



## HISTORY AND ARCHITECTURE

**Anglican Cathedral:** For an exquisite example of Victorian architecture, especially Victorian windows, visit the Anglican Cathedral in St. George Street. Major Henry Warden laid the foundation stone of the building (the third oldest Anglican Church in South Africa) in 1850. The famous author, JRR Tolkien (the author of the internationally acclaimed Lord of the Rings) and his brother were baptised in the font of the Cathedral and their father lies buried nearby. The equally well-known Rudyard Kipling also worshipped in the Cathedral. Battlefields: Several famous battles took place in the vicinity of the city. Driefontein and Poplar Grove Battlefields are situated between Dealesville and De Brug, northwest of the city and the Sannaspos Battlefield is on the Thaba 'Nchu Road.

**First "Raadsaal" Museum:** The site of the fountain which gave the city its name also features the home of the Fischer family from 1910 to 1946. Bram Fischer, born in 1908, was a member of the Communist party and the lawyer who represented the African National Congress (ANC) members accused in both the Treason and Rivonia Trials in the 1960s. He was arrested in 1965 and sentenced to life imprisonment on Robben Island, the prison where Nelson Mandela was also incarcerated. Fischer was later transferred to a hospital after being diagnosed with cancer and died in 1976. Many sandstone, is located in President Brand Street, a declared National Conservation area. The beautiful Burmese wood paneling inside the building and the Italian tiles are particularly interesting.

**Street,** the Civic Centre is a modern-day "glass palace". It serves as the headquarters of the Mangaung Municipality. A bust of Bram Fisher is located in the entrance hall of the building, collection of "Africana" as well as a unique drama library.

**"Raadsaal"** (Council Chamber), at 95 St George Street, was built in 1849 in the building style of the time — white-washed walls, a dung floor and a thatched roof. The Raadsaal is the oldest building in Bloemfontein that still survives in its original state. It has housed nearly every civilian institution – from the local town school to a Dutch Reformed Church and the chamber of the Free State Volksraad (Parliament) in 1854. In 1936 the building was proclaimed a National Monument column and a mosaic with the town's coat of arms.

### **Museums and buildings declared national monuments.**

#### **Fourth "Raadsaal" (Council Chamber)**

Fourth "Raadsaal" building, the last home of the "model" Free State Republican Parliament, was completed in 1893. Its architect, Lennox Canning, designed this impressive edifice in classical style with Doric columns and a domed tower. The original benches used by the members of the Free State Republican Parliament are still intact, as is the original, beautifully carved wooden Coat of Arms of the Free State. The building is situated on the corner of President Brand and Charles Streets.

**Free State Agricultural Museum:** Agricultural Museum at Glen Agricultural College houses fascinating displays of antique farming implements, depicting the history of farming in the Free State

**Freshford House Museum:** The Freshford House Museum, at 31 Kellner Street,

**Hertzog House Museum:** The Hertzog House Museum is situated in Goddard Street,



**Institute for Contemporary History:** The Institute, on the campus the University of the Freestate

**Jubileum Building:** The Jubileum Building was constructed in the 1920s and is a

**Jukskei Museum:** The privately owned Jukskei Museum, the only one of its kind in the country .

**Mapikela House** was built in 1923 by Thomas Mtobi Mapikela, one of the founding fathers of the SANNC. The South African Native National Congress (SANNC) was formed in January 1912 and changed its name to the African National Congress (ANC) in 1923. The house located at Batho is a National Monument and is also often referred to as the ANC house, since most of the ANC activities in the Free State took place here. The house played a significant role in setting the newly founded ANC in motion, as it became a meeting place for the organisation's leadership in the 1920s. Mapikela himself built the house.

On President Brand Street is the **Afrikaans Literary Museum and Research Centre:** This museum is housed in the Cape Dutch style Old Government building and focuses on the birth and development of Afrikaans. The building was designed by Sir Herbert Baker, the architect who also designed the Union Building in Pretoria. It houses more than a million items connected with the Afrikaans. President Brand Street will also take you past stately sandstone buildings such as the Old Presidency, Supreme Court and Appeal Court.

**The National Museum** located along Henry Street has a variety of displays and objects ranging from natural history, cultural history an art museum and celebrated its 125th anniversary in 2002. It houses a large variety of displays and does research on subjects such as plantlife, archaeology, ornithology, anthropology, archaeology palaeontology. Some of the fascinating artifacts donated to the museum include the 260 000 Florisbad Skull, an 800 000-year old human tooth, the Malvern meteorite, life-size fibre glass model of a fully grown elephant bull, a typical street scene from the 1900s and a large number of live insects, snakes and fresh water.

**Grey College Museum** there are displays centenary memorabilia of the school and the museum is a must see as it gives the rich history of the school which has produced sporting giants like Hansie Cronje

**Rugby Museum,** this museum, houses one of the largest private collections of rugby memorabilia in the world and may be visited by appointment with the owner

**Fort Military Museum:** The Queen's Fort Military Museum, in Church Street, depicts all the military conflicts that raged in the Free State and features displays of military, hospital, combat uniforms of ANC PAC, AZAPO military wings and military formations of SADC region where SA was involved in wars before 1994.

**The Children and Women's Memorial museum at the Anglo Boer war museums** symbolizes the atrocities of the women and children who lost their lives during the Anglo Boer war it honours the nearly 27 000 women and children who lost their lives in concentration camps during the Anglo-Boer War. The statue of two somber women holding a dying child adorns the base of the obelisk that also holds the ashes of Emily Hobhouse, the renowned Englishwoman, who did much to ease the suffering of the Boer women and children in the concentration camps. Beloved Boer leader, General CR de Wet, President and Mrs. MT Steyn and the Reverend JD Kestell are buried at the foot of the monument. Old Presidents of the former ate used the stately former State Presidents, in



the President Street and President Avenue. The row Old Presidency, built in 1885, by Lennox Canning, as their official residence.

**Service Battalion”:** This special battalion was created to encourage and employ the many despondent young men who were unemployed as a result of the raging Depression of the 1930s. Onze Rust is situated south of Bloemfontein and belongs to the fifth generation of Steyn’s descended from the original owner, MT Steyn, one-time President of the Orange Free State. The President purchased the farm in 1897 and lived there until his death in 1916.