



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

COMMITTEE MEETING

DATES:

GDRC: 14/10/18

EXCO: 21/11/18

HRM COM: 30/11/18

COUNCIL: 31/01/19

GRADING SUBMISSION

SUBMITTED BY: Heritage Protection and Burial Environment Unit

DATE: 13 November 2018

FILE REF / SAHRIS SITE ID:

SAHRIS SITE TYPE: Place

Significance Category (THEMES): Historical: Association with person/groups & events

ENQUIRIES: Heidi Weldon

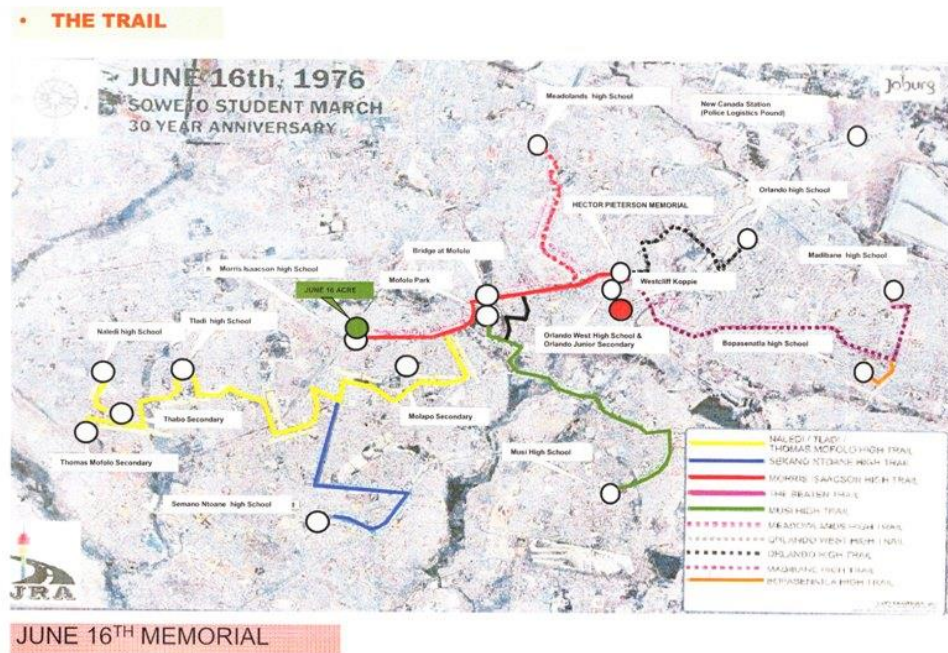
ITEM: Proposed Nomination of Site for Grade 1 Site Status: June 16 Soweto Route, Soweto, Gauteng

A1. BACKGROUND

- A1.1. The 1976 Youth Uprisings, which started with the protests by Soweto students against the use of Afrikaans as the language for tuition on 16 June 1976, played a critical role in the history of South Africa and the struggle against Apartheid.
- A1.2. In the early 1990s, the ANC Youth League erected a memorial close to where 12-year-old Hector Pieterse was fatally shot. A museum dedicated to the 1976 Youth Uprisings was officially opened on 16 June 2002 and SAHRA erected a Memorial Boulder in the same vicinity of the Hector Pieterse Memorial (close to the Uncle Tom's Municipal Hall). The site, comprising of the Museum and memorials, was graded as a Grade 1 site on 23rd September 2006.
- A1.3. As a representative site for the Youth Uprisings, the Hector Pieterse Memorial and Museum was identified as one of the ten sites for the initial World Heritage Liberation Heritage Route Nomination: *"Human Rights, Liberation Struggle and Reconciliation: Nelson Mandela Legacy Sites"*. SAHRA had started the process of public notification to finalise the declaration in September 2016.
- A1.4. The NHC, spearheading the Liberation Heritage Route project, appointed Eco-Africa to assist with drafting the World Heritage nomination dossier. During their site visits and research, Eco-Africa raised their concern of nominating the Hector Pieterse Memorial and Museum, due to uncertainty about the authenticity of the site. Although the students had planned to meet at Uncle Tom's Municipal Hall (the area where the memorial and museum were constructed) before marching to Orlando Stadium,

however, majority of the students did not make it there. The students that did were confronted by police there too.

A1.5. The June 16 Trail was developed by the City of Johannesburg's Arts Culture and Heritage Directorate incrementally since 2006. It follows the route that students from various schools in Soweto followed when they marched in protest against the Bantu Education system on 16th June 1976. The Trail links the various schools that participated as well as other sites of importance to the Youth Uprisings. These include the Morris Isaacson High School, the June 16 Memorial Acre and the Hector Pieterse Memorial and Museum. The route that the students marched is marked with red walkways.



A1.6. Eco- Africa and NHC have proposed the declaration of the roads where majority of the confrontation between the students and police took place (and forms part of the June 16 Trail). This is to address the concern of authenticity and has been identified as the most representative solution for inclusion of the Youth Uprisings story in the World Heritage Nomination.

A1.7. The students had marched into the area from many schools around Soweto using various routes. The police had positioned themselves in readiness for their arrival in the same area. It is therefore the area of the major confrontations and shootings that took place on that day.

A2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A2.1. Due to concerns raised about the authenticity of the initially proposed Hector Pieterse Memorial and Museum for World Heritage nomination, SAHRA has been requested to consider grading and declaring the portion of the route to which all the students were moving towards and where the confrontation with police took place. The proposed portion includes the places where students were shot.

- A2.2. The City of Johannesburg developed the June 16 Trail marking the routes that the different students used to march to the central point in Orlando West in protest against the use of Afrikaans in schools. The route has been marked with red paint and interpretative signs are located in places where significant events took place (such as the spots where Hector Pieterse and Hastings Ndlovu were shot).
- A2.3. It is proposed that the road reserve forms the site boundary and any properties along the road are excluded from the declaration and buffer zone areas.
- A2.4. The NHC were requested to provide clear descriptions of the boundaries of the road reserves with surveyed coordinates. These have been provided with some minor changes from the initial route proposed. As the revision still incorporated the route along which the confrontations between the students and police took place as well as places where important incidents took place, there is no significance lost to the newly proposed site. In fact, the route now includes incidents that took place along Khumalo Main Road where students attacked and killed West Rand Administration Board (WRAB) Official, Mr JB Esterhuyzen and where police confronted about 2000 students gathering around Uncle Tom's Hall.
- A2.4. The roads are currently managed and maintained by the Johannesburg Roads Agency. Once the site is graded, SAHRA will negotiate a heritage agreement with the Johannesburg Roads Agency, where the general road maintenance will be exempted from permitting processes. SAHRA, as well as the Department of Environmental Affairs in terms of the World Heritage Declaration will request that the road remains a corridor.

Contents

1. PURPOSE OF THE SUBMISSION	4
2. DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION OF THE SITE	4
3. SHORT HISTORY OF THE SITE – History of June 16 / History of HPMM	6
4. MOTIVATION FOR NATIONAL DECLARATION	8
5. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SITE	8
6. INDICATION OF OWNER'S ATTITUDE	9
7. INDICATION OF CURRENT MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS	9
8. DESCRIPTION OF SITE BOUNDARIES	9
9. RECOMMENDATIONS	9

1. PURPOSE OF THE SUBMISSION

- 1.1. The purpose of this submission is to discuss and recommend the June 16 Soweto Route in Gauteng as a Grade 1 site

2. DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION OF THE SITE

- 2.1. This site lies in Orlando West, a suburb in the heart of Soweto, Johannesburg in an area that has close associations with several leading figures in the Liberation Struggle.
- 2.2. The property itself is made up of those roads in the area where students were shot as they paraded in protest on 16 June 1976 and is made up of the entire road reserves of the following parts of the following Streets:
- The north-south axis commences at the corner of Moema and Vilakazi Street at the Orlando West High School and the Hector Pieterse shooting memorial. Previously the boundary extended to the southern boundary of the school and passed Bhele Street.
 - At the northern end Moema Street becomes Pela Street at the junction with Kumalo Main Road, forming the northern side of the triangle. Previously the boundary extended across the intersection to end in front of the Hector Pieterse Memorial Museum.
 - The boundary then runs along Kumalo Main Road past Maseko Street, Makhetha Street, Lembede Street, Ngakane Street, Baqwa Street, Bacela Street to the junction with Vilakazi Street. This section was not included in the initial proposal.
 - From this point, the boundaries have remained the same with Kumalo Main Road past Mampuri, Armitage and Mtipa Streets to the point where the old alignment of Kumalo Main Road is inscribed ending at the old bridge across the Klipspruit River Hastings Ndlovu was shot.
 - Again, the inclusion of sections of Vilakazi Street from the intersection with Moema Street remains the same. Starting at this point, the boundary heads east past Orlando

West High and Phefeni Secondary Schools, and crosses Maketha Street, Lembede Street, Ngakane Street past the houses of Nelson Mandela, Baqwa Street past the house of Desmond Tutu, thereafter crossing Bacela Street and ending on the far side of Kumalo Main Road.

- 2.3. It is noted, however, that there has been some revision to the proposed boundary of the site. These boundaries have been reduced or extended to focus on the sites of significant events that took place and facilitate the flow of pedestrian tourists in a loop trail of the route.



Fig 1: Google Earth Image depicting the initially proposed site

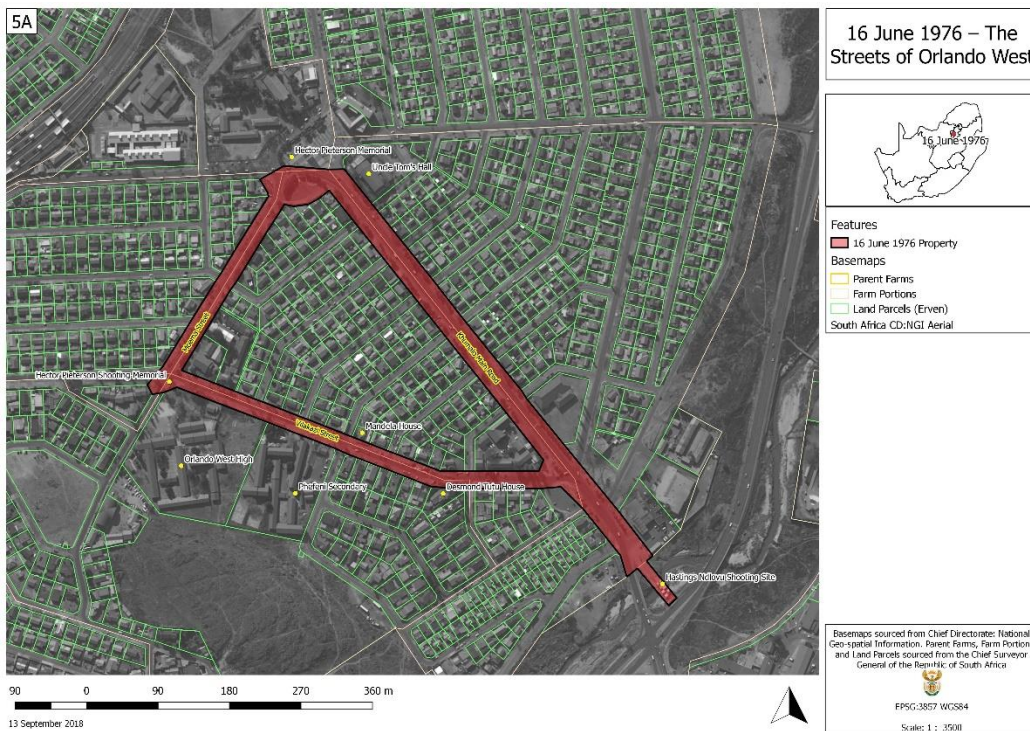


Figure 2: Base map indicating the revisions to the proposed site

2.4. The significance of the streets included are as follows:

- Khumalo Main Road (addition to the proposed route):

Some students had gathered at Uncle Tom’s Hall (at the corners of Khumalo and Moema Streets) in the morning of the 16 June 1976 when police arrived on the scene. It was also reported that a group of about 2000 students marched along the Khumalo from Uncle Tom’s down towards the Old Bridge where they encountered police who threw tear gas and opened fire (there were no injuries at this time)¹. It was also along this street that West Rand Administration Board (WRAB) Official, J.B. Esterhuyzen was unfortunately attacked and killed by the group of Students².

Khumalo Main Road (also called Khumalo Street) was a scene of general disturbance on the first day of the protests. Apart from Mr Esterhuyzen, a combi driven by a Chinese man with two black occupants was attacked along Khumalo and crashed near Uncle Toms hurting the driver and knocking over a young school girl. Both were rushed to hospitals³.

- Moema Street:

¹ This is coming from a document obtained on the web ENTITLED COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO THE RIGHTS AT SOWETO AND OTHER PLACES IN SOUTH AFRICA.

² Ndlovu, S. 2011. The Soweto Uprising, In *The Road to Democracy in South Africa. Vol 2 (1970-1980)*. Pretoria: Unisa Press. page 346. Attached with this Report

³ This is coming from a document obtained on the web ENTITLED COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO THE RIGHTS AT SOWETO AND OTHER PLACES IN SOUTH AFRICA.

Students marched from schools in the north and west along Moema Street. The actual shooting site of Hector Pieterse is thought to be at the corner of Moema Street and Phiri Street. The official shooting site and Memorial is at the corner of Vilakazi Street and Moema Street against the fence of Orlando West High School. One of the major venues of the students from they intended to march en masse to Orlando Stadium was Orlando West High School situated next to Phefeni Junior School whose students also mobilised.

- Vilakazi Street:

The students marched down Vilakazi Street but there was a lot of commotion as police intervened and drove the students back to Orlando West High School. Incidentally the houses of Mr Mandela and Bishop Tutu were also situated along Vilakazi Street.

3. SHORT HISTORY OF THE SITE – History of June 16 / History of HPMM

- 3.1. On the morning of 16th June 1976, thousands of students from secondary schools in Soweto gathered to march in protest against the compulsory introduction of Afrikaans as a language of tuition. The students had organised themselves and were led by the South African Student's Movement and the Soweto Students Representative Council and were supported by the Black Consciousness Movement.
- 3.2. The students gathered at their respective schools and marched towards Uncle Tom's Municipal Hall in Orlando West joining streams from other schools on their way. There were about 11 streams of students making their way towards Orlando West. The students were to meet at Uncle Tom's and move to the Orlando Stadium where they were to hold a rally.
- 3.3. However, the students were met along the way by heavy police force who used tear gas and live ammunition to try disperse the students. There are reports that the tear gas canisters did not go off, nor were there any requests to disperse or warning shots fired. These are contrary to the official police records. Chaos ensued when the police opened fire with some students such as Hastings Ndlovu and Hector Pieterse being killed.
- 3.4. Enraged by the use of deadly force the students pushed back at the police chanting freedom slogans. Determined to take a stand and strike a blow at White domination, the students burnt buildings and cars and looted beer halls shouting slogans such as "Less Liquor Better Education". The rioting continued for 3 days in Soweto and spread across the country in what became one of the largest and most widespread riots in South Africa's history. The revolt continued well into the following year leaving hundreds dead and millions worth of infrastructural damage.
- 3.5. The Hector Pieterse Memorial (erected by the ANC Youth League and unveiled by former President Nelson Mandela in 1992) was recommended and approved for declaration as a National Monument by the Council of the National Monuments Council in February 1995. When developments of the Hector Pieterse square and museum attempts were made to extend the area for declaration to include the square and museum. However, this did not materialise. SAHRA erected and unveiled a memorial boulder on 16 June 2002 near the memorial.

- 3.6 The June 16 Trail was developed by the City of Johannesburg following the thesis by Ali Hlangwani and marks the 11 streams of students and the routes taken to the central points in Orlando West. The Trail links the various schools that participated as well as other sites of importance to the Youth Uprisings. These include Morris Isaacson High School, the June 16 Memorial Acre and the Hector Pieterse Memorial and Museum, places where students confronted police and where students such as Hastings Ndlovu and Hector Pieterse were shot. The route that the students marched is marked with red walkways. The trail was developed by the City of Johannesburg's Arts Culture and Heritage Directorate for the 30th Anniversary of the Uprisings in 2006.

4. MOTIVATION FOR NATIONAL DECLARATION

- 4.1. The route is of high historical significance as the most representative association to the start of the 1976 Youth Uprisings. It was the attacks on the students that took place here that led to the yearlong protests and rioting across the country.
- 4.2. The 16th June 1976 marked the start of the most serious revolt against the Apartheid Government since the Defiance Campaigns and Anti-Pass protests of 1960. The Youth Uprisings sparked by this was a turning point in the history of South Africa, for both the Apartheid government and the Liberation Struggle signalling the unprecedented power of the Youth in the struggle. The liberation movements outside the country recruited those that fled the political prosecution at home. The images of the riots (including Sam Nzima's iconic photo of Hector Pieterse being carried by Mbuyisa Makhubo alongside his sister, Antoinette Sithole) that were seen across the world strengthened international boycotts, the UN Security Council passed Resolution 392 condemning the incident and the Apartheid policies, the Rand value dropped, and the government was sent into crisis. The incident changed the socio-political landscape of South Africa and the government was unable to restore the relative peace and social stability of the early 1970s while black resistance grew

5. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SITE

- 5.1. *The significance of the 16 June Trail and the sites lies in their historical associations to the pivotal events of the Soweto Youth Uprisings. Inspired by the black consciousness movement, incensed by the compulsory use of Afrikaans as a medium of tuition and frustrated by the apathy of their parents, thousands of students took the streets to protest against the Bantu Education System and to voice their political frustrations at the government's attempt. The Soweto Uprisings became a pivotal moment in the history of the Struggle against Apartheid which led to months of rioting and protests across the country. The anger and horror of the police shootings spread rapidly across the country and within a month hundreds of communities were involved in protests against the government, including schools in Langa, Nyanga and Gugulethu. The unrest lasted for over a year and left hundreds dead. The increased impatience of the students resulted in the continued instability of the country until the unbanning of all Liberation Movements in February 1990. Many students were forced into exile where they joined the ranks of umKhonto we Sizwe (MK) and the Azanian People's Liberation Army (APLA). The increased bombings after the Youth Uprisings were carried out by members of the MK June 16 Detachment.*

6. INDICATION OF OWNER'S ATTITUDE

- 6.1. The City of Johannesburg through the Johannesburg Roads Agency are the custodians of the site. At the time of finalising the declaration of the Hector Pieterse Memorial and Museum, the city was in support of the declaration of the site and of the trail.
- 6.2. Through the interaction the NHC have had with the JRA in terms of the World Heritage Process, there have not been any objections raised to the proposed declaration.

7. INDICATION OF CURRENT MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

- 7.1. The roads are currently managed and maintained by the City of Johannesburg through the Johannesburg Roads Agency.
- 7.2. As part of the World Heritage Nomination process a specific Site Management Plan for the site is being developed. (Appendix 1)

8. DESCRIPTION OF SITE BOUNDARIES


- 8.1. The road reserves (up to the outward boundary of the sidewalk) along the roads as described above point 2.2 will be the boundary of the site.
- 8.2. There are no erf numbers as the site will be the road reserve. Base Map has been sourced from National Geo-Spatial Information Services (Appendix 2)

Site Name	Province	Nearest Town	Municipality	Base Map	Figure
June 16 Soweto Route	Gauteng	Soweto	City of Johannesburg		ABCDEF GHIJKL MNOPQ RSTUV

9 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1. It is recommended that the June 16 Soweto Route is approved as a Grade 1 sites.

Proposed Nomination of Site for Grade 1 Site Status: June 16 Soweto Route, Soweto, Gauteng

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Date: 123 November 2018		Date:	

Recommendation supported by GDRC		Recommendation not supported by GDRC	
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Date:			

Recommendation supported by EXCo		Recommendation not supported by EXCo	
Thomas Kgokolo Chairperson: EXCo		Signature	
Date:			

Recommendation supported by HRM Committee		Recommendation not supported by HRM Committee	
Prof. H.C. Bredekamp Chairperson: HRM Committee		Signature	
Date:			

Recommendation supported by Council		Recommendation not supported by Council	
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