
 GOVERNMENT NOTICES • GOEWERMENTSKENNISGEWINGS

DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND CULTURE

NO. 1605

30 DECEMBER 2016

SOUTH AFRICAN HERITAGE RESOURCES AGENCY

DECLARATION OF THE MENDI MEMORIAL AS NATIONAL HERITAGE SITES

By virtue of the powers vested in the South African Heritage Resources Agency, in terms of section 27 (5) of the National Heritage Resources Act (No. 25 of 1999) SAHRA hereby declares the Mendi Memorial, University of Cape Town Sport's Fields, Rosebank, Cape Town as a National Heritage Site.

Statement of Significance

The Mendi Memorial, located at the southeast corner of the University of Cape Town's soccer fields, is a symbolic reminder of the South African lives lost on the steamship *Mendi* in 1917 and of the long-ignored and forgotten history of the South African Native Labour Corps. It is a reminder of the role played by black South Africans in World War I and of the links these events have to the Liberation Struggle in South Africa. The University of Cape Town soccer fields were formerly the Rosebank Showgrounds which were used during World War I as the national assembly camp and depot for the South African Native Labour Corps. It was at this camp that all the men enlisted in the corps from all over South Africa and Botswana, Swaziland and Lesotho assembled, were kitted out and received their basic training, and from which they departed to Cape Town harbour to take ship to France. For many of the men on the *Mendi*, this was where they spent their last night on South African soil.

Schedule

Site name	Province	Town	Municipalities
Mendi Memorial	Western Cape	Cape Town	City of Cape Town

Vertex	Latitude	Longitude
	dd.ddd	dd.ddd
North West	-33.95433	18.46895
South West	-33.95446	18.46892
South East	-33.95449	18.46904
North East	-33.95434	18.46908

The Mendi Memorial, located at [-33.9544, 18.46899](#), and the surrounding area, bound by the set of coordinates in the table above, is declared.