

## Dutch Reformed Church

In April 1880 work commenced on the building of the Church designed by Carl Otto Hager, an architect responsible for ten other churches in the Cape Colony. The Neo-Gothic design was built with Table Mountain sandstone, which was excavated in the mountain to the west of the town.

It replaced an earlier thatch-roofed building and cost approximately £7 500,00 (R15 000,00). The interior boasts a beautiful, hand crafted pulpit carved from imported wood from India as well as Yellowwood and Oregon pine.

Address: Kerk Street  
 GPS: S 32.90655, E 018.75319  
 Access: Exterior viewing all hours. Interior viewing by appointment only  
 Contact: Juliana Engelbrecht on 072 476 2317



Piketberg was originally the name given to the mountain fastness that harboured the **Cochoquas**, a clan of the indigenous Khoi-Khoi.

From the early 1700s Dutch settlers began farming in the area surrounding the mountain, and by 1832 there was a movement among them to form a separate congregation of the **Dutch Reformed Church**.

At the end of 1835, the **Colonial Government** gave the farm Grootfontein to the Dutch Reformed Church for this purpose. The first thatched church was built in 1836 on the site where the present church stands in the heart of the town.

Subsequently, in 1839, the first home was built for the 'Koster' (Churchwarden), and in 1841, the first building plots were sold and the village of Piquetberg was born.

The spelling of the town's name changed in the 1930s from

### Piquetberg to Piketberg.



The Historic Piketberg Route is a joint venture between Piketberg Tourism and the Piketberg Museum.



Tel/Fax: 022 913 2063

Email: [tourism@piketberg.com](mailto:tourism@piketberg.com)

Website: [www.piketbergtourism.co.za](http://www.piketbergtourism.co.za)

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday 08.30 to 17.00

Saturday 10.00 to 13.00



**Piketberg Museum**

Tel: 022 913 2177

Email: [info@piketbergmuseum.co.za](mailto:info@piketbergmuseum.co.za)

Website: [www.piketbergmuseum.co.za](http://www.piketbergmuseum.co.za)

Open Hours: Monday-Friday 09.00 to 14.00

## Scenes from old Piketberg



# Historic PIKETBERG PIQUETBERG



In military terminology, a *picket*, (archaic form **piquet** Afrikaans **piket**), refers to soldiers or troops placed on a line forward of a position to warn against an enemy advance.

This then was the beginnings of Piketberg, formed as a defensive barrier in 1673.



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### No 5 Church Street

Built in 1906 for commercial purposes, this beautifully ornate building has four shops on the lower level and accommodation on the upper level. Much of the ornamental ironwork that had corroded over time, has since been successfully restored to its original glory.

Feel free to visit 'Clari' for unique homemade gifts and 'Dis Oulik' bakery to satisfy your sweet tooth.

Address: 5 Kerk Street  
GPS: S 32.90597, E 018.75272  
Access: Exterior viewing all hours. Interior viewing Mon-Fri 09.00-17.00

### Hotel in Church Street

Built as the 'Commercial Hotel' in 1895, its doors were opened to the public in 1898. Most of the original fittings and furniture were ordered per catalogue from England and delivered to Piketberg via ox wagon.

During the Anglo Boer War (1899-1902) the hotel was mainly used as accommodation for British soldiers stationed in town. The hotel has 11 rooms, four of which are en-suite and it is continuously being renovated and improved.

Address: 1 Kerk Street  
(Main Entrance in Hoog Street)  
GPS: S 32.90604, E 018.7526  
Access: Exterior viewing only. All hours

### 16-18 Main Street - Katzeff House

One of the earliest houses built in Piketberg, 16-18 Main Street belonged to the Katzeff family for many years. The house was built in 1844 and is thought to have been the first boarding house in Piketberg. From 1894 until 1904, it was owned by Mr. William Parrot and was subsequently known as the Parrot house.

Considerably altered during the late Victorian period, the house still held true to its original essence and became the Katzeff house in 1937 when Jacob and Sonia Katzeff purchased the property.

Address: cnr Hoof & Monument Street  
GPS: S 32.90697, E 018.75325  
Access: Exterior viewing only. Private property.

### Police Station

Originally built in 1926, the building has retained its classical façade despite successive modernizations of the Police Station behind it. The exact date on which the Piketberg Police Force was formed remains unknown but as printed in the Piketberg Herold, 8 March

1929, the station received a new officer, Mr Bresler Jr; who would be responsible for night foot patrols as well as a second hand car from provincial government.

Address: Voortrekker Street  
GPS: S 32.90618, E 018.75490  
Access: Exterior viewing all hours. Interior viewing please report to reception.

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### Sheriff's Office (Balju)

Built around the same time as the Police Station opposite in 1926, the main function of the Sheriff's Office was to deliver messages to and from the Court.

Address: 63 Voortrekker Street  
GPS: S 32.90588, E 018.75500  
Access: Exterior viewing all hours. Interior viewing only during office hours

### Bioscope

Built in the early 1920s as one of the first cinemas in the area, the Old Bio (Ou Bioskoop) was a central part of the town's entertainment. Throughout the years, the building has been privy to not only the bioscope, but also a dance hall, boxing arena and many more. Unfortunately, the building was damaged in a fire some years ago but is currently undergoing repairs and the Bio Café is now open for fresh coffee and cake.

Address: 47 Voortrekker Street  
GPS: S 32.90481, E 018.75472  
Access: Exterior viewing all hours. Interior viewing by arrangement and many more.  
Contact: Sir Cobis Wilson on 022 913 1368 (for meals as well).

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### Piquet Hill and Coach House

Piquet Hill and the plot it stands on, were transferred to the first Magistrate and Civil Commissioner of Piketberg (1848 to 1854), Captain John Montgomery Hill from the Dutch Reformed Church on 9th February 1953. It was subsequently divided into three separate tenants' dwellings after being sold in 1860 to MC Fick. The plot has exchanged hands many times in the past decade, and has most recently been reverted to a one-family home and largely restored.

The Coach House (situated behind Piquet Hill) was converted from what was originally a wagon shed as part of the above larger property. Although exact dates are uncertain, it was most likely built in the early 1920s.

**Piquet Hill**  
Address: 12 Waterkant Street  
GPS: S 32.90200, E 018.75424  
Access: Exterior viewing only. All hours. Private property.

**Coach House**  
Address: 18 Waterkant Street  
GPS: S 32.9021, E 018.75412  
Access: Exterior viewing only. All hours. Private property

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### Piketberg Museum

The building that houses the museum was erected based on Edwardian architecture in the 1920's and all the furnishings date back to the same period. The museum is a replica of a homestead in the early 20th century and families in and around Piketberg donated all the artefacts.

One specific room is dedicated to the attacks on Piketberg during the Anglo Boer War (1899-1902) which took place on 13 October and 7 November 1901 as well as an archive room where students and interested parties can page through a collection of books and research materials regarding the area and the people that lived here. For more information, please visit

[www.piketbergmuseum.co.za](http://www.piketbergmuseum.co.za)

Address: 12 Kerk Street  
GPS: S 32.90587, E 018.75541  
Access: Exterior viewing all hours. Interior viewing hours Mon - Fri 09.00-14.00

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### Synagogue

Built in 1922 by Lodewyk Ando Simon, a Hungarian immigrant, the building follows the style of the similar synagogue situated in Malmesbury. The building is a reflection of the role that the Jewish community played in the development of Piketberg during the early part of the 20th Century.

Today Piketberg's Jewish community has dispersed throughout the world and none of the original merchant families remain.

The Synagogue now belongs to the Municipality and is part of the Museum complex, which houses an award-winning exhibition on the history of the Berggrivier area, from the first pre-historic findings to current day agriculture.

Address: 14 Kerk Street  
GPS: S 32.90594, E 018.75573  
Access: Exterior viewing all hours. Interior viewing Mon - Fri 08.30-13.00; 14.00-17.00; Sat 10.00-13h00

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### Mission Church

On 13 July 1903, the Dutch Reformed Mission Church was established after the white congregation insisted that the

non-white members of the church have their own building. The first minister was Reverend George Enslin and serving as deacons were Willem Daniels, David Abrahams and Pieter Erasmus.

The church building itself was erected in 1908 and first photographed by Ravenscroft in 1910. These photographs in comparison prove that very little alterations have been made to the building in the last decade.

Address: cnr Kerk and Loop Streets  
GPS: S 32.90561, E 018.75936  
Access: Exterior viewing only. All hours

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### Historical Graveyard

The land on which the graveyard was built, was originally financed by Mr. Lewis Laurie, the chairman of the Jewish Graveyard Fellowship. On 6 December 1903, according to the minutes taken at their Sunday meeting, he was fully reimbursed for this purchase.

The Jewish graveyard was the first graveyard in Piketberg and has more than 125 gravestones, of which many are unmarked. Approximately 35 belong to Jewish families while most date back to the 19th century and include many original families' graves. One can also find graves belonging to soldiers who fought during the Anglo Boer War.

Address: Die Trek Street  
GPS: S 32.90894, E 018.75545  
Access: Collect key from Piketberg Museum Mon-Fri 09.00-14.00