



eThekweni Cultural Heritage

Amafa aKwaZulu-Natali
195 Jabu Ndlovu Street
Pietermaritzburg 3200
Telephone 033 3946 543
bernadetp@amafapmb.co.za

28 February 2018

Attention Mrs. Bernadet Pawandiwa

SAHRIS Case ID 10246: St Anne's Convent, Umzinto
Revision of Erven and proposed land use

Proposed Subdivision of the Remainder of Erf 328 Umzinto
Umdoni Local Municipality, Ugu DM, KwaZulu-Natal

Project Area and Project description¹

Ownership of Sub B of the Farm Umbeli Belli No. 1288 is held by The Vicar of Apostolio of the Vicariate of Marianhill; vide Certificate of Amended Title on Consolidation No T289/1943 and S.G Diagram Number S.G No. 2311/1941. The property is Eighty Seven decimal Three One Nought Three hectares, (87.3103 ha) in extent. The Remainder of Erf 328 Umzinto is held vide the same Certificate of Amended Title on Consolidation No T289/1943 as per S.G. Diagram No. 2311/41 (see SAHRIS attached SPLUMA Subdivision Application).

The Diocese of Marianhill has donated a portion of land, contained within the Remainder of Erf 328 Umzinto, to the Sisters of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary (FMM). The intention is that this land be used for the construction and establishment of a small convent for the sisters; and a child day-care centre for vulnerable children, to be run by the FMM Sisters.

In addition to the Donation letter, the Diocese of Mariannhill has further granted Stott, Milton and Conway Professional Land Surveyors with Special Power of Attorney to prepare and submit an application for the proposed Subdivision of Remainder of Erf 328 Umzinto into Portion 35, 36 and 37 of the Remainder of Erf 328 Umzinto;

¹ Information provided by Stott Milton and Conway – Land Surveyors

in terms of Section 46(G) of the Umdoni Municipality Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Bylaw. Allocation of these three portions has been provided for by the office of the Surveyor General (see SAHRIS attached confirmations).

Proposed Portion 35 of the Remainder of Erf 328 Umzinto will be to the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary as per their Donation letter. An historical cemetery, associated with the existing St Anne's Mission and Convent, is located within the boundaries of Portion 35. In order to protect and ensure the sanctity of the cemetery it is intended that the section where the cemetery is situated will be sub-divided out and it is proposed this will become portion 37 of the Remainder of Erf 328. This will be zoned as Cemetery. However, the cemetery will be cared for and maintained by the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary.

Remainder of Erf 328 Umzinto is zoned as Municipal and Government, in terms of the Umdoni Municipality Planning Scheme and is described therein by a Church, Convent, School scattered trees and a Drive Way giving access to Portion 1 of Erf 362 Umzinto; an established school property. Portion 36 has been donated to a long-term employee and parishioner so that he can build his house and live out his years in proximity to the existing Church.

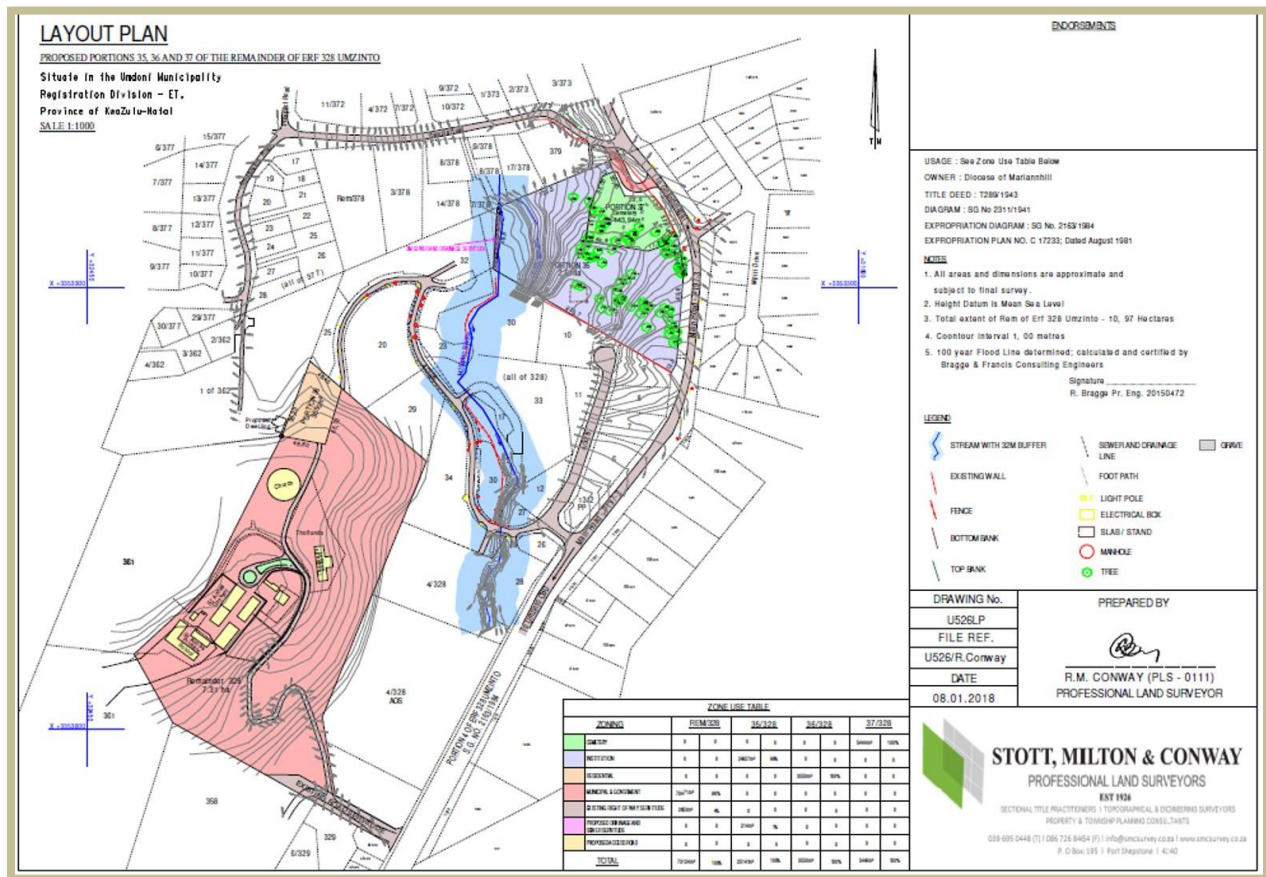


Figure 1 Amended Zone Use Plan to SAHRIS)

(see also higher resolution Image loaded

Background and Observations

St Anne's is situated at Umzinto, approximately 70 km south of Durban, within the Mdoni Local Municipality. The proposed sub-division areas lie within the established historical precinct of a mission hub that includes St Anne's Convent within the present day town lands of Umzinto (see Fig.2).

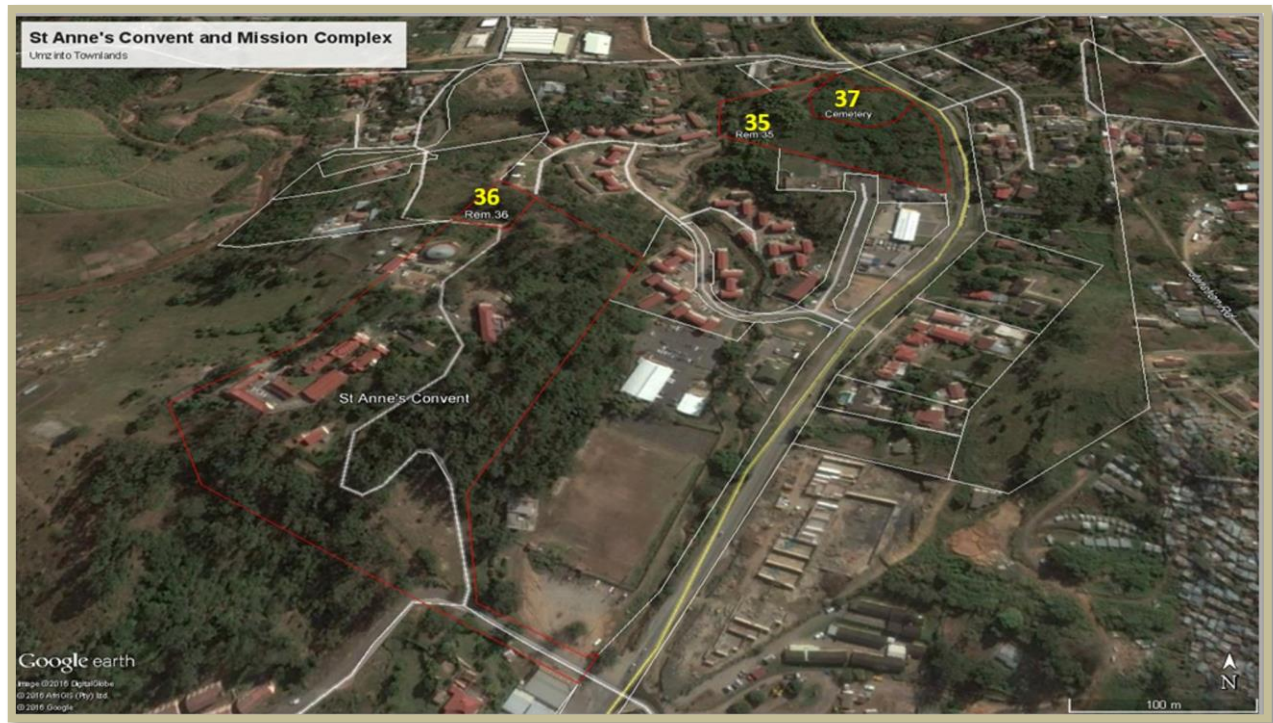


Figure 2 St Anne's Convent and Mission Complex indicating location of proposed Erven (see also higher resolution Image loaded to SAHRIS)

The mission has a history dating back to 1896 when Bishop Charles Jolivet of Durban, together with Fr. Le Texier, identified the site and initiated the construction of two schools in anticipation of the arrival of French-speaking nuns from the Filles de Jesus de Kermaria congregation in Brittany. This congregation suffered severe financial constraints and despite perseverance, finally admitted defeat and returned to France in 1911.

The Franciscan Sisters of Mary arrived in Umzinto in January 1912 and continued to teach where the Kermaria Sisters had left off. Some of the FMM Sisters were proficient in Zulu as they had previously served at the eMoyeni and Impala Missions in Zululand. By 1914 the Zulu-speaking congregation of St Anne's were requesting Mass and Confession in Zulu and consequently a Zulu-speaking Trappist priest from Marianhill was sent monthly to conduct these devotions.

In 1921 the first Zulu school, dedicated to St Francis, was opened on the mission with an intake of 20 learners. The following year a second school was opened for the children of Mauritians working in the sugar industry. By 1925 the enrolment at this school were predominantly Indian learners, the

descendants of indentured labourers who had settled around the sugar industry after their contracts had been fulfilled. This school was the foundation of the St Anne's Indian School which is now 88 years old.

The Convent is the hub of a mission complex that includes the Indian school, two Zulu medium schools, a home for young vulnerable girls, residential accommodations and a small farm, all still run and maintained by the Sisters. The mission celebrated its centenary in 2012.²

Recommendations

The sanctity of the historical cemetery is recognised by the Convent community, and they have requested that it be surveyed out of the proposed convent and child day-care centre. Accordingly we request that Amafa issue a letter of no objection to the proposed subdivisions, allowing the project to proceed with no further heritage resource mitigation.

Standing protocols in terms of the NHRA will prevail in the instance of any archaeological material or human remains being exposed during construction activities.

In this regard, please can you notify us timeously via the loaded SAHRIS case file as to the decision of Amafa.

Yours sincerely



Len van Schalkwyk
Principle Investigator.

² <https://issuu.com/scross/docs/120201/10?e=0>