

HERITAGE SITES AT GOEDE HOOP

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The valley has been inhabited for at least 700 000 years. The indigenous people at the time of European settlement were *San* hunter-gatherers and *Khoekhoen* herders. Old Dutch maps show the kraals of these tribes in the area. In 1685 the Dutch East India Company extended its jurisdiction to this valley and named it after a visiting official, Hendrik Adriaan van Rhee de tot Drakenstein. The first farms were granted to Dutch, German and French Huguenot settlers.

The freehold grant of 60 morgen for the farm *Goede Hoop* dates from 1708 but was probably occupied from an earlier date. It was made out to the heirs of Susanna de Vos, widow of Nicolas de Lanoy (Jnr), who had owned part of *Boschendal*. Both farms were acquired by members of the De Villiers family: *Boschendal* in 1715 and *Goede Hoop* in 1735, and remained in their hands well into the 19th century. Another branch of the De Villiers family farmed at *Nieuwedorp* where Rhodes Cottage was subsequently built.

A section of the *Goede Hoop* was subdivided in 1818. It was known as *Papiermolen* and was later incorporated into the village of *Pniël*. The main section of *Goede Hoop* continued to be farmed by the De Villiers family until 1862 when they sold to Hans Heinrich Wicht. In 1870 Johannes Jacobus Haupt acquired the farm and died in 1897, the year Cecil John Rhodes established fruit farming in the valley.

In 1843 the mission station, *Pniël*, was established for freed slaves. It stood partly on the farm *Papiermolen* and partly on a section of *Goede Hoop* which was donated by Pieter Izak de Villiers and his partner Paulus Retief. Subsequent owners of *Goede Hoop* continued to serve on the Board of Directors which managed the village until 1910. The link that had been forged between *Pniël* and *Goede Hoop* strengthened under the auspices of Rhodes Fruit Farms with whom many villagers were employed.

Apparently *Goede Hoop* was one of the first farms bought by H.E.V. Pickstone and Lewis Michell in May 1897 but it was only transferred to Rhodes Fruit Farms in 1902. The manager was R J Bulmer who had fruit-farming experience in California. The slopes of Simonsberg are now planted with vineyards but an old pear orchard can still be found behind the house. In later years *Goede Hoop* became the official residence for the Managing Directors of Anglo-American Farms. It continued to be called *Goede Hoop* until recently when the English form, *Good Hope*, came into general use. We suggest reverting to the original name.

SETTING

Heading towards the South... To the dam & mill

The main house... The complex is... near from the stables...

The main house... by 1815 he bought the farm... in 1853... in 1837

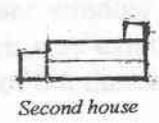
The wine... with very... ? Mill

The... described... that day is recorded...

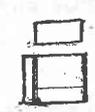
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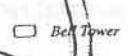
Graveyard



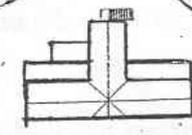
Second house



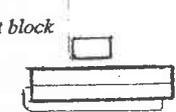
? Mill



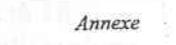
Bell Tower



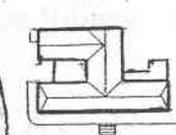
Wine cellar



Toilet block



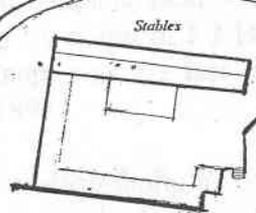
Annexe



Homestead



Swimming pool



Stables



Trough

Furrow

From Pniel

To Rhodes Cottage



Tennis court

GOEDE HOOP



SETTING

Nestling beneath the Simonsberg, the farm Goede Hoop exemplifies the unspoilt beauty of the Cape: mountain fynbos, vineyards and spectacular views.

Unlike Boschendal, Goede Hoop's buildings are not laid out on rigidly symmetrical lines. The dominant building is the cellar and this provides the axis for the placement of the other buildings. The complex is contained within an undulating ringwall that runs from the stables, across the front garden and up to the side of the house. The mountainside rises directly behind the complex. Rocky outcrops and water furrows crossing the farmyard add to its rustic charm.



HOMESTEAD

The main homestead of Goede Hoop was built by Pieter Hendrik de Villiers in 1821. In 1836 he bought the farm *Radyn* in the Overberg and later founded Villiersdorp where he died in 1853. Goede Hoop was sold to another branch of the De Villiers family in 1837.

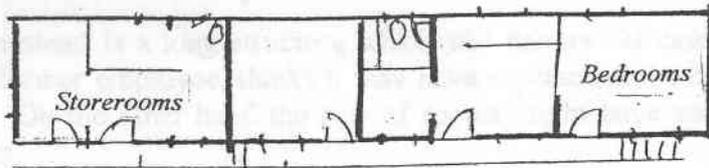
The writer, Hans Fransen, describes the shape of the house as an incomplete H with a north wing missing. It has a thatched roof with half-hipped, *wolf* ends in front and a dormer window over the entrance – this may have had a true gable. The back wing, which was extensively renovated, has straight-end gables. Old guttering follows the line of the thatched roof in front. There is a plaster architrave around the front door.

The tall sash windows on the façade date from the 1850's. Windowpanes were larger than before as frames were divided into three instead of six sections. At Goede Hoop the windowpanes are original and irreplaceable. A pane next to the front door is inscribed: *F H Haupt, April 2nd 1897* – possibly by a son of J J Haupt whose death that day is recorded on his gravestone. J J Haupt was the last owner of the farm before it was sold to Cecil John Rhodes in May 1897.

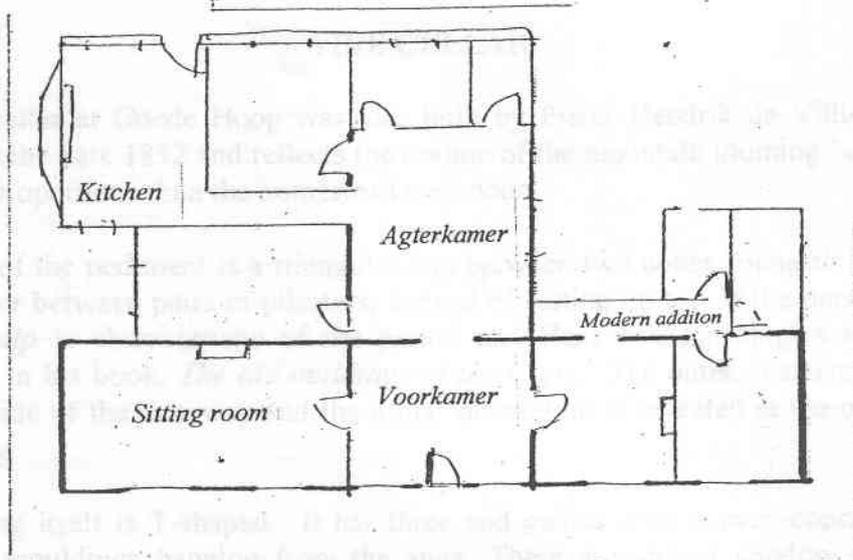
The interior does not feature the wooden screen or drop-fanlights of earlier homes. A wall divides the *voorkamer* and *agterkamer*. It has a wide doorway in the middle with a rectangular fanlight, similar to the one above the front door. There are paneled doorways off the *voorkamer* and internal folding shutters at the windows. The fireplaces are not original.



Toilet block



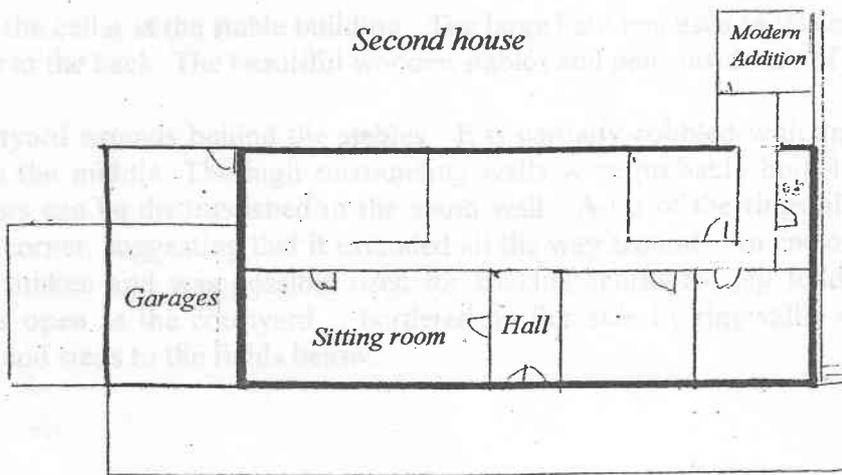
Annexe



Homestead

STABLES & COURTYARD

Second house



ANNEXE

Behind the homestead is a long structure which still has its old casement windows. Roger Jones, a former employee, thinks it may have superseded the homestead as the main dwelling. On the other hand the row of rooms might have served as slave or servants quarters.

Remnants of the ringwall extend beyond the annexe enclosing the garden to form a right angle with the swimming pool. Roger Jones maintains that this line continued to the front wall instead of being indented as it now is. Proportions indicate that he may have a point.

WINE CELLAR

The wine-cellar at Goede Hoop was also built by Pieter Hendrik de Villiers. The gable bears the date 1832 and reflects the outline of the mountain looming behind. It has larger proportions than the homestead next door.

At the top of the pediment is a triangular cap between two cones. Beneath it winged scrolls hover between pairs of pilasters, instead of resting on top of the outside ones. This *side-slip* is characteristic of the period and Hans Fransen singles it out for illustration in his book, *The old buildings of the Cape*. The outer pilasters continue down the side of the doorway and the ashlar decoration is repeated at the corners of the building.

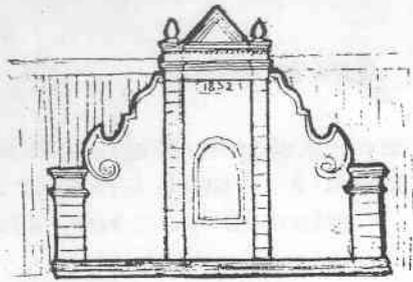
The building itself is T-shaped. It has three end gables with convex-concave sides and tassel mouldings hanging from the apex. There are arched window and door openings. Arthur Elliott photographs at the turn of the 20th century show that there were shutters at the windows.

Low-roofed structures have been added to the back of the cellar. The south-east structure is early and the drip moulding of the adjoining gable extends across its wall.

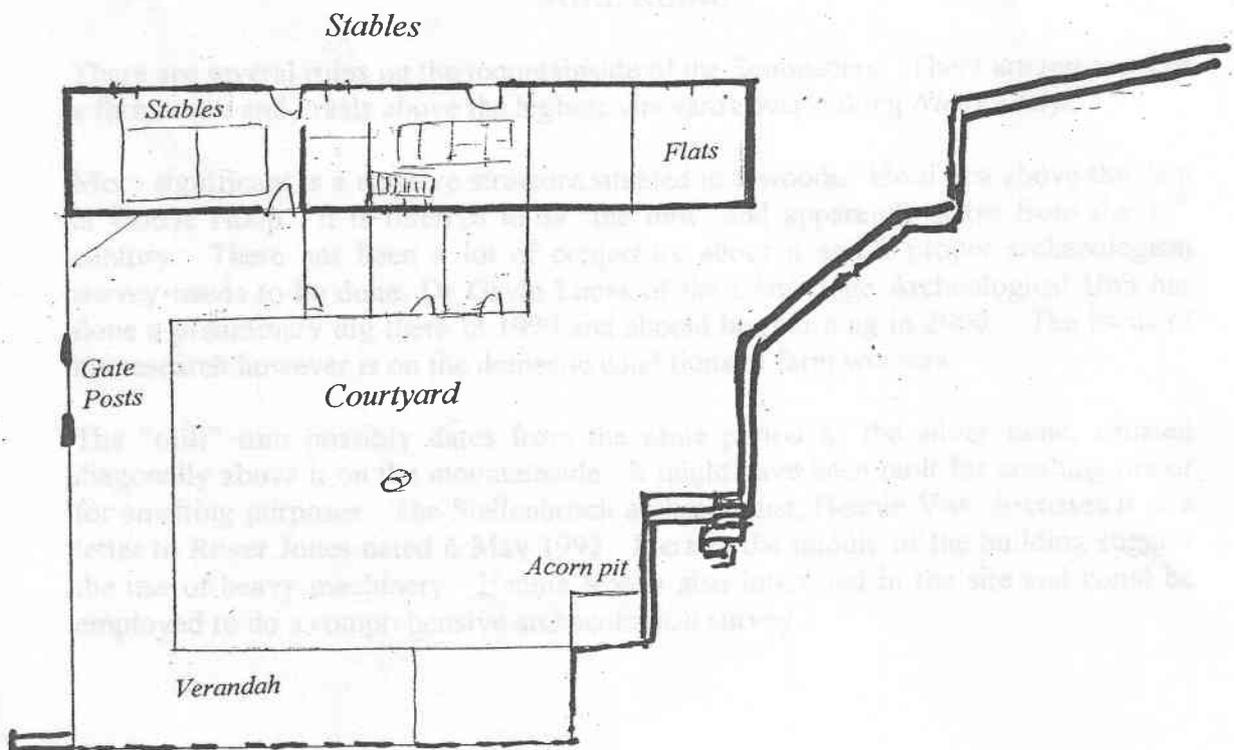
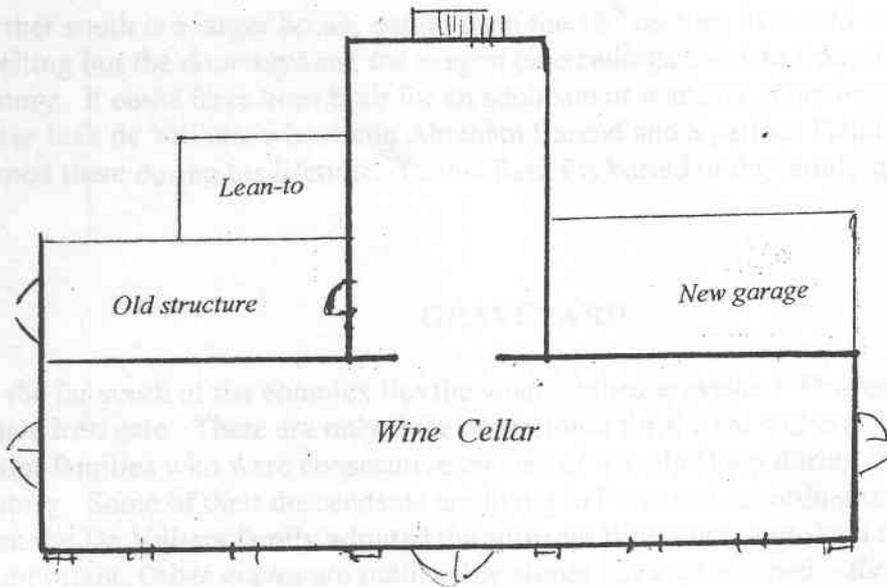
STABLES & COURTYARD

Facing the cellar is the stable building. The large boulders used in its construction can be seen at the back. The beautiful wooden stables and pens inside are of a later date.

A courtyard extends behind the stables. It is partially cobbled with an old mulberry bush in the middle. The high surrounding walls were probably built later. Original gateposts can be distinguished in the south wall. A bit of the ringwall protrudes on the *SE* corner, suggesting that it extended all the way around. An enclosure at the *NE* end is sunken and was possibly used for soaking acorns for pig fodder. The view north is open as the courtyard is bordered on this side by ringwalls, with a feeding trough and steps to the fields below.



Cellar Gable
 (Fransen & Cook, 1980)



FARMYARD

Between the cellar and stables is the *werf* or farmyard, a large central space shaded by oak trees. A modern slave bell, dated 1934, marks the centenary of the abolition of slavery and close-by is a water trough for horses.

In line with the cellar is a cottage which is purported to have been a water-mill. The front part of the building is old with thick walls and sash windows. There are two millstones on the grounds: one at the swimming pool and another near the tennis court.

Further south is a larger house, dating from the 19th century. It is said to be an original dwelling but the doorways and the oregon pine ceilings are date from the late 19th century. It could have been built for an adult son or manager. This was the case with Pieter Izak de Villiers, whose son Abraham Barend and a partner Paulus Retief, farmed there during his lifetime. Paulus Retief is buried in the family graveyard.

GRAVEYARD

To the far south of the complex lies the whitewashed graveyard. One enters by an ornate iron gate. There are only three gravestones for the De Villiers, Wicht and Haupt families who were consecutive owners of Goede Hoop during the nineteenth century. Some of their descendants are living in Pniël and according to hearsay those from the De Villiers family adopted the surname Williams. For them the graveyard is important. Other graves are outlined by stones but are unnamed – these may have been for family, servants or slaves.

MILL RUINS

There are several ruins on the mountainside of the Simonsberg. There are remnants of a farmhouse and kraals above the highest vineyards overlooking *Nieuwedorp*.

More significant is a massive structure situated in a wooded kloof just above the dam at Goede Hoop. It is referred to as “the mill” and apparently dates from the 18th century. There has been a lot of conjecture about it and a proper archaeological survey needs to be done. Dr Gavin Lucas of the Cambridge Archeological Unit has done a preliminary dig there in 1999 and should be returning in 2000. The focus of his research however is on the domestic conditions of farm workers.

The “mill” ruin possibly dates from the same period as the silver mine, situated diagonally above it on the mountainside. It might have been built for crushing ore or for smelting purposes. The Stellenbosch archaeologist, Hennie Vos, discusses it in a letter to Roger Jones dated 6 May 1992. Piers in the middle of the building suggest the use of heavy machinery. Hennie Vos is also interested in the site and could be employed to do a comprehensive archaeological survey.

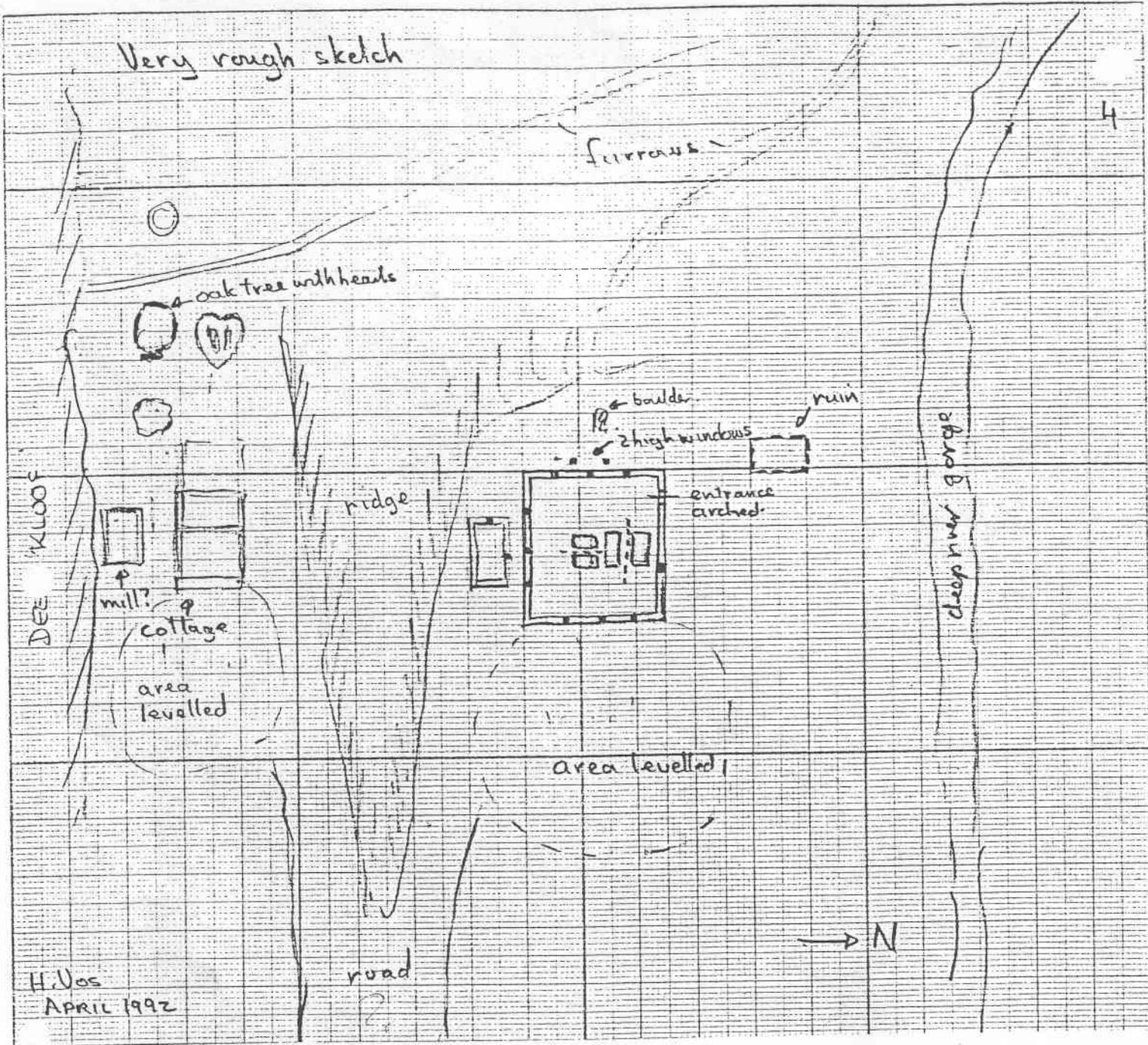


Fig.1 Site plan of the ruins on the Goede Hoop farm

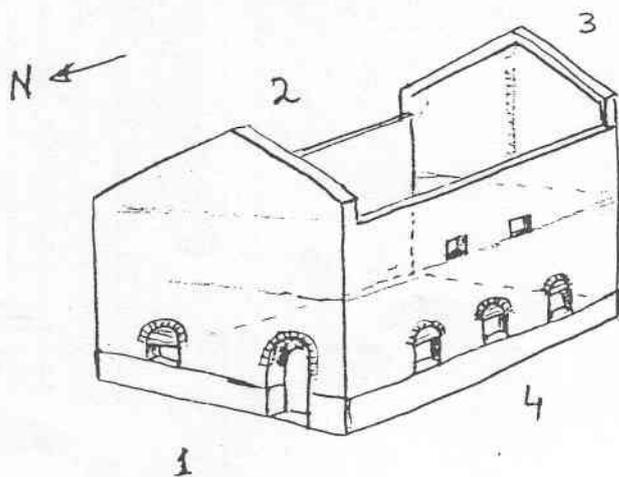


Fig 2 Rough sketch of the main mill ruin

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4		

 wall designations