



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 12 320 8490 / +27 12 941 4960 | F: +27 12 320 8486
South African Heritage Resources Agency - Pretoria Office | 432 Paul Kruger Street | Pretoria

PUBLIC NOTICE

17 April 2020

SITE REFERENCE: 9/02/407/76
SAHRIS SITE ID: 26306
Enquiries: H.Weldon/B.Mwasinga

NOTIFICATION OF THE INTENTION TO DECLARE THE HISTORICAL PORTION OF THE PHOENIX SETTLEMENT; THE REMAINDER OF PORTION 498 OF THE FARM PIEZANG REVIER FT; INANDA, DURBAN, KWAZULU-NATAL AS A NATIONAL HERITAGE SITE IN TERMS OF SECTION 27 OF THE NATIONAL HERITAGE RESOURCES ACT NO. 25 OF 1999

By virtue of the powers vested in the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) in terms of section 27 of the National Heritage Resources Act No, 25 of 1999 (“the NHRA”), SAHRA hereby notifies all stakeholders of the declaration of the historical portion of the Phoenix Settlement situated on the Remainder of Portion 498 of the Farm Piezang Revier FT, Inanda, Durban (namely the home of Mohandas (Mahatma) Gandhi (Sarvodaya house), the Printing Press Building, Museum and the Kasur Bhavan (Manilal Gandhi House)), as a National Heritage Site in line with the provisions of section 27(1) of the National Heritage Resources Act No 25 of 1999 (referred to henceforth as “NHRA”).

SAHRA has identified the site as having qualities so exceptional that it is of special national significance and warrants the declaration as a National Heritage Site.

In terms of Section 27(10) of the NHRA, the site shall be deemed to be protected as a heritage site for six (6) months from the date of service of this notice or until the notice is withdrawn or the place is declared to be a heritage site by notice of a Government Gazette, whichever is the shorter period.

Brief Statement of Significance:

The Phoenix Settlement Site is largely associated with Mahatma Gandhi’s early settlement in South Africa and his connection to the liberation movement. Once Mahatma Gandhi had settled in South Africa, he settled on this site, and in those days around the Gandhi settlement site were beautiful plantations of sugar cane fields.

After the year-long contract that Mahatma Gandhi took-up with an Indian law firm, he began his experiments with the concept of communal living, non-possession, interfaith harmony, simplicity, environmental protection, conservation, manual labour, social and economic justice, nonviolent action, principles of education and truth. In addition to Mahatma Gandhi’s aspirations of creating a peaceful environment, this site was going to be self-sustaining.



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

Over 100 acres of land was called Phoenix Settlement. It was the most beautiful piece of land, untouched by the then racial laws.

The Settlement, devoted to Gandhi's principles of Satyagraha (passive resistance) has played an important spiritual and political role throughout its long history, promoting justice, peace and equality. Gandhi established the settlement as a communal experimental farm with the view of giving each family two acres of land which they could develop. He believed that communities like Phoenix which advocated communal living would form a sound basis for the struggle against social injustice.

In addition to the intangible significance related to the phoenix Settlement site, Gandhi used the Settlement in order to train political activists called satyagrahis as well as house their families, while they were engaged in the campaigns against unjust laws. Its significance is centred around the ancillary support that Mahatma Gandhi offered to the freedom fighter's struggle for equality and the stop to human right's infringements.

Implications of Declaration:

SAHRA is responsible for the protection of all National Heritage Sites and will, therefore, be the responsible heritage resources authority to ensure the protection of the site according to section 27 (15) of the NHRA. In terms of Section 27 (18), no person may destroy, damage, deface, excavate, alter, remove from its original position, subdivide or change the planning status of any heritage site declared a National Heritage Site without a permit from SAHRA, and, in terms of section 27 (22) of the NHRA, no person may damage any fence, wall or gate constructed or sign erected by SAHRA in terms of subsection (21).

You are hereby given 60 (sixty) calendar days from delivery hereof to make representations or written submissions regarding the proposed declaration and to propose, if any, conditions under which the declaration will be acceptable to you, in accordance to Section 27 (8) (b) or (c) of the NHRA.

Please make written submissions to the following postal address: **SAHRA, P.O. Box 4637, Cape Town, 8001**. Alternatively you may submit via email to the following email addresses: hweldon@sahra.org.za or bmwasinga@sahra.org.za.

Should you have any queries with regards to the above, please contact Mrs Heidi Weldon (012-941-4960) or Mr Ben Mwasinga (021-202-8627).

Sincerely

Adv. L. Malgas

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER