



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

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South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town  
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001  
[www.sahra.org.za](http://www.sahra.org.za)

Enquiries: Palmira de Almeida

Date: Monday June 24, 2019

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Email: [pdealmeida@sahra.org.za](mailto:pdealmeida@sahra.org.za)

CaseID: 13554

## **Final Decision**

**In terms of Section 27(18) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)**

Attention: SOUTH AFRICAN ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATORY NATIONAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

**The proposal is to locate the Remote Operations Room for observing the telescopes in Sutherland to the Library Room in the Main Building. The operations will be enclosed in a "glass box" and will not involve physical interventions to the historic fabric of the building, except to bring electrical cabling from under the floor involving the lifting and then replacement of a small section of a floor board. The installation will be reversible. It is then proposed to move the library collection in this room to the Reading Room and a Second Room in the west wing of the Main Building. The library collection in the Second Room will be stored in stacking shelves and in order to accommodate the weight of the shelves, it is proposed to carefully lift the floor boards to reinforce the floor supports and to reinstate the floor boards, as per existing.**

Thank you for notifying SAHRA about the proposed new Remote Operations Station and the relocation of the Library Collection to the Reading as well as a Second Room in the Main Building of the South African Astronomical Observatory (SAAO), South Africa. It is noted that the South African Astronomical Observatory is a National Heritage Site.

The following documents were reviewed:

SAAO Heritage Statement Ros 6th June 2019

Figures, Photographs 3D Images, Sections and Plans, Annexures

SAHRA has no objection to the proposed new Remote Operations Station and the relocation of the Library Collection to the Reading and a Second Room in the Main Building of the SAAO. The installation is reversible, therefore has a low impact on the National Heritage resource. A Closing Report composed of photographs of the complete works must be uploaded onto SAHRIS upon conclusion of the project.

Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted above in the case header.

**Alterations to the Main Building at the SAAO, Observatory, Cape Town, Western  
Cape Province**

**Our Ref:**



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Yours faithfully

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Palmira de Almeida  
Heritage Officer  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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Ben Mwasinga  
Manager: Built Environment Unit  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

**ADMIN:**

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/521463>

**Terms & Conditions:**

1. This approval does not exonerate the applicant from obtaining local authority approval or any other necessary approval for proposed work.
2. If any heritage resources, including graves or human remains, are encountered they must be reported to SAHRA immediately.
3. SAHRA reserves the right to request additional information as required.