OBSERVATORY COMMUNITY HERITAGE PROJECT

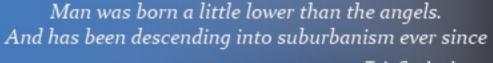


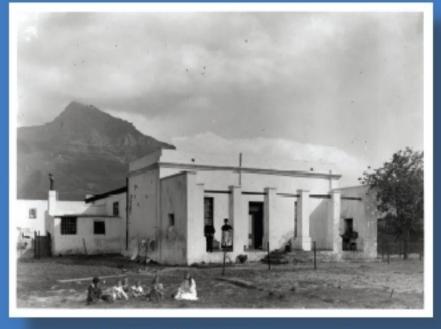
Discovering Observatory's History Together

Historic Observatory

"Officially, it is not a town at all: half of it included in the town of Woodstock, and the other half in Mowbray, Station Road being the dividing line. Yet in reality, it is as compact and self-contained a town as you will find in any suburbs in South Africa. It is a little world unto itself"

The Cape, 23 October, 1908 pg. 14





The Varshedrift homestead



Most famous as the site of the Royal Observatory, built in 1827, the surrounding area we know today as Observatory remained essentially farmland until the later 19th Century. With the discovery of diamonds and then gold in the interior Cape Town was transformed from provisioning station to gateway to a rapidly developing hinterland.

Resulting growth in population and demand for housing in Cape Town led to subdivision of the first portion of an Observatory farm, Onderneming, into small residential plots in 1881



Sketch of Royal Observatory dated 1837 with caption "from beyond the swamp of the Liesbeek River"

