

## Marais Family 1850s - 1916

Sarel Johannes Marais (29 May 1814 – 23 October 1893) and a younger brother Jan Gabriël settled in the area after the Great Trek. Jan established the farm “Diepkloof” in the Suikerbosrand whilst Sarel established the farm “Rietvlei”; the remains of which can be seen here. Sarel signed a petition in Potchefstroom (the district under which the farm fell at the time) in 1850 and the farm was registered to him per Government Transfer on 1 October 1856. The exact date of his settling on the farm cannot, however, be ascertained because sometimes farmers lived on their farms for years before officially registering them.

Sarel married Hermiena Smit and they had 13 children. After his death the farm was divided amongst his children of which Portion 14, upon which the structures stand, was inherited by Gerhardus Petrus Marais.

The original structure of the farmhouse was clay brick which were probably manufactured on the farm. Exterior walls were made from lightly burnt brick and interior walls raw brick. The original floors were almost certainly made of clay. Wooden floors may have been added before 1900.

The original ground plan was a “T”-shape with a central lounge in the front and a bedroom on either side. The kitchen formed the tail end at the back and the roof was pitched thatch. Recesses, as seen in the lounge wall, were utilized as cupboards to store valuables like the family Bible or a clock.

A room was added on both the northern and southern ends of the house before 1900. One of these was used for the teacher and the other possibly by the boys.