

HERITAGE OBJECTS MONITORING REPORT: Kuruman Press

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HERITAGE PROTECTION UNIT

APP Indicator Number: 2.1

DATE: 19 June 2019



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 12th of June 2019, South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) Heritage Protection Unit conducted an inspection at the Moffat Mission Station in Kuruman- Northern Cape.

1. Locality and Description of the Building

The Moffat Mission station is situated at Kuruman; Seadin Street. The museum is made from face brick and a thatch roof.

2. Significance of the objects

The Kuruman Mission was established by the London Missionary Society (LMS) in 1816 at Maruping near Kuruman where a town of about 10 000 Batswana were resident.

Robert Moffat, Scottish missionary and his wife Mary arrived in Kuruman from Scotland in 1820, and soon organised permission from Chief Mothibi to relocate to the present position at Seodin in the valley of the Kuruman River.

Not content with this, he was at the same time working on what would be his greatest legacy: the Setswana Bible. He taught himself Setswana, developed the orthography and (with a broader team) translated the Bible. Once this was done, he then proceeded to print it on a handpress- being the first entire Bible printed in Africa.

The press is still used for printing at the mission.



Figure 1: Mission Station Museum

3.Object and Building Assessment

The Press is in the old heritage mission house, which now serves as a museum. The press is situated at the centre of the museum.

The building is not that well secured as the security measures used is the one burglar door at the entrance door. Visitors are charged an entrance fee to visit the museum. A visitor registration is kept for record keeping purposes. There is no security is on guard, and no CCTV's. The building has no fire detectors, and the roof is made from thatch. The museum only houses one fire extinguisher for the whole museum.

4. Status of the objects

The Kuruman Mission Press is in a good condition.

Conclusion

In conclusion the Kuruman Press is safe and well conserved. It is reinforced and thus cannot be stolen.

Compiled by:

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Date

17 June 2019

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Date: 17 June 2019

Date: