



Glenwood Office Park
Cnr. Oberon & Sprite Streets
Faerie Glen 0043
PO Box 73000, Lynnwood Ridge 0040
Tel: (012) 348-1089
Website: www.idt.org.za

21 February 2013

South African Heritage Resources Agency
Western Cape Permit Committee
PO Box 4637
Cape Town
8000

Attention: Mr Gregory Ontong and Mr Dumisani Sibayi

**PERMIT AAPPLICATION FOR CONSTRUCTION RELATED INTERVENTIONS AT
THE OR TAMBO LEGACY PROJECT, NKANTOLO, EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE**

1. PURPOSE OF THE DOCUMENT

This letter of motivation is submitted in accordance with the National Heritage Resources Act of 1999 which implies that the proposed works at the OR Tambo Homestead requires that a permit be issued by The South Africa Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA).

The purpose of the document is therefore to request permission from SAHRA for construction related interventions to be undertaken at the OR Tambo Legacy Project, in particular, the OR Tambo Homestead Site.

2. BACKGROUND

The National Department of Arts and Culture has initiated several legacy projects to establish commemorative symbols of South Africa's history and to celebrate its heritage.

The purpose behind these legacy projects is to create monuments, museums, plaques, outdoor art, heritage trails and other symbolic representations that will serve as visible reminders of, and commemorate, the many aspects of South Africa's past.

The National Department of Arts and Culture (DAC) have appointed the Independent Development Trust (IDT) as an implementing agent for some of the projects within this programme. In establishing this particular programme, Government aims to:-

- Expound the legacy of our Great Leaders
- Expound the legacy of our Struggle Heroes
- Regenerate Significant National Heritage Sites
- Engage with a Broad Spectrum Interventions for Community Development
- Create a linkage between cultural heritage and the country's National Development Agenda

3. OBJECTIVE OF THE INTERVENTION AT THE OR TAMBO HOMESTEAD

The main objective of the intervention at the OR Tambo Homestead, is to create a living and tangible link with the great personality of the late Mr OR Tambo and the great events in South Africa that were influenced by his actions. This will be achieved through the implementation of intangible heritage methods into the way we approach the tangible heritage.

There are obvious areas of overlap between 'tangible' and 'intangible' forms of heritage – memory, stories, cultural knowledge and performances of all sorts that are invariably anchored in concrete spaces and have tangible objects at their heart, around which, significance and cultural practice are spun. Equally, the construction and maintenance of tangible heritage derives from knowledge, techniques and skills which have been developed over time and passed on through traditional cultural institutions, such as apprenticeship, with their own intangible heritage value, which in this case is evident through the existing four Rondawels and its maintenance and reconstruction year after year by the family members and community.

Heritage values are inseparable from the economic, cultural and social values in which they are embedded, and which they help to create; in this case the development of the OR Tambo Homestead will empower the entire Nkantolo community, both socially and economically.

4. STAGES OF THE SITE DEVELOPMENT

The OR Tambo Legacy Project comprises various sub-projects within which some elements involve building or construction related works while others are related to the upliftment of the community and incorporation of the area into the National Tourism landscape.

The sub-projects are as follows:-

- 4.1 O R Tambo Homestead
- 4.2 O R Tambo Memorial Site
- 4.3 Khananda Memorial Site
- 4.4 Socio-Economic Projects

5. STAGE UNDER CONSIDERATION: OR TAMBO HOMESTEAD

The sub-project under consideration is the OR Tambo Homestead Site comprising the following work elements:-

- Upgrading of the existing Aunty Gherty House
- Restoration of the 2 Bedroom O R Tambo Dwelling due to lack of structural integrity;
- Construction of new structures to replace the Aunt Ghetty (1 house and two Rondawels);
- Repairs to the four (4) existing Rondawels
- Construction of a new visitor welcoming centre;
- Restoration and upgrading of the family graves;
- Perimeter fencing of entire homestead property;
- Fencing of the Vegetable Garden;
- Construction of a new Cattle Kraal and Chicken Coop;
- Potable water supply, ablutions and sanitation, electricity supply; and
- Landscaping.

6. DESCRIPTION OF EXISTING STRUCTURES: OR TAMBO HOMESTEAD

6.1 OR Tambo Dwelling: This two roomed brick and mortar dwelling, was constructed in 1989 on part of the foundation of the L-Shaped building which demolished in 1985. The building derives its significance from the fact that it is the house in which the late OR Tambo lived upon return from exile.

The dwelling displays irreparable structural damage by virtue of to the poor quality of the original construction, substantiated by a report from a structural engineer. Additionally, the roof of the dwelling has also failed, structurally.

6.2 Aunt Gherty's House: This brick and mortar dwelling was constructed by the local Municipality in 2004 and comprises three bedrooms, an open plan lounge and kitchen and a store room. The house accommodates Ms Gertrude Tambo (Aunt Ghetty), the only living sibling of the late OR Tambo, and her two sons. This dwelling has also been recommended for refurbishment and upgrading by the structural engineer due to the fact that its structural integrity cannot be guaranteed.

6.3 Rondawels: There are four Rondawels, all of which contain structural and aesthetic defects which have rendered three of the Rondawels unusable. The largest of the four Rondawels is currently being utilised as a meeting place and contains a single bed which can accommodate one person.

6.4 Vegetable Garden, Cattle Kraal and Chicken Coop: The current vegetable garden is fairly neat in appearance and is bounded by a traditionally constructed wire strand fence which is in need of replacement due to its poor condition. The cattle kraal and chicken coop are "make-shift" in appearance, being bounded by a combination of irregular sized poles and randomly mounted metal roof sheets.

6.5 Fencing and landscaping: The entire homestead site is currently not fenced.

6.6 Storm water Drainage: Currently, only the Aunt Gherty house structure has some measure of rainwater harvesting in place. This is facilitated by the drainage of precipitation from the roof into a single plastic water tank.

6.7 Basic Services: There is electricity supply to the homestead. There are no municipal services for water and sanitation. Ablutions are ventilated improved pit latrines.

6.8 Graves : The graves are not fenced and have no headstones

7. DESCRIPTION OF INTENDED INTERVENTIONS / PLANNED SCOPE OF WORK: OR TAMBO HOMESTEAD

7.1 Preservation of the OR Tambo Two Bedroomed Dwelling

The construction works at the OR Tambo Dwelling may consist of the following:

- Restoration of the O R Tambo two bedroomed dwelling.
- Refurbishment of the roof, walls and flooring.
- Refurbishment of existing windows and doors.

7.2 Refurbishment of the Aunt Gherty's House & Construction of a new House

The construction works at the Aunt Gherty's House will consist of the following:

- Addition and rehabilitation of the existing house (The existing house was built by the municipality and has severe structural problems).
- Construction of a new three bedroom house structure as per the submitted design.

7.3 Refurbishment of four existing Rondawels and Construction of Two New Rondawels

The refurbishment of the four existing Rondawels will consist of the following:

- The four Rondawels will be refurbished.
- The refurbishment works will include:
 - Repair of the existing walls (mud structures);
 - Repair existing flooring;
 - Refurbishment of existing windows and doors;
 - Installation of toilets in each Rondawels as per submitted drawings.

7.4 Construction of the New Visitor Centre

- The construction of a new visitor centre to serve a waiting area for the public and tourists visiting the site.

7.5 Fencing of the property and making good of the existing Vegetable Garden, Cattle Kraal and Chicken Coop.

- The construction of a new 1,5 metre high fence around the vegetable garden. This will match the visitor centre to serve a waiting area for the public and tourists visiting the site.

7.6 Restoration of the graves

- Fencing and installation of headstones

7.7 Landscaping

- Landscaping of the historic precinct
- Post construction and stabilisation of the desire-lines.

7.8 Basic Services

- It is intended to site at least one borehole at the homestead and to utilise a solar driven pump to propel fresh water into an elevated water tank for onward distribution under head of pressure to all buildings on the site. Comprehensive rain water harvesting measures will be implemented through drainage of all roof structures into plastic water tanks. Overland flow measures will include engineered stormwater channels directed to minimize erosion of the natural landscape

8. DESCRIPTION OF RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE STRUCTURAL ELEMENTS AND THEIR FUNCTIONALITY

The design of improvements and new structures does not detract from the existing site layout and reinforces the culture associated with a local Eastern Cape “traditional” family, as it has been conceptualised and celebrated. It is relevant to the local community of people who are both situationally and emotionally related, and are living together in the sense that in addition to living together, they experience life together and form a certain singularity very different from a group of people randomly thrown together.

The proposed work is being undertaken based on an “existing conditions” survey and with a clear understanding of the significance and impacts of buildings, structures, furnishings and related objects. The design has taken into account the new use, which is compatible with the preservation of the historic character of the landscape.

9. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, interventions at the OR Tambo Homestead project site will ensure the establishment of visible cultural heritage structures that celebrate and commemorate the OR Tambo legacy and in this regards, the IDT hereby submits the permit application due to the size of its contents as follows:-

- OR Tambo Homestead submission 1- Perimeter fence, stock pen/kraal and vegetable garden: **Case ID: 1600**
- OR Tambo Homestead submission 2- Existing Rondavels. **Case ID: 1601**
- OR Tambo Homestead submission 3- landscaping and 2 bedroom dwelling. **Case ID: 1585**
- OR Tambo Homestead submission 4 - New structures- New aunt Gerty's house, accommodation rondavels and welcome centre. **Case ID: 1602**
- OR Tambo Homestead submission 5-Grave Site and Existing Aunt Gerty House. **Case ID: 1605**

We submit this document to cover all the requirements and documentation for a comprehensive permit application for O R Tambo Homestead.

You may direct any enquiries related this submission as follows:

Ngcane Madikizela – Renene	0716089773	ngcane@ighawe.co.za
Gretchen Pedrianes Gongora	0826991516	gretchen@avani-sa.com

Yours faithfully



pp. Lindelwa Mabuntana

On Behalf of the IDT