

YOUR REF.: WCS: 045965  
OUR REF.: 2023-Historical Report-  
Newcastle Justice Complex

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4 August, 2023

## WCS: 045965: NEWCASTLE JUSTICE: HERITAGE BUILDINGS: HISTORICAL REPORT

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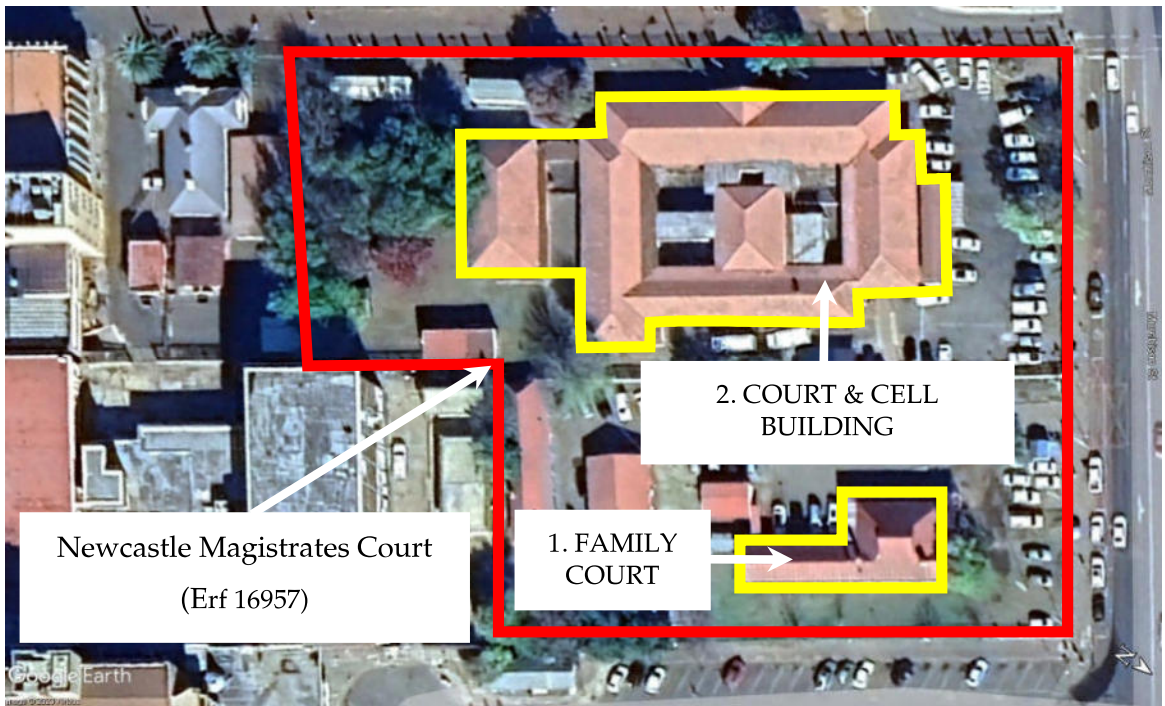
Supervising Heritage Architect: Christopher Sparks – SACAP Reg. : 4661

The site is known as the Newcastle Magistrates Court and is located on Erf 16957 (33 and 35 Murchison Street) in Newcastle, on the corner of Murchison and Voortrekker Street.

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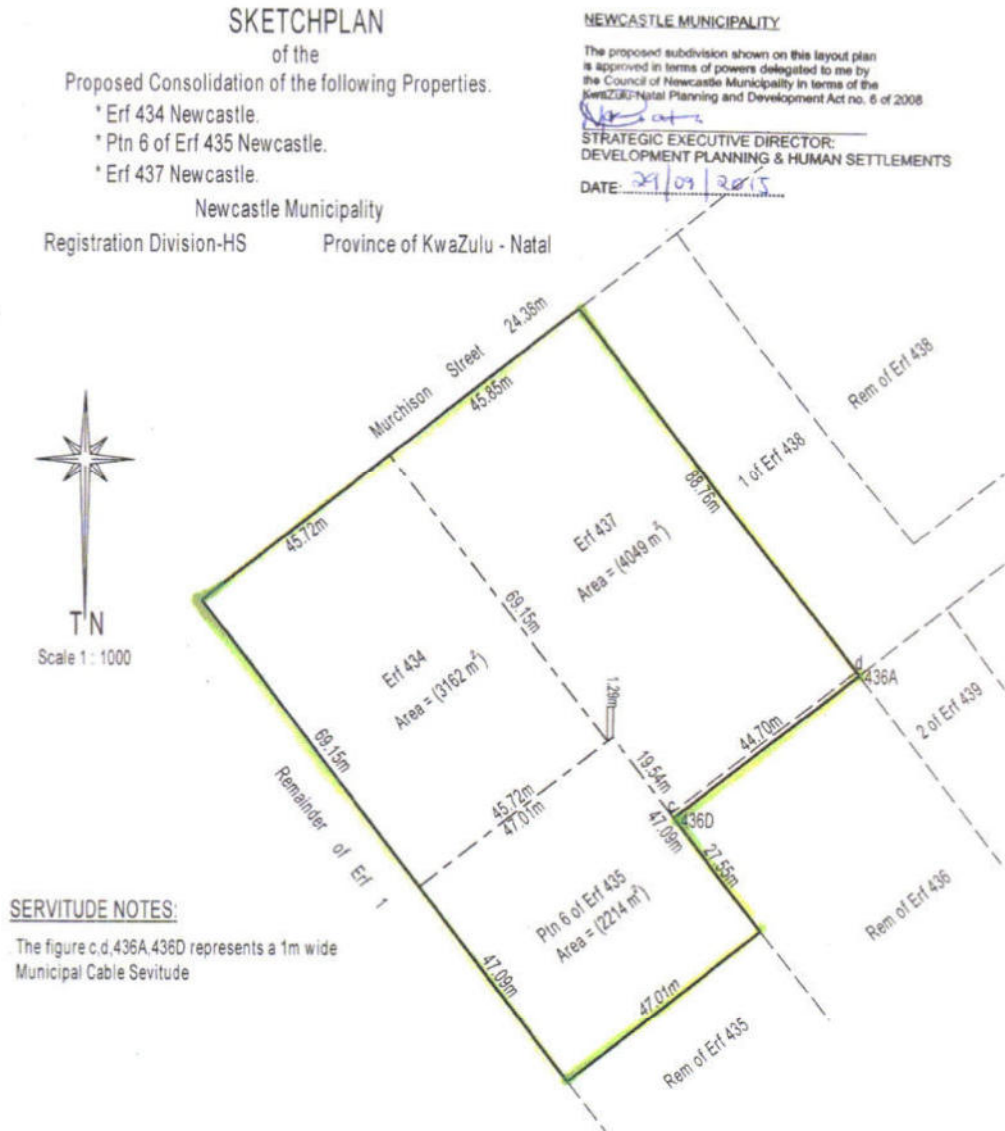
The property, Erf 16957 was consolidated on 2015/09/29, made up of:

- Erf 434,
- Ptn 6 of Erf 435 and
- Erf 437.

There are two buildings of Historic Significance, as depicted above, namely:

- 1) The Family Court building.
- 2) The Court building. This includes a Cell building within its footprint which is of no Historic Significance. For the purpose of this report we refer to the two separately identifiable buildings as the “Court & Cell Building”.

# NEWCASTLE JUSTICE: HERITAGE BUILDINGS: HISTORICAL REPORT



<p><b>NEWCASTLE MUNICIPALITY</b></p> <p>The proposed consolidation shown on this layout plan is approved in terms of powers delegated to me, by the Council of Newcastle Municipality, in terms of the KwaZulu - Natal Planning and Development Act No 6 of 2008</p> <p>SED: Development Planning of Human Settlements Date:</p>	<p><b>Area Schedule</b></p> <p>Rem/ Erf 434 = 3162 m<sup>2</sup> Ptn 6/ ERF 435 = 2214 m<sup>2</sup> Erf 437 = 4049 m<sup>2</sup> Total = 9425 m<sup>2</sup></p> <p>Sg Designation for consolidated erf: <u>16957</u> Newcastle</p>	<p><b>Prepared by:</b> S E Lauterbach &amp; Associates Professional Land Surveyors 55 Paterson Street P.O Box 407, Newcastle, 2940</p> <p>Tel: 034-3125761 Email: sel@intekom.co.za</p> <p><i>[Signature]</i> Date: October 2014 Plan Ref: N-437 v 1</p>
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# **NEWCASTLE JUSTICE: HERITAGE BUILDINGS: HISTORICAL REPORT**

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## **1 FAMILY COURT BUILDING.**

### **1.1 AGE.**

The age of this building is unknown. The curator of the Fort Amiel Museum in Newcastle, Louis Eksteen, dates the building back to the 1890's when looking at the key Architectural features of that era.

### **1.2 HISTORY OF OCCUPATION.**

Department of Justice including SAPS.

### **1.3 PHASES OF CONSTRUCTION.**

A new wing was added to the building, it is not clear when this addition was made.

### **1.4 ASSESMENT OF HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE.**

The building dates back to the 1890's during British rule which was around the same timeframe that the first train arrived in Newcastle (1890) and that the Newcastle Town Hall construction was completed (1899)

## **2 COURT & CELLS BUILDING.**

### **2.1 AGE.**

This building was built in 1942, as seen on the main entrance above the door.

### **2.2 HISTORY OF OCCUPATION.**

Department of Justice.

### **2.3 PHASES OF CONSTRUCTION.**

According to the National Department of Public Works, some additions and alterations were done in 1978 and again in 2002. This included the addition of a new Courtroom at the Eastern side of the newer Court Building, as well as the cell block in one of the courtyards.

### **2.4 ASSESMENT OF HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE.**

It is evident that the provision of what was the existing Court building dating back to sometime in the 1890's, no longer satisfied the requirements of a growing community for which a larger establishment would be required in the form of the larger Magistrates Court building constructed in 1942.



C.D.H.Sparks  
MNI Architects and Project Managers