

SITE VISIT REPORT: FOR LUDEKE CHURCH IN MBIZANA EASTERN CAPE

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HERITAGE PROTECTION UNIT & BUILT ENVIRONMENT UNIT

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Ludeke Methodist Church in Mbizana Eastern Cape

Introduction

Section 5 (1)(a) of the National Heritage Resources Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA) states that “Heritage resources have lasting value in their own right and provide evidence of the origins of the South African society and as they are valuable, finite, non-renewable and irreplaceable they must be carefully managed to ensure their survival”. On the 25/10/18, South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) Heritage Protection Unit and Built Environment Unit conducted an inspection at the Lesseyton Methodist Church in Queenstown in the Eastern Cape Province.

Purpose of the site visit

South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) conducted a site visit on the 25 October 2018 to assess the Ludeke Church in Mbizana Eastern Cape before preparing a submission for grading and declaration. This is done in conjunction with the monitoring of heritage resources.

Brief History

The Ludeke Methodist Church founded by the Reverend Samuel Clark in 1904. Now under the Reverend MS Mkabeni, a modern and much bigger building next to the old one is used for church services. The old building is still intact, but its interior will require a substantial face-lift. Winnie Madikizela-Mandela was born in eMbongweni, a neighbouring village that, at the time, did not have a church building of its own. In 1958 she got married with former president Nelson Mandela at Ludeke Methodist in Bizana, Eastern Cape. The Ludeke Primary School, where liberation stalwart Oliver Tambo, who was part of the Mandela entourage at the wedding, also be upgraded and declared part of the heritage site in Ludeke village. Tambo was born in neighbouring Nkantolo village, which did not have a primary school at the time. “The first high school and first clinic in this area were founded by this church under Reverend Clark. The fact that Tata Madiba and Mama Winnie also got married [in the area] is a bonus. OR Tambo also did his first grade here. This will really inspire our children,” Faku said. “Mbizana is a rural place and nobody ever imagined that the first black social worker and first lady of a democratic South Africa would come from here, yet it happened,” she said.



Figure 1: The entrance of the Ludeke Methodist Church new building with Manyano Women



Figure 2: Opening on the roof of Ludeke Methodist Church in Mbizana Eastern Cape

Assessment

The site has not been properly maintained nor have any measures taken to safe guard the structure. This may be due to lack of funds and/or proper heritage guidance. Currently there are the floors, walls and the roof is in a bad state. There is evidence of rising damp and damp in the walls due to inadequate gutters as well as cracks in the walls.

The Ludeke Methodist Church where the Mandela's got married is still used for public meeting irrespective it a bad state. There seems to be a cooperation of the Local municipality in assisting the Church with the management of the site which can be strengthened with heritage agreements. In addition, the site has been identified as part of the Resistance and Liberation Heritage Route and is along the OR Tambo Heritage Route.



Figure 3: Fascia Boards rotting of Ludeke Methodist Church in Mbizana Eastern Cape



Figure 4: Damage to brickwork Ludeke Methodist Church



Figure 5: The floor of Ludeke Methodist Church

Figure 6: View of the cemetery



Conclusion

The church wants the church to be declared. We met with the trust property members and the Reverend of the church. The church wants the structure to be renovated. After the renovation of the old church they will submit that the nomination form.

Recommendation

It is recommended that SAHRA wait for the renovation of the church and the nomination dossier to be submitted.



Heritage Protection Manager: Ms. Nkosazana Machete

Date: 29 October 2018

Executive Officer:

Date: