



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA)

Site Inspection Report

Heritage Inspectorate Unit (HIU)

Heritage Inspectors: Themba Monnye and Loyiso Qanya

Date: 04 August 2015

Site: Solomon Mahlangu Freedom Square

Location: 188 Makhubela Street, Mamelodi, Tshwane, Gauteng Province, South Africa

Coordinates: 25°42'57.6"S 28°20'09.3"E

-25.716015, 28.335916

Site Status: Grade I

Site Boundaries

The site is located on approximately a 23,000.00 m² land area and the overall site is bounded by Makubela Street, Tsamaya Avenue, Maphalla Drive and J. Letwaba Street.



© Google Maps. Link: <https://goo.gl/maps/1etol>

Background

The Solomon Mahlangu Freedom Square site was conceptualised to honour the legacy and sacrifice of the late Solomon Mahlangu and related events surrounding the "[Mamelodi Massacre](#)". On 27 July 2015, Solomon Mahlangu Freedom Square was re-launched to the public by the City of Tshwane and is also under the management of the City of Tshwane Municipality.

Site Features

The site incorporates various components that make up the rest of the square. Key feature on the site is an over-life-size bronze statue of Solomon Mahlangu on the southwest corner of the square.



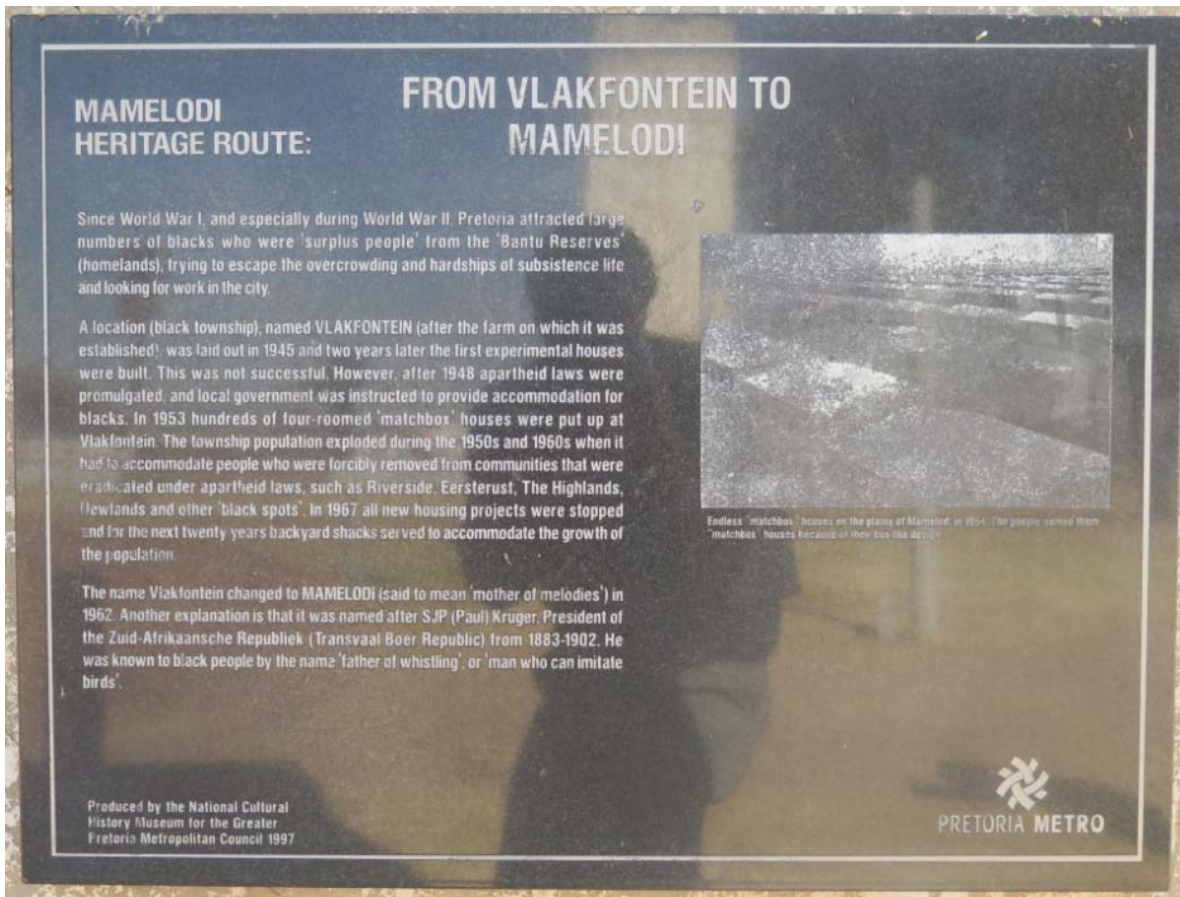
A plaque on the statue plinth reads;

“SOLOMON MAHLANGU FREEDOM SQAURE was officially Re-Launched by Hon. Mec Molebatsi F. Bopape Sport, Art, Culture and Recreation. His worship, Executive Mayor Councillor Kgosientso Ramakgopa on 27 July 2015”.

Additional features include a memorial of fallen Mkhonto we siZwe (MK) cadres, brothers and sisters unveiled by Chris Hani on 06 April 1991. The memorial is located on the eastside of the square, facing the main entrance.



Behind the MK memorial are two large columns decorated with mosaics, which is now disintegrating or falling off columns surfaces. These columns look older than the Solomon Mahlangu Freedom Square, as evidenced by their aging and weathered characteristics. On a closer look, a plaque on one of the columns is bears the following words; “Mamelodi Heritage Route: From Vlakfontein to Mamelodi. The plaque at the bottom has the following credits; Produced by the National Cultural History Museum for the Greater Pretoria Metropolitan Council 1997”.



Further to the northeast corner of the square is an amphitheatre with a path leading directly to the statue, and it incorporates Mamelodi Memorial Wall and Mamelodi Victims of Conflict as well. The Mamelodi Memorial Wall board reads as follows, 'This memorial serves as solemn monument to victims

of conflict in Mamelodi, as tranquil place in which to remember them and reflect upon the struggles of the past sacrifices made”. On the other side the Mamelodi Victims of Conflict Wall reads as follows, “This Memorial Wall provides a space to remember the victims of conflict in Mamelodi. More names will be added as new candidates are presented and verified. Public submissions should please be made to the City of Tshwane’s Heritage Department by e-mailing: Heritage@Tshwane.gov.za



Mamelodi Memorial Wall with Mamelodi Victims of Conflict batons on either side of the walls.





Amphitheatre with Mamelodi Memorial Wall leading to the statue.

Behind the amphitheatre, on the south side towards the main entrance is a Ndebele House constructed by the Mahlangu family to accommodate iNkosi Ndabezitha of the Mahlangu royal family, when attending events at the Solomon Mahlangu Freedom Square. [Reference]. The Ndebele House forms part of broader Public Arts Programme of phase 1 of the Solomon Mahlangu Square.



The Public Art Programme at the Solomon Mahlangu Freedom Square included an exhibition by artists from Mamelodi and on-site permanent installation of artworks throughout the square.



Comments:

The Solomon Mahlangu Freedom Square is in currently in good state, however future inspections will indicate if there are any management challenges.