

# Historical *Stanford* on foot



*A walk through the village, with the histories of old buildings and a map*



# A short history of Stanford

The first mention of the area around the Klein River dates back to 1707 when Jan Hartog (head gardener of the VOC in the Cape) and his party grazed their cattle during a barter trip to the Overberg at the river then only known by its Hottentot name *Gonuka Goggo* – or in Dutch the *kleijne rivier*. No information exists about the first person being given the grazing rights to the Kleyne Riviers Valley (note the ij changing to y in the spelling), but we do know it was given to a Michiel Vlotman in 1758. The rights then passed to Jeremias Aurret. In 1783 he abandoned the farm and the grazing rights were transferred to Christoffel Brand.

Brand was the first to build a house on the farm, which was the holiday home of the Brand family for nearly 30 years. In 1813 the farm was sold to Johannes Truter. In recognition of his service as Chief Justice, Truter was knighted in 1820 – the first South African by birth to receive this honour. He in turn sold the farm to Major Samuel Parlbay in 1831. Parlbay was an entrepreneur of note who imported many crop species never grown in the Overberg before, such as cotton, flax, millet and hops. He built a small water mill for grinding wheat along a stream feeding the Klein River from a spring on the farm, and toyed with the idea to deliver the produce from Overberg farmers to the Simon's Bay by sea rather than by ox wagon "over the mountain" – an idea subsequently implemented successfully by Captain Robert Stanford, the next owner of the farm. Parlbay's wife, Hester, died on the farm in 1835 and was buried on a slope within site of the house, later to become the first graveyard of the village.

In 1838 Parlbay sold the farm to Robert Stanford, who served as captain in the British forces in Burma and South Africa and retired from the British army on half-pay in the same year. Stanford was an equally progressive farmer who *inter alia* replaced Parlbay's 3-bag mill with a bigger dressing mill capable of milling 24 bags of grain per day. He employed John Moore, a ship's carpenter from Cape Town, to undertake the project. The Moore family lived in the house with the Stanfords, and later also with Captain Thomas Smales, who subsequently leased the farm from Stanford.

Robert Stanford and his family spent many happy years on the farm. He even brought his sister's

three children over from England to stay with them after their parents died within six years of each other. The youngest of the three, Francis William, died of consumption on the farm in 1841 and is buried close to Parlbay's wife, Hester.

Stanford became an extremely prosperous farmer – so much so that apart from owning Kleyne Riviers Valley farm, a town house at Stal Plein in Cape Town and two farms in the Caledon district, in 1848 he purchased the farms Gustrouw and Fortu-intjie (today Broadlands) near Gordon's Bay, Kogel Bay near Hangklip and Myrtle Grove at the foot of Sir Lowry's Pass. In 1849 Stanford decided to settle on Gustrouw and leased Kleine Rivers Valley to another British officer on half-pay, captain Thomas Smales.

Stanford's fate changed when the convict ship *Neptune* arrived in Simon's Bay on 19 September 1849. The colonists in the Cape refused to have the Irish convicts set foot in the Colony and decided to withhold their food supplies to all government institutions (including hospitals!) until it was agreed that the convicts would be sent to some other country (which turned out to be Tasmania, then known as Van Diemen's Land). The then governor of the Cape, Sir Harry Smith, became so desperate for food supplies that he ordered the Attorney General, Mr Porter, to speak to Robert Stanford. Arriving at Gustrouw 10 October 1849, he informed Stanford that, as a half-pay officer, he was still in the service of Her Majesty, the Queen of England and requested him to aid the government and supply them with food. Stanford replied that he had signed the pledge of the colonists to withhold provisions to the government and that he would adhere to this until the governor agreed to not land the convicts on South African shores. Porter then played his trump card, explaining that the governor would declare martial law the next day and take by force from the colonists the supplies they so urgently needed. Stanford realised that this would lead to bloodshed and decided to send the much-needed provisions – on condition that the governor grant Stanford full indemnity for his assistance.

The colonists regarded his humanitarian assistance as treason and ostracised him. They refused to purchase his produce, stole his cattle, forced his labourers to desert the farm and refused his children

further entry to their school in Cape Town. Even the banks refused him credit and called up all his bonds and debts. Despite his plea to the governor for the promised protection and help, nothing was done to assist Stanford. Robert Stanford eventually decided to take the matter up with the Minister of Colonies and set sail for England in June 1850. For his assistance to the government he was knighted on 14 August 1850 – but received no compensation for the losses incurred because of his assistance. In June 1851 he once again sailed to England where he was promised an excellent employment position by the then prime minister, Lord John Russell. Stanford replied that he needed at least £10 000 to wind up his affairs in South Africa. He eventually received an amount of £5 000 in August 1852.

On return to the Cape in November 1852, he found that Captain Smales had disposed of all the oxen and sheep, got rid of the wagons and implements, cut down most of the valuable timber and removed everything he could from the farm. Stanford, at the age of 47, despaired beyond hope because of his inability to build up the farm with such little compensation, was prostrated by an attack of paralysis, from which he never totally recovered. He then decided to appoint an agent (attorney), Johan Steytler, to sort out his affairs. On Stanford's behalf Steytler bought, in cash, a large herd of cattle suffering from a fatal lung disease. Second mortgages had to be taken out on his other farms to pay for the debt. Stanford then decided to appoint a fellow Irishman, George Brunette, to attend to his affairs and left for England. No sooner had he left when Brunette sold Gustrouw, Fortuintjie and Kogel Bay, valued at £5 000, under suspicious circumstances for £3 000. When Stanford's eldest son, Edward, heard that Brunette had also put Kleine Rivers Valley up for sale (along with the surrounding farms Stanford owned), he requested his mother to write a letter to Brunette. Brunette ignored her passionate plea and sold the farm, valued at £20 000, to Philipus de Bruyn in December 1855 for £8 044. Her subsequent appeals to the Cape courts and the Privy Council in London fell on deaf ears and the family was eventually reduced to "genteel beggary".

The new owner of the farm, Philipus de Bruyn, decided to establish a village on 123 hectares of the farm and, as the story goes, called the village Stan-

ford after receiving £50 from Sir Robert Stanford to do so. He auctioned the first of the 200 plots on 5 May 1856 and the first transfer to Duncan McFarlane was registered on 30 September 1857. The farmhouse and mill was bought by Ephraim Moore, son of John Moore – the carpenter employed by Robert Stanford to enlarge and thereafter operate the mill. Ephraim Moore lived in the farmhouse and for the next 108 years most of his descendants had a profound influence on the history of Stanford.

The conditions of sale stipulated that all inhabitants of the 200 erven would have free access to the water of the village, with 97 having irrigation rights from the furrows (*leiwater* channels) to grow vegetables, fruit and flowers. The *leiwater* (still in use today) emanates from the overflow of a spring to the south of the village that still supplies Stanford with all its drinking water. Nowadays the *leiwater* flows through a series of pipes from the spring and then into the channel system one can see around Stanford. Surplus water flows into the Klein River.

After a period of growth until the 1940s (three banks, tailors and other shops), Stanford's business declined as Hermanus (once an insignificant fishing village) became the centre of commerce in the area. Stanford stagnated and until 1990 very few new dwellings were built, but in the late 1990s it was once again discovered as an ideal country getaway.

Efforts by Stanford Conservation (established 1991) to protect the historical architecture and the character of the village grid, paid off when the original Stanford village was declared a conservation area in 1996 under the then National Monuments Act. With Stanford's property market booming and the village experiencing a building explosion in the early 2000s, Stanford Conservation published a *Stanford Style* booklet, a guideline for builders and renovators, in 2007. Also in place is a Heritage Sub-committee, established in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act, that scrutinises all renovations to buildings older than 60 years and gives input into new dwellings being built in the conservation area.

Information obtained from *Stanford Stories II* by SJ du Toit and *Stanford 150 – Portrait of a Village* by Annalize Mouton

# Historical walk

*Start at the Stanford Tourism Bureau – Follow the HW tiles secured to the buildings*

## HW 1 (Erf 443) circa 1925

This was built by Hendrik Vermeulen as a private house. The municipality eventually bought the house and the current tourism office was the municipal office. Next door (at present the library) were the offices of Swart & Roux Attorneys (until 1975). Apart from being an attorney, Jan (Blik) Swart also was the town clerk for 25 years, the local auctioneer, almost Springbok rugby player and mayor of Stanford 1949–1968. When the municipality moved to the building next to the current New Junk Shop in the 1960s, the present tourism office became the municipal chambers. When the municipality purchased the building next door (it used to be Boland Bank) the tourism bureau moved to its present spot. The gables on this building may be seen repeated on a number of buildings throughout the village – this was a popular architectural feature of the “eclectic villa” style of the 1920s. The arched veranda is a later addition.



## HW 2 (Erf 157) circa 1930

Another eclectic villa – note the gables with urns. Originally built by Richard Boucher (a tailor) as a private residence, this house was tastefully converted into business premises in the early 2000s retaining the original features.

## HW 3 (Erf 112) circa 1930

One of Mr Walsh's stores for the everlasting flowers he exported to Germany stood on the premises where Hansie Fourie built this commercial building during the 1930s. Hansie was known as the “Onion King” as he bought up onions from local farmers and exported them. He ran a very popular general

dealer's shop from these premises for some 40 years. It also served as a butcher shop. In 1992 this building was used as a collection point for fynbos flowers from the area. Here fresh flowers were prepared for export overseas. In the off-season the flowers were dried and dyed and then exported. This is now a multipurpose building with restaurant Paprika around the corner, the eclectic Stanford Trading Store and various other businesses.



## HW 4 (Erf 113) 1925

The hotel was originally Kerneels Boucher's house and shop. The present bar was the shop and the rest his dwelling. In the 1930s it was enlarged and turned into a hotel – competition to Granny Moore's boarding house (HW 18) and for many years the only accommodation available in Stanford after Granny Moore's death. The shop was then turned into a pub which, with its swinging doors, reminded one of a Wild West saloon. The inside was gloomy with snake skins and stuffed animal heads adorning the walls. No females were allowed. Many a political debate, church squabble or amorous conquest was discussed over a pint of beer, a tot of witblits or a brandy and Coke. The pub remained unchanged until the mid 1990s. It was revamped in 2002 – complete with the old python skin – but was closed at the time of writing.

## HW 5: (Erf 111) early 1900s

The original corrugated iron building on this site was used as a store to dry and pack the “everlastings” (flowers) which grow in abundance in the area. Michael Walsh, who lived across the road, exported these flowers mainly to Germany for use in pillows and mattresses. In the late 1900s the iron build-

ing was eventually converted to the present brick building. For a short while it was used as a cinema. The patrons were accustomed to sitting in the dark whilst the burnt film had to be spliced. For many years the building was used as a general dealer, then the local Spar and now a general dealer again.



## HW 6: (Erf 1067) 1903

When Michael Walsh purchased the property in 1903, he converted the original cowshed into a house. Walsh merely partitioned the building with the one room leading into the other, and the building became known as the Langhuis (long house), although Walsh himself referred to it as Walsh House. All sorts of animals were kept in the large grounds to the rear of the house – from horses to tortoises. In 1992 the property became the Stanford Conference Centre and Hotel. The Langhuis was kept intact and used as the pub and restaurant, and cottage rooms were built at the back. At present Hennie's Pub & Grill is situated in the Langhuis, while the cottages are let out on a permanent basis.

## HW: Dutch Reformed Church

The first Dutch Reformed church was constructed in the shape of a cross where the present church hall is (the corner site housed a farm outbuilding that incorporated Robert Stanford's dovecote). The present imposing sandstone church was completed in 1926 at a cost of £12 000, which included the building, organ, clock and pews. The sandstone blocks were mined on a farm some 2 km to the south of Stanford and transported to the building site by ox-wagon. Here the sandstone was manually “dressed” with hammers and chisels. Note the unusual design of the church. A similar church can be seen in Hermanus. The old cross church became the church hall and was replaced in the 1960s by the present hall. When a well-known resident of

Stanford passed away in days gone by, the church bells would ring the age of the person before the commencement of the funeral.

## HW 8: (Erf 77) circa 1910

Originally built during the late 1700s as a “langhuis” along Queen Victoria Street (photograph on front cover). It served as stables for the farm house, and parts of it are probably older than the house itself (see HW 18). In the 1920s it was converted into a residential house and then extended along Church Street to accommodate the Post Office, managed by Ms Goetz (see HW 47), daughter of Stanford's first postmaster. The building also housed the manual telephone exchange. The entrance door on the diagonal of the two streets is typical of the house-cum-shops built during the 1920s, but with the curved gable replaced by a pointed one.

## HW 9: (Erf 76) circa 1910

This house was completely changed and very little remains of the original house, although one can see that it must also have had a veranda on both sides of the diagonal (shop) entrance door. For many years this was the home of a teacher, Mr Van Niekerk. His son, Bob, was the co-founder of the first fibreglass sports car in SA, the GSM Dart. This car won the Brands Hatch race in 1960 and competed in numerous races including at Goodwood and UK Silverstone. The vogue of those years was flying and Mr van Niekerk kept an aeroplane in his backyard. (By co-incidence, the brother of Bob's GSM Dart partner, Fritz Meissner, became the owner of Bugler's Cottage (HW 43) in the 1990s.)



## HW 10 (Erf 425) 1921

From the 1880s onwards, Hendrik Taljaard grew grapes on the whole area from Queen Victoria Street down to the river. He made wine (the village



children helped to crush the grapes with their feet) and distilled witblits. The house was originally a barn and adapted into a house in 1921. In the 1930s Piet du Toit, who supplied the town with milk until about 1965, owned this area. His Jersey cows were milked in a shed near the river (at the end of Caledon Street and now a dwelling).

**Turn left into Caledon Street (formerly Bos Street)**

### HW 11

A typical example of the cottages in this street in which members of the brown community lived in harmony with their white neighbours before the Coloureds' forced removal to Stanford South in the 1960s.



### On your left: De Kleine Rivier Valey

This is the original front of the old farmhouse built by Christoffel Brand in the late 1700's – even before he was granted the farm by the government in 1801! It was thatched and had a large front door. Legend has it that Samuel Parlbay (third owner of the farm) was so much in love with his (second) wife, Hester, that he buried her across the stream so he could see her grave from the veranda.

### HW 12 (Erf 79) 2003

This is an example of a new house that fits into the old architectural style of Stanford.

### HW 13 (Erf 1189)

Behind this house (look over the gate) is all that remains of the water mill built by Samuel Parlbay and enlarged by Robert Stanford. The enlarged "dressing mill" (made from teak) was imported from Scotland by Sir Robert Stanford, could grade 4 grades of wheat and could grind 24 bags of wheat per day. The wheat was transported by ox wagon to Stanford's Bay, from where it was shipped to Cape Town. In the early 1940s the mill stopped operating due to a

new milling law. The mill became derelict and was eventually sold to a farmer who wanted to use it for generating electricity, but the sale fell through because of a lack of constant water. The mill was later dismantled and only the building remains.

### Left into Morton Street

*Look at the beautifully restored home on the right-hand side of Caledon Street just before you turn left. This is a typical example of sympathetic restoration work to a building older than 60 years.*



### HW 14 (Erf 96) 1920

The road to Gansbaai passed along this stretch of Church Street. Jaap Swaney realised the opportunity this thoroughfare presented and built a shop cum dwelling on the corner in 1920 (note the typical shop entrance door on the splay. The erf behind the shop in Church Street was planted with vegetables, and cattle from the farms were slaughtered behind the shop. Mr Duminy, who purchased the shop in the 1930s, was a renowned business man and the building is still referred to as *Duminy se winkel* (Duminy's shop). It now is a private residence.

### Left into Church Street



### HW 15: (Erf 80) circa 1920s

This typical eclectic villa, now sadly neglected, was possibly built by the Moore family. It served as a

police station and cells, magistrate's court and home of the police chief until 1969 when the new police station was built and the function of the magistrate moved to Hermanus. The courtroom and cells are possibly a later addition to an original home. The cells are still intact.

### HW 16: Buzzy Bee Nursery School) before 1910

This, as well as the house to the right thereof, is an example of the unadorned cottages built by farmers for their weekend stay when they came to Stanford for nagmaal (Holy Communion) and on business. This particular *tuishuis* was incorporated into the school grounds and used as domestic science classroom. It is now run as a nursery school.

### HW 17: Okkie Smuts School 1910

As with the Dutch Reformed Church, this building was constructed using local sandstone. At first, (1910) the school consisted of three classrooms with the first teacher living on the premises. The wings were built in the 1920s and the other buildings were added later. At one stage it catered for pupils from grade 1 to standard 8. At present the school caters for children from pre-grade R to grade 7 and there are some 174 children in the school. Tucked away between the school and the church hall is the school hostel. This building was the original Pastorie (rectory) of the DR Church and was bought by spinster Uys (see HW 52) when the church built their new Pastorie in Du Toit Street (HW 22). She made some alterations and moved the children to the "new" hostel.

### HW 18: (Erf 78) circa 1785

The farmhouse on Klein Rivier Valey was built by Christoffel Brand in the late 1700s. Lady Ann Barnard stayed here in 1798 when she conducted her tour from Cape Town to the interior. The house belonged to, amongst others, Sir John Truter (the first South African to be knighted, 1820) and Sir Robert Stanford (1850). Survivors of the ill-fated troopship *Birkenhead* that ran aground off Danger Point on 26 February 1852 were given shelter here. Ephraim Moore bought the house on auction in 1855 and the Moore family stayed in the house until the death of his youngest of nine sons (Halley) in 1964. Ephraim added the shop on the Church Street side of the house and converted the house into a boarding house. His wife, Polly (fondly remembered as Granny Moore), managed the boarding

house until her death. After 1964 the house passed into the hands of various owners and was subject to a slow decay. It is possibly the oldest standing farmhouse in the Overberg and it took owners John and Irene more than 10 years to restore – all at their own cost.



### HW 19 & 20 (Erf 75 & 74): circa 1910

These are good examples of the Victorian cottages constructed in Stanford in the early 1900s. HW 19 has been sympathetically restored, while HW 20 is still in the same condition (excluding the braai on the veranda!). Although electricity became available to Stanford in 1961, tant Grieta Pieters only relented to this luxury in 2003! Born in the house in the early 1920s, she is still guarded by the two Dalmatians on the veranda.

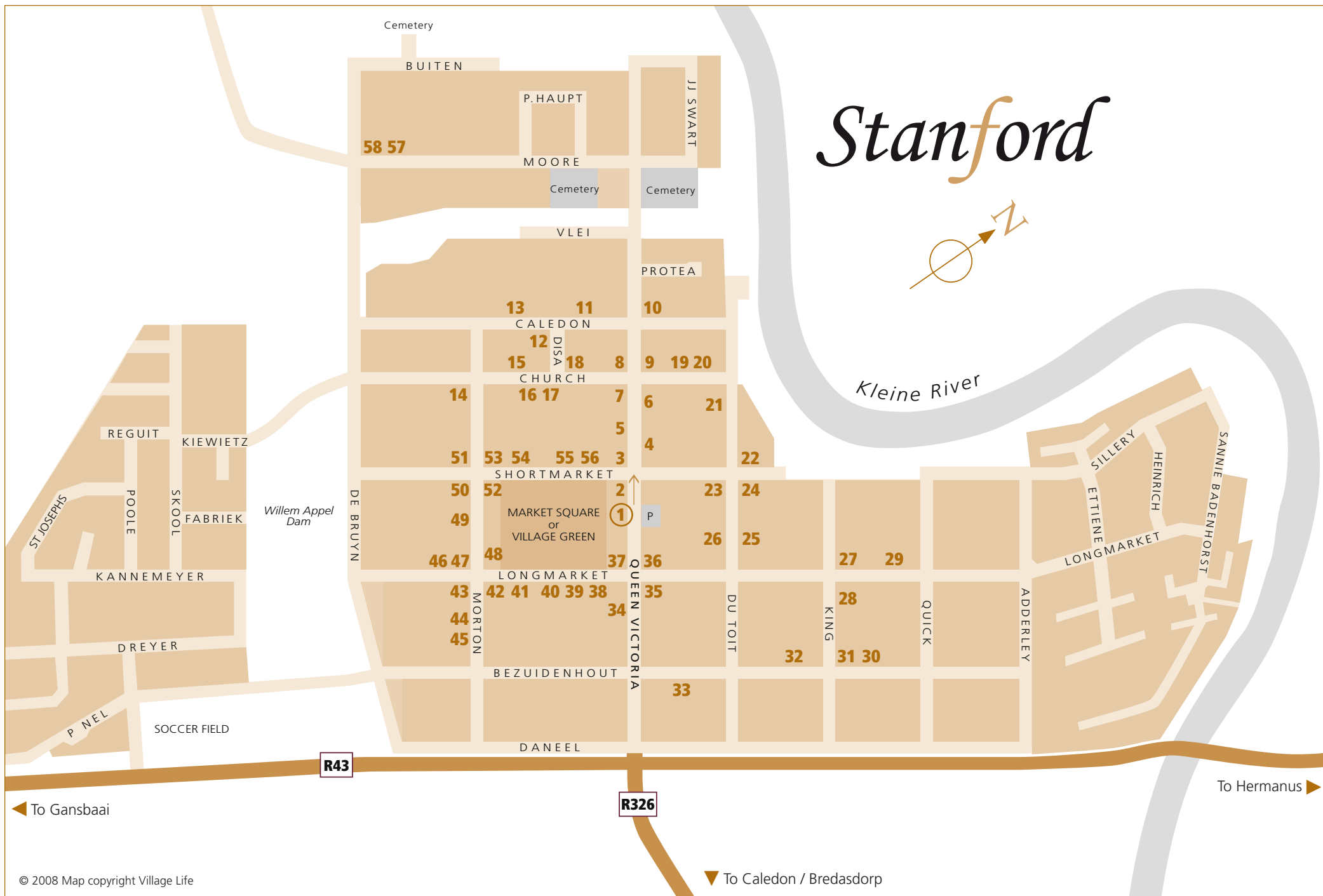
*Before turning into Du Toit Street notice the view of the river to your left. Here one can board a boat for a trip down the river or launch one's own boat (permits from the Tourism Bureau or Hennie's Pub).*

### Turn right into Du Toit street



### HW 21: (Erf 120) Before 1930

This is a typical example of the houses built by Hendrik Vermeulen in Stanford in the 1920s. This





house was built for the headmaster of the school, Mr H A L (Okkie) Smuts. A succession of headmasters lived there after he left. Note the gables and large barn next to the house. During the 1980s and '90s the house was owned by "Oom Koos" Jordaan, a renowned whip maker. His whips became collector's items when farming became mechanised. The editor of the local Stanford newspaper, *Stanford River Talk*, Kerri Brokensha, and her husband, Brian, currently own the house.

*On your left is a row of modern houses with views of the Klein River and mountains.*



#### HW 22: (Erf 301) after 1930

This beautiful home was built as the *Pastorie* (parsonage) for the minister of the Dutch-Reformed Church. Ds S J L Marais was the first minister to live there. Before a funeral parlour opened across the road, a grandiose hearse with glass sides was kept in one of the garages. The house was sold in 1995 when the modern parsonage was built in Queen Victoria Street, and was recently completely renovated adding more bathrooms, a wine cellar and a swimming pool with changing rooms.

*If you turn left into Shortmarket Street you can join the wandelpad (walking trail) along the river.*

#### HW 23: (Erf 145) 1936

Jan (Blik) Swart, who built this house, was town clerk and mayor of Stanford for more than 40 years. He ran his lawyer's business from where the library now is. His son, Sakkie, was born in the house in 1937 and is the present occupant. The oak trees in the garden are reputed to be older than the house. The nickname "Blik" came about because of Jan Swart keeping his savings in a tin (*blik*) in hostel while at high school in Caledon. Sakkie inherited the same nickname when he arrived at high school,



but his three sons posed a problem. The first two were easily sorted by being called "Groot Blik" and "Klein Blik". The youngest was a problem... but his peers quickly found the solution and nicknamed him "Sim", as in "blik-sim" (*bliksem*).

#### HW 24: (Erf 144) after 1930

The garage on Du Toit Street was the Stanford mortuary and the house around the corner was the residential house of the undertaker – which also served as the funeral parlour. The coffins were stored in the attic. To the rear of the house is an old shed used to store more coffins. The daughter of the undertaker did most of her homework here as it was quite and nobody bothered her.



#### HW 25: (Erf 415) circa 1910

Built in the typical cottage style, this was the *tuishuis* of Koos van Dyk. At one stage blacksmith Koos Geldenhuys worked from the garage. It later became a popular holiday cottage, named Owls' Barn because of the owls roosting there. It originally had a thatched roof and the veranda was added during the 1990s. It is now a renowned country restaurant run by Peter and Mariana Esterhuizen. Mariana has won a number of awards and the restaurant regularly features in magazines and TV programmes.

#### HW 26: (Erf 417) circa 1910

This is another of the row of simple cottages that adorned this section of Du Toit Street. It was owned by Wessel du Toit, who grew vegetables where the present police station now is. There is still a "lei-water" pipe running to the police station grounds. The house next door, recently renovated, belonged to the Fouries. Their son, Frans, used to pump the organ in the DR Church before every hymn could be played.

#### Left into Longmarket Street

*The area you see before you down to where the road turns was called Die Vleiland (the wetland) and was used to grow vegetables and fruit trees. Most of the old houses in this area, occupied by the brown families before they were relocated to Die Skema, have disappeared. Before you reach King Street, for example, there were at least six cottages on the left.*

#### HW 27: (Erf 137) 1940s

Built by John Carse in the 1940's as a modest cottage, it was the last house in Stanford to be coupled to the electricity network (2006). The house has recently been renovated and enlarged. John was a descendent of the Carse family who came from Scotland in the 1820s and who were tanners and harness makers by trade.

#### HW 28: (Erf 571) circa 1910

This house is a fine example of the Victorian cottages built in the early 1900s. It was built for Jaap de Villiers who owned the land on which Gansbaai was established. In later years, Sas Vermeulen used the fertile land and extensive grounds for the propagation of vegetables and fruit. Almost the entire block, from King to Quick Street and from Longmarket to Bezuidenhout Street, was one property until the late 1990s. The Bednalls changed it into the Klein River Lodge in the 1980s and today it is still run as the upmarket Galashiels Lodge.

#### HW 29: (Erf 131)

During the Apartheid years Matilda May, being classified as a "Coloured", was ordered to leave her home and move to a new area now called Stanford South (*Die Skema*). She refused, saying she would only move when she was carried out dead. Whenever an official called to tell her to leave, she asked for a moment to speak to "The Master", closed the door and always reappeared with the same message: She had been told not to go. Mathilda May died in

her home, as she wished to do, in the 1980s. Unfortunately only the foundations of the house remain. A street in Stanford is named after her.

#### Right into Quick Street and then right into Bezuidenhout Street

*Before the present R43 road was built, Bezuidenhout Street was the entrance to Stanford from the Hermanus side. To get to Gansbaai one had to turn right into Queen Victoria Street and then left into Church Street.*

#### HW 30: (Erf 212) before 1900

This building was originally a shed and was converted into a church in the 1950s. Pastor Freddie van Niekerk was the leader of the Plymouth Brethren Church. When the Coloured community was moved to Stanford South, the building was changed into a home.



#### HW 31: (Erf 209) late 1800s

This is an interesting house as it is the only unchanged Victorian cottage with a veranda on both streets. Legend has it that a previous owner of this house, Chrisjan Erwee, caused many giggles in church as his shoes would creak when he walked down the church aisle. The house now belongs to the Otto family, who steadfastly resist the pressure of selling their home.

*The old houses to the left and right as you walk towards Queen Victoria Street all date back to the 1910s. An important architectural view is the street-scape. Most of the old houses were built virtually on the street to leave as much productive land behind the house as possible. This is in stark contrast to the homes built in the 1960s and 70s, which were built back from the street, breaking the original street-scape.) A number of the houses still have the bullnose sheeting on the veranda.*

### HW 32: (Erf 205) 1863

The first transfer of this property took place in 1863, although the first title deed was only issued in 1891. This house at one stage belonged to one of the many Groenewald families of Stanford. They had a beautiful garden, fed by the *leiwater* system that still runs through the village today. Food gardening was extremely important until the late 1970s. Most people relied on their gardens for the daily fresh produce – a tradition kept by only a few people in the village today (one of them being Mariana's acclaimed country restaurant).

### HW 33: (Erf 262) late 1800s

Here is another example of a modest Victorian cottage. Unfortunately the bullnose sheeting on the veranda was recently changed to a simple corrugated iron – mainly because of the present cost of these sheets that have to be specially rolled. The bathroom added onto the veranda is typical of a number of the old cottages as this was often the easiest way to incorporate a bathroom into the house when water “on tap” became available in 1945. At one stage this house belonged to Jan Groenewald, a fishmonger who fetched his fish from Gansbaai and sold it in Stanford. The story goes that he felt that his fish quota was insufficient, so he applied for other quotas under the names Jan “Piepie” and Jan “Bollie”.

#### Turn right into Queen Victoria Street

*Note the church on the south-eastern corner. The Full Gospel Church of God was built in the 1940s by two of the Du Toit brothers, one of which lived on the farm Weltevrede. The material from the church came from Weltevrede where, due to structural problems, a section of the homestead had to be demolished. It has been in constant use since then. It is also often referred to as Muriel's church, the wife of Philip du Toit who built the church with his brother and who were the co-founders of the church.*

### HW 34: (Erf 187)

Located to the left of the New Junk Shop was the first petrol garage in Stanford. The New Junk Shop was originally a residential house owned by Loots Vermeulen and has served as a butcher shop, clothing shop and general dealer.

### HW 35: (Erf 194) before 1900

Originally a Victorian cottage, the shop (close to Longmarket Street) was added at a later stage – probably by Jan van Dyk in the early 1920s who ran



butchery from the shop. The house also belonged to Kosie and Sophie Lourens. Kosie was a tailor, while Sophie and helped her sister, Hilda, who used the top part of the shop for drying everlasting that were used in wreaths. These wreaths were sold all over the Cape (especially the Karoo) and Hilda imported her artificial flowers from Italy and Japan! (Both sisters, along with their elder sister, live next door – HW 36) Sophie later opened Stanford's first restaurant, Môreson, in the shop.



### HW 36: (Erf 153) circa 1920

This is one of the best examples of original Victorian architecture in Stanford. It was built by Jan Bosman for his bride and he used to run his business from the shop with the diagonal entrance. Jan Vermeulen, grandfather of Joey, Sophie and Hilda living in the house at present (with an average age of 90), then bought the house and used it just as a dwelling. When Oom Jan passed away, his body was placed in his coffin in the *voorkamer* and his friends came to pay their last respects, while the children used to peer through the window in awe of the proceedings inside. From the 1940s the shop section served as a municipal office, a grocer shop and later Volkskas Bank.

### HW 37: (Erf 155) circa 1920

This building has been altered so many times that very little traces of the original home can be found. Most notable owners were Dennis de Bruin and his wife, who were tailors and ran a successful business from this shop, and later Marlene Swart, who ran her estate agency, tourism office and clothing shop from here. Marlene's husband, Eric, also operated his car repair business from the back of the building until the late 1990s. After it was sold, the building became a coffee shop, restaurant and now a tasteful art gallery.

#### Turn left into Longmarket Street.

*Note the good streetscape of the row of houses on the left.*

### HW 38: (Erf 422) circa 1910

This is the only example of a semi-detached Victorian cottage in Stanford. The one side was used as dwelling and the other side as a shop. In the early 1920s it belonged to Lood Isaac – the only Jew ever to own a shop in Stanford! When it belonged to Japie Schoonwinkel in the 1940s, a barber used to walk all the way from Teslaarsdal over the Kleinrivier Mountains to ply his trade from a room in this house. The barber used to be an excellent story teller and the men came in droves to listen to his stories. It was converted into a guesthouse in 2005, but has now reverted back to a residential building.

### Market square

Used during the DR Church *nagmaal* (communion) weekend as a camping area for people coming in from the outlying areas by horse and ox wagon. Imagine this area with bellowing cattle, snorting horses, braying donkeys and farm children excited about being in town. In the 1920s the square was used as a hockey and netball field. A tennis court was built in the northern corner, which later became the jukskei pitch and now is the venue for the country market. Today the market square is used for school sport events, athletics, cricket, pony shows and as a festival venue. It is one of the few remaining village squares left in South Africa.

### HW 39: (Erf 187) 1923

The house was built in 1923 for Wessel van Dyk, the second mayor of Stanford. He is credited with being the first person in Stanford to own a car, which was housed in a large barn at the back of the property. Mr Van Dyk apparently did not allow his



wife to sit in front with him but rather diagonally behind him because he felt that the car would carry too much weight up front. Wessel van Dyk was a money-lender whose financial ability allowed him to build one of the finest examples of the eclectic villas built in the heyday of Stanford. Very little of the exterior of this house has changed since it was built, and only minor changes have been made to the interior. An interesting feature on the southern side of the house is the water tank, built to provide rain water to the kitchen – the Van Dyks therefore had water “on tap” long before municipal water was provided in 1945!



### HW 40: (Erf 186) before 1910

This typical adapted Victorian-style house was built for the parents of Jan (Blik) Swart by Hendrik Vermeulen, who built many houses in Stanford and Hermanus. He is also credited with assisting with the building of the Dutch-Reformed Church. Many a single person used to rent a room from Aunt Kato Swart, most notably the single minister who then married their daughter! The house now belongs to the grandchildren of Hendrik Vermeulen and has not been altered since it was built.



#### HW 41: (Erf 183) before 1910

Hendrik Vermeulen built this house at the same time as the one next door. The stoep was enclosed in later years. As with the other two houses you have just passed, the loft spans the whole of the roof area. At some stage the open “leiwater” channel was diverted into an underground pipe which runs underneath the pavement. All the houses in this street need to pump the water into their erven.

#### HW 42: (Erf 179) before 1910

This is another example of a cottage still in its original state. At some stage during the 1950s, Awie Otto used to cut the men’s hair short-back-and-sides on the premises – using sheep’s shears!



#### HW 43: (Erf 394) 1800s

Bugler’s Cottage is so called because Mr Swart, the man who brought the post from Hermanus, lived here. When he crossed the bridge over the Klein River with his horse buggy, he used to blow his bugle to alert the villagers that the post was coming. Swart was slightly crippled and thus known as Hans Hinkpink. Note the low door height, as well as generally low height of this dwelling. The thatch roof is original to the simple cottage style of the late 1800s.

*Look up Morton Street to left*

#### HW 44 (Erf 178) circa 1910

A beautifully restored home built in the Victorian style.

#### HW 45 (Erf 393) circa 1910

This is a typical example of how the open verandas of many Stanford homes were enclosed, mainly during the 1950s. The midwife Tant Bettie (Cassie) Swart lived in this house for many years. The present name, Angel Cottage, is derived from the annual

“angel evening” held by the owner, Mariët Wasserthal, every first weekend of December to coincide more or less with St Nicholas Day. Hundreds of angel figures, from antique to modern, are displayed, much to the delight of children in Stanford.

*Look further down Longmarket Street*

#### HW 46: (Erf 164) late 1800s

There are a row of lovely cottages, all built before 1910 and probably in the late 1800s, in this part of Longmarket Street. Of note is the first post office in Stanford, which was situated in the second house on the right. The previous owner of this house, the world-renowned architect Michael Sutton, sympathetically restored the old house in the late 1990s and built an additional residence behind it.

*Turn down Morton Street*



#### HW 47: (Erf 161) circa 1920

According to legend, the original house on the property belonged to Mr James Goetz, who was the first school teacher in Stanford. Mr Goetz died in 1903 at the age of 72 and it is thought that the school started around 1870. The school was known as the “Oulap” School as each pupil paid one penny (*oulap*) per day to attend school. Mr Goetz also acted as the postmaster in the post office in the small building around the corner. No records exist whether the original building was demolished, as the style of the existing building dates it as being built during the 1920s. His daughter took over as postmaster until the 1950s.

#### HW 48: St Thomas Anglican Church

This is the oldest church in Stanford and was built around 1880. The Moore family carved some of the pews and the pulpit and the material for the thatch roof came from the surrounding area. In 1892 the Bishop of Cape Town gave permission



that weddings could be performed in the chapel. The church did not have a resident minister and was served by the Anglican minister from Caledon. One of the most touching traditions takes place early morning on Easter Sunday, when the congregation walks singing through the streets of Stanford to put flowers on the graves of loved ones.

The building next to the church served as the St Thomas Mission School. By 1914 the school had two classrooms and more space was needed. In 1939 the school was moved to the present site of Die Bron Primary School in Stanford South. The building was still used as two classrooms until 1983.

#### HW 49: (Erf 432) 1998

Here is another example of a new dwelling that fits into the historic environment, based on similar cottages in Stellenbosch. The front door and windows were all crafted by hand.



#### HW 50: (Erf 162) 1902

This was built in 1902 as a simple cottage (*tuishuis*) for a local farmer, Pieter Erwee. In 1925 the attractive gables were added by Malcolm Moore. He let the house to Hendrik Wessels, an excellent tailor

who also trained many of the local tailors. Izak Swart (brother of Jan Blik) bought the house in the early 1930s and let it to the young lady teachers of Okkie Smuts School. The house soon became known as “Bachelors’ Hope” and many a teacher did in fact marry a local bachelor. The house stood derelict for many years until in 1990 it was restored and turned into a restaurant. Today it is a private home.

#### HW 51: (Erf 98) circa 1910

This is a lovely example of the popular Victorian style of the early 1900s. According to legend Mr Erwee, a previous owner of this house, used to hang his car up in the garage to get more mileage out of the tyres. The well-known local artist Peter Earl now occupies this lovely old house.

*Turn right into Shortmarket Street*



#### HW 52: (Erf 160) late 1800s

The origin of this house with its double entrance is unsure. In 1921 it was used as the hostel for the Okkie Smuts School with Johnnie Ham and his wife, Margaret (née Vermeulen), in charge. They were succeeded in the same year by the legendary Miss Uys, a matron who demanded discipline and required of the children to clean their rooms, maintain the garden and help prepare meals. In 1932 she purchased the parsonage from the DR church, made some alterations and moved the hostel to its present site between the school and church hall.

#### HW 53: (Erf 99) late 1800s

This house was intended to be the Anglican rectory but as the church never had a resident minister, the principles of the St Thomas Mission School (renamed Die Bron Primary School in 1983) lived here – one was Mr Kiewietz, who has a hall in Stanford South named after him. The house was subsequently sold by the church and is now privately owned.



### HW 54: (Erf 102) late 1800s

Flippie van Dyk was a local blacksmith (there were five) who plied his trade from the garage down the road. The story goes that every morning he would walk to the old Stanford Hotel for a morning tot of *witblits* (distilled grape juice) before starting his job.



### HW 55: (Erf 105) late 1800s

The house was originally owned by George and Hanna Moore. The garage on the premises was used to make coffins, then by the blacksmith and later to repair cars – a sign from that time is still visible against a wall of the garage, now a bric-a-brac shop. One owner of the house, Ted Woodlands, lived here for over 20 years with his dog. As he was a bachelor his poker-playing friends usually brought canned food for supper. Not all the cans were opened and Ted used to “store” them. One winter evening he lit his coal stove in the sitting room and whilst he was in the kitchen the tins he had forgotten in the stove exploded. Food was everywhere and his stove, needless to say, was blown to pieces. After his death in 1998, the house was entirely modernised internally, but the façade was maintained.

### HW 56: (Erf 106) circa 1910

A well maintained small house of the 1920's.

### Turn right to information office

*It is suggested that you drive to the old cemeteries in Moore Street and also visit HW 57 and HW 58 at the corner of Moore and De Bruyn Street.*



### HW 57 & 58

These two cottages (originally a house and stables) were built in the late 1880s by Dirk Cornelis Taljaard, who purchased Erf No 1 (on the corner of De Bruyn and Buiten Streets, behind the cottages) and adjoining plots from Philippus de Bruyn in 1861. Erwen 1–6 were at some stage consolidated to form a small farm (as were the other erwen on the Hill). Photographs taken during a restoration process in the latter part of the twentieth century show that the main rectangle of the cottage is beautifully constructed of stone, while the additions at front and back are built of sun-dried clay bricks. In the late 1890s Taljaard sold the cottages and adjoining erwen to farmer Izak du Toit who, as the legend goes, was miraculously healed from liver cancer when a young Zionist lady prayed for him. (His two sons built the church on the corner of Queen Victoria and Bezuidenhout Streets.) Du Toit bought the farm Weltevrede in 1909 and went back to farming. Louis Swart, a man well-loved for his kind-heartedness, was the next owner. HW 58 has been sympathetically altered into a dwelling.

*Published in October 2008 by the  
Stanford Heritage Committee*

(A sub-committee of the  
Stanford Conservation Trust)  
P O Box 539, Stanford 7210  
Text: Bea & Basil Whittaker  
Design & photography: Maré Mouton  
Printed by Hansa Print, Woodstock  
on environmentally friendly paper

*The production of this brochure was made possible  
by donations in kind:*

Antique chests which were auctioned:  
**Cobus van Niekerk of Stanford Trading Store**  
**Erwen Esterhuizen of The New Junk Shop**  
**Irene Tomlinson of Sir Robert Stanford's Home**  
Design & production:  
**Village Life magazine**  
Photographs © 2008 Maré Mouton