

# SPOTLIGHT ON MANGAUNG HERITAGE SITES

This month, the city's Communication Unit will run a series of articles on heritage sites across the city, in celebration of Heritage Month. The first article pays attention to one of the oldest and historically rich streets, President Brand.

## PRESIDENT BRAND: A STREET RICH IN HISTORY

**M**angaung Metro Executive Mayor, Cllr. Mxolisi Siyonzana said he is passionate about heritage and would like to teach people that heritage resources have lasting value, are finite, non-renewable and irreplaceable. "Mangaung has a rich history, and it is important that we protect our heritage sites as the city develops. As much as I appreciate that heritage might mean something different for each individual; it is part of nation building and we all need to guard and protect our heritage," said Siyonzana.

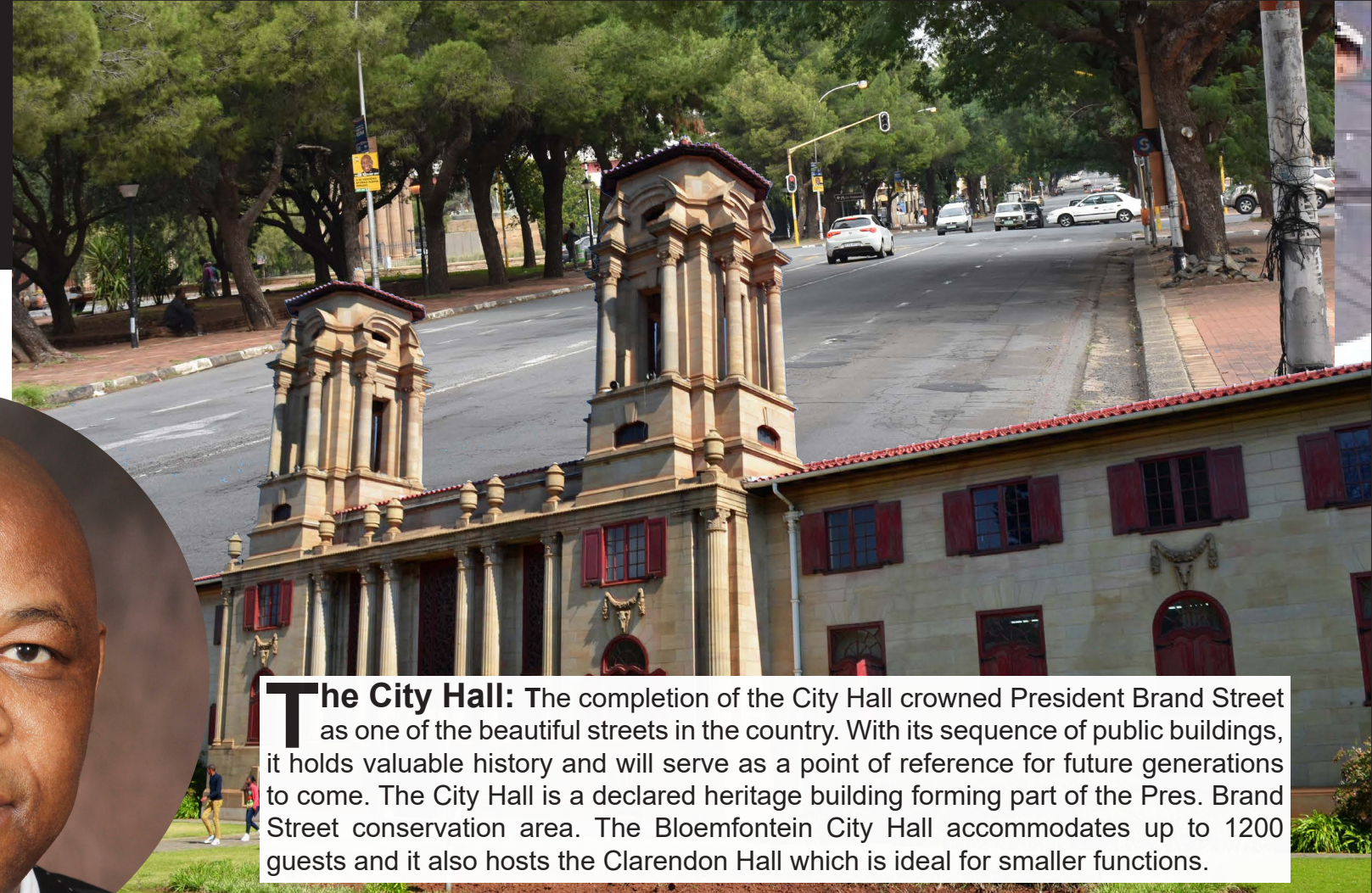
Situated in the heart of Bloemfontein, President Brand Street is rich in history. During the morning rush, hundreds of workers make use of this street as they travel to various destinations.

When taking a walk down Bloemfontein's historical street, one can't help but notice classic sandstone buildings which are traces of history and how far the City has come.

The street is named after Johannes Brand who was a South African lawyer and politician. He was the fourth state president of the Orange Free State from February 1864 until his death in 1888. It was

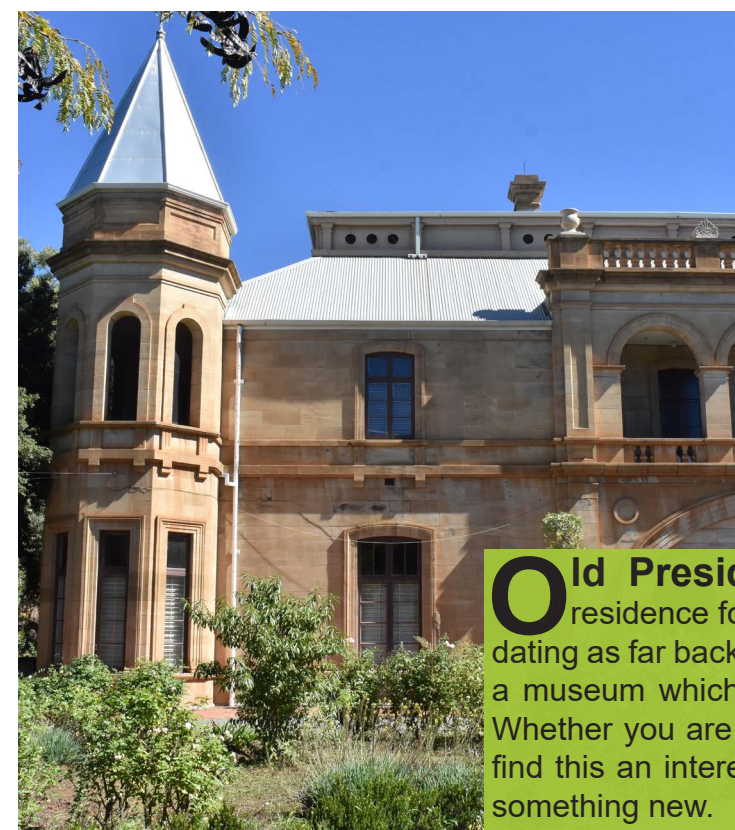
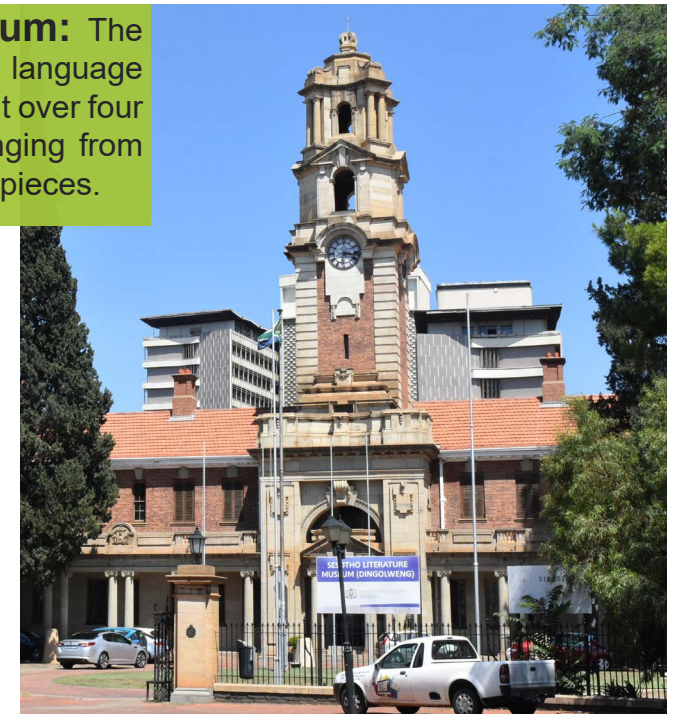
only fitting therefore that the President Brand Street not only house the historic sandstone buildings of the Old Presidency Museum, the National Afrikaans Literary Museum and Research Centre, First Raadsaal Museum, Free State Provincial Legislature and the City Hall, but also the Magistrate's court, High Court and Supreme Court of Appeal.

The City will be in consultations with the Heritage Council to declare the Bloemspruit canal a heritage site. Free State Provincial Heritage Resources Authority (FSPHRA) Chairperson Motsaathebe Serekoane said: "Bloemfontein is a place that is rich with history and we have a responsibility to ensure that we establish local heritage structures and find a way to preserve heritage sites in the city."



**The City Hall:** The completion of the City Hall crowned President Brand Street as one of the beautiful streets in the country. With its sequence of public buildings, it holds valuable history and will serve as a point of reference for future generations to come. The City Hall is a declared heritage building forming part of the Pres. Brand Street conservation area. The Bloemfontein City Hall accommodates up to 1200 guests and it also hosts the Clarendon Hall which is ideal for smaller functions.

**The National Afrikaans Literary Museum:** The museum gives visitors an opportunity to see how language has evolved over the years. The building, which was built over four decades ago, houses Afrikaans literature and arts ranging from clippings, magazines, visual arts work and audio visual pieces.



**Old Presidency Museum:** This building was the main residence for the last three presidents of the Orange Free State dating as far back as 1885. Since then, the place has been turned into a museum which gives people in insight into the Victorian lifestyle. Whether you are young or old, a tourist or a local residents, you will find this an interesting place to visit and will come out having learnt something new.

