

## DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND CULTURE

No. 136

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an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

## SOUTH AFRICAN HERITAGE RESOURCES AGENCY

## NATIONAL HERITAGE RESOURCES ACT, NO 25 OF 1999

## PROVISIONAL PROTECTION AS A NATIONAL HERITAGE RESOURCE

By virtue of the powers vested in the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) in terms of section 29(1) of the National Heritage Resources Act, 25 of 1999, SAHRA hereby provisionally protect Martin Melck House, Evangelical Lutheran Church and Saxtone's House, Erf 9245, Cape Town for a period of two years.

**Significance**

The Lutheran Church Historical Complex (the Church, Parsonage, Sexton's House and rear Courtyard of the block) constitutes a multi-layered site that is exemplary of a heritage resource with qualities so exceptional that they are of national significance. Its combination of cultural, architectural, technical, and extraordinary social and spiritual significances makes it a unique and irreplaceable resource, which should be protected for future generations of South Africans. The wealth of significances which the Lutheran Church represents at national level includes:

**Cultural Landscape Significance**

This complex constitutes *the only remaining* VOC era urban ensemble of private, public and utilitarian buildings dating to the 18th century and which is comparable to other VOC settlements in the Indian Ocean region. The site is a *major node* in Cape Town's cultural landscape. Martin Melck House is the *last remaining* dakkamer style town house in Cape Town. The Church is the *oldest remaining intact church* building in Cape Town the *first* church of any denomination other than Dutch Reformed in South Africa, and the *first* Lutheran Church in Africa. (The DR Moederkerk was completely redesigned and rebuilt in the 1830s, leaving only the tower of the first building).

**Social and Cultural History Significance**

The historical significance of the site is multifaceted, layered and representative of several complex strands in the history of South Africa as it passed from the indigenous era through the colonial periods and apartheid to its contemporary democratic dispensation. The social and cultural history of the site symbolises successful *community resistance* over VOC hegemony and oppression after four decades of struggle. Persecution of the Lutherans intensified and was finally ended by a change of governance. Their success was the precursor to *freedom of religion*,

declared under a new government in 1804. The Church records and correspondence is *a unique set of manuscripts* with the potential to reveal new understandings of ordinary lives at the Cape. The community was made up of slaves, freed slaves (free blacks) and European settlers engaged together in taking care of their fellow members. *Direct links to slavery* through the Lutheran Church relate to the baptism of slaves, marriages of freed slave women, and the continued association of those women who were freed and married into the community and brought their children to be baptised in the church.

An *Emancipation Day service* was jointly held by Adamson of St Andrews Presbyterian Church and Stegmann, the second minister at the Lutheran Church, Strand Street; Stegmann went on to establish St Stephens Church in Riebeeck Square

#### Architectural and Technical Significance

The Complex has outstanding technical excellence and advancement:

In the *roof span of the church*; this was the largest single roofspan under a flat roofed structure during the VOC period (just over 20m span). The *roof structure of the church*: the largest unsupported triangulated timber roof truss from the very early British period with a clear span of just over 20m - the *longest span* at the time of construction, and remains so to date;

Pipe organ: *oldest large pipe organ* in the Cape, installed in 1820; it incorporates the *only known* masonry spiral stair in Cape Town;

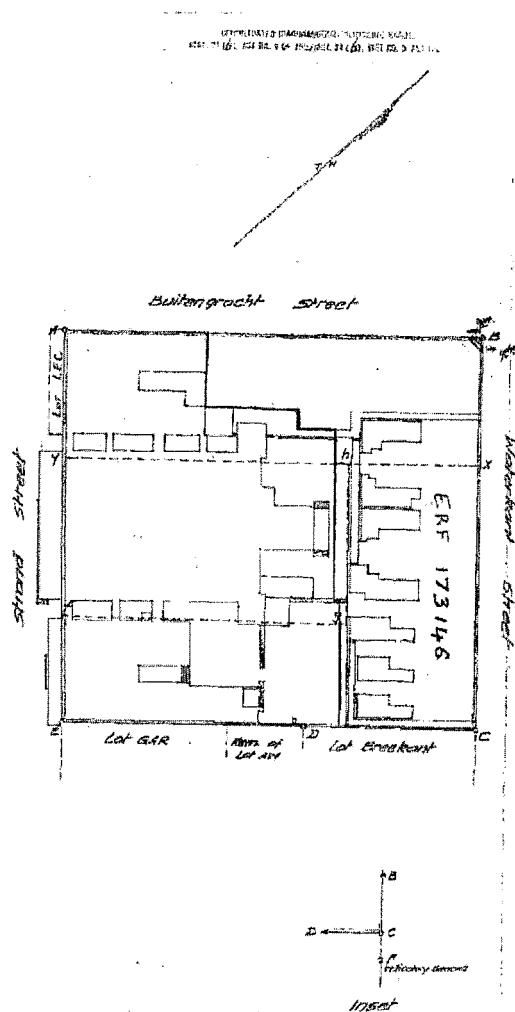
It was *one of the first of a group of buildings to provide oil-lamp street lighting* [provided by owner] – wrought iron lamp fitting over cast iron front gates is one of very few remaining from that time,

**Artistic excellence:** contains the *first work*, and *substantial body* of work, of highly acclaimed artist and sculptor, *Anton Anreith*;

#### EXTENT

Site Name	Town	Erf	Municipality	Province	SG Diagram	Figure	Extent	Deed of Transfer
Martin Melck House, Evangelical Lutheran Church and Sexton's House	Cape Town	9245		Western Cape			.	

## Surveyor General's Diagram for the Lutheran Church Historical Complex



STATION	CHAINS	FEET	ANGLER OF	DEVIATION	SYSTEM OF	COORDINATES
AB	218.18		222.00	10.2	+	322.01 + 566.38
BC	108.77		311.57	20.3	+	239.36 + 407.96
CD	87.23		42.03	10.0	+	98.58 + 634.17
DE	124.86		41.52	40.0	+	157.56 + 598.88
EA	108.60		181.23	20.0	+	240.79 + 681.32
CF	0.25		311.57	20.0	+	98.58 + 534.34
FA	0.25		311.57	20.0	+	98.58 + 534.34
GA	5.08		311.57	20.0	+	98.58 + 534.34

KANTORAFS  
 OFFICE  
 No. 10754/53

Approved

Surveyor-General  
 12-3-1960

Along CD and DE is an existing Light  
 service connection vide D/T 1731-1-25

12.21 is part of the Roadway

## Description of Bearings

AB = 18° 15' Round from neg.  
 C = Not located.  
 DEF = 12° Round from neg.

SRF 3245, CAPE TOWN

The figure xCDEfgh representing Portion of Block B  
 vide dgn 1/1731 attached to D/T 1731-1-25.  
 1961.

Scale 1:500

The figure A.B.C.D.E

represents 40,061 Square Meters of land being

## LOT LUTHERAN

- and comprises:
1. The figure 1434 representing Portion of Block A,  
 vide dgn attached to old Cape Proclamation 3-21.
  2. The figure 1435 representing the Remainder of Portion of Block A,  
 vide dgn attached to old Cape Proclamation 3-22.
- Municipality of Cape Town,  
 situated in the Division of Cape.

Province of Cape of Good Hope.

Surveyed in January  
 April 1960 by me

G. H. Marziano  
 Land Surveyor.

This diagram is annexed to  
 C.C.T. 19315/1960

The original diagram was  
 No. annexed to  
 as quoted above  
 N 4341 N 4339  
 N 1593

File No. 19315/1960  
 R.N. No. 213/1960  
 E.N. 118/1960  
 C.V. 19315/1960

Register of deeds.

FOR ENDORSEMENTS  
 SEE BACK OF DGM.

SRF 3245  
 Cape Town

1:1000