The Swartland town of Malmesbury

The first expedition in the direction of presentday Malmesbury was undertaken by Jan Wintervogel in 1655, by order of commander Jan van Riebeeck of the Dutch East India Company, three years after the Dutch explorers colonised the Cape.

Previously the area around Malmesbury was inhabited by Khoi and San.

The area was soon referred to as 'het Zwarteland' (the Black Land), probably because the veld, covered by rhenoster bushes, appeared black at certain times of the year, unlike the greeness of Europe.

When 'het Zwartelandskerk' (the Dutch Reformed church) was established in 1745, a mere 24 people were living in the vicinity of the mineral spring, still situated, though only as a small fountain, in the town's centre. The congregation was known as 'het Zwartelandskerk' until 1829, when it was proclaimed a town by former governor Sir Lowry Cole and renamed 'Malmesbury' in honour of his father-in-law, Sir James Harris, First Earl of Malmesbury in England. On 8 June 1860 the village gained municipal status and was governed

by a board of commissioners for nearly 36 years until 1896, when the town council was established.

The town developed rapidly and today is the biggest town in the area, generally known as the 'Heart of the Swartland'

Die Swartlandse dorp Malmesbury

Die eerste tog in die rigting van die huidige Malmesbury is in 1655 deur Jan Wintervogel onderneem in opdrag van Kommandeur Jan van Riebeeck van die Nederlandse Oos-Indiese Kompanje slegs drie jaar nadat die Hollanders die kolonie aan die Kaap gevestig het.

Voorheen is die gebied rondom Malmesbury deur die Khoi en San bewoon.

Baie gou is na die gebied verwys as 'het Zwarte Land', waarskynlik omdat die veld wat met renosterbos oortrek was, in sekere tye van die jaar 'n swart voorkoms gehad het in teenstelling met die oorvloedige groen van Europa.

Met die stigting van die NG gemeente 'het Zwartelandskerk' in 1745, het 'n skrale 24 mense gewoon in die omgewing van die fontein, wat vandag nog in die middedorp as 'n klein fonteintjie te sien is. Die gemeente het as 'het Zwartelandskerk' bekend gestaan tot in 1829 toe die destydse goewerneur, Sir Henry Cole, die dorp geproklameer het en dit vernoem het na sy skoonvader, Sir James Harris, Eerste Graaf van Malmesbury in Engeland. Op 8 Junie 1860 het die dorp munisipale status verwerf. Dit is vir byna 36 jaar bestuur deur 'n raad van kommissarisse tot 1896 toe die dorpsraad ingestel is.

Die dorp het vinnig uitgebrei en is vandag die grootste dorp in die gebied, algemeen bekend as die 'Hart van die Swartland'.

1.

Swartland Dutch Reformed Church, Church Street
NG Kerk Swartland, Kerkstraat
Style: Gothic Revival Boustyl: Gotiese Herlewing
Built: 1860 Opgerig: 1860

The Swartland Dutch Reformed Mother Church is the central edifice of Malmesbury. The glistening white neo-Gothic structure makes an impressive visual impact with its tall steeple and unusual asymmetrical façade.

This congregation was founded in June 1745 by the Rev Francois le Seur of Cape Town. Its first minister was the Rev R Weerman. The original church building was completed in 1751 and later enlarged in 1831, but was still too small. On 30 December 1860 a new church building was inaugurated. About two years later the building collapsed. It was rebuilt within a year and a steeple added in 1864, but this also collapsed in 1877 and had to be rebuilt. The church was enlarged in 1899 by building on side wings. The church organ, with its 1818 pipes and electro-pneumatic action, was inaugurated in 1938. During the term of the Rev WA Landman

the building was restored and new teak pews and electricity were installed. The changes were inaugurated on 9 August 1942. By 1964 the congregation had outgrown the mother church and the Swartland North congregation was formed.

The church and churchyard wall were declared a national monument on 6 July 1979. Old gravestones dating as far back as 1830 nestle beneath the Jakaranda trees on the church precinct.

Die Nederduitse Gereformeerde Moederkerk Swartland is sentraal in Malmesbury. Die glinsterende wit neo-Gotiese struktuur is indrukwekkend met sy hoë toring en a-simmetriese vooraansig.

Die gemeente is in Junie 1745 gestig deur ds Francois le Seur van Kaapstad. Die eerste predikant was ds R Weerman. Die oorspronklike kerkgebou is in 1751 voltooi en later, in 1831 vergroot, maar was nog te klein. Op 30 Desember 1860 is 'n nuwe kerkgebou ingewy, maar dit het ongeveer twee jaar later ineengestort. Die kerk is binne 'n jaar herbou en in 1864 is die toring aangebou, wat ook in 1877 ineengestort het en herbou moes word. In 1899 is die kerk vergroot deur die aanbou van die vleuels. Die orrel met sy 1818 pype en elektro-pneumatiese aksie is in 1938 ingewy. Gedurende die ampstermyn van ds WA Landman is die gebou gerestoureer en is nuwe kerkbanke van kiaat sowel as elektrisiteit ingesit. Die veranderinge is op 9 Augustus 1942 in gebruik geneem. Teen 1964 het die moedergemeen-te te groot geword en is Swartland-Noord afgestig.

Die kerk en kerkhof is op 6 Julie 1979 tot nasionale monument verklaar. Grafstene van sover terug as 1830 rus onder die jakarandabome op die kerkterrein.

2.

'Oulap' residence, 23 Piet Retief Street
'Oulap'-woning, Piet Retiefstraat 23
Style: Victorian Boustyl: Viktoriaans
Built: c.1899 Opgerig: c.1899

This Victorian house on the corner of Piet Retief and Rainier Streets, now a private residence, has an interesting history. During the Anglo Boer War (1899 -1902) it was used as an annex to accommodate the overfiow of patients from the town hall, which had been converted into a military zhospital. The house was built by Johannes de Greeff for his son. The two original fireplaces and decorative ceilings are interesting features. One of the fig trees in the garden was planted more than a hundred years ago.

Hierdie Viktoriaanse huis op die hoek van Piet Retief- en Rainierstraat het 'n interessante geskiedenis. Dis nou 'n privaatwoning, maar gedurende die Anglo-Boereoorlog (1899 - 1902) is dit gebruik as 'n anneks om die pasiënte te huisves wat te veel was vir die stadsaal wat as militêre hospitaal gedien het.

Die huis is deur Johannes de Greeff vir sy seun gebou. Die twee oorspronklike kaggels en dekoratiewe plafonne is interessante kenmerke. Een van die vyebome in die tuin is meer as honderd jaar gelede geplant.

3.

Trafalgar Centre, corner of Piet Retief and Rainier Streets
Trafalgarsentrum, h/v Piet Retief- en Rainierstraat
Style: Functional Boustyl: Funksioneel
Built: Mid 19th century Opgerig: Middel 19de eeu

This old granary, which was owned by former mayor and benefactor of Malmesbury, PG Nelson, from 1875 to 1956, succeeds in blending into the central historical hub of the town, despite radical renovation. Trafalgar Centre, as it is now called, houses several businesses and a restaurant.

Hierdie ou graanskuur, wat die eiendom was van PG Nelson, voormalige burgemeester en weldoener van Malmesbury van 1875 tot 1956, skakel goed in by die historiese kern ten spyte van radikale veranderinge wat aangebring is. Trafalgarsentrum, soos dit tans heet, huisves verskeie sakeondernemings en 'n restaurant.

4. Attorneys' Chambers, 18 Rainier Street
Prokureurskantore, Rainierstraat 18
Style: Victorian
Boustyl: Viktoriaans
Built: c.1897
Opgerig: c.1897

5. Land surveyors' Offices, 16 Rainier Street
Landmeterskantore, Rainierstraat 16
Style: Victorian
Boustyl: Viktoriaans
Built: c.1897
Opgerig: c.1897

6. 8A Rainier Street
Style: Victorian
Boustyl: Viktoriaans
Built: c1840 Opgerig: c.1840

Still retaining a winged 'Malmesbury' gable, this T-shaped building has an added, partially enclosed veranda.

Hierdie T-vormige gebou, beskik oor n toegevoegde, deels-toegeboude stoep en behou steeds n "Malmesbury-styl" gewel.

7. Loedolf House, Loedolff Street
Huis Loedolff, Loedolffstraat
Style: Cape Dutch (restored) Boustyl: Kaapse Hollands (gerestoureer)
Built: c.1830 Opgerig: c.1830

This very important house in the Malmesbury historic landscape was once the residence of Hugo Hendrik Loedolff, a controversial man in church circles, and also a local member of parliament.

The interior displays heavy beams depicting its early construction and some of the windows are of a style of an earlier period, and the corner columns on the facade are of a type once common in the town as is the winged and pedimented gable.

Hierdie uiterse belangrike woning, binne die historiese landskap van Malmesbury, was oorspronklik die woonhuis van Hendrik Loedolff, n kontroversiële man in die Kerkgemeenskap, asook n plaaslike parlementslid.

Swaar balke, tiperend van n vroeë konstruksie, word binne die huis aangetref. Sommige vensters reflekteer verder die oorspronklike styl. Die hoekpilare van die vooraansig stem ooreen met hul eweknieë, eens heel algemeen in die dorp, asook die gepedimenteerde gewel.

8. Old Jewish Synagogue, now the Malmesbury Museum, 1 Prospect Street
Ou Joodse Sinagoge, nou die Malmesbury Museum, Prospectstraat 1
Style: Edwardian Boustyl: Eduardiaans
Built: 1911 Opgerig: 1911

The foundation stone of the Jewish synagogue of the Ohel Jacob Congregation was laid on 11 November 1911. This exceptional building was designed and built by Max Goldman. At that time the Jewish community comprised about 40 families. Many of these families owned general dealerships, which formed an important part of the economy of the town. By 1920 the Jewish community had grown to about 80 families. However, as the children moved to bigger towns, the Jewish community diminished and eventually disappeared.

An identical synagogue was erected in Piketberg. The synagogue in Malmesbury was bought by Dr Goldman, son of the builder, and presented to the community of Malmesbury on condition that no religious ceremonies were held there. Today the building houses the Malmesbury Museum.

Die hoeksteen van die Ohel Jacob-gemeente is op 11 November 1911 gelê. Hierdie buitengewone gebou is deur Max Goldman ontwerp en gebou. Destyds het die Joodse gemeenskap uit ongeveer 40 gesinne bestaan. Baie van die gesinne was algemene handelaars, wat 'n belangrike rol gespeel het in die dorp se ekonomie. Teen 1920 het die Joodse gemeenskap aangegroei tot ongeveer 80 gesinne, maar soos die kinders na groter dorpe verhuis het, het die Joodse gemeenskap begin kwyn en mettertyd heeltemal verdwyn.

'n Identiese sinagoge is op Piketberg opgerig. Die sinagoge in Malmesbury is deur dr Goldman, seun van die bouer, gekoop en aan die gemeenskap van Malmesbury geskenk op voorwaarde dat geen godsdienstige byeenkomste daar gehou sou word nie. Vandag huisves die gebou die Malmesbury Museum.

9. Free Mason Lodge, 2 Prospect Street
Vrymesselaarslosie, Prospectstraat 2
Style: Victorian with Classical infiuence
Boustyl: Viktoriaans met klassieke invloede
Built: 1866 Opgerig: 1866

The Lodge of St Jan was erected in 1866 according to a design drawn up in Holland. It was built by a certain BJ Croeser, who also built many other buildings in Malmesbury. In 1905 the Lodge was badly damaged by a tornado, but was rebuilt by 1907.

Die Losie van St Jan is in 1866 gebou volgens planne wat in Holland opgetrek is. Die boumeester was ene BJ Croeser wat ook verskeie ander geboue in Malmesbury opgerig het. In 1905 is die Losie erg beskadig deur 'n tornado, maar dis teen 1907 herbou.

10. Andrew's Hope, Lower Voortrekker Street
Andrew's Hope, Laer Voortrekkerstraat
Style: Victorian Boustyl: Viktoriaans
Built: c.1880 Opgerig: c.1880

This magnificent Victorian house, under a giant, spreading wild ficus tree, was built in the 1880s by a young man called Andries Loubser.

Andries, the son of a wealthy local family, was in his late twenties when he completed the house for his bride-to-be, but tragedy struck. Before the marriage could take place, his fiancée died. Andries lived alone at Andrew's Hope and died seven years later – of a broken heart. His grave can be seen in the local cemetery.

Hierdie pragtige Viktoriaanse huis, onder 'n skaduryke wildevyeboom, is in die 1880s deur 'n jong man, Andries Loubser, gebou.

Andries, die seun van 'n welgestelde plaaslike familie, was in sy laat twintigerjare toe hy die woning voltooi het vir sy aanstaande bruid, maar toe tref die noodlot. Sy verloofde is oorlede voordat die huwelik voltrek is. Andries het alleen in Andrew's Hope gewoon en sterf sewe jaar later - met 'n gebroke hart. Sy graf is in die plaaslike begraafplaas te sien.

11. Old St Thomas Anglican Church, now New Apostolic Mission Church, Voortrekker Street
Ou St Thomas Anglikaanse Kerk, nou die Nuwe Apostoliese Sendingkerk, Voortrekkerstraat
Style: English Country Gothic Revival
Boustyl: Engelse Plattelandse Gotiese Herlewing
Built: 1859 Opgerig: 1859

The history of this national monument can be traced back to 1848, when Bishop Robert Gray visited Malmesbury to investigate the possibility of establishing an Anglican Church. The British government granted sites for a cemetery and a church. Sophia, wife of Bishop Gray, drew up the plans. The building was completed after a year and, on 18 September 1859, Bishop Gray inaugurated St Thomas Church.

Interesting features are the slate roof and cement finials (crosses). The gable collapsed in 1944. The church was repaired, but without the gable.

In 1977 the congregation moved and the church was sold. It is now used by the New Apostolic Mission.

Die geskiedenis van hierdie nasionale monument voer ons terug tot in 1848 toe Biskop Robert Gray Malmesbury besoek het om die stigting van 'n Anglikaanse Kerk te ondersoek. Die Britse regering het die grond beskikbaar gestel vir 'n kerkhof en 'n kerk en Biskop Gray se eggenote, Sophia, het die planne geteken. Die bouwerk het 'n jaar geduur en op 18 September 1859 het Biskop Gray die St Thomaskerk ingewy.

Interessante kenmerke is die leiklipdak en die puntversierings (kruise) van sement. Die gewel het in 1944 ineengestort, en hoewel die kerk herstel is, is die gewel nie herbou nie. In 1977 het die gemeente verhuis en is die kerk verkoop. Dit word tans deur die Nuwe Apostoliese Sending gebruik.

16. Town House, 7 Duthie Street
Dorpshuis, Duthiestraat 7
Style: Victorianised early Cape
Boustyl: Vroegkaaps met Viktoriaanse detail
Built: c.1860 Opgerig: c.1860

This is a particularly attractive example of a communion/church house where farmers stayed over when attending church activities. It was built between 1860 and 1880 in a simple, symmetrical early Cape style with a flat roof sloping towards the back. In 1874, Dr F Biccard bought the property from the "Board of Church wardens" of the Dutch Reformed church. During later renovations the house was given a pitchroof and Victorian detailing. A stable on the south side forms part of the house, hence the quoining on the stoep between the last set of windows.

Hierdie is 'n besonder mooi voorbeeld van 'n dorpshuis waar boere oorgebly het tydens kerklike funksies of nagmaal. Dit is tussen 1860 en 1880 gebou in eenvoudige, simmetriese Vroegkaapse styl met 'n platdak wat na agter afloop. In 1874 het dr F Biccard die huis gekoop van die Kerkraad van die NG Kerk. Met latere verbeterings het die huis 'n staandak gekry en is Viktoriaanse detail aangebring. 'n Stal aan die suidekant is deel van die huis; vandaar die hoekklippatroon op die stoep tussen die laaste stel vensters.

17. 19th Century Streetscapes, Huguenot Street
19de Eeuse Straattonele, Hugenotestraat
Style: Georgian with 1920s verandah
Boustyl: Georgiaans met stoep van die 1920s
Built: Late 19th century Opgerig: Laat 19de eeu

The late 19th century cottages of Huguenot Street form a picturesque streetscape, though many are in need of restoration and several have been demolished. Roseknow (pictured) and the Mount Pleasant cottages are notable examples of conservation in this street.

Die laat 19de eeuse kothuise in Hugenotestraat maak 'n skilderagtige straattoneel, alhoewel baie van hulle restourasie nodig het en verskeie reeds gesloop is. Roseknow (foto) en Mount Pleasant-kothuise is opvallende voorbeelde van bewaring in hierdie straat.

18. Old Police Station, corner of Voortrekker and Truter Streets
Ou Polisiestasie, h/v Voortrekker- en Truterstraat
Style: Georgian Boustyl: Georgiaans
Built: 1862 Opgerig: 1862

This noteworthy Georgian double storey building served as a police station until 1979, whereafter it was used by the defence force commando until 1991. More recently the building accommodated the local newspaper office and other businesses. The interior, with its creaking wooden staircase, is largely intact.

Hierdie noemenswaardige dubbelverdiepinggebou het as polisiestasie gedien tot 1979, waarna dit tot 1991 deur die Weermag-kommando gebruik is. Meer onlangs het die gebou die plaaslike koerant en ander sakeondernemings gehuisves. Die binnekant, krakende houttrap en al, is feitlik ongeskonde.

19. Swartland High School, Dirkie Uys Street
Hoeerskool Swartland, Dirkie Uysstraat
Style: Edwardian Boustyl: Edwardiaans
Built: 1912
Opgerig: 1912

This complex of fine Edwardian buildings consists of a central double-storey structure flanked by single-storey side wings reflecting the main facade, all set on linking stone bases.

The entrance is approached by a double-sided fiight of steps via three arches, and the roof is topped with projecting pediments.

Hierdie kompleks van pragtige Edwardiaanse styl geboue, bestaan uit n sentrale dubbelverdieping struktuur, gekomplimenteer deur enkelverdiepingvleuls aangetref op die fianke. Dit verteenwoordig dieselfde styl as die hoofaansig en is gebou op aaneenlopende klipbasisse.

Die ingang word bereik deurgemaak van 'n dubbele stel trappe en drie geboogde openinge. Die dak is voltooi met pedimente wat oorhange insluit.

Compiled by Malmesbury Tourism and Swartland Heritage Foundation
Saamgestel deur Malmesbury Toerisme en Swartland Erfenis Stigting

Old *Ou* Malmesbury
Historic *Historiese*
Route Roete

Malmesbury
Three views of Church Street, Malmesbury

Malmesbury
SOUTH AFRICA
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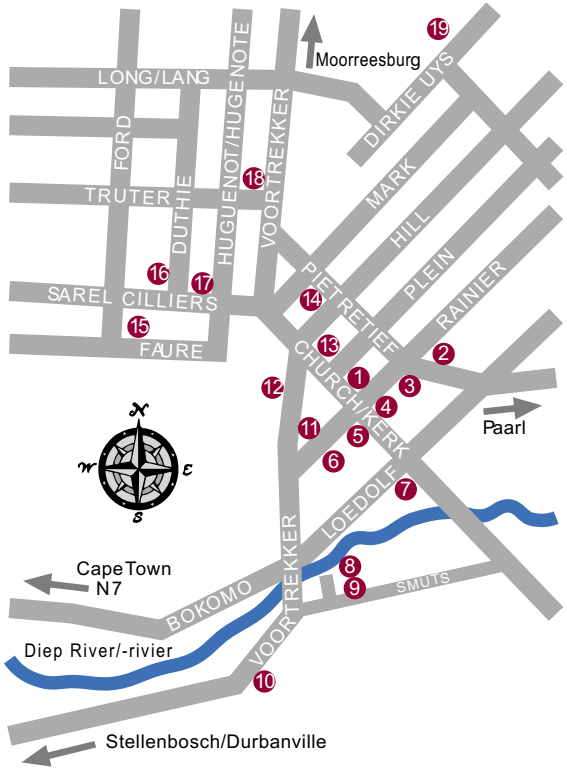

Take a trip through the historic hub of Malmesbury and see the town through the eyes of a 19th century visitor. Interspersed among Early Cape buildings dating from about 1830 are structures from later periods, reflecting the rich and varied architectural development of the town over time.

Ry rustig deur die geskiedkundige kern van Malmesbury en besigtig die dorp met die oë van ’n 19de eeuse besoeker. Vroegkaapse geboue wat dateer van ongeveer 1830 staan plek-plek tussen geboue uit latere tydperke - ’n toonbeeld van die ryke verskeidenheid van argitektoniese ontwikkeling in die dorp deur die jare.

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12. Old Christian Youth Hall, now NG Church Office, Voortrekker Street
Ou CJ Zaal, tans NG Kerkkantoor, Voortrekkerstraat
Style: Edwardian
Boustyl: Eduardiaans
Built: 1908 Opgerig: 1908

As far back as 1882, a Christian youth association was mentioned in the annals of the Swartland Dutch Reformed Church. Because the youth needed their own hall and centre for congregational activities was required, a decision was taken to build a hall.

In 1906 the church council approved the plan to erect a hall and in 1908 the building commission reported that the “Christelike Jongelieden Zaal” had been built for £2 304 8s and 6d. Today the building is used as a Dutch Reformed church office.

The highly decorative architecture reflects European influence.

Sover terug soos 1882 word in die annale van die NG Kerk Swartland melding gemaak van die Christelike Jeugvereniging. Om te voldoen aan die jeug se behoefte aan ’n saal en omdat dit ook nodig was om ’n plek te vind vir gemeentelike aktiwiteite, is besluit om ’n saal te bou.

In 1906 het die kerkraad die plan om ’n saal te bou goedgekeur en in 1908 het die boukommissie verslag gedoen dat die “Christelike Jongelieden Zaal” voltooi is teen ’n koste van £2304 8s en 6d. Vandag dien die gebou as die NG Kerkkantoor.

Die baie dekoratiewe argitektuur weerspieël Europese invloede.

13. Standard Bank and AM Trust buildings, Church Street
Standard Bank- en AM Trustgeboue, Kerkstraat
Style: Edwardian Boustyl: Eduardiaans
Built: c.1900
Opgerig: c.1900

Standing side by side, the Standard Bank and AM Trust buildings are structures characteristic of early 20th century secular architecture. Sturdy and timeless, they incorporate classical elements such as Greek-style pillars and pediments and Roman arches.

Die Standard Bank- en AM Trustgeboue wat langs mekaar staan, is tipiese voorbeelde van vroeë 20ste eeuse sekulêre argitektuur. Met hul tydlose stewigheid vertoon hulle klassieke elemente soos Griekse pilare en geweldriehoeke en Romeinse boë.

14. Twin Shops, Piet Retief Street
Tweelingwinkels, Piet Retiefstraat
Style: Eclectic Boustyl: Eklekties Built: 1880 Opgerig: 1880

Originally erected in 1880 as dwellings, these buildings bear the date 1914 on the gables – possibly the date when they were altered for use as commercial premises. The fact that the buildings are twinned enhances their visual impact in the busy town centre.

Hierdie geboue is oorspronklik in 1880 opgerig as woonhuise, maar die datum 1914 op die gewels dui waarskynlik op die ombouing van die huise om hulle vir kommersiële gebruik in te rig. Die feit dat hulle eenders vertoon, verhoog die visuele impak van die geboue in die bedrywige middedorp.

15. Baron Von Elgg stately Home (Thiart House), 14 Faure Street
Baron von Elgg statige woning (Huis Thiart), Faurestraat 14
Style: Victorian Boustyl: Viktoriaans
Built: 1875 Opgerig: 1875

This is the only remaining double-storeyed Victorian mansion in Malmesbury. It has been excellently preserved by a series of private owners.

ES Ford built the house for Baron Werdmüller von Elgg of Zurich in 1875. It was however never occupied by the Baron. The cost of construction is said to have been £7 000 and all the building material was ordered from a catalogue and shipped out from England.

Dr Fred Werdmuller bought the house in 1907 and lived there for many years, while Gerrie Thiart, who bought it in 1953, saved the house from demolition, a fate suffered by several other stately Victorian residences scattered about the town. The Von Elgg house was declared a national monument in 1984.

Now a well appointed private home, the house still boasts its original painted, pressed steel ceilings and six marble fireplaces.

Hierdie is die enigste oorblywende Viktoriaanse dubbelverdieping herehuis in Malmesbury. Dit is in puik toestand bewaar deur verskeie privaateienaars.

ES Ford het die huis in 1875 gebou vir Baron Werdmüller von Elgg. Dit is egter nooit deur die baron bewoon nie. Die konstruksiekoste was glo £7000 en die boumateriaal is alles vanaf ’n katalogus uit Britanje bestel en hierheen verskeep.

Dr Fred Werdmuller het die woning in 1907 gekoop en baie jare daar gewoon. In 1953 is dit deur Gerrie Thiart gekoop en van sloping gered, ’n lot wat verskeie statige ou Viktoriaanse wonings dwarsdeur die dorp getref het. Die Baron von Elgg-huis is in 1984 tot nasionale monument verklaar.

Tans is dit ’n goedversorgde privaatwoonhuis wat spog met die oorspronklike geperste staalplafonne en ses marmerkaggels.