



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4509 | E: info@sahra.org.za
South African Heritage Resources Agency - Head Office | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001

HERITAGE STATEMENT

ONDERDAL SCHOOL

The Onderdal School is situated on the Dal Josafat Farm, in Paarl, Western Cape.

HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE

The property includes the historical Onderdal School buildings, with the adjoining teacher's residence. The Onderdal School was founded in 1847. Construction on the school commenced in 1854 and it was inaugurated on 31 May 1855. The school officially opened on 05 June 1855 and was used until 1968, when it was finally closed. Founder members of the Genootskap vir Regte Afrikaners received instruction here.

The property was declared a national monument By Government Notice 2620 as published in the Government Gazette 7946 of 04 December 1981. The Dal Josafat Farm has been declared a national monument by Government Notice No. 291, as published in Government Gazette No. 9588 of 15 February 1985. Its current grading status is a Grade I. Dal Josafat Farm is also the only Grade I property of National heritage significance owned and managed by SAHRA.

SCOPE OF THE ONDERDAL SCHOOL:

- Erf No.: 341
- Approx. size of Onderdal School: 423SQm
- Approx. size of Adjoining Residence: 143SQm
- Approx. size of Outbuilding: 84SQm
- Perimeter: 9782SQm



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PROPOSED WORK

No recent maintenance has been done to the building and as a result the building has fallen into a poor state which poses safety risks to any person visiting the site.

The current state of the school is such that it is unsafe to occupy and the repair to the following is deemed as urgent:

- The wooden floors are sinking due to its maturity and moulded state. It can cave-in when stepped on.
- Borers-beetles are present and have eaten through the wooden floors and door frames.
- The door frames are in need of urgent treatment and it appears that one of the door frames must be replaced due to the rotting state.
- Between fifteen to twenty (15 to 20) window panes are broken and must be replaced. This has to be done preferably before harsh rain conditions set in as the rain will enter the building and cause further damage.
- The window putty around the windows has crumbled due to no recent maintenance and there is the possibility that window panes can fall out of the frames
- The corrugated roof sheets are old and some appear to be unfixed due to strong winds and further harsh weather conditions may result in the roof sheets being blown from the rooftops.

Further maintenance work must be done to the building in order for it to be preserved namely

- Painting of internal and external walls
- Installation of Electrical works and fixtures
- Installation of Plumbing works and fixtures
- Security bars and gates



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- Repair to fascia boards
- Repair to gutters and down-pipes
- Repair to the stoep

MOTIVATION

Currently the School is purposed as a Museum. However due to its unkempt nature, it has not been attracting visitors. The former teacher's residence is currently occupied and maintained by the site supervisor.

However, due to the vacancy of the school, the building has been vandalised and until recently there was an attempted break-in. The doors have been hacked into and damaged has been caused to door frames and window frames which may have heritage value.

Due to the lack of maintenance to the building, there have been no efforts to attract visitors. The building is located on a National Heritage Site. It is in the interest of SAHRA to undertake the necessary restoration work to ensure its preservation. As a custodian of the property it is deemed vital that the property is maintained and purposed in the best possible use that will attract visitors and may be an example of good custodianship. Cognizance must also be given to the fact that the restoration work is deemed urgent due to safety reasons.