

Albert House, Vermeulen Street.

Dr. E.J.P. Jorissen and Dr. Tobias were advocates and attorneys. Dr. Jorissen was the author of the well-known "Codex".

It seems that Palace Street was first called Court Lane, and that the name was, on the building of the Palace of Justice, changed to Palace Street. This point has, however, not as yet been definitely established.

By 1889 D.M. Kisch who had his engineering works in Court Lane and Dr. F.B. Tobias of Church Square were the only two signatories still in the vicinity. (5)

J.H.D.

(1) Archives reference: 3918/84.

(2) "De Volksstem", 15/1/85.

(3) "Staatscourant. Z.A.R." No. 184 of 21/8/1884.

(4) "De Volksstem", 15/1/85.

The Archives reference to the petition, which is, of course, the whole story, was contributed by Mr. H.M. Rex, of Pretoria, who also stated that the original name of the street was Court Lane.

HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS OF THE TRANSVAAL MUSEUM

As a result of the initiative of the State Secretary, Dr. W.J. Leyds, the Government of the South African Republic decided in 1892 to found a State Museum in Pretoria, and the following were appointed as a Board of Trustees ('Curatoren'): Dr. N. Mansvelt, Dr. G.W.S. Lingebeek, Dr. H.G. Breyer, Dr. Fockens Geo. Leith Esq. Of these gentlemen, Dr. Mansvelt (then Superintendent of Education) was appointed ex-officio Chairman, and the institution placed under the jurisdiction of his department. The first meeting of the Board was held on the 24th of January, 1893, and the Museum was officially opened to the general public by Pres. Kruger on the 15th May, 1895. The 'Staatsmuseum' began its existence in a small room in the clock tower of the 'Raadsaal' building in Church Square, from which it moved after a few years to the Market building. Here it remained until 1902, when the now considerable collections were transferred to the newly built 'Staatsmuseum' building (now known as the Old Museum) in Boom Street. It was soon found, however, that even this building was inadequate to satisfactorily house the rapidly growing collections and in 1914 the

New Museum building in Paul Kruger Street was completed. Owing to the outbreak of the first World War, the whole of the building was for some years occupied by Government offices and it was not until the early 1920's that it became possible for the Museum to take occupation. After the transfer of the natural history collections, it was found quite impossible to accommodate also the historical collections, as no space was available owing to the fact that considerable a portion of the building was still occupied by the Geological Survey Division of the Department of Mines. The historical collection had thus perforce to be left in the Old Museum, where it has remained to this day, and will continue to remain until such time as full occupation of the New Museum building is given over to the Museum and the two wings (as originally planned) are built. One of the most important aims laid down, right at the inception of the Museum, was the fostering of a love of country and national pride. To this end appeals were made to the public for support, and circulars were issued during the first years of the Museum's existence laying special stress on the need to collect and preserve historical relics, especially in connection with persons and matters concerning the Republic, with a view to building up a permanent record of the glorious past. As a result of this initiative on the part of the Museum authorities, it has now come about that what is known as the Old Museum has become a veritable treasure house of relics depicting the history and culture of a country in the making and in its rise to nationhood.

Owing, however, to the desperate lack of funds and accommodation over recent years, it has been quite impossible to display more than a small fraction of the mass of valuable and unique material which has been brought together over the past decades, and the bulk of the collections have thus be stored under conditions prejudicial to their safe keeping.

The time has now come for the Governments to recognise the significance and value of this national cultural heritage, and take the necessary steps to provide adequate support for the proper utilisation and display of this wealth of material in the Museum. In failing to provide this support to the Museum, the Government is not only placing an unfair responsibility on the latter, but is also depriving the public of a cultural benefit to which it is entitled.

There is at present manifested a desire by certain bodies to foster decentralisation, and requests have been put to the Transvaal Museum to hand over certain sections of their collections to this end. While the Museum authorities have



'n Bekende gebou van Ou Pretoria: Meintjes se Meul.
A well-known landmark of Old Pretoria: Meintjes' Mills.

(Presented by Mr. L.H. Austin)

(Aangebied deur mnr. L.H. Austin)

acceded to these requests in some cases, it is felt to be wrong in principle that historical relics, which have been assiduously collected and preserved by the Museum, should be again dispersed and become difficult of access. In fact, a national collection such as that in the Museum has become, should be kept intact as dispersal not only reduces its value but disrupts the complete picture which it is so necessary to retain.

In addition to the historical collections housed in the Old Museum, there is also the more specialised Paul Kruger collection, which is displayed in Kruger House, Church Street West. This house, in which the President lived for many years when three times President of the Transvaal, was purchased by the Government in 1933. After renovation and restoration it was officially opened and placed under the jurisdiction of the

Transvaal Museum in 1934, when the sum of £300 was added to the Museum's grant for its maintenance and upkeep. Needless to say this sum has proved totally inadequate, and as result other sections of the Museum have had to be deprived of proper financial support to maintain Kruger House in a fitting manner. This house, which has been proclaimed a National Historical Monument, is a museum piece in itself, and, with its original furnishings, should be preserved as such, without the introduction of incongruous modern glass display cases. However, this has unfortunately not been possible as there is at present no other place to display the large assemblage of material that is available. Here again, it is regarded as essential that a separate building should be provided, in which the collection of Krugeriana could be properly set out without introducing any foreign element into the house itself. If such can be brought about, special efforts could be made to obtain more of the original furniture and other household items, which could then be placed in their proper setting.

From the foregoing it must be obvious that, until the Government sees fit to give more generous support, a national heritage must for the most part moulder in cellars and store-rooms. It is therefore hoped that, with the active support of the public of Pretoria, the original concept of the Museum "to foster a love of country and national pride" may yet be fulfilled by setting out in a fitting manner this record of our gloriously stirring and eventful past.

V. FitzSimons
Director Transvaal Museum

6/9/51.

A WANDERER'S RHYMES

A short while ago much interest was attracted by some notes, published in the columns of our local newspaper, dealing with different aspects of the life and work of Mr. Albert Brodrick, the author of "A Wanderer's Rhymes" (published in London in 1893 by: "The Record Press, Limited", located at 376, Strand, W.C.).

Mr. Albert Brodrick was a well-known storekeeper in Pretoria, who departed for England in 1878.

In "Thomas François Burgers. A biography" (written by Prof. S.P. Engelbrecht, Cape Town, Pretoria 1946) two poems, composed by Brodrick, are to be found.

Thanks to Mr. C.J. Freaan, a relative of Mr. Brodrick and the