



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

COMMITTEE MEETING DATES: GDRC:
--

GRADING SUBMISSION

SUBMITTED BY: Burial Grounds and Graves

DATE: 24 February 2022

FILE REF: 9/2/

SAHRIS SITE ID:

SAHRIS SITE TYPE: Burial Ground/Grave; Structures

Significance Category (THEMES): Historic: Density richness or diversity

Historic: Events, developments or cultural phases

ENQUIRIES: Ngqabutho Madida

ITEM: Proposed Nomination of Site for Grade 1 Site Status and Provisional Protection:
Khumalo Commercial Farm; Tembisa, Ekurhuleni, Gauten

A1. BACKGROUND

A1.1. Heritage resources on the Khumalo Farm situated on Portion 73 of the farm Olifantsfontein 410 JR, in Tembisa, Ekurhuleni, Gauteng as nominated consists of 3 graves and the remains of some farm structures.

A1.2. A nomination was submitted to SAHRA on 4 October 2021 together with a complaint of grave desecrations on 4th October 2021. The matter had also been referred to the CRL Commission who in turn wrote to BGG Unit.

A.1.3. SAHRA received an application to have the site provisionally protected in terms of Section 29 on 27th January 2022.

A1.4. The applications made to SAHRA were done after the Khumalo family, who claim to have owned the property before the housing developments and informal settlements were done, had approached to the City of Ekurhuleni's Department of Human Settlement and the Public Protector, on issues of compensation.

A2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A2.1. The Khumalo family nominated an unknown grave and a walled area where graves of farm owners were located.

1. PURPOSE OF THE SUBMISSION

The purpose of this submission is to discuss whether the Khumalo Commercial Farm is of Grade 1 significance.

LOCATION & DESCRIPTION

2.1 GPS Coordinates

25°58'18.7"S 28°12'26.4"E
-25.971856, 28.207342 · 46 min

2.2 The nominated graves and structures are located at Duduza informal settlement near the township of Tembisa, Gauteng Province south of the Tembisa Mall.

2.3 One unknown grave located in behind an informal zinc structure and is not marked by anything. The ground surface is clean and no stones indicting the burial. A tall eucalyptus tree was used as a landmark to point out the grave's position. The nominators claim that the grave was there when they were living on the farm and was marked by stones that have since been removed.



Fig.1 The yard where with Zinc structures where the unknown grave is said to be located.



Fig.2 Remains of the wall where members of the Smith family were buried.

2.4The unknown grave is in a yard where there are informal zinc structures being used for accommodation. A further complication is that the nominated grave is partly under one of the zinc structures that is occupied by a resident.

2.5The second burial area is also fully under occupation with dwelling structures having been built in an enclosure on top of graves. The two graves here were apparently part of the Smith family cemetery (one of the previous farm owners). The area is marked by the remains of a low stone wall. The nominators claim that there were tombstones marking the graves.

2.6The remaining farm structures include the walls and floors of the main farmhouse, two rondavels, hostel for farm workers, other stone walls and the cattle grid indicating the existence of the farm gate. All the structures have informal dwellings built around them.



Fig.3 Remains of the Rondavels that were used at the farm during its use.



Fig.4 Remains of another stone wall structure.



Fig.5 More remains of the old farm. As seen, most of the wall remains are in areas that have been occupied by people.



Fig.6 Another portion of the area with wall remains that have been occupied



Fig.7 Remains of another wall that dating back to the period the farm was in use.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 Khumalo Residential Area

- 3.1.1 The site nominated by the Khumalo family was previously a farm that has changed ownership several times. The farm was owned by a Mr Cabelt before its ownership passed on to a Mr Sabella. Thereafter, it acquired by Mr Lombard. It was Mr Lombard who then 'ceded' ownership to the Khumalo family.¹ The Khumalo family owned and raised livestock on the farm.²
- 3.1.2 According to the nominators the farm was previously referred to as Plot 20, and was left to Mr Thomas Khumalo (the nominator's late father) in 1987 by the then owner of the farm, Mr Lombard. Around 1995 the farm NuWay Housing Development purchased the farm in order to establish the Tswelepole residential development. The Khumalo family were requested to vacate the area as it had been rezoned for the development in 2001. A complaint was raised lodge with the police and a case opened.
- 3.1.3 In 2006/07 the informal settlements began resulting in conflict between the family and those moving in. The family eventually left the farm and returned only in 2017 to find the Tswelepole Extension 6 developed (where 9 graves of previous farmworkers and the grave Mr Khumalo's nephew).
- 3.1.4 According to the title deeds, the property was then transferred to the City of Ekurheleni in 2019.

¹ Document entitled "Agreement of Land" submitted by the Khumalo family.

² No other historical Information has been submitted about the history of the farm. There is no information indicating how this particular farm or its portions had a national impact or is associated with events that impacted the entire country.



Fig. 1-4 Historical pictures of the nominated farm portions during the time when they were still in operation.



Fig. 1 The space as pointed out by the Khumalo family where the is located



Fig.2 The area where the first unknown grave is located.



Fig.3 The walled enclosure where graves of farm owners were buried has been occupied.



Fig.4 The informal structure built inside the enclosure where graves are located.

SWOT SUMMARY

4.1 The area where the nominated graves area located developed an informal settlement after a full land invasion around 2006/2007. This took place while construction development on the land happening on what is now Tswelopele Extension 6. A conflict between the Khumalo family and the land invaders forced the family to leave the farm. A person named Rasta was assigned by the family to look after the place. However, there was little he could do to stop the land invasion. When they returned in 2017 part of the farm was fully occupied and the Tselopele Ext. 6 development completed. The development included a portion that contained 9 graves including the grave of Mr Khumalo's brother. The family is now unable to identify the graves and alleging that an illegal exhumation may have taken place

4.2 SWOT Analysis

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES	OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
	The land has been developed into a full township.	Possible education of the settled community on what they must do should any uncover human remains.	Possible lawsuits owing to the alleged illegal removal of graves.
	Graves in the nominated area are not visible. Their existence must still be verified by means of a GPR.	Rescuing of human remains for reburial in a local cemetery.	Refusal by occupants to demolished structures to facilitate verification of existence of graves.
	No clear demarcations		All heritage resources whether buildings or graves will continue to be affected by the continued settlement.
	Disputed land ownership. Land claim lodged by the Khumalo family.		Lack of proof of land ownership will affect the nomination.

MOTIVATION FOR NATIONAL DECLARATION

5.1 The Khumalo Farm is nominated in terms of Criteria I and III.

5.2 Criteria I

Importance in exhibiting density, richness or diversity of cultural features illustrating the human occupation and evolution of the nation, Province, region or locality.

5.3 Criteria III

Importance for association with events, developments or cultural phases that have had a significant role in the human occupation and evolution of the nation, Province, region or community.

5.4 Heritage Resources Nominated

Graves

Unknown grave

Graves of first farm occupants

Remains of dwelling structures

6.1 Historic Value

The Khumalo graves are of historic value to the family. However, its historic value to the South African nation at large in so far as the impact of the settlement and its occupants remains localised. Farms and small holdings certainly reflect a broader experience of land dispossession, there are no nuances that gravitate towards making this particular site of the Khumalo family a site of national significance.

6.2 Social and Cultural Value

For many African families graves are important connection point between those who once lived and those who are still alive. As such graves are of important Social and Cultural Value.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

6.3 Statement of Significance

- 6.3.1** Graves are important tangible markers connecting people to the intangible. Thus, graves carry strong attachment and significance to families and communities.

INDICATION OF OWNER'S ATTITUDE

- 7.1** The Khumalo family nominated the said graves would like to have them declared. However, ownership of the farm portion is contested, and the Khumalo family are unable to provide proof of ownership of the farm.
- 7.2** The property is currently owned by the City of Ekurheleni. While the City has been informed of the nomination and application, there has been no indication of their support or objection.

INDICATION OF CURRENT MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

- 8.1** There is currently no management authority of the sites nominated as they area occupied by people who settled in the area since the land invasion around 2006/2007.
- 8.2** Land ownership of the property is currently unresolved. Title Deeds indicate that the Khumalo family does not own the land and there is no proof that has been produced thus far to indicate the adhoc arrangement between the Khumalo family and the previous landowner.
- 8.3** The nominated sites are not cared for as they are in pieces of land that have been occupied.

Name of Stakeholder	Email:	Phone & Cell Number	Capacity/Interest
Mr Vusumuzi Khumalo	khumalo.vusumuzi2021@gmail.com	083 267 9336	Family

DESCRIPTION OF SITE BOUNDARIES

9.1 The nominated graves are on Portion 73 of Farm Olifantsfontein 410 JR


RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 It is recommended that the submission for the Khumalo Farm as a Grade 1 site is not approved as the site as nominated does not meet the criteria for national significance.

10.2. It is also recommended that the existence of the graves are verified as has previously been recommended by BGG before provisional protection is considered.

Bibliography

Nomination Form submitted by the Khumalo family.

Prepared By:		Supported By:	
Name & Title N. Madida	Signature 	Name & Title	Signature
Date: 21 March 2022		Date:	

Recommendation Approved by GDRC	Recommendation not Approved by GDRC
NAME Chairperson: GDRC	Signature
Date:	