

9/2/228/35 1

SOUTH AFRICAN HERITAGE RESOURCES AGENCY

GAUTENG PROVINCE

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE INTERIM PROVINCIAL HERITAGE APPLICATION COMMITTEE - GAUTENG, HELD ON WEDNESDAY 27 JUNE 2001 AT 9:00 AT NORTHWARDS, 21 ROCKRIDGE ROAD, PARKTOWN. (4/4/6/3/2/2)

1.	PRESENT	
	Dr J Bruwer (SAHRA) Ms E Mazwane (SAHRA) Mr P Mashabane (Chair) Mr M Maluleke (Curator) Dr G Mlokoti Mr F Motsepe (Architect)	
2.	APOLOGIES	
	Ms L Mvusi (Vice Chair) Ms S Pyke (PWD Architects) Ms J Kitto (SAHRA)	
3.	WELCOME AND ARRANGEMENTS	
	Everyone present was welcomed.	
4.	APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES	
	Agreed to <u>hold these over to the next meeting.</u>	See agenda.
5.	MATTERS ARISING	
5.1	<u>Constitutional Hill, Awaiting Trial Building and other isolated buildings (9/2/228/35)</u>	
	Dr Bruwer reported back on the site visit that had been arranged with respect to the application for a demolition permit. After discussion it was decided to Approve the issue of a permit for demolition of the Awaiting Trial Block and other associated buildings, subject to certain conditions??	Permit issued.

Chairperson

SAHRA

South African Heritage Resources Agency

21 Rockridge Road, Parktown, 2193
P.O. BOX 87552, Houghton, 2041
TEL (011) 482-8365/67 - FAX (011) 482- 8196

Ref: 9/2/228/035
Enquiries: JJ Bruwer
Date: 2001-06-28

OMM Design Workshop and Urban Solutions
P.O. Box 91681
AUCKLAND PARK
2017

Attention: Mr Paul Wygers

Dear Sir

RE: PERMIT APPLICATION - PROPOSED DEMOLITION OF BUILDINGS SITUATED ON THE REMAINING EXTENT OF PORTION 68 AND THE REMAINING EXTENT OF PORTION 69 OF THE FARM BRAAMFONTEIN 53 IR, JOHANNESBURG

We refer to your permit application on behalf of the Johannesburg Development Agency (Pty) Ltd dated 17 May 2001 with respect to the proposed demolition in the above connection of the so-called Awaiting Trial Block and various other buildings situated on the site known as *Constitution Hill* in Johannesburg. We also refer to your letter ("*Application For Permission for Demolition Of Buildings located on Constitutional Hill, Johannesburg*") dated 3 May 2001.

The above-mentioned application was considered at a meeting of the SA Heritage Resources Agency's (SAHRA) Interim Heritage Applications Committee for the Gauteng Province (IHAC:Gauteng) that was held on 27 June 2001 in Johannesburg. We confirm that Messrs Graeme Reid, Herbert Prins and Jonathan Manning met with the IHAC:Gauteng on the occasion of this meeting to inform the latter of the Constitution Hill Project and to speak in particular, to the proposed construction of the new Constitutional Court and the retention of the memory of the building known as the Awaiting Trial Block. The IHAC:Gauteng was most appreciative of the opportunity to particularly learn of the various plans to enhance the heritage dimensions of *Constitution Hill* and the fact that SAHRA would be represented in the newly established *Constitution Hill Project Board*. The Johannesburg Development Agency's preparedness to closely co-operate with SAHRA in the development and conservation of *Constitution Hill*, was also noted with appreciation.

We now have the pleasure to inform you that it was decided at the above-mentioned meeting of the IHAC:Gauteng to approve your permit application. Attached hereto find the requisite permit and a stamped copy of a drawing (Demolition Plan) that was submitted to us as part of the application.

We also have the pleasure to inform you that it was decided by the IHAC:Gauteng to approve the document titled "*Constitution Hill - Demolition Of The Awaiting Trial Building And The Buildings On The East Side Of Sections 4 And 5*" dated June 2001 by Mr Herbert Prins, that was tabled for consideration at the above-mentioned meeting. This approval was based on the understanding that all plans with respect to those aspects of the retention of memory listed in paragraphs 2.1(ii), 2.1(iii), 2(iv) and 2(vi) of the Prins document, would be submitted to the IHAC:Gauteng for approval. I was instructed by the IHAC:Gauteng to apprise you of the IHAC:Gauteng's high regard for the project and its preparedness to attend where necessary, to any submissions in the above connection on the basis of extraordinary meetings.

It is hoped that you will find the above in order.

Yours faithfully

J. J. BRUWER

**HEAD: PROVINCIAL OFFICE
GAUTENG**

cc. Johannesburg Development Agency (Att: Mr Graeme Reid) 403-4388
Mr Herbert Prins 646-9643

SAHRA

South African Heritage Resources Agency

21 Rockridge Road, Parktown, 2193
P.O. BOX 87552, Houghton, 2041
TEL (011) 482-8365/6/7 - FAX (011) 482- 8196

Ref: 9/2/228/035
Enquiries: Dr JJ Bruwer
Date: 28 June 2001

PERMIT

Issued in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act 25 of 1999)

Approval is hereby given

to: *Johannesburg Development Agency (Pty) Ltd*
c/o OMM Design Workshop and Urban Solutions
P.O.Box 91681
AUCKLAND PARK 2006

for: the proposed demolition of the buildings shown on the attached stamped drawing, i.e. Drawing No. 24407-B2: Demolition Plan - 29 March 2001 by OMM Design Workshop and Urban Solutions

on: the Remaining Extent of Portion 69 and the Remaining Extent of Portion 68 of the Farm Braamfontein 53 I.R.

in accordance with:

Application dated 17 May 2001 and a decision taken at a meeting of the Interim Heritage Applications Committee for the Gauteng Province on 28 June 2001.

NOTE:

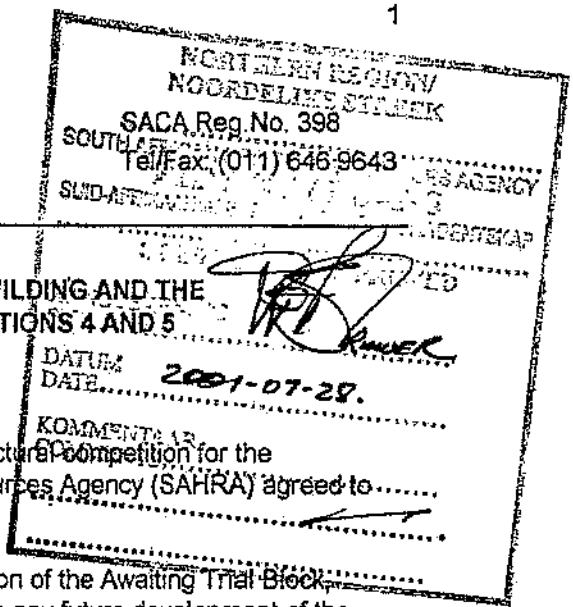
- The issuing of this permit does not exonerate the applicant from obtaining local authority approval or any other required approval for the proposed work.
- This permit is not transferable.
- This permit is valid for one year from the date of the permit.
- SAHRA must be notified of the completion of the work.

**HEAD: PROVINCIAL OFFICE
GAUTENG**

H M J PRINS Architect

501 Mentone Court, Riviera Road, Killarney 2193.

CONSTITUTION HILL DEMOLITION OF THE AWAITING TRIAL BUILDING AND THE BUILDINGS ON THE EAST SIDE OF SECTIONS 4 AND 5



1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 At the time when discussions took place on an architectural competition for the Constitutional Court, the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) agreed to the demolition of the buildings shown on Drawing No.

1.2 There was, however a proviso attached to the demolition of the Awaiting Trial Block, namely that the memory of the building be preserved in any future development of the site. Consequently the conditions for the architectural competition for the design of the Constitutional Court required that the "memory" of the Awaiting Trial Building be preserved. This memorandum addresses the issue of memory.

2.0 THE AWAITING TRIAL BUILDING - THE RETENTION OF THE MEMORY

2.1 The award winning design for the Constitutional Court Building and steps taken following the award make the following provisions for the retention of memory:

- (i) SAHRA commissioned the architects for the court to make a detailed survey of all the buildings, including those which were to be retained. This survey has been completed. There is now in existence a comprehensive record of every building on the eastern part of Constitution Hill. This annotated graphic record will be placed in safe keeping and provides an excellent reminder of the qualities and state of condition of the precinct which comprised the Johannesburg Fort and gaol. The record of the Awaiting Trial Building is a significant part of the total survey
- (ii) The competition conditions called for the conservation of the Awaiting Trial Block Visitors' Kiosk. More than any other part of the Awaiting Trial Block, the callous way prisoners and their visitors were treated will be remembered in the retention of this element of the prison. The winning competition submission for the court, approved initially by the assessors for the competition, provides for the visitors' centre to be retained. However planning exigency requires that it be moved slightly to the west of its present position. Therefore a thorough record having been made of what exists, it will be demolished and rebuilt in its new position.
- (iii) Despite the fact that the architectural competition rules, approved by SAHRA, called for the total demolition of the Awaiting Trial Block, the plans now approved make provision for the retention of the four stair towers. These are intended to be important devices defining the new civic space which, together with the Constitutional Court Chamber, occupies the area on which the Awaiting Trial Block presently stands. Constitution Square, as the civic space is likely to be called, is expected to evoke memories of the Awaiting Trial Block by virtue of the four towers and the fact that its position approximates to the "footprint" of the building to be demolished.
- (iv) The basements of the Awaiting Trial Block, also potent reminders of the nature of the building and what took place within its walls, will, if at all possible, be retained and incorporated into the design of the court building.

- (v) Face bricks from the walls of the Awaiting Trial Block will, when demolition takes place, be carefully removed and reused in the fabric of the new building, in retaining structures and for paving. The bricks will, in conjunction with plaques and other informative material, provide a powerful reminder of the building to be demolished.
- (vi) In order to further emphasise the memory, it is intended to provide markers in the form of paving devices which will demarkate the extent and outline of the demolished Awaiting Trial Block. These markers will be part of the design of the square and may in addition assume three dimensional proportions. Their exact nature will be the subject of further study and design.
- (vii) In addition to the face bricks already mentioned, other materials such as doors, windows, gratings and ironmongery will be carefully stored for reuse in the new building. The source of such materials will be suitably explained.

3.0 CONCLUSION

- 3.1 A number of the devices to be used to retain the memory of the Awaiting Trial Block have been described. This constitutes a serious exercise in commemorating a building which is culturally significant but, for reasons that are well known, has to go to make way for something which is potentially even more important. This potential for cultural richness is, however, something which must be taken on trust because words cannot adequately describe the creative possibilities inherent in a number of apparently unconnected endeavours which, when brought together creatively, will make much more than the sum of all the parts.



H.M.J. PRINS
June 2001
Ref: 7E:constit4.doc



2001-06-28.