

## EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, STRAND STREET, CAPE TOWN

New Security Gate at Front Door and Replacement Basin/Cupboard in Vestry:

Statement of Significance

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### INTRODUCTION

In 2013 Moira Serritslev Pr Arch was requested by the Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, Strand Street, Cape Town, to prepare detail drawings for a new security gate at the front door of the Church and a replacement basin/cupboard in the Vestry.

These proposals have the approval of the Council and are therefore now put forward for approval by SAHRA.

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND (taken from CCT Heritage pamphlet no 17)

The building first served as a warehouse donated to the Lutheran Church by the wealthy burgher, Martin Melck, in 1774. After five years of petitioning it became the first Lutheran Church in 1780. In fact it was the first church of any denomination other than Dutch Reformed allowed to practise at the Cape.

When it opened its doors, slaves found themselves as welcome as any free person and many baptisms and marriages took place. Five years later Anton Anreith was commissioned to convert the basic structure into a proper church and produced exquisite carvings and pulpit that can be viewed inside.

To the right of the Lutheran Church is Martin Melck House, built as the parsonage for the church in 1781 with Louis Thibault as architect. It has the only surviving "dakkamer" in Cape Town. It now houses the South African Gold Museum. Following Martin Melck House on the right is the 18<sup>th</sup> century Company store/barracks and finally, completing this complex to the left of the church, is the 1787 Sexton's House, currently occupied by the Dutch Embassy and Consulate.

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

#### 1. New Security Gate at Front Door of Church.

The purpose of the new gate at the front door is to give security to the building and the guide during the hours when the Church is open for public viewing. When the guide is showing visitors around the Church there is an obvious risk in leaving the front door open to Strand Street. Whilst it is regrettable that a gate must be added it is of more importance that the building be kept open for the public as is currently the case.

Clues for the design of the new gate have been taken from the existing Strand Street fencing, probably installed early last century.

## 2. Replacement Basin/Cupboard in Vestry

The existing basin/cupboard installed many years ago is unsightly in the Vestry, which now houses an interesting display of historical material for viewing by the public. The basin/cupboard however is very necessary for the everyday functioning of the Church – for use by the Minister when preparing for service, for preparing communion glasses of wine and washing up afterwards and for the preparation of floral decorations for the Church. The design for the replacement basin/cupboard attempts to “blend in” with the background of the wall murals, re-created in the 1980’s by Jan Corewijn, from evidence found on the walls. The unsightly white glazed wall tiles will be removed.