

ISSN: 1562-5257

# VASSA Journal



Number 7 June 2002



# VASSA Journal

Number 7 June 2002

Editor: Antonia Malan

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How the garden grew: a brief spatial history of the Cape Town Gardens

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# HOW THE GARDEN GREW

## A brief spatial history of the Cape Town Gardens

*Stewart Harris*

*In May 2000, Cape Town City Council commissioned a landscape master plan and draft policy for the Company's Garden, historic parkland in the heart of Cape Town's Central Business District (OvP Associates 2000). Conservation input into the studies included a heritage audit of the Garden on a place-by-place basis. The heritage audit drew attention to themes, overarching conservation principles, and development and management indicators<sup>1</sup> (Pistorius & Harris draft 2001). An introductory historical outline, describing the way the Garden came into being and how it was layered by succeeding generations, is the essence of this essay. This is followed by a detailed timeline which gives source references.*

*Naming of parts. The centrespread shows the Company's Garden (referred to here as The Garden) and its immediate context. Major morphological places attach to Government Avenue (The Avenue) running up the centre, lined with oak trees, with planted verges and water channels both sides. On the Devil's Peak side are the Houses of Parliament, Tuynhuys and its formal garden with adjacent Government functions, the Delville Wood Memorial Garden spanning across the Avenue as a cross axis, the Paddocks, and the grounds of Cape Town High School. Returning opposite, on the Signal Hill side, is the UCT Hiddingh Campus, the SA Museum and its forecourt, the Delville Wood cross axis, and at the seaward end, the Victorian planting of the Botanical or Public Gardens (referred to here as the Lower Garden). These major places are in turn made up of minor morphological areas – Rose garden, Thorne circular pond space, and so forth.*

The Cape Peninsula lies at a similar latitude on the globe to the Mediterranean, San Francisco and Melbourne. It has hot, dry, windy summers and wet winters. At the north end is Table Bay, where a fan of mountains embrace the Table Valley – Devil's Peak on the east, flat-topped

Table Mountain central and on the west, Lion's Head and the much lower Signal Hill. Several sudden winter streams feed the basin, cutting deep valleys in the landscape. Meantime, winter rains, having percolated through the sandstone layers of the mountain, emerge as springs that flow throughout the dry summer – the key to its agricultural use. These chiefly flow into the watercourses of the Platteklip and Kloof Nek streams<sup>2</sup> which merge in the area of today's Company's Garden and Queen Victoria Street. Their valley has Signal Hill rather steeply on the western side and a gentle bank to a ridge down Hope Street on the east.

The Khoi people lived in the region from at least the first Millennium. They migrated around the South Western Cape, hunting and herding their cattle across the Cape Flats in November to graze on the Spring growth of the Table Valley, leaving when it became depleted – usually in February<sup>3</sup> (Worden *et al* 1998:16). The Khoi lived in harmony with nature, and left little lasting impact on the natural environment but the basic geometry of the Table Valley – routes into the Valley past Devil's Peak and over Kloof Nek - may have been established before settlers arrived. The unmodified landscape is low indigenous bush - Renosterveld on Signal Hill - with trees only in upper reaches of river clefts. The Garden area at this time was part of general grazing used by the Khoi, the perennial streams flowing across it used to water their cattle.

Sea-faring traders from Europe began passing the Cape in the 1500s, and the Dutch East India Company set up a supply base there in 1652. They introduced farming to the Table Valley, siting their rectangular agricultural fields near the Parade, and watering them through the dry season by irrigation. Irrigation principle: lead water off a main stream at a higher point, run it parallel with the main stream, open sluices to irrigate fields lying between, and return any surplus to the main stream. This knowledge derived from the reverse Dutch experience where rectangular fields drain to ditches and are pumped out<sup>4</sup>.

But the soil near the Parade was not particularly fertile and the Garden was soon expanded towards Table Mountain, reaching by 1660 up the streams to the middle of Queen Victoria Street with a central watercourse through the extended fields. Near the sea a hamlet sprang up, set out on the line of the central watercourse but not connected to it. The Garden itself had a ditch right round it, edged with thorn and other wild trees planted as a windbreak and to keep wild animals out. A 1668 visitor described it as quite flat, very long and wide, with water led to all parts.

There were rosemary bush hedges, many fruit trees, vines, roses but only vegetables that grew low on the ground could survive the summer wind squalls.

In 1676 the lower fields were abandoned and almost all the area from Wale Street seawards was zoned for housing and a proposed slave lodge, church and graveyard. Around the rest of the Garden a 5,5m open space was made to separate it from the adjacent private farms, and fields above that measured out for orchards. The garden now took on its first decorative aspects, qualities deriving from the vernacular agricultural form, but not necessary to it – a wide avenue of trees on one side of the central watercourse, mapped by 1678. The urban development plan was brought to fruition by Simon van der Stel, who took up the Governorship in 1679. The Slave Lodge and Hospital building went ahead and van der Stel seems to have imposed a formal order on the layout, enclosing it with a wall and providing a new entrance gate in Parliament Street, seemingly cutting the Avenue off from its extension down Adderley Street. Though it retained its horticultural function, the ambulatories between the hedges took on aspects of a pleasure garden.

At about this time the gardeners devised a physical response to cope with the south easter, dividing the Garden with very high hedges of laurel and other tall trees, and in the compartments sheltering the fruit trees and vegetables<sup>5</sup>. Though often described, no pictures were drawn of this extraordinary landscape, this three-dimensional geometry. Something of their character may be interpreted from the pictures of places in Europe like Otterspoors. Each compartment – they were roughly the size of the Paddocks rectangles outside the Synagogues – was surrounded by 6 metre high green walls to protect the crops, like densely edged tennis courts. Imagine the sky from them at night.

Commissioner van Reede tot Drakenstein, who came out to inspect the Cape in 1685, describes the Garden's compartments set in a grid of avenues. At the sides and centre were three principle avenues 15m wide crossed by narrower paths, dividing it into 16-18 compartments planted with fruit trees and vegetables - sweet water ran in irrigation channels to all the beds. The whole was surrounded by a hedge and ditch with a high wall at the entrance. Other visitors report the well trimmed hedges were 5-6 metres high, but there were no decorative features like fountains seen at Otterspoors, "nothing but little canals leading here and there among the main avenues", and, within the compartments, "squares divided and

bounded in part with rosemary” reported visitor Meister. In 1716 the entrance from Adderley Street was reinstated but the Garden seems to have remained an enclosed place.

The soil at the upper end appears to have been less productive, and vineyards attempted here were abandoned in favour of a menagerie c1700. Here there were big fields, divided into a bird enclosure on the Devil's Peak side and a place for wild beasts on the Signal Hill side. A few other buildings appeared in the Garden at this time – a 1700 visitor's lodge is probably incorporated in Tuynhuys.

In 1751 Governor Ryk Tulbagh very much enlarged the visitor's lodge – it was to become Tuynhuys – and this introduced a theme of notable buildings in a landscape setting (noble buildings set in parkland), later to become a feature. Wentzel's 1751 map is the first drawing of the way the compartments were arranged – divided by paths into 44 compartments, with implied circles at the intersections. From the 1760s, Cape Town started booming, supplying ships from foreign wars and especially as a result of troops stationed there from 1781. The formal cultural landscape of the Garden reached an exquisite peak with a new gateway and guard house by Thibault in 1787, and further alterations to Tuynhuys by Governor van der Graaff in 1788-70, giving it the facade known today and the elaborate parterre beds in front of it (Jones map 1791), presumably without hedges, and thus perceived from the Avenue as an open space in the perhaps relentless gridwork..

Spatially the Garden retained its compartment form for 120 years or more, growing the while more impressive, a statement of order and civilisation and virtually the only place of polite pleasure the town had.

But this was the Company's last extravagance before bankruptcy and, aggravated by the confusion of the British invasion in 1795, the garden was in ruin by 1797. Lady Anne Barnard's manservant described it as a wilderness, the walls covered with grass and weeds, the water-courses stopped, the wall broken down and the whole shamefully neglected.

The economic consequences of the war to the Garden were fundamental. The British saw no need to service passing ships, a function long since carried out successfully by the private sector, nor continue supplying Dutch markets. They closed down the Garden's horticultural function and closed it, too, to the public – though the use of the Avenue was immediately restored after public outrage (Barnard: “Had he torn up

the Magna Charta of the place into a thousand tatters he could not have put the natives in such an alarm”). The remainder became a private garden for the Governor. Josephus Jones’s 1804 map, though indistinct, is believed to be accurate. He shows that on the Devil's Peak side, from the Slave Lodge to Tuynhuys, the compartments were simplified into a continuous central path, and on the Signal Hill side several compartments were combined into conventional agricultural fields. Elsewhere, many compartmented fields survived but it seems the extravagantly high hedges were cut back though not perhaps uprooted: after 1797 high hedges are not mentioned again<sup>6</sup>.

During the Batavian Republic administration – the Dutch briefly back in command 1803-6 – the Avenue was connected through to Orange Street and decorative gateways made along the connecting strip, one to the bird enclosure opposite an existing one to the place for wild beasts. This greatly enhanced linkages of town with the market gardens of Oranjezicht area and changed the spatial morphology of both the Avenue itself and the way it was perceived - as part of a movement system and not the central feature of an enclosed place. It is not known whether citizens were free again to promenade through all parts (probably), nor whether the marketing function was re-established (probably not effectively).

The first decades of the renewed British administration saw the Garden lying still and again for the Governor’s use. Elemans’s c1820 map shows it unchanged from its 1804 form except for a circular garden on the seaward side of Tuynhuys. A c1815 traveller was disappointed to find only vegetable beds there, though the Avenue remained open and well utilised. In 1822 William Bird described it as wide and about a mile long, lined with spreading oaks where military bands played lively tunes on Sunday. There was also a menagerie but the remainder was a private garden for the Governor, whose house Bird describes as being built in Dutch style and out of repair. Lord Charles Somerset changed that, converting Tuynhuys to a Regency façade (it seems from Bird this was after 1822). A De Meillon picture of c1830 shows that Somerset further developed the seaward end of Tuynhuys land (Parliament’s site) with flowerbeds and a winding path at the side of the straight central path and circular bed. The bulk of the Garden, as an 1834 traveller found, was laid out in squares turfed with grass.

At the seaward end of the Gardens, St George’s church was put up in 1827-34, turning its back to the Gardens and cutting into the geometry of

the Dutch layout but introducing a notable landmark tower. It was a portent of things to come: the progressive erosion of garden land to buildings. Surrounding it, the town had spread up Keerom Street on one side and St John Street on the other, lined with little flat roofed buildings. The Garden was becoming spatially framed by an urban edge.

The Slave Lodge was closed in 1811 and the many slaves who were unable to be sold were moved, first to temporary quarters, then in 1820 to a line of buildings along the Signal Hill edge of the menagerie. They lived adjacent to wild beasts for eight years, till freed in 1828, six years before universal emancipation. The menagerie, with lions and an ailing Bengal tiger in tiny cages, was a place much visited till it closed c1838. The first building of the SA College (later University of Cape Town), designed in Egyptian style, appeared in 1841 and there would be many college buildings in the 1880s and later. Above the menagerie, on a 1794 private garden, Bertram House was built in 1839, and later another private house, Bertram Place. The bird enclosure in the 1830s was an open field, and remained so, and is so. The Hiddingh campus, Bertram House and the bird enclosure field are glimpsed through gateways from the Avenue. How different are the activities and character of these separately functioning spaces.

The evident under-utilization of the Garden and contemporary thoughts of the need for a Botanical garden at the Cape, first aired in 1825, grew increasingly persistent and in 1848 Governor Harry Smith, after an appropriate commission of enquiry, turned a portion of garden land over to this use. It was under the control of a panel of citizens and was funded by subscriptions and sale of plants. But the Tuynhuys side remained Government property.

The Botanical Garden (the “Lower Garden”) was opened in 1848 principally to subscribers though it was free to the public a couple of days a week (and to the Military and visitors to town on all days). It stretched along the Queen Victoria Street side of the Avenue from the back of St George’s church to an old Dutch boundary at the Centre for the Book. The Upper Garden (SA Museum site) was added in 1857 but the Avenue and Paddocks were not included till later.

At this time the Lower Garden took on the landscape qualities that have persisted: a Victorian parkland layered onto established geometry. Snow’s 1862 map shows the urban park bisected by straight paths (with sundial, fountains at crossings) that ran through lawns separated by clumps

of shrubs and specimen trees. Around the circumference a sinuous path wound, much like today's experience – shady and with repeatedly changing short views. By contrast, the central paths gave longer views and opportunities for promenading. The entrance to the Lower Garden was on the short axis, opposite Tuynhuys, through a wrought iron gate now demolished – a different sense of entry from today, and one that made the Garden a discrete place rather than part of a movement system. A minor building added in the 1850s was a committee room (cottage) in the corner next to the National Library and there was a hothouse and work rooms elsewhere, now demolished.

The central path and Tuynhuys axis derive from the geometry of the Dutch Garden, and established trees must have been selectively thinned, but all other features were new. On land transferred in 1848, the new design was in place by 1851 when Bowler first drew it. The designer of this confident and accomplished work is not known<sup>7</sup>. In 1857 the Upper Garden was added, though it was not planted until the 1860s. Also in 1857 there was some alteration to the lower end where the National Library was built, symmetrically terminating the seaward end and addressing its prospect, a fine example of the noble building in parkland. A statue of Sir George Grey was placed centrally in 1864<sup>8</sup>.

During these Victorian years, Snow's 1862 map shows, Tuynhuys (by now Government House) simply had square lawns with trees where there had been the parterre garden (long since erased). The garden on the seaward side was probably substantially Somerset's: at its end was town encroachment, a ramshackle set of buildings close to the Slave Lodge (by then Supreme Court) incorporating a 1679 gardener's house and used as Colonial Offices and School of Industry. Half the seaward garden was consumed by the House of Parliament in 1875 – in return the ramshackle buildings were made into today's Parliament Garden, laid out 1885 and maintained by the Botanical gardener. A statue of Queen Victoria was put here in 1890.

The upward part of the Tuynhuys garden had a vegetable bed as far as an old boundary shared by the Botanical garden but much lay fallow. There was a maintenance area (a cottage was put here about 1875) and six Paddocks<sup>9</sup> which lie substantially over Dutch geometry – a rare remnant. Though not officially part of the Botanical garden, these and the as-yet unadorned Upper Garden across the Avenue were perceived as open to the public, at least in 1856. In 1862 the Paddocks were lawns like today's with

diagonal desire lines across some, aiming for linkages to Plein Street and Parliament Street. There were trees around each and water channels flowed down the long sides.

On private land opposite them a Synagogue in Egyptian style was put up 1862-3, which, like the National Library, addressed the park. Also on private land nearby was the 1803 Masonic Lodge. Its square back garden was laid out in a cross with tree-lined paths and it was to become the site of the SA National Gallery.

Soon after it opened, the Botanical Garden ran into a number of difficulties. Firstly, it was misnamed because it was principally a park, a pleasure garden. No botanical research was carried out, no names on plants, no system, no botanist. This was put right in 1880 but a second problem continued. It was self-funded by sale of plants and subscriber fees. Private enterprise competition and over-supply causes a drop in plant prices. Also, the growing town around it and growing trees within it made it increasingly less suitable for nursery gardening. Furthermore, in 1887 there were only 44 subscribers with many times that number of visitors (most from the growing suburban Municipalities) and the public on free days. There was considerable lobbying to make it free to all and fund it from the public purse.

But matters were brought to a head by a different issue, the decision to build the South African Museum in the Upper Garden – said to be the best and most ornamental part – an activity with entirely separate and conflicting interests. The point at issue was the encroaching town, and the evidence was St George's church, the School of Industry and the SA College occupying Company's garden land. The administration resigned in protest, nursery business ground to a halt, financial ruin was imminent. Public funding was the solution and the Municipal Council took over the lower garden in 1892 and the Avenue and Paddocks in 1898. For the first time the garden was open to all as a right and not a courtesy, from 7am to sunset on weekdays and 9am to sunset on Sunday. Though the issue of buildings in the garden was hardly successfully resisted, this was the first signal that the Garden was perceived to have persisting heritage values and may need conservation.

Wilson's 1878 map indicates that the central path of the lower garden was extended to the Menagerie and on each side were geometric curved paths – a rather pedantic design with few elements of surprise or variety of view<sup>10</sup>.

A conservatory with a graceful curved glass roof was built on the central path in 1875-7 with terracing round it (demolished 1930 for Delville Wood Memorial).

The controversial SA Museum was built in 1893, sitting centrally on the middle path of the lower garden but separated from it by a wall and gate. Around it were the remnants of the Victorian garden, soon to be covered by a variety of additional buildings (Thom map 1895). The Lower Garden's layout remained intact though the area beyond the conservatory, truncated by the SA Museum, had glass houses and a rose garden made in 1894 (it later had central latticework with rambling roses). Within the garden, paths were edged with glazed tiles in 1902 which gave a sharp line to the lawn edges. The various routes were punctuated by garden features as before, their function being to peg the spaces. New fountains and ponds replaced previous ones in 1897, a statue of Cecil Rhodes in 1908, and a copy of the Elsenberg bell tower in 1911 (it gives a false and misleading clue to the Garden's real heritage values). In 1912-3 a pergola with domed centre was made near the SA Museum and railings were put up between the National Library and Sir George Grey statue, a subtle spatial delineation.

An important change came in 1911, when today's entrance gateway was made at the corner of the National Library and paths there rearranged. The gate introduced a route *through* the lower garden instead of *to* it.

A number of minor buildings had appeared along the Queen Victoria Street edge of the garden – an 1887 a curator's house and 1895 public lavatories. In Queen Victoria Street itself, across a now-covered watercourse, 17th century private gardens had given way to a gap toothed development of modest Cape Georgian buildings during the 19th century. These became increasingly grand and many are extant, including several 1880s town houses. The school Nut Von Het Algemeen was the first set-piece building (replaced 1898 by the School of Art), followed by the German School and the old DR Synod in the 1890s, the City Club in 1897, in 1906 the great dome of the Centre for the Book (originally the University of the Cape of Good Hope), and in 1907 the Supreme Court. At street level a red brick wall and metal railings was erected in 1894 (though it did not reach higher up the street where 18th century walls were rebuilt 1910). The street had changed its character to one of noble buildings overlooking parkland. However, because they were built according to the field patterns and subdivisions of their host garden, they aligned randomly with the Garden

layout. In 1913 trees were deliberately planted in the garden to help provide a suitable interface.

On the Tuynhuys side of the Avenue, the Houses of Parliament were extended in 1909 over a tennis court and rose garden. They were further expanded in the 1960s to completely cover the seaward part of Tuynhuys garden. Tuynhuys retained its four-square garden under trees, and the building its Regency air, but the vegetable garden on the upper side was made a geometric pattern. A secretary's cottage had been built there in 1900, near the staff cottage in the maintenance field.

In 1895 there was a bandstand (lit by new fangled electricity) in the middle of one of the Paddocks. This was moved to an intersection of paths in 1908 to provide better promenading. It was demolished in 1935, by then old and unsightly. Another bandstand (with onion shaped pinnacle) was in the Masonic Lodge square garden – it is not clear how this connected to the public parts.

Elsewhere in this vicinity suburbia had arrived. The interlocking private farms or market gardens reaching up St John's/ Hatfield Street to Orange Street were host to 67 terraced and semi-detached dwellings. Few relics of this intense urbanisation remain as they are mostly demolished for Cape Town High School. Most were probably like today's Dunkley Square area. Opposite the Paddocks a rather more distinguished terrace survives, put up in the 1890s. Between them and the old synagogue another set piece building was erected in 1904, the new Synagogue whose twin towers remain a notable landmark in the garden setting.

It seems plant sales played a much smaller part in financing the garden from 1892, and though botanical research was built up, this function ceased in 1912 when Kirstenbosch was inaugurated. The Company's Garden became unashamedly a pleasure garden, and one which served a changing market – office workers, not town residents.

By the 1920s, trees and shrubs had grown in height and number, there were fewer sunny areas for grass and paths had become more shaded. Newly appointed curator Thomas Dick started removing decrepit old trees and, filled with enthusiasm for the showy beds of flowers which were so popular a feature of European parks, introduced beds of various shapes in the lawn. In these, plants ready to flower were bedded out with the changing seasons, a fashion that took hold of private gardeners and remains a dominant theme. Gwen Fagan calls this "floromania" and notes that "an

obsession with massed colour has been the most important aspect of garden design since then and even up to the present time". Lawns, too, became more pronounced as scythes were superseded with motor mowers in 1923-4. New garden features were a 1924 tearoom, a new conservatory in 1930 with a simple rose garden opposite it, a 1932 Japanese lantern under the pergola, and an aviary crowding Cecil Rhodes and the bell tower in 1938.

In the late 1920s a powerful new landscape was made at right angles to the axis of the Avenue, the Delville Wood Memorial Garden. To accommodate it, the main rose garden and conservatory were demolished and their sites combined with parts of two paddocks and the maintenance enclosure. This formally laid out garden had a Cape Mediterranean Art Gallery at its Devil's Peak end (built on the Masonic Lodge rear garden) and a succession of ponds and memorials leading to great Cape revival pillars on Queen Victoria Street where stood the German School. Adding a new garden design and spatial experience to the variety of existing spaces, it also added to the richness and complexity of pedestrian movement systems, notably to the Lower Garden and Queen Victoria Street, more subtly down lanes to reach Plein and Parliament streets, and tied together the Lower Garden with the Paddock side of the Avenue.

Queen Victoria Street acquired more grand buildings – in 1927 the Hotel Assembly (demolished) and Rhodes House, a conversion of two 1880s town houses, Union House and Montreux flats in 1936, the 1938 Land Bank, and the astonishing 1940 Holyrood point block rupturing the dignity of building height, throwing the symmetry of the Garden's cross axis and providing an unashamedly Art Deco tower to the skyline.

The Avenue experienced major changes in the 1920s. At the Adderley Street end, the Slave Lodge frontage was set back 13 metres in 1926, opening up Parliament's garden and offering the Avenue to the wider street. At its side, a new St George's Cathedral had been modestly started in 1901 and was considerably advanced in 1930. Beyond it, a wing was built to the National Library in 1926. Taken together with Parliament's buildings, the first stretch was characterised by the avenue of trees with elaborate double storey buildings close behind them – today's morphological form (and not so far from the spatial delineation of the 17th century hedge layout).

Higher up, the crossing of the 1928-30 Delville Wood hard landscape introduced new side vistas (the interface handled by allowing the

Avenue trees to continue across the hard landscape). And, in 1924, the top end was terminated by the Mount Nelson's monumental gateway across Orange Street, and the bridge there replaced with Cape revival pillars.

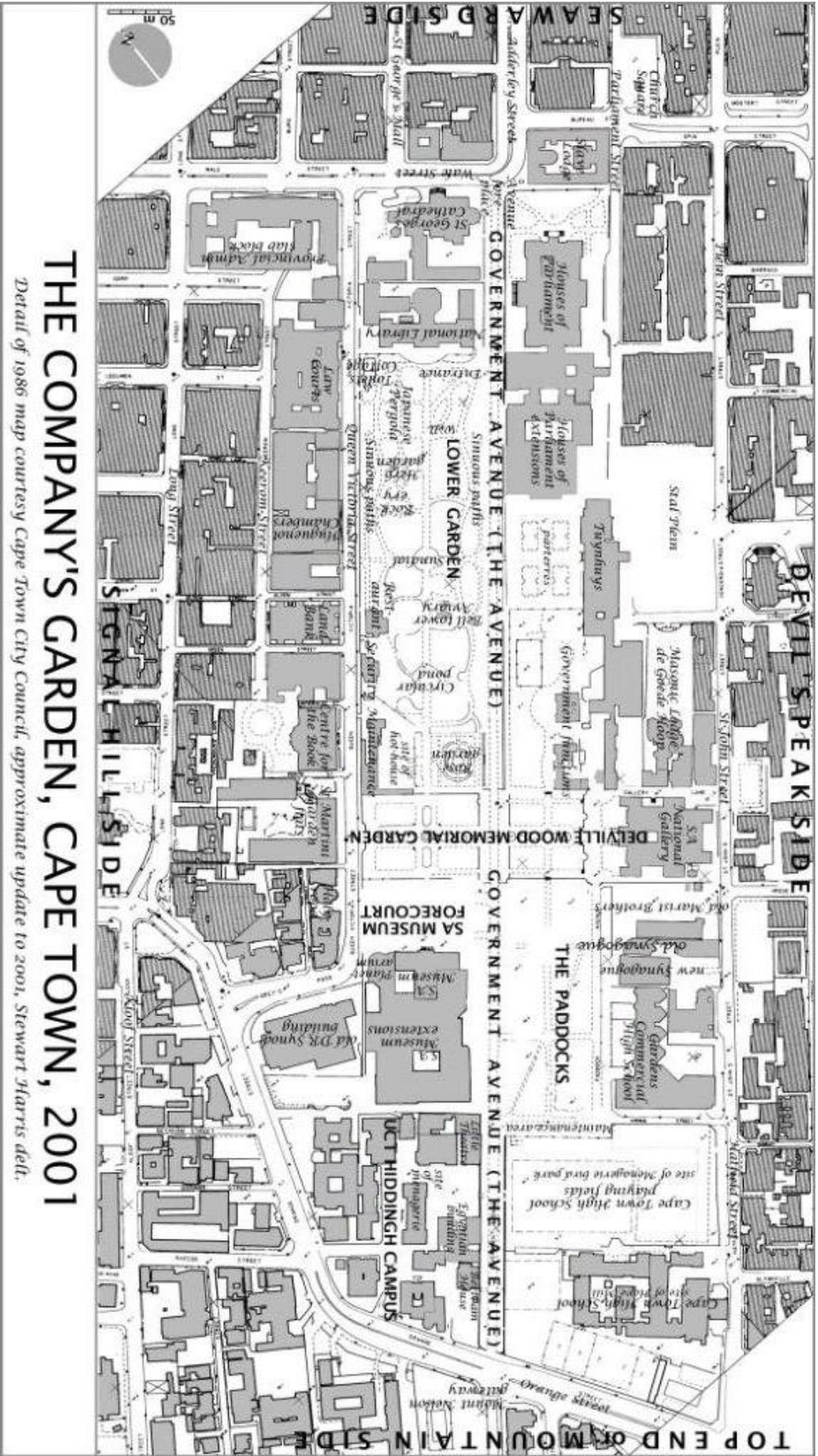
The Paddocks, little affected by the cross axis work, had a circle of trees planted at an intersection in 1937. Otherwise, this part and the upper part of Tuynhuys's garden remained oases of calm among the restlessly reforming landscape and urban context.

The second half of the 20th century was dominated by the ideologies of Apartheid and the Modern Movement in architecture. Attempts to make the Garden a place for whites only were foiled but around it bare buildings arose – the Cape Town High School massively expanded in the early 1950s, the DR Synod building in Grey's Pass in 1964, the looming presence of Cape Provincial Administration slab block in the 1970s and, in Queen Victoria Street, a wing to the National Library c1960, AA House c1955, Carlton Heights in 1969, St Martini Garden flats in 1962, and Huguenot Chambers 1973, all ignorant of their context and better off in Weimar. Rather more successfully placing a new building in an old setting was the 1977 extension of the Paddock terrace to become Gardens Commercial High School, and, plain and unassuming, a new garden restaurant in 1975.

A growing interest in heritage values that stirred in 1892 was typified by a 1949 Curator's report of public interest in an old pump lodged in a tree. (The next year a Fort Knokke guardhouse was moved to the SA Museum garden, apparently thought a suitable site for old objects). A triumph of the conservation movement was the overturning a 1953 proposal to divide the Garden with a sunken motorway running parallel to the cross axis. Seemingly the Garden was protected; the lion sculptures on a Menagerie gateway were renewed in 1958, and there was even a proposal to re-erect Thibault's gateway in 1959. Prof Bax's 1963 study of the Company's Garden articulated a longing for past things, leading eventually to the restoration of Tuynhuys to its late 18th century façade in the late 1960s. Yet, at the rear and side of the SA Museum, extensions took place that entirely consumed the space in 1970. A hard landscape was made in front of the Museum in c1986.

Far from the 17th century statement of order in a wilderness, far from its original function as a vegetable garden and nursery, distant from the formal

ambulatories of the 18th century, far from organically joining its surroundings, the Garden today consists of complex interlinkage of varying landscapes in an urban park surrounded by a frame of high buildings. Always a tranquil place, the experience is of peacefulness in the city, Rus in Urbe.



# THE COMPANY'S GARDEN, CAPE TOWN, 2001

Detail of 1986 map courtesy Cape Town City Council, approximate update to 2001, Stewart Harris del.

## TIMELINE

Précès of visitors' and curator's reports use their words where apt but are not intended as direct quotes unless in "inverted commas".

## NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND PRE-COLONIAL PERIOD

Physical landscape. See especially Verschoye 2000:16-17, du Plessis 1998:12-21.

1000s Khoi herders move into general region. The land on which Cape Town was later developed had long been an integral part of the transhumant pasturage routes of the Goringhaiqua (Kaapmans/Peninsular) and Gorachoqua, also marine shoreline Goringhaicona (Strandlopers). From early 17th century also Cochoqua (Saldanhars). Usually arrived in the Peninsula in November, grazing their cattle at Table Bay etc, moving on across Cape Flats in January when grazing deteriorated (Worden et al 1998:16, 20-1, Boonzaaier *et al* 1996).

1510- de Almeida and subsequent passing Europeans call intermittently for water, barter with Khoi for meat (Worden *et al* 1998:13)

1634 Drawing by Mundy (Worden *et al* 1998:15) shows three Table Valley watercourses – east one from saddle of Devil's Peak (Capel Sluit), central one (from Platteklip) flows to shore as a prettie brooke, west one from Kloof Nek.

1651 Instructions to Van Riebeeck: "As soon as you are in a proper state of defence you shall search for the best places for gardens, the best and fattest ground in which every thing planted or sown will thrive well, which garden shall be properly enclosed". Worden et al write that the setting out of a market garden of fruit and vegetables – ornamental flowers were not to be introduced till 1770s – was a direct claiming of the landscape ... provided the basis for Cape Town's physical layout and was a key symbol of early function ... unusual to have a Company garden as in Batavia plots tended by local inhabitants or Chinese cultivators (Worden *et al* 1998:17-18).

## AGRICULTURAL GARDEN

1652 April: Dutch East India Company occupies Table Valley, purpose is a refreshment station so agricultural garden created. J van Riebeeck commander 1652-62.

- 1652 December: Cochoqua appear with thousands of cattle grazing in vicinity of Fort and being kept out of Garden with difficulty (Worden *et al* 1998:21).
- 1652-7 Hendrik Boom master gardener. It was found that vegetables that grew low on the ground were the only ones to survive the strong south easter wind. Grain and rice were never to grow successfully in the Garden (CCC summary Fagan).
- c1653 Van Riebeeck map, first of Cape settlement (Fagan 1989:1:5, source Hague archives) shows Table Bay. In Table Valley are Fort and Company's gardens, with pasturage in whole Table Valley and along Atlantic seaboard.
- 1654-6 Cochoqua graze cattle across Garden and shoreline, mixing them with Company's herds (Worden *et al* 1998:21)
- 1654 Map CA M1/22 (Fagan 1989:1:10-11) shows Fort parallel with shore (this setting out became orientation of Cape Town grid). Two river mouths (Platteklip and Kloof Nek streams with altered courses – Capel Sluit is out of the picture). Garden was closer to town than now, lies between Plein St and Adderley St, below Church St to Hout St, four irregular rectangles, two established, two projected. The irregular rectangles are bordered by straight watercourses and intersected by paths. No big ditch round. There is also garden leeward of adjacent Fort. Fort is accurately drawn, remainder may be equally so though streams estimated. This irregular plan not seen again. Size was about 6 morgen.
- 1655 Garden 6 morgen, Cape Town 126 inhabitants (Fagan 1989:1:11)
- 1655 Garden expanded September, 12 morgen in extent, ditch right round with thorn and other wild trees planted as windbreak and to keep wild animals out (van Riebeeck diary in Fagan 1989:1:24)
- 1656 Garden about 20 morgen (Fagan 1989:1:29)
- 1656 Map CA M1/25 (Fagan 1989:1:30-1) ex Algemeen Rijksarchief VEL 820 (Worden *et al* 1998:18) shows Garden stretching  
a) between Plein and Adderley from about Darling to Wale (mainly the 1654 part though more regularly laid out), plus  
b) stepped extension [substantially the present Garden as far as Tuynhuys] between Parliament St and Queen Victoria reaching from Wale about as far as line of Roeland St, but c) not including corner Wale/Queen Victoria (old St George's Cathedral). The central waterleading through the new extension (not yet a broad avenue) is the line which determined frontages of 1660 erven down Adderley St.
- 1656 Meaning of garden layout is "control over a tamed and transformed environment. The Fort and Garden were sited on either side of the fresh water stream descending from the mountain, channelled into irrigation ditches around the garden and flowing into the bay alongside the fort

- walls. Neat lines demarcate the garden boundaries and its internal divisions into cultivated strips and vegetable beds ...” (Worden *et al* 1998:18)
- 1657-65 Function of the garden gradually taken over by Company gardens at Rondebosch, Newlands and private farms of Burghers on Liesbeeck and in upper Table Valley. Garden becomes a nursery garden, supplies trees, plants and slips for new orchards and vineyards. Also some fresh food, medicinal herbs (CCC summary Fagan)
- 1658 Slaves brought to the Cape (Seymour 1989:19, Volgraaff 1997:10)
- 1659-60 Open conflict between Khoi and settlers, Dutch claim land by right of conquest, Khoi allowed to pass through only on laid-out footpaths (Worden *et al* 1998:23-4)
- 1660 8 urban erven granted (there had been previous grants of farmland in Table Valley). Streets mentioned are Oliphant St (Hout St), Heere St (Castle St), streets of Forts Plein (Adderley St) and street along shore (Strand St). (Cairns 1974:12).
- 1661 Company displeased that van Riebeeck gradually tending toward the building of a town there, an idea that should be abandoned. VR replies it’s hardly a town as size is only 50 roods [600’], is outside of fort’s walls, more in name than reality as houses not yet built (Worden *et al* 1998:27). However, growth of town by 1661 sufficient to amaze Cochoqua chief, French visitor (Worden *et al* 1998:28).
- 1662-66 Commander Wagenaar, starts Castle 1665 (Rosenthal 1961:567)
- 1663 Dam constructed near shore (Fagan 1989:1:45) now under Golden Acre.
- c1662 Map CA M2/19 (dated 1660 Picard 1968:6, Walton 1978:2 etc) also CA M3/10 (dated 1665 Fagan 1989:1:48-9). Date is before dam built 1663, after 1661 van Riebeeck report that no houses yet built [if true]. Has little pictures of houses which Walton believes are accurate. Shows Oliphant St (Hout St), Heere St (Castle St), a proposed street between them later abandoned called Reijger St. Orientation of streets follow established Garden rectilinearity but are on land never farmed. Location of Adderley St determined by line of central waterleading in the 1656 extension to the Garden though waterleading did not extend that far. Strand St determined by practicality. Not known what determined line of Castle St. Garden has been expanded: includes 1656 area [ie stretching a) between Plein and Adderley from about Darling to Wale), b) stepped extension between Parliament St and Queen Victoria reaching about as far as line of Roeland St], but c) also now includes corner Wale/Queen Victoria, and d) is expanded towards mountain to include land beyond Tuynhuys area. (There is also garden towards Buitenkant.) No Avenue indicated.
- 1665 Garden 21 morgen (Fagan 1989:1:47)

- 1666-7 Private garden Domburg grants (Fransen & Cook 1965:6) later Art Gallery on part of site
- 1667 Visitor Iversen (Fagan 1989:1:47) mentions Garden of 15 morgen, no details
- 1668 Visitor Schreyer (Fagan 1989:1:54): Garden quite flat, very long and wide and water can be led to all parts of it, hedges only of rosemary bushes, many fruit trees, vines, roses but strong winds a problem
- 1676 Governor Goske [1672-6] letter (Fagan 1989:1:56) mentions map [not identified] showing limits of town, the lower end of Gardens have been cut off because soil of poor quality, an open roadway 18' [5,5m] made all around [sides and upper end?] to stop private gardens encroaching, a further 10 morgen measured out to be planted with fruit.
- 1676 Governor Goske letter (Fagan 1989:1:56) mentions speek and alder planted as windbreaks to protect saplings, new hedges [of fruit trees] should be planted 8-9 ft (2,5m) apart as they are then more wind resistant and bear better.
- 1676 Visitor Abraham van Riebeeck (Fagan 1989:1:56) laurel trees 18' high (5,5m) as hedges as defence against squalls as also are uncultivated trees [indigenous?], rosemary also tall but trimmed to 3' (0.9m), many citrus trees
- 1677 New graveyard in Company's "verlaten tuin" (Fagan 1989:1:58) ("abandoned garden", site of later church)
- 1677 Visitor Meister (Fagan 1989:1:58): quickset hedge around, beside which wall 12' (3,5m) high and moat 6' (1,8m) wide under construction, inside many double floral hedges a pike length high [c3m?] kept well trimmed, no decorative features like fountains, nothing but little canals leading here and there among the main avenues, squares divided and bounded in part with rosemary
- c1678 Map CA M2/17 (illustrated page 24) simplified version of Algemeen Rijksarchief VEL 828 (in Worden et al 1998:41), dated by Fagan on grounds does not show hospital (started 1679) nor Castle cross-wall (built 1683) (Fagan 1989:1:61), reproduced in Picard 1968:17 with helpful tracing overlay of modern street pattern.  
Shows loss [mentioned by Goske 1676] of all Garden below Wale St (except site of hospital Wale/Adderley). On this land new buildings are projected, their layout following the lines of the previous fields and include foundations of new Church, wall round graveyard and foundations under construction of Slave Lodge. New streets named are Thuyt St (Shortmarket), Berg (St Georges), Zee (Strand), Steen St (Parliament St). Not known what determined location of St Georges St or Shortmarket St. Strand St already located. Parliament St follows waterleading grid of abandoned fields.

Garden is substantially the overall land area seen today. Field drainage patterns from Wale St as far as Centre for the Book are as 1656 and 1665. Fields from there follow similar agricultural layout, include later menagerie and bird enclosure as elements. The Avenue has been made wider by deducting part of fields on Devil's Peak side. (Land on this side of Avenue remains narrower than Queen Victoria St side). The Avenue emphasised as double line of dots continuing down Adderley St as far as later Longmarket St – an entrance from Adderley is implied. Indication of a formal layout in front of Tuynhuys is only indication of ornamental planting.

- 1678 Garden about 24 morgen, settlement population about 600 people plus slaves, Free Burgher gardens about 48 morgen. Garden is typical of Dutch kitchen gardens, is purely functional, no thought of ornamental planting except that 20' [6m] high hedges are trimmed (Fagan 1989:1:61)

### **COMPARTMENTS WITH 6 METRE HIGH HEDGES**

- 1679-99 Simon van der Stel Governor. Passion for the soil and growing things (Fagan 1989:1:90)
- 1679 Entrance gate constructed, VOC monogram (Kolbe, Valentijn ex Fagan 1989:1:80, 82). This was off Parliament St.
- 1679 Slave Lodge built on previously constructed footings but smaller (Volgraaff 1997:7, 12), finished 1680 (Fransen & Cook 1965:4)
- 1679 New hospital built (Fagan 1989:1:61) or 1697 (plaque) Wale/Adderley corner
- 1681 Visitor Hesse (Fagan 1989:1:68): the only thing to give one pleasure there is beautiful garden and orchard which has rosemary as tall as a man, fruit trees, vegetables
- 1682 Three roomed summer house built by Simon van der Stel stood on a site now covered by the House of Assembly (Fransen & Cook 1965:3)
- 1685 Corn mill (Hope Mill) erected above Gardens, derives water from Platteklip stream along Orange St diverted as necessary by a sluice gate or lock (Walton 1978:3)
- 1685 Traveller Guy Tachard describes, draws summer house (Rosenthal 1961:518, illus Fagan 1989:1:79)
- 1685 Commissioner v Reede tot Drakenstein (Fagan 1989:1:69) instructs remnants of Fort to be demolished, implies there is an urban plan: some houses near Castle to be demolished, other existing houses with additional houses to form streets. Urban development of town not studied further. Garden has walkways with high green walls on either side to protect crops, three principle avenues 50' wide [15m] (central and each side), cross paths 9' wide, division into 16-18 compartments [?] by 20-22' [6m]

- high hedges 6-8' [2m] thick to protect crops, planted with fruit trees, vegetables; sweet water runs in irrigation channels to all the beds, 10' [3m] high wall at entrance [in Parliament St], rest of boundaries have a green hedge surrounded by a slit.
- 1685 Traveller de Chaumont (Oberholster 1972:14, Fagan 1989:1:70). Main walk, which is 1450 paces long (about 1300 m) almost completely planted with lemon trees (many subsequent visitors mention citrus tree Avenue, not cited here). Handsome palisades of a plant that is always green, Garden divided into compartments, each with specific planting - fruit trees, vegetables.
- 1685 Visitor Valentijn's first visit, see second 1714
- 1689-1705 Jan Hartogh master gardener (Fagan 1989:1:93)
- 1691 De la Loubere map CA M3/336 (Fagan 1989:1:72) shows rectilinear Garden, mill at top, 4 market gardens on Queen Victoria St (Vredenburg when granted in 1706 it was already well developed (OCF 2:54), grants of other gardens not researched).
- 1691-97 Hendrik Oldenland, botanist, herbalist, master gardener. He provides a detailed list of all plants growing in the garden at the end of the 17th century, collects, grows medicinal herbs, forms first herbarium, describes and catalogues each plant, medicines and seeds produced in Garden for export – oil of Rosemary, large amounts of dried herbs, fresh seed sent to replenish stocks in Batavia, fine quality rose water produced from centifolia roses (CCC summary Fagan). Horticultural history not followed here.
- 1694 Traveller Langhansz: fine Garden surrounded by a wall a pike length high, loveliest and rarest fruits and flowers, avenues of laurel hedges a pike length high and 2 ells thick [2m] continually trimmed by slaves, ornamental flower bushes set around with rosemary which grows in diligently trimmed hedges (Fagan 1989:1:74)
- 1695 Darling St laid out (Picard 1968:15)
- 1697 Hospital built corner Wale/Adderley (BoCT 65:33) alternative date to 1679
- c1699 Travellers make more and more mention of flower-beds, vines and other indigenous plants during Simon van der Stel's governorship; apart from being a kitchen and nursery garden it appears it was also being adorned with some of those elements which were to make it a pleasure garden (Fagan 1989:1:90) Elements of a pleasure garden though not as ornate as Dutch gardens of the same period. But it functioned mainly as a botanical and experimental garden, continued producing medicinal herbs (CCC summary Fagan)
- 1699-1705 Willem Adrian van der Stel Governor (Rosenthal). Did not give much attention to Garden, rather Vergelegen (Fagan 1989:1:91)

- c1700 WA van der Stel established a zoological garden at top of Garden (Bax & Koeman 1964:96)
- 1700 Visitor's Lodge built by WA van der Stel probably incorporated in Tuynhuys (Fransen & Cook 1965:3). In 1705 it had a square voorkamer with garden both sides, large rooms each side, floors square stone tiles, top storey same spaces where master gardener stores seed, dried herbs, implements (Kolbe in Fagan 1989:1:79)
- 1700 Foundation stone for new church according to enlarged plan, existing foundations too small (Fagan 1989:1:75)
- 1704 New cruciform church Groote Kerk finished (Fransen & Cook 1965:6)
- 1705-12 Kolbe at Cape, stays first at Garden summer house, describes it and Garden, draws diagrammatic plan [drawing thought inaccurate as contrary to all other records but written account seems persuasive]. 10'-12' [3m] high wall starts at church, runs [up Parliament St] past Slave Lodge, entrance gate erected 1679. From here Garden enclosed by a 6' [1,8m] wide moat always filled with water, thick hedge outside. In the Garden there are long walks stretching further than the eye can see, the squares planted with all manner of fruit and vegetables so that usefulness and pleasure are combined in them. Three long walks about 50' [15m] wide (oak avenues) divide the garden into 2 sections. Cross walks about 9' [2,5m] wide (laurel, rose hedges) divide the Garden into 16-18 beds surrounded by hedges about 20' [6m] high and 7' [2m] wide (formidable wind barrier). Smaller beds inside these bigger ones planted with European fruit trees, vegetables. Water streams, swimming place for van der Stel being a deep channel built of bricks in the centre with trees round it. Towards Lion's Head end is vineyard. Top end was planted like the rest but soil weaker, now fallow with 2 grazing cows. (Fagan 1989:1:78-81, Worden et al 1998:45) No mention of zoo.
- 1710 Van Staden drawing from Leeuwenhof (Fagan 1989:1:103) shows Slave Lodge, church but Garden seen only to be rectangular and densely planted – no Avenues or compartments seen.
- 1714 Traveller Valentijn describes Garden, adds Oldenland list of plants (Fagan 1989:1:82-8). Garden has no decorative features but astonishing and lovely. Slave Lodge across breadth, on east [Parliament St] is an 11' [3,3m] high stone wall running towards Table Mountain, through this is large gateway with 2 pillars with VOC logo and date 1679. (Undergardener lives in a house to the right.) 19 morgen ie 1115 paces long and 293 wide. Three wide paths run from wall of Slave Lodge towards Mountain. On both sides of each path a 23' [6,5m] high laurel/poplar/indigenous hedge as windbreaks. Central and Parliament St ones are 18 paces wide with avenues 15 paces wide of citrus trees and small oaks. Path on Queen Victoria St is 16 paces wide, has established

- oaks, called Oak Walk. Lengthwise 3 [?] further paths, crosswise are 4 narrower paths. Everywhere closely planted with rose bushes. High hedge compartments are further subdivided by 8' [2,5m] high hedges, each for one type of vegetable or fruit tree. Visitors lodge but previous summer house demolished. Water-mill above Garden, water led through in deep masonry water-channels and hollows. Lots of shade, seats [so to some extent a pleasure garden]. "One may walk everywhere one wishes but may not pluck the least thing".
- 1716 Feb, Council of Policy decides to build new gate to Garden, carved stone at SA Museum said to be remnant (Fagan 1989:1:152). This seems to be reinstatement of entrance at top of Adderley St.
- 1726-55 JA Truter master gardener (Fagan 1989:1:108)
- 1733-41 OF Mentzel at Cape (Fagan 1989:1:111). Garden more useful than ornamental. 1000 paces long by 260 in width. Divided into 44 rectangular beds enclosed by high hedges which hide beds within. Four [?] main paths and eleven crossways intersect. Inner main paths avenues of oaks. Entry from top of Adderley St, past hospital. Summer house 40' x 18', 2 gardener's dwellings, guard house.
- 1741-71 Ryk Tulbagh governor. Had great interest in natural history, encouraged plant collectors. During his time basic layout of garden unchanged clipped laurel and myrtle hedges. He may have been one of earliest governors to reside in summer house for during his time building was enlarged, acquired trilobal gable on garden side and a thatched roof, evidence found during 1960s restoration (Fagan 1989:1:121).
- 1751 Governor Ryk Tulbagh very much enlarges Visitor's Lodge (already double-storied) probably incorporating whatever walls were on the site (Fransen & Cook 1965:3)
- 1751 Wentzel map (Picard 1968:38, Fagan 1989:1:106) shows for 1st time layout of 44 enclosures (they are uneven lengths not all intersections have implied circles - confirmed by later maps), entrance top of Adderley St, Tuynhuys present.
- 1751 Slave Lodge extended, housed 1000 slaves (Volgraaff 1997:15-6), made double-storied with flat roof (Fransen & Cook 1965:5)
- 1755-c80 JA Auge master gardener, said to have planted extant wild banana adjacent wisteria (Fagan 1989:109)
- 1760s Economic boom (summary by Walton 1983:60)
- 1767 C Brink map CA M3/18 (Fagan 1989:1:118-9), no change since 1751, enclosures confirmed as varying lengths. Menagerie formally divided with central circle probably a pond
- 1768-71 Traveller Stavorinus (Fagan 1989:1:120). Lengthwise has 5 walks in straight lines upwards, the middle is broadest and planted with not very large oaks that meet overhead, other walks cut like hedges. Intersected by

- 11 cross walks planted with bay/myrtle. Garden is divided into 44 rectangles with fruit trees, vegetables. Summer house middle of [south] east side. Menagerie with wall with iron railing on garden side, also an aviary [bird park]. Open for the recreation of the public till an hour after sunset when the gate is closed, formerly open till late at night but abused. Gathering fruit prohibited.
- 1770 Traveller Sparrman: walks intersect each other at right angles planted with oaks clipped into wall hedges except in centre walk where they grow to full size and afford an agreeable shade – not a single other tree within many miles of town – menagerie at furthest end with birds and beasts never seen in Europe (Fagan 1989:1:117)
- 1772 Traveller Thunberg description, systematic description of plants (Fagan 1989:1:126-7). Garden always open to public, 996 paces long, 261 broad, has 44 quarters separated from each other by oak or bay hedges several yards in height. An avenue [central one?] of newly planted oaks (said previously to be chestnut trees cut down to make furniture). In menagerie are rare animals and great numbers of birds. No further visitor's reports till 1797.
- 1773 Hot house for pineapples in Garden (Fagan 1989:2:71)
- 1777-9 Tuynhuys alterations probably enlarge simple rectangle to a central part with 2 wings facing gardens (Bax & Koeman 1964:91 ex Resolutions Council of Policy)
- 1777 Schumacher drawing from Signal Hill (Vergunst 2001:78, Fagan 1989:1:126) is only picture of garden before 1830. Shows emphatic central Avenue, division by trees/hedge into 22 compartments (implies enclosures were linked in pairs by high hedges). Also shows Tuynhuys, church, Slave Lodge, adjacent mill, market garden houses, etc
- 1779-81 Groote Kerk enlarged (Fransen & Cook 1965:6)
- 1782 Hospital corner Wale/Adderley demolished (BoCT 65:33) site subdivided, granted
- 1784 Thibault map CA M1/1024 shows much enlarged town since 1767, hospital erf subdivided, Riebeeck Sq made (Fagan 1989:1:130). Garden has uneven length enclosures, menagerie as previously. In Lower Garden opposite Tuynhuys is new formal garden with central circle poss pond
- 1785-91 Governor CJ van de Graaff (Rosenthal)
- 1787-8 Thibault designs guard house and entrance gateway (Bax & Koeman 1963:95) described, illustrated Fagan 1989:1:149-54
- c1788 Thibault designs elaborate garden on Mountain side of Tuynhuys with pool, fountain, colonnade (found in 1968 restoration) (Fagan 1989:1:141, Bax & Koeman 1963:31)
- 1788-90 Castle cash accounts show intense expenditure on Tuynhuys (Bax & Koeman 1964:91) Van de Graaff classicised the front of Tuynhuys and

- made additions to the kitchen side (later various internal alts involving Thibault, but outward appearance remained unaltered till at least c1814) (Fransen & Cook 1965:3)
- 1790 Streets given official names (Picard 1968:90)
- 1791 Several drawings in vd Graaff's possession include Jones elev of Tuynhuys, Jones layout of Garden, Thibault drawing of part of Governor's house (Bax & Koeman 1964:91, illus 29-31). Also in 1791 Thibault dedicated to vd Graaff's son drawings of Heerengracht entrance.
- 1791 Jones plan illustrated page 25 (Bax & Koeman 1963:30) shows very elaborate parterres in front of Tuynhuys, further formal layout across Avenue from them, same irregular enclosures as previously but all have implied circles at intersections.
- 1792 Company in financial trouble, serious debt, trade at Cape slow because of war, Garden deteriorates due to lack of funds, few seeds from Europe (CCC summary Fagan)
- 1794 Piece of ground above Signal Hill side menagerie to Orange St granted to A Momsen (OCF 5:20)
- 1795 Cape taken by British who rule for 8 years (CCC summary Fagan)
- 1797 Traveller Barrow (Fagan 1989:1:159) summarises Garden at end of Dutch period: Length near 1000 yards and contains about forty acres of rich land divided into almost as many squares [44 in previous accounts] by oak hedges [height not mentioned]. The public walk runs up the middle, is well shaded by an avenue of oak trees and enclosed on each side by a hedge of cut myrtles. The Dutch of late years had entirely neglected this excellent piece of ground. At upper end a winehouse or tavern with billiard table etc [poss Uitvlugt, now part of CT High School site]
- 1797 SE Hudson diary (Fagan 1989:1:159): The public gardens were a wilderness. The walls covered with grass and weeds, the water-courses stopped, the wall broken down and the whole shamefully neglected
- 1797-8 Lord Macartney governor May 1797-Nov 1798, orders Garden to be replanted and laid out (Fagan 1989:1:159). But it is not redesigned (Jones map 1804 op cit).
- 1799-1801 Sir George Yonge governor. Lady Anne Barnard writes (Fagan 1989:1:160): Governor Yonge began reparation of Gardens directly [Dec 1799] and, planting guards at the gate, refused entrance to the inhabitants till it was put in order. Had he torn up the Magna Charta of the place into a thousand tatters he could not have put the natives in such an alarm. For 150 years they had enjoyed walking under shade of those oaks, tis the only public walk at the Cape, women particularly furious. Andrew Barnard undid the restriction by leaving the main walk free while others being repaired. Yonge added foolish rule to make all persons write their names every time they enter in a book at the guard house.

- 1803 Lodge de Goode Hoop built (Seymour 1989:14) [SA Art Gallery later in back garden]
- 1803 Batavian Republic administration of Cape from 21 Feb 1803 to 18 Jan 1806, De Mist Commissioner General, Janssens Governor (Fagan). Assume Avenue again opened to public.
- 1803 Thibault plans menagerie buildings, poss built (Fagan 1989:1:167) poss not built (Bax & Koeman)
- 1804 Avenue linked through to Orange Street, becomes vital link between town and Oranjezicht garden estates (Bax & Koeman 1964:96-7, Fagan 1989:1:164-5). At new upper end a wall on left (bird park) to match existing on right (menagerie) with 4 arches in each (poss once railings in them), four pillars (three survive), new gateway opposite the existing one into menagerie, both with teak gates, bridge across stream to Orange St.
- 1804 Top of Avenue has a curved shape on Jones map, unreliable evidence of Thibault gates here (Bax & Koeman 1964:97), poss remaining square bases and pillars original (Fagan 1989:1:172), present arrangement designed 1920s by Baker's firm (CCC note on Fagan), Bowler picture c1850 and photo c1920 show simple bridge (Fagan 1989:2:223). Thibault gates may have been built but may be out of picture.
- 1804 Josephus Jones map page 25 CA M3/117 shows Avenue with double line of dots linked to Orange St, enclosures as 1791 but many in course of redesign (stretch on Tuynhuys side of Avenue from Slave Lodge to Tuynhuys garden, and area immediately opposite Tuynhuys do not have parterres, seem agricultural fields or disturbed ground).
- 1804 Visitor Percival (Oberholster 1972:15) mentions gates at top of Adderley St, that Avenue is rolled and gravelled, each side planted with oak, low elms, myrtle etc, no mention of high hedges, canal on left side always filled with water.
- 1804 Anon artist drawing guard house and gates (Picard 1968:134 colour, Fagan 1989:1:151)
- 1805 Anreith executes Lion and Lioness gateways (Fagan 1989:1:170)
- 1806 British administration of the Cape: Baird Jan 1806-Jan 7, Grey Jan 1807-May 1807, Caledon May 1807-July 1811, Cradock Sep 1811-May 1814 (Fagan 1989:2:3)
- 1806 Garden ceases to export medicinal herbs to Batavia, loses its botanical function (CCC summary Fagan)
- 1806 Queen Victoria St named Thuyn-straat, had not been mentioned 1790 but one of oldest passages as a narrow strip along the right bank of the canal dug to irrigate the Gardens, in 1749 called 'gragt van stromend water' (Picard 1968:115)
- 1807 Caledon decision to convert Slave Lodge to government offices, 283 slaves, many old, many sold, remainder moved to west wing Aug 1810,

rest of building converted to public offices, 1811 remaining slaves moved to temporary quarters, rest of building converted, slaves moved to menagerie area 1820 (Vollgraaff 1997:50).

- 1810-15 Slave Lodge converted to Government Offices by Thibault, prob contractor Schutte, prob Anreith pediment Parliament St side (Fransen & Cook 1965:5)
- 1810-15 Traveller Burchell disappointed to find only vegetable beds (intended for Governor's table) in a Garden which had once been so famous for its variety of interesting plants. Lists some still there. Menagerie has lion, lioness, Bengal tiger, a wildebeest, some ostriches (Fagan 1989:2:3)
- 1812 Water supply improved, pumps throughout town (Fagan 1989:2:3)
- 1814-27 Lord Charles Somerset governor (Rosenthal 1961:484)

## **GOVERNOR'S GARDEN**

- c1814 Somerset lived at Tuynhuys/Government House, Gardens for his sole use, Avenue remained a public thoroughfare (Fagan 1989:2:4)
- c1814- Somerset alters Tuynhuys, removes central pediment, adds porch, Georgian windows, low-pitched Welsh slate roof, also adds Ballroom (Fransen & Cook 1965:3) but these alterations poss not carried out till later, see 1822
- c1814- Somerset responsible for redesign of Garden. Geometrical beds, straight paths, surrounding hedges removed. Sinuous and irregular lines of 19th c landscape tradition, trees, lawns, general softening of environment. Most land used to grow green crops for Governor's use (CCC summary Fagan). Evidence for sinuous curves not known.
- c1817 Hatfield St made, subdivision of Welgedaan (Fransen & Cook 1965:16), St John St already made, date not known.
- c1820 Elemans map CA M5/16 (Fagan 1989:2:5) notably unreliable/crude, shows Avenue, guard houses top and bottom, many rectangular but not enclosure shaped beds, on Tuynhuys side (approx opposite later Art Gallery site) are many trees instead of enclosures, on sea side of Tuynhuys is circular garden. Queen Victoria St developed as far as Green St, farmland above.
- 1820 135 slaves moved to a new Slave Lodge on menagerie site, freed 1828 (Vollgraaff 1997:50)
- 1821 Population of Cape Town 18,422 (Bird in Fagan 1989:2: 13)
- 1822 William Bird describes Garden: centre Avenue wide and about one mile long, spreading oaks where military bands play lively tunes on Sunday, menagerie, remainder a private garden for the Governor, house built in Dutch style, out of repair (Fagan 1989:2:16)

- 1822-27 Probable period for Somerset alterations to Tuynhuys
- 1825 Drege map (source not known, in Fagan 1989:2:8) shows Avenue with double line trees, guard houses top and bottom, no detail of Garden layout but many trees from menagerie to approx opposite Art Gallery.
- 1825 Traveller Teenstra describes menagerie with 2 lions in adjoining cages, smaller cages with tigers and hyenas, slave quarters north-west side of these, octagonal pool with whitewashed wall, island in centre with willow, several bridges cross mill stream (Fagan 1989:1:)
- 1826 Bathurst in London suggests Gardens restored to people of Cape Town, re-establish botanical function, plant for shade and ornament, private use of Governor only round house (Fagan 1989:2:10-11)
- 1826-7 Maps in various editions of Thompson's Travels show only general detail (in Fagan 1989:2:12-3)
- 1827 Anglican Church grant one acre (Fagan 1989:2:17) one morgen (Fagan 1989:2)
- 1827 Indistinct date on sundial in pleasure garden, drawn MEM 1851 (BoCT 103:2).
- 1828 Menagerie Slave Lodge closed, slaves freed six years before universal emancipation (Volgraaff 1997:50)
- 1830 St George's church foundation stone (Seymour 1989:18) inaugurated Dec 1834 (Fagan 1989:2:17)
- 1830 Map in G Greig SA Directory for 1830 (street directory) shows only general detail (Pama 1975)
- c1830 De Meillon painting shows Somerset's conversion of Government House, trees, flower beds in lawn (Fagan 1989:2:15)
- c1830 De Meillon painting (Fagan 1989:2:71) shows unidentified building in Garden with flat roof, a semi with 2 chimneys
- c1830 De Meillon painting (Smith 1978) of Hope Mill (wrongly identified as Welgemeend) shows wall to Avenue with a small domed building on Avenue side, see 1832
- 1832 Bell drawing (UCT JLMA Bell sketch book) shows Hope Mill, wall to Avenue, Lions still at sides of gateway, arches in wall (no railings in them), small domed building on Avenue side (poss a water house like Prince St pump or sentry box – confirmed by de Meillon drawing but not seen elsewhere)
- 1832-3 D'Oyly drawing of Avenue on a Sunday (Pama 1975:16, Fagan 1989:1:)
- 1833 Queen Victoria St named New Street, a dignified, stylish street, many intellectuals in first 60 years of 19th century eg district surgeon Dr Fairbridge, never commercialised (Picard 1968:115)

- 1834 Traveller Harriet Louw walks in a most delightful shady walk, very extensive, 2 rows of oaks each side, laid out in squares and turfed with grass (Fagan 1989:2:22)
- 1835 Anonymous traveller: Only 2 lions in menagerie, Bengal tiger died shortly before (Fagan 1989:1:167)
- 1836 Impossible date: Hot house shown in CMD painting dated April 1836 (Fagan 1989:2:71) picture clearly shows 1848 layout of paths, benches: very similar to Bowler c1852.
- 1836 Traveller JC Chase find Garden gone to decay for want of Government support, oak and myrtle hedges being principal ornament. Baron von Ludwig, van Breda have fine gardens (Fagan 1989:2:22) Several other complaints about condition 1831, 38, 47 (Fagan 1989:2:23)
- 1836 Groote Kerk rebuilt, architect Schutte (Fransen & Cook 1965:6)
- 1838 Map CA M1/2674 (Fagan 1989:2:24) of area above Government House shows central avenue with trees, whole of area each side bordered with trees, rectangles, no sinuous curves, Lion's den marked on Mountain boundary
- 1838-40 Traveller Ferdinand Krause (in Fagan 1989:2:23) "... a long oak avenue, which leads from the centre of town to its upper part and into side alleys branching off at right angles. Between these lie, at the upper end, lawns, at the lower, the living quarters and private garden of the Governor ...", there had been a menagerie where College now proposed.
- 1838 Hiddingh campus: portion of menagerie granted to SAC includes part of lion's den thus no animals any longer (Fagan 1989:2:24)
- 1839 Bertram House built (Seymour 1989:15)
- c1839 Gate from Bertram House to Avenue, lacks elegance (Fagan 1989:1:173)
- 1839-41 Egyptian building Hiddingh campus, architect Col Lewis (Radford 1979, Seymour 1989:15, BoCT 133:15)
- 1840s Public parks have become common in Europe, Kew Botanic Gardens established (CCC summary Fagan)
- 1842 Purported date of well near entrance connected to pump in tree (ex notice attached to a nearby tree). Date on pump is 1842 but well sunk 1854 (Fagan 1989:2:49).
- 1844 Map CA M1/3258 (Fagan 1989:2:2-7) shows Egyptian building, St George's Church. Remnant enclosure rectangles in area of paddocks, formal garden with central circle in front of Tuynhuys (extension opposite with central path, long beds each side), novel layout in SA Museum area not elsewhere confirmed, little other detail.
- 1845-8 Public clamour for a Botanical Garden, memorials to Governor, newspaper articles, support from Hooker of Kew, Herschel. In 1848 governor Sir Harry Smith appoints Commission (Fagan 1989:2:28-9, 32-4).

1847 Demolition of Thibault entrance gateway (newspaper report), new pillars and entrance gates (Fagan 1989:1:152, 2:41). Guardhouse continues till later than 1862.

## SUBSCRIPTION GARDEN

1848 May: Botanical garden established, to be open to subscribers, and public at certain times. But Government House side of Avenue continues private (Fagan 1989:2:32-36)

1848 Thomas Draper first superintendent did not give satisfaction, dismissed Sept 1849, left Feb 1850 (Fagan 1989:2:36). He might have started redesigning Lower Garden

1850 March: James McGibbon head gardener for next 23 years, CL Zeyher under him (Fagan 1989:2:36). Most probable designer of layout of Lower Garden which was bisected by straight paths (with sundial, fountain at crossings), lawns, clumps of shrubs, a sinuous path around circumference. Entrance was opposite Tuynhuys.

1850s Committee Room now Garden cottage (Queen Victoria St next to Library) built, later extended, still later steel windows (BoCT 77:8)

1851 Drawing by MEM (poss pupil of Bowler) of sundial in pleasure garden setting, virtually identical to Bowler c1851 (Gordon-Brown 1975:192, BoCT 103:2, Fagan 1989:42). First image of redesigned Lower Garden.

c1851 Bowler lithograph (page 55) published 1854 (colour Bradlow 1967:pic 12a p49, p267, p271) shows Lower Garden from same position as MEM: "smoothed out", lawns cut, undergrowth cleared, shrubs grouped, central gravel path not curving, seats under trees, trees selected (one *Angophora cestorta* or Gum Myrtle trees shown remains in 1989, Fagan 1989:2:42), sundial, tower of Cathedral, band playing. Seems drawn from position of Rhodes statue looking towards town.

1852 1st Oranjezicht reservoir built, 2nd 1858 (Radford 1979)

c1852 Bowler drawing of Oriental hothouse (Fagan 1989:2:43, 71, Bradlow 1967:561/1 no pic) also shows trees isolated on lawn, benches

c1852 CMD painting dated April 1836 (Fagan 1989:2:71): date seems too early because layout shown was made after 1848. Shows Oriental hothouse, paths, benches: very similar to Bowler c1852.

1853 Traveller GF Belcher mentions glass houses protecting rare flowers over which the gardener made a fountain of clear water to play (Fagan 1989:2:75)

1854 Sir George Grey Governor Dec 1854-Aug 1859 (Fagan 1989:2:41)

1854-6 Complaints that Garden perceived as a pleasure garden, resembles a park, little botanical research carried out, no names on plants, no system, no botanist. Governor appoints commission (Fagan 1989:2:44)

- 1854 Map CA M1/3286 (Fagan 1989:2:46) shows Tuynhuys side entirely trees, Lower Garden with central path ovals each side (not elsewhere confirmed)
- 1854 Improvements to water supply: 2 wells sunk with hand pumps (one remains in tree) to 2 brick tanks, stone water furrows excavated 1960s (Fagan 1989:2:49)
- 1854 Bowler sketch of lion gateway, solid doors (Fagan 1989:1:170)
- 1856 Map CA M1/2594 shows only half original garden available to the public (Fagan 1989:2:47). Garden open to public: all Queen Victoria St side from menagerie to approx SA Library, eight rectangles of Paddocks on Tuynhuys side. St George's school marked.
- 1856 Traveller Hamelberg: Oak lined Avenue, Governor's garden to left is beautiful, to right is a large and handsome Botanical garden with exotic and indigenous plants, flowers, Wednesday military band, subscribers visit at any time, public on certain days (Fagan 1989:2:41)
- 1857 Sept picture by JN Crealock shows Governor's Garden, buck, ostrich, avenue of trees, gate at end (Gordon-Brown 1975:140, Fagan 1989:2:41). Location uncertain: Fagan says picture is of closed Avenue but poss of treed area left of Tuynhuys or bird enclosure.
- 1857 Upper Garden received (Fagan 1989:2:88). Presumably SA Museum site [might be present site of DR Synod in Grey's Pass]
- 1857 Fern craze in Europe and Cape. Fern house constructed at top end of Garden (Fagan 1989:56-7)
- 1857-64 National Library of SA (formerly SA Library) opened September 1860, architect WH Kohler (Seymour 1989:16, BoCT 77:6, Fagan 1989:2:55)
- 1858 Comprehensive list of plants by J McGibbon (Fagan 1989:2:50 and addendum)
- 1862 Snow map (page 26) (Fagan 1989:2:60). St Georges Cathedral & school, Library/Museum. Lower Garden bisected by straight paths with sundial, fountain at crossings, lawns, a sinuous path around circumference, small buildings along Queen Victoria St wall, also Committee Room, hothouse (?) near entrance. Upper Garden is fallow with paths being laid out. Menagerie has central fountain, slave quarters on Signal Hill side still residential, Egyptian Building. Bertram House. Avenue has curved top end to bridge over stream, top guard house gone, bottom one extant. Colonial Office and School of Industry have been built at sea end of Tuynhuys side; rest of Parliament Garden has central path, large circle intersection [seen also 1820], winding paths on Parliament St side. Tuynhuys has simplified formal lawns in 4 rectangles [there were many trees here in 18...]. Upper Tuynhuys Garden irregular rectangles poss vegetables. Fallow land connects to 6 regular rectangles now Paddocks.

- Bird enclosure open, Hope Mill extended. At rear of Masonic Lodge is square garden with crossed paths.
- 1862 Old Synagogue erected, architect J Hogg (Radford 1979, BoCT 126:13) completed 1863 (Seymour 1989:15) side aisles, semi-circular rear not show on Snow
- 1864 Rutherford Memorial Fountain erected down Adderley St (BoCT 103:1) moved to Garden 1897
- 1864 May: Sir George Grey monument erected, sculptor WA Calder Marshall (BoCT 103, Fagan 1989:2:62)
- 1864 Bowler painting shows Library, Grey statue in front separated by shrubbery which conceals railings (which are glimpsed on left), lotus fountain in small circular pond (fountain rebuilt between 1865>1875, basin still there under Japanese lantern) (Fagan 1989:2:62, 67, Bradlow 1967:pics LP55, 266)
- 1865 Bowler painting shows lobed pond with 3 bowl fountain and water jet, large trees isolated on lawns and forming frame, expansive lawns, band, absence of flower beds (Fagan 1989:2:61-2, Bradlow 1967:pic 169)
- 1870s? date not known (after 1854 before 1875), ornate cast/wrought iron gates to Lion Gateways (Fagan 1989:1:170-1)
- 1870s? date unknown Marist Brothers College (BoCT 126:12) on Wilson 1878
- 1870s Photo oriental hothouse (Fagan 1989:2:75)
- 1872 Curator reports (Fagan 1989:2:68): seed house and garden office [committee room?] had thatched roof replaced by iron, walks received annual coating of drift gravel, first litchi fruit picked, first Pampas Grass, box myrtle etc edging to walks and borders renewed [poss along sinuous paths, not main lawns], bare grass lawns caused by many hundred feet passing to and fro and want of water for occasional flooding, wooden fence along Avenue in poor state.
- 1873 Lion sculptures to bird enclosure gateway removed (Fagan 1989:1:170)
- 1875 Earliest dated photos, SB Barnard (Fagan 1989:2:70, not sourced), show a) sundial, lawns, trees similar Bowler, and b) the Avenue near Tuynhuys/ main entrance to Lower Garden with young mature oaks, similar to today. This is first picture of Avenue after D'Oyly 1832
- 1875 Photo of lioness gateway with wrought iron gates (Fagan 1989:1:171)
- c1875 Staff Cottage (orig Gardener's Cottage) built in Tuynhuys upper grounds, extended after 1895 (BoCT 104:3)
- 1875 Superintendent reports (Fagan 1989:2:16, 70, 74 pics): large Conservatory built of three divisions, central had palms, terracing round it completed 1877. (But not open to public till 1896.)

- 1875 Parliament foundation stone laid, foundations dug but work abandoned (Seymour 1977:49)
- 1877 Traveller Trollope (Fagan 1989:2:70): up shady avenue, on right hand side is Botanic Gardens, not remarkable, dreary
- 1878 Wilson map (Fagan 1989:2:76): St George's Cathedral and school, Library. Lower Garden as 1862 plus Grey statue. Upper Garden (from present rose garden-Menagerie) has central path, curved paths each side, cruciform Conservatory. Menagerie etc indistinct. Tuynhuys side as 1862 except Parliament Garden blank (work had started on building) and, in upper garden, previously fallow ground adjacent Paddocks has Staff Cottage and planting.
- 1880s Hiddingh campus, several buildings erected. 1881 SACS physics building (Little Theatre), architect H Greaves (Radford 1979). 1883 adds to Egyptian Building (BoCT 133:15). Unknown date Fine Art Building (BoCT133:4). Unknown date house called Bertram Place now Orange Street Laboratories (BoCT 133:20).
- 1880s Several buildings in Queen Victoria St, dates not known: Pair houses 56 Queen Victoria St, later part of YMCA (BoCT 75:13), Pair houses 76 Queen Victoria St (BoCT 75:36) architect poss Ransome
- 1880 Peter MacOwen – a botanist – appointed curator (CCC summary Fagan)
- 1881 Iron railings put up along first 200 yards of the Avenue (Fagan 1989:2:90)
- 1883 Admission policy (summarised by curator MacOwen): The present arrangement admits subscribers and their families, the Military, and all “Strangers” [for a period of 1 month from arrival, many were from neighbouring towns]. This regulation dates apparently from March 1858 when no railway brought strangers to town and but one small Steamer per month landed its score passengers. The gate was kept locked and every applicant for admission, whether subscriber or stranger, had to ring, await opening, and show his ticket or sign his name in the Visitor's Book. I cannot say how in course of years this vigilance and exclusive rule came to be relaxed. It was in force in 1862 when I landed at the Cape. No resolution relinquishing the closure of the gate has been found in the Minutes Book. MacOwen found that 200-300 strangers would be admitted to band performances when subscribers only numbered 50-80. Gates shut 4 days a week to non-subscribers thus not what it should be – a public pleasance. He argues for free admission for all (Fagan 1989:2:81-3).
- 1884 Houses of Parliament completed, architect Graves at PWD (Seymour 1989:18), building inaugurated 1886; cast iron railing fence adjoining Avenue (Fagan 1989:2:87)
- 1884 Grey's Pass named on map (Fagan 1989:2:85)
- 1885 Lobed fountain, conservatory seen in H Egersdorfer sketch (Fagan 1989:2:77)

- 1885 Curator reports (Fagan 1989:2:86) Parliament House gardens laid out and kept up for one year, old subway [?] in Queen Victoria St replaced with level crossing, 30' x 12' glass house built, conservatory needs alterations (ugliest in SA)
- 1886 Curator reports (Fagan 1989:2:88) rapid increase of buildings round the Garden; threat to build monster hotel on Rosedale field now DR Synod
- 1887 Curator reports (Fagan 1989:2:90) Subscription members total 44 reports curator, suggests everyone free plus £300 pa from Council
- 1887 Director's House Queen Victoria St completed June (Fagan 1989:2:91, BoCT 103:6)
- 1888 Mayor reports water supply problems for growing town though Molteno reservoir completed so Woodhead reservoir started; curator regularly complains of water shortage (Fagan 1989:2:91). Detailed list of springs and streams, their yield
- 1888 List of residents & occupations of Queen Victoria St, Parliament St – small studios, music teachers, watchmakers, tailors, boarding houses, School of Industry, etc (Street Directory Fagan 1989:2:92)
- 1889 Avenue entrance gates demolished (Fagan 1989:1:154)
- 1889 Cast iron fence along Avenue being erected, picture, earlier railing on Queen Victoria St more ornate (Fagan 1989:2:94-5)
- 1890 Statue of Queen Victoria (Houses of Parliament garden) unveiled, sculptor T Brock (BoCT 78:1, pic Fagan 1989:2:105)
- 1890s? 5 unit terrace built opposite Paddock now Gardens Commercial High School (126:19)
- 1890s? DR Synod Hall now Dept Social Welfare, 46-50 Queen Victoria St (BoCT 76:22)
- 1891 Map (Fagan 1989:2:104), fairly diagrammatic, shows upper garden full of trees, pleasure garden incorrect, remainder more or less as elsewhere
- 1891 Hiddingh campus Fine Art Building extended, architect John Parker (BoCT133:4)
- 1891 Crisis: Upkeep is financed by subscriber fees and sale of plants, mainly bulbs. Private enterprise competition, over-supply, causes price drop. Curator seeks State assistance. Also inadequate water supply in dry season (CCC summary Fagan). Matters brought to a head by proposed SA Museum on “large section of best and most ornamental part” of Garden, intrusion of a large building with separate and conflicting interests, removal of propagating houses further reduces income. Resignation of commissioners, administration (Fagan 1998:2:101-3, 105-6). Garden business comes to a halt, financial ruin imminent, Municipal Council takes over 1892 (Fagan 1989:2:106)

- 1891 Curator reports (Fagan 1989:2:106) previous problems of water supply found to be inadequate supply pipes, rectified, water now a good stream where previously it ran as if through a straw

## **MUNICIPAL GARDEN**

- 1892 March, transfer to Municipality from Commissioners (Crown land) of 2 pieces of land 6 morgen 200 sq rods 93 sq ft with conditions (Fagan 1989:2:106). Did not yet include Avenue etc (1898) nor Upper Garden.
- 1892 Municipal Council makes great improvements, replaces benches, gravels paths, import new gardeners, build new conservatories. Garden open to public every day. (CCC summary Fagan)
- 1894 Cape Town Guide (Fagan 1989:2:108) Garden is open to all from 7am to sunset on weekdays and 9am to sunset on Sunday
- 1894 Curator reports (Fagan 1989:2:197) Rose garden laid out (photos p109-11), orchard house being built, 23 new benches, along Queen Victoria St a new red brick pointed dwarf wall with granite coping and ornamental railing, old wall higher up cement plastered on street
- 1893-4 South African Museum and outbuildings, architects JE Vixseboxse & DE Wentink (BoCT 125:10, CCC plan 23/1894, Seymour 1977:80, Seymour 1989:15-6)
- c1894 Board of Executors corner Wale/Adderley 3 storeys, attic, architect GM Alexander (BoCT 65:33)
- 1894 Hiddingh campus Speech & Drama building (BoCT 133:11)
- 1895 Hiddingh campus 1st part Ritchie Building, architect H Baker (BoCT133:5)
- 1895 Date of Thom's map because shows first part of Ritchie building but not Chalet (opened 27 Aug 1895) nor City Club (1897-8)
- 1895 Thom map (page 27) shows St George's Cathedral and school, Library as 1862. Lower Garden as 1862 (plus Director's House and extended Committee Room). Upper Garden has cruciform Conservatory, various glass houses and 2 outbuildings, rose garden Delville Wood area. SA Museum built, remnant of upper garden towards menagerie. Hiddingh campus has Egyptian Building, Little Theatre, Fine Art building, Speech & Drama, first part Ritchie. Bertram House and Bertram Place with separate gardens to orange St. Avenue has circular end, bridge over stream, lower end no gates. Parliament with garden at sea side. Tuynhuys lower garden has tennis court, formal rose garden. Four squares before Tuynhuys. Tuynhuys upper garden formal layout except fallow area by Staff Cottage. Paddocks are six rectangles with bandstand in one of them. Bird enclosure school playground. Hope Mill very developed, terrace

- housing. Square garden behind Masonic Lodge has central bandstand, covered stage [?]
- 1895 Mayor's minute (Fagan 1989:2:112) reports rose garden completed with gravel, 12 new benches, plant house built and heated with hot water for orchards, electric lighting to popular band stand, rickety old wooden gate opening from the end of the Gardens into the cross road [Orange St or Paddock Ave?] replaced with iron structure with brick and cement columns but adjacent to unsightly spar fence
- 1895 Electricity in Cape Town, used to light bandstand, possibly elsewhere; Fagan 1989:2:175 photo of lighting up Avenue.
- 1895 Public convenience chalet (BoCT 77:9) opened 27 Aug (McCracken 1988:30) designed Walter Reid, Municipal architect (Fagan 1989:2:112)
- 1896 Mayor's minute (Fagan 1989:2:116) reports large conservatory at upper end interior reconstructed and opened to public for first time, 50 new benches, a band enclosure, chalet opened (a great convenience), kitchen & bathroom added to superintendent's [Director's] cottage
- 1897 Mayor's minute (Fagan 1989:2:118) reports 25 oaks planted between old decaying ones on Avenue side of Garden, 2 new drinking fountains, Rutherford fountain located at Victoria St entrance, orchard house only open on request.
- 1897 Hiddingh campus 2nd part Ritchie Building, architect H Baker (BoCT133:5)
- 1897-8 City & Civil Service Club, Queen Victoria St, architect Baker (Keath c1991:50-1, BoCT 64:11)
- 1898 Picture of bandstand in middle of rectangle of trees, in front of synagogue (Fagan 1989:2:117)
- 1898 The Avenue, side walks and adjoining squares [Paddocks?] transferred to Municipality from Public Works (Fagan 1989:2:113)
- 1898-9 Hiddingh campus completion Ritchie Building, bridge, architect H Baker (BoCT133:5)
- c1898 Nut Von Het Algemeen school demolished, 38 Queen Victoria St (ex BoCT 76:24)
- 1898 School of Art, 38 Queen Victoria St, architects probably PWD (BoCT 76:24)
- 1899-1900 Hebrew Public School buildings, later Cape Town High School, architect John Parker, poss some demolished (BoCT 134:2)
- 1899 Superintendent's report (Fagan 1989:2:121) three new turnstiles into band stand enclosure
- 1900 Lobed fountain replaced by Sir William Thorne fountain of infant embracing spouting dolphin (Fagan 1989:2:123, 132)
- 1900 New Street renamed Queen Victoria St (Picard 1968:116) but Thom shows both names 1895

- 1900 Secretary's house, Tuynhuys grounds, architects Baker & Masey (Keath c1991:2)
- 1900 Marist Brothers College extensions but demolished (BoCT 126:12)
- 1901/2 Hiddingh campus Rosedale boarding house, architects Baker & Masey (BoCT 133:6)
- 1901 Superintendent's report (Fagan 1989:2:136) area on north side of garden fenced off for working plant, manure, etc
- 1901 Temporary arched gateway at entrance for Royal visit (Fagan 1989:2:134-5)
- 1901 Foundation stone St George's Cathedral, architects Baker & Masey (Seymour 1989:18) but only crypt, St John's Chapel built at this stage
- 1902 Mayor's report (Fagan 1989:2:137) old bluestone wall with earth mortar in Queen Victoria St portion rebuilt, 100 yard stretch repaired. Salt glazed tiles and cement gutters replace edgings of juniper, myrtle in Garden
- 1903 Superintendent's report (Fagan 1989:2:141) tall palm from conservatory planted out
- 1903 Hiddingh campus metallurgy lab behind Little Theatre, architects Baker & Masey (BoCT 133:12)
- 1904 New St George's Grammar first part (BoCT 77:4) architects Baker & Masey
- 1904 Hiddingh campus engineering labs now Commerce Building, architects Baker & Masey (BoCT 133:7)
- 1904 Hiddingh campus zoological and geological labs now Michaelis School of Fine Art, architects Baker & Masey (BoCT 133:22)
- 1904 Old Synagogue south aisle demolished (BoCT 126:13)
- 1904 New Synagogue erected, architect John Parker (BoCT 126:14)
- 1904 Photo formal planting (Fagan 1989:2:146) location not known
- 1905 Superintendent reports (Fagan 1989:2:146) new stove house built 1904, 18 new beds have been made on the lawns with a specimen tree in centre of each
- 1906 Superintendent reports severe storm 9 October 1905 damaged almost every tree of any size. Photo shows lower end of Avenue replanted. (Fagan 1989:2:147)
- 1906 Centre for the Book (University of the Cape of Good Hope) Queen Victoria St, architects Hawke & McKinlay (Seymour 1989:16)
- 1907 Superintendent reports (Fagan 1989:2:148) 4 more flower beds made on grass lawns
- 1907 Supreme Court, Queen Victoria St/Keerom St, architects Hawke & McKinlay (BoCT 76:19)
- 1908 Mayor reports (Fagan 1989:2:149, 158) bandstand moved to centre of intersecting paths of 4 paddocks nearest town to provide more space for promenading, children's playground in 2 paddocks nearest mountain

- 1908 Cecil Rhodes statue, sculptor Henry Pegram (BoCT 103:3). Baker had proposed a site terminating Adderley St, with embracing colonnade, Slave Lodge demolished (plan Fagan 1989:2:150)
- 1909-10 Houses of Parliament extensions, architects Baker & Masey (Seymour 1989:18, Keath c1991:177) also other architects (BoCT 78:2)
- 1910 Temp arch gateway reused to celebrate Union (Fagan 1989:2:134-5)
- 1910 Curator's report: old wall upper end of Queen Victoria St pulled down, rebuilt with stone and cement mortar
- 1910 Hiddingh campus Hiddingh Hall and Library, architects Baker & Kendall (BoCT 133:14)
- 1911-2 Curator reports (Fagan 1989:2:159) new wrought iron gates at new entrance next to Library, hung from brick pillars of Dutch design, in a semi-circle requiring acquisition of Government land in front of library and considerable alteration to paths. The old entrance opposite Tuynhuys with pointed brick pillars and iron scroll over was demolished, new pillars in Dutch character, bell tower (BoCT 103:4) modelled on Elsenburg with bell from Old Town House where used for giving fire alarm, pergola ie upright iron pillars covered with timber framework supporting wisteria [poss Japanese garden] extended, new beds in lawns for Cape plants, fountains fenced in for safety
- 1911 Hiddingh campus Ritchie Building alts adds, architects Baker & Kendall (BoCT133:5)
- 1911 Hiddingh campus Government Laboratory (BoCT 133:21)
- 1912 Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens formed, relieved Garden of botanical function (Fagan 1989:2:145)
- 1913 Curator reports (Fagan 1989:2:160-1) new plant house erected, curator's cottage enlarged with additional rooms, pergola in bulb garden [Japanese garden] completed with dome [fountain at centre], hedge of shrubs and trees planted along Queen Victoria St to improve view from University buildings [Centre for the Book]
- 1913 Balcony to 5 unit terrace opposite Paddock, architects MacGillivray & Grant (BoCT 126:19)
- 1913 SACS Junior school, later Cape Town High School, dormitory building, architects Parker & Forsyth (BoCT 134:3)
- 1914 Hiddingh campus timber frame mathematical lab now workshop behind Speech & Drama, architects Parker & Forsyth
- 1914-18 War takes away many gardeners, unskilled labour, many plants die (Fagan 1989:2:162)
- 1916 Delville Wood. Scene of a battle in France during World War I. On 15 July 1916 General Sir HT Lukin, in command of the South African Brigade, received orders to take and hold this position at all costs. The wood was near Longueval, a key position in the Battle of the Somme. He

force succeeded in capturing it, but a series of counter-attacks were launched by the Germans. For 5 days these continued day and night, the South Africans holding their ground despite fearful losses. Relief came on July 20. Of 121 officers and 3,032 men, the uninjured survivors were 5 officers and 750 men. A national memorial (with a duplicate outside the Union Buildings, Pretoria [and in the Company's Gardens, Cape Town] was erected there in 1926." (Rosenthal 1961:135)

## **BETWEEN THE WARS**

- 1918 Curator's report mentions new Art Gallery [?] requiring moving 3 young oaks (Fagan 1989:2:162), proposed site not known, not built till 1928-30
- 1919 Photo central walk shows sundial, grouping of trees, shrubs, ground cover, glazed tile edgings, gravel paths (Fagan 1989:2:176)
- c1920 Hiddingh campus Graphic Design Block (BoCT 133:1)
- 1921 Curator G Ridley retires, Thomas Dick appointed. Fagan writes that trees and shrubs had grown in height and number, less sunny areas for grass, paths became more shaded: so Dicks, filled with enthusiasm for planting showy beds of flowers which were so popular a feature of European parks, started removing decrepit old trees. Flower beds of various shapes in the lawn. Sometimes plants ready to flower bedded out, sometimes mixture of plants (highest at centre) that flowered throughout the season. Bedding out system taken up by private gardeners far and wide, progressively using indigenous flowers because of the irresistible brilliance of their colours. An obsession with massed colour has been the most important aspect of garden design since then. "Floromania". (Fagan 1989:2:141-2, 175, 177)
- 1921 Curator reports old oaks in Avenue deteriorating, suggests new lines both sides of Avenue; myrtle edging of old flower beds removed, four new walks made, four new arches for rose garden with lattice work (previously climbing roses treated like shrubs) (Fagan 1989:2:175)
- 1921-5 Photo, attached caption (UCT in Fagan 1989:2:184) of Old Bill who slept, ate and did other things in the Avenue
- 1922 Curator reports ten tree removed making space for 50 additional beds, Garden used as training centre for 5 apprentices (Fagan 1989:2:175)
- 1923 Curator reports Thorne fountain improved with a flower border after iron fence moved back (photo) (Fagan 1989:2:178-9)
- 1923 Orange St entrance to Avenue: old bridge demolished. Pictures c1923, c1850 in Fagan 1989:2:223)
- 1924 Orange Street entrance to Government Avenue (BoCT 133:19) by Kendall & Morris.

- 1924 Curator reports (Fagan 1989:2:180) Parliament House gardens in his charge, in rather a rough state, planted various shrubs, made a large flower bed at Adderley St entrance gate
- 1924 Curator reports (Fagan 1989:2:180) scythes for cutting grass replaced with lawn mower, no problem with water, sprinklers used on grass, large conservatory central curved roof replaced with straight glazing bars (completed 1925, picture p186), tea room built, new office by Director's house planned and old office [committee rooms?] to be converted to dining and training room for assistants (if carried out, after 1925), trees in Paddocks unsound
- 1924 Tea room built (Fagan 1989:2:180-1) had sliding doors and pillars, picture (Fagan 1989:2:182)
- 1925 Curator reports (Fagan 1989:2:183) motor lawnmower obtained, anyone found lying on seats removed, SA Museum garden not in his charge
- c1925 Photo (Fagan 1989:2:196) shows Masonic Lodge bandstand
- 1926 AW van den Houten appointed Director of Parks and Gardens about this time [from context]
- 1926 Slave Lodge front façade set back, supposed to be exact copy (Fransen & Cook 1965:5), set back 13,2m (Volgraaff 1997:29)
- 1926 National Library Fairbridge wing (on Avenue) (BoCT 77:6)
- 1926 BoCT 75:30 First Church of Christ Scientist, Grey's Pass, architect F Kendall (CCC plans Mar)
- c1927 Rhodes House, Queen Victoria St, architect Forsyth & Parker, converts 2 Victorian buildings c1880s (BoCT 75:16)
- 1927-30 Hotel Assembly 12 Queen Victoria St, later Carinus Training College, now demolished, architect WH Grant
- 1928 Art Gallery planned [by PWD], formal garden planned [by Baker] with Delville Wood memorial in centre of Avenue in line with Art gallery (Mayor's minute 1928)
- 1928-9 Wale/St Georges corner SA Reserve Bank, architect James Morris, 1932 bronze medal (BoCT 65:34)
- 1929 Board of Executors corner Wale/Adderley raised 3 stories (BoCT 65:33), architect FM Glennie (CCC Oct plans)
- 1929 Curator reports (Fagan 1989:2:186) rose garden will be replaced by Delville Wood Memorial, lower rose garden already in place
- 1930 Curator reports (Fagan 1989:2:189) size of Gardens is 9.75 acres, new glasshouse from Duncan & Tucker (BOCT 103:8 now demolished except rear building) practically completed, have heating apparatus, incorporate potting sheds, shade house, office, etc
- 1930 BoCT 75:35 Italian Embassy, Grey's Pass, alts architect HJ Brownlee for R Labia (CCC plans Mar)

- 1930 Cross axis made, opened 3 Nov (Fagan 1989:2:166-70, pictures), includes: Art Gallery, architects PWD (BoCT 126:8), walling and ponds (BoCT 125:1, 126:1, 126:3) architects PWD/Baker, Delville Wood Memorial, sculptor Alfred Turner (BoCT 125:3) architects Baker/PWD, Lukin memorial statue, sculptor Anton van Wouw (BoCT 125:2) architect FK Kendall, Artillery memorial gun (BoCT 125:4), other memorials later
- 1930 Extensions St George's Cathedral, architects Kendall & Mansergh, north transept 1936 bronze medal (BoCT 77:1)
- 1930-1 Church House, Queen Victoria St, architects Kendall & Mansergh (BoCT 77:3)
- 1931 Mayor reports finishing touches to Delville Wood garden, Koi carp donated by Japanese Government (Fagan 1989:2:190)
- 1932 Japanese Memorial lantern in pleasure garden (BoCT 77:10)
- 1932 Lukin memorial erected (Fagan 1989:2:170)
- 1935 Curator reports (Fagan 1989:2:196-7) aviary an attraction [not present one], portion of gravel paths at Delville Wood surfaced with tarmac, pipe railing round paddocks, old and unsightly bandstand removed, 8000 visitors weekdays, 7000 on Sunday
- c1935 Union House, 14 Queen Victoria St (BoCT 64:10)
- 1936 Montreux Flats, Queen Victoria St/Grey's Pass (BoCT 75:39)
- 1937 Japanese lantern put under dome of pergola, pond filled in (Fagan 1989:2:161) see rather 1932
- 1937 Paddocks tree circle planted to commemorate coronation of George VI where bandstand used to be (BoCT 126:4, Fagan 1989:2:198)
- 1938 *Cape Times* picture, many young oak trees being planted in Gardens, Avenue
- 1938 Land Bank, Queen Victoria St, architect Brian Mansergh, 1938 bronze medal (BoCT 76:25)
- 1938 Curator reports (Fagan 1989:2:200) new aviary replaces old
- 1939 Curator reports (Fagan 1989:2:203) two rose gardens in existence
- 1939/40 Holyrood flats Queen Victoria St (BoCT 75:37) architect Cedric M Sherlock (CCC plans Sept)
- 1939-43 Provincial Buildings Wale St/Keerom, architects FM Glennie and JZ Schuurmans-Stekhoven (BoCT 64:1)
- 1939-45 War takes away gardeners for active service, limited amounts of seed imported, Garden deteriorates (Fagan 1989:2:204, CCC summary)
- 1940 *Cape Argus* reports suggestion that Gardens be reserved for Europeans (Fagan 1989:2:203)
- 1940 Curator reports (Fagan 1989:2:204) visitors: 7346 summer weekday, 5312 winter weekday, 7824 summer Sunday, 4780 winter Sunday
- c1940 Director's house, Queen Victoria St extended (BoCT 103:6)

1944 Curator reports (Fagan 1989:2:205) demonstration bed to show public how to grow vegetables successfully

## POST WAR

- 1946 Letter (Fagan 1989:2:183) from outraged citizen about 2 black vagrants
- 1946 Extensions to office building [committee rooms?] (Fagan 1989:2:205)
- 1945 Curator reports (Fagan 1989:2:206) 36 oaks planted at foot of Avenue
- 1946 House in Paddock Ave, Het Schoongezicht bought as residence for speaker (Cape Times or Argus 1963 in Fagan 1989:2:217)
- 1949 Curator reports (Fagan 1989:2:208) growing interest in history of Garden, sun dial, derelict pump in tree
- 1949 Garden 408,000 sq ft, with buildings valued at £316,565 (Fagan 1989:2:208)
- 1949 New rose garden laid out (Fagan 1989:2:208) source not known
- 1950 Curator reports (Fagan 1989:2:211) SA Museum garden under his control, sentry box from Fort Knokke erected there, some gravel paths relaid with 10% cement mix
- 1950 St George's Grammar School extension wing towards Avenue (BoCT 77:4)
- 1950s early, Cape Town High School extensions, flat roofs, clock etc, architects Kendall & Earle (BoCT 134:4) seems 1980s?
- 1952 Curator reports (Fagan 1989:2:212) Parks and Gardens taken over by City Engineer's branch
- 1953 Ring road proposed through garden, drawing (Fagan 1989:2:214)
- 1953 Hydrangea walk planted in Avenue (Fagan 1989:2:212)
- c1955 AA House, 30 Queen Victoria St (BoCT 76:23)
- c1958 New Lion sculptures to gateway, sculptor I Mitford-Barberton (in 1950s ex Fagan 1989:1:170, Cape Times photo 1957 does not show them, Fagan 1989:2:212)
- 1959 *Cape Times* reports (Fagan 1989:2:212) plan to rebuild Thibault gateway at foot of Avenue
- c1960 National Library extension along Queen Victoria St (BoCT 77:5), remodelled 1990s
- c1960 Houses of Parliament south-west extension (BoCT 78:2)
- 1962 St Martini Gardens flats (BoCT 75:25) architect Pius Pahl
- c1964 Slave Lodge converted to cultural history museum (Fransen & Cook 1965:5)
- 1964 Smuts statue sculptor Sidney Harper (BoCT 126:2) outside Slave Lodge [moved to cross axis c1973] (BoCT 65:36) pedestal by Norman Eaton (Fagan 1989:2:170)

- 1964-5 NG Synod building, Grey's Pass, architect JB Collins (BoCT 125:11)
- 1966-70 Tuynhuys restored, Gabriel Fagan architect, 1970 bronze medal (BoCT 104:1) Façade: figurines and urns had disappeared, balustrade found within verandah roof space. Pool base found where Jones indicated. Four squares of parterres set out accurately, later changed and gravel paths laid with yellow bricks (Fagan 1989:2:4)
- 1967 *Cape Times* article, picture (Fagan 1989:2:183) of "hobos" in Garden [from context seem white people]
- 1969 Carlton Heights Hotel, Queen Victoria St (BoCT 75:38)
- 1970 SA Museum extensions, architects Munnik Visser Black & Fish with PWD (BoCT 125:10)
- c1970 Government Staff quarters Gallery Lane (BoCT 104:4)
- 1973 Huguenote Gedenksaal, Queen Victoria St, demolished (BoCT 76:21)
- 1973 Huguenot Chambers, Queen Victoria/Keerom St (BoCT 76:21)
- c1973 Smuts statue Adderley St, sculptor I Mitford-Barberton (BoCT 65:36)
- c1975 Gardens restaurant, architects City Engineer's architectural branch (BoCT 103:5), low key unobtrusive appearance, plan of building and paved area (Fagan 1989:2:181-2), replaces 1924 building
- 1977 Gardens Commercial High School opposite Paddock, architect Louis Karol, 1979 ISAA award of merit (BoCT 126:19). Terrace of 5 units incorporated though not considered of historical or architectural value they are necessary to atmosphere of surroundings, enclosed balconies restored (*Burger* 1976 in Fagan 1989:2:217)
- c1980s St George's Cathedral extended, architect Revel Fox & Partners (sh)
- 1981 Fernery constructed (ex CCC summary Fagan)
- 1981 *Die Burger* reports (Fagan 1989:2:216) Captour proposal for open air theatre in paddocks, approved by NMC
- 1982 Sandstone well erected near pump-in-tree (ex notice nearby)
- c1986 SA Museum amphitheatre forecourt, Mayor's award 1987 (BoCT 125:7) pictures (Fagan 1989:2:220-1)
- 1988 Art in the Avenue a biannual event (Fagan 1989:2:216)
- 2001 Date of data collection

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to Penny Pistorius, the urban conservation planner on the study, who made continuous input into this essay. Thanks especially to Gwen Fagan's work documenting the history of the Garden, an invaluable source especially of the first 300 years.

## ENDNOTES

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<sup>1</sup> Significant themes: the usage and roles of the Garden, its spatial characteristics and geometries, and its context, interface and connections with surrounding areas. Development and management indicators: the historical/ structural/ archaeological studies required, the need for repair, upgrading and replanning projects, studies of development opportunities, the importance of interpretation, information and signage, the Garden's interface with surrounding institutions and buildings, and urban design opportunities and integration with pedestrian network. Overarching principles: "if it's not broken, don't fix it (but if it is, do)", and changes should enrich the experience of the Garden and add layers of meaning and history without destroying those which already exist.

<sup>2</sup> Another important watercourse supplemented to a much lesser degree by springs is Capel Sluit, not studied here.

<sup>3</sup> "The soils of the south-western Cape, and therefore the vegetation which grows on them, lacked sufficient nutrients to permit the Khoi cattle herds to stay for long periods in one place. They therefore had to move seasonally around the region. ... They usually arrived in the Peninsula in November, grazing their cattle [and] moving on across the Cape Flats in January." (Worden *et al* 1998:16)

<sup>4</sup> A garden run by the Company was a novel undertaking: in Batavia local suppliers were used. It is not known to what extent early farmers drew on appropriate vernacular learning about irrigation or how their knowledge progressed through trial and error. Worthy of further study.

<sup>5</sup> They may have derived their idea of doing this from European examples illustrated in Fagan 1989:vol 1. Or they might have "invented" this solution in response to intense environmental pressures. In the Scilly Isles similar hedged compartments were "invented" in 1834 (Jellicoe 1995:264).

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<sup>6</sup> Except by 1836 traveller JC Chase who does not exclaim at their height. He found the Garden gone to decay for want of Government support, oak and myrtle hedges being principal ornament (in Fagan 1989:2:22).

<sup>7</sup> There might have been a commissioned design, or one or more of the committee might have played a part in the design (at least two were enthusiastic gardeners), or the first head gardener Thomas Draper (dismissed because he “did not give satisfaction”), or next head gardener James McGibbon (previous experience not established) who started Feb/March 1850. The garden was drawn 1851 (secure date) by MEM – Bowler shows the identical view (published 1854).

<sup>8</sup> The fine iron railing fence which so curiously divides the noble building from its parkland is an early feature, glimpsed behind shrubbery in Bowler’s 1864 painting.

<sup>9</sup> There is no evidence that these “paddocks” were turf fields for horses. Rather the bird enclosure above it was occasionally called that.

<sup>10</sup> There is a clue that they might have been altered to have sinuous paths round the edge in Thom’s 1895 map, where the remnant planting around the newly built SA Museum may derive from them.