

MORAVIAN HERITAGE IN THE WESTERN CAPE

OTHER LINKS

www.moravianchurcharchives.org
www.moravianarchives.org
www.morvianhistoricalsociety.org
www.casidra.co.za
www.unesco.org
www.archiv.ebu.de
www.moravian.org.uk

George Schmidt arrived in 1737 at the Cape of Good Hope to establish the oldest mission south of the Sahara desert in Africa. The Herrnhutters had a good relationship with the Dutch West Indian Company in West Indies and thus were introduced to the Dutch East India Company. From humble beginnings to second largest church province in the Unitas Fratrum. Various mission societies established more than 1000 mission stations in South Africa.

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HISTORICAL OVERVIEW OF MISSIONS IN THE WESTERN CAPE

- 1738: Baviaanskloof, later renamed Genadendal
- 1808: Groenekloof, later renamed Mamre
- 1818: Enon on the Witterivier
- 1823: Hemel en Aarde-vallei (“Heaven and Earth Valley”) settlement for lepers
- 1824: Elim near Bredasdorp
- 1828: Shiloh
- 1830: Wupperthal in the Cederberg (established as a Rhenish Mission)
- 1839: Clarkson near Humansdorp
- 1846: Goedverwacht near Piketberg
- 1849: Goshen
- 1859: Engotini and Wittewater
- 1863: Biziya
- 1869: Pella
- 1870: Entumazi
- 1872: Bethesda
- 1873: Emtweni & Tabase
- 1875: Elukolweni
- 1876: Tinana
- 1878: Zondagskloof
- 1884: Moravian Hill, Cape Town, the first urban Moravian congregation

BACKGROUND ON GENADENDAL:

- 1738: George Schmidt arrived at Baviaanskloof and worked amongst indigenous, impoverished and dispersed Khoi of the area
- 1742: Baptized converts and educated followers
- 1744: Returned to Europe after disagreement with Dutch Reformed Church and Dutch East India Company
- 1792: Mission work resumed when Schwinn, Kühnel and Marsveld arrived from Zeist
- Magdalena could still read from the New Testament given to her by George Schmidt
- 1793: Built Missionary Rooms and started building work on the settlement
- 1800: First church completed
- 1803: Renamed Genadendal meaning “Valley of Grace”
- Many “firsts” in South Africa:
 - 1st industrial town in South Africa, making knives
 - 1st teachers’ training college in South Africa
 - 1st kindergarten in South Africa
 - Printing press
 - Oldest pipe organ in South Africa
- 1815: Visit of Bishop C I Latrobe to Genadendal and his journey into the South African hinterland with the wagon that is now on display at Genadendal
- 1834: 1st indigenous teacher appointed at Genadendal
- 1845: Visit of Bishop Breutel from Herannah

GENADENDAL RESTORATION PROJECT:

Dutch/South African Project: Largest single amount ever made available for a restoration project outside of the Netherlands. First utilisation of Rural Housing Subsidy in South Africa for rehabilitation of historic structures

Genadendal contact details:

Mission Museum: +27 (028) 251-8582
Town Council: +27 (028) 251-8130/251-8150
Tourism Association: +27 (028) 251-8291
Development Association: +27 (028) 251-8397
Community Cooperative: +27 (028) 251-8147
Conference Centre: +27 (028) 251-8346
E-mail: gedendalmuseum@xsinet.co.za
www.tourismcapeoverberg.co.za

BACKGROUND ON MAMRE:

- 1701: DEIC military and cattle outpost established known as De Kleine Post
- 1808: Groenekloof Moravian Mission established by J P Kohrhammer & J M Schmidt
- Khoi soldiers and families, mainly from Genadendal, settled after taking part in the Battle of Blaauwberg (1806)
- 1812: Old school
- 1818: Church inaugurated
- 1816: Latrobe laid triangular foundation stone of the church;
- 1838: Slaves were freed and influx of emancipated slaves as inhabitants
- 1844: Watermill was built
- 1854: Name changed to Mamre
- 1701: Dutch East Indian Company military and cattle outpost established known as De Kleine Post
- 1808: Groenekloof Moravian Mission established with missionaries Johann Philipp Kohrhammer from Oettingen and J M Schmidt
- 1812: Old school
- 1818: Church inaugurated
- 1844: Watermill was built
- 1854: Name changed to Mamre
- 1967: Historic buildings were declared as National Monuments.

Mamre Contact details:

Tel no: +02 (021) 576-1117

BACKGROUND ON ELIM:

- 1815: Latrobe recommended an English-speaking missionary to be sent to the Cape: The Rev H P Hallbeck from England arrived in 1817
- Mainly settled by emancipated slaves and their descendents
- 1824: Moravians purchased farm Vogelstruys Kraal
- 1st missionaries were the Rev. Johann Gottlieb Bonatz and C Thomson
- 1830: Watermill constructed
- 1835: Church built and enlarged in 1865
- Monument to commemorate the freeing of slaves in 1834
- Best preserved of the Moravian settlements in South Africa
- Historic core of Elim is a provincial heritage site
- 1975: Special protective order on thatched houses in Church Street
- 1839: Descendants of Maniesa, an emancipated female slave (originally from Bengal, India) inherited farm from their previous owner
- 1845: Rev Teutsch visited the area
- 1846: Requested assistance from Groenekloof (Mamre) with the education of their children.

This village of white-washed, thatched cottages has South Africa's only slave freedom memorial. The local thatchers are renowned for their expert craftsmanship and the surrounds reflect their talents. Many of the country's rarest plant species are indigenous and the town has a thriving wild flower export industry. The Old Mill Tea Room is popular for its products made from flour ground at the Mission's Mill. The Old Water Mill built in 1833 has the largest wooden water-wheel in South Africa and is still in use.

Elim contact details for Moravian Church, Old Water Mill, Slave Monument, Geelkop Nature Reserve and Tourism Organisation:

Tel: +27 (028) 482-1806/482-1750

Fax: +27 (028) 482-1996

E-mail: elimor@brd.dorea.co.za / suidpunt@brd.dorea.co.za

www.danger-point-peninsula.co.za/elim.shtml

www.capegulhas.info

BACKGROUND ON GOEDVERWACHT:

- 1896: Opening of new church, now a provincial heritage site
- Watermill was built to assist with grinding of wheat and rye production

Goedverwacht is situated in a fertile valley and boasts beautiful historical buildings, including a mission sotre and watermill. Wild flowers and fynbos are in full bloom from mid-August to mid-September.

Goedverwacht contact details for local church, cultural tours, watermill, tourism organization:

Tel: +27 (022) 912-4410/912-4782

Fax: +27 (022) 912-4420

E-mail: goedverwachtb@telkomsa.net

www.capewestcoast.org

BACKGROUND ON WUPPERTHAL:

- 1830: Established as the Wupperthal Institute by the Rhenish Mission society on the farm Riedmond by J G Leipoldt, a frequent visitor to Genadendal
- Permit issued by the Cape Colonial Government on condition that Wupperthal must be based on the Genadendal model
- Inhabited by dispersed Khoi and San and emancipated slaves from area
- Became a Moravian settlement by choice of inhabitants in 1965 after the Rhenish Mission Society withdrew from South Africa
- Historic core of Wupperthal is a provincial heritage site
- A photographic survey and conservation guidelines were produced and printed from funding made available by Norwegian government
- Wupperthal has several outstations, including Elizabethsfontein, Eselsbank and Langbome
- One of the best preserve historical settlements in South Africa

This Mission Station is situated in the Tra-Tra Valley on the edge of the Cederberg Wilderness Area with rock formations, rich bird-life, seasonal wildflowers, a historic shoe factory and a rooibos tea factory. Farmers still harvest their crops with sickles using donkeys to thresh the grain.

Wupperthal contact details of local church, museum and Veldskoen Shoe Factory:
Tel & Fax no: +27 (022) 492-3410
E-mail: info@wupperthal.co.za
www.capewestcoast.org

BACKGROUND ON WITTEWATER:

This village is on the slopes of the Piketberg Mountain and offers rock art sites and wild flowers. It has many historical buildings and thatched, white-washed houses with brightly painted windows. German Moravian missionaries established it in the early part of the 19th century as a mission station, run in conjunction with the nearby Goedverwacht Mission.

Wittewater contact details for Church Office and Overseers Council:

Tel: +27 (022) 912-4210

E-mail: goedverwachtb@telkomsa.net

www.capewestcoast.org

SOUTH AFRICAN CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES:

- Draft Integrated Development Plans with local community participation
- Identify conservation-worthy sites and structures
- Draft site-specific conservation guidelines
- Land reform issues
- Develop conservation management plans and obtain buy-in from all relevant authorities
- Ensure integrated economic development for each community
- Develop sustainable cultural tourism development plans
- Develop funding mechanisms and fund-raise
- Ensure socio-economic development
- Explore benefits for local community to fight poverty
- Explore heritage education opportunities
- UNESCO's World Heritage Convention (1972)
- Global Strategy of the World Heritage Committee ensure World Heritage List reflects the world's cultural and natural diversity of outstanding universal value
- Religious heritage: Significance of Moravian Heritage compared to other religious heritage
- New Guidelines for the World Heritage Convention must be studied (2005)
- Once on the Tentative List, training opportunities for training of site managers exist in the ICOM's Africa 2009 World Heritage Conservation Programme
- Respect for State party processes for nomination on Tentative List of World Heritage Sites
- Funding for preparation of a nomination dossier
- Ensure conservation management plan is drafted and implemented
- Responsibility for periodical reporting once inscribed on the World Heritage List
- Develop a vision: A future for the past
- Identify, evaluate, document and assess conservation-worthy sites and structures
- Determine significance in terms of agreed criteria
- Draft site-specific conservation guidelines
- Develop conservation management plans and obtain buy-in from all role-players
- Develop educational and interpretive tools
- Process for nomination on the South African Tentative List of World Heritage Sites
- Funding for preparation of a nomination file
- International cooperation and develop networks
- International funding opportunities, e.g. Genadendal – Dutch-funded project, Wupperthal and Elim – Norwegian-funded project, Mamre – German-funded projects, etc.