

Geographical Orientation

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Saron - 3 323,5025ha

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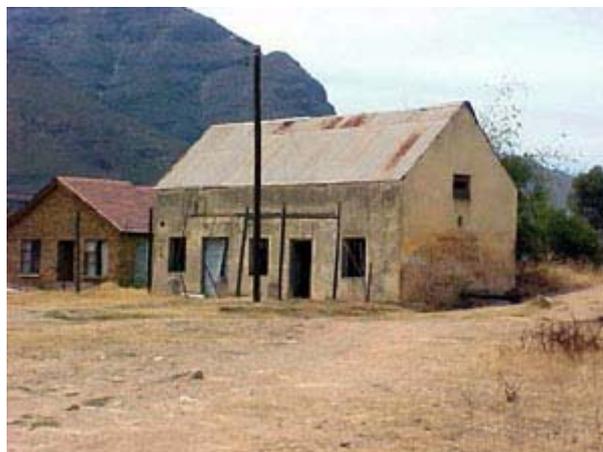
Saron is situated approximately 40 kilometres from Porterville. The farm De Leeuwensklip was bought in 1846 by Johannes Heinrich Kulpmann of the Rhenisch Missionary Society in order to establish a mission station to serve the freed slaves and indigenous inhabitants in the area, many of whom who were displaced from their pastoral land by colonial settlement. He named the mission station “Saron” – German for ‘flats’ or ‘plain’ from biblical origin. By 1848 there were one hundred and twenty families living on the mission. The farm Leeuwenklip comprised a house with outside kitchen (circa 1775), ‘werf wall’, water mill, smithy and wine cellar. The mission was sited at the existing farm complex and the farm buildings were incorporated into the mission complex. The farm house became the ‘pastorie’, a church was built adjacent to the ‘pastorie’ after the Rhenisch Missionary Society took control of the mission station in 1852 and the wine cellar was used as a school until a new school was built in 1877.

The population increased steadily into the 20th century and in 1929, due to difficulty in dealing with pressures associated with the growth of the town, the Rhenisch Mission Council applied to be granted town status. Saron was officially proclaimed a town on 19 December 1929. Erven were surveyed and individuals were given the opportunity to buy, or to continue to lease land from the mission church. Since then, most of the church land has been sold of, either to individuals within the community, or to individuals from outside. The remaining land is held in trust for the community of Saron.

In 1945 the Dutch Reformed Church took control of the mission station, but was forced to give up control as a result of continued difficulties in managing the growth of the settlement. The town was then administered by a succession of secular authorities and the Board area was proclaimed by Proclamation No 60 of 1963. First the Divisional Council and later, the relevant Department in the Administration, House of Representatives, in terms of the applicable legislation.



Entrance to Saron



The historical “Millhouse”



The municipal offices and the library



A holiday resort