



**University of the Western Cape**



**African Program in Museum and Heritage Studies**

**Robben Island Museum**

**SITE CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**BY**

**Jabulile Chinamasa Student No:(3377895)**



**Selected Site : *The Church of the Good Shepard with connection to the (Leprosy Graveyard refer to Marry Mbewa Management Plan)***

### **1. Statement of significance**

The Good Shepherd Church, its architecture is of Historic value while the significance of the church is more of spiritual value.

#### **1.1 Secondary Significance**

It signifies the history of leprosy in (SouthAfrica Capetown) which was experienced in the seventeen century in Robben island.

### **2. Policy**

The conservation activities on the site will be dully guided by relevant legal instruments. The Conservation principles of the Burra charter 1999 will be fully used especially article 2.4 which stipulates that places of cultural significance should be safeguarded and not put at risk or left in vulnerable state and also article 3 which advises that conservation should be based on respect for the existing fabric,use, associations and meanings. It requires a cautious approach of changing as much as necessary but as little as possible.

### 3. General State of Conservation

The outside surrounding of the church looks fair though the stoep is falling apart. Walls of the church are fairly good meaning that they are able to last for the coming years. There are some minor maintenance problems here and there which can be resolved. The inside of the church is not so bad its floor is still looking good beside being dusty which shows that the church is sometimes being used.



FACADES, FIXTURES, FITTINGS & FEATURES	DESCRIPTION	MATERIAL	DECORATION	CONDITION
<b>EXTERIOR</b>				
<b>EAST ELEVATION</b>				
ROOF	Zinc or corrugated iron roofing attached to the wall of bluestone quarry	Zinc or corrugated iron and wood	Zinc or corrugated iron and wood	Looking fair and able to last long
GUTTERS	Not visible			
WALLS	Walls made from bluestone quarry	bluestone	bluestone	Good and very strong
DOORS	Wood and iron metal old arch doors	Wood and metal	Wood and iron metal	fair
PLINTH	Not Visible			
STOEP/ PORCH	Made from bluestone quarry but falling apart	Bluestone quarry	Bluestone quarry	Stoep is falling apart need to be attended to before it is destroyed
FOUNDATION	Bluestone quarry and concrete cement	bluestone and concrete cement	Bluestone and concrete cement	Look fairly good and strong
<b>WEST ELEVATION</b>				
ROOF	Zinc or corrugated iron roofing attached to the wall of bluestone quarry	Zinc or corrugated iron and wood	Zinc or corrugated iron and	Looking fairly good

			wood	
GUTTERS	Not visible			
WALLS	Walls made from bluestone quarry	Bluestone	Bluestone	Good
DOORS	Not Available			
PLINTH	Not Visible			
STOEP/ PORCH	Old and destroyed			
FOUNDATION	Bluestone quarry and concrete cement	bluestone and concrete cement	Bluestone and concrete cement	Look fairly good and strong
<b>SOUTH ELEVATION</b>				
ROOF	Zinc or corrugated iron roofing attached to the wall of bluestone quarry	Wood and zinc	Wood and zinc	Fair
GUTTERS	Not visible			
WALLS	Zinc or corrugated iron roofing attached to the wall of bluestone quarry	Bluestone	Bluestone	Good and strong
DOORS	Looking strong no handle	Wood and iron	Wood and iron	fair
PLINTH	Not visible			
STOEP/ PORCH	Visible and breaking apart	Bluestone quarry	Bluestone quarry	destroyed
FOUNDATION	Bluestone quarry and concrete cement	bluestone and concrete cement	Bluestone and concrete cement	Look fairly good and strong
<b>NORTH ELEVATION</b>				
ROOF	Zinc or corrugated iron roofing attached to the wall of bluestone quarry	Wood and zinc	Wood and zinc	fair
GUTTERS	Not visible			
WALLS	Walls made from bluestone quarry	Bluestone	bluestone	strong
DOORS	Not available			
PLINTH	Not available			
STOEP/ PORCH	Bluestone and cement	Bluestone and cement	Bluestone and concrete cement	Badly destroyed
FOUNDATION	Bluestone quarry and concrete cement	bluestone and concrete cement	Bluestone and concrete cement	Look fairly good and strong
EXTERIOR	Building walls of Bluestone quarry and still looking beautiful from the time the church was built	bluestone quarry and cement	Bluestone quarry and cement	Looking beautiful



#### 4. Methodology

The method used was observation were by the researcher physical observed the state of the church building outside and inside taking notes. History of the church was taken from the archival information displayed inside the church. To add on Mavuvu a woman staff who works at the Robben Island also helped with the general history patterning the church. Photographs of inside and outside of the church were also taken as to compare them with previous images of the church.



#### 4.1 Floor Plan

West side of the church show leading steps to the main entrance. On the leftside of the church it is fenced protecting some flower shrubs while the south, east and north side of the church is surrounded by green bush shrubs



Fig 1

#### 4.2 Associated Landscape

is the bush shrubs surrounding the church. On the eastside of the church which is the entrance there is a slab built with bluestone quarry with steps leading to the main entrance. Still on the eastside there is the main road where vehicles and tour buses pass. On the north side there a big tree hanging on top of the roof of the church. Lastly when standing on the main entrance there is a beautiful view of the sea.





### 4.3 Site Plan

Fig 2. It is a google map picture showing the west side of the church.

**Fig3.** Current picture of the church showing the westside





## 5.1 Architectural Descriptions

The beautiful architecture of the church and inside is said to be have done by Sir Hebert Baker who was a good architecture of that time. Examples of the buildings he did are St George's Anglican Cathedral, Cape Town, Union Buildings, Pretoria, Wynberg Boys' High School and many more beautiful buildings around SouthAfrica.

## 5.2 Authenticity

The doors of the church are still looking as the same doors, one would find in the 17century which means they have not been changed. The wood roofing inside the church still looking beautiful not showing any signs of the cracks or being changed. One can also relate that the windows, of the church are of the 17 century they still maintain the arch shape and the framing is of wood not metal. The stoep is falling apart which shows its authenticity because they are no signs of it being replaced.

## 5.3 Aesthetic

The building is beautiful and very unique especially with the use of bluestone quarry. Some tourists would love to take photographs standing in front of the church or even go inside and take photographs.

The inside is even more appealing looking at the roofing, the pool pity which has a contrasting color of red carpet and white walls.

## 5.4 Social

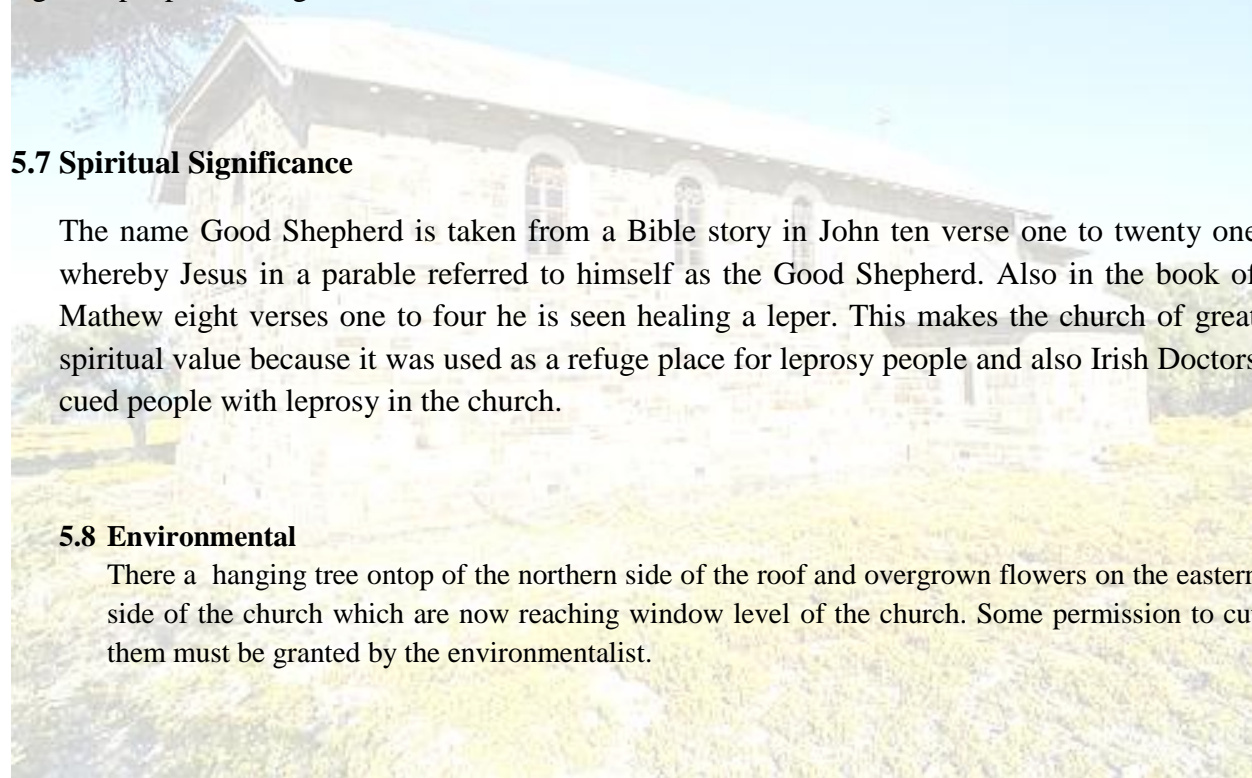
The church can still be used for church service and church meeting or camps. Also it can be used for education purposes especially research, or students who want to know about leprosy in Capetown.

## 5.5 Intangible

The building is visible one can go around it and go inside read the stories relating to the Church and also see its architecture.

## 5.6 Historic Value

The Church was built in 1895 and it is 118 years old. It was built from the old bluestone quarry which is within Robben Island Museum. The Church belongs to the Anglican Church and it is one of the only building that is private owned. When leprosy was experienced in Capetown , the church was used as a hospital for leprosy since one infected with leprosy was isolated from the society in fear of spreading the disease to others. The history of the church is not complete without the leprosy graveyard. When one dies from leprosy they were buried at the Leprosy graveyard. The graveyard is situated next to the prison and it is believed that a part of the prison is built on top of the graveyards. The grave yard is divided into two sections. There is the graveyard for the rich people which is fenced and the graveyard for the poor which is not fenced. The ones for the rich people are still being visited while the one for the poor don't show any signs of people visiting them.



## 5.7 Spiritual Significance

The name Good Shepherd is taken from a Bible story in John ten verse one to twenty one whereby Jesus in a parable referred to himself as the Good Shepherd. Also in the book of Mathew eight verses one to four he is seen healing a leper. This makes the church of great spiritual value because it was used as a refuge place for leprosy people and also Irish Doctors cured people with leprosy in the church.

## 5.8 Environmental

There a hanging tree ontop of the northern side of the roof and overgrown flowers on the eastern side of the church which are now reaching window level of the church. Some permission to cut them must be granted by the environmentalist.

## **6. Visitors Management Plan**

The tour bus has to stop in front of the church and allow visitors to go out of the bus and take photographs of the church since the bus tour only allows them to do that through the window. Going outside the bus will give the visitors a better engagement with the church for instance some would love to be photographed standing in front of the church while some would want to meditate or worship. At the same time others would love to go around the church also taking photographs. If that is approved the management would consider having a walking path or slab to use when walking around the church since the area is thorny and rocky as to minimise any injuries.

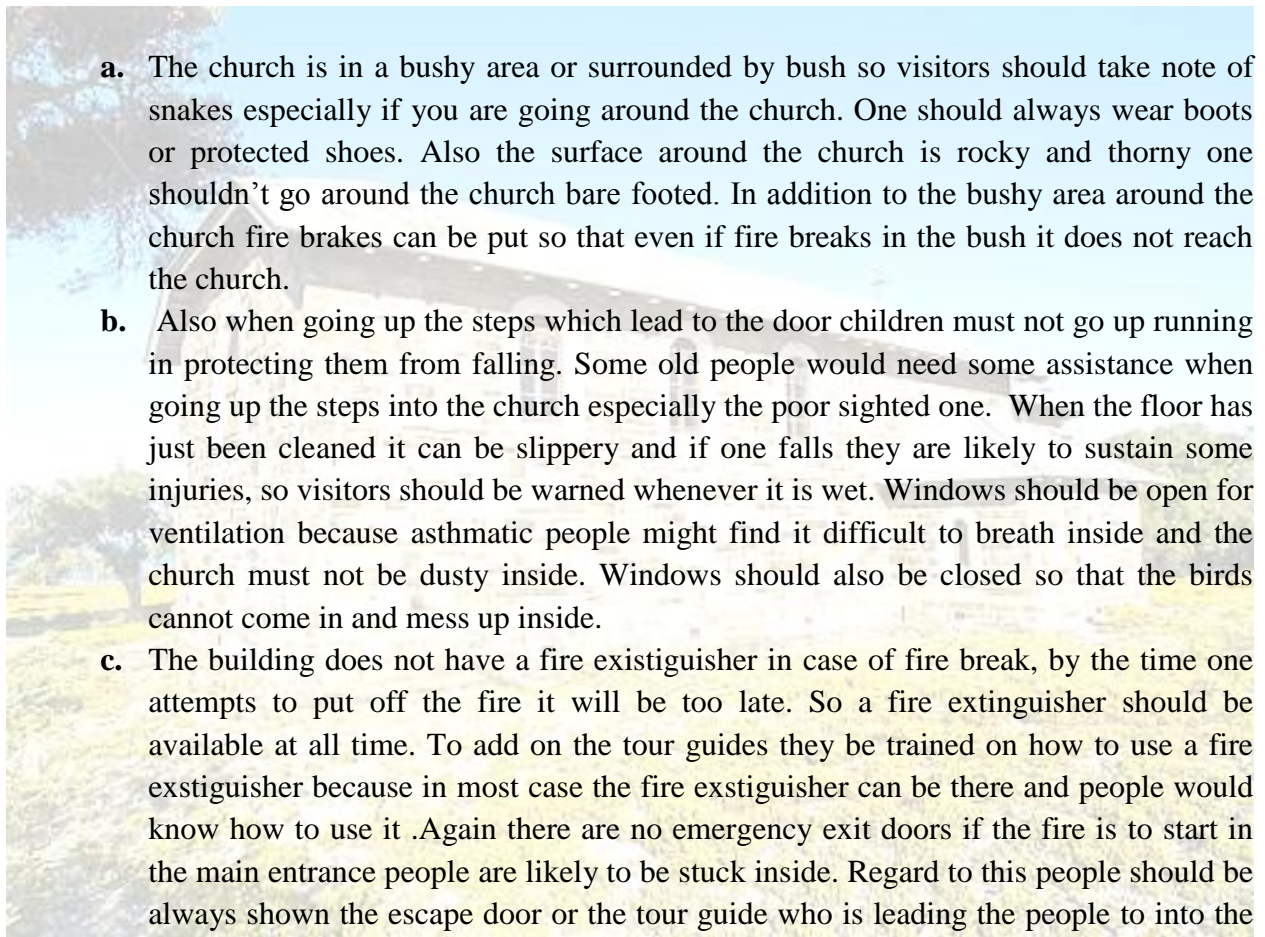
### **6.1 Relationship of the Church and the Leprosy Graveyard**

A link of the church and the Leprosy graveyard should be interpreted to the visitors before they go inside the church. The other option would be to first make a stop at the leprosy grave yard before getting to the church as to show the visitors where leprosy people were buried at this point the history of leprosy and of the Good Shepherd Church should be introduced. This would be best if the graveyards of the poor are all visible and well mentained.

The visitors should be led by a tour guide inside the church and at this point the church door should be open as to allow them in. The chairs inside the church should be removed or packed in a storeroom as to allow free movement since they can be many of the visitors inside the church. Also the back door can be opened as to be used as the exit to control congestion inside the church. The panels inside the church should be spread out because if not visitors will be squashed on one side of the church and they wont be able to read at the same time. For better engagement and experience visitors should be allowed to take photographs inside the church at the same time walking on the pool pity should be restricted as it will be disrespecting it.

If the visitors have any questions about the church and the leprosy the tour guide should be able to retell the history of the church and also linking it to the houses of the leprosy people which were destroyed. Further about visitor's book should be there all the time as to allow anyone who want to leave a comment and also evaluate visitor's interests about the church because their views can contribute to the management of the church.

## 7. Preparation of risk Management Plan

- 
- a.** The church is in a bushy area or surrounded by bush so visitors should take note of snakes especially if you are going around the church. One should always wear boots or protected shoes. Also the surface around the church is rocky and thorny one shouldn't go around the church bare footed. In addition to the bushy area around the church fire brakes can be put so that even if fire breaks in the bush it does not reach the church.
  - b.** Also when going up the steps which lead to the door children must not go up running in protecting them from falling. Some old people would need some assistance when going up the steps into the church especially the poor sighted one. When the floor has just been cleaned it can be slippery and if one falls they are likely to sustain some injuries, so visitors should be warned whenever it is wet. Windows should be open for ventilation because asthmatic people might find it difficult to breath inside and the church must not be dusty inside. Windows should also be closed so that the birds cannot come in and mess up inside.
  - c.** The building does not have a fire existguisher in case of fire break, by the time one attempts to put off the fire it will be too late. So a fire extinguisher should be available at all time. To add on the tour guides they be trained on how to use a fire extstiguisher because in most case the fire extstiguisher can be there and people would know how to use it .Again there are no emergency exit doors if the fire is to start in the main entrance people are likely to be stuck inside. Regard to this people should be always shown the escape door or the tour guide who is leading the people to into the church should always have keys to the back door.
  - d.** Weather conditions can also affect the inside of the church especial wood and carpet in the pool pity. Moisture can cause fungal in the wood and carpert so chemical for cleaning might be required especial sprays and carpet cleaner.
  - e.** Lastly everything should be done before the church is used so that when visitors come safety precautions would have been dealt with. And safety precautions can always be checked before the building is used.

## 8. Developmental impact

What can be drawn from this plan the following are likely to disturb the authenticity of the site for example ointments for the window frames, new paint for the window seals, new walking path for the visitors around the church, replacement of the benches designed for the church, replacement of the door handle, oil that will reduce friction, chemicals that can be used to clean the carpet, woover, cement that can be used to cover the cracks, arrows showing emergency door exit and the fire exstiguisher in case of emergency. Also the use of the church has tempered with its original use it is now used for meeting and as a tourist site while then it was used as a hospital and a worshipping place.

### a. Stoep (Varander)

The stoep around the church need to be replaced using the same type of stone of the bluestone quarry. Some of the stones are still around the church they need cement and a builder to put them in place. In that way the stoep will be intact and its authenticity will be maintained because it is still the same type of stone used to build the church.

### b. Window seals

When one is painting the window seals and its arch with white paint since it is washing away in almost all of them. The originality of is tempered with since new paint is introduced but at the same time leave them like that since maintenance measures have to be taken as to preserve them. Also with the wooden window frames need some protective ointment to protect them from harsh weather conditions that may cause it to rot with moulds. The ointment also temper with originality since it is likely to make the frames shiny compared to the original look. To add on if the roofing timber is broken a new timber of the must be brought to support the roofing and it will be impossible to replace it with the 17century timber.

### **c. Door Handles**

Same with the door handles when replacing them it is not possible to get the same iron handle used during the 17th century. For instance the backdoor handle is broken so an alternative should be met as to replace it. And at the same time if the church is to be used for visitors or tourists the door must not stay without the handle. Also with the main entrance new oil must be used as to reduce friction especially when opening and closing the door.

### **d. Walking Path**

Construction of a walking path around the church for visitor's safety also disturbs the authenticity though the same type of stone can be used to try and maintain it.

### **e. Bushy area around the church**

The bush and trees that are overgrown need to be cut just before rainy season and soon after the rainy season and not forgetting the flowers that are in front of the church which are almost reaching the church windows.

### **f. Cracks**

Also covering of cracks using cement which is different from the one they used then.

### **g. Floor and Furniture**

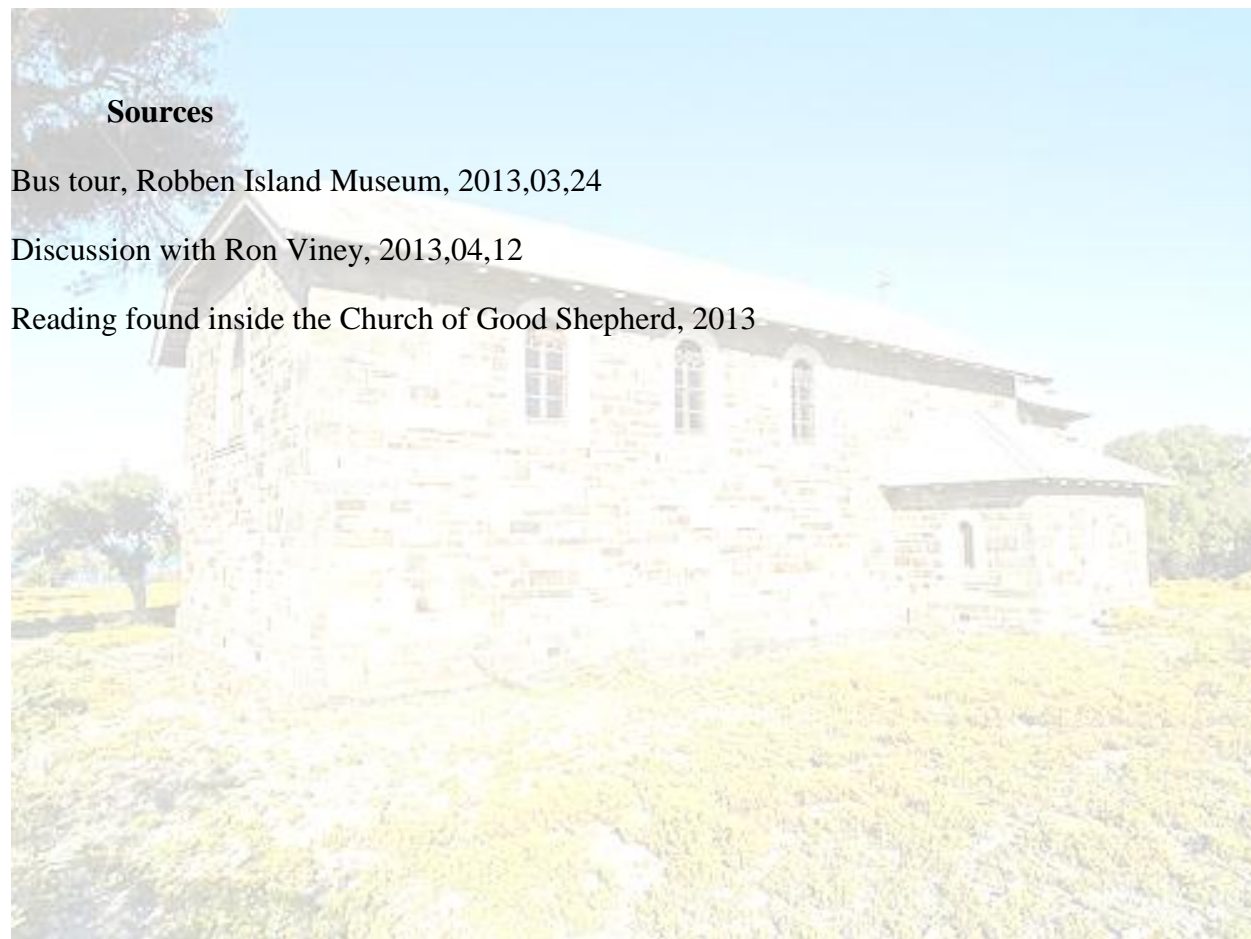
The chairs inside don't suit the environment of the church, the church will need church benches like the Garrison church though it must not be the original benches the church used in the days of leprosy.

### **h. Carpet**

Since carpet absorbs the dust particles from the wooden floor chemicals will be used to clean the carpet and the wooden floor. So this interferes with authenticity since one would not know what they were using to clean it in those days. Also the use of a vacuum replacing the sweeping broom they used.

## 9. Curation

Curation is something new in which it does not only affect the church authenticity but the whole Museum site of Robben Island ever since the site was turned into a museum monument.



### Sources

Bus tour, Robben Island Museum, 2013,03,24

Discussion with Ron Viney, 2013,04,12

Reading found inside the Church of Good Shepherd, 2013