

**MEETING OF HERITAGE WESTERN CAPE,
INVENTORIES, GRADING AND INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE**

Approved Minutes of a meeting of the Inventories, Grading and Interpretation Committee of Heritage Western Cape held on 13 May 2014, at 09H30 in the 7th floor boardroom at the Offices of the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport, Protea Assurance Building, Greenmarket Square, Cape Town

1. Opening and Welcoming

The Chairperson, Dr Antonia Malan, opened the meeting at 09h30 and welcomed everyone present.

2. Attendance

Inventories, Grading and Interpretation Committee:

Dr Antonia Malan
Ms Maureen Wolters
Ms Quahnita Samie
Ms Laura Robinson
Mr Ignatius de Swardt
Mr Stefan de Kock
Dr Stephen Townsend
Mr Rowen Ruiters

HWC Staff

Mr Andrew Hall
Mr Zwelibanzi Shiceka
Mr Ronny Nyuka
Ms Lithalethu Mshoti

Visitors

None

3. Apologies

4. Approval of minutes of previous meeting dated 27 March 2014

4.1 Minutes approved with minor corrections.

5 Disclosure of Interest

5.1 None

6. Approval of the agenda

6.1 Agenda was approved with one additional item.

7. Confidential matters

7.1 None

8. Administration Matters

8.1 Peer Reviews

Peer reviews of reports are often confidential documents commissioned from experts in the field in order to inform internal assessment processes and the reviewers may in many cases need to remain anonymous.

The reviewers may also remain anonymous unless they agree to their names being released. This is standard practice for academic publications. However, extracts or comments and recommendations for improvements from the peer review can and should be used to guide constructive engagement with the authors of a report.

It was noted that HWC Council is to be asked to consider this as a recommendation for HWC policy.

Joint grading workshops

AH suggested that joint grading workshops should be organised during grading exercises conducted by local authorities, working through examples of real cases. The most urgent is with the City of Cape Town as a mechanism is needed to ensure that Grade III gradings (currently proposed by the authorities or by their consultants independently) are based on common agreed criteria and standards. This is to ensure, when the resultant inventories are eventually submitted to HWC for approval, that considerable adjustment is not necessary.

George survey

All the relevant comments and minutes regarding the George survey to be collated together with extracts from the peer review. A letter is to be written to the Municipality and copied to The Matrix

outlining the critical points for review and offering advice on the way forward. AM to draft in conjunction with ZS and AH.

9. Appointments

9.1 None

10. Surveys

10.1 Stellenbosch Heritage Survey 2012- Historical Core

It was noted that due to the size of the survey, a special meeting is to be held on 23 June 2014 to assess the gradings.

ZS

10.2 Stellenbosch University – Core Campus Heritage Survey and Inventory of the Built Environment and Cultural Landscape

General comments

The Committee discussed the distinction between heritage protections (heritage management strategies) vs individual gradings (heritage significances) and how to best deal with the issue of two or more tiers of authority being responsible for decision-making. For example, in the case of Stellenbosch University there is a single owner (excepting some small pockets) and a case for declaring the whole or a large part of the campus/property holdings to be a PHS with a CMP or guidelines for precincts or individual properties within the demarcated area.

It was also noted that there are gradings suggested by the consultant team of clusters of types of buildings and environs, for example the original university core, the 'Collins era' buildings, the rows of previous private houses now used as offices/residences (see below), the post-war and modernist developments which the committee members had questions about. Also, in this class were dwellings, grander houses along Victoria Street and more modest ones in the side streets, not built for university purposes and now having to be altered by the University for University uses. Will there be a special conservation strategy for managing this type?

It was noted that privately owned properties were not surveyed. The Committee suggested that they should be assessed and

included in the inventory so that their future management is guided.

Specific comments

It was noted that high grades were assigned to modernist buildings, such as the Fagan residences (nos. 214, 206, 264 & 268) and the Colyn & Meiring Conservatory (no. 72), but the Committee was unsure as to their significances. It was decided that the authors of the survey should ask for comment from Docomomo SA.

Area 2 JS Marais Plein / Rooiplein. It was noted that though it has high historical value, its architectural and landscape qualities were badly damaged by the construction of the library in the 1980s. The square has been totally compromised and spatially degraded by the construction of the underground library with its extrusions and reconfiguration of the landscaping. It is therefore possibly of low spatial significance, but it lies within the wider GII precinct, it is the heart of the university. The Library building (# 22) is not gradable, but the contents are significant **heritage objects** and fall under SAHRA.

Area 3 De Beer Street and an ungraded precinct. From a management point of view, should this be included in the GII zone in terms of future developments?

Area 4 'Wimbledon'. The Committee regards this space as ungradable, as there is no existing or historical basis in terms of its material qualities and its use is hardly protectable heritage.

Area 5 Wilgenhof is outside the GII zone. Is there a reason for not incorporating it?

Area 6 The Committee was unconvinced by the proposed grading for the glasshouses, on the basis that they are architecturally very ordinary, their scientific significance / contents are not embedded in the structures (which could be replaced without compromising their function).

Building #	Survey grade	Committee grade
5,6 &7	IIIB	Ungradable

13	IIIB	Ungradable
46	IIIB	IIIC
100	IIIB	IIIA
204	IIIB	IIIC
214	IIIB	Ungradable
216	IIIB	IIIC
217	IIIC	Ungradable
235	IIIB	IIIC
240	IIIB	IIIC
245	IIIB	IIIC
256	IIIB	IIIC
258	IIIB	IIIC
262	IIIB	IIIC
265	IIIB	IIIC
275	IIIB	IIIC
278	IIIC	Ungradable
279	IIIB	IIIC
808	IIIC	Ungradable
809	IIIB	IIIC
836	IIIC	Ungradable
852	IIIC	Ungradable
866	IIIB	IIIC
867	IIIC	Ungradable
869	IIIA	II
870	IIIC	Ungradable
885	IIIB	IIIC
894	IIIC	Ungradable
994	IIIC	Ungradable

DECISION

The Committee decided that:

- A list of proposed re-gradings and comments is sent to the authors of the survey for response;
- The survey authors should be invited to the next special meeting of the IGIC on Monday 23 June 2014, with an appointment from 09h30 to 10h30.
- In particular the team is asked to:
 - get comments on the modernist architecture from Docomomo SA;

- comment on the approach to and gradings of the 'Collins era' ensemble (the Committee is inclined to grade them all GIII or Ungradable);
- comment on rationalising/extending boundaries of the Grade II area(s);
- as conservation consultants to SU, to consider policy towards the often very ordinary domestic houses now the property of SU.

ZS

11. GRADING OF PREVIOUS NATIONAL MONUMENTS

11.1 None

12. NOMINATIONS OF PROVINCIAL HERITAGE SITES.

12.1 De Swarte Rivier Farm House, Farm 183, Portion 20 on District Road, From N2 to Hoogekraal, Knysna.

It was noted that a nomination has been submitted to HWC. The matter is deferred to the next meeting due to the volume of nominations received and the current lack of capacity of the staff.

JW

12.2 Constantia Cemetery, Erf 1410, Parish Road, Constantia, Cape Town

It was noted that a nomination has been submitted to HWC. The matter is deferred to the next meeting due to the volume of nominations received and the current lack of capacity of the staff.

JW

12.3 Rust en Vrede, Erf 1433, Rustenvrede Avenue, Constantia, Cape Town.

It was noted that a nomination has been submitted to HWC. The matter is deferred to the next meeting due to the volume of nominations received and the current lack of capacity of the staff.

NN

12.4 Bel Ombre, Erf 2932, Corner of Rathfelder Avenue and Avenue Provence, Constantia, Cape Town

It was noted that a nomination has been submitted to HWC. The matter is deferred to the next meeting due to the volume of nominations received and the current lack of capacity of the staff.

NN

12.5 Old Sillery Farm, Constantia, Erven 2304 and 2305.

It was noted that a nomination has been submitted to HWC. The matter is deferred to the next meeting due to the volume of nominations received and the current lack of capacity of the staff.

ZS

13. De-proclamation of existing Provincial Heritage Sites.

13.1 None

14. OTHER MATTERS

14.1 For Noting: Heritage Mossel Bay Plaques.

It was noted that this matter will be dealt with on the meeting to be held 24 June 2014

AH

14.2 For Noting: Application for proposed registration of the 'Watering Place' Mossel Bay.

It was noted that this matter will be dealt with on the meeting to be held 24 June 2014

AH

15. DATE OF NEXT SPECIAL MEETING: 23 June 2014

DATE OF NEXT GENERAL MEETING: 24 June 2014

16. CLOSURE

Mr Andrew Hall
ACCOUNTING OFFICER
For Head of Department