

GRADING SUBMISSION

COMMITTEE MEETING DATES:
GDRC: 22 June 2020

SUBMITTED BY: Built Environment Unit

DATE: 02/26/2020

FILE REF / SAHRIS SITE ID:

ENQUIRIES: Ben Mwasinga/Heidi Weldon

ITEM: Proposed Nomination of Site for Grade 1 Site Status: The Rondebosch Flagpole, Cape Town, Western Cape, South Africa

A1. BACKGROUND

A1.1. In 1779 “Crown Land”, the farm called “Questenberg” was granted to the burgher Tobias Rogiers, and this land included the major portion of what is Kelvin Grove today.

A1.2. In 1881 the Scotsman John Brodie bought the property that was then known as “Moeders Bewys”, and named his new homestead “Kelvin Grove” after Kelvinside in his native Glasgow..

A1. An old cast iron/steel flagpole is still situated in the Kelvin Street/Forth Road corner of the property. When Mr Rubin Hurwitz took over the property a few years after World War II, he was told of the custom of the hoisting of the South African flag on the property to commemorate the soldiers who had been killed during the Anglo-Boer War, World War I and World War II..

A1.4 The area adjoining Kelvin Grove and bounded by White, Kelvin, Hardwick and Camp Ground Road was transferred to James Rimer on 23 December 1896, and then on 10 September 1902 to John James White (Surveyor General Dgm No. 3812/1902; Deed No. 9528). It was transferred from the insolvent estate of John James White to Sybrand Johannes van der Spuy on 15 September 1920 (Deed No. 13128), with on the same date, Lot 9 from Sybrand van der Spuy to John Bernard Callanan (Deed No.13130).

A2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A2.1. There has been a military presence in Rondebosch during the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902), First World War (1914-1918) and Second World War (1939-1945) with troops having been stationed at the Rondebosch Common, hence the name Camp Ground Road. During the Boer War, the No.3 British Hospital and private Portland Hospital were erected alongside each other to the east of Diocesan College (Bishops).

A2.2. An old cast iron/steel flagpole is still situated in the Kelvin Street/Forth Road corner of the property. When Mr Rubin Hurwitz took over the property a few years after World War II, he was told of the custom of the hoisting of the South African flag on the

property to commemorate the soldiers who had been killed during the Anglo-Boer War, World War I and World War II..

- A2.3.** The site is located in Rondebosch, Cape Town, in the Western Cape
- A2.4** The house that is presently on the property was built in 1940 by the contractors McCarthy, Flegg & Co, known at the time as a company of master builders, and it was the first to be built on the erf. The site is owned and managed by Mr Bruce Clayton. The property has been approved for demolition under Section 34 of NHRA by HWC and the redevelopment of the property was approved by the City of Cape Town.
- A2.5.** Site visits have been conducted and the flagpole was identified by SAHRA. The property owner does not support the nomination of the flagpole of his property (see annexure A)

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1. PURPOSE OF THE SUBMISSION

- 1.1. The purpose of the submission is to assess whether The Newlands Flagpole, be given a Grade 1 status and subsequently declared a National Heritage Site. The site is in Newlands, Mitchell's Plain, Cape Town in the Western Cape.



Figure 1. UDF Me
Rocklands Comm

2. DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION OF THE SITE

The Flagpole is located on Erf 96811 at No. 2 Forth Road in Rondebosch, Cape Town. The house that is presently on the property was built in 1940 by the contractors McCarthy, Flegg & Co, known at the time as a company of master builders, and it was the first to be built on the erf. It appears on the 1945 aerial photo of the area. It therefore coincides with the time of Mr John Bernard Callanan. It has seen several alterations between 1951 and 1988 but is nevertheless located in the Kelvin Heritage Protection Overlay Zone (HPOZ).



3. SHORT HISTORY OF THE SITE

In 1779 "Crown Land", the farm called "Questenberg" was granted to the burgher Tobias Rogiers, and this land included the major portion of what is Kelvin Grove today. In 1881 the Scotsman John Brodie bought the property that was then known as "Moeders Bewys", and named his new homestead "Kelvin Grove" after Kelvinside in his native Glasgow. In 1896 Mr James Cook Rimer (1848-1928), the great-great-grandson of the famous Captain James Cook's sister Margaret, bought Kelvin Grove. James Rimer had made his money on the Witwatersrand gold mines and retired to Cape Town by the mid-1890s.

The area adjoining Kelvin Grove and bounded by White, Kelvin, Hardwick and Camp Ground Road was transferred to James Rimer on 23 December 1896, and then on 10 September 1902 to John James White (Surveyor General Dgm No. 3812/1902; Deed No. 9528). It was transferred from the insolvent estate of John James White to Sybrand Johannes van der Spuy on 15 September 1920 (Deed No. 13128), with on the same date, Lot 9 from Sybrand van der Spuy to John Bernard Callanan (Deed No.13130).

4. SWOT SUMMARY

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES	OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The property is still in use and so is the flagpole. The property part of the community's sense of place and pride Properties in the area have architectural significance Property is under general protection (Section 34) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Property has been approved for demolition and redevelopment The flagpole does not have a strong intangible significance No verifiable information about the flagpole or the property Property is subject to a dispute between the owners and community members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage people to have discussions about heritage in their own areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a planned development on the property..

5. MOTIVATION FOR NATIONAL DECLARATION

Its importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group.

Al little pocket of land hidden between Camp Ground cul-de-sac and the railway, and between Kelvin Grove sports grounds and Groote Schuur Primary School, was developed round the turn of the century and remains largely intact. It is a row of eight closely spaced Victorian villas, all with one bay-stoepkamers under bargeboard gables with finials, making for an agitated skyline. Several have been altered but most retain their slate roofs and simple verandas. Perhaps the best is No.1 with its rustication, quoining and arched windows on the bay section and its bull-nosed veranda on a scalloped timber veranda.

An old cast iron/steel flagpole is still situated in the Kelvin Street/Forth Road corner of the property. When Mr Rubin Hurwitz took over the property a few years after World War II, he was told of the custom of the hoisting of the South African flag on the property to commemorate the soldiers who had been killed during the Anglo-Boer War, World War I and World War II. This would have applied to the time of Commander John Bernard Callanan and SA Army officer Charles Nezar de Villiers. The folklore of De Villiers hoisting the South African flag on the flagpole was confirmed by Mr Leon Hurwitz from Israel, who had been living at 2 Forth Road from 1948 to about 1970. It is just obvious that with the property transfer from the De Villiers's to the Hurwitzes in 1948 that the latter would have been told of this tradition.

Its strong or special association with the life or work of a person, group or organization of importance in the history of South Africa.

As mentioned above, the property was transferred from the insolvent estate of John James White to Sybrand Johannes van der Spuy in 1920 and on the same date, Lot 9 from Van der Spuy to John Bernard Callanan. The latter was arguably the most important figure to inhabit the property. He died on 15 March 1944 and was buried in the Maitland Cemetery. His gravestone reads "Commander John Bernard Callanan, KCSG, aged 80."

The designation KCSG is a reference to his title as a Knight Commander of the Papal Order of Saint Gregory the Great, founded by Gregory XVI in 1831. It is awarded in four classes and two divisions, Military and Civil.

6. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The property was transferred from the insolvent estate of John James White to Sybrand Johannes van der Spuy in 1920 and on the same date, Lot 9 from Van der Spuy to John Bernard Callanan. The latter was arguably the most important figure to inhabit the property. He died on 15 March 1944 and was buried in the Maitland Cemetery. His gravestone reads "Commander John Bernard Callanan, KCSG, aged 80."

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According to archival evidence around 1926, John Callanan was also the Chairman of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society in Cape Town, a worldwide organisation of lay Catholics who reach out to vulnerable and marginalized people in their local community, and that has been operating in South Africa since 1856. The Society is still very active today as a registered non-profit and public benefit organisation (NPO 003/193).

During those early years there were mostly poor, lower middle class people living in this area (bounded by White, Kelvin, Hardwick and Camp Ground Road), according to information passed down to present resident Mr Leon Boonzaaier by his grandfather, who had bought No.3 Tweed Road as early as 1908. This phenomenon was confirmed by historian Dr Helen Robinson, an expert on Rondebosch and the Southern Suburbs. It would therefore make sense that John Callanan had laboured in his immediate community on behalf of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society.

Photographs in the Cape Archives also show Callanan as a councillor of the City of Cape Town, as well as a member of the Cape Hospital Board. It should be noted that since 1913, Rondebosch had formed part of the Municipal Council of Greater Cape Town. Since 1920, the City Council had established several child welfare centres, in which Callanan would have played a significant role. Callanan's term of office also coincided with the sewerage scheme for the Southern Suburbs and a major reconstruction scheme of the City's main roads. As a member of the Cape Hospital Board, he was also involved in the planning of a new hospital, namely Groote Schuur, in the Cape Peninsula to supplement the New Somerset Hospital in Portwood Road. The Great Flu epidemic, site disputes and sufficient funds unfortunately delayed the start of the project until 1931.

After Callanan's death in 1944, the property was acquired by H R Day, who on 17 January 1947 transferred it to Marjorie Boyne de Villiers (nee Rush, her family hailed from Yorkshire), born on 28 July 1901 in Kimberley. Her husband was Charles Nezar de Villiers, a South African army officer born on 3 June 1888 in Bethulie. According to the De Villiers family history he received an O.B.E. These honours were created in 1917 by King George V during the First World War as a way of rewarding civilians and servicemen in support positions for their contribution to the war effort. Nowadays they are used to recognise an achievement or

service to the community in areas such as the arts, charity or education. De Villiers died in Cape Town on 7 February 1962. Marjorie was his second wife whom he married in Germiston in 1933. Ms de Villiers died in Wynberg on 12 September 1981.

Mr Rubin Hurwitz (born 26 July 1903) took transfer from Ms De Villiers on 16 September 1948. His sons Leon, now living in Israel, and Dennis from Cape Town were able to provide useful information on the property. It remained in the family until 1977 when Mr Hurwitz transferred to Ms Catherine Lovell Cullis (born Hathorn, 24 July 1948) and married in community of property to Sydney Neville Raynor Cullis. By 1988 it was owned by I W Bailey and in the process of transfer.

The most recent transaction was the cession and transfer from Alexmatt Investment Trust to Superstrike 52 Proprietary Limited on 14 June 2018 (Title Deed No.T40703/2018).

7. INDICATION OF OWNER'S ATTITUDE

The owner of the property is not in support of the nomination..

8. INDICATION OF CURRENT MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

The site is owned and managed by Mr Bruce Clayton. The property has been approved for demolition under Section 34 of NHRA by HWC and the redevelopment of the property was approved by the City of Cape Town.

9. DESCRIPTION OF SITE BOUNDARIE

The Flagpole is located on Erf 96811 at No. 2 Forth Road in Rondebosch, Cape Town the site is in the area adjoining Kelvin Grove and bounded by White, Kelvin, Hardwick and Camp Ground Road.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

The information presented to SAHRA about the flagpole was largely anecdotal and not verifiable. The motivation speaks largely to the development of the area and the structures in the area and not the flagpole. It is recommended that the Rondebosch Flagpole not be granted Grade 1 status by the Grading and Declarations Review Committee.

Prepared By:		Supported By:	
Ben Mwasinga Manager: BEU	Signature	Name and Title	Signature
Date:		Date:	

Date:

Recommendation supported by Council		Recommendation not supported by Council	
Name Chairperson: Council		Signature	
Date:			