

GDB ENGINEERS CC

Consulting Structural and Civil Engineers

PO Box 11415
Dorpspruit 3206
Pietermaritzburg
Tel: (033) 342 8647
Fax: 086 6198249
Cell 082 3701045
E-mail: geoff@gdbengineers.co.za

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Bluff Meat Supply
C/O 287 Church Street
Pietermaritzburg
3201

Att: Mark

Dear Sir

Inspection of fire damage 287 Church Street Pietermaritzburg

Following our inspection of the fire damaged double storey structure accommodating Bluff Meat supply butchery at 287 Church street, we report :

The original building is more than 100 years old and exhibits early Maritzburg red brick perimeter walls and facades.

The building has been upgraded in the past with the inclusion of a trough type reinforced concrete first floor slab accommodating freezer rooms and meat processing facilities above and trading floor below. Reinforced concrete columns support this new floor independently of the original clay brick structure.

The upper level internal finishes together with the original timber roof has been destroyed by fire related to the recent unrest.

Lateral bracing of perimeter walls provided by the timber roof structure is now missing, unbraced free standing perimeter walls are conserved to be a risk factor particularly if left exposed to rain for an extended period.

The fire has destroyed all finishes in the upper level including meat processing equipment, freezers electrical components etc .

The ground floor level although seriously damaged by looters does not appear to have suffered any fire damage apart from water damage related to the firefighting which penetrated the first floor plastic pipe drainage system from above.

The upper reinforced concrete floor appears to have been protected by freezer insulation and does not appear to have suffered any serious damage.

Perimeter walls appear to have been protected by a thick plaster layer which has peeled off leaving brickwork exposed but relatively undamaged .

The front façade wall and associated steel lintel beam has been affected by the fire but appears able to be salvaged.

The internal brickwork fronting the ablution facilities has been fire damaged and will need replacement
The entire ablution area including piping, toilets, basins and wall tiles have been damaged and will need replacement .

All perimeter walls will require replacement of cementitious plaster (render) which has peeled off.

It is recommended that the replacement roof structure is designed in such a way as to reinstate bracing for perimeter walling which is deemed to be unbraced and hence unstable as a result of the fire .

We trust that the information provided is sufficient for your current purposes.

Yours faithfully

GD Bouttall Pr Eng
GDB Engineers CC

PHOTOGRAPHS



Ablution Area



Front Façade



Lower level shop