

MOSTERT'S MILL

The windmill, known as Mostert's Mill on de Waal Drive (M3) at Mowbray Cape Town is the *only working windmill* in Africa, south of the Sahara.

In the beginning, windmills constructed at the Cape were destroyed by the strong winds.

The Dutch "Here Sewentien" (Council of Seventeen) decided in 1717 to send to the Cape masons, carpenters, bricks and materials on the ship *Meijnden* to erect a more efficient mill.

This mill was called the "Oude Molen" but sadly all that remains of this historic mill is the place name.

Mostert's Mill is a farm windmill (small) and was built to the new standards and survives today as a monument to those early artisans.

Mostert's Mill was built on a farm called Welgelegen, the property of Gysbert van Reenen, a member of one of the foremost families at the Cape. It is believed that the windmill was built by him in 1796 the year after the battle of Muizenberg when the British took control of the Cape. Until then, under the rule of the Dutch East India Company, building and operation of mills were strictly controlled and private mills were rare.

The farm was acquired by Sybrand Jacobus Mostert, Gysbert van Reenen's son-in-law, in 1823, and his name became associated with the windmill.

