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**GOVERNMENT NOTICE**

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**DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND CULTURE**

No. 931

2 December 2013

**GOVERNMENT GAZETTE NOTICE FOR THE DECLARATION**

OF

**Union Buildings (Portions of the farm Elandsport 357-JR), City of Tshwane, Gauteng;  
120 Plein Street, Cape Town (Located on Erf 3742, 3745 - 3746 and 9240, Cape Town)  
and Tuynhuys (Located on Erf 95165, Cape Town), Parliamentary Precinct, Cape  
Town, Western Cape**

By virtue of the powers vested in the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) in terms of Section 27 (5) of the National Heritage Resources Act No. 25 of 1999, SAHRA hereby declares the Union Buildings, Portions of the farm Elandsport 357-JR, City of Tshwane, Gauteng; 120 Plein Street, Cape Town (Located on Erf 3742, 3745 - 3746 and 9240, Cape Town) and Tuynhuys (Located on Erf 95165), Parliamentary Precinct, as National Heritage Sites.

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE****The Union Buildings Complex**

The Union Buildings complex is a unique and exceptional example of the interface between architecture and landscaping, but more importantly, it is a symbol of South Africa with notable political significance, both historically and in contemporary terms. While the City of Tshwane has developed around it, the Union Buildings, regarded as one of the stateliest buildings in the country, has remained a symbol of the Presidency and the seat of power of the Republic of South Africa.

**120 Plein Street**

Bordering Stalplein is the 18-floor office complex known as 120 Plein Street. The official opening of the building took place on 11 February 1972. It was built to accommodate Ministers, Deputy Ministers, Heads and officials of state departments during parliamentary sessions. Each department was housed on a different floor and moved down from Pretoria with entire offices, staff, files and equipment for 6 months of the year. The office block still

functions as an extension of the government departments of the Union Buildings and is not part of Parliament.

### **Tuynhuys**

Tuynhuys, which houses the Presidential offices, falls under the Presidency and is managed independently from Parliament. It was used as an official residence and guesthouse by almost all the governors of the Cape - Dutch, Batavian and British - and by State Presidents after the country became a Republic in 1961. Historically Tuynhuys (or Government House as it was known by the British) provided the grounds on which Parliament was built. In 1971 Tuynhuys was restoration to its original Baroque period, the wings were kept in the Victorian style and the Stalplein side reflects the Georgian period. The gardens were restored to a Baroque layout. Tuynhuys still shares the same erf number with Parliament, and together were declared national monuments in 1984.

This building is the site of one of the most important turning points in South African history when FW de Klerk announced from its steps, on 18 March 1992, that South Africa had 'closed the book on apartheid'.

In terms of section 3(3) of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act 25 of 1999) (NHRA, 1999) outlines criteria for determining the significance of a site or object to be included as part of the national estate. For the purposes of this notification these have been summarised as follows:

1. Historical Value
2. Aesthetic Value
3. Scientific Value
4. Social Value
5. Rarity
6. Representivity

#### *1. Historical Value*

The historic value of the Union Buildings, 120 Plein Street and Tuynhuys is revealed in the important role it plays in the pattern of the history of South Africa, exhibiting richness,

diversity and importance in its association with events, developments and cultural phases that have had a significant role in the evolution of the nation. In addition to the foregoing, it also has strong and special associations with the life and work of persons, groups and organisations of importance in history whose works or activities have been significant in the context of the history of the nation.

Located on Meintjieskop, the highest point in South Africa's executive capital city, the Union Buildings has, since its completion in 1913, become a landmark site which has developed into an integral aspect of the urban landscape and public life of Tshwane. Since its origins as a site, symbolic of the Union of South Africa, subsequently the Republic of South Africa, to its present use by the Presidency of the Democratic Republic of South Africa, the site has remained a symbol of political power. The foregoing significance is accentuated by its location on one of the highest points in the executive capital city, Pretoria, Tshwane. Its size and proximity to the homes of government officials and international consulates reinforces its significance. The Union Buildings was a site of many protests and demonstrations, notably, the 1956 Women's March, which had a profound effect on the history of South Africa as it etched the Union Buildings into the broader social memory as a site of change.

In addition to the above, the site, identified as 120 Plein Street, Cape Town, associated with the Union Buildings, houses the offices of the Cabinet of the Republic of South Africa and is related to the Union Buildings in this regard. Tuynhuys, part of the Parliamentary precinct, but managed as an extension to the Union Buildings, has served as the office of the Presidency of a democratic South Africa after centuries of colonisation and decades of apartheid.

## ***2. Aesthetic Value***

Conceptually the Union Buildings precinct was designed as an urban acropolis on the highest point of the city, Meintjieskop, by Sir Herbert Baker (1862-1946) with construction commencing in 1910. The site dominates the Pretoria city bowl and the surrounding hills of the urban landscape.

Due to its location and scale, the site has a high level of legibility, emphasising its stateliness and significance. The site defines a particular set of aesthetic values and qualities giving the site landmark status contributing to the aesthetic qualities of the cultural environs within

which it is located. Beyond the grand architecture, the beauty of the Union Buildings lies in the integration of the buildings with the landscape and landscaping, including the use of formal and informal gardens, particularly through the use of axial lines and symmetry. The buildings and gardens are both excellent examples of historic styles and the different monuments and memorials contribute to the historic setting. The protection of the site should include all the elements that make the landscape and not merely the architectural components of the complex.

### ***3. Scientific Value***

The site, to some extent, has the potential of yielding information that will contribute to an understanding of scientific aspects of our natural and cultural heritage. The scientific value of the site is found in the construction technology and innovation as well as the botanical history of the gardens and landscaping. The Union Buildings is an example of a prototype of a new kind of public building that later became fashionable during the first half of the 20th century in South Africa, and internationally. Its location on Meintjeskop serves to conserve a rare and endangered remnant of natural environment within the urban landscape. Many plants on the site date back to the time of botanical exploration and some good examples of rare species can be found, in areas such as the Flanagan Arboretum.

The Union Buildings and Tuynhuys constitutes places where visitors from and to South Africa can learn about, not only the political history of South Africa, but also the natural and cultural history, about landscape, art and architecture. The presence of the natural koppie, Meintjeskop, provides the opportunity to contribute to scientific understanding of biodiversity or geodiversity. Possible archaeological sites and historical farm boundaries also provide the opportunity to achieve an even better understanding of the history and occupation patterns evident in this area.

### ***4. Social Significance***

The Union Buildings has strong and special associations with the South African *community* and different cultural groups for social, cultural, political, symbolic, aesthetic and educational reasons. The symbolism of its design elements, demography of tenants and themes of its monuments and memorials and, particularly, its role as the site of some of the most incisive social fabric changing actions, further underwrites the Union Buildings as a space of profound significance. The site, however, does not only have an association with Pretoria's

early urban settlers, but has an even earlier history associated with the indigenous peoples of the region. After being the backdrop to many protests and marches, and now the Presidency, the site is a symbol of a new democratic South Africa. Further, due to its location and significance, people across the social and political spectrum can relate to the building as a symbol of South Africa.

### **5. *Rarity***

The Union Buildings site houses an uncommon and rare structure and is part of a special urban and political landscape. No other site captures the public imagination like the Union Buildings. It is a *window* to South Africa and the highest seat of its government. The site has both local and international significance. It is where dignitaries come to meet the President of South Africa. It is a rare and special site in the South African Political and social consciousness.

### **6. *Vulnerability***

The vulnerability is defined by the extent of developmental pressures which could negatively impact on the heritage value and authenticity of the site. Due to increasing staff in the public service and limited or expensive options in the nearby CBD, there is increasing pressure for the modernization of office space. Further to the above criteria of significance, it should be noted that the preservation and management of the Union Buildings has an additional criterion of value, that of economic value. The gardens of the Union Buildings and Meintjeskop are a popular venue for leisure, formal and large scale events associated with the seat of Government.





Appendix B: 120 Plein Street

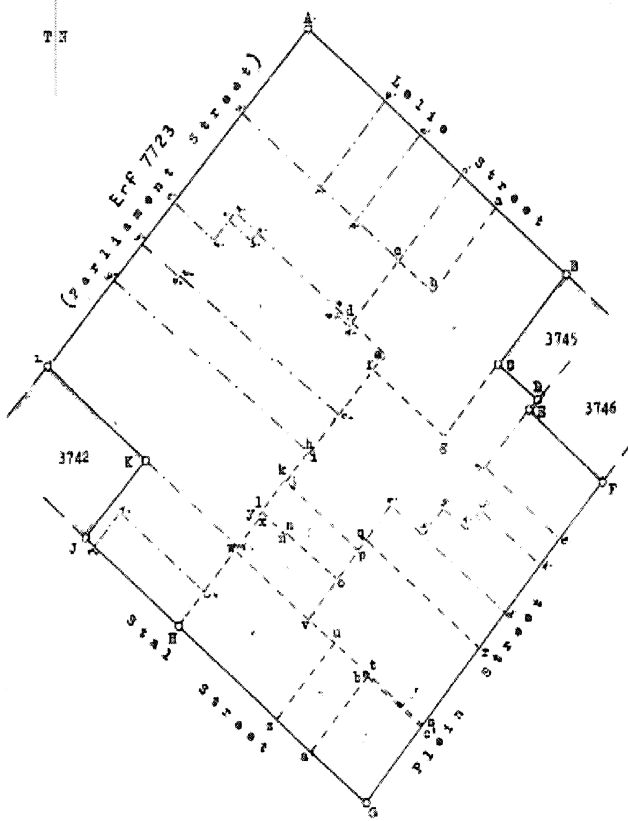
- Beacons.**  
 A. : 1/4" Sq. Iron peg.  
 B.H. : 1/2" Iron peg.  
 C.D.E. : Not beacons.  
 F. : Nail corner.  
 G. : 3/4" Iron peg.  
 J.K.L. : 1/2" Iron peg in concrete.

SDCS Cape Feet	ANGLES OF DIRECTION	SYSTEM In 19 <sup>00</sup> COORDINATES
	Constant	+160000,0 -11920000,0
AB	152.11 309.42.40	A +10183.06 + 7225.87
BC	48.67 39.41.50	B +10066.06 + 7321.06
CD	23.09 309.40.30	C +10097.15 + 7358.51
DE	5.47 42.42.10	D +10079.38 + 7373.25
EF	43.95 310.32.40	E +10083.09 + 7377.27
FG	166.97 40. 5.00	F +10049.59 + 7405.64
GH	109.48 130. 2.20	G +10157.20 + 7533.59
HJ	54.59 129.30.00	H +10241.02 + 7463.16
JK	41.75 221. 1.10	J +10283.14 + 7428.44
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LA	178.42 220.54.50	L +10299.93 + 7358.70

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*D.P. [Signature]*  
 Surveyor-General  
 24.6.63



- (1) The figure A.a.b.c.d.e.f.i.h.j.k.y.x.H..K.L. represents Erf 3743 Cape Town. Vide Dgn. No. 2713/1943, D/T. 1943.10.489
- (2) The figure a.b.g.t.o.d.c.b. represents Remr. of Erf 3744 Cape Town. Vide Dgn. No. 6/1792, D/T. 1791.1.17a.
- (3) The figure C.D.E.F.r.q.p.j.h.i.f.g. represents Erf 3747 Cape Town. Vide Dgn. No. 690/1945, D/T. 1951.446, 22294.
- (4) The figure q.r.s.v. represents Erf 3748 Cape Town. Vide Dgn. No. 4/1785, D/T. 1785.1.23.
- (5) The figure t.u.c'.b'. represents Erf 3749 Cape Town. Vide Dgn. No. 92/1868, D/T. 1868.22.247.
- (6) The figure b'.c'.G.a'. represents Erf 3750 Cape Town. Vide Dgn. No. 5/1785, D/T. 1785.1.24.
- (7) The figure u.t.A'.s. represents Remr. of Erf 3751 Cape Town. Vide Dgn. No. 4/1777, D/T. 1777.1.46.
- (8) The figure w.u.z.H. represents Remr. of Erf 3752 Cape Town. Vide Dgn. No. 40/1798, D/T. 1798.2.306.
- (9) The figure j.n.n.q.v.w.x.y. represents Erf 3753 Cape Town. Vide Dgn. No. 706/1893, D/T. 1893.47.3625.
- (10) The figure k.p.o.n.n.l. represents Erf 3754 Cape Town. Vide Dgn. No. 1466/1895, D/T. 1895.44.6993.

Scale 1: 500.-

The figure A. B. C. D. E. F. G. H. J. K. L.

represents 42894 square feet of land being

**ERF 9240 CAPE TOWN,**

and comprises the properties as specified above.

in the City and Municipality of Cape Town, situated in the Division of Cape Province of Cape of Good Hope.

Surveyed in March 1963 by me

*[Signature]*  
 Land Surveyor.

This diagram is annexed to C.C.T. No. 2275 of 1965

The original diagrams are as quoted above. S.G. File No. 17890/1963. S.R. No. E. 605/65. Gen. Plan

Register of Deeds

M 3298 Noting Plan of 1961 8-70  
 M 1618 BN-708/2222  
 M 3297 Bureau A and B Bechtelme/Ridged Vice Diagram 19/1963/1961

Appendix C: Tuynhys (Located on Erf 95165), Parliamentary Precinct, Cape Town

# Parliament



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