

Plaque will recall theatre founders

THE Amenities and Health committee last week recommended that the Cape Town City Council erect a plaque at its own expense on a rock near the entrance to the open air theatre at Maynardville in commemoration of the theatre's founders.

The move comes after former members of the Athlone Nursery School committee asked the council for recognition for the part the school played, along with the Cape Town Ballet School and the Cape Town Symphony Orchestra, in staging the first concerts at Maynardville.

An open-air ballet was first staged at the site in December 1950 and performances took place annually until 1952, when the entire proceeds were donated to establish the Athlone Nursery School and a teachers' training college in the city.

Anniversary

The UCT Ballet School continued to perform annually at Maynardville until 1974.

In 1980 a plaque was erected at the entrance gates to the theatre to commemorate the 25th anniversary year of the Shakespeare productions which have been held there since 1956.

According to papers tabled at last week's council meeting, the plaque will read: "The plaque commemorates the acquisition of the Maynardville property by the Cape Town City Council in 1949 and the founding of Maynardville as an open air theatre by the Athlone Nursery School committee in December 1950.

"The Ballet School of the University of Cape Town under the direction of Dr Dulcie Howes accompanied by the Cape Town Municipal Orchestra, performed at the inaugural event and on subsequent occasions until 1974."