

Lutheran Church
Martin Melck House
Sexton's House

9/2/018/0079
9/2/018/0197
9/2/018/0199

DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND CULTURE
DEPARTEMENT VAN KUNS EN KULTUUR

No. 136

1 March 2013



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

SOUTH AFRICAN HERITAGE RESOURCES AGENCY

NATIONAL HERITAGE RESOURCES ACT, NO 25 OF 1999

PROVISIONAL PROTECTION AS A NATIONAL HERITAGE RESOURCE

By virtue of the powers vested in the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) in terms of section 29(1) of the National Heritage Resources Act, 25 of 1999, SAHRA hereby provisionally protect Martin Melck House, Evangelical Lutheran Church and Saxtone's House, Erf 9245, Cape Town for a period of two years.

Significance

The Lutheran Church Historical Complex (the Church, Parsonage, Sexton's House and rear Courtyard of the block) constitutes a multi-layered site that is exemplary of a heritage resource with qualities so exceptional that they are of national significance. Its combination of cultural, architectural, technical, and extraordinary social and spiritual significances makes it a unique and irreplaceable resource, which should be protected for future generations of South Africans. The wealth of significances which the Lutheran Church represents at national level includes:

Cultural Landscape Significance

This complex constitutes *the only remaining* VOC era urban ensemble of private, public and utilitarian buildings dating to the 18th century and which is comparable to other VOC settlements in the Indian Ocean region. The site is a *major node* in Cape Town's cultural landscape. Martin Melck House is the *last remaining* dakkamer style town house in Cape Town. The Church is the *oldest remaining intact church* building in Cape Town the *first* church of any denomination other than Dutch Reformed in South Africa, and the *first* Lutheran Church in Africa. (The DR Moederkerk was completely redesigned and rebuilt in the 1830s, leaving only the tower of the first building).

Social and Cultural History Significance

The historical significance of the site is multifaceted, layered and representative of several complex strands in the history of South Africa as it passed from the indigenous era through the colonial periods and apartheid to its contemporary democratic dispensation. The social and cultural history of the site symbolises successful *community resistance* over VOC hegemony and oppression after four decades of struggle. Persecution of the Lutherans intensified and was finally ended by a change of governance. Their success was the precursor to *freedom of religion*,

declared under a new government in 1804. The Church records and correspondence is a *unique set of manuscripts* with the potential to reveal new understandings of ordinary lives at the Cape. The community was made up of slaves, freed slaves (free blacks) and European settlers engaged together in taking care of their fellow members. *Direct links to slavery* through the Lutheran Church relate to the baptism of slaves, marriages of freed slave women, and the continued association of those women who were freed and married into the community and brought their children to be baptised in the church.

An *Emancipation Day service* was jointly held by Adamson of St Andrews Presbyterian Church and Stegmann, the second minister at the Lutheran Church, Strand Street; Stegmann went on to establish St Stephens Church in Riebeeck Square

Architectural and Technical Significance

The Complex has outstanding technical excellence and advancement:

In the *roof span of the church*; this was the largest single roofspan under a flat roofed structure during the VOC period (just over 20m span). The *roof structure of the church*: the largest unsupported triangulated timber roof truss from the very early British period with a clear span of just over 20m - the *longest span* at the time of construction, and remains so to date;

Pipe organ: *oldest large pipe organ* in the Cape, installed in 1820; it incorporates the *only known* masonry spiral stair in Cape Town;

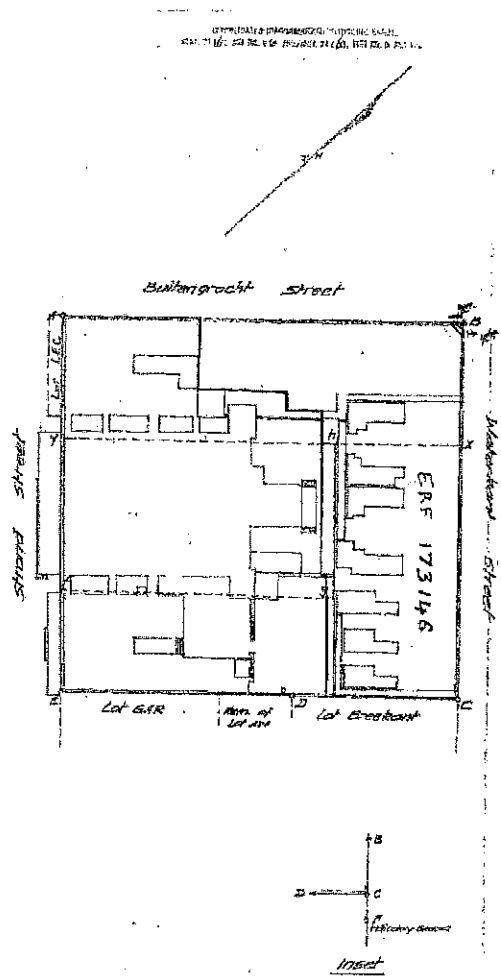
It was *one of the first of a group of buildings to provide oil-lamp street lighting* [provided by owner] – wrought iron lamp fitting over cast iron front gates is one of very few remaining from that time,

Artistic excellence: contains the *first work*, and *substantial body* of work, of highly acclaimed artist and sculptor, *Anton Anreith*;

EXTENT

Site Name	Town	Erf	Municipality	Province	SG Diagram	Figure	Extent	Deed of Transfer
Martin Melck House, Evangelical Lutheran Church and Sexton's House	Cape Town	9245		Western Cape				

Surveyor General's Diagram for the Lutheran Church Historical Complex



STAKES	CHY. PNT.	ANGLES OF	SYSTEM OF
		DIRECTION	COORDINATES
		CONVENTION	BY
18	218-18	222.00 10	288.01
19	188-77	314.57 20	239.35
20	37-25	42.28 40	28.58
21	174-85	44.68 40	107.62
22	188-00	181.23 20	240.73
23	0-25	311.57 20	58.78
24	0-25	332.25 10	534.34
25	5-28	311.57 20	

KANTOORNOUMER
OFFICE NO.
No. 1075458

Approval
Surveyor-General
18-3-1960

Along CD ERN DE is an existing light
structure condition vide D/T 1081-1-22

is in front of the roadway

Description of Boundaries
A B = 14' x 12' Round Iron Peg.
C = Not Boundaries
D E F = 14' Round Iron Peg.

ERF 173146 - CAPE TOWN
of CAPE TOWN

The figure x CDE fgh representing Portion of Block B
vide dgn 1/1711 attached to D/T 1081-1-22
1961.

Scale: 1:5000

The figure A B C D E represents 40,061 Square Feet of land being

LOT LUTHERAN

- 1. The figure 1831 representing Portion of Block A
vide dgn attached to old Cape Town No. 3-20
- 2. The figure 1832 representing remainder of Portion of Block A
vide dgn attached to old Cape Town No. 3-20

Municipality of Cape Town
situate in the Division of Cape Province of Good Hope.

Surveyed in January 1960 by me G. H. Marais
April 1960 Land Surveyor

This diagram is annexed to C.C.T. 13315/1960	The original diagram is No. 4341 as quoted above H 4339	The No. of the original S.N. No. 24 24 24 E.N. 7 68/72 51/212 C.T. Street 1st
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FOR ENDORSEMENTS
SEE BACK OF DGN.

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