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## **SITE INSPECTION REPORT: FOR THE NATIONAL HERITAGE MONUMENT (HEROIN AND SHEROIN ACRE) IN PRETORIA**

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**HERITAGE OBJECTS & HERITAGE PROTECTION UNIT**

**Date:** 08/10/2018

**APP Indicator Number: 2.1**

### **Introduction**

Section 5 (1)(a) of the National Heritage Resources Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA) states that “Heritage resources have lasting value in their own right and provide evidence of the origins of the South African society and as they are valuable, finite, non-renewable and irreplaceable they must be carefully managed to ensure their survival”.

On the 08/10/18, Heritage Protection Unit Art Bank and Iziko Museum and Mr Sipho Mndada conducted an inspection at the Freedom Park and National Heritage Monument at the Fountain where the Struggle Icons Statues are displayed. The National Heritage Monument is a group of copper statues representing anti-apartheid activists, Zulu chiefs and missionaries. The monument



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is meant to reflect the struggle for liberation going back into the 1600s. It is in Groen Kloof Nature Reserve.

### **Purpose of the site visit**

The site visit was conducted as part of monitoring national heritage objects in Eastern Cape Province. This was done to ensure that the authority responsible is in compliance with section 5 of the NHRA which states that “Heritage Resources contribute significantly to research, education and tourism and they must be developed and presented for these purposes in a way that ensures dignity and respect for cultural values.”

### **Background**

There are two hill organs one housed at Market Street dating back to 1820, another housed at High street dating back to 1874. The organs are owned by the Methodist Church of Southern Africa.

### **Assessment**

SAHRA officials were accompanied by a care taker to view the organ at High Street as arranged with the Reverend to provide SAHRA with detailed information. Due to unforeseen circumstance the Reverend was not available.

The care taker informed us that the organ is still used but not frequently. We were showed all the pieces of the organ including the pipes and engine kept outside in small engine room – looked like a cellar. It was mentioned that the organ was refurbished. An amount of R250,000,00 was donated by Rupert Foundation. The organ is used during music concerts and church services. It was reported that above the organ there is a leak on the roof which can damage the organ. For now, there is no money to fix the roof. SAHRA advised that when funding is obtained the church



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must notify SAHRA to give advice on issues of conservation, maintenance, application of permit etc. The care taker was informed of what how to protect the organ. Security matters were checked as the church is at the center of business district. Both the front and back doors close properly. There is a care taker responsible to look after the church.

The second viewing was Hill organ at Market street, housed inside Wesley church. The hill organ is made from wood and hand made in 1820. It was brought out by ship as a gift for Lord Charles Somerset's wife. It was declared a historical monument in 1950 and presented to the church in 1852, when Somerset and his family left Grahamstown. It was imported from England to Fort England army. It is still in working order. The church building has three secured door entrance with burglar gates, padlocks and alarm system and accessed through a gate which is locked. There are two people with the keys. When there is a need to fix the organ, the church gets a qualified carpenter to do the work. Again, SAHRA informed the care taker what is required from them as custodians. Issues of security were mentioned, access to the building, repairs etc. There were other significant objects found inside the church e.g. 2 gold plates – used during holy communion which were imported from England. The baptismal basin with a lead and a stand also used during holy communion.

**Picture 1:** The Hill organ at Methodist Church housed in Hill Street in Grahamstown Eastern Cape Province



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**Picture 2:** The Hill organ at Methodist Church housed in Market Street in Grahamstown Eastern Cape Province



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### **Conclusion**

SAHRA need to get detailed information with regards to both organs. The information has been requested from Mr. Mark Hazell. It will be good that both units can do a follow up to get information about the leak above the organ.

**Heritage Protection Manager:** Ms. Nkosazana Machete

**Date:**

**Heritage Officer:** Nolitha Ngcai

**Date:**

**Executive Officer:**

**Date:**

**Heritage Objects Manager:**

**Date:**



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