



CITY OF CAPE TOWN  
ISIXEKO SASEKAPA  
STAD KAAPSTAD



**HERITAGE SERIES: PLACES OF INTEREST AND WALKS**

# CITY HALL AND PRECINCT

Making progress possible. Together.

# CITY HALL AND PRECINCT

1ST EDITION, 2024

For the sake of consistency, we use the term 'First Nations' throughout this booklet. We acknowledge that the First Nations groups have the right to define their own identities.

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of information in this book at the time of publication, and to acknowledge photographs correctly. The City of Cape Town accepts no responsibility and will not be liable for any errors or omissions contained herein.

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# CITY HALL AND ITS HISTORICAL PRECINCT



The City Hall is located within the earliest urban precinct of Cape Town dating back 370 years to the arrival of the Dutch settlers. Completed in 1905, the history of the City Hall is a distinctly civic one, serving as the offices and seat of the early Cape Town municipal authority and as a place of large social and cultural events as well as significant and iconic occasions. Bounding northwards across Darling Street is the most historic and largest public open space, the Grand Parade, the site of the clay and wood Old Fort and numerous other functions and significant events, including the iconic addresses of Nelson Mandela from the City Hall balcony. Further east is the Castle of Good Hope built by the Dutch to replace the structurally weak Old Fort for protection, security, defence, control, accommodation and governance at the early Cape when it was a midway refreshment station and a strategic point on the sea trade route between Europe and South East Asia. Moving southwards in the direction of the mountain, on Buitenkant Street, is the Desmond and Leah Tutu House (Old Granary), now a centre for peace and reconciliation that historically served as a customs house, followed by the town granary and then a number of contemporaneous civil,

governmental and social institutional uses and functions. The District Six Museum, further up Buitenkant Street, commemorates and remembers the people removed from District Six by the enforcement of apartheid's Group Areas Act and the demolition and total destruction of the District Six area. The old Volunteer Drill Hall (Central Library), alongside the City Hall on Darling Street, was a place of military drills and training but also a significant place for civic and social events before the City Hall's completion with its Grand Hall and after the demolition of the Commercial Exchange when situated to the west of the Parade. Reconstructed as the city's Central Library, it holds a significant collection of Africana (published works by Africans about Africans) and other heritage publications and information. Through the centuries these sites and places have all linked at various times to form an interconnected social and historical thread within this precinct and in the related development of central Cape Town. The precinct forms a distinctive part of the civic and social institutional character of the eastern edge of central Cape Town.



# THE HISTORICAL PRECINCT AND THE ORIGINAL CAPE TOWN SHORELINE



*Map of Cape Town, 1884*



*View of The Castle of Good Hope, 1800c, by John Barrow*

This historical precinct, particularly the sites of the Grand Parade and the Castle of Good Hope, were located on the original shoreline as indicated by today's Strand Street in this area. The reclamation of land and development of the Cape Town Foreshore starting in the 1930s obscured the historical shoreline, and these early sites became positioned inland of the coastline.

The Original Shoreline project sets out to mark, via digital storytelling with authentic accounts, the history of the original shoreline and the associated land up until today. The identified and mapped earlier shoreline is one rich in history containing layers of stories long overlooked, forgotten and unrevealed.

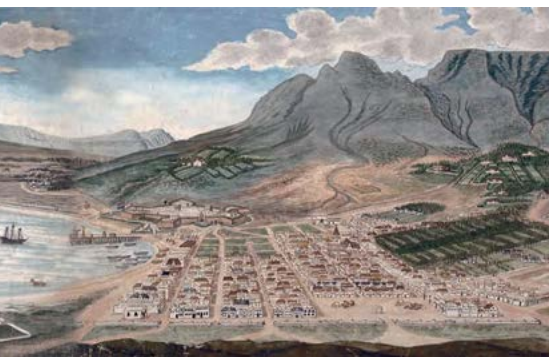
In the first phase, the shoreline is in a physical route starting from the site of the Castle of Good Hope and Grand Parade, weaving its way through the Cape Town CBD, to the V&A Waterfront where it includes the Iziko Maritime Museum and the Chavonnes Battery. The route takes into account the notable

landmarks along the way reflecting architectural, maritime, spiritual, community, environmental and slave histories that shaped the city's original shoreline.

In the second phase, the route comes alive through a GIS-guided walking VoiceMap Tour directing people along the tour while telling some of the stories unearthed through the project. The route connects the geological, natural, historical, and social markers that form the full narrative of the city's and the country's history.

The Original Shoreline project is a longer-term project pioneered by the Cape Town Heritage Trust and partners. It is most significant for this historical precinct as the earliest place of colonial rule at the Cape, but also connects it to the geographical, natural and social events that make up the full narrative of Cape Town and South Africa.

Before land reclamation started in the 1930s, the tide would wash up against the walls of the Castle.



*View of Table Bay at Cape of Good Hope, 1776c, Johannes Schumacher*



*View of Cape of Good Hope with Table Mountain, 1790, Lady Anne Barnard*



# CITY HALL





Completed in 1905, the City Hall is one of the most iconic buildings in Cape Town and one highlighted in South African liberation history. The central balcony of the City Hall was the place where Nelson Mandela addressed tens of thousands gathered on the Grand Parade upon his release from prison on 11 February 1990 and again in May 1994, as South Africa's first democratically elected president. The façade of the City Hall overlooks the Grand Parade as its forecourt with the magnificent Table Mountain as its backdrop.

City Hall is located on Darling Street within Cape Town's oldest urban precinct dating back 370 years to the arrival of the Dutch. The building forms part of a distinct historical area of particular institutional, social and civic character to the eastern side of central Cape Town. Notably within this context, the precinct of the City Hall includes the Grand Parade, Castle of Good Hope, Desmond and Leah Tutu House (Old Granary), District Six Museum and Volunteer Drill Hall (Central Library).

City Hall is a large grandiose Victorian-Edwardian building including aspects of the French Empire and Renaissance styles. The building is made of honey-coloured limestone from Bath, polished Aberdeen granite, and marble sourced from Italy. It has a two-storey façade of projecting end and central sections with a centrally positioned tower most visible from the Grand Parade. The design of the interior is in two distinct parts – one for civic and local authority administration purposes and

the other for social, cultural and public events, particularly in the Grand Hall and its connecting wings.

The building of the City Hall marked the peak of the imperial relationship with Britain. For Cape Town, it was the final marker of change away from the old Cape Dutch town. It represented the civic pride that was growing worldwide in the development of modern commercial and industrial cities and placed it on an equal footing.

By 1890, the expanding municipal functions of a rapidly growing Cape Town had exceeded the limited accommodation at the Old Town House on Green Market Square, and the building had become inappropriate in both design and function. The Town Council authorised the construction of the City Hall in the mid-1890s and appointed the architects Frederik George Green and Harry Austin Reid of Johannesburg. Clearing of the Caledon Square Market site took place in 1900, followed by the laying of the City Hall's foundation stone. Artisans from both the United Kingdom (UK) and Cape Town built the City Hall as well as a large contingency of workers from District Six.

The administrative part of City Hall initially accommodated both municipal management and political decision-making functions. This included offices for the departments of finance, treasury, water, engineering and other functions. From a political perspective, City Hall housed the Mayor's Parlour and the Council Chamber, the latter where debates on matters of local importance



took place, including decision making that contributed significantly to the shaping of present day Cape Town.

Politically significant is the election of Dr Abdullah Abdurahman, the first person of colour at the Cape Town Council in 1904/05. He represented District Six and played a crucial role fighting racism for 40 years and championing issues in education and health, particularly for people of colour. His daughter 'Cissie' Gool was the first woman elected to Council (Woodstock) in 1938. She became a well-known anti-apartheid activist and civil rights leader.

In the 1940s, municipal departments started moving out of City Hall, and

by the 1970s most departments had relocated elsewhere in the central city. There was insufficient space given a rapidly growing and modernising city. With the completion of the new Cape Town Civic Centre on the Foreshore in the late 1970s, the entire City administration and decision-making body moved there.

After completion in 1905, the City Hall became a focal point in the cultural and social life of Cape Town. Many local, national and international events hosted successfully over the years bear witness to City Hall serving the people of Cape Town. For a long time, the Grand Hall was the only venue capacious enough for large-scale social events.

This included orchestral concerts and rehearsals, music competitions, indoor sport and boxing tournaments, trade and product exhibitions, civic banquets and receptions, large religious services, international conferences, political meetings, society balls and dances, and others.



*Royal Visit Banquet - outside gathering  
1947, Cape Town City Hall*

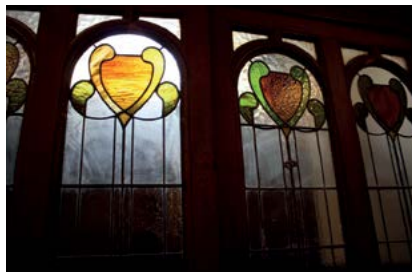
An event of historical interest was the Royal Family Tour of South Africa in 1947, including Cape Town. A highlight was the 21st birthday of then Princess Elizabeth, celebrated with one of two balls and banquets at the City Hall. The Princess, later to become Queen Elizabeth II in 1952 upon her father King George VI's death, made her iconic speech in Cape Town to serve the UK and the Commonwealth until the end of her days. Queen Elizabeth II served as the longest reigning monarch for 70 years until her death on 8 September 2022 at Balmoral Castle, Scotland.

In 1979, it was resolved that the City Hall house the Cape Town Symphony Orchestra as well as the city's Central Lending and Reference Library. The Central Library functioned here from 1982 until it moved to the adjacent and suitably adapted Drill Hall in 2009.

The City Traffic and Municipal Court, also situated here, moved to another city venue after 2015. City Hall has further served as the home of the Malay Choirs and the Cape Town Philharmonic Choir.

Starting from 2017 to 2021, major restoration project works to both the exterior and interior of the City Hall have taken place. This included processes of restoration, upgrading, renovation, redesign, refurbishment, maintenance and repurposing of the building. It is now significantly improved, giving its special and unique features a new lease of life and the facility a good foothold into the future.

A number of the City Hall's spaces have been purposefully adapted and/or upgraded to accommodate particular functions and events. The Grand Hall/ Auditorium is a good example where restoration, refurbishment, maintenance, and improvement to the décor, physical layout and services have taken place for musical and related concerts. Nelson Mandela in Cape Town - Legacy Exhibition and The Attic Exhibition of the Cape Town Civic Collection are good examples of repurposed and adapted spaces to accommodate these new functions.



Historically, City Hall has been a place used and belonging to everyone. The intention is that this be a central venue for cultural, creative, social, visitor and supporting office functions; specifically to include activities and events such as concerts, performances, exhibitions, installations, conferences and symposia, launches, receptions and banquets, social and public celebrations, gatherings and meetings, and supporting office and facility services.

The City Hall is well known for its very grand spaces, particularly the spectacular and splendid ceremonial ones, including the old Council Chambers, Banqueting Hall (previously the Central Library), Reception Hall and Grand Hall (Auditorium). Included are striking stained-glass windows, mosaic floors, marble staircases, statues, ornate stucco on walls, balconies and ceilings, teak dado panelling, aesthetically detailed teak doors and frames, and the magnificent 3 185 pipe organ in the Grand Hall (Auditorium). The sandstone tower of the building with its turret clock has been modelled on Big Ben of London but smaller, and together with the bells and carillon it is unique and significant.

The offerings to be experienced while visiting at the City Hall include the following:

## **NELSON MANDELA IN CAPE TOWN - LEGACY EXHIBITION**

On the first floor of the north wing a space has been reconceptualised,

designed and created to hold a permanent exhibition on the life of Nelson Mandela and the struggle for freedom in South Africa. The exhibition includes audio-visual equipment with interactive displays, together with interpretive panels including a large collection of historic photographs. The exhibition includes people involved in the Struggle, events that occurred prior to Mandela being freed, and his addresses from the balcony of City Hall to huge crowds on the Grand Parade on his release from prison in 1990 and as South Africa's first democratically elected president in 1994.

As part of the Mandela Exhibition, temporary exhibitions will be displayed on a rotating basis - with the inaugural temporary exhibition having focused on Enoch Mankayi Sontonga (1873-1905). While Sontonga produced many other struggle songs, he is probably best known for *Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika*, which today forms part of South Africa's national anthem.

A life-size statue made of bronze of Nelson Mandela stands on the balcony of City Hall, overlooking the Grand Parade where he addressed thousands on his release from prison and as the elected president of South Africa. The statue was unveiled in July 2018 commemorating the 100th birthday of Mandela in 1918. The artists Xhanti Mpakama and Barry Jackson made the statue, commissioned by Dali Tambo's company Koketso.





## THE ATTIC EXHIBITION - CAPE TOWN CIVIC COLLECTION

On the third floor of the City Hall, right at the top of the building, is a permanent exhibition called The Attic. This exhibition gives visitors a chance to rummage through the city's 'attic', and encounter some of the many artefacts and works of art that the city has collected over its history.

This well-curated exhibition tells the story of the development of Cape Town, using items in the collection as focal points to tell our story. The narrative panels, art works, video clips and touch screens expand on the stories that the objects have to tell us. Significant items include a digging stick weight, engraved postal stones, a piece of the Slave Tree, the original sun dial from the Company's Garden, Mayoral Chains from some of the municipalities that now form the Cape Town metro, and the impressive Mayoral Mace.

Because of its position at the top of the building, in The Attic you can look out of the windows and see how the topics and developments on display in the exhibition have shaped the Cape Town of today.

## CAPE TOWN TOURISM VISITOR CENTRE

A new centre for Cape Town Tourism is located on the ground floor of the City Hall. The centre offers information and collateral on tourist and visitor attractions, products, and experiences in Cape Town and the Western Cape. The displayed

information is easily accessible on racks, and staff are available to answer any queries of the visitors to the centre.

This service contributes to exposing the offerings of the City Hall. Cape Town Tourism operates to support tourism and visitors with the provision of information, the development of local tourism operators and businesses, and related industries. The Cape Town offices are accessible from the ground level in front of the City Hall facing the Grand Parade.

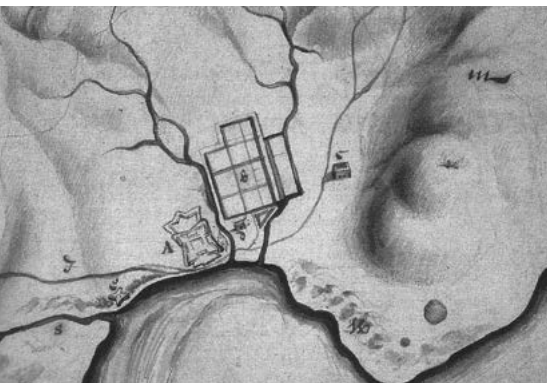
## INVEST CAPE TOWN CENTRE AT CITY HALL

The new Invest Cape Town Centre, located in the former Children's Library, is a multi-use hub, showcasing investor support initiatives, Cape-made products, and initiatives spotlighting Cape Town as a leading African business city. Opened in January 2024 by Executive Mayor Geordin Hill-Lewis and Mayoral Committee Member for Economic Growth, Alderman James Vos, the centre is part of the City's commitment to bring more job-creating investment to Cape Town. The Centre is activated for networking events and engagements with investors, high-level delegations and stakeholders. It is a space where businesses and investors can immerse themselves in all things Cape Town. We are proud to support local by showcasing locally made product ranges here, and we invite businesses to take advantage of this opportunity. To book the space or apply to showcase your products, visit [www.investcapetown.com](http://www.investcapetown.com).

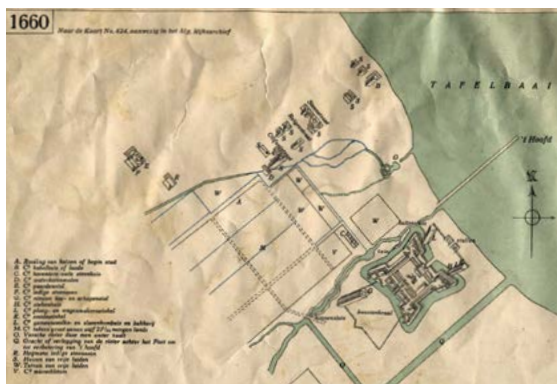




# OLD FORT ON THE GRAND PARADE



Cape Settlement with Old Fort 1656



Early Cape Town Settlement 1660, Map No. 824



The Dutch East India Company (DEIC) arrived at the Cape in 1652 to establish a midway refreshment station providing fresh produce and water to refuel its ships on the sea trade route between Europe and South East Asia. The major intention was to curb scurvy, illness and malnutrition resulting in the mortalities of crews aboard ship. The Cape was, however, a strategic point on the oceanic sea routes, and with the constant threat of foreign powers and wars, the establishment of a garrison and fortification was seen as necessary by the DEIC to protect their economic and social interests. There was also the perceived threat from the indigenous First Nation's Khoi herders with their presence in Table Bay for summer grazing and the watering of herds.

Fortification commenced immediately at the site of the Grand Parade as early as 8 April 1652. It was a site on the shoreline described as an open piece of land between the beach and the Fresh or Vaarsche River.

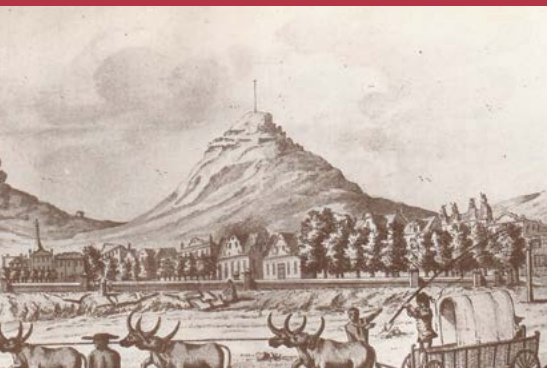
The Old Fort, constructed of clay and wood, was located to the north-west side of the Grand Parade, close to the defensible shoreline. A spring running from Table Mountain also provided fresh water for drinking and the moat. It was designed around a square-sided courtyard accommodating 70 to 80 men and faced north-east with V-shaped

bastions at each corner named after the ships in which the Dutch arrived, namely Drommedaris, Walvisch, Oliphant and Reiger.

There were many difficulties encountered with the building and then the maintaining of the wood and clay fort. It was unable to withstand inclement weather and battering from the Cape winter storms. It did, however, function for a number of years to provide accommodation, a hospital, storerooms, guardhouses and military equipment, a kraal for livestock, and graves. At the centre of the Old Fort stood a stone stronghold, or what was termed a 'Kat', which stood seven foot higher than the fort walls.

In 1665, less than 15 years after completion of the Old Fort, instruction arrived from Amsterdam for the planning and construction of a new stone fortification alongside the old one. This became what we know today as the Castle of Good Hope. Demolition of the walls of the Old Fort took place in 1674, and the Grand Parade began its journey to become a dedicated public open space. This it has remained until today, although eroded by developments of the 19th and 20th centuries to a smaller extent. Demarcated and to be seen on the north-west side of the Grand Parade is one corner of the Old Fort.

# GRAND PARADE



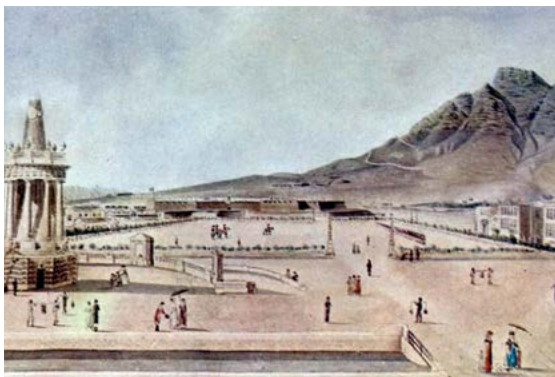
*Parade with oxen and wagons 1762,  
Johannes Rach (William Fehr Collection)*



*View of Gallows next to Grand Parade  
1800c, Lady Anne Barnard*



*View of Grand Parade from Castle  
towards Table Mountain 1808, Jones*



*Grand Parade with Fountain 1798,  
original watercolour by L. Thibault*



*The Commercial Exchange, Grand Parade  
Cape Town 1830, Henry de Meillon*



*Grand Parade 1800s, Henry de Meillon*

At the heart of the historic colonial settlement is the Grand Parade, the oldest public open space and square in Cape Town, if not South Africa. A place of many significant events but most importantly, the momentous addresses of Nelson Mandela from the balcony of the City Hall to tens of thousands upon his release from prison on 11 February 1990 and again as the first democratically elected president of South Africa on 9 May 1994. A time of rejoicing and celebration with the freeing of all South Africans from a system of oppression, discrimination and dispossession.

The Grand Parade, a construct of the colonial environment, was the site chosen by the DEIC in 1652 to set up a mid-way refreshment station for the sea trade route between Europe and South East Asia. This included the establishment of a garrison and fort for protection, a sheltered jetty, a vegetable garden on adjoining land, and a supply of fresh water. The town grew around this site originally situated on the coastline and bounded by the early settlement axes of the Heerengracht (Adderley Street) and Keizersgracht (Darling Street). A town structure further reinforced by the Castle of Good Hope in 1679.

The Grand Parade forms a significant part of the central city's historical core and urban landscape within a precinct of defined civic, social, governmental and institutional character to the east. It incorporates the City Hall, development of the Castle of Good Hope, Desmond and Leah Tutu House

(Old Granary), District Six Museum and the Volunteer Drill Hall (Central Library).

The Grand Parade has a very diverse history of significant events, functions, roles and uses. These include:

- a garrison fort and protection zone;
- a military and cavalry training ground for exercises and parades;
- a place of executions and floggings;
- a place of slave labour and works;
- a wagon path and pedestrian crossing;
- a place of water provision with fountains;
- a place of social gathering, fairs and promenading;
- a sporting events and recreation space;
- a place of social and political protest, demonstrations and rallies;
- a place of diverse trading and auctioneering;
- a celebratory space for visiting dignitaries and royalty;
- a place of mass gathering for iconic addresses;
- an entertainment and events venue; and
- a fan park for the 2010 FIFA World Cup.

The site started as the place of the Old Fort established by the Dutch in 1653 and as a defence/protection zone from possible attack. It also became a cavalry



training ground on completion of the Castle of Good Hope.

In 1700, levelling of the extensive space known as Wapen Plein took place by large groups of slaves and some burghers – the use thereafter diversified to include social events and related activities. In 1710, the Burgher Council legally entrenched the site's open space status by prohibiting by regulation the construction of buildings there. Maps and documents also indicated it then as the Parade Plaatz. By the 1740s, the Parade was in a poor state of degradation with deeply gouged and dangerous passages from the constant rutting of wagon traffic. Slaves restored it again with burghers ordered to

'send one slave each day' to level and grass the square. In 1761, slaves once more levelled the site and planted oak trees on the edges. The eastern side was reserved for the military and the remainder for public open space.

Centrally located fountains on the Parade provided fresh water for the settlement. Artworks of the time depict slaves struggling across this expansive space with heavy pails of water on rods across their shoulders. This was a frequent and most arduous task for the slaves at this time.

Governor Jansen of the Batavian Republic (1803-06) at the Cape instructed the building of an elaborate



fountain and the planting of more trees around the site. The combined effort of architect Louis Thibault and artist Anton Anreith resulted in the commencement of an elaborate drinking fountain, which never reached completion. It disappeared without a trace by 1814 except only for depiction in artworks. The planting of a parallel row of stone pines around the site, replacing the oak trees, took place.

During British rule from 1806, the name changed to the Grand Parade, and this era gave way to numerous developments. The most ambitious being the Commercial Exchange (1822) to the west side of the Parade. Its Neo-classical design was a statement of imperial order and the building played a major commercial role for 70 years as well as being the social heart of Cape Town. The Commercial Exchange was demolished in 1892.

During the second half of the 1800s, a number of new developments significantly changed the character, function, and extent of the Grand Parade. Expansion of the railway lines and the station building eroded the northern boundary and necessitated removal of the trees on this edge. The old General Post Office and the Standard Bank replaced the Commercial Exchange on the western edge and the Opera House was added in 1892. To accommodate wider roads, the graghten or channels beside Darling and Lower Buitenkant streets were bricked over and levelled. Development on the Darling Street southern edge included the Volunteer

Drill Hall (1885) and the Caledon Square Market (1889).

After the South African War of 1900 –1902, a memorial to the fallen volunteers was made and placed opposite the Volunteer Drill Hall and is still there to this day. In 1905, the completed City Hall replaced the Caledon Square Market and the orientation of the building towards Darling Street turned the Parade into its forecourt. The 1920s saw the installation of a large marble statue of King Edward VII on the Parade symmetrically opposite the City Hall. Created by John Gascombe (UK) in honour of Edward VII's coronation, it created a central axial view from the Parade towards City Hall and upwards to the magnificent Table Mountain backdrop.

Early in the 20th century, the Grand Parade was still a place of racial and class diversity. It was also a place of colonial pomp and ceremony as seen with the birthday of Queen Victoria, completion of City Hall in 1905, and the 1925 visit of the Prince of Wales (UK). After the Union of South Africa was established in 1910, a current of racial and class prejudice started emerging. The Parade started becoming a place of social protest for the disadvantaged, oppressed and marginalised. World Wars I and II, together with the radical social and political restructuring of apartheid South Africa, reinforced the Parade becoming a place of social and political protest including rallies, speeches, marches,

demonstrations and activism for over 70 years.

The Grand Parade primarily served as the place to protest the passing and enforcement of racial discriminatory legislation, primarily the Immorality Act, Group Areas Act, Suppression of Communism Act, Population Registration Act and the Pass Laws. Up until February 1990, there were ongoing protests and demonstrations against the apartheid government and the associated police brutality.

The hard labour of slaves built and maintained the Grand Parade. This being the thousands of people (±63 000) brought to the Cape by the Dutch East India Company and slave traders from South East Asia, India, Madagascar and East Africa; a foreign people of lost identity who levelled, paved and landscaped this place. In 1906, the *Cape Argus* reported that the new year had begun with the annual parade of Coloured minstrels. This had become a tradition since its small beginnings in the 1870s, and has its roots in slave heritage and the emancipation of the slaves starting in 1834, and culminating in 1838, with celebrations at the Grand Parade. The 'Kaapse Klopse' endures to this day on 2 January (Tweede Nuwe Jaar) every year in the city centre and at the Grand Parade.

From the beginning of the 20th century, the Parade has been a place of trade and markets for local communities. The Group Areas proclamations of the

central city in 1965, and District Six in 1966, had a detrimental effect on the trading activity and life at the Parade. Local residents were a large part of the Parade's culture and economy but became displaced to the peripheral Cape Flats, causing the downfall of small businesses, home industries and informal traders. Demolition of District Six further obliterated a large part of the inner city's fabric and the consequent use and support of the Parade.

The market function and trade use of the Parade has been restored in part today. There is an outdoor market selling non-food products of predominantly textiles, clothing and household goods on Wednesday and Saturday mornings. Some of the traders are third generation while others come from extended trading families of over 70 years. The Grand Parade is thus a most special place of 'living heritage'.

The Grand Parade successfully served as a 'fan park' for the Soccer World Cup 2010, highlighting both Cape Town and the precincts potential to accommodate such events. A Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) and a Revitalisation Plan directed the preparations for 2010, and comprised resurfacing, paving, lighting, painting, security and landscaping. Planted around the Parade's perimeter for 2010, is a double row of grown stone pines (*Pinus pinea*), after considering factors of historical significance, sustainability, drought resistance, and hardiness of species. The previous trees, particularly the rusty figs (*Ficus rubiginosa*) and some date palms

(*Phoenix carnariensis*), were relocated to other suitable places in the city as well as the Nelson Mandela tree (*Ficus*) planted to commemorate his iconic association with the Parade and the City Hall. Replacement of the Mandela tree is taking place at the same spot on the Buitenkant Street boundary with an indigenous water pear and related commemorative features celebrating his legacy.

Archaeological excavations at the Parade over the years have exposed early human occupation of Late Stone Age habitation by hunter-gatherers, – part ancestors of the First Nation Khoi herders; a site situated in a mountain valley rich in spring water and on a coastline with vegetation, and terrestrial and aquatic animals. It was the first site taken by the colonial settlers, denying the First Nation's Khoi herders access to their migratory route around the Table Mountain valley and the peninsula. Thus destroying their seasonal movement with their livestock and their transhumance way of life.

A major upgrading project of the Parade has commenced since 2018, in coordination with the restoration of City Hall. The strategy has generally been to clear the site of undesirable structures, to facilitate use as a multifunctional public and civic open space, to upgrade and restore necessary service facilities, and to provide needed security. In particular, this has included the following:

- Upgrading of the ablution facilities
- Demolition of a row of small kiosks and dilapidated trading structures

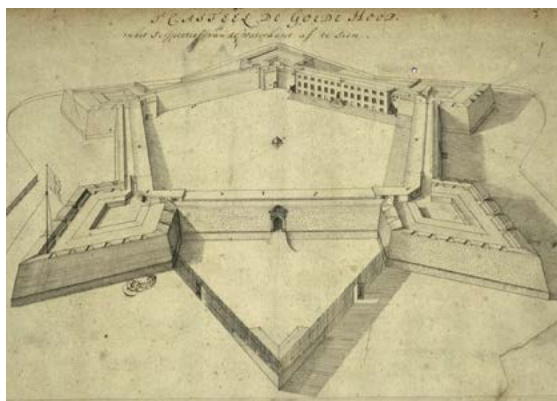
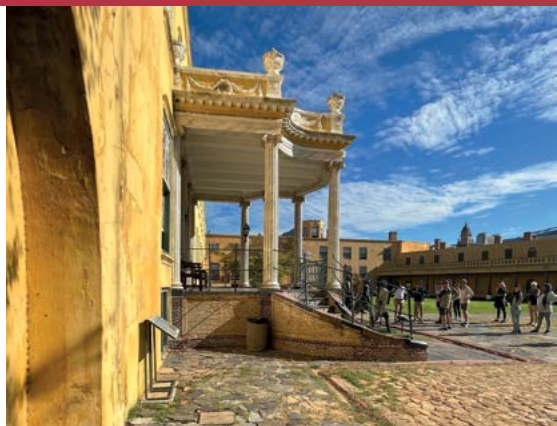
- Refurbishment of a row of small kiosks on Plein Street for compliance with the SA Bureau of Standards regulations
- On-site law enforcement and improved policing and security

In the 2020s, further works have continued with the upgrading of kiosks, lighting and landscaping beneath the trees, including free Wi-Fi and more security measures.

A large part of the strategy is to increase the Parade's profile, together with the City Hall, as a venue or a space to accommodate a variety of functions encompassing open-air concerts, festivals, civic gatherings, day-time and concert parking for City Hall, significant market and informal trading, and as a visitor and tourist place of attraction.

In 1962, the Grand Parade became a National Monument and it is now a Provincial Heritage Site in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act 25 of 1999. In contrast with other more physical heritage resources, the Grand Parade is one of intangible heritage and an ongoing narrative including a significant layering of historic functions, roles and events. Its story is one of 'deep architecture', a diverse collection of social histories, and a significant place of social and cultural meaning and memories.

# CASTLE OF GOOD HOPE



*Casteel de Goede Hoop 1666, Wittebol*





The establishment in 1652, of a midway refreshment station to refuel ships on the sea trade route between Europe and the East, necessitated for the protection of the Dutch East India Company's economic and social interests and the establishment of a garrison and fortification at the Cape. The threat of attack from foreign wars was constant as well as the perceived invasion by the indigenous First Nation tribes. On completion in 1679, the Castle of Good Hope, constructed of stone, replaced the structurally unsound Old Fort.

The Castle of Good Hope, commonly known as the 'Castle', is a bastion fort originally positioned on the coastline of Table Bay and is now located on the eastern side of the central city following 20th century land reclamation for development of the Foreshore. The Castle has a long political, military and civilian history at the Cape – a story of pain, tears, joy, sorrow, laughter, disappointment, fear and hope.

The Castle is the oldest existing colonial building in South Africa and a good example of a well-preserved 17th century bastion structure similar in design to same-period fortifications found in Europe and the East. Declared a National Monument in 1936, it is presently a Provincial Heritage Site. Construction of the building took place around a well central to the pentagonal design extending to the five bastions: Leerdam to the west, and clockwise

Buuren, Katzenellenbogen, Nassau and Oranje.

The building of the Castle's foundations commenced in 1666, under Commander Zacharias Wagenaer, including the laying of the Leerdam cornerstone. Construction proceeded slowly with wood and brick imported from Holland. The labour used to build this structure included slaves, local First Nation Khoi workers, women, soldiers, and three hundred sailors commandeered from passing ships. Stone had to be broken and moved around while shells were collected and burnt in kilns to produce lime for paint and mortar for cement. The human cost estimated for making this stone European fort on African soil was immense.

The original entrance to the Castle was closed in 1682 – spring tides had come crashing against it. Another decorative gateway built out of stone and Dutch brickwork, facing the settlement, was constructed. The adding of a bell tower over the main entrance took place in 1684, with the original bell cast in Amsterdam dated 1697, and weighing over 300 kg. The ringing of the bell told the time to a distance of 10 km away, warned the settlement of dangers, and summoned people to important announcements at the Castle. This gateway is still the entrance to the Castle today and is the only surviving example of Dutch 17th century Classicism of 'Van Campen' in the world.

The building of the 'Kat Balcony' with its 'King of the Castle' statues took place from 1786 to 1790. The parapet has



high relief work by the sculptor Anton Anreith and the architectural design of the balcony is by Louis Thibault, although the curly Baroque shapes point at Anreith as the designer of this most attractive feature. The heavy teak doors with their lion heads and the carved fanlight are also the work of Anreith.

The Castle is where the Cape Governor and Secund (assistant governor) resided and from where the seat of governance was enforced. The Council of Policy and the Council of Justice controlled and determined all facets of life at the settlement. From the central porch of the 'Kat Balcony' announcements were made, including proclamations, legal notices, important information and criminal sentences to largely slaves, soldiers and burghers. Many, particularly the slaves, suffered the fate of execution in full public view outside the walls of the Leerdam Bastion at a gallows next to the Grand Parade. Others suffered imprisonment and torture in a dungeon known as the Donker gat or Dark Hole at the Castle.

Ironically, at the Oude Kat or transept wall where the chapel is situated, a commemoration of the great First Nation Khoi woman and interpreter, Krotoa or Eva, is located.

The restoration of the inner courtyard of the Castle resulted in the discovery of the foundations of the 18th century U-shaped bakery and wall remnants of a decorated pool and balustrades. This, together with other historical information and sketches, enabled the reconstruction

of Het Bakhuis and the Dolphin Pool. The sketches and descriptions made by Lady Anne Barnard of the Castle during the late 1700s, were key to revealing an impressive dolphin fountain located in the middle of the pool. The artist Jan Corewijn created a dolphin replica for the pool now titled the Dolphin Pool.

The Castle has historical links with King Cetshwayo kaMpande, the last independent king of the Zulu people. This started with the devastating defeat of the British at Isandlwana by the Zulus in early 1879, and ended with retaliation by the British at the Battle of Ulundi and the defeat of the Zulus. The royal kraal was torched and Cetshwayo's capital burned for days. King Cetshwayo escaped and evaded capture by the British but was eventually caught and incarcerated at the Castle in Cape Town.

In 1881, his status changed to being under civil custody and he was relocated to Oude Molen. He returned to Zululand in 1883 to a subdued kingdom riven with factionalism and rivalry. He died in Eshowe in February 1884. Cetshwayo has been immortalised in photographs, paintings, books and films – an African monarch in a contrastingly colonial and different context. There is a statue commemorating Cetshwayo as well as statues of the Cape interpreter Doman and kings Sekhukhune and Langalibalele, at the Castle outside in front of the 'Kat Balcony'.

The wooden block paving of the archway beneath the Governor's residence dampened the sounds of horses' hooves and carriages. The wooden cross hanging in the archway is from a tree at Deville, France, where many





South Africans (2 373) lost their lives in the Battle of Deville Wood in July 1916.

Under architect Gawie Fagan's direction, a comprehensive restoration process of the Castle was undertaken from 1982 to 1993. Another restoration and upgrading process took place starting in 2015. The old granary, later to become the gunpowder room, is now an archaeological museum at the Castle. An open segment of excavation shows the archaeological layering of materials and built structures.

Militarily, the Castle has served as a local headquarters for the South African Army of the Western Cape, holds the ceremonial facilities of the traditional Cape regiments, and is home to the Cape Town Highlanders Regiment.

Although there is still a military presence at the Castle, the objective is to convert

the facility over time into a museum of cultural interest and celebration.

The 'Kat Balcony' gives access to the William Fehr Collection of early antiques and artworks depicting aspects of cultural life at the Cape up to the 19th century. A permanent ceramic exhibition (Fired) is there and the outer eastern wall houses the Cape Military Museum and a model of the Old Fort. Recently, the Cape Heritage Museum and the Camissa Museum have also been established there. Today, the Castle seeks to embrace all groups pertinent to its development and colonial history. South Africans as well as foreigners are embracing this citadel steeped in the roots of heritage at the Cape and South Africa.



# THE DESMOND AND LEAH TUTU HOUSE

(PREVIOUSLY CALLED THE OLD GRANARY)



*Cape Town Old Granary sketch with Caledon Square foreground*





The Desmond and Leah Tutu House (previously called the Old Granary), one of Cape Town's most historical and significant buildings, is now restored and upgraded, and is home to the Desmond and Leah Tutu Legacy Foundation (D&LTLF).

The facility includes office space, a peace centre, an archive, a museum and a semi-permanent exhibition.

The Old Granary is now an established beacon for reconciliation – a testament to the life of Emeritus Archbishop Desmond Tutu (deceased 2022) and his sheer force of will to build an inclusive and caring society. The 'Arch' strove always to speak 'truth to power' during the years of apartheid and again in the new democracy.

Through its more than 200-year existence, the Old Granary has been in the backdrop of a changing society – from a colonial past marked by the pain of slavery, exploitation and oppression, to a divisive, discriminatory and oppressive apartheid regime, and finally the new South African democracy.

In 2014, the City of Cape Town resolved to restore and lease the Old Granary in Buitenkant Street, central Cape Town, to the D&LTLF for a centre for peace. It has been one of the most ambitious restoration projects undertaken by the City. Official ownership of the building by the City took place in 1994, after 180 years in the hands of the State. For the following 20 years, the Old Granary stood vacant while a search for a suitable tenant took place justifying the extensive restoration, upgrading and ongoing

maintenance of the building, as well as being commensurate with the stature of this building. During this time, the building did deteriorate, necessitating intervention, but only urgent repairs were possible.

The 40-year lease with the D&LTLF came very timeously for the urgent restoration and upgrading of the place as well as the appropriate occupation and repurposing of the magnificent Old Granary complex.

The City's vision for the Old Granary was to restore and preserve the external façade and rehabilitate and upgrade the internal spaces with careful and sensitive consideration of the building's history of use and heritage significance. The condition of the building, however, enforced a particular approach to its restoration and suitable tenancy. A multisectoral approach was applied for the adaptation of the Granary's interior to office purposes with an understanding of past functions and uses and the relevant architectural and structural changes.

The Old Granary has a physical, social and economic history of more than 200 years. The City's restoration work has not plastered over the histories within the building, but has instead exposed and displayed them. The internal well-preserved spaces now show the building's heritage status in its original condition, making it unique. Historic effects include original brick walling, wooden flooring and surfaces, murals and artworks, and original cracks and markings in doors, surfaces and walls.

At the time of building the Old Granary from 1811 to 1813, Cape Town's shoreline was close, bounding that of the Castle of Good Hope – the most imposing and significant place in the town settlement. This, together with the adjoining Grand Parade, contributes to an understanding of the importance of the Old Granary and its history over the 19th and 20th centuries. It has strong historical links to the Castle, the iconic Parade, the Volunteer Drill Hall and the City Hall, within a precinct of connected historical value.

Completed in 1814, the Old Granary is a surviving colonial building constructed and altered continuously with the labour of slaves and skilled artisans. The history of the Old Granary is to be divided into two phases – a private dwelling with associated warehouses, and then a civic building of multiple and concurrent functions. This created its physical

complexity at each use and related stage with particular physical adaptations. The Old Granary building complex served as the Customs House (1814), Government Granary (1817), Magistrates Court and Caledon Police Station (1826), House of Correction or Women's Prison (1826), Colonial Civil Engineers' Office and Surveyor General's Office (late 1820s), and lastly the Department of the Chief Inspector of Works until the 1970s.

The Old Granary is a Neo-classical building of two storeys, a symmetrical façade, and nine long bay windows; a most significant survivor of Cape Town's old flat-roofed building tradition. The significant features include heavy timber beams, Robben Island slate, klompie bricks (traditional small handmade Dutch bricks), wrought-iron detailing, and old Cape casement windows. The elaborate façade exhibits the work of sculptor Anton Anreith, in particular the British



coat of arms with the lion and unicorn in the central triangular pediment dated 1814, and the figures of Britannia and Neptune on the parapet corners. The elevated and centrally placed entrance is accessible by two elegant staircases of klompie bricks with side wrought-iron railings.

On 25 March 2022, the Desmond Tutu exhibition opened at the Old Granary, titled 'Truth to Power: Desmond Tutu and the Churches in the Struggle Against Apartheid'. The exhibition tells the story of Tutu's life with unprecedented depth and detail and with the aim of informing everyone who the 'Arch' truly was and what he stood for. The exhibition is comprised of six themes that sequentially map out Tutu's life in coordination with the Struggle years, leading eventually to the liberation of South Africa.

The six themes of the Tutu exhibition are entitled:

- Apartheid Education: The Most Evil Act of All
- The Struggle in the Church: Fighting a False Gospel
- Faith in Action: The Campaign for Sanctions
- Protest and Peace Making: In the Streets and Stadiums
- Unfinished Business: Tutu, Truth and Reconciliation
- TU&TU = Freedom
- The name of the Old Granary changed to the Desmond and Leah Tutu House in 2023.





# THE DISTRICT SIX MUSEUM



*District Six Museum Interior, Paul Grendon*



*District Six Museum Interior, Paul Grendon*

In 1994, the District Six Museum began using this facility and extensive restoration and reconfiguration took place in 2000 for the dedicated purpose of a museum. Originally it was, a two-storey early-19th century warehouse modified to a church in 1882 with the elaboration of the façade. Extensive alteration occurred again in 1902 with the addition of pitched roofing and internal galleries.

The District Six Foundation was established in 1989 to commemorate the forced removal of about 60 000 inhabitants of various races from District Six during the years of apartheid stretching from the 1960s to the end of the 1980s. Following the emancipation of the slaves in 1838, speculative building and mass housing was under way in District Six as ex-slaves, immigrants, free blacks and black migrant workers came to settle on this eastern fringe of town. However, the legacy of slavery lived on with the Masters and Servants Ordinance of 1838, which made desertion, insubordination, neglect and the use of 'abusive or insulting language' to employers a criminal offence for workers. The repeal of this legislation took place in 1974, but the apartheid laws were then in full force and District Six was in the process of total destruction.

Covering the floor of the museum is a big map of the district with hand-written notes of former inhabitants, indicating where their houses were located. One former resident is the well-known jazz musician Abdullah Ibrahim, better known as Dollar Brand. Other pieces of

the museum are old traffic signs, exhibits of historical moments and events, snippets of the lives of families from the area, historical declarations, and exhibits about the demolition.

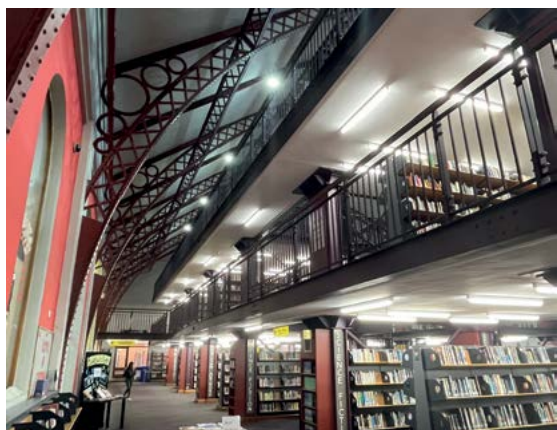
The museum offers programmes for the current inhabitants to help redevelop the area and is dedicated to the equitable and appropriate construction of low-cost housing, environmental planning and conservation, and the organisation and hosting of music, literature and art events.



*District Six Museum Interior, Paul Grendon*



# VOLUNTEER DRILL HALL (CENTRAL LIBRARY)



Construction of the Volunteer Drill Hall took place towards the north-west boundary corner of the Grand Parade. It was at a site earlier known as 'Hospitaal Plein' where an old hospital building had been converted and used as military barracks. The old Cape Town Municipality acquired the site in 1840 – now known as Caledon Square.

Originally, the building was constructed for the British Army to train and recruit volunteer soldiers. The Volunteer Drill Hall primarily served the headquarters of the Western Division Volunteer Services as an indoor instruction venue and a place for drilling in bad weather. The presence of the Grand Parade, the Castle of Good Hope and later the City Hall (1905) complemented this role. Other events were also accommodated, particularly boxing matches, dances, and stage and drama productions. From 1892 to 1905, the Volunteer Drill Hall performed in the place of the demolished Commercial Exchange (on the Parade) to hold the most significant social events of the time. The City Hall with its Grand Hall had not as yet reached completion by 1905.

Inauguration of the building took place in 1885 – James Tennant of the Royal Engineers designed what would be the first stage of the building. Following in 1889 was the enlargement of the building by well-known Victorian architect Anthony de Witt of the Volunteer Engineers.

The Drill Hall is a largely Victorian designed building but eclectic with a mixture of styles – Art Nouveau, Gothic

Revival and Tudor. Its large steel arched roof heralded the start in modern architecture of the use of metals within built structures. The entrance block is two-storey while the top edging is crenelated (easy to re-install) with slightly higher cornice sections. Pointed windows flank the entrance door on the outside with its elegant spoke-structured sections. The elaborate cast-iron fanlights and stairways are characteristic of Victorian decoration and the angular mullions and drip moulds are Tudor in character.

In 2007, the building underwent a modern conversion internally to become the Cape Town Central Library – previously accommodated at the adjacent City Hall. Excavation of the basement facilitated new services and more library space. At ground level, two mezzanine floors supported by paired reconstructed steel columns are reminiscent of Victorian iron pillars and accentuate the lofty hot-riveted lattice steel arches.

The Central Library opened on 29 July 2008, fulfilling the City's vision of establishing its main library in a dedicated and better-equipped space. Two grants received from the Carnegie Corporation funded improving the library collections and establishing a computer centre. The City of Cape Town funded the construction works.

The Central Library is one of 102 public libraries across the municipality with this one being the largest. It includes lending and reference services as well as specialised art and music sections.





There are free Wi-Fi and 90+ computers available to library users and a large selection of books, various publications, CDs, DVDs and audio books on loan. A remarkable collection of Africana (works by Africans about Africans) is a speciality, and this is most probably the largest collection in South Africa. The library generally holds a vast number of books covering a broad range of subject matters.

Calculations indicate that more than 70 000 people visit the Central Library every month. It is not only a place from which to lend and peruse books but also to meet people, study, relax and enjoy.

Declared a National Monument in May 1987, in terms of the new legislation, the building is now a Provincial Heritage Site.



# CITY HALL AND PRECINCT RECOMMENDED ROUTE MAP

The recommended route includes significant sites and attractions situated in and around City Hall and its historic precinct. Readers of this guide are encouraged to consult the preceding pages for more detailed information on the sites and attractions listed in the recommended route:

1

## CITY HALL

- Nelson Mandela in Cape Town – Legacy Exhibition
- The Attic Exhibition – Cape Town Civic Collection
- Cape Town Tourism Visitor Centre
- Invest Cape Town Centre

2

## GRAND PARADE

3

## OLD FORT

(site location)

4

## NELSON MANDELA TREE

5

## CASTLE OF GOOD HOPE

6

## DESMOND AND LEAH TUTU HOUSE

(previously called the Old Granary)

7

## DISTRICT SIX MUSEUM

8

## VOLUNTEER DRILL HALL

(Central Library)





# CONTACT LIST

SITE / ATTRACTION	EMAIL ADDRESS	WEBSITE
City Hall	<a href="mailto:City.Hall@capetown.gov.za">City.Hall@capetown.gov.za</a>	<a href="https://bit.ly/CT-City-Hall">https://bit.ly/CT-City-Hall</a>
Grand Parade	<a href="mailto:Grand.Parade@capetown.gov.za">Grand.Parade@capetown.gov.za</a>	<a href="https://bit.ly/CT-Grand-Parade">https://bit.ly/CT-Grand-Parade</a>
Nelson Mandela in Cape Town - Legacy Exhibition	<a href="mailto:Mandela.Legacy@capetown.gov.za">Mandela.Legacy@capetown.gov.za</a>	<a href="http://www.capetown.gov.za/MandelaExhibition">www.capetown.gov.za/MandelaExhibition</a>
The Attic Exhibition - Cape Town Civic Collection	<a href="mailto:Civic.Collection@capetown.gov.za">Civic.Collection@capetown.gov.za</a>	<a href="http://www.capetown.gov.za/TheAttic">www.capetown.gov.za/TheAttic</a>
Cape Town Tourism Visitor Centre	<a href="mailto:info@capetown.travel">info@capetown.travel</a>	<a href="https://www.capetown.travel/">https://www.capetown.travel/</a>
Volunteer Drill Hall (Central Library)	<a href="mailto:Central.Library@capetown.gov.za">Central.Library@capetown.gov.za</a>	<a href="https://bit.ly/CT-Central-Library">https://bit.ly/CT-Central-Library</a>
Desmond and Leah Tutu Legacy Foundation / Desmond and Leah Tutu House	<a href="mailto:info@tutu.org.za">info@tutu.org.za</a>	<a href="https://www.tutu.org.za/">https://www.tutu.org.za/</a>
Castle of Good Hope	<a href="mailto:info@castleofgoodhope.co.za">info@castleofgoodhope.co.za</a>	<a href="https://www.castleofgoodhope.co.za/">https://www.castleofgoodhope.co.za/</a>
The Original Shoreline	<a href="mailto:info@theoriginalshoreline.org.za">info@theoriginalshoreline.org.za</a>	<a href="https://theoriginalshoreline.org.za/">https://theoriginalshoreline.org.za/</a>
District Six Museum	<a href="mailto:info@districtsix.co.za">info@districtsix.co.za</a> <a href="mailto:reception@districtsix.co.za">reception@districtsix.co.za</a>	<a href="https://www.districtsix.co.za/">https://www.districtsix.co.za/</a>
Invest Cape Town Centre	<a href="mailto:info@investcapetown.com">info@investcapetown.com</a>	<a href="http://www.investcapetown.com">www.investcapetown.com</a>





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