

Hostel 33
Case 17103015
Portion erf 16300 Lwandle
Somerset West

Proposal to grade site Hostel 33 situated at JKLM Portion erf 13600 Somerset West as a grade 2 site and to initiate the proclamation of Hostel 33 as a Provincial Heritage Site (PHS).
Submitted in terms of S 27(3) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999).

Nomination Dossier presented by the Lwandle Migrant Labour Museum Trust



Submitted to IGICom
October 2017

Melanie Attwell and Associates on behalf of the Lwandle Labour Museum Trust October 2017.

HERITAGE WESTERN CAPE

Provincial Heritage Authority of the Western Cape

Private Bag X9067, Cape Town, 8001
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Provincial Heritage Site Nomination Form

This form precedes the submission of the 'Nomination Document' and is designed to assist with the grading of heritage resources in terms Section 3(3) of the National Heritage Resources Act, as part of the process of declaration as a Provincial Heritage Site (Section 27). Nominated heritage resources that are of special provincial significance will be graded as Grade 2 and considered for Provincial Heritage Site status.

Proposed Provincial Heritage Site: Hostel 33 Lwandle Portion erf 13600 Strand

Brief Statement of Significance: *(A full statement of significance is required as an attachment)*

The heritage of Lwandle is both historical and social on a broad provincial level as well as conveying a deeply personal message about life under a migrant labour system. The Museum has articulated living conditions and social life in Lwandle over historical time periods using exhibits donated by hostel inhabitants. The impacts of such personal exhibits and recollections is profoundly insightful.

It is therefore of outstanding cultural significance for "historical" and "social" reasons; and its significance lies in the fact that it represents an extraordinary spatial and social expression of resilience and oppression which dominated South African settlement morphology as part of an "apartheid" city. It explains how people lived within such a system.

It can be argued that Lwandle Migrant Labour Museum and Hostel 33 have extended and transformed the notion of what it is to be a museum in South Africa. Its leadership role in this regard is unquestioned. It marks a movement away from the intrinsically valued of exhibits elsewhere to the focus on a narrative and a contested narrative at that. It tells a story that every South African should be aware of. For its pioneering nature of its work and explorations as a museum it is of outstanding significance, possibly even nationally.

It is a major tourism destination particularly with foreign visitors and school children, who come to learn about how people coped and adapted under harsh apartheid restrictions and on a personal level, how they lived. "Lwandle," writes Professor 'Noëleen Murray, "represents a reminder of the conditions of life in the labour camp."

For a full outline of the statement of cultural significance see "nomination of Hostel 33 Lwandle Museum as a Provincial Heritage Site, attached to this application.

Proposed By: Melanie Attwell Heritage Consultant on behalf of the Management and Board of Trustees, Lwandle Migrant Labour Museum, Somerset West.

Date Proposed: October 2017

Contact Details: 2 Caxton Close Oakridge 7806 Cape Town

Name of Property: Hostel 33 Lwandle Migrant Labour Museum, Lwandle

Street Number and Street: Lwandle Migrant Labour Museum Hostel 33 off Noxolo Street,
Lwandle

Suburb: Lwandle Somerset West
.....

Town: Somerset West Cape Town

Cadastral Information

Erf/ Farm Number: Portion erf 13600 Lwandle

Registration Division: Somerset West

Longitude:

Latitude:

Map Reference: 34 degrees 07'09.7" S. 18 degrees 51' 52.34" E

Recording Method: Documentation, and research.

Type of Resource

- Place x
- Structure
- Archaeological Site
- Palaeontological Site
- Geological Feature
- Grave

Do moveable objects relating to the site form part of the Nomination? x No

Serial nomination (Is more than one site being nominated as part of a 'Joint Nomination') x No

(For serial nominations, complete one form for each site, supply additional details about the information relating to the relation of the sites, and the management and phasing of proposed nomination be attached).

Sphere of Significance	High	Med	Low
International	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
National	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> x	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provincial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Regional	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Specialist group or community	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

What other similar sites may be compared to the site? How does the site compare to these sites?

Potentially unique. Museum is the only Migrant Labour Museum in South Africa and the only community and township based museum of its kind in South Africa. No sites therefore have current applicability.

.....

(Please expand on separate sheet)

Owner: City of Cape Town, lessee The Lwandle Migrant Labour Museum Trust

(If state-owned; responsible department and official position of contact)

Postal Address: Old Community Hall, Vulindlela Street, Lwandle Board, PO Box 356 Somerset West, 7139.

Telephone: 021 8456119

Fax: **Cell:**

E-Mail: ...manager@lwandlemuseum.co.za

Web Page: www.lwandle.com.....

Contact Person: *(If different from above. Please supply contact details)*

Museum Manager: Ms Masa Soko

- x*** Expanded statement of significance; *(Refer specifically to significance criteria listed below)*
- x*** Motivation for declaration as a Provincial Heritage Site, including potential, threats and vulnerabilities; see attached
- x*** Short history of the place; see attached
- x*** Physical description of the heritage resource; see attached
- x*** Locality plan (map) and Site Plan; see attached
- x*** Photographs and plans; see attached
- **** List of moveable objects relating to site that are proposed as part of nomination, or for archaeological or paleontological site; list of repositories where these are housed; not to be included to nomination
- x**** Bibliography of documentation relating to the heritage resource; see attached

- x**** Statement of current protections and restrictions (e.g. previous national monument; register of immoveable property; conservation area; current zoning; servitudes);
- x**** List any heritage organizations consulted and their comments on the proposed nomination.
- ***** Site plan (with proposed site boundaries);
- ***** Conservation or management plans (send immediately if any exist);
- ***** Heritage Agreement (if required).

(Please supply those marked () with this nomination form, as well as any others that are already available. Those marked (**) will be requested when the proposal first goes to HWC Council for endorsement (Tentative List of Provincial Heritage Sites). Those marked (***) will be required when the Nomination goes to the following Council Meeting for approval as a Provincial Heritage Site).*

Type of Significance

Indicate with a tick

Comment where appropriate.
Indicate sphere of significance:
i.e. National, Provincial, Local
and degree of significance: i.e.
High, Medium or Low.

1. Historical Value

a. It is important in the community, or pattern of history

- i. Importance in the evolution of cultural landscapes and settlement patterns x
- ii. Importance in exhibiting density, richness or diversity of cultural features illustrating the human occupation and evolution of the nation, Province, region or locality. x
- iii. Importance for association with events, developments or cultural phases that have had a significant role in the human occupation and evolution of the nation, Province, region or community. x
- iv. Importance as an example for technical, creative, design or artistic excellence, innovation or achievement in a particular period

Provincial/high

National/medium

National/high

b. It has strong or special association with the life or work of a person, group or organization of importance in history

- i. Importance for close associations with individuals, groups or organizations whose life, works or activities have been significant within the history of the nation, Province, region or community. x

National/high

c. It has significance relating to the history of slavery

- i. Importance for a direct link to the history of slavery in South Africa

2. Aesthetic Value

a. It is important in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group

- i. Importance to a community for aesthetic characteristics held in high esteem or otherwise valued by the community.
- ii. Importance for its creative, design or artistic excellence, innovation or achievement.
- iii. Importance for its contribution to the aesthetic values of the setting demonstrated by a landmark quality or having impact on important vistas or otherwise contributing to the identified aesthetic qualities of the cultural environs or the natural landscape within which it is located.
- iv. In the case of an historic precinct, importance for the aesthetic character created by the individual components which collectively form a significant streetscape, townscape or cultural environment.

3. Scientific Value

a. It has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of natural or cultural heritage

- i. Importance for information contributing to a wider understanding of natural or cultural history by virtue of its use as a research site, teaching

Provincial/high

site, type locality, reference or benchmark site. x

- ii. Importance for information contributing to a wider understanding of the origin of the universe or of the development of the earth.
- iii. Importance for information contributing to a wider understanding of the origin of life; the development of plant or animal species, or the biological or cultural development of hominid or human species.
- iv. Importance for its potential to yield information contributing to a wider understanding of the history of human occupation of the nation, Province, region or locality. x

Provincial/high

b. It is important in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period

- i. Importance for its technical innovation or achievement.

4. Social Value

a. It has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons

Provincial/high

- i. Importance as a place highly valued by a community or cultural group for reasons of social, cultural, religious, spiritual, symbolic, aesthetic or educational associations. x
- ii. Importance in contributing to a community's sense of place. x

Local/high

Degrees of Significance

5. Rarity:

a. It possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of natural or cultural heritage

- i. Importance for rare, endangered or uncommon structures, landscapes or phenomena. x
- ii. Importance in demonstrating a distinctive way of life, custom, process, land-use, function or design no longer practiced in, or in danger of being lost from, or of exceptional interest to the nation, Province, region or locality. x

Provincial/high

6. Representivity:

a. It is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of natural or cultural places or objects

- i. Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a range of landscapes or environments, the attributes of which identify it as being characteristic of its class. x
- ii. Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of human activities (including way of life, philosophy, custom, process, land-use, function, design or technique) in the environment of the nation, Province, region or locality. x

National/high

Provincial/medium

Signature:

Date:

Nomination of Hostel 33, Lwandle Migrant Labour Museum as a Grade 2 heritage resource and as a Provincial Heritage Site in terms of S 27(23) National Heritage Resources Act.

1. Statement of Intent

This application is submitted in terms of S 27(3) of the National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA). It is intended that the application assist the Heritage Gratings Committee, Heritage Western Cape, in nominating the site of Hostel 33 at Noxolo Street, part of the Lwandle Migrant Labour Museum, as a grade 2 site and pursuant to that; that the site be declared as Provincial Heritage Site in terms of Section 27 of the NHRA.

The proposal is made by the Board and Trustees of the Lwandle Labour Museum and with the support of the City of Cape Town (Somerset West District). It is therefore a private nomination and not initiated by Heritage Western Cape.

While migrant labour is the defining labour system of apartheid South African's urban economy, the Lwandle Migrant Labour Museum is the only museum dedicated to its memorialization. Initially established as a local museum by Bongani Mgijima and Charmian Plummer the intention of the Museum and its chief exhibit Hostel 33, is to preserve, restore and interpret the only remaining migrant labour hostel in Lwandle, Hostel 33. The Museum restored the hostel to be an integral part of the Lwandle Migrant Labour Museum and its activities; as a site for visitors; as an educational resource and as memorial to the migrant labour system which underpinned the existence of Lwandle. It is an award-winning museum and has received numerous accolades for its focus, methodological excellence and its uniqueness as a museum.

Hostel 33 together with the Migrant Labour Museum has not been previously graded by Heritage Western Cape or the local authority (The City of Cape Town). As the construction of Lwandle began in 1960, Section 34 of the NHRA does not apply as the building is not older than 60 years. However Hostel 33 is a heritage resource and is imminently suited to be a grade 2 site in terms of its outstanding historical and social significance and the significance of what it *represents* in the history, particularly labour history of the Province.

It is proposed that the boundaries for the nomination extend only to the boundaries of the Hostel identified as Hostel 33. (See lease diagram below). This refers to portion JKLM of Portion 13600 Strand. The application therefore excludes the Community Church Hall which houses the museum and offices.

The site is leased from the City Council to the Trustees of the Lwandle Museum. The City of Cape Town, the landowners, have indicated that they have no objections to its nomination as Provincial Heritage Site (See supporting dossier Annexure One). Official authorisation will follow in due course.

The Trustees of the Lwandle Labour Museum request that Heritage Western Cape set in motion the process for the declaration of Hostel 33 as a PHS beginning with the grading of the site as grade 2.

2. Hostel 33. Motivation for Nomination as a Provincial Heritage Site.

The nomination application is for Hostel 33, Lwandle. It is part of Block 6 situated off Noxolo Street Lwandle. It is both the chief artefact and a part of the Lwandle Migrant Labour Museum situated at the Old Community Hall in Vulindlela Street.

While Hostel 33 and Block B are significant sites and structures of memory in themselves, they cannot be divorced from the context and meaning of Lwandle as a historical “pool” for black labour, the system of migrant labour itself and the conditions under which Black South Africans lived during apartheid.

The Museum focusses on the memorialisation and history of migrant labour in Lwandle; and by implication migrant labour and living conditions in Cape Town and the Western Cape.

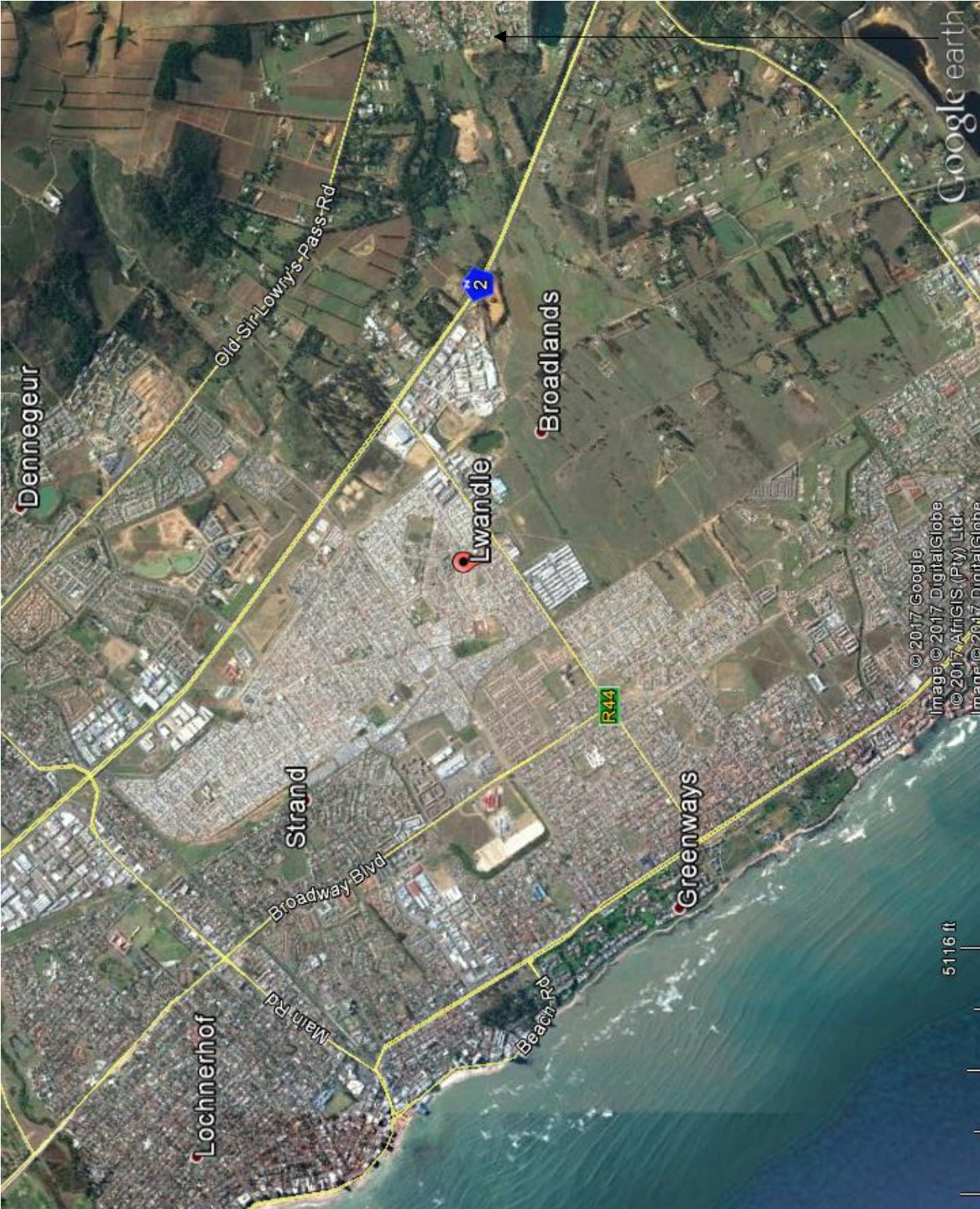


Fig 1A Location of Lwandle off the N2 and close to the Strand.

3. Location and description of heritage resource

3.1. Location

Lwandle was a “township” established in terms of apartheid legislation in 1958 and built between 1960 and 1961. It is situated off the N2 and is bounded by the R44 Broadway Boulevard and the N2. Lwandle Migrant Labour Museum is situated in the heart of Lwandle and is embedded in the physical and social fabric. The Community Hall is situated between the Lwandle Administration Offices and Noxolo Street. To the north is the Hector Petersen Memorial Library and to the south along Noxolo Street is Hostel 33.

3.2. Physical Description of the heritage resource

Hostel 33 is the one hostel space that was retained in its original form during the transformation of the migrant labour living units in 1998 into family accommodation; and is today surrounded by these refurbished units.¹Care has been taken during restoration of Hostel 33 to present the building “as is” and not to heavily sanitise the conditions, materials and museum presentation. The rudimentary toilet block adjacent to Hostel 33 has been “restored” as part of the exhibit and is an eloquent remainder of the conditions under which migrant labourers were forced to live.

Hostel 33 is part of the hostel blocks in Lwandle which were designed in 1958 and built in 1960 in a linear manner, configured in parallel rows of double and single storey structures, and diagonally laid out around a central core space. In each long row there were a number of units. Hostel 33 formed one of these units. Like many accommodation developments Lwandle was built around a central communal space and surrounded by a “buffer zone”, for separation from other urban environments and ease of apartheid control (see Fig 3).

It is a half part of a single hostel block. The unit was divided into two rooms, and further subdivided into eight small, confined individual compartments. There was only one doorway to the unit for entrance/exit. Like most barrack-like labour accommodation it had no ceilings or interior doors. A common ablution block which used the bucket-system was situated at the end of the hostel. The hostel was a barrack-like structure, built with cheap stock bricks (many walls were built without cavities) and low pitched corrugated asbestos roofing. The windows had ungalvanized steel frames. Access to the hostel was from a concrete apron which ran the length of the hostel row. The street outside was untarred.

¹ From N Murray Heritage Report Hostel 33 Lwandle Cape Town South Africa.



Fig 1B. Locality plan of Lwandle Labour Museum (Community Hall) arrowed and Hostel 33 (arrowed).

Hostel 33 is embedded within the fabric of Lwandle. As a result, there is a seamless transition between the museum exhibit (Hostel 33) and the surrounding spaces.

The Museum has reflected on the contested nature of placing a museum within the urban space of Lwandle by including objections and concerns raised by residents because of this action. This particularly relates to the concept of using a hostel or a home as a museum exhibit in the face of a significant housing shortage in the area. The exhibit is therefore firmly placed within the contested terrain of that debate.

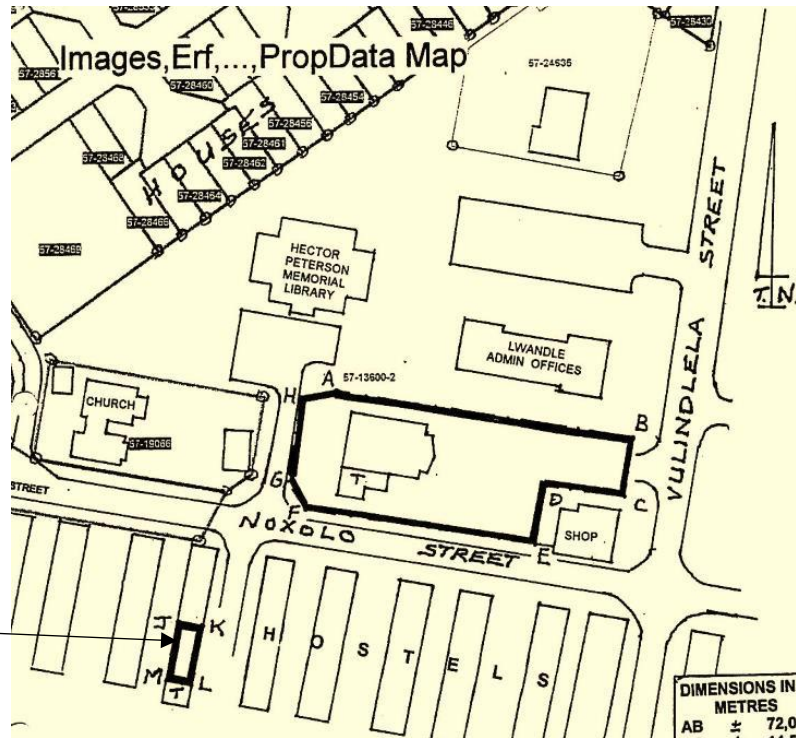


Fig 2. Hostel 33 identified as figure JKLM within the series of hostel buildings off Noxolo Street with the Old Community Hall identified as figure ABDEFGH. The toilet block is identified by the letter "t".



Fig 3. Lwandle in 1989 showing the oblique orientation of hostels around a central space and surrounded by significant open space (buffers) near an industrial area.

3.3. Photographs of Lwandle Museum (Old Community Church Hall)



Fig 4. Lwandle Museum at the old Community Church Hall. The museum is not part of the application for PHS status

3.4. Photographs of Hostel 33.

Hostel 33 is located a short distance away from the Lwandle Museum. It was constructed as one of a standard series of designs developed by the National Building Research Institute for construction by local municipalities, combining austerity and the use of prefabricated, bulk-developed building materials. Windows are set high and the roof is of unlined corrugated asbestos. Hostel 33 reflects a “typical” hostel with 16 bedspaces within an approximate floor area of 83 square metres. The urban design of Lwandle itself focussed on a requirement for surveillance and control of the workers by the authorities.

During the restoration of Hostel 33 care was taken to retain a sense of authenticity and patination including the adjustments made by the residents themselves. These included make-shift ceiling boards for insulation, and further divisions of sleeping compartments for privacy (see photographs below) and other attempts to personalise the space (which are reflected within the museum exhibits).

The Museum recreated each room according to a time period, from the sixties when the hostel was built until the post-apartheid period and the roll-over to the “Hostels to Homes” initiative. These are illustrated by simple furnishings of each period, and illustrated where possible by personal items from the people or groups who lived in a part of the hostel. The clear intention was to keep the form as unchanged as possible to illustrate how people lived in an authentic a manner as possible.



Fig 4. Hostel 33 Lwandle as restored and furnished with museum exhibits.



Fig 5. Hostel 33 as part of a group of houses within Lwandle. This formed part of the Hostel to Homes project whereby hostels were converted into family houses.



Fig 6. Hostel 33 looking down the full length of the passage created by the further division of the interior spaces into rooms



Fig 7. The early period of Lwandle illustrating the 1950-1960 period.



Fig 8. Communal kitchen area and compartments. There was a single electric light which was turned off after curfew.



Fig 9. The personal touch: An illustration of a family who lived at Hostel 33, lent by the owner.



Fig 10. A view of a room in the later period with an original poster of Mandela.



Fig 11. Self-created storage facilities, screens for privacy and standard wire cupboards.



Fig 12. Sleeping quarters showing the use of cardboard for ceiling insulation and a paraffin lamp for light.



Fig 13. The museum leadership role at Lwandle: education and cultural enrichment. Visit Nyameko Primary School. Courtesy Wendy James post: Lwandle Labour Museum.



Fig 14. Museum Researcher Wendy James Jezile undertaking a tour at Hostel 33. Post: Masa Soko: We Love Lwandle Migrant Labour Museum website.

4. Short history to the place: Background to the establishment of Lwandle

4.1. Migrant labour in Somerset West

The history of Lwandle as a municipal black residential area has strong links with AECI (African Explosive and Chemical Industries Ltd) and its related industries.² AECI was the largest employer of black migrant Labour in the Helderberg Basin followed in the 1980's by the Lourensford farm, then followed by the municipalities of Somerset West, Gordon's Bay and the Strand. Of these employers, AECI and Lourensford provided hostel accommodation on site for the male workers only. In many cases if possible families of migrant workers settled as close as possible to them.

Like other industries, for AECI the commercial success of the Company was dependent on cheap controlled black labour, generally recruited from the Eastern Cape. Workers lived on site in a basic compound of barrack-like rooms centred around a communal open space, from as early as 1899. Gradually workers not employed by De Beers and other on-site employers established themselves in Somerset West as farm workers and as industrial workers, particularly in the agri-industrial enterprises such as canning. The presence of labour compounds and hostels in Somerset West therefore extends to over a century.

In terms of their contracts black migrant labourers were temporary; and were required to return to their "home" every year, after which their contract was renewed or not. This was part of an established labour pattern in Somerset West and elsewhere in South Africa. Because of the migrant labour system and the restrictive living and access conditions, many long-term workers at the established companies employing migrant labour, did not achieve the status of permanent residents.

Others, despite the contract terms and oppressive legal and influx control laws, established their families nearby at the Strand or Somerset West using Section 10 of the Native Urban Areas Act (Act 21

² In 1987 the Industry employed 930 black workers

of 1923) which proved to be a “loophole” to restrictive residential location and which the authorities found impossible to control. (See below).

4.2. The labour compound or barrack system of labour accommodation.

The early Kimberley compound developed by De Beers in the 1870’s and 1880’s, became the ‘blue-print’ for migrant labour compounds on the Rand later in Central Africa and more locally, the Western Cape. It was the spatial model used in developing the logistics and control of migrant labour compounds. It consisted generally of isolated, self-contained, racially segregated male only environments, separate from industry or other housing by industrial areas, railway lines and “buffer strips”. This model formed the blue-print for the black “township’ as well.

In general terms, the influence of racially separated environments, migrant labour compounds, the migrant labour system and the resulting separate residential areas which evolved; have had a significant impact on the spatial and political development of the apartheid city. The compound and black migrant labour system particularly the closed Kimberley system is widely regarded as a visible form of the exploitation and oppression of black workers; and a prototype for the separation of the economic aspects of black labour from other rights associated with settlement in urban areas. (Turrell, 1985, Maylam, 1990). This separation received its strongest expression in the Stallard Commission in 1921 and the Native Urban Areas Act of 1923 (as amended) as well as later apartheid era legislation.

4.3. The establishment of Lwandle

Lwandle was proclaimed a “Location and Native Village” in 1952. A government proclamation made provision in 1958 for the laying out of a hostel complex for single men within the area proclaimed in 1952.³ The proclamation made provision for the laying out of a hostel complex for single men along the lines set out by the Department of Native Affairs. The proclamation was intended to meet desperate accommodation shortages for workers.

The Divisional Council of Stellenbosch developed a plan in 1960 for the layout comprising 22 hostels comprising accommodation for 960 men, 2 communal kitchens and basic ablution facilities. The layout of Lwandle (which means “By the Sea”), was subject to stricture governmental controls and requirements. They included the following:

- Isolated situation and separated from urban areas by transportation lines and buffer zones
- Controlled access points with Administration office situated near the entrance.
- Rows of accommodation blocks situated around or near communal kitchens and ablution blocks. There was a separate shower block for each of 4 hostels
- A central interior space
- A beer hall
- Basic medical accommodation (a TB room).

Women began moving to Lwandle in 1960 with a resultant demand for increased general family accommodation. By 1987 there were 41 hostel buildings and several temporary structures on the periphery of the site.

³ Proclamation Government Notice 71 of 1952.

The hostels were divided into two sections (Hostel 33 forms one of a double unit). It was divided into sections of 16 beds each. Further internal divisions were undertaken by the residents themselves for reasons of privacy and a modicum of comfort. Residents also used makeshift opportunities to provide insulation against the heat and cold as the roofs were not insulated and there were no ceilings.

Various extensions to the layout were made during the 1970's but the basic compound design remained unchanged, including the retention of the "buffer strip" (see Fig 3).

By 1986 there was a partial lifting of the State influx control measures resulting in increased urbanization. That, together with the severe housing shortage at Lwandle and a particular demand for family housing, resulted in the investigation of the conversion of the migrant labour hostels to family accommodation – the "Hostels to Homes" study by the Urban Foundation (1987). The study recommended the conversion of hostels to family units, the development of the buffer strips for housing and the acquisition of additional land for housing, all to accommodate the need for family housing units.

The housing units around Hostel 33 have all been converted to family units. In the midst of the conversions, Hostel 33 remains an example of what a hostel unit for male migrant workers was like.

4.4. Legislation affecting black urban settlement and movement: The Urban Areas Act 21 of 1923 and amendments 1930, 1937. General background.

There was a plethora of discriminatory legislation affecting the lives, movement, access to work and settlement of urban Africans. Many had their origins in the Native Urban Areas Act 21 of 1923 (as amended).

The Urban Areas Act (Act 21 of 1923) was based on the findings of the Stallard Commission, and was intended to regulate the presence of Africans in the urban centres; and to manage both the demand for labour and the requirements of industry; while at the same time imposing control and urban segregation and restricting the movement of black people to urban facilities. In terms of this law, black workers were to be temporary residents in the urban areas could only stay if they had employment and their movement would be tightly controlled.

Local authorities were in terms of the Act expected to provide housing for Africans not employed and housed by private companies.⁴ Money for the management of the "locations" was to be derived from the fines and fees extracted from the Africans themselves. The Management of the "location" was therefore separate from management of other urban environments. The authorities were responsible for the management of the "Pass Laws within the Act and Africans deemed to be surplus were to be deported. *Section 5* of the Act restricted "all natives" with some exceptions, residing in urban areas to live in a designated in a "location native village or native hostel". Employers were required to prove accommodation arrangements to the local authority (*Section 1.1. e*). Cape Explosive Works fell into this category as it was an employer of "more than 25 natives".

Section 12 defined proclaimed areas where "natives were gathered in large numbers for mining or industrial purposes" and required local authorities to require the registration by the company "of every contract of service entered into by a male "native"" and the levy of a registration fee. Employers were required to register the termination of services and "to require every such native under contract of service

⁴ AECI was an example of a private company providing accommodation for its migrant workers.

and every employer of such native to produce on demand to an authorised officer such evidence of the contract as may be prescribed". Section 12 (b) required that each migrant labourer to "report his arrival within a prescribed period, to obtain a document saying he had so reported and to produce such a document on demand...." This process was already operational in terms of the Natives Contract Act. The peremptory requirement to keep and present a "pass" on demand by the police led to widespread resistance. Residents of Lwandle was oppressed by the system until the collapse of apartheid.

Section 5(3) made it an offence to "harbour or otherwise provide accommodation for an "unexempted native" outside the limits of a location. The Native Laws Amendment Act 46 of 1937 (Section 6) tightened up control on entrance to "proclaimed areas" even further by making it impossible for employers to house workers who were not immediately employed and whose contracts had not been settled.

A further restriction arising out of the Urban Areas Act affected women and families who had settled close to their husbands in parts of the Strand and Somerset West. In 1939 the Strand was proclaimed a prohibited area in terms of Government Proclamation 245 of 1939. In terms of this proclamation industrial employers were required to submit the names of those employees whose wives and children lived at the Strand or Somerset West who were deported.

4.5. The establishment of the Museum and its museum leadership role.

When the hostels to Homes Government project was underway, some members of the community raised the issue of the significance of the migrant labour system as represented in Lwandle and that at least one hostel should be conserved to "sustain the memory of how the system of apartheid worked. Negotiations with the City of Cape Town were established in 2008 for the lease of the old Community Hall and Hostel 33 for museum purposes and were finalised in 2010 (See Annexure One). The Museum was opened on Workers Day (May 1st) with an address by the poet and former Lwandle resident Sandile Dikeni. In 2012 the Museum was proclaimed a Provincial-aided Museum with assistance from the Western Cape Government.

The main artefact of the Museum is Hostel 33 which was leased by the Museum Trust from the City of Cape Town and was restored with the assistance of the United Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation. Apart from Hostel 33 the Museum situated in the Community Hall contains artefacts associated with Hostel life as well as photographs, artworks and audio-recordings of those who experienced hostel life first hand.

Apart from its role as a museum, Lwandle Migrant Labour Museum plays a leading role in the community of Lwandle. Its international reputation as a museum of excellence is outstanding as well as its local activist and cultural leadership role. It regularly runs writing and creative workshops and musical events, encourages artistic expression, conducts daily tours and is involved with educational and cultural enrichment programs. It is involvement with national cultural celebrations such as Heritage Day, Mandela Day as well as outreach programs to the poor in Somerset West. It is committed to community activism including speaking out against child abuse and poor living conditions. The contributions of those involved in the inception and development of the Museum including Mr Bongani Mgijima and Prof Leslie Witz and the excellence of the Museum have been acknowledged with awards from the Department of Arts and Culture.

5. Public Consultation

The initiative has the support of the Lwandle Labour Museum Trust and the City of Cape Town (see Annexure One). Further consultation will be undertaken via the website “We love Lwandle Migrant Labour Museum which has 1326 members, once IGICom endorses the grade 2 grading.

6. The Cultural Significance of Hostel 33.

Cultural significance is defined as, “aesthetic, architectural, historical, scientific, social, spiritual, linguistic or technological value or significance”⁵.

The Preamble to the National Heritage Resources Act refers to the importance of the Act in its contribution “to redressing past inequities, saying that heritage “educates, it deepens our understanding of society and encourages us to empathize with the experience of others. It facilitates healing and material and symbolic restitution, and it promotes new and previously neglected research into our rich oral traditions and customs.” The role that the Lwandle Museum plays falls within the notion of the identification of past inequalities, the role of education in the understanding of society and notions of empathy with other who lived in Hostel 33. The role played by the Lwandle Museum is therefore important in fulfilling the requirements of the Act.

Hostel 33 has none of the current standard heritage significances of architecture and aesthetics. It encodes however a powerful message and its architecture nonetheless speaks volumes about its origins and its role in a repressive apartheid system; and the entrenchment and racialisation of poverty.

It is not older than 60 years and therefore S 34 of the National Heritage Resources Act does not apply. Its cultural significance extends way beyond its age however. The message it conveys and how it conveys the message makes it of outstanding heritage significance.

6.1. The nature of cultural significance at Hostel 33.

The heritage of Lwandle is both historical and social on a broad provincial level as well as conveying a deeply personal message about life under a migrant labour system. The Museum has articulated living conditions and social life in Lwandle over historical time periods using exhibits donated by hostel inhabitants. The impacts of such personal exhibits and recollections is profoundly insightful.

It is therefore of outstanding cultural significance for “historical” and “social” reasons; and its significance lies in the fact that it represents an extraordinary spatial and social expression of resilience and oppression which dominated South African settlement morphology as part of an “apartheid” city. It explains how people lived within such a system.

It can be argued that Lwandle Migrant Labour Museum and Hostel 33 have extended and transformed the notion of what it is to be a museum in South Africa. Its leadership role in this regard is unquestioned. It marks a movement away from the intrinsically valued of exhibits elsewhere to the focus on a narrative and a contested narrative at that. It tells a story that every South African should be aware of. For its pioneering nature of its work and explorations as a museum it is of outstanding significance, possibly even nationally.

It is a major tourism destination particularly with foreign visitors and school children, who come to learn about how people coped and adapted under harsh apartheid restrictions and on a personal level, how

⁵ NHRA S 2(vi).

they lived. “Lwandle, “writes Professor ‘Noëleen Murray, “represents a reminder of the conditions of life in the labour camp.”

6.2. The assessment of Hostel 33 in terms of its cultural significance:

- Representivity:

The form and layout of Lwandle as a “location” for black workers in Somerset West was intended to provide a maximum of control with a minimum of costs to the local authorities, and it speaks to the constrained conditions under which black migrant labourers lived. Hostel 33, Block B is both part of a spatial expression of a wider system of oppression as well as an illustration of a system of managed oppression at a local level. Hostel 33 is therefore a representative example of such a system and its value lies in the representative and symbolic nature of its significance. Its significance as representing the existence, and conditions within a hostel is exceptionally high.

- Historical significance.

The segregated single sex hostel as represented by Hostel 33 illustrated the impact of segregated and oppressive living environments in South Africa were developed by the Apartheid Government. Equally the conversion of the single sex hostel barrack system to family units and the further development of small uniform segregated housing units played a significant role in the development of the African city and the dynamics which underpinned its urban morphology and fabric.

In labour, particularly the migrant labour system established to serve the needs of industry and mining, the implications for the colonial city were equally far-reaching. The significance of the long-term impact of the migrant labour system, the separation of black rights from black labour, the separated residential patterns in what were - initially at least labour camps-, the development of the migrant labour system and their spatial social and political impacts on all Southern Africa cannot be underestimated.

It is therefore of significant value that sample of such hostel housing is conserved, memorialized and explained. The Lwandle Labour Museum and Hostel 33 plays a leading educational role representing conditions for black migrant workers, and the urban conditions under which men (and later women) lived.

Robert Home has argued⁶ that worker housing, particularly housing intended for black workers is one of the commonest typologies of the colonial landscape, and it played a major role in the shaping and development of colonial urban spaces throughout Southern Africa. Its role in the shaping of the South African urban landscape has been under-represented until now. The architecture itself also evolved through a series of ideological and design approaches, as well as the struggles of the workers themselves resulting in either a rethink of spatial requirements or increasing repression.⁷

In this way, the single sex barrack system which played a pivotal role in the migrant labour system of control, gradually evolved into a crowded system of spatial family units beginning

⁶ Robert K Home 2000, From Barrack Compounds to the Single-family House: Worker Housing in Colonial Natal and Northern Rhodesia, *Planning Perspectives* 15 (2000) 327-347

⁷ Robert Home pg 332 *ibid*

with what Dr Mamphela Ramphele referred to as, “ A Bed called Home”⁸ Robert Home refers to the process as “a retreat from the concept of the single sex barrack in a segregated compound as the primary source of worker housing in favour of a model of a single family single storey dwelling.”⁹This process has influenced urban residential settlement throughout South Africa and its role significantly overlooked in South African urban history.

Professor Julian Cooke has described hostels as “the core locus of perhaps the most destructive social engineering of the country’s history, the migrant labour system”.¹⁰ The compounds and hostels show starkly how colonial and apartheid regimes used the spatial devices of control to keep labour present and subservient, and in tandem with social regulation created a divided and violent land. Examples should be preserved as museums, to ensure this is remembered’ (Julian Cooke, ‘The form of the migrant labour hostel’, *Architecture South Africa*, July/August 2007, 64-69).

The historical spatial significance in explaining the control of black migrant labour, the role of the hostel itself and evolution to family units in the historical development of the region is exceptionally high.

- Social Significance

Lwandle of outstanding significance for the memorialisation and acknowledgement of migrant workers, their role and contribution to society. It represents aspects of living culture and or “the intangible aspects of inherited culture”¹¹ It is of significance to Lwandle where the Museum plays an active leadership role and role in the development of tourism.

Transformation of the museum concept: It can be argued that Lwandle Migrant Labour Museum and Hostel 33 have extended and transformed the notion of what it is to be a museum in South Africa. Its leadership role in this regard is unquestioned. It marks a shift away from the display of intrinsically valued exhibits elsewhere to the focus on a narrative of value and significance. It tells a story that every South African should be aware of. For its pioneering nature of its work and explorations as a museum it is of outstanding significance, possibly even nationally. The representations of the message about migrant labour and migrant labour conditions are of social value to all South Africans.

Social significance and a leadership role: The Museum is significant because it plays an active community and regional education and cultural enrichment role. The Lwandle Migrant Labour Museum pursues an active social engagement policy; and undertakes workshops within Lwandle and the Strand, particularly with young people. They also play a leadership role in the exploration of museums policies. They contribute to debates regarding museums and collections nationally and internationally.

6.3. Grading of Hostel 33.

⁸ Ramphele M. 1993, A Bed called Home: Life in the Migrant Labour Hostel of Cape Town, Ohio University press

⁹ Robert Home pg 332 *ibid*

¹⁰ J Cooke 2007 ‘The form of the migrant labour hostel’, *Architecture South Africa*, July/August 2007, 64-69)

¹¹ NHRA S 2 (21).

A grade 2 site is a heritage resource identified as having special qualities which make them significant in the context of the province or region. Its heritage significance is identified as exceptionally high.

The site has not been graded by the City of Cape Town in terms of its system of conservation-worthiness, nor has a heritage audit been undertaken in Lwandle. Its heritage status has been significantly under presented until now despite its major role in the explanation and representation of the history of labour in Cape Town.

7. Conclusion.

Hostel 33 makes a significant contribution to our understanding of the migrant labour system and what it was like to live under such conditions. It provides personal insights into the lives lived in the Hostel, in so doing contributes to a sense of empathy.¹² It is unique in the Province, being the only museum not only embedded in the community in which it plays a leadership role, but by being the only museum dedicated to the research and understanding of the migrant labour system. It is a hub for researchers worldwide.

It is an award-winning Museum having won awards from the Department of Arts and Culture.

It is proposed that on the grounds of being an exceptional museum dedicated to the fields of study; that it is a deeply under-represented theme in South African museology; because of the way in which the building and exhibits themselves have been protected, displayed and interpreted and because of the historical importance of the labour hostel in the development of the urban morphology of Cape Town and the significant role played by migrant workers in the history of Cape Town, that the Hostel 33 be graded a grade 2 site with the future intention of declaring it a Provincial heritage Site in terms of S 27 (23) of the NHRA.

8. Recommendations

This report recommends that Hostel be graded a grade 2 heritage site as requested by the Chairman and Trustees of the Lwandle Migrant Labour Museum and that the procedures necessary for its proclamation as Provincial Heritage Site be instituted.

9. Bibliography

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¹² See Preamble to NHRA.

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Disclaimer. The use of racial terminology (based on the historical records used) within this report in no way reflects any acknowledgement of the same by the author of the report.

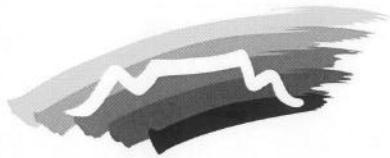
Annexures

Annexure One

Lease agreement City of Cape Town and the Curator Mr Lumcia Smile Lwandle Migrant Labour Museum 29th Dec 2008.

Lease agreement between The City of Cape Town and the Curator Lwandle Migrant Labour Museum of Municipal Buildings Old Community Hall and Hostel 33 Situated on a Portion of erf 13600 11 Khayaletu Street Somerset West, 28th April 2010.

Title Deed Portion 13600 Strand Somerset West



CITY OF CAPE TOWN | ISIXEKO SASEKAPA | STAD KAAPSTAD

Omni-Forum Building
94 Van Riebeeck Road
Private Bag X16
Kuilsr River, 7579

Ask for : **Adèle Bannister**

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Fax: 021-900 1692

E-mail: Adele.Bannister@capetown.gov.za

Website: <http://www.capetown.gov.za>

File No : H14/2/2/1/2/41

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Kuilsrivier, 7579

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Faks: 021-900 1692

DIRECTORATE: ECONOMIC & SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
PROPERTY SERVICES
EASTERN REGION

29 December 2008

The Curator
Lwandle Migrant Labour Museum
P O Box 356
SOMERSET WEST
7129

Attention : Mr Lumcia Smile

Dear Sir

LEASE AGREEMENT FOR THE LWANDLE MIGRANT LABOUR MUSEUM SITUATED ON A PORTION OF ERF 13600, 11 KHAYALETHU STREET, LWANDLE, STRAND : OLD COMMUNITY HALL AND HOSTEL NO 33

With reference to my letter dated 22 December 2008 in the above regard (copy attached), I hereby wish to advise that the City has, in principle, no objection to the proposed upgrading and restoration of Hostel No 33, subject to the following conditions:

- (a) that the Lwandle Migrant Labour Museum indemnifies the City against any claims of whatsoever nature arising from or incidental to this in principle approval and that the City shall not be liable for any damage of any nature whatsoever which the Lwandle Migrant Labour Museum may suffer from whatsoever cause including the negligence of the Council or its employees acting within the cause and scope of their duties arising directly or indirectly out of the Lwandle Migrant Labour Museum entering upon and/or use of the Property;
- (b) that the appropriate approvals in terms of the National Building Regulations, National Building Standards and any other applicable legislation be obtained from the relevant authorities;
- (c) that final approval be obtained from the City for the lease of the Old Community Hall and Hostel No 33.

Please note that the promulgation of the new Municipal Asset Transfer Regulations issued in terms of the Local Government: Municipal Finance Management Act in the Government Gazette No. 31346 dated 22 August 2008 resulted thereto that with effect from 1 September 2008 Council had to amend/revise all procedures pertaining to the sale/letting/use/management of its immovable properties.

The aforementioned regulations categorise Council's assets and depending on the category, specific statutory requirements have to be met. One of the requirements is that Council cannot consider and decide on any application unless it has first followed a public participation process.

In order to comply with this regulation, your application first needs to be advertised for public comment and once the advertising process has been completed, a report will need to be submitted to Council for a decision.

For any further queries in this regard please contact Ms Alpha Fransman at tel (021) 900 1731.

Yours faithfully



for DIRECTOR : PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

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CITY OF CAPE TOWN

INDEMNITY

The City of Cape Town (hereinafter referred to as the "Council") hereby, in principle, grants permission to the Lwandle Migrant Labour Museum (hereinafter referred to as the "indemnifier") for the upgrade and restoration of Hostel No.33, situated on a portion of Erf 13600, 11 Khayaletu Street, Lwandle, Strand (hereinafter referred to as the "Property") pending the final approval by the Council for the lease of the property, subject to the following conditions:

1. That the indemnifier enters the Property entirely at his/her/their own risk;
2. That the occupation of the Property shall be at the Council's pleasure;
3. That the indemnifier hereby indemnifies the Council and furthermore undertakes to keep the Council indemnified against any claim of whatsoever nature which may be against the Council arising either directly or indirectly from their entering upon/or use of the Property;
4. That the Council shall not be liable for any damage of any nature whatsoever which the indemnifier may suffer from whatsoever cause including the negligence of the Council or its employees acting within the cause and scope of their duties arising directly or indirectly out of the indemnifier's entering upon and/or use of the Property;
5. That the conditions referred to in the attached letter dated 29 December 2008 shall be complied with.
6. That the indemnifier undertakes to, upon final approval of the lease and the applicable statutory processes being adhered to, to enter into a lease agreement with the Council;
7. That in the event of the lease not being proceeded with, the indemnifier shall hand over the Property to the Council in a satisfactory and /or its original condition.

The indemnifier acknowledges that he/she/it understands and accepts the conditions set out above and agree to be bound thereby.

SIGNED AT ON THIS DAY OF
..... 200 .

WITNESSES

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.....

.....
INDEMNIFIER who warrants that
he/she is duly authorised hereto.