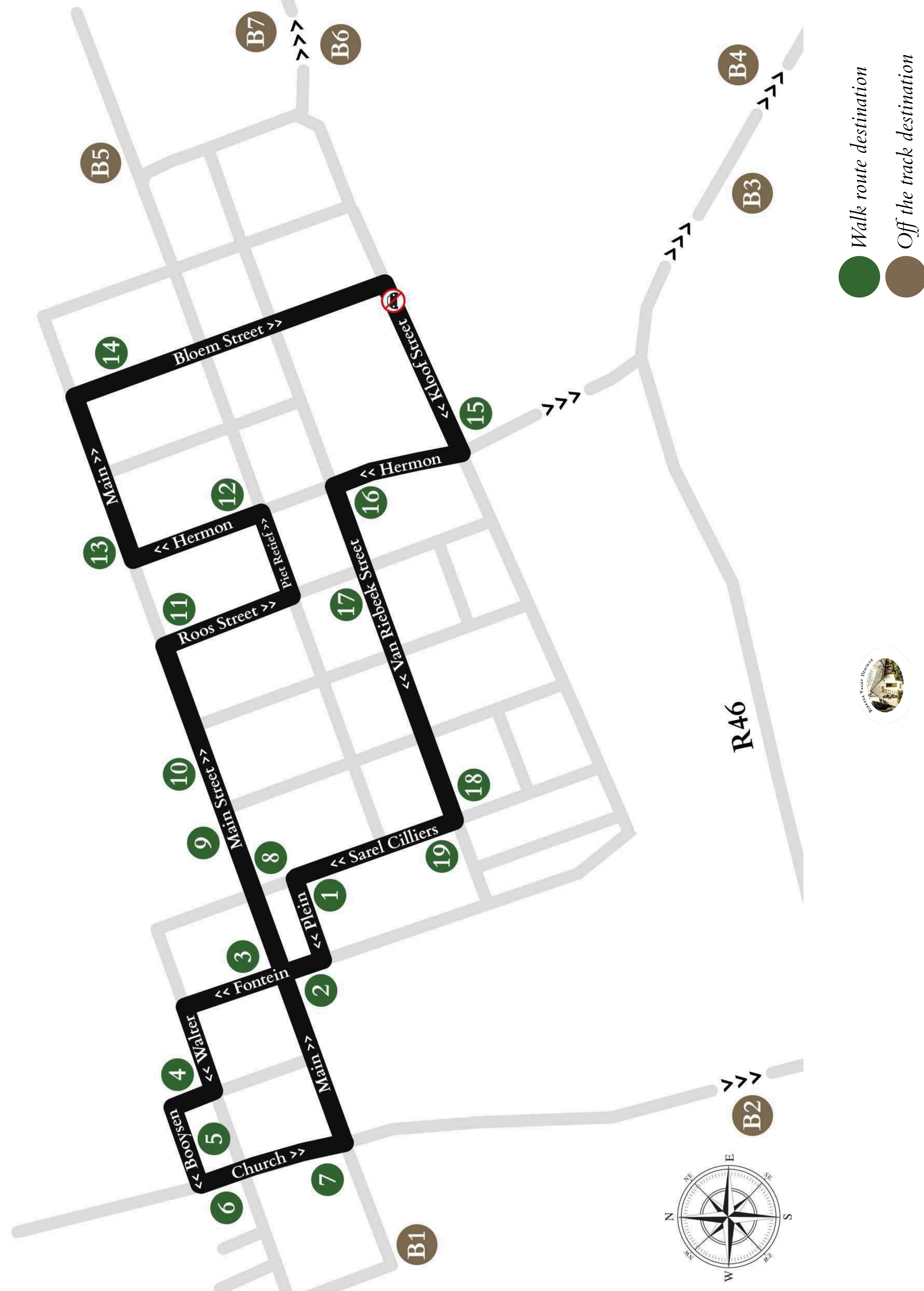


RIEBEEK KASTEEL HERITAGE WALK MAP



RIEBEEK KASTEEL HERITAGE WALK

Experience historic Riebeeck Kasteel by embarking on the walk route through heritage locations alongside real stories of the people and their homes.



- Free activity suitable for all ages
- Self-guided tour with map
- 3.75km • 1hr 45min walk time incl. stops
- 19 destinations • 32+ heritage places
- Seven additional off the track destinations

For the mobile-friendly online tour and more riveting heritage stories & photographs, visit the website.

rvheritage.co.za



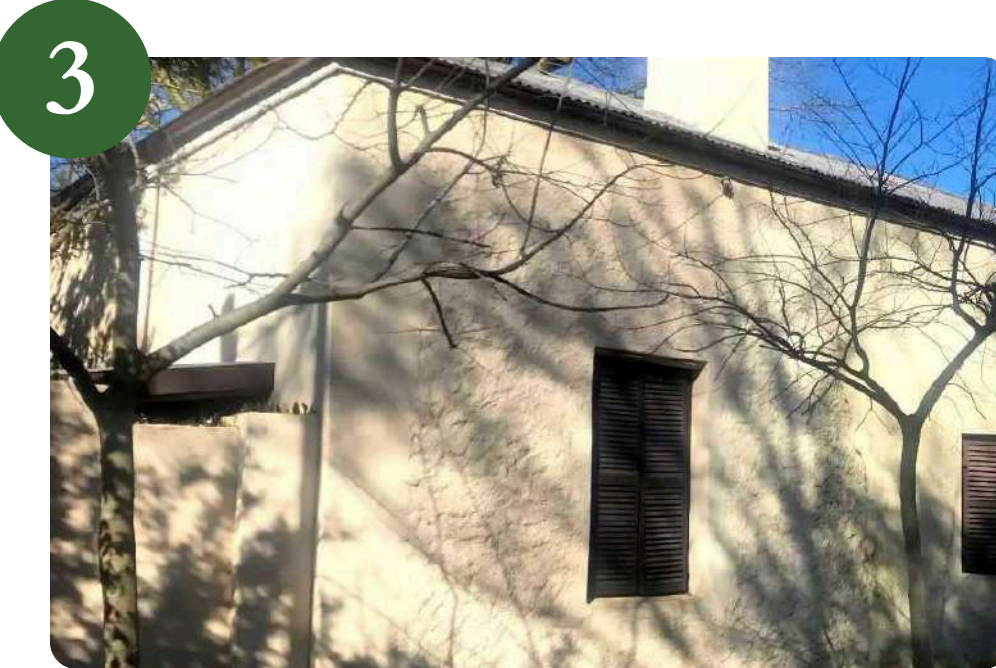
BASSON’S GENERAL STORE

Established in 1928, this right-angled building on the corner of Sarel Cilliers and Plein Street was initially a general store and home which later became the village board building. It was commissioned by the original owner, Nicolaas “Tos” Basson, and built by Mr. Van der Merwe. Tos and his family lived in the home on the western end, which is still visibly sectioned off by the old steep walls where the tourism office is today. The remainder of the building was a general store that Basson operated with his family. It stretched from the corner of the street to the opposing end of the building. The main entrance on the corner was dedicated to the primary store frontage and at the time was reserved for white customers, while the far end of the building was another part of the general store sectioned off for non-whites. Around the 1960s, Tos’ children sold the building to the village board, which has since been absorbed into the Swartland Municipality.



THE SERGEANT’S HOUSE

The first known occupant of this building, constructed in 1911, was Sergeant Muller of the local police who lived in this relatively large home with his family. Adjacent on the southern side of the building is the second oldest police station of Riebeek Kasteel which has since been discontinued and is currently a coffee shop. The old prison cells behind the police station can still be seen from the parking lot on the side of the building. Following Sergeant Muller’s tenure at the house, the building was sold and transformed into the Kasteelberg Country Inn & Bistro with a tavern and additional guest rooms in the loft space and at the back. It is now named “Kasteelberg Place” since it was renovated in 2023 and houses multiple shops, art galleries, and self-catering lets in the loft.



Fontein Cottage

When crossing Main on Fontein Street, one sees the gable and original chimney of this old cottage dating from the mid to late 1800s architectural period. While little is known about the origins of this building, Henk Bruwer of De Hoop recalled purchasing this property on auction for R6,500 in the 1970s when it was in a very dilapidated state. He sold it shortly after, and its current condition indicates that future owners went to great lengths in restoring the building. The rugged original walls are on display alongside the stoep, with its inlaid rocks jutting out from the wall surrounding the shutter-lined windows.



Remhoogte Rest

This long rectangular house dates to the late 1800s architectural period. The house’s original chimney and minimal windows on the sides illustrate that it is older than many of the typical homes in the village, hence why it likely started as an outbuilding or farmers’ cottage linked to Remhoogte - a historic farm originally nestled between Twist and Allesverloren with its remains now named Nektar Hoogte. Booije Booysen was the owner of the Remhoogte during the early 1800s and it was inherited by his only child and heir, Magdalena. She married Matthys Maree and died shortly after in 1886, passing Remhoogte to the Maree family. Matthys was originally a local wagon driver who would go on to leave a significant mark on the valley through his religious work with the church and as a member of the local school committee.



Booyesen Street

Booyesen Street is home to two old buildings, respectively numbers 3 and 1 on the southern side of the road. Both were transformed during the mid 1900s into the homes they resemble today, likely as a result of this part of the village and Church Street gaining prominence in the early 1900s. The first house, number 3, was originally a large, functional barn with minimal windows and doors. It was transformed to resemble a Victorian home. It was previously the home of Mr. Maree (possibly a descendant or relative of Matthys from Remhoogte), who was a teacher at the local school and avid beekeeper in his spare time. The second house, now named “Bloomsbury” as illustrated on the plaque by the front door, was initially the homestead of the adjacent barn.



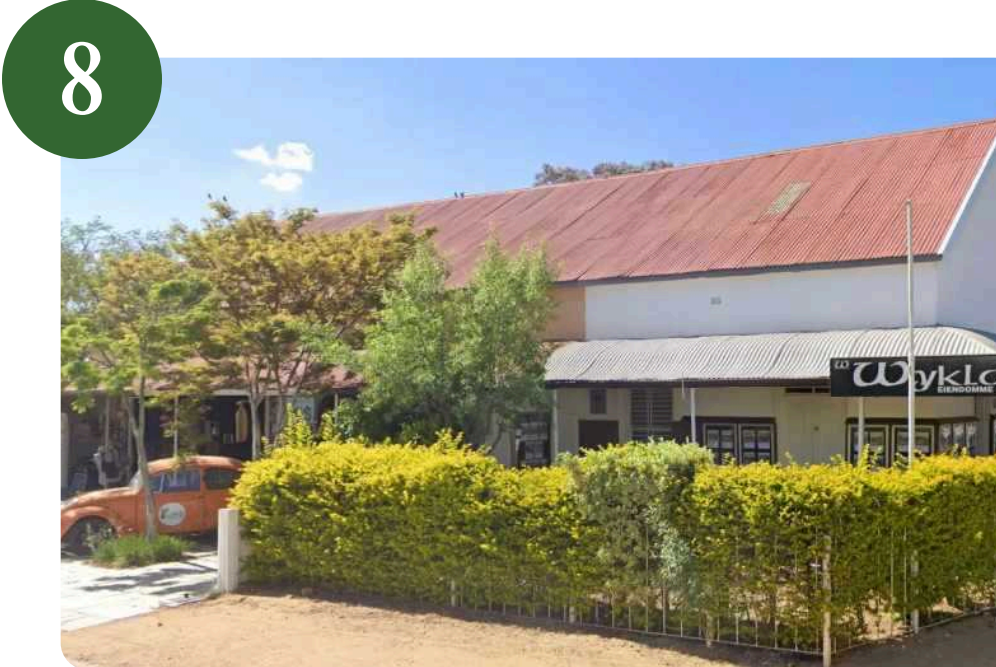
Oak Manor

Oak Manor is an original farmhouse on Church Street dating back to before the 1860s. It is currently a guesthouse with an adjacent restaurant named Cafe Felix. The guesthouse, to the left of the entrance, occupies the old farmhouse that was originally Victorian in design and primarily functional. Samuel III Du Preez, a teacher originating from Vleitjies, acquired the land and farmhouse with ambitions to create a manor house. During the renovation in the mid 1900s, Samuel commissioned various changes and additions, including the Cape Dutch gable which may have perhaps been added to compete with the neighbouring Cape Dutch-style property. Samuel additionally created the garden and planted the famous English Oak tree at the entrance, hence the name Oak Manor.



De Oude Kerk

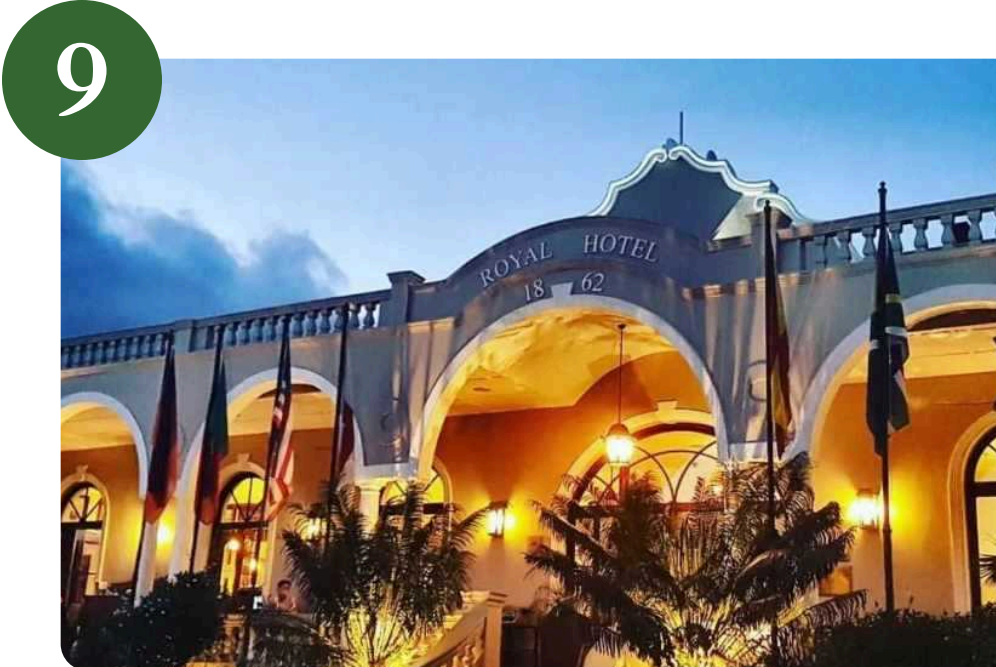
The cornerstone of De Oude Kerk, marking its establishment, was laid on 8 August 1855. Disagreement ensued after the people of Riebeek Wes were unhappy about Riebeek Kasteel getting its own dedicated church and congregation, delaying its independence until 1863. Ds. Johannes Hauman from Namaqualand was the first confirmed pastor. He arrived after the completion of Die Pastorie and was confirmed on 8 April 1881. An enthusiastic supporter of missionary work, Hauman established a small mission church in the valley named Oukloof. The Riebeek Valley Museum which stands in De Oude Kerk today was first opened on 29 October 1988 and in 1991 it was declared a national heritage site.



SHOPKEEPERS’

In the centre of the village at 31 Main Street are a handful of heritage commercial buildings designed and occupied mainly for shopkeeping endeavours. On the corner on the southern side is a large rectangular shop currently occupied by Wykland Properties. It was a general dealer store owned by Mr. Reyneke in the mid 1900s. Newspapers and general goods on sale would be displayed beneath the wraparound S-shaped roof along the corner. Directly opposite on Main Street is a building

of the 1800s architectural era that was originally a home before it was converted in the 1900s into a commercial building, historically housing various businesses including a fishery and butchery. The width of the doorway is visibly larger than residential buildings - a giveaway of its commercial intent. On the same side and a few paces up Main Street is the original home of the Christiaansens. An interesting but poignant story is that Mrs. Christiaansen was murdered inside this home under mysterious circumstances, which also happens to be the first recorded case of murder in Riebeek Kasteel’s history. Next door in the colonial-looking building housing a restaurant today was Reyneke’s Drankwinkel during the mid 1900s. The interior still features the refrigerator room and some of the original cabinetry that was part of Reyneke’s bottle store.



The Royal Hotel

The originally modest building where the Royal Hotel stands is said to have been established in 1862. Its Victorian-colonial design elements were added during a significant renovation in 1922 including the addition of the famous arched stoep in front of the hotel. Prominent visitors such as two respective Prime Ministers, Jan Smuts and subsequently DF Malan, would frequent the hotel with their families and guests. With the introduction of apartheid laws under Malan, a small part of the stoep of the hotel was used to create non-white bathrooms which were later removed bringing the stoep back to its original state.



Dutch Reformed Church

The cornerstone was laid on 30 October 1915 by Ds. Pieter De Waal when it succeeded the previous NG Kerk at De Oude Kerk. The building features its original clock and bell tower with the rooster weathervane finial, as well as Victorian/Gothic joinery. The old cemetery and boundary walls, which predate the church, are on the western side. De Waal along with local farmers were instrumental in the construction of the building for a total cost of £5 976.



Roos Street

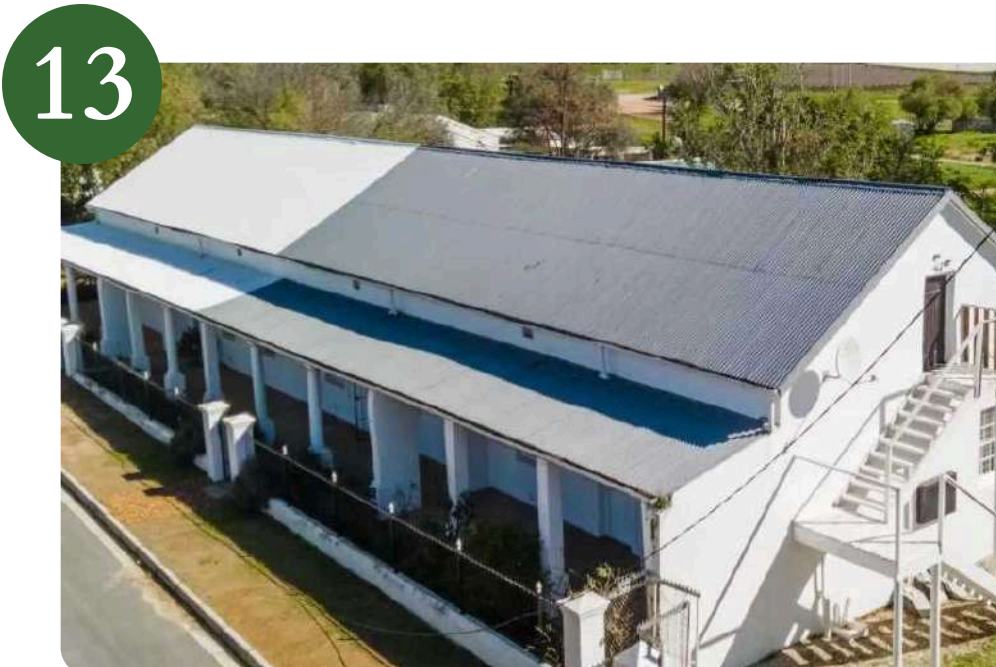
Roos Street was historically a mere side road for retired farmers and simple living, hence the unique style of heritage homes, which were typically occupied by simple and retired The first pair of featured heritage properties are part of Nicolaas Walters’ 1836 farm and are on the opposing corners where Main joins Roos Street; with a Victorian homestead to the east, and a converted barn to the west. The homestead subsequently became a parsonage, occupied by Ds. Venter who served the mission at Oukloof, while the barn has since been updated into a home. The next pair of heritage homes on Roos Street are at numbers 8 and 10 on the left-hand side, a few houses down the road. Likely built as a pair, these buildings illustrate the simplistic style of Roos Street. Hannes Pietersens - owner of the farm Klein Welgevonden, next to Kloovenburg - retired in the 1970s to live in no.8. The second house at no.10 still has the original windpump and reservoir standing on the southern side, which was a hallmark of almost every home in the valley during the 1900s.



Hermon Street

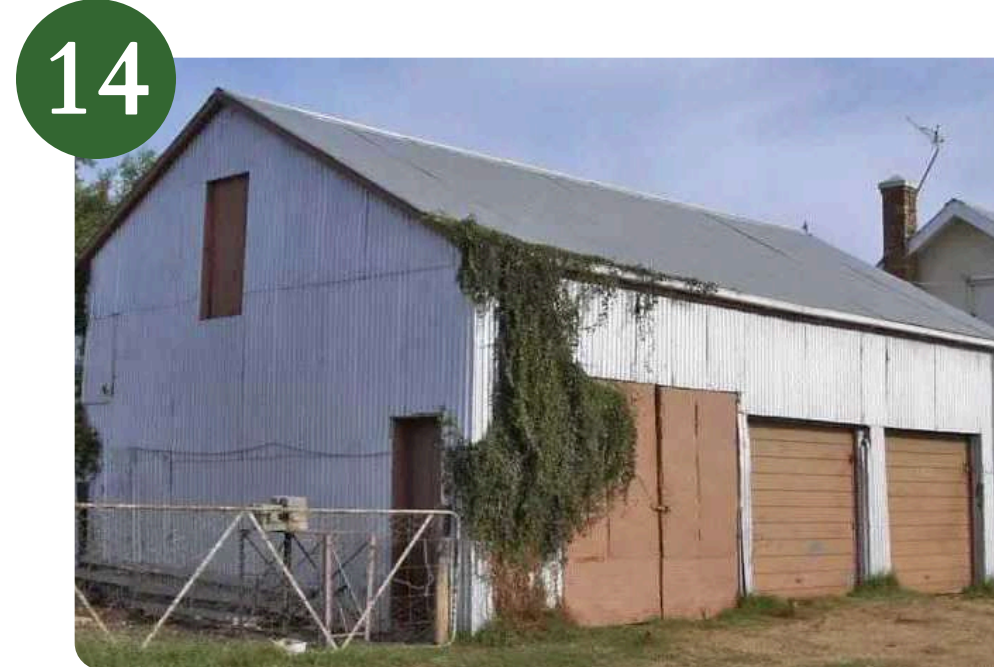
Hermon Street was a primary connecting road in Riebeek Kasteel offering direct thoroughfare to and from the train station situated in Hermon. For this reason, it was occupied by relatively wealthier residents, as well as several commercial/institutional outlets during the 1800s and 1900s. On the northern corner of Hermon and Piet Retief Street is the original home of the late village blacksmith - Mr. Basson, known as “Pennyboy”. His workshop and kiln were at the back of the house along Piet

Retief Street, and his home still displays its south-facing gable end uniquely clad in corrugated sheet. Further north on Hermon Street and on the other side of the road is the original home of George Euvrard at number 13, who was the previous owner of Kloovenburg. The fancy double doors and decorated transom window above are an illustration of the historical affluence in Hermon Street. One house over from Euvrard’s is the first police station of Riebeek Kasteel at number 9. The original prison cells, now converted into a garage and outbuilding, can be seen at the back of the house through the driveway. Mr. Duminy bought and converted this property from the state when the police station moved closer to the centre of the village. Directly after the old police station at number 7 on the corner of Hermon and Main Street is an elaborate late 1800s Victorian property that was once the home and shop of Chris and Beatrix Maree - the local tailors and barbers of the village. The corner-facing wall of the home, now where the fireplace is, has faint markings of the original doorway which would welcome customers of the barber and tailor shop.



Woltemade

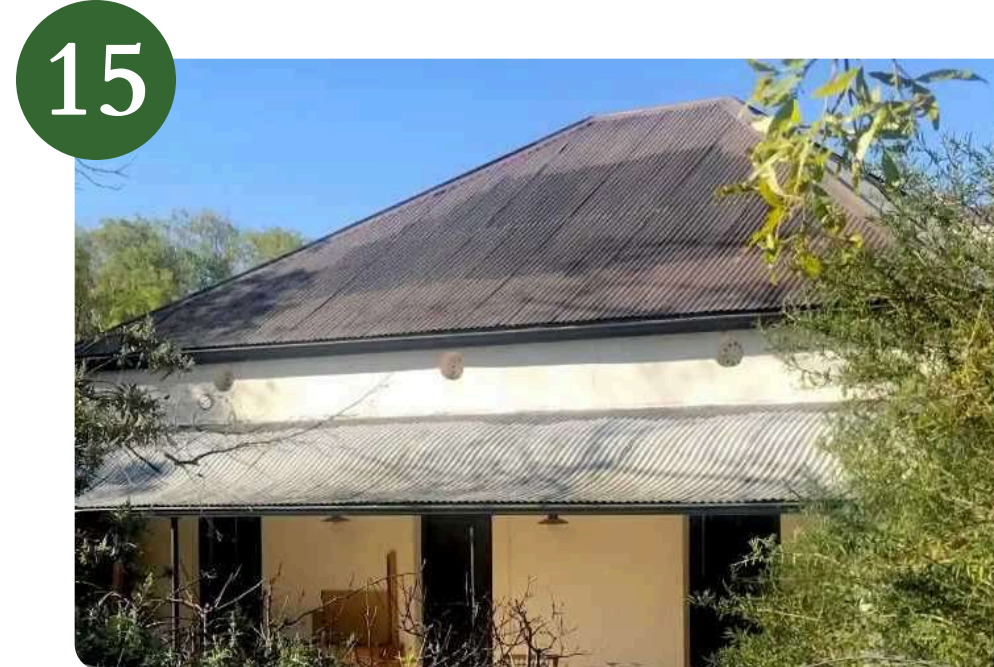
At 51 Main on the corner of Hermon Street is the first high-density building in Riebeek Kasteel. Constructed in the early 1900s, it was named in honour of the famous Wolraad Woltemade; the Cape Dutch dairy farmer who died in 1773 while rescuing sailors off the ship De Jonge Thomas in Table Bay. The building was created as an investment by a local farmer who envisioned it as a weekend house. He would sell/rent the three separate apartments to local farmers in and around the valley who were seeking to spend time closer to the village during weekends for easier access to friends, shopping, and the church. The building exhibits its original front doors, cast iron fencing, pillars, and archways within the stoep that would’ve acted as separations between the three apartments.



BLOEM STREET

Bloem Street consists of quaint heritage architecture on what were previously small holdings expanses of land behind each house used for a mix of residential and farming purposes. The first couple of old houses on Bloem Street The first couple of old houses on Bloem Street are number 10 and 12, respectively, on the left-hand side from the direction of Main Street. Both are heritage buildings dating back to the 1800s that have been altered over time. Number 12 was occupied by a curious couple

in the mid 1900s who were devoutly traditional and only wore Voortrekker outfits, with the man wearing kruisbande (suspenders) instead of a belt, and his wife only being seen wearing traditional dresses and a kappie (bonnet). Further down Bloem Street over Piet Retief and then Van Riebeek Street is Jan Burger’s old house and tobacco barn at number 25 on the right-hand side. From just before the 1950s up until 2000, farming Turkish tobacco was very popular in Riebeek Kasteel, particularly in the low-lying areas of the valley. The barn, now converted into a home, originally consisted of large entries and panels of corrugated steel sheet cladding. While the adjacent house is actually older than the original barn, it has unfortunately lost most of its heritage features and appeal following a 60s style alteration.



Kloof Street

Where Kloof and Hermon Streets meet, each of the four properties on the corners has heritage significance. On the southeastern corner is the early 1900s house of the past owners: Jan Kloppe and his wife. He was known by locals as Jan “Klip in die bak” when his wife packed him a lunch bowl secretly filled with rocks following his endless complaints. The house on the north-western corner is the original home of the Sadie grape farmers, while the opposing house is the first home of the Truter family; later generations of which own the family run Deli Co. butchery. The final corner towards the southwest, now with a patch of vineyards, is the original site of Oukloof: the non-white or coloured people’s rural community and mission church. This community was forcibly removed in 1965 during the apartheid era, and the original homes and church buildings were demolished while the people were moved to Esterhof on the eastern of Riebeek Kasteel.



Red Tin Roof

This late 1800s building has been a local pub and inn for most of its history. Willem “Gup” Maree is the first known owner of the property. It was his home as well as the base of his transport company where he would keep his trucks and shipping vehicles. Gup was well-known for his thick glasses and terrible eyesight, even though he ironically drove heavy vehicles as a profession. Following Gup’s tenure, a Welsh couple purchased the property and converted it into a pub & inn named “Traveller’s Rest” and they painted it in white with a green roof. More recent times, the renowned South African author – Jacques Pauw – took ownership of the Traveller’s Rest property and aptly renamed it “Red Tin Roof” after he repainted the corrugated sheet roof in red. On the street corner opposite the Red Tin Roof is an old building that was originally a local shop: Dippenaar’s Kontant Winkel. The shop owner, Mr. Dippenaar, would service the village on his bicycle which can still be found in the Riebeek Valley Museum at De Oude Kerk.



Soetevallei

This home was built around the early 1900s and bears a plaque at the front door with its name: “Soetevallei”. The original occupant was Mr. Van der Westhuizen, who was a local farm manager and later worked at the PPC factory outside Riebeek Wes. The Van Jaarsveld’s were the subsequent owners during the mid 1900s. Mr. Van Jaarsveld was Riebeek Kasteel’s water manager, which included oversight of piped drinking water as well as the leiwater system. On the stoep of the house alongside the door is a pair of original concrete wagon wheels from Christoffel Basson’s memorial presented during the village’s commemoration of the Great Trek in 1938. Due to its sheer weight and brittleness, the wagon unfortunately didn’t make it onto the parade on 8 August 1938.



ACVV

On either side of Van Riebeek Street before it meets Sarel Cilliers Street are two heritage buildings, currently occupied by the ACVV retirement home. The building on the southern side has been slightly altered over time but it still retains the original shape, ventilators, and small solder door on the western gable end. It is currently the office and charity shop of the ACVV. On the other side of the road is the old house that’s currently occupied by the dining quarters of the ACVV. While it may not be immediately obvious today, there are architectural clues that this building is older than the one with the ACVV office over the road. The first clue is that it doesn’t have ventilators below the roof line, which were a common hallmark of Victorian properties starting from the early 1900s. The other hint to its older origins is the protruding stone foundations,



The Oldest House

According to locals, this is the oldest house still standing in Riebeek Kasteel. Constructed during a time when Sarel Cilliers Street was named Mill Street, this property was originally part of Izaak Coetzer’s expansive Clovenburg lot. The earliest record of this house is the transfer from CG Maree’s estate in 1896. In its initial state, the home would have only consisted of the squat rectangular building with its roof clad in thatch; without the stoep at the front. Typical of heritage buildings in Riebeek Kasteel dating to this period, the building’s walls are made up of clay and it features a particularly bulky and detailed exterior chimney attached to the southern gable end of the house, which would’ve contained a fireplace and cooking area accessed from the interior. The tiny window on the side of the fireplace was to let in light and a draft for the cooking area. The small stature of this old home is magnified by its solder (attic) door that is unusually off-centre and pushed to one side of the gable end due to the oversized chimney and lack of height compared to other buildings.