Mamre is situated approximately 80 kilometres from Cape Town, past Atlantis off the West Coast Road. During 1701, after complaints from local farmers about marauding Bushmen, Governor Willem Adriaan van der Stel sent a sergeant and ten men to Groene Kloof to establish a military outpost called De Kleine Post, that existed until 1791. The current Langhuis, was built to accommodate them. In 1860, after the Cape was again occupied by the British, the Earl of Caledon, then Governor, was so impressed with the Moravian Missionary Society’s work at Genadendal, that he invited them to establish a second mission station at Groene Kloof. The missionary work started on 27 March 1808, when J F Kohrhammer and J H Schmitt held the first sermon under a poplar tree at nearby Louws Kloof. On 03 April, the first religious service is held in the living room of the farmhouse, as part of some buildings that had already been erected in 1695. This now forms the present parsonage. In 1814 Lord Charles Somerset wanted the land back and ordered the Missionary Tier Schmidt (he supposedly got his name after a fight with a tiger) to move to Genadendal, who declined as only his Society could have him transferred. The matter was referred to London, after which the final decision was that the Moravian Missionary Society continue with its work. In 1816, permission is granted that a church be built, which was completed on 18 February 1818. Only a school and a church had to be built for it to be used as a mission station. The horse-mill, built in 1830, is replaced by a watermill in 1844. During 1854, the Moravians rename Groene Kloof after the biblical place called Mamre. A steam engine is added to the mill in 1873, to use with the water-wheel. This mill thrashed its last bale of wheat in December 1954. The Rembrandt Group restored this watermill in 1973 and it is declared a national monument.

The land was finally transferred to the Missionary Society in terms of the Mission Station and Communal Reserves Act of 1909, to be held in trust for the inhabitants. The Board area was proclaimed by Proclamations No 275 of 1970 and No 64 of 1971. The Mission Council initially administered the town, until this was taken over by the relevant Department in the Administration House of Representatives, in terms of the applicable legislation.
Unrestored traditional house

Historical Mill to be restored