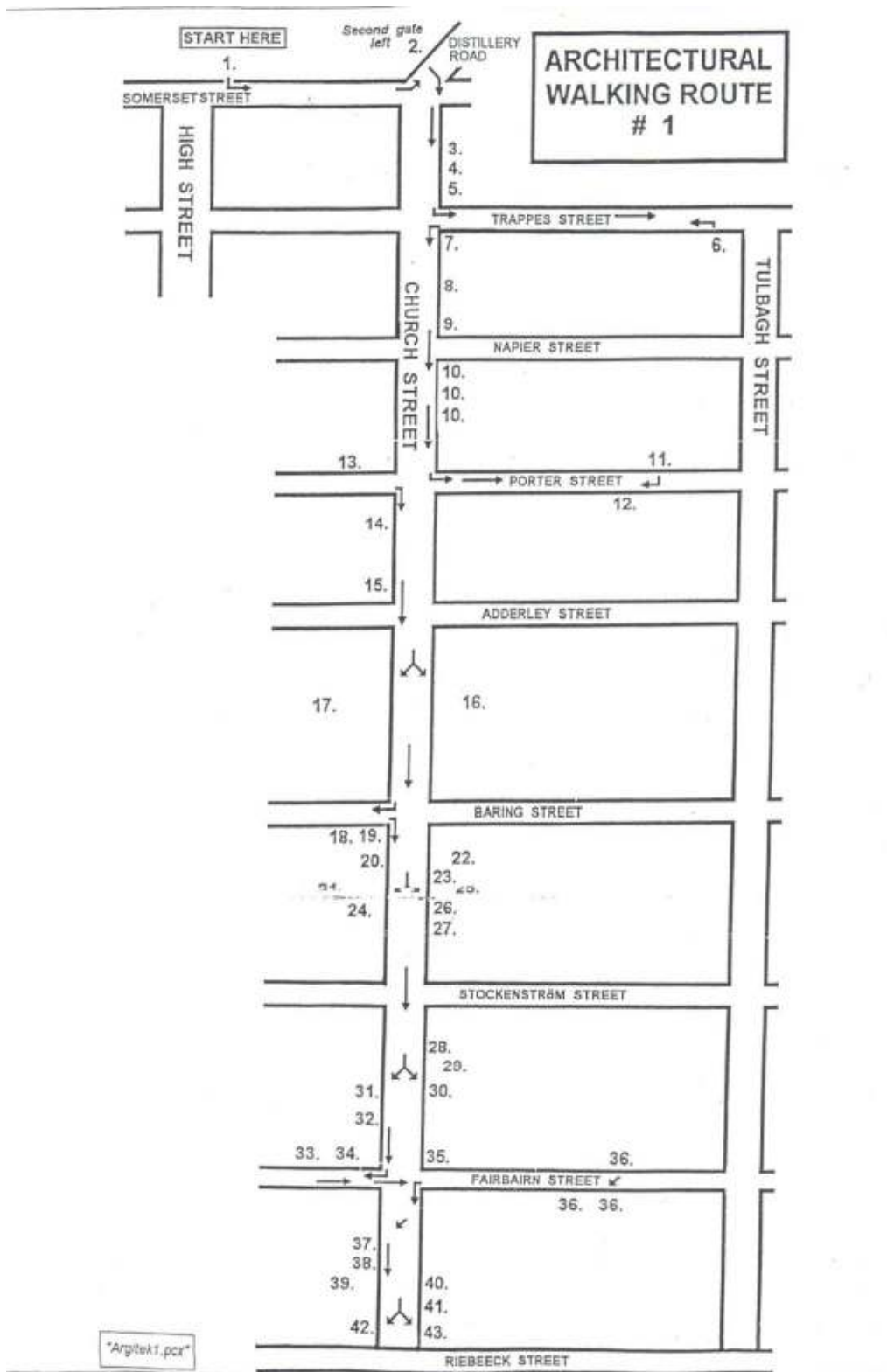
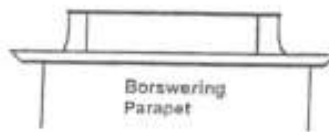
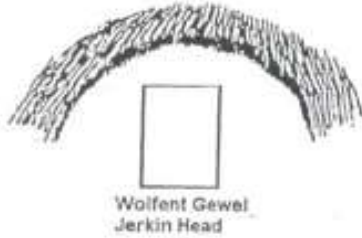
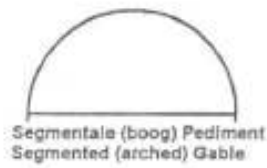
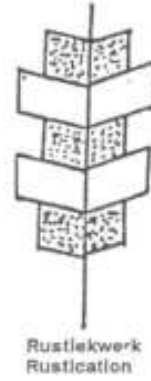
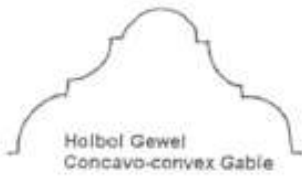


**ARCHITECTURAL  
SELF-GUIDED TOUR  
OF  
WORCESTER**

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## **HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

In 1818 Lord Charles Somerset instructed J.H. Fisher, magistrate of Tulbagh, to find a suitable area for the establishment of a new magisterial seat. The area of present day Worcester impressed him so that he consequently recommended this area to Somerset. The loan farms Roodewal (also Roode Draai) and Langerug were obtained from Du Toit and Barend Burgers in 1818.

Worcester was laid out according to a definite plan with parallel streets. The first erven were auctioned on the 29<sup>th</sup> February 1820. These erven were within the borders of Somerset, Durban, Riebeeck and Tulbagh Streets and were sold for between 200 and 400 riksdalders (R30 to R70). The official date for the foundation of Worcester is 1820. The main street, High Street, ends against the Drostdy, the most important building in the town at the time.

Town planning shows a neo-classical influence and the architecture followed suit. The construction of private buildings sometimes occurred in the absence of an architect. The people of Worcester developed their own building styles, amongst them the Worcester gable.

In 1850 the importation of corrugated iron began and many houses were provided with verandas, many of which were removed during subsequent restorations. Many houses have Cape Dutch, as well as Victorian characteristics. A large number of gabled houses have been retained in Worcester, because, unlike Stellenbosch and Paarl, Worcester never suffered big fires.

## 5.

### 1. SOMERSET STREET: THE DROSTDY

NATIONAL MONUMENT 1823 - 1825

The U-shaped building has two wings with an inner court and can be described as a Georgian building. Yellowwood beams and floors can still be seen inside. The Drostdy was erected as home for Captain Charles Trappes, Worcester's first Magistrate. His grave can still be seen in the school grounds.

In 1902 the Dutch Reformed Church for use as a mission and industrial school bought the building and the first pupils were Boer prisoners of war of the Anglo-Boer War (1899 - 1902). The Drostdy was then known as the "Boeren Zending Instituut".

In 1935 the thatched roof was replaced with tiles. The Drostdy has been used as a school hostel since 1946 and the interior altered to suit modern needs.

### 2. DISTELLERY ROAD: THE OLD JAIL

NATIONAL MONUMENT 1821

The building was erected in 1821 on one of the original loan farms, Langerug, and was used as a jail from 1830 to 1850. It was built in a hollow and was always damp. It was also an easy escape. Improvements were made in 1839 and it was now regarded as "a healthy place of confinement".

The jail was later used as a residence and offices. It was restored in 1976. The hill on the northern side was known as the Gallows Hill and a residential area; Langerug was eventually established there.

### 3. 170 CHURCH STREET

The building has a front gable with a flattop and wavy outline. The block, on which this building and the houses at 166 and 168 Church Street stand, was originally known as Glennan Estate. Until the 1920's a portion of the building at 179 was used by Glennan & Rich to produce apple vinegar. It was later turned into stabled to breed horses for the Indian Army. It was retired in 1992.

### 4. 166 AND 168 CHURCH STREET

Circa 1835. The block was called Wykeham Estate after the gentleman who bought it. For his part, Mr. Wykeham was known as the man who broke the bank in a small town in the Karoo (De Aar). After the rest of the block had been developed, one of the houses was named Wykeham Lodge. No's 166 & 168 used to be one U-shaped building with a central gable. In 1937 it was divided into 2 smaller residences and the original roof and gable were lost. It

## 6.

then had a four-pilaster gable with an oriental pediment. The dormer window at 166 was added in 1975.

## 5. 164 CHURCH STREET

Circa 1850. This cape Dutch house originally had a thatched roof. The gable has a wavy outline. The front door still has the original fanlight. The house was modernized in 1912 when it also got new windows, amongst which, the bay window on the corner.

## 6. 1, 3 TRAPPES STREET

National Monument. Circa 1821

Corner Trappes and Tulbagh Streets. The house is divided into 3 sections, one of which faces Tulbagh Street. The section facing Trappes Street (No.3) was the original house and the date on the gable is 1853. The pergola and boundary wall was erected in 1922. When built, the house faced east, which explains why the concavo-convex gable now faces the back yard. Two wings were later added to the back of the house whilst the third wing (163 Tulbagh Street) presumably was a stable block (it was originally described as a coach house). Between the latter and 3 Trappes is 1 Trappes Street with a gable and dormer window at the back. The original yard with clay bricks, slate and an oak tree has been retained.

## 7. 162 CHURCH STREET: "AT LAST"

NATIONAL MONUMENT

The first church in Worcester, "Het Gesticht" 1821, was housed in this building. It was regarded as a purely temporary church building. Because the congregation was poor, the owner of the property, Jacobus du Toit, completed the building at his own expense. The yellow wood beams in the ceiling were presumably part of the consignment bought for the construction of the Drostdy. After the D.R. Mother Church was taken into use, this building was completed. After this a smithy was installed in the building. The house was originally L-shaped but with additions, the original Cape Dutch building acquired a Victorian character. The house acquired a left wing and a flat-roofed addition on the right. The house has a veranda with cast iron work and a cast iron cornice. The ventilation holes give an indication of the replacement of the original thatched roof with a corrugated iron roof. About 1922 Mr. Bremmer converted the house into the first old-age home in Worcester, hence the name "At Last". It was restored in the 1980's.

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### 8. 156, 158 CHURCH STREET

No. 158  
1835.

The house, which faces the road, has a mock chimney end gable. It was one of the first schools in Worcester - either a private girl's school or a Dutch school.

No. 156  
1892.

L-shaped house. The front gable is covered with a decorative bargeboard. The veranda is concave.

### 9. 140 CHURCH STREET

1830.

An H-shaped Cape Dutch thatched roof house with a pediment concavo-convex gable. The outside woodwork is modern.

### 10. 132, 134, 138 CHURCH STREET

No. 132, the house was built in 1832 (gable) by B.J.G. de la Bat. He was the grandfather of Jan de la Bat, first teacher at the School for the Deaf. The fanlight above the door makes it one of three such fanlights in South Africa.

No. 134 Circa 1890 or before. This double storey and the one at No 138 belonged to the Keyters, well known in the building industry.

No.138, since 1855 Marthinus Keyter had a shop here. He married BJG de la Bat's daughter and they later stayed at 132. The building has been changed a lot.

### 11. 8 PORTER STREET

A gabled house with a traditional Worcester gable. Circa 1830.

### 12. 7 PORTER STREET

Circa 1880 or 1830. This T-shaped Cape Dutch house has a pilaster gable with a triangular pediment. The gable is decorated with scrolls on the outside pilasters. The façade woodwork is original. The house belongs to the Roman Catholic Church and used to serve as a residence for the nuns.

8.

### **13. 24 PORTER STREET**

NATIONAL MONUMENT. CIRA 1825

The erven were sold in July 1822 to J.F. van der Graaff. It is one of the oldest houses in Worcester and has a concave-convex gable. It was previously known as the ESTATE PALLAS and PORTER HOUSE.

### **14. 117 CHURCH STREET**

Circa 1835. The gable of this Cape Dutch house has four pilasters with a triangular pediment. It has wings on either side and was divided into three residences during the 1960's. The woodwork in front is not original. The house was at one stage known as Avignon and was used as a boarding house.

### **15. 22 ADDERLEY STREET**

NATIONAL MONUMENT 1860

The building was known as the Divisional Council Building. In 1973 an attempt was made to demolish it, but after a struggle it was declared a national monument in 1974. The original building was used as a residence and business premises. In 1893 it was used by the Standard Bank, in 1923 Old Mutual, in 1957 the Divisional Council, in 1977 the Bantu Administration Board and from 1979 to 1991 the Worcester Technical College. The building displays typical Georgian characteristics regarding the proportions, size and position of the cased windows and cornice.

### **16. DUTCH REFORMED MOTHER CHURCH**

NATIONAL MONUMENT 1832

This Gothic-revival building was built in a cross according to plans drawn in 1824. Ds. Henry Sutherland was the first preacher. In 1897 the building was enlarged and in 1898/99 a peaked steeple made of tin replaced the original flat steeple. The latter was not proof against the winds and was twice blown down. The present steeple was built in 1927. The pulpit is original and was built by Wouter de Vos. In 1960 to 1962 the building was restored and the interior changed. In 1978 it was declared a national monument.

### **17. CHURCH SQUARE**

NATIONAL MONUMENT

The Square was made available for church use in 1819. It served as an out span for churchgoers. To use the square for other purposes, special permission had to be obtained from the government. However, this requirement was ignored

## 9.

and over the years it was used as show grounds, sports grounds, grazing for cattle and a parade ground for the “Volunteer Rifles”. Early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century promenade concerts were held on the square. In 1925 an old canon still stood here and children played on it. A nursery rhyme was also written about the canon. In 1919 the artist Hugo Naudé designed the Garden of Remembrance. The appearance of the square has changed over the years. Originally there were 4 rows of blue gum trees around the plain and the garden was full of plants. The Square was declared a National Monument in 1974 to prevent further intrusions and changes.

### **18. 21 BARING STREET: STOFBERG HOUSE**

Circa 1835. This erven was bought in 1820. A farrier presumably built the house. This house and Beck House (c/o Church & Baring Streets) are the only gabled houses remaining that face Church Square. The gable is a four pilaster Worcester-type (not the original). The pergola was also installed later. The house has a mock chimney end gable. An annex was added to the original house changing it from a T to an F-shape. The original stables to the right of the house were converted to rooms.

### **19. 21 BARING STREET: BECK HOUSE**

1841.

This erven was laid out in 1820. The shopkeeper D.F. Lauerenne bought it in 1836 and the house was built in 1841. In 1854 the house sold to Cornelius Beck, a lawyer. The Beck family dubbed the house “The Auld Thatch”. They were actively involved in the church and musical life in Worcester. From 1919 to 1963 the Krige family lived here. After the restoration in 1970 the house has been used as a museum. It has been furnished as a town house of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The local council has recently sold it to the Coetzers who are keeping it as a museum and partly a coffee shop with tea garden.

### **20. 75 CHURCH STREET**

#### **NATIONAL MONUMENT**

This house was built about 1825 and belonged to the Beck family, amongst others. This building has recently being bought by the Coetzers as well.

### **21. CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

The congregation was founded in 1888, but the church building only dates back to 1948. The architectural style has been named by some as Cape Dutch-revival.

10.

## **22. 74 CHURCH STREET**

Circa 1860.

The house has a thatched roof and jerkin head gables with a central dormer gable. The iron veranda with wooden pillared were added later. It was used as a surgery for many years.

## **23. 72 CHURCH STREET**

Circa 1890. This Double-storey has a gable decorated with a fretted bargeboard and finial. It also has a double-storied veranda made of wood and iron. An undertaker and pathologist, amongst others, used it.

## **24. 71 CHURCH STREET**

Circa 1880. This building faces the street with a pediment gable. C.P. Naudé of Overhex as a town residence built it for his sons. A Mrs. Eich also ran it as a boarding house.

## **25. 70 CHURCH STREET: AVONDRUST**

Circa 1908. This is a Victorian house. The front has a pediment gable with a round vent. The gable is decorated with a bargeboard. The triangular bay is heavily rusticated. The veranda has a little gable decorated with woodcarvings and finial. Next-door is a coach house with the original coach door.

## **26. 68 CHURCH STREET**

Circa 1860. This erven was allocated in 1822 to the first and only assistant magistrate of Worcester, J.F. van der Graaff. The same year the seat of the magistrate was officially moved to Worcester with the appointment of Trappes. Van der Graaff was then moved to Graaff-Reinet. The house was built in 180. It has a Worcester gable with a bow over the tympanum. The original end gables were removed. This type of gable only occurs in Worcester and was probably the creation of a local builder.

## **27. 66 CHURCH STREET**

NATIONAL MONUMENT.

Circa 1850. This double-storied building has a flat roof with a simple parapet. It is Georgian with Victorian characteristics, egg woodwork. The outer corners of the building have rustication. There is a small balcony at the front door.

## 11.

The building was used as a boarding house, business and as a hostel for the Boy's High School. It was restored in 1991.

### 28. 56, 58 CHURCH STREET

56 Church Street, Circa 1860. This Cape Dutch house has a Worcester-type gable. The house was originally rectangular and two rooms deep, but was later added to and made into a U-shape. It first belonged to a traveling trader and later to a doctor.

58 Church Street, 1932. Dr. S.H. Walters built this double-storey. It is a Karoo-type house with a flat roof and stepped up parapet. The double-storied veranda has been removed, hence the door on the façade of the upper storey.

### 29. 54 CHURCH STREET

Circa 1910. This is a Victorian house with a triangular gable decorated with a wooden bargeboard.

### 30. 52 CHURCH STREET

This house has a four-pilaster gable with a lobed pediment. The woodwork on the façade has been incorrectly restored in the 1960's representing an earlier period. The front door is a stable door. The building was at one stage the home of the Hugo family of Toontjiesrivier. It was common practice for farmers of the region to have houses in town where they could stay when visiting town.

### 31. 49, 51 CHURCH STREET

A single-storied (no 51) and a double-storied (no 49) building linked together. Both have sloping roofs. No. 49 has a covered gable with bargeboard and vent. On the upper storey are two doors. The property once belonged to the Erasmus sisters who were tailors. The name of the business was Desideria and was housed in the double storey.

### 32. 45 CHURCH STREET

Circa 1860. The building has a concavo-convex gable and straight end gables. The gable is not original. Modern front door with fanlights.

12.

**33. 26 FAIRBAIRN STREET**

Double-storey Karoo-type house. The erven was transferred to Pieter Meiring in 1837. The building itself existed possibly before 1880.

**34. 22 FAIRBAIRN STREET**

NATIONAL MONUMENT.

Circa 1850. This rectangular building with a corrugated iron tin roof is a Victorianised Cape Dutch building. The windows are still Cape Dutch.

**35. 20 FAIRBAIRN STREET**

A rectangular Cape Dutch house with Worcester-type gable and fishtail end gables. Concavo-convex veranda. The woodwork on the front façade is a later addition.

**36. 11, 13 FAIRBAIRN STREET**

These buildings all have Victorian characteristics. The stables at No. 11 have been retained.

**37. CHURCH STREET**

“Rustig”. Circa 1880. The house has a straight end gable facing the street with a dormer window. The original back door still exists as an inner door.

**38. 33 CHURCH STREET**

Circa 1886. A double-storey Karoo-type house. The exceptional wooden veranda with a central pediment is original. The possibility exists that the building was used as a smithy’s oven was found here in 1986. There were several blacksmiths and wagon makers working in this area.

**39. 31 CHURCH STREET**

Circa 1903. This house has a straight end gable with vent. It was apparently built by Jacob du Toit to serve as a “tuishuis”. The house was built in such a way that there would be enough space to out span wagons and coaches in front. At the back there is still a stable. With the advent of the motorcar it was no longer necessary to overnight in town. The house has been restored and changed.

13.

**40. 36 CHURCH STREET**

Circa 1870. This rectangular house has a simple appearance with a stoep and sunrise fanlight. The staircase leading to the attic is still intact.

**41. 28 CHUCH STREET: ROODEWAL**

NATIONAL MONUMENT.

Circa 1830 / 1832. This Cape Dutch thatched home has a Worcester-type gable with a bow over the tympanum, one of the only four in existence. The arched dormer window makes this one unique. The stoep is paved with Brandwacht slate.

**42. 23, 23A, 25 25A CHURCH STREET**

Almost identical Victorian semi-detached house. Double doors with divided fanlights and verandas with cast iron work. Built at the turn of the century +- 1900.

**43. 24 CHURCH STREET**

1834, this rectangular corner house has a thatched roof with pedimented Worcester-type gable. The woodwork is original. The stoep has typical seats.

**THANK YOU  
THE END.**

