

# *The face of South Africa* By Maré Mouton

*Many historic buildings in Grahamstown have survived the ravages of modernisation. This beautifully preserved street front facing onto Church Square now houses modern businesses, many of them branches of large chains, but the buildings are not despoiled by alterations or modern signage. The fact that all the buildings align exactly is no coincidence. The first building regulations for the village, founded in 1812, were promulgated in 1820 in the 12th Article: "The irregular way of Building tending greatly to disfigure the Village every one intending to build shall be bound to give notice in future to the Landdrost who will take care that the proper Line of the Street be pointed out according to which the builder will be bound to strictly regulate himself in laying the foundation..." The fine for a transgression would be 50 rixdollars and the builder would be forced to undo any work not conforming to the regulation.*

