**Mountain View**

Only the stone foundation walls of Kallenbach’s luxurious residence at 5 Mountain View Drive, remain - an entirely new home has been built atop the original stone clad foundation. A small round thatched structure with plaque commemorates the spot (wild and undeveloped at that time) where Gandhi is said to have regularly returned to practice yoga and for spiritual contemplation. However, this is a reference to Ramdas, Gandhi’s third son, who returned to South Africa from India on two occasions, in 1921 and 1937. Ramdas is the Gandhi commemorated by the humble round structure on the slopes of Linksfield Ridge, as he lived with Kallenbach in 1937 while in Johannesburg to recuperate from an illness. Kallenbach built the dwelling at New Mountain Road in 1929 (Itzkin 2000, 72) - more than a decade after Gandhi and his family had left South Africa, and lived there until his death in 1945 (Dhupelia-Mesthrie 2004, 96-127). His niece Hanna Lazar and her daughter Isa, lived with Kallenbach for part of the time.

One can still see the packed stone walling of Mountain View Drive and Sylvia’s Pass extension into Kallenbach Drive and the stone steps leading from the road to the site where his house once stood.

With his partners in his architectural practice, Hermann Kallenbach was responsible for developing the land surrounding Linksfield Ridge into what are now the suburban neighbourhoods of Linksfield Ridge, Fairwood and Mountain View, which overlook the formerly exclusively ‘white’, now mixed and working class neighbourhoods of Orange Grove and Norwood. Kallenbach lived at various locations in over the years while developing these neighbourhoods.

Between sharing The Kraal and moving to the communal Tolstoy Farm, Kallenbach and Gandhi lived at ‘The Tents’ on Linksfield Ridge (Dhupelia-Mesthrie 2004, 69; Itzkin 2000, 72). The stock image shows Gandhi (seated at right), with Hermann Kallenbach (seated left, with dog) and Manilal Gandhi, with unnamed men standing in the background, arranged near their outdoor living area complete with two bell tents located close to Mountain View.

Images: Jill Weintroub 2017

Archival Image: Alamay Stock

**References:**

Dhupelia-Mesthrie, Uma. 2004. *Gandhi’s Prisoner? The Life of Gandhi’s Son Manilal*. Cape Town: Kwela Books.

Itzkin, Eric. 2000. *Gandhi’s Johannesburg, Birthplace of Satyagraha*. Johannesburg: Wits University Press.