## **Suurbraak** - 4 156,4219ha

Suurbraak, situated approximately 20 kilometers from Swellendam, off the N2 leading to Barrydale, developed around a mission station founded at the site of an old Hottentotkraal. Originally, in 1812, the station was administered by the London Mission Society and the name Suurbraak was a corruption of the original “Sour Brake”. In the English of the early nineteenth century, the mass of ferns which today are called “bracken” was “brake” and these “sour ferns” still exist. It was only much later that the term “brake” was used in association with other plants growing in clumps (eg. Cane brake), like the ferns that used to thickly cover the flood plains and lower slopes of the mountains of the area. Suurbraak is the Afrikaans version of Zuurbraak – meaning “sour fallow land”. Active development of buildings in Suurbraak took place between 1828 and 1848 under the German Superintendent, Heinrich Helms. The German influence could alsoaccount for the development of uncommon English family names such as Merrington and Philander.

In 1922, the London Mission Society withdrew, transferring its property to the inhabitants. The mission work was then taken over by the Dutch Reformed Missionary Church, who administered the town. The Board area was reserved for Coloured occupation by Proclamation No 68 of 1962. The town was then administered by the relevant Department in the Administration House of Representatives, in terms of the applicable legislation.

**Historical houses in Suurbraak**

**The provincial road through the town**

**A view of the town**

**Municipal Offices next to historical Braak**