

DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS, ARTS AND CULTURE

NO. 887

17 September 2021



SOUTH AFRICAN HERITAGE RESOURCES AGENCY

AMENDMENT OF GAZETTE NOTICE NO 431 PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT
GAZETTE 13052 ON 8th MARCH 1991THE AFORESAID NOTICE IS AMENDED TO WITHDRAW THE DECLARATION OF THE
HUMAN SKULL AS PART OF THE GENADENDAL MISSION MUSEUM SPECIFICALLY
DECLARED COLLECTION IN TERMS OF SECTION 32 (4) (B) 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 32 of the National Heritage Resources Act, No. 25 of 1999 (the NHRA), SAHRA hereby withdraws the declaration of the human skull that forms part of the Genadendal Mission Museum Specifically Declared Collection, formerly known as a movable cultural treasure, in line with the provisions of section 32 (4)(b) of the NHRA.

DESCRIPTION

The socio-historical Collection of the Genadendal Mission Museum, housed at the Genadendal Mission Museum, was declared a cultural treasure in terms of section 5 (c) of the then National Monuments Act, No.28 of 1969 on 8 March 1991. In terms of section 58 11)(f) of the NHRA, all previously declared cultural treasures are Specifically Declared Heritage Objects/Collection(s).

The Specifically Declared Genadendal Mission Museum Collection includes a human skull. At the time of the declaration, it was not uncommon nor considered unethical, for human remains to be exhibited and viewed in the same way as objects. This perception has changed and policies inform that it is unethical for museums to keep human remains in their collections.

In this regard, the Genadendal Mission Museum have deaccessioned the human skull from its collection to be returned to the claimant for reburial. SAHRA, therefore, withdraws the declaration status from the human skull. The human skull is also withdrawn from the inventory of the Specifically Declared Genadendal Mission Museum Collection.

INVENTORY

The inventory of the Specifically Declared Genadendal Mission Museum Collection no longer comprises of the human skull

STATEMENT OF CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE GENADENDAL MISSION MUSEUM COLLECTION

The Genadendal Museum complex forms part of the Genadendal mission station which was established in 1738 by the Moravian Mission Society. It was the first training college for teachers in South Africa. The Museum was established in 1963 with over 2500 objects in the Collection at the time. Over time, the Collection grew. The Museum has the following exhibition areas: The Kitchen, Chemist, Shop, Butchery, Music, Mission Office, Dining room, Bathroom, Bedroom, Printing Press, Trade and Crafts, Wagon House, Furniture, General, Library as well as Education.