

9 September 2012

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**FOLLOW-UP EVALUATION AS REQUIRED BY HIA COMPILED FOR OPTIMUM
COLLIERY – KWAGGA NORTH PROJECT**

The recommendation made during the initial Heritage Assessment (HA) completed by PGS Heritage and grave Relocation consultants in October of 2009 has reference.

1. Scope of Work

The scope of work was developed from the HA, as requested by Optimum Colliery.

1. Assessment of Site 26 – Also known as the Cass farmstead, *“the site be evaluated by a conservation architect for further specific recommendations.”*
2. Ndebele Murals and settlement clusters – *“A specialist on the study of the Ndebele culture and the painted murals must be commissioned to document the oral history, settlement patterns and social structures of the settlements to be able to develop a structured documentation of the tangible and intangible heritage of the people and settlements and make further recommendations.”*

2. COMMISSIONS

With the Scope of work in mind two specialists were commissioned to:

1. *Evaluate Site 26 – Roger Fischer – Heritage Architect Arch SA PhD(Arch)(Pretoria)*
2. *Document and evaluate the oral history and murals associated with the Ndebele Settlements - Prof Chris J van Vuuren, Dept. of Anthropology & Archaeology, Unisa.*

3. FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 Site 26 – Cass farmstead - Refer to Annexure A for full report

3.1.1 Farmhouse and Associated Outbuildings

A rail track used as a lintel above the doors in the workshop is dated '1902', which suggests the building was constructed in that decade and is hence subject to the so-called 'Sixty-year Clause'. This section (Section 34) of the NHRA automatically protects any structure that is 60 years or older from any alteration, destruction, damage, etc, without a permit being obtained from the provincial heritage resources authority.

The main house, which is constructed of coursed ashlar, has steel windows, seemingly original, which would date it to the 1920s, again making it subject to the so-called 'Sixty-Year Clause'.

None of the structures or portions of the farm are formally declared heritage resources, but many of the structures and cultural landscape features are subject to the so-called 'Sixty Year clause' [Act 25 of 1999 34. (1)] and their presence in the ensemble makes the entire ensemble subject to assessment as to its heritage-worthiness.

3.1.2 Farmstead Outbuildings

Many of these are of more recent construction, although some are extensions to extant older structures. As an ensemble with associated sixty-year+ structures, ALL become subject to the Act.

3.1.3 Recommendation

Architecture

The architecture, although interesting, if assessed in terms of the heritage criteria of the Act pertaining to architecture - i.e. its styling, representative of a particular style period or associated with an architect of note or constructed with unusual or special techniques or technologies - is not likely to be assessed as remarkable enough to be conservation-worthy, **if considered in isolation.**

If the heritage structures are physically isolated from their context they will have little or no heritage value whatsoever. Then it will be best to document the farmstead thoroughly for the record. The workshop, with all its apparently original equipment and cupboards, etc, is particularly remarkable; a fine example of such equipment still functioning and is conservation-worthy in its own right.

Farms need to be assessed as living relics and in this respect the entire Cass Farmstead with the full array of buildings and equipment, etc, even though not all yet sixty years old, is a fine example of what this agricultural landscape is about, and might one day be able to serve as an example and as a reminder of what this place once was before the whole region has been mined for coal.

As a farm still being run a century later by the same family for the same purpose, its heritage value becomes more significant if assessed in cultural terms.

It is thus considered necessary for a full Heritage Impact Assessment of the entire farmstead property as a cultural landscape to be undertaken. This would include assessing the buildings as part of the ensemble forming the cultural landscape, and should probably be done in these terms by a cultural historian.

Cultural History

In addition, the association with Pixley ka Seme and the activities of the Native Farmers Association (identified in the desktop research section of the HIA report) should be investigated further.

NOTE

Whatever actions are anticipated in the future, in terms of section 34 of NHRA, the Mpumalanga Heritage Resources Authority will need to be involved; since an application for a permit to alter, damage or destroy any of the structures that are 60 years or older will need to be obtained.

3.2 Ndebele Murals and oral History – Refer to Annexure B for full Report

3.1.1 Findings

It appeared from the early photographs of the homestead of Lettie Mabhena (see PGS HA Report) that she still painted in the early 1960s style (see Van Vuuren 1983). During our site visit very few of the *isirhodlo* walls were still painted in this style. Mrs Msiza (*on site*) explained that the cost of paint as well as the time and labour factor had contributed to the disappearance of the old Ndebele style.

Currently the great majority of walls on this farm are painted in monochrome style with a conspicuous preference for light blue and turquoises, and some in earthen colours such as yellow. Some houses on this portion of the farm are not even painted.

Most houses have corrugated roof sheeting. Grass thatching has become too labour intensive, and the raw material too difficult to source

From interviews on site it appears that the Mabhena homestead was destroyed before December 2011. The family 'took' the mine's offer and relocated to a site known as Twenty Four (24) close to the N4 freeway. The Mabhenas took all recyclable material along: roof sheeting, beams and rafters, window and door frames, etc.

IN CONCLUSION: Although one might deplore the destruction of house and mural art styles of this period, some examples are still in existence in the district.

3.1.2 Intangible Heritage

Prof van Vuuren and his group, were introduced to the local headman (*ikosana*) Mr Malemane Mahlangu (Serudla sa Matjha) (born ± 1951). The Ndebele have, since 1883, deployed a system of rural and urban headmen in order to oversee and hear domestic and customary matters among fellow Ndebeles. However, the primary function of these headmen has always been to supervise the quadrennial male initiation ritual called *ingoma*.

These headmen are officially appointed by the Ndzundza-Ndebele king Mabhoko at Emtambohini, former KwaNdebele. The next male initiation will be held in 2013. The ritual lasts for two months (April to July) and is the most important ritual event among the Ndebele. Roughly 13000 young men are circumcised and initiated over this period.

Regional rural headman such as Mr Mahlangu, plays a pivotal role during this period. He explained that he had been officiating in the *ingoma* since 1982, starting with the Dhlari age regiment. To date he has officiated in eight male initiations. His homestead has been the central point or hub for male candidates on the farm, as well as those from other farms. This is visible in the relatively large gathering enclosure (*isirhodlo samakhethwa*) at his 'kraal'.

Malemane Mahlangu expressed his concern in fear of the serious impact that the intended relocation by the mine would have during the *ingoma* of 2013. Although he is not against the relocation he would be pleased if the relocation could be postponed until after July 2013.

SUGGESTION FOR MITIGATION: The intended relocation of all homesteads on this portion of the farm should be postponed until after the male initiation ritual.

4. SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

The following summarises the recommendations of the two specialist reports:

Site 26 – Cass farm Stead

- A full Heritage Impact Assessment of the entire farmstead property as a cultural landscape to be undertaken. This would include assessing the buildings as part of the ensemble forming the cultural landscape, and should probably be done in these terms by a cultural historian.
- Cultural History
In addition, the association with Pixley ka Seme and the activities of the Native Farmers Association (identified in the desktop research section of the HIA report) should be investigated further.

Ndebele Murals and Intangible heritage

- Murals
No further work required
- Intangible Heritage
The intended relocation of all homesteads on this portion of the farm should be postponed until after the male initiation ritual.

I can be contacted on 082 851 3575 or wouter@gravesolutions.co.za to take the management and mitigation process further.

Regards,



Wouter Fourie
Director
Professional Archaeologist

Incl, ***Annexure A – Heritage Architect Report,***
Annexure B – Ndebele Mural and Intangible Heritage Report

Annexure A – Heritage Architect Report

CASS FARM HERITAGE ASSESSMENT – ARCHITECTURAL EVALUATION

1 BACKGROUND

I, Roger Charles Fisher, Heritage Architect, was approached by Wouter Fourie of PGS Heritage and Grave Relocation Consultants to assess the heritage-worthiness of the so-called Cass Farm in terms of its Architectural Merit.

I met with Jennifer Kitto of his office and we visited the farm on Friday 3 August 2012 at 15:00. There we met Mrs. Cass Senior who conducted us around the farmhouse and outbuildings and provided information on aspects of the family history and associations with the farm. Farming activities were being conducted, such as unpacking of seed potatoes for planting. We met Mrs Cass' son briefly for an introduction before our departure about an hour-and-a-half later. The purpose was to do a 'windscreen' survey so as to determine what future heritage-related actions particularly related to its architectural merits, but more broadly in terms of its built environment and cultural landscape merits, might be necessary in the future.

I report as follows:

2 HERITAGE ENTITIES OF THE CASS FARMSTEAD

The **Cass Farmstead property** can be regarded as a **CULTURAL LANDSCAPE**.

A cultural landscape is a complex of fixed or static heritage resources with associated movable objects and/ or oral traditions having more than a single aspect of heritage value (See Breedlove, G. 2002. *A systematics for the South African cultural landscapes with a view to implementation*. Pretoria: University of Pretoria, Unpublished PhD.)

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In the case of the **Cass Farmstead**, in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act (25 Of 1999) CHAPTER I 3(2), the following aspects need to be investigated for assessment as Heritage Resources belonging to the National Estate:

- places, buildings, structures and equipment of cultural significance;
- places to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage;
- landscapes and natural features of cultural significance;
- movable objects, including-
 - objects to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage;
 - objects of decorative or fine art;
 - objects of scientific or technological interest; and
 - books, records, documents, photographic positives and negatives, graphic, film or video material or sound recordings, excluding those that are public records.

2.1 PLACES, BUILDINGS, STRUCTURES, LANDSCAPE FEATURES AND EQUIPMENT OF CULTURAL VALUE

2.1.1 Farmhouse and Associated Outbuildings

A rail track used as a lintel above the doors in the workshop is dated '1902', which suggests the building was constructed in that decade and is hence subject to the so-called 'Sixty-year Clause'. This section (Section 34) of the NHRA automatically protects any structure that is 60 years or older from any alteration, destruction, damage, etc, without a permit being obtained from the provincial heritage resources authority.

The main house, which is constructed of coursed ashlar, has steel windows, seemingly original, which would date it to the 1920s, again making it subject to the so-called 'Sixty-Year Clause'.

None of the structures or portions of the farm are formally declared heritage resources, but many of the **structures** and **cultural landscape** features are subject to the so-called 'Sixty Year clause' [Act 25 of 1999 34. (1)] and their presence in the ensemble makes the entire ensemble subject to assessment as to its heritage-worthiness.

2.1.2 Farmstead Outbuildings

Many of these are of more recent construction, although some are extensions to extant older structures. As an ensemble with associated sixty-year+ structures, **ALL become subject to the Act.**

2.2 LANDSCAPES AND NATURAL FEATURES OF CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE [Act 25 Of 1999 1:3(2)(d)]

2.2.1 Landscape Features

The garden that is associated with the farmhouse is in the so-called English Picturesque tradition and many trees are of plantings older than sixty years, making the entire garden subject to the Act.

The agricultural lands, roads, waterways, etc, form a so-called 'vernacular landscape' and should be investigated and assessed as such to determine their uniqueness and heritage value as part of the ensemble of the cultural landscape.

2.3 MOVABLE OBJECTS [Act 25 Of 1999 1:3(2)(i)]

2.3.1 Objects To Which Oral Traditions Are Attached Or Which Are Associated With Living Heritage [Act 25 Of 1999 1:3(2)(i)(ii)]

The family and workforce, and any interested and affected parties identified, will need to be interviewed to determine if these exist and if so, whether these have specific cultural significance.

2.3.3 Objects Of Decorative Or Fine Art (Act 25 Of 1999 1:3(2)(i)(v))

The family and workforce and interested and any affected parties identified will need to be interviewed to determine if these exist and if so, whether these have cultural significance.

2.3.4 Objects Of Scientific Or Technological Interest (Act 25 Of 1999 1:3(2)(i)(v))

The equipment and workshop and its fittings and furnishings are of particular heritage value as, according to Mrs Cass, most of the equipment and furnishings in the workshop are original and therefore of technological significance.

2.3.5 Books, Records, Documents, Photographic Positives And Negatives, Graphic, Film or Video Material or Sound Recordings, excluding those that are public records (Act 25 Of 1999 1:3(2)(i)(vii))

The family and workforce will need to be interviewed to determine if these exist and if so, whether these have cultural significance.

3 ASPECTS OF LEGISLATION THAT WOULD INDICATE THE DEGREE OF HERITAGE-WORTHINESS OF THE FARM AS A CULTURAL LANDSCAPE WORTHY OF HERITAGE STATUS

A place or object is to be considered part of the national estate if it has cultural significance or other special value (Act 25 of 1999, 11:3) because of:

- (a) its importance in the community, or pattern of South Africa's history
- (b) its possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage;
- (c) its potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage;
- (d) its importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of South Africa's natural or cultural places or objects;
- (e) its importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group;
- (f) its importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period;
- (g) its strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons;
- (h) its strong or special association with the life or work of a person, group or organisation of importance in the history of South Africa; and

The farmstead buildings/structures, landscape features, equipment and furnishings and any movable objects (including books, documents, photographs and drawings) will need to be assessed in terms of the aspects of cultural significance noted above.

4 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 The architecture, although interesting, if assessed in terms of the heritage criteria of the Act pertaining to architecture - i.e. its styling, representative of a particular style period or associated with an architect of note or constructed with unusual or special techniques or technologies - is not likely to be assessed as remarkable enough to be conservation-worthy, **if considered in isolation.**

If the heritage structures are physically isolated from their context they will have little or no heritage value whatsoever. Then it will be best to document the farmstead thoroughly for the record. The workshop, with all its apparently original equipment and cupboards, etc, is particularly remarkable; a fine example of such equipment still functioning and is conservation-worthy in its own right.

Farms need to be assessed as living relics and in this respect the entire Cass Farmstead with the full array of buildings and equipment, etc, even though not all yet sixty years old, is a fine example of what this agricultural landscape is about, and might one day be able to serve as an example and as a reminder of what this place once was before the whole region has been mined for coal.

As a farm still being run a century later by the same family for the same purpose, its heritage value becomes more significant if assessed in cultural terms.

It is thus considered necessary for a full Heritage Impact Assessment of the entire farmstead property as a cultural landscape to be undertaken. This would include assessing the buildings as part of the ensemble forming the cultural landscape, and should probably be done in these terms by a cultural historian.

4.2 In addition, the association with Pixley ka Seme and the activities of the Native Farmers Association (identified in the desktop research section of the HIA report) should be investigated further.

Whatever actions are anticipated in the future, in terms of section 34 of NHRA, the Mpumalanga Heritage Resources Authority will need to be involved; since an application for a permit to alter, damage or destroy any of the structures that are 60 years or older will need to be obtained.



ROGER C FISHER PhD(Arch)(UP) Emeritus Professor SACAP 3329

Referred source

Breedlove, G. 2002. *A systematics for the South African cultural landscapes with a view to implementation*. Pretoria: University of Pretoria, Unpublished PhD.

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Heritage Surveys and Policies

Date	Capacity	In Association	Client	Description	Document Type
1988	University of Pretoria	Schalk LE ROUX	Municipality of Heidelberg	Conservation survey of Heidelberg town centre	Published Report
1990	University of Pretoria	Schalk LE ROUX	Municipality of Middelburg, Mpumalanga	Conservation survey of the Motse, Botshabelo	Published Report
1997	Private	Mauritz Naude for National Cultural History Museum	Pretoria [Tshwane] Greater Metropolitan Council	Listing of buildings of Architectural Interest in the Pretoria Metropolitan Region	Annotated List
2000	Private	Nico BOTES, Nicholas CLARKE	DPW and SAHRA	Conservation Policy for Mahlaba Ndlovu	Published Report
2000	University of Pretoria	Schalk LE ROUX	Ermelo Transitional Council and SAHRA	Preliminary Survey for Conservation Policy, Ermelo	Published Report
2001	University of Pretoria	Schalk LE ROUX	Middelburg Transitional Council and SAHRA	Conservation Policy for the Botshabelo, Middleburg	Published Report
2001	Private	Francois Erasmus	General Smuts Foundation and SAHRA	Conservation Policy for the Smuts House Museum, Irene	Document
2001	University of Pretoria	Gwen BREEDLOVE [THERON]	Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism	Heritage Management Parameters for Environmental Potential Atlas (ENPAT)	Electronic CD set
2001	University of Pretoria	Gwen BREEDLOVE [THERON], Nicholas CLARKE	Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism	Architectural Heritage Database for Environmental Potential Atlas (ENPAT)	Electronic CD set
2005	Private	VDO	City Props	HIA for 'Tiny Town', Pretoria	HIA and Permit application to the PRAH-G
2005	Private	Nicholas CLARKE, Archaeologists of AMASA; HELENE POTGIETER ARCHITECTS	Doctor and Advocate van den Boudt	Heritage Impact Scoping Report for the farm Newcastle, KwaZulu-Natal (also known as Jabulani)	Report taken up into HIA submitted to Amalfa, KZN

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2006	University of Pretoria	Nicholas CLARKE	SANParks	Augulhas National Park heritage sites: preliminary report covering the sites: Soutbos Bosheuwel Soutpan Salt works Renosterkop Ratel Rivier Bergplaas	Report
2006	Private	Abertus CROUSE for MMA ARCHITECTS	SPOORNET	Application for alterations and renovations to Old Station Master's House, Pretoria Central Station Remainder of Portion 170 Pretoria Town & Townlands No 351-JR Portion 364	Permit Application to PHRA-G
2006	Private	The architectural consulting firms LEAP and MMA ARCHITECTS	Department of Health and Welfare	Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) report for the Old Pretoria Academic Hospital (previously the HF Verwoerd Hospital, originally The Pretoria General Hospital)	Permit Application to PHRA-G
2006	Private	Nicholas CLARKE for ARCHIFACTS	AFRICON	Heritage Survey Report for the Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital	Report to consultants
2006	Private	Nicholas CLARKE	TOPBOU KONSTRUKSIE	Heritage Impact Assessment: Candlewoods Estate (Louwlandia Extension 34), the restant of the original Brakfontein Farmstead (Erasmus Farm), Centurion, Tshwane	HIA and permit application to PHRA-G
2006	Private	Nicholas CLARKE for ARCHIFACTS; BLACKIE SWART ARCHITECTS		Heritage Impact Assessment: Old Findlay Farmstead: Xanadu Eco Park, Hartbeespoort	HIA and permit application to PHRA-NW
2007	Private	Nicholas CLARKE for ARCHIFACTS; MMA ARCHITECTS	POWA [People Opposing Women's Abuse]	Permit application for alterations to: 1095 and 1097, Berea, Johannesburg	Permit Application to PHRA-G
2007	Private	Nicholas CLARKE for ARCHIFACTS; LEAP	Department of Health, Free State Province	Adaptive re-use of some of the existing utility structures and wards and annexes associated with the Free State Psychiatric Complex (Also known as Oranje Hospital) in the Oranje suburb of Bloemfontein	HIA and Permit Application to PHRA-FS

2007	Private	Nicholas CLARKE for ARCHIFACTS; URBAN SOLUTIONS ARCHITECT		HIA: HIA: Erven 716 and 717 Parktown Extention redevelopment, Johannesburg	HIA and Permit Application
2007	Private	Nicholas CLARKE for ARCHIFACTS; URBAN SOLUTIONS ARCHITECT		HIA: The Siding Residential Development, Newtown for Urban Solutions Architects	HIA and Permit Application to PHRA-G
2008	Private	Nicholas CLARKE for ARCHIFACTS	Church of Scientology	HIA: New Church of Scientology, Church Street, Arcadia, Pretoria	HIA and Permit Application to PHRA-G
2008	Private	Nicholas CLARKE for ARCHIFACTS	Joybee (Pty) Ltd.	New Residential Development, Belvedere Street, Arcadia, Pretoria	Report to Client
2010	Private	Nicholas CLARKE for ARCHIFACTS/ principal agent AURECON	SAHRA	Assessment and heritage management recommendations as part of aver-all property management proposal for properties in the National Estate being part of the SAHRA property portfolio	Report to Client
2010	Private	JP Celliers (Archaeologist) for Kudzala Antiquity; Enpact Environmental Consultant		Demolition of Bridge no. 690 for the widening of the N4 National Road, Section 7B, Near Nelspruit, Mpumalanga	Recommendation Report for Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment

2011	Private	Dawn Green for Yezinyanya Research cc	Joe Qqabi District Municipality	<p>A register of all historical buildings, cultural landscapes and other resources in Barkly East and the district.</p> <p>A list of potential heritage sites for grading as historical sites/monuments.</p> <p>An architectural study resulting in an assessment of historical buildings on farms within the Barkly East district and in the town of Barkly East.</p> <p>Guide recommending building specifications for new structures and prototypes to preserve Historical buildings in Barkly East and surrounding district.</p> <p>A Heritage Management Strategy and Implementation Plan for the town of Barkly East and surrounding district.</p> <p>Historical data to produce tourism marketing literature for the town of Barkly East and surrounding district.</p>	Surveys and Reports
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2011	Private	Dawn Green for Yezinyanya Research cc	Joe Qqabi District Municipality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formation of project steering committee and approval of project programme • Situational & needs analysis • Heritage & display analysis • Monitoring & evaluation • Establish heritage display objectives • Establish unique ways in which museum can display this heritage • Redesign museum interiors for displays • Establish exhibition & lecture plan for museums • Monitoring and evaluation • Meet with tourism stakeholders • Identify tourism & heritage products to establish linkages • Establish tourism policies and integration • Monitoring and evaluation • Identify training needs • Identify training institutions to meet museums training needs • Develop capacity building programme • Monitoring & evaluation • Budget developed for regeneration • Identify sources of funding • Design implementation strategy • Complete heritage & tourism strategy • Monitoring & evaluation 	Photographic and measured plans of existing facilities. Report
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2011	Private	Artefacts	SAHRA	'Krugerhof' Waterval Onder, Mpumalanga: Schedule Of Repairs & Restorative Maintenance	Document – Schedule of repairs
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Annexure B – Ndebele Mural and Intangible Heritage Report

COMMENTS ON NDEBELE MURALS: HIA WITH REFERENCE TO KWAGGA NORTH PROJECT

1 BACKGROUND

A site visit took place on 7 August 2012, with reference to the Scoping report and paragraph 5.37. The location of the Ndebele homesteads and the relevant GPS data were not mentioned.

2 NDEBELE HOMESTEADS

There is a sizable concentration or cluster of Ndebele homesteads (approximately 12) on the portion of the particular farm. A full survey of homesteads (*abanikazi*) was not conducted. Clusters of this size are becoming extinct in the present time on Highveld farms. Depopulation occurs as a result of an increase in mining activities in the area, insecurity of tenure, lack of electricity and water and unemployment in the farming sector.

In most of these households members find employment outside the farm of residence. In most cases as is evident from brief interviews which I conducted, the unemployed, elderly and infants occupy the homestead, while others seek employment on the farm or commute between farm homestead (*umuzi*) and employer, which are mostly local mines and related industries.

Ndebele Highveld architecture developed a distinct identity which dates back to the last decade of the 1800s. The original style was that of cone-on-cylinder houses (1940s to 1960s) followed by the current quadrangular style.

Extensive courtyard walling, called *iinrhodlo*, has always been a central feature in Ndebele architecture. While these walls reached up to 200cm in height during the 1960s, the present ones are much lower as is evident from the examples onsite. A decrease in labour and increase in cost of material, etc, are said to have contributed to the lower walls as well as to a decline in the famous mural art (called *ukugwala*) of the Ndebele.

It appeared from the early photographs of the homestead of Lettie Mabhena (see p52) that she still painted in the early 1960s style (see Van Vuuren 1983). During our site visit very few of the *isirhodlo* walls were still painted in this style. Mrs Msiza (on site) explained that the cost of paint as well as the time and labour factor had contributed to the disappearance of the old Ndebele style.

Currently the great majority of walls on this farm are painted in monochrome style with a conspicuous preference for light blue and turquoises, and some in earthen colours such as yellow. Some houses on this portion of the farm are not even painted.

Most houses have corrugated roof sheeting. Grass thatching has become too labour intensive, and the raw material too difficult to source.

From interviews on site it appears that the Mabhena homestead was destroyed before December 2011. The family ‘took’ the mine’s offer and relocated to a site known as Twenty Four (24) close to the N4 freeway. The Mabhenas took all recyclable material along: roof sheeting, beams and rafters, window and door frames, etc.

The other homesteads in the cluster belong to the families of Msiza, Mahlangu (including the headman), Mokwena, Skosana, and others.

In conclusion: Although one might deplore the destruction of house and mural art styles of this period, some examples are still in existence in the district.

3 IMPACT ON INTANGIBLE HERITAGE

We introduced ourselves to the local headman (*ikosana*) Mr Malemane Mahlangu (Serudla sa Matjha) (born ± 1951). The Ndebele have, since 1883, deployed a system of rural and urban headmen in order to oversee and hear domestic and customary matters among fellow Ndebeles. However, the primary function of these headmen has always been to supervise the quadrennial male initiation ritual called *ingoma*.

These headmen are officially appointed by the Ndzundza-Ndebele king Mabhoko at Emtambohini, former KwaNdebele. The next male initiation will be held in 2013. The ritual lasts for two months (April to July) and is the most important ritual event among the Ndebele. Roughly 13000 young men are circumcised and initiated over this period.

Regional rural headmen such as Mr Mahlangu, play a pivotal role during this period. He explained that he had been officiating in the *ingoma* since 1982, starting with the Dhlari age regiment. To date he has officiated in eight male initiations. His homestead has been the central point or hub for male candidates on the farm, as well as those from other farms. This is visible in the relatively large gathering enclosure (*isirhodlo samakhethwa*) at his ‘kraal’.

Most of the main rites are performed at Mr Mahlangu's *umuzi*. These include the two *phalala* rites as well as the pre-liminal *ukukhonga* ritual. During male initiation the headman's homestead becomes a hive of social and ritual activity which includes song and dance, ritual slaughtering and feasting. Many local people visit this site over the period of two months.

Malemane Mahlangu expressed his concern in fear of the serious impact that the intended relocation by the mine would have during the *ingoma* of 2013. Although he is not against the relocation he would be pleased if the relocation could be postponed until after July 2013.

Suggestion for mitigation: The intended relocation of all homesteads on this portion of the farm should be postponed until after the male initiation ritual.

4 COMPILED By

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14 August 2014