

## Die Damhuis

The “Damhuis” (literal Dam House) a National Monument was originally a fish shed on the farm De Melkbosch that was awarded to Christiaan Brand by Governor van de Graaff circa 1785 as reward for services rendered. The thick walls contain amongst other building material of that time, big chunks of whale bones.

The water from a fountain, which exists to this day, formed a dam on the side of the shed hence the name “Damhuis”. The present Beach Road is now where the dam was.



Many moons ago



The first Restaurant with cannon

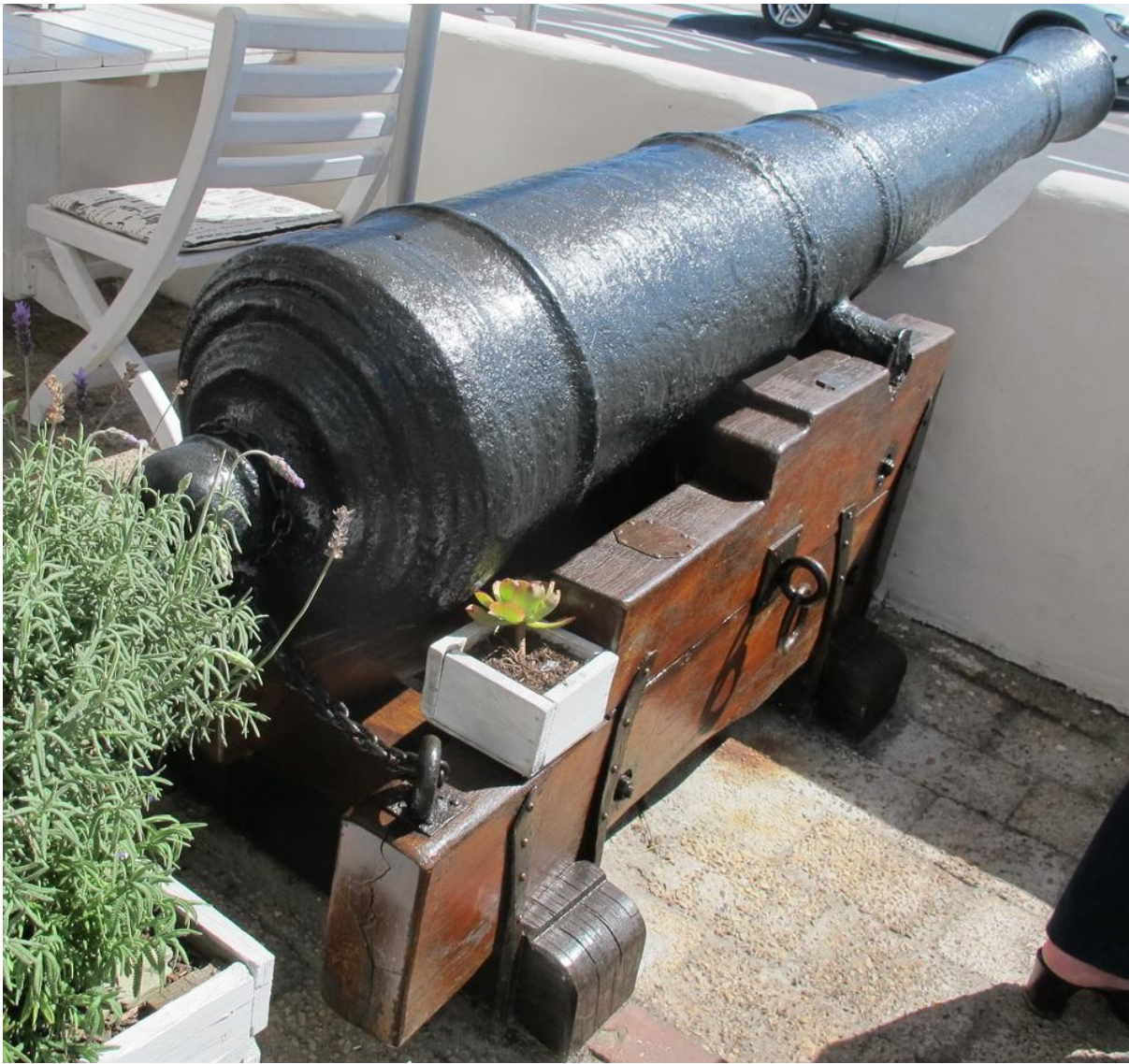




**Current Restaurant with 8pdr defending the front.**



**The 8pdr with corrosion blisters in April 2015, before the restoration.**



**The refurbished cannon. The job was carried out by CAOSA Restorer and Researcher Gerry de Vries.**

The short story of the 8pdr muzzle loading cannon.

When the gun was cleaned I confirmed that it is an 8 pounder, cast at the Finspang foundry in Sweden, proof fired in Amsterdam for the Amsterdam chapter of the VOC. The gun was one of many that were accumulated at the Castle from various batteries during the 1970's and 1980's. The gun was issued by the SADF to the Stellenbosch Commando unit in recognition of their involvement in the Battle of Blouberg. It was most fitting that gun should be passed on to Melkbosstrand as a monument to that battle.

Gerry de Vries  
CAOSA Researcher and Restorer