



MELROSE HOUSE BUILT BY THE
LATE MR GEORGE HEYS

The builder and first owner of Melrose House was the late Mr George Heys. He was born in Durban, educated there and married Miss Emma Jane Harris, of Natal.

Mr and Mrs Heys were on friendly terms with President and Mrs Kruger. When on one occasion the Republican Treasury found itself a victim of a "credit squeeze" by the banks, Mr Heys lent the Government R10 000 - a loan that was promptly repaid.

When in 1893, Sir Henry Loch, Governor of the Cape Colony, paid an official visit to Pretoria, the Government had some difficulty in arranging suitable accommodation for him and his entourage. Mr Heys placed his residence at the disposal of the Government. In recognition of his assistance Mr Heys was presented with a silver bowl, inscribed with the thanks of the Government of the South African Republic.

He was a member of the first Town Council elected in 1903 after the Three Years War. Among his gifts are the Heys Memorial Hall in Sunnyside (in memory of Mrs Heys) and the 32 tubular bell carillon in the City Hall.

Melrose House will be officially opened on 17th May, 1971. The first State President of the Republic of South Africa, Adv. C.R. Swart, will perform the ceremony.

MELROSE-HUIS OOP VIR PUBLIEK

As deel van die Republiekfeesviering, sal Melrose-huis op 17 Mei 1971 deur die Stadsraad as museum oopgestel word. Die eerste Staatspresident van die Republiek van Suid-Afrika, adv. C.R. Swart, sal die amptelike opening waarneem.

Hierdie pragwoning in Jacob Marestraat is 'n gebou wat in beide ons volks- en stadsgeskiedenis 'n belangrike plek vul. Dit is teen die einde van die vorige eeu deur wyle mnr. George Heys gebou.

Nadat Britse troepe Pretoria op 5 Junie 1900 beset het, het dit die tydelike tuiste van die Britse opperbevelvoerder, lord Roberts, en sy opvolger, lord Kitchener, geword. Die Boere-afgevaardigdes het laasgenoemde en lord Milner in Melrose-huis ontmoet. Na afloop van die onderhandelings is die Vrede van Vereeniging laat die aand van 31 Mei 1902 in dié gebou onderteken. Die tafel waarop hierdie historiese dokument onderteken is, is tans nog deel van die meublement. Namens die Boere is die vredestraktaat onderteken deur: waarnemende president Schalk Burger, staatsekretaris F.W. Reitz, kmdt.-genl. Louis Botha, genl. J.H. de la Rey, mnr. C.L. Krogh, oud-generaal L.J. Meyer, waarnemende president C.R. de Wet, genl. C.H. Olivier, genl. J.B.M. Hertzog, en waarnemende staatsekretaris W.J.C. Brebner. Lord Kitchener en lord Milner het namens die Britse Regering geteken.