GOVERNMENT NOTICES • GOEWERMENTSKENNISGEWINGS

DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND CULTURE

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SOUTH AFRICAN HERITAGE RESOURCES AGENCY

DECLARATION OF THE WAAIHOEK WESLEYAN MISSION CHURCH (ALSO REFERRED TO AS THE WESLEYAN SCHOOL) AS NATIONAL HERITAGE SITE

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 Waaihoek Wesleyan Church (also referred to as the Wesleyan School), Erf 3/1909; Waaihoek; Bloemfontein as a National Heritage Site.

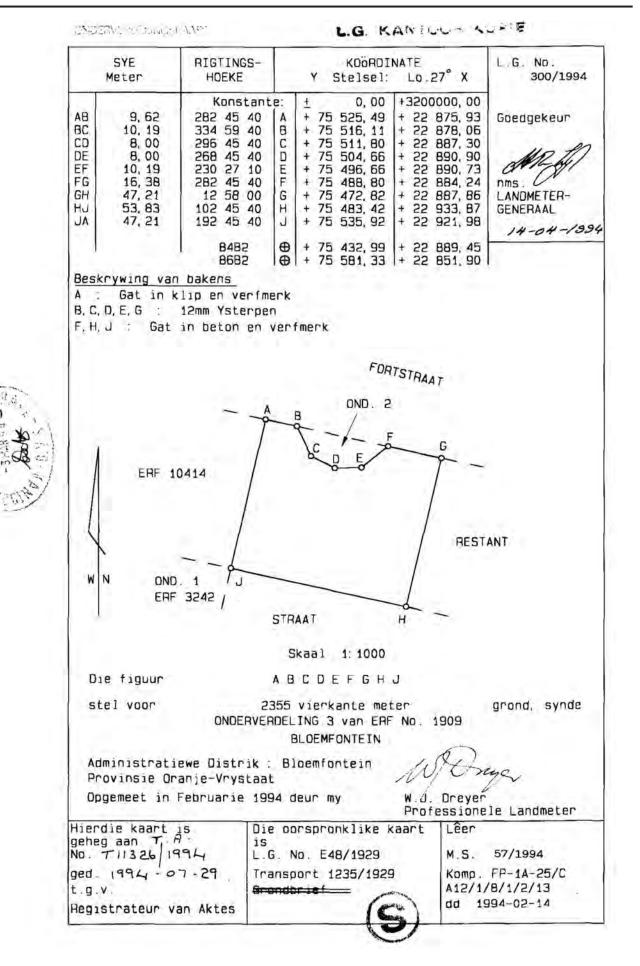
Statement of Significance

The Wesleyan Church in Waaihoek, Bloemfontein is the birth place of the South African Native National Congress (SANNC) which was formed in 1912. Later, in 1923 the SANNC became the African National Congress (ANC). The ANC became the largest liberation organizations in the struggle for freedom and justice in South Africa. The exclusion of Africans from the meaningful political participation in the negotiations leading up to and in the envisaged Union of South Africa in 1910 galvanised different African political formations, to forge a unified political movement that would challenge the exclusion of Black people.

On 8th January 1912, a group of Black delegates from the four provinces met in Waaihoek, Bloemfontein to propose a means to object to the draft South Africa Act, and Union Constitution. This meeting was the most significant in the history of Black protest politics as it was the first joint meeting of Black representatives from all four self-governing British colonies and marked the birth of the ANC. Amongst the delegates were the celebrated black leaders Saul Msane ,Josiah Gumede, John Dube, Pixley ka Isaka Seme and Sol Plaatje along with chiefs, people's representatives, and church organizations, and other prominent individuals to bring all Africans together as one people to defend their rights and freedoms The convention took place at the Wesleyan School Church in Waaihoek, which is now a tangible representation of that pivotal meeting.

Schedule

Site Name	Erf No	Province	Town	Municipality	Survey Diagram	Figure	Deeds
The Waaihoek Wesleyan Church	3/1909	Free State	Bloem- fontein	Mangaung	L.G. 300/1994	ABCD EFGHJ	13888/2011



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