

“De Rust Historical Walk”



The Village of De Rust has a large number of historical “Heritage” buildings which were built at the turn of the 20th Century. Many of these properties have been restored to their former glory and for visitors to the Village who are interested, walking tours can be arranged through De Rust Heritage.

The route for the walking tour begins at the original “Voelgesang” farmstead where the “Old Mill” is situated then proceeding through the Village and ending at Vredelus farmstead. This farmhouse was also part of the original De Rust farm which now also comprises the Village of De Rust – see the website for further details www.derustheritage.org.za including a map of the Village and the various properties with some background of the original families and/or use for each property – see below.

Proceeds of the “Village Tour” will be used to develop a better understanding of the history of the Village within the larger De Rust community as well as for visitors to the Village. In addition, it is intended to as far as possible encourage local residents to conduct the walking tours as part of a “Heritage Community Upliftment Program”.



The Old Graveyard: Situated on the De Rust Koppie and this was the original graveyard for the Village for many years. **However, during the 20th Century its use was discontinued and it has fallen into a state of disrepair requiring urgent attention by the community.** A new graveyard was later established close to the **Dutch Reformed Church** in the Village.



The Old Mill was built in the mid-1800's prior to the Village being established. It continued to operate into the mid-1940's but has subsequently fallen into

*disrepair. This is a protected **Provincial Heritage building** and deserves to be fully restored to a working mill providing the required funds can be raised.*



***The Church Hall** was built in the early 1900's and is situated on the same site as the Church. In addition, there was previously an **Orphanage** on the same site which was built to accommodate the orphans from the **Flu Epidemic of 1918**. This has subsequently been demolished.*



***The Church** was built in the early 1900's and consecrated in 1902 and is also a declared Provincial Heritage Site. The church is the centre of many*

community based events including theatrical and sporting codes such as the popular Meiringspoort Half Marathon and Trail and Mountain Bike Events. It is a particularly pleasing building and is well preserved by the local community.



Vredelus Farmhouse was one of the first farmhouses in the area and in the early days before the church was built church services were held under the trees at the homestead. In addition, the graves of some of the earliest owners of the farm De Rust are buried in the family graveyard close to the house.



Graveyard at Vredelus Plaas:
Graves of P. J. Meiring and his wife Catherina Helena nee' Geldenhuys as well as and that of S.D.P. le Roux in the private graveyard at Vredelus Plaas.

This farm was previously the part of the original farm De Rust in the early days and is still farmed by the descendants of the original Schoeman Family.



Graves of P. J. Meiring who died in 1899 and his second wife Catherina Helena nee' Geldenhuys in the Graveyard at Vredelus Plaas – previously part of the original farm De Rust.



Grave of S.D.P. Le Roux in the graveyard at Vredelus Plaas one of the original joint owners of the farm De Rust – purchased in 1899 with J. J. Schoeman.



*“**Ou Lokasie**” was originally where many of the farm labourers lived prior to the establishment of **Blomnek** in the early 1980’s. **Blomnek** was first established in the early 1980’s when the Schoeman family exchanged a portion of their farm where Blomnek is now situated in exchange for the ground at “**Ou Lokasie**”.*



House on Corner of Le Roux and Hoop Streets: This house was originally built as a townhouse by one of the prominent farming families in the De Rust area. It is one of the “**Grand Dames**” of the Village and currently requires some major renovations to bring it back to its former glory. The house is built on Erf 101 with the adjoining Erf 102 being part of the property but with separate title.



The “Robertson Huis” on Schoeman Street: This house was built in the early part of the 20th Century by a well known local architect. At various times it has been a private residence and then an art gallery. It is one of the original “**Grand Dames**” of De Rust and has recently been restored to its former glory. It also has an annex behind the house which has also been fully restored.



The Twin Houses – 5th Avenue: These “twin houses” were built by two brothers who split an original large stand into two and built two identical houses side by side in 5th Avenue. The facades are the same but the back sections differ as they have been added to by different owners over time.



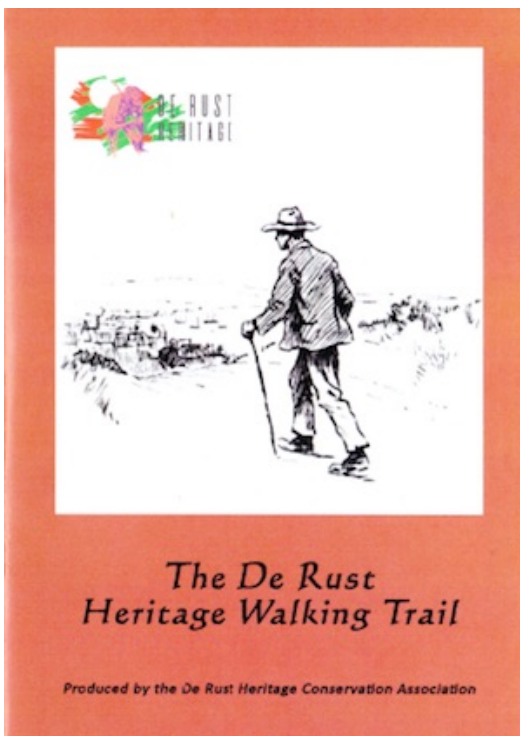
The “Ou Koshuis” in Hoop Street: The old boarding hostel has recently been spruced up as it was in a very run-down condition. This building has not been a school hostel for many years and is now an Art Gallery and residence.



Old Victorian House on the Corner of Le Roux and Hoop Streets: This is also a early 1900's vintage house which has been well maintained by previous owners. Properties in this part of the Village are generally from the early 1900's and were used by farmers in the District when they came to "town". Note snow on the Swartberg Mountain range in the background – 9 Sept. 2018.



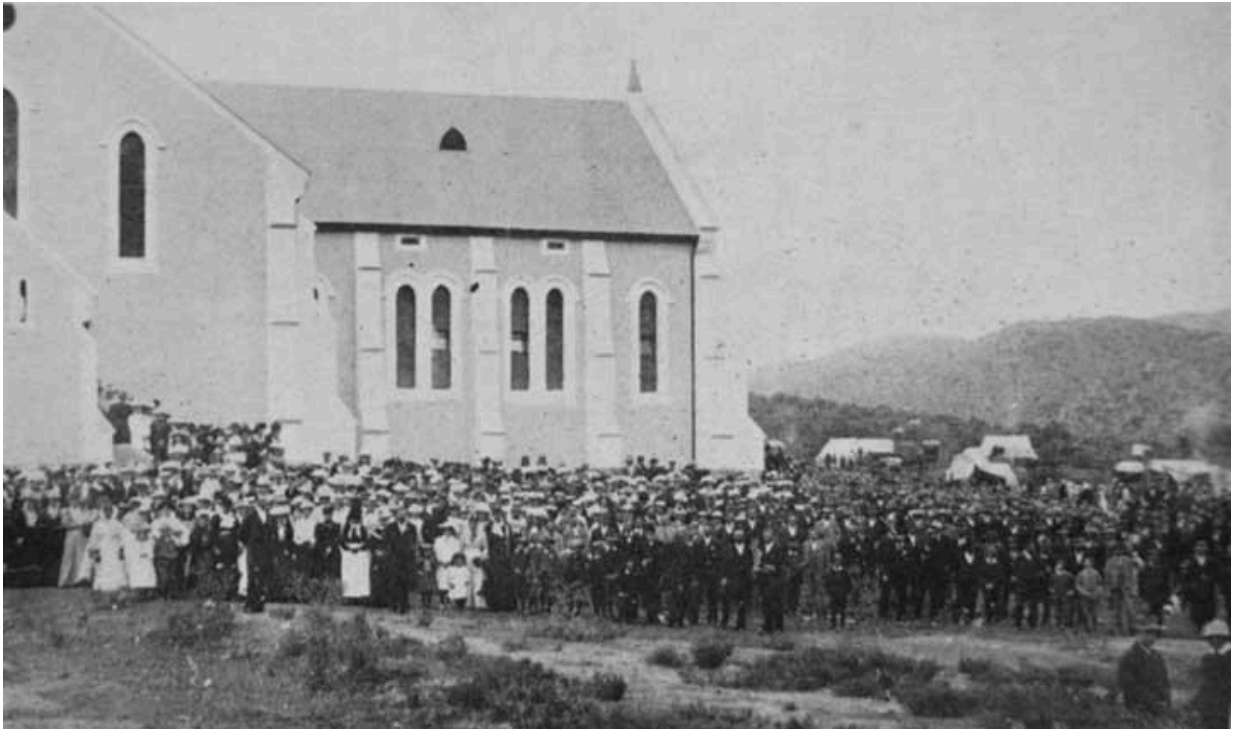
View of the Village from above 5th Avenue looking North to Meiringspoort showing the snow on the Swartberg Mountain Range – 9 September, 2018



The professionally printed 16 page booklet on “The De Rust Heritage Walking Trail,” kindly sponsored by Klein Karoo International, has just been released and provides an overview of the tour as well as a detailed map showing the various points of interest in the Village and District.

Copies are available from the De Rust Heritage Conservation Association on www.derustheritage.org.za or on Mobile at: 082 777 1519 at a cost of R 35.00 per copy.

Further material on the NG Kerk, De Rust



Crowd at Consecration of N.G. Kerk – 28 November, 1902

Designed by George Wallis Architect – Photographer Unknown



Neo-Gothic Pulpit N.G. Kerk in De Rust - Designed by J E Vixseboxse
in Selected Yellowwood and Stinkwood Photographer Morne van Rooyen 2012

JOHANNES EGBERTUS VIXSEBOXSE



Vixseboxse was born in Almelo, Netherlands. Like his eldest brother Bernardus and the second eldest, Gerrit Willem, he was probably apprenticed as a carpenter by day and at night was a pupil at a school for drawing before he could start his own business. On 9 September 1888 he left Rotterdam for the South African Republic, where joined the Public Works Department.

Vixseboxse served on the committee which drafted the constitution of the South African Society of Architects in Cape Town in 1899. He left for the Netherlands during the Anglo-Boer War but returned to South Africa in 1902 to join the office of Charles Bullock Oudtshoorn (of Bullock and Vixseboxse). The practice flourished, making the most of the ostrich feather boom. [However, whether this practice actually existed is disputed by current researchers who find no evidence to support this and it remains a contentious record. (Eds, 201a)1. He left Oudtshoorn in 1914, owing largely to the collapse of the ostrich feather market. The

General directory of United South Africa listed him as working in Port Elizabeth in 1915. (From artefacts.co.za).



Voortrekker Memorial in the NG Church Grounds

Photographer: Paul van der Merwe 2015



The Orphanage which was built to accommodate the orphans from the Flu Epidemic of 1918 and which was demolished in the 1970's. Photograph provided by Ann Meiring

Other graves of interest in the De Rust District



The Schoeman family grave site at the "Doornkloof Homestead" which was one of the original farms settled in the Greater De Rust district.



The statue and gravesite of Petrus Albertus Schoeman on the Koppie at Vlakteplaas - the statue was commissioned in Europe by his beloved wife and then shipped to De Rust.

Note: This page will be updated on a regular basis as more information and other properties are added – Last Updated 29 March, 2019.