

THE

FOUNTAIN LODGE

In 1955 Pretoria will celebrate its centenary and our City Council is preparing plans to make the centenary an outstanding event in the Capital's history. We citizens will then look back to the time that our town was merely a farm, consisting of a number of hartebeeshuisies.

To-day very few examples of Pretoria's earliest architecture are still in existence. One of the oldest of the houses is, however, still to be seen on the corner of Skinner and Market Streets (Paul Kruger Street). This homestead dates from the years between 1865-70 and is known as Fountain Lodge because a small fountain exists in the grounds. At present this property is for sale and the last example of a house of a well-to-do citizen such as Bras Pidade Pereira of Old Pretoria will disappear. This must not be allowed to happen. In the cities of Europe examples of historic houses, with corresponding furniture, are bought for preservation by associations, private persons or city councils. By this means the rich historical heritage of such a city's past is saved for the citizens of the future. By the acquisition of such a building the cultural life of both country and city is enriched.⁽¹⁾

A few months ago we published a plea to save the lodge. This plea has had favourable response for well-known City Councillor Leo Besaans has taken practical steps in the City Council to save Fountain Lodge for posterity. The Association Old Pretoria gives him full support and we feel confident that with the co-operation of the owners of the lodge, the City Council and public, the old house will be re-erected elsewhere.

It is proposed that Fountain Lodge be demolished and rebuilt from the original materials on municipal ground. The Fountains Valley where

Lucas Cornelius Bronkhorst built the first hartebeeshuis in 1840 is a very suitable site. The foundations of his home, the water furrow and part of the original orchard of Bronkhorst's property are still to be seen near the Kiosk. By rebuilding the house at the Fountains it would become the property of the City Council of Pretoria.

Old Pretoria will undertake to collect and donate the period furniture for the homestead so that visitors may see in what surroundings old Pretorians lived. The Association also offers its assistance in technical, cultural and historical matters. Naturally there will be an admission charge to view the house as is done in Europe and the proceeds pay for the upkeep of the property.

We hope that Councillor L. Besaans and Old Pretoria will succeed in having Fountain Lodge rebuilt so that in 1955 Pretorians and visitors to our centenary can be shown a characteristic example of Pretoria's old dwellings of a century ago.

Dr. W. PUNT,

Chairman, Association Old Pretoria.

(1) See Pretoriana, Vol. 2, No. 1, September 1952.

Pretoria—voor die koms van die Blanke

Vanuit die kloktoring van die Uniegebou sien 'n mens vandag die woelige middestad van Pretoria. Na die ooste klim die voorstede teen die rante uit en na die Weste vervaag die uitgestrekte stad voor die oog. Maar agter die rante en teen die hange van die Magaliesberg lê nog groot dele van die gesig versteke, want, Pretoria is 'n groot plek! Uitgestrek lê die brommende stad vandag daar en dit is moeilik om daaraan te dink dat dit vroeër 'n wilde wêreld moes gewees het.

Vir baie jare al stoot die Fonteine 'n ontsaglike hoeveelheid standhoudende vars water uit die ingewande van die aarde na buite. Vandag nog word daagliks enorme hoeveelhede skoon water deur die Stadsvadere opgevang en na die verbruikers in die stad gelei. Hierdie omgewing het dus, sedert die ontstaan van die Fonteine, vir mens en dier die een groot