



# NEWCASTLE MUNICIPALITY

## KWAZULU-NATAL

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### TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

**RE: Historical and Architectural Report: St Dominics Curro School St Dominics Street (ERF 392, ERF 1 of 382, R/382, Rem of Erf 1, Erf 15571 ) NEWCASTLE**

**PRESENT OWNER:** Curro Schools

3 Murchison Street  
Newcastle  
2940.

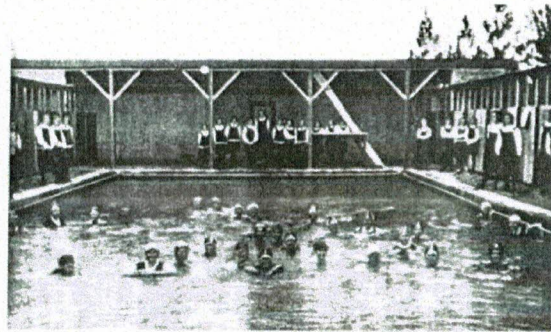
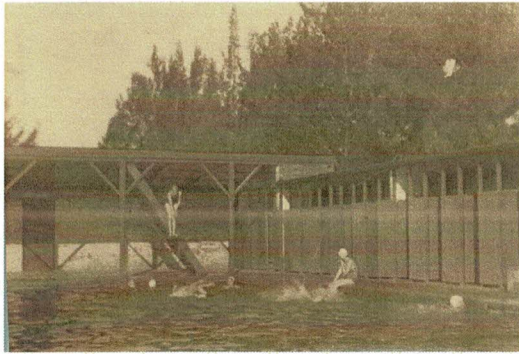
1. BUILDING TYPE: Swimming Pool
2. PRESENT USE: Not used at present as it is dilapidated

It seems if swimming was important from the start of the St Dominic's Academy. The swimming pool was completed in 1915 and the Academy became the first school in Natal to have its own pool. The pool was as with many of the other buildings, designed by Brother Nevard Streicher. The pool was enlarged to 25 meters in 2010. The school participates regularly in open water swimming events, the Inter-house Gala and various provincial Galas in Kwa-Zulu Natal

### 3. ARCHITECTURAL STYLE:

From the oldest photographs the architectural style is not visible from the outside. It however seems as if it was a very simple structure with no special embellishments or facades. On the inside there were changing cubicles with wooden doors on two opposite sides. Another wall with at least two doors are visible. It has a protruding corrugated iron roof supported by wooden pillars and supports. A type of ladder that leads to the roof is also visible on old photographs. Very little space is left between the swimming pool and the surrounding sides.





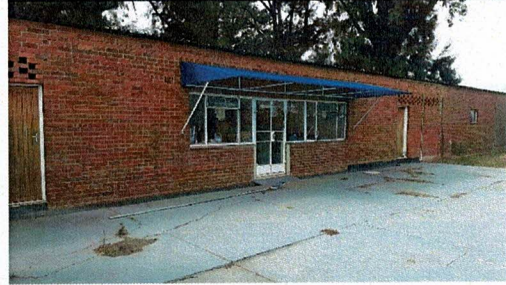
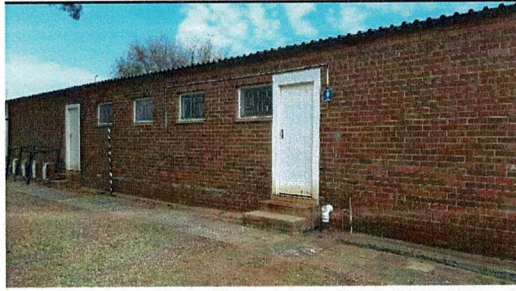
It is obvious from surveying the present swimming complex that this original structure was almost completely or partly demolished at some time and rebuilt.

At present the swimming pool complex consists of the swimming pool itself which is surrounded by four facades. The north facade consists of the administration rooms and the ablution. The western facade consists of the changing rooms. The south and eastern facades are brick walls. Apparently, the eastern wall contained seating on the inside at an earlier stage. All the walls are built of standard red brick with stretcher or running bonds.

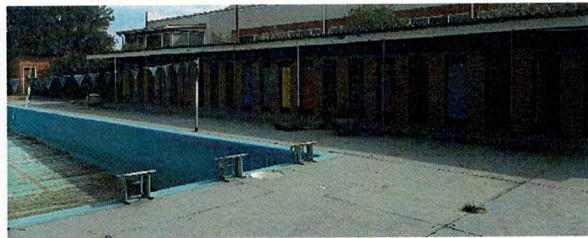
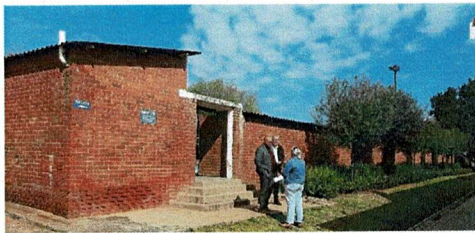


General view of swimmingpool. It has been out of use for the last three years since major cracks have lead to leaks that are not economically viable to fix.

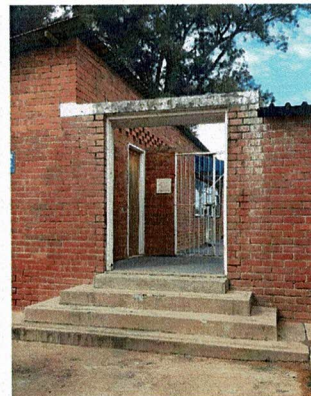




The outside and inside of the northern façade. The façade incorporates administration space for use during swimming events, a store room and ablution facilities. Its constructed of red bricks and a flat corrugated iron roof. The doors and windows are a combination of steel frames and simple wooden doors.



The western façade shows the depth of the administration building on the left. The western façade consist mainly of the changing cubicals with the colourfull wooden swinging doors on the inside. The entrance to the swimming pool is also located here.

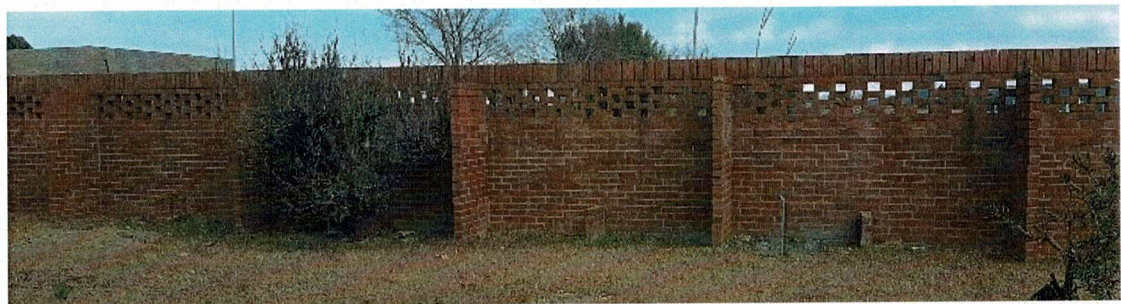


The closer view of some of the wooden swing doors. The entrance consist of the opening between the northern and western facades, filled in with brick work on the sides and a concrete lintel on top and simple concrete steps leading down to ground level. The roof consist of corrugated iron.





The eastern façade consists of a brick wall of stretcher bond and soldier course, supported with simple brick buttress retaining walls on the inside. Apparently there used to be wooden seating against the walls.



The southern façade is similar to the eastern façade except for the pigeon hole openings beneath the soldier course top bond.

4. CONSTRUCTION DATE: 1910's to 1950's

5. ALTERATIONS:

The original swimming pool complex was probably rebuilt in the 1950's. The swimming pool itself was enlarged to 25 meters in 2010.

6. MUNICIPAL RECORD OF HISTORICAL BUILDINGS:

The building is not listed.

ARCHITECTURAL VALUE : none

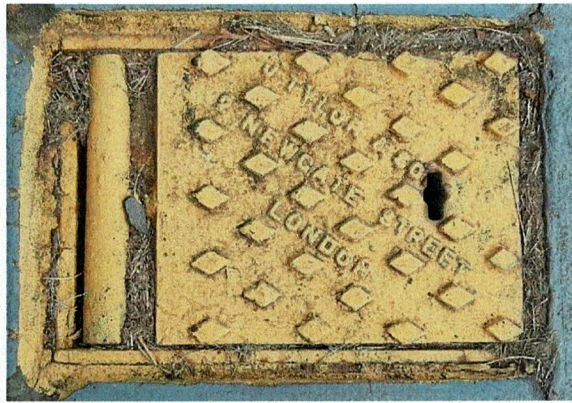
ENVIRONMENTAL VALUE : none

HISTORICAL VALUE: In my opinion this complex has no exceptional architectural importance. There is no decoration that indicates stylistic changes. There is no building material that has been used that are outstanding.

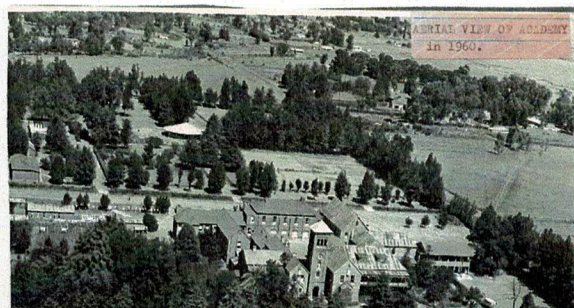
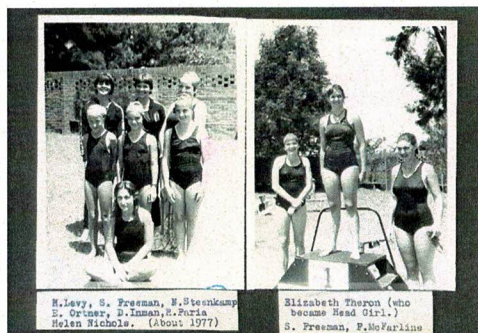
I would advise to give consent to demolish this building.



It is suggested that a “wall of remembrance” be created in any future development. It can consist of a number of the starting blocks and the old wooden doors being salvaged and incorporated with a collage of old photographs and text narrating the history of the swimming pool at the school.

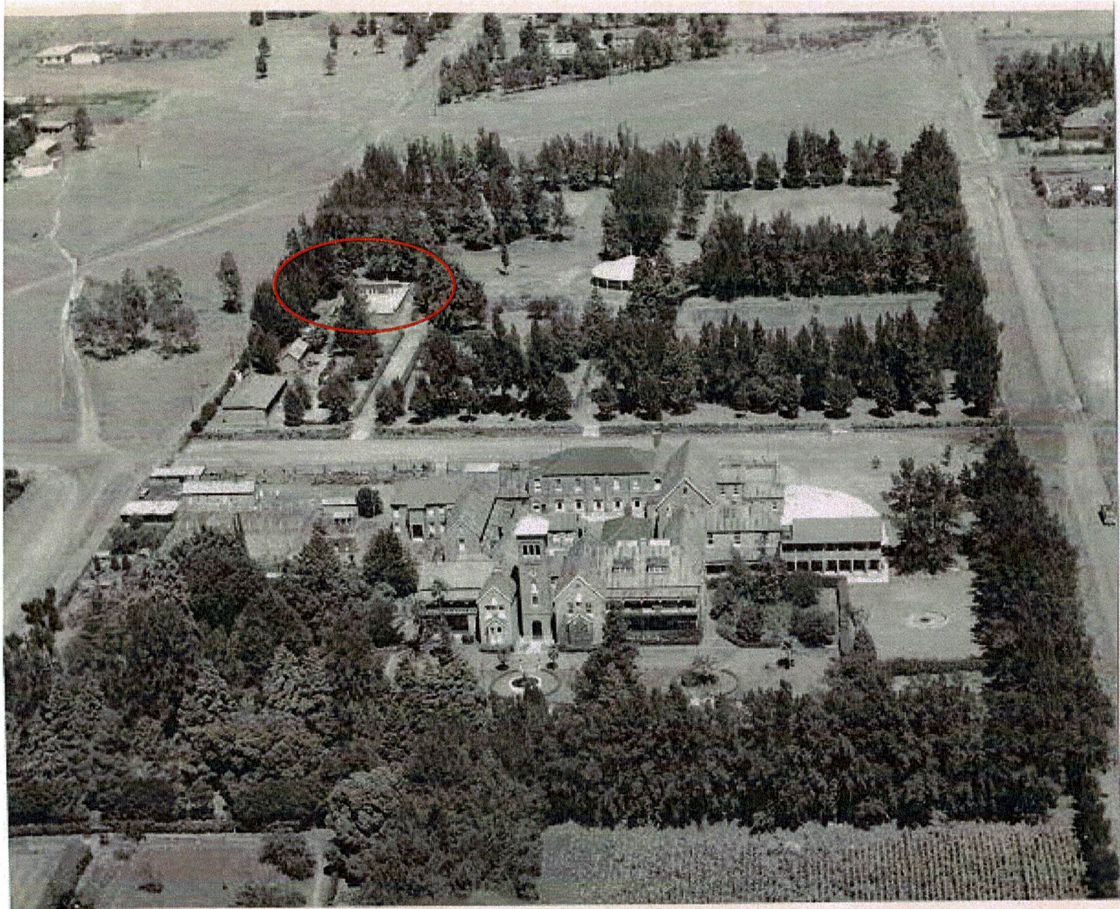


A starting block and a steel drainage cover are some of the historical components that can be salvaged and be incorporated into a “wall of remembrance”.



Some of the historical photographs that can be used in the displays.






Locality of original pool





Arial photo of existing position and features

 29/07/2022

**N. NDLOVU**  
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