

# Oude Molen estate



## Site Category(s):

Cultural Site, Khoe, Memorial Spaces, San

## Heritage Content:

### Relevance:

The crest of the hill near the current stable area is of symbolic significance for the First Nation. Although the mill was demolished, the Oude Molen site still retains the early eighteenth century farmhouse.

## Relevance of Site:

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From 1652, Khoikhoi pastoralists seasonally settled in the area with their livestock, close to fresh water sources and abundant pasture. Over the next 300 years the area would become one of the main wheat producing farms, providing food for the Castle and citizens in the region. In 1693 the Dutch East India Company built the first mill in South Africa on the property. The mill house and remaining opstal were used by the state for a variety of purposes including the imprisonment of King Ceteswayo between 1879 and 1882. The site was acquired by the Union Government in 1912, and by 1915 existing buildings were converted for use by black mental health patients (Valkenberg East hospital).

## Open to Public:

Yes

## Hours:

Mon-Thurs and Saturday: 8:00 to 18:00; Friday: 12:45 to 20:00; Sunday: 9:00 to 17:00

## Contact:

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## Cost of Entry:

Free

## Facilities, access and services:

Oude Molen Eco Village, situated between Life Vincent Pallotti Hospital and Maitland Garden Village, was started in 1997 by a group of social entrepreneurs using empty buildings of the Valkenberg East hospital site. The land has since been developed into an environmentally-friendly village of micro-businesses, non-profit organisations and social enterprise services. Enterprises range from; backpacker accommodation to music studios, equestrian activities, a sports & jazz foundation, frail care services, metal, wood, art and craft workshops, public pool and braai facilities, urban agriculture, a restaurant and a waldorf school.

Select a point on the map to get started!



