

University of the Witwatersrand



STREET & PLACE NAMING GUIDELINES

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this document is to present and explore an overview of the street naming conventions which can then be translated into specific guidelines for the process of naming of Streets and Places on the WITS Braamfontein and Parktown Campuses.

Outlined below is an analysis of a broad approach to street and place naming conventions. The naming process in itself can however be quite personal, subjective and objective (in relation to immediate place).

An analysis of the existing street, buildings and places at the University of The Witwatersrand should be carried out in order to establish what has been named, why it has been named in that way and what has not been named. This analysis would extend to areas and streets that may not have been named formally by the institution but have been named by the users through necessity and use over time. In order to begin this process we have prepared a map with all existing street names as well as unmarked streets (see attached drawing).

An approach toward place, building and street naming (bearing in mind the general standards, rules and approaches as laid out below) would then be established in the form of specific guidelines generated out of how the university precinct intends to define itself. These guidelines would be based on several different aspects, to name a few: the University's historical background, its position within the city, the type and nature of space it intends to create, the sense of identity it would like to express.

2.0 STREET AND PLACE NAMES

- A street name is an identifying name given to a street. The street name usually forms part of the address buildings are often given numbers along the street to further help identify them.
- The origin of a word used to describe a street is often obvious, but can in some cases be obscure, forgotten or misunderstood. Street names can be named after numbers, landscapes, trees, surnames of important individuals.
- Names are often given in a two-part form: an individual name known as the specific, and an indicator of the type of street or area known as the generic. Examples include 'Main Road', 'Park Avenue', and 'Library Lawn'. The type of street or space stated however can be misleading, a street named 'Park Avenue' should have the characteristics of an avenue if it is being described in this way. Some streets are given names without a street type designation and some streets have simply a generic name.
- Naming can also include direction, as in the cardinal points: east, west, north, south as well as the quadrants: northwest, northeast, southwest, southeast. This happens a lot in cities that have a grid numbering system. These directions are sometimes used to differentiate two sections of a street. Other ways of doing this would be through the use of the words upper, lower, old, new, or extension.
- 'Main Street' and 'High Street' are common names for major roads in the middle of shopping areas.

- Some streets and places are named in accordance with the type of funtional use that is found along them.
- Streets and places can be named after landmarks that are present.
- Some streets and places are named as a result of local significance - historical
- Some street names are self-descriptive like ‘Straight Road’.
- Some streets are given the name of the place to which they lead.
- Some streets are named after famous individuals, or after the person who actually built the street.
- Naming streets and places after people is quite common but also often results in renaming (names that are too controversial are often changed). This happens in cases of wanting to commemorate a person who lived or worked in that area, or in commemorating an important historical individual.
- Themes are also used as a mechanism for naming groups of streets or spaces within a precinct examples are: star constellations, rivers, mountain ranges, flowers, artists, writers, academics, countries, biologists, environmentalists, medicinal plants, protected trees.
- In areas / cities / towns set out on a grid plan, the streets are sometimes named to indicate their location in terms of co-ordinates. In some systems all roads running east west are given ‘street’ designations and roads running north south are given avenue designations
- More importantly streets can be divided into types based on the style of construction of the street or its purpose in terms of place making and can begin to indicate size and area. The use of the terms roads, avenues, streets are not always used in the correct manner. Below is list of street type designations.

2.1 MAJOR ROADS

Highway	Motorway
Avenue	Boulevard
Road	Street

2.2 SMALL / SECONDARY ROADS

Alley	Drive
Gardens	Gate
Grove	Heights
Highlands	Lane
Manor	Mews
Passage	Pathway
Place	Row
Terrace	Trail
View	Way

2.3 PEDESTRIAN WAYS

Walk	Path
Way	Alley
Trail	Vale

2.4 CUL-DE-SAC

Close	Court
Cove	Croft
Garth	Green
Lawn	Nook
Place	

2.5 SHAPE

Circle	Crescent
Loop	Oval
Quadrant	Square

2.5 GEOGRAPHICAL ATTRIBUTES

Canyon	Causeway
Dell	Grade
Hill	Mount
Parkway	Rise
Vale	

2.6 ARCHITECTURAL ATTRIBUTES

Fountain	Colonnade
Square	Gardens

2.7 FUNCTION

Approach	Bypass
Esplanade	Frontage
Parade	Park
Plaza	Promenade
Quay	Stravenue
Walk	

3.0 NUMBERING OF BUILDINGS

Often new streets are numbered with even numbers on the one side and odd numbers on the other, except for a Cul-de-sac where consecutive numbering in a clockwise direction is preferred.

The correct numerical sequence should be used.

Generally, buildings (including those on corner sites) are numbered according to the street that the main entrance appears on.

If a building has a number of entrances on different streets then each entrance could be numbered in the appropriate road.

Rules should be established around which buildings receive names and numbers – or both.

Some numbering systems encourage the use of numbers followed by lettering.

Punctuation and numbers are generally not used within the name of building or a street.

4.0 SIGNAGE

Most streets have a traffic sign at each intersection in order to indicate the name of the road.

Design and style of this could be common to the district in which it appears.

Signs may have the street name and other information like a block number or name of the suburb in which the street is located.

Colour scheme could be governed by local standard – but this can also provide information with regards to the nature, scale, public or private nature or hierarchy of the road.

In terms of the nature of the university, it's scale and position in the city one should consider strategically positioned maps of the precinct as a part of the signage.

Signage within the precinct would also serve as directional.