



archaic consulting

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Assessment of derelict structure at Nkanya Bay

Location: 32°10'28.92"S, 28°58'22.80"E.

Methodology:

The author, Debbie Whelan from Archaic Consulting, was sent photographs of this building by Gavin Anderson of Umlando Cultural Heritage with respect to compiling an initial assessment of structure on this property. It must be stated that the interpretation of the context and surroundings are reliant on the information provided by Umlando Cultural Heritage.

Assessment:

This is a roughly built rectangular structure under asbestos sheeting on raw timber purlins on scissor trusses. It appears constructed out of mud brick which has been bag-washed internally and painted with a distemper. There are gum-pole columns which support the roof.

The structure is in a derelict state, with large plaster spalls to the one end next to the door, and it would appear as though the opposite wall has fallen out at gable level in the past and has been reconstructed. There are large holes in the asbestos sheeting. There is no stabilized floor to speak of and any doors and windows have been removed.

It has been recently used as an animal shed. It is doubtful whether the structure is over 60 years of age which would automatically protect it in terms of the South African Heritage Resources Act no 25 of 1999. It has no architectural merit, has no architectural context (does not contribute to a group or a streetscape) and at this point is not known to be associated with any famous person or historic event or contain items of scientific or technological in nature. It is however, rumoured to be connected with a mission of the Dutch Reformed Church, and this should be explored a little more fully.

Recommendation:

This structure does not markedly contribute to the environment, and is a reasonable though damaged example of a timber and earth farm vernacular building of which many exist. Attempting to repair this building, which appears to have had major structural damage in the past, is neither practical nor economic unless it has association with a major personage or event.