



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

SUBMISSION TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – May 2017

SUBMITTED BY: Grading and Declaration Review Committee

DATE: 05 May 2017

FILE REF:

ENQUIRIES: Mimi Seetelo

ITEM: Proposed Nomination of Site for Grade 1 approval: The grave of Chief Tyali of Imingcangathelo Chiefdom, Wouburn Farm, Alice, Eastern Cape

A1 BACKGROUND

A1.1. The grave of Chief Tyali is being proposed for nomination to be graded as a Grade 1 Site primarily because of its cultural significance in terms of Section 27 (5) of the National Heritage Resources Act 25 (1999).

A2 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A2.1. The grave of Chief Tyali located in the Tyume Valley was identified as a grave of cultural significance because it is the grave of a traditional leader whose decision to grant for the sole purpose of constructing an educational institution for Africans was unprecedented for his time on the sub continent.

A2.2 A total of more than a thousand hectares was granted to missionaries where upon Lovedale and later the University of Fort Hare were built.

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1. PURPOSE OF THE SUBMISSION

- 1.1. The purpose of this submission is to ask for approval from the Executive Committee to request Council (via the HRM Committee of Council) to grade the grave of Chief Tyali Woburn, under the under the Nkonkobe Local Municipality in the Eastern Cape Province as a Grade 1 Site.

2. DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION OF THE SITE

- 2.1. The grave of Chief Tyali is located in the Tyume Valley in the Wouburn area near Alice under the Nkonkobe Local Municipality in the Eastern Cape Province. The grave is about 150 meters off the R345 road to Hogsback. Before rehabilitation, there was a primary fence to keep livestock within their demarcated grazing area. A portion of this fence was cut to create a gravel road leading to the site to enable easy access. After rehabilitation a secondary fence protecting the site was erected.
- 2.2. The grave is made from polished Zimbabwean granite with a headstone rising about 1,5m from the ground. Also incorporated into the design was the old headstone that had been used to mark the burial site.
- 2.3. North of grave, there is an interpretive plaque detailing the history of Chief Tyali and the Imingcangathelo Chiefdom. The plaque rests on a face brick wall that is trimmed with loose pebbles on all sides.

- 2.4. Both the grave and the plaque are surrounded by a 30cm face brick wall all around. The inside part has loose black to grey granite pebbles. This wall is in turn surrounded by the palisade fence that has a lockable gate.

3. SHORT HISTORY OF THE SITE

3.1. Biography of Chief Tyali and Imingcangathelo Chiefdom

3.1.1. Emerging down the line of King Phalo's genealogy, Tyali was son to King Ngqika of the Rharhabe Kingdom. This struggle icon together with his brother, Maqoma, became a leader in several resistance movements of the anti-colonial era. At the time of his father's death, Tyali, Maqoma and Suthu (the regent mother of King Sandile) ruled the larger majority of the Rharhabe Kingdom.¹

3.1.2. Tyali went on to take the responsibility of *ixhiba* (grandfather's house) where some of his land was donated for the future development of the African nation, he ruled between the Tyhume and Keiskamma rivers. It is in this area that both Lovedale College as well as the University of Fort Hare were later built for the future benefit of African children. The legacy of the University of Fort Hare as well as that of Lovedale College are intertwined with the legacy of Chief Tyali.

3.1.3. The sons of Ngqika within the AmaRharhabe Kingdom had distinguished themselves as anti-colonial resisters for the greater part of the struggle against colonialism in the areas they were ruling. Chief Tyali distinguished himself during the 1836 Frontier war which had partially been started by the wounding of Tyali's brother by the British soldiers.

3.1.4. After obtaining Hintsas's sanction, Maqoma and Tyali co-ordinated their war strategies with other Xhosa chiefs. The relationship with his widely known brother (Maqoma) constituted an extensively acknowledged system of strategizing how to tackle the colonial system. A leader who had not only been a war commander but was ahead of his time in planting programmes that would ultimately contribute to the emancipation of African people from yolk of colonial and apartheid policies. (Mqhayi, 1972).

¹ Timothy J Stempton, 1994

3.1.5. The theologians came to Alice, Chief Tyali was also present whilst the missionaries and government were represented by Captain Charles Lennox Stretch (also known as Xolilizwe among the Xhosa). A total of more than a thousand hectares was granted whilst the chiefs present stated the following “we are granting this land so that our children could be educated and it should become their inheritance and that of their children. We know that Xolilizwe will fulfil our wishes”.

3.1.6 Chief Tyali died in May 1842.

3.1.7. The granting of land by Chief Tyali to the Scottish missionaries illustrates some calculated strategies of trying to gain intelligence of the colonial missionary system by African leaders. Chief Tyali’s official Great Place was in the Woburn area (Peires, 1980).

3.1.8. The grave of Chief Tyali was identified in wake of the centenary celebrations of the University of Fort Hare. Thereafter, SAHRA undertook a process of rehabilitating the grave culminating in its unveiling on 16 September 2016.

4. SWOT ANALYSIS AND CONDITION OF THE SITE

- 4.1 The site is provisionally protected in terms of the NHRA. At the completion of its rehabilitation, a notice of its protection was blasted on the grave itself.
- 4.2 The general condition of the mass grave site is good. A site visit undertaken on 26 April 2017 showed that the site was in a good condition. There was evidence of isolated weeds beginning to grow through the pebbles around. Should, this remain unchecked overtime the area could become overgrown with weeds.
- 4.3 The area where the grave is located is surrounded by bushes. If unchecked, thickets around the grave may grow back engulfing the area entirely rendering it inaccessible.
- 4.4 There are further improvements that are proposed for the site. The first is the translation of the history plaque into isiXhosa for it to stand together with the English plaque. The second is paving inside the fence between the wall and fence and for about 1m outside the fence all around.

5. MOTIVATION FOR NATIONAL DECLARATION

5.1. Historic Value

5.1.1. Chief Tyali's contribution of not just physical, but mental emancipation of African people from colonial rule is of historic value. His visionary leadership led him to donate more than a thousand hectares of his land for the future education of African people. It was upon this land that Lovedale College and the University of Fort Hare (UFH) were built.² Thus, Tyali laid a formidable foundation for the wider liberation of not just South Africa, but Southern Africa as several stalwarts of the anti colonial and anti apartheid resistance movements studied at Fort Hare. Some particularly those of other Southern African countries went on to become first presidents of their countries after the fall of colonial rule.

5.1.2 In South Africa for instance, Nelson Mandela South Africa's first democratically elected President, Robert Sobukwe founding president of the Pan Africanist Congress (PAC), Steve Biko founder member of the Black Consciousness Movement (BCM) studied at Fort Hare. For Southern Africa, Seretse Khama former President of Botswana, Ntsu Mokhehle former Prime Minister of Lesotho, Julius Nyerere former President of Tanzania, Kenneth Kaunda former President of Zambia, Yusuf Lele former President of Uganda and Robert Mugabe the current President of Zimbabwe. These are just a few of anti-colonial luminaries that studied at the Fort Hare.

5.2. Social Value (*Spiritual, Sacred and Symbolic*)

5.2.1 The contribution by Chief Tyali is inextricably tied to the present. UFH established on land donated by Tyali was instrumental in forging a new sense of African identity opposed to white minority rule. While both colonialism and apartheid have collapsed, the UFH continues to provide education to thousands of students from South Africa and elsewhere in Africa. Lovedale College campus in Alice also continues to provide education for numerous students

² Francis Wilson, Outlook on a Century: 1870-1970, Lovedale Press, (1973), p.9

6. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

6.1. The granting of land by Chief Tyali for the purpose of establishing a place of learning for Africans as early as the 1800s was unprecedented on the sub-continent. The establishment of Lovedale and later University of Fort Hare opened in turn produced some of South Africa's and Africa's leading stalwarts in the struggle against colonial rule and apartheid. Therefore, the legacy of Chief Tyali and the history of these two institutions and their contribution to South Africa are intertwined.

7. INDICATION OF OWNER'S ATTITUDE

7.1. SAHRA undertook consultation meetings with the family and there is support for the site to be afforded maximum protection.

8. INDICATION OF CURRENT MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

8.1. The rehabilitated site is still new (less than a year old) and arrangements for the management of the site are ongoing. A consultative process needs to be continued until the Grading and Declaration process is finalised.

9. EXACT DESCRIPTION OF AREA TO BE DECLARED (SITE BOUNDARIES)

9.1. There are no aerial pictures of the site itself as it was located amongst a thicket of bushes when it was first identified.

9.2 The boundaries to be declared encompass the entire burial area including the fence and space between the wall perimeter and the fence.



Fig.1 The location of Woburn in the Eastern Cape



Fig.2 The red circle indicates the general area where the grave of Chief Tyali is located.



Fig.3 The grave of Chief Tyali when it was first identified.



Fig.4 The grave of Chief Tyali after it was rehabilitated and unveiled.

10. RECOMMENDATION

- 10.1. It is recommended that the EXCo approve to recommend to Council (via the HRM Committee of Council) the approval of grading Chief Tyali's grave as a Grade 1 site.