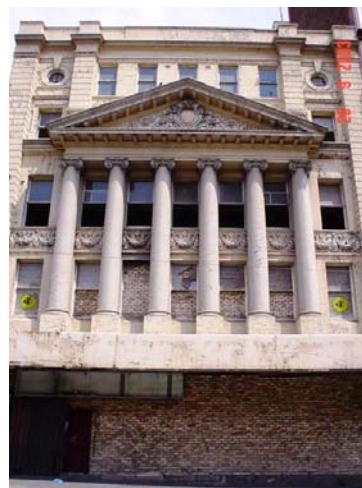


JOHANNESBURG METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY**HERITAGE ASSESSMENT SURVEYING FORM**

Compiled by: Dr JJ Bruwer, 2002-07-29

JJ Bruwer ©

Cellphone: 082 325 5823

NAME OF PLACE: [Second] TRADES HALL

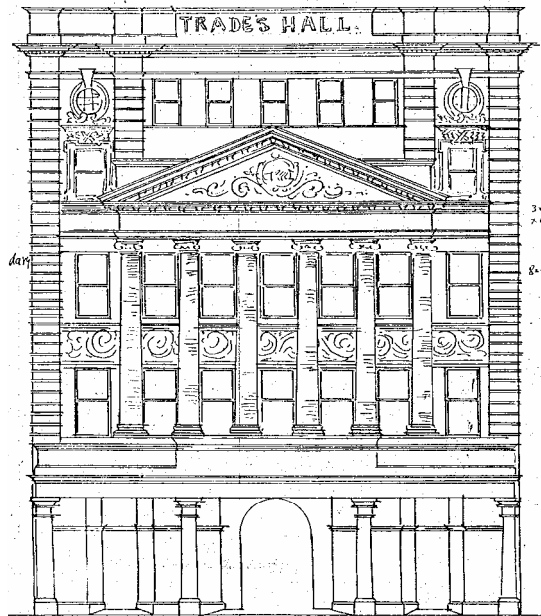
Previous/alternative name/s : originally *New Trades Hall*; *Old Trade Union Hall Building*;
: by 1954 - *Kodak House*; by 1990 - *Bethlehem House*

LOCATION: Street : Rissik
Street number : 63
Stand Number : originally 1126
Previous Stand Number: 1344;
Block number : AG
GIS reference :

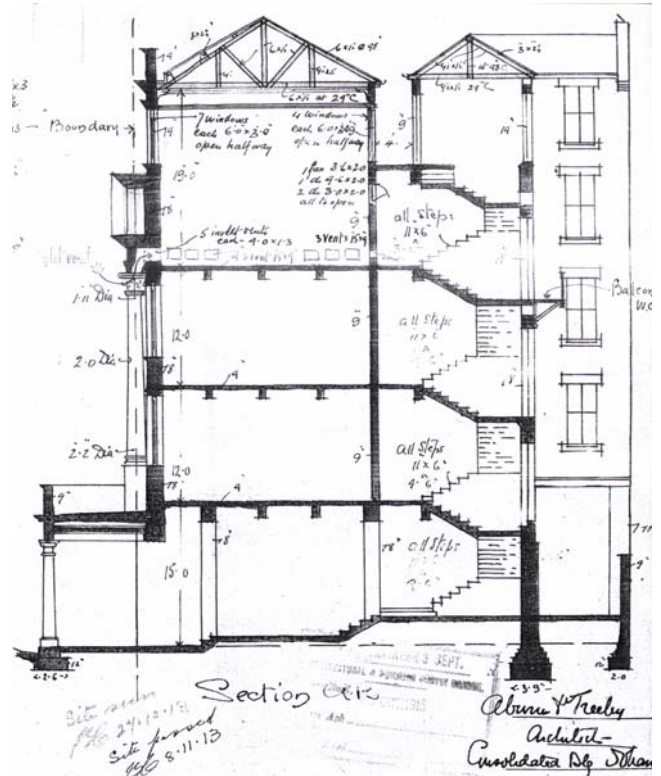
ZONING: Current use/s :
Previous use/s :

DESCRIPTION OF PLACE:

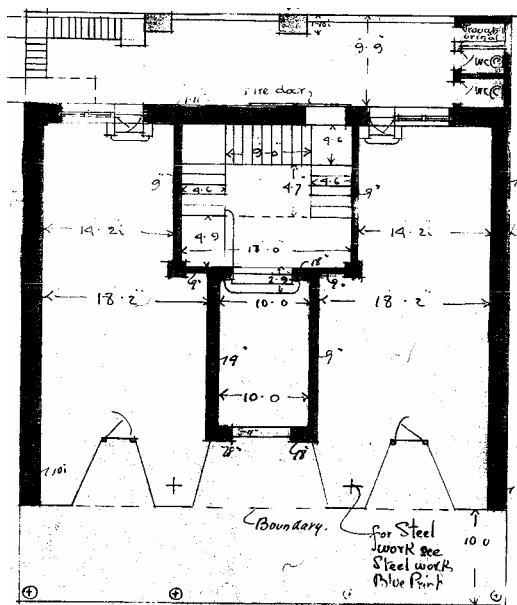
Height :
Levels above street level : five
Levels below street level : none
On-site parking : none



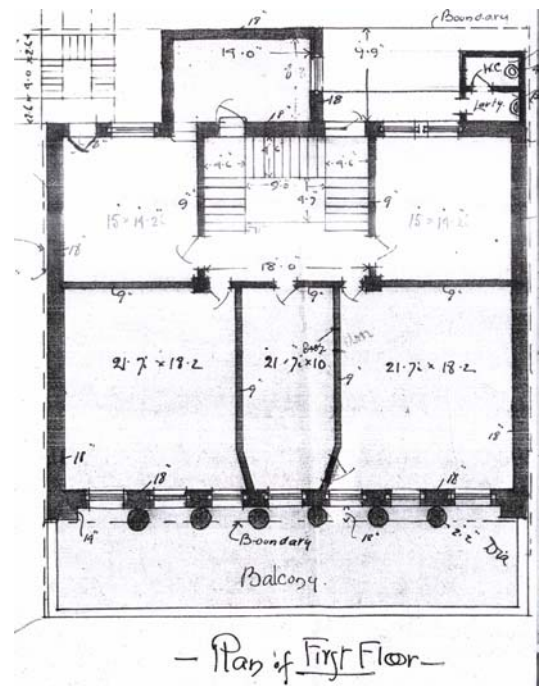
Top left: sketch of main elevation (SAHRA Archive File, 3/1/3/Joh/116).



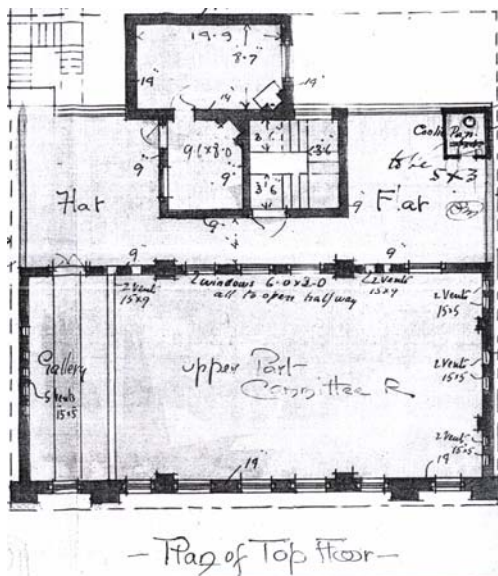
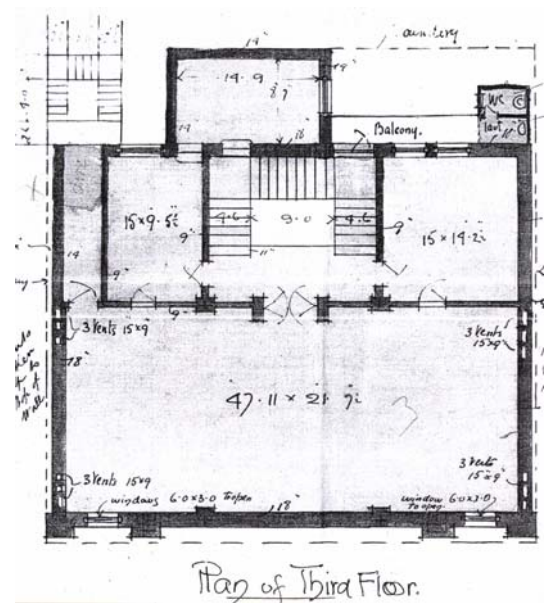
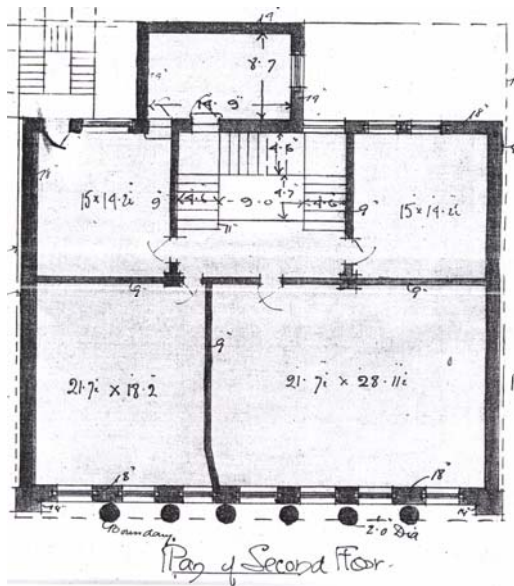
Top right and below: copies of original drawings by the architects Aburrow & Treeby.



3/1913 - Plan of Ground Floor -



- Plan of First Floor -



The plans record of this building is incomplete, with the original elevation plans also being missing. This is a common predisposition in the case of buildings designed by eminent architects such as Aburrow & Treeby.

"The building at 63 Rissik Street was erected in 1914, at the end of the Edwardian period of architectural design. It is a superb essay in the kind of classicism used by Sir John Nash in his Carlton House terraces and Regent Park terraces in London. The façade is symmetrical with a neo-classical pediment supported on attached ionic columns. These [sic.] are plastered garland below the second floor windows, rusticated pillars at either end of the façade and bulls [sic.] eye windows crowing the projecting bays. Although (sic.) the modern canopy and shopfront at ground floor level are incongruous with the richly moulded façade, the building remains the best and possibly the only example of a Greek revival building of the Regency period in Britain and the Empire Period in France." (Description by

Marilyn Martin, November 1984: SAHRA Archive File, 3/1/3/Joh/116).

"The *Trades Hall* was designed in 1913 for the 'Trade Union of Johannesburg' and is an excellent example of the classical Greek Revival style. The design of the façade was carried out within an interesting layered proportioning system. A 'temple-front' with giant-order Ionic columns supports a projecting neo-classical pediment. This 'temple-front' forms the centrepiece of the composition and is framed by the projecting pavement canopy and shopfronts, and on either side by banded pilasters. The pediment is surmounted by the top storey and parapet wall concealing a double-pitched roof behind." (Jackson, L. and Martinson, W.A.: Aburrow & Treeby...).

Ground Floor: three recessed entrances off Rissik Street, i.e. centrally-located main entrance flanked by two shop entrances; generous vestibule with stairs leading to a stair hall – originally, there was no lift, and access to the upper floors was via a winder staircase; a single trough urinal and two W.C.s to the rear on Ground Floor; adjoining, and to the rear of the stair hall, was a tower supported on columns, forming an integral part of the building.

First Floor: this floor comprised a centrally-located elongated office was flanked by two 21' 7" x 18' 2" offices in the front section of the building; two 15' x 14' 2 1/2" offices to the middle, and one 19' 9" x 8' 7" office in the rear tower; access to two W.C.s on the northwestern corner was via a balcony.

- Second Floor: five offices of different floor coverage; no W.C.s!
- Third Floor: the front section of this floor comprised a sizeable room, with connecting passage to the fire escape; the main entrance to the committee room with double wood panelled doors and fan light over, flanked by two Tuscan pillars on plinths; two offices of modest size to the middle section of the floor and one to the tower section; two W.C.s to the rear of the building accessed via the balcony.
- Fourth Floor: the Rissik Street section formed the upper part of the committee room with a gallery to the east boundary; the central section of this floor was flat (except for the stair hall) with a 'Coolie Pan' on the north west corner; the stair hall (now half its original size) with office and fire place, adjacent to the rear tower office with fireplace.
- Fire escape: a steel fire escape to the southwest corner of the building.

CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS:

Exterior:

- Walls: steel frame construction and plastered brick; best burned bricks used.
- Roof: double-pitched corrugated iron roof with empirical truss to front section and king post truss on tower to the rear; concrete to middle section.
- Windows: wooden frame sash windows.
- Floors: concrete.
- Decorative elements: plaster garlands below Second Floor windows; bull's eye windows with keystones and decorative panels beneath, highly ornamental neo-classical pediment supported on Ionic columns.
- Foundations: cement sand and stone; damp course – malthoid.

Interior:

- Walls: plastered brick.
- Floors: concrete.
- Doors: timber.
- Ceilings: plaster.

Evenwel defines the concept of steel framed buildings as follows: "Prefabricated steel frames for multi-storey construction, in conjunction with prefabricated elements in other materials, are popular in France, Australia and America for office buildings in particular and, very occasionally, for one-family housing projects...In structures of this nature the problems of fireproofing the steel frames are the most serious obstacles to overcome." (Evenwel, J.K.: Modern Building Methods).

SITE FEATURES:

ALTERATIONS:

During the Johannesburg Building, Space & Urban Feature Classification, of 1998 no record of alterations was available.

"The building regulations laid down that, from 5 November 1891, plans had to be handed in to the town engineer (Transvaal Publishing Co. 1905: 130). It is thus understandable that Johannesburg appears to have one of the most complete records of the pre-1900 period available in the country. However, many plans were lost because there was such a quick succession of buildings and stands. Plans can be found at the Building Survey Branch of the Johannesburg City Engineering Department and in the Africana Museum." (Van Der Waal, G-M.: From Mining Camp to Metropolis...). It has been noticed, however, during the Phase One Heritage Survey of Johannesburg City Buildings in 2002 (JJ and CJM Bruwer) that the chances of locating the original or even subsequent alteration plans of the

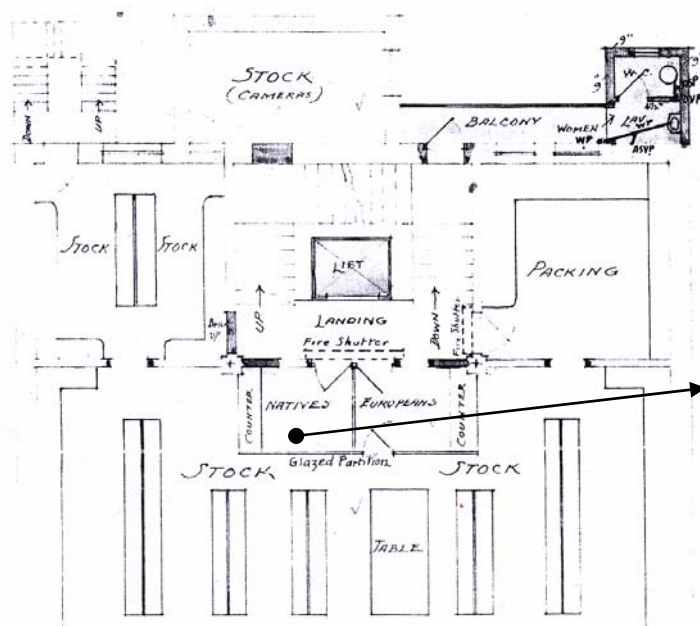
City's landmark buildings and buildings designed by important architects (particularly where major alterations had been carried out to these buildings in recent times), are quite slim. A detailed architectural history of the building remains outstanding due to the incompleteness of the plans record of this building.

Alterations for Johannesburg Trades Hall Society: new lavatory basin; municipal submission plans missing; approved 29 June 1914; estimated cost – drainage £5; Author unknown.

Alterations for Johannesburg Trades Hall Society: new window; municipal submission plans missing; approved 17 January 1917; estimated cost – building £5; Author unknown.

Alterations for Johannesburg Trades Hall Society: 'Sketches for Glazing staircase windows...'; municipal submission plans missing; approved 7 August 1920; estimated cost – building £60; Author unknown.

Additions of glazed partitioning to the vestibule on ground floor for Johannesburg Trades Hall Society: approved 2 June 1922; estimated cost – building £75; Author R Wild (?), 59 Fifth Ave, La Rochelle.



Major internal and external alterations for Kodak (S.A.) Ltd.: new lift installed; new motor room and new roof with empirical truss.

Ground Floor: new porch to entrance and a new arch to lift and stair hall.

First Floor: new partitioning and doors; this floor consisted of the following spaces - general, bookkeeper, typists and manager's offices; public space with counter; dark room with developing trays and women's restroom.

Second Floor: new glazed partitioning. Of interest is the separate public 'Natives' and 'European' service counters in the large stock room (see extract from relevant municipal submission plan on left).

Third Floor: new wood partitioning; this floor consisted of the following spaces – large printing plant, office, two stock rooms and a men's restroom.

Fourth or top floor: new mezzanine floor, partitions and doors installed and new wall to the Rissik Street elevation. Date on plan – 11 May 1927; approved 3 August 1927; estimated cost – building £1 000; drainage £50; work commenced on 3 August 1927 and was completed on 20 February 1928; additional value to building £2 000; architects Stucke & Harrison.

New electrical transformer room beneath main entrance of building for Kodak (S.A.) Ltd; access gained through iron flap on pavement level and concrete stairs in new basement section. . Date on plan – 29 April 1928; approved 23 May 1928; estimated cost – building £100; work completed on 7 August 1928; additional value to building £150; architects Stucke & Harrison.

Alterations for Kodak (S.A.) Ltd: new shop front with display windows to Ground Floor and new store to Mezzanine floor; approved 25 May 1937; estimated cost – building £350; drainage £50; work completed on 24 August 1937; additional value to building £250; architects Stucke, Harrison & Smail.

Alterations and additions to Ground Floor for Kodak (S.A.) Ltd: new projection room to west elevation of building; Application for Approval of Plans form missing; date on plan 5 June 1937; architects Stucke, Harrison & Smail.

Alterations to Ground and Fourth (Mezzanine) Floors for Kodak (S.A.) Ltd: approved 2 August 1950; estimated cost – building £100; architects Stucke, Harrison & Smail (Duthie Ritchie signed the plans as well as the Application for Approval of Plans form).

Major Alterations for Bethlehem House (Pty) Ltd: municipal submission plans missing; approved 30 May 1958; estimated cost – building £2 000; drainage £30; architect A. Berman.

Addition and internal alterations to Second Floor for ladies hairdressing and wig making business: Application for Approval of Plans form missing; date on plan 22 August 1961; architect Arthur Berman.

Alterations and additions for Bethlehem House (Pty) Ltd (signed by Benjamin Bethlehem): municipal submission plans missing; approved 16 February 1966; estimated cost – building R600; architects Stauch, Vorster, Watson & Partners. See GENERAL NOTES letter 21 January 1966.

INTEGRITY:

The building today, is minus two of its most prominent original façade features. This pertains to the removal of the balcony (certainly the most 'central' aspect of the building during the 1922 Rand Revolt) and the embossed lettering from the parapet wall. The removal of the former (between 1927 and 1933 by Kodak) was a drastic enough intervention. Its replacement, however, with the existing canopy, must therefore be labelled an intervention of even worse proportions. This and the known changes to the original shop fronts, some of which were undertaken for Kodak as far back as 1937, have had a marked effect on the integrity of the richly ornate façade of the building. The adverse effect of these unsympathetic interventions on the original qualities of successful transition between the ground floor and the remaining sections of the main façade, as well as between the latter and the street, is to be regretted.

Much depends therefore on the reinstatement of the original balcony and shop fronts of the building. The significant historic association of the building is justification enough for the name of the building to again be displayed on the parapet wall, from where it was previously removed.

INSCRIPTION:

ARCHITECT:

Aburrow & Treeby.

The design for the *Trades Hall* was won in a competition by Treeby.

BUILDER:

CONSTRUCTION DATE:

Date on plans	: undated
Approval of plans	: 18 November 1913
Phase One completed	: 13 January 1914
Completion date	: 20 April 1914

BUILDING STYLE:

Classical Greek Revival.

"...one should mention the Trades Hall (1913-4), 63 Rissik Street, headquarters of the trade union movement. The façade presented the architects with only limited opportunity for free expression, but the pretentious Greek temple façade with its Ionic columns of the colossal order made it rather conspicuous in the general street aspect. Such a prominent association is probably explained by the emergence and rise of the trade union movement in that period. In fact, this building was the focal point of violence during the Great Strike of 1922. Architects Aburrow & Treeby probably bowed to socio-economic circumstances when they placed the temple façade above the row of shops display windows on the ground floor, thereby denying the building the power of expression it would have had if the large columns had reached to ground level...In the broad facades of these buildings the central and corner sections were accentuated by height and wealth of ornamentation in a typical Beaux Arts manner – without an integrated visual movement to a focal point, as in the case of the Baroque style. This meant that the sections were isolated from one another and connected only by string courses and cornices and an identical grouping of the windows...as well as by the application of classicist building elements, such as the portico with temple façade...arched pediments, cornices and rustic work...the third *Stock Exchange* in Hollard Street...(together) with the *Trades Hall*...was the only temple front in Johannesburg until the *Main Block of the University of the Witwatersrand* was built in 1920-5." (Van Der Waal, G-M.: From Mining Camp to Metropolis...).

"Hierdie ontwerp is in dieselfde Imperialisties-Neo-Barokke gees as die Stadhuis op die Markplein van

'n jaar eerder. Die monumentale entablement met Ioniese suile en pediment verleen besondere allure aan die geheel." (Van Der Waal, G.M.: Die Karakter Van Die Argitektuur...).

"A fine example of the style of architecture represented by the Regency Style in Britain and Empire Period in France." (NMC Data Sheet, January 1990: SAHRA Archive File, 3/1/3/Joh/116).

BUILDING TYPE:

1913: Office and part warehouse.
1914: Public building.
1922: Office building.
1927: Warehouse.
1928: Factory.
1937: Office Building.
1950: Warehouse.

Shops to street and office building.

ENVIRONMENT:

According to Van Der Waal, there is no interconnectedness between the *Trades Hall* and the multi-storey buildings in its surround. (RAU Opname Historiese Geboue In Johannesburg). This naturally, also applies to the building's single-storey neighbour at the corner of 61 Rissik Street. The *second Trades Hall* has unique architectural qualities, which would prevent the building from ever being 'overpowered' by any high riser.

The building comes from the days when glorious buildings were designed by master architects and constructed by highly-trained craftsmen.

CONDITION:

It appears that the last repairs and meaningful maintenance done to the building, was in 1987, when the firm of Gordon Verhoef & Krause was tasked with renovation work to the exterior of the building. By 1998, however, the building had been classified as a "Bad 1" building by the City's Health Department. (Johannesburg Building, Space & Urban Feature Classification, 1998: Inner City).

There has clearly not been an improvement in the general condition of the building since then. The building stands vacant (with its Ground Floor and First Floor totally bricked-up) and has become one of the City's 'victims' of demolition by neglect. See GENERAL NOTES.

URGENT ACTION:

The dilapidated condition of the property should be attended to without delay. The *second Trades Hall* is one the City's most historic buildings (having been the headquarters of the Trade Unions during the 1922 Strikes) and is the only remaining example in the City of the work done by the pioneering architectural firm of Aburrow & Treeby.

SAHRA RECORD REGARDING ALTERATIONS, RENOVATIONS, RESTORATION:

PROTECTION STATUS: (under National Heritage Resources Act, 1999)

General protection:	Section 34(1) structure/s	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Formal protection:	provincial heritage site	<input type="checkbox"/>
	national heritage site	<input type="checkbox"/>
	provisional protection	<input type="checkbox"/>
	heritage area	<input type="checkbox"/>
	listed in provincial heritage resources register	<input type="checkbox"/>

Relevant Gazette Notice:

Gazette description:

FORMER PROTECTION STATUS: (under National Monuments Act, 1969)

NOTES:

It was decided at a meeting of the NMC held on 13 August 1987 to provisionally declare the façade of the building (then known as *Bethlehem House*) as a National Monument. The co-owner of the building Dr RW Bethlehem, subsequently objected to the proposed provisional declaration, as it was felt that it "could have a material and adverse effect on the market value of the property..." Assurances by the owners that the building would be preserved, led to a decision not to proceed with the provisional declaration of the façade of the building. (SAHRA Archive File, 3/1/3/Joh/116).

DEEDS INFORMATION:

Original ownership:	Johannesburg Trades Hall.
By 11 May 1914:	Johannesburg Trades Hall Society.
By May 1927:	Kodak (S.A.) Ltd.
By 1958:	Bethlehem House (Pty) Ltd, PO Box 3525, Johannesburg.
By 1990:	Levy Brothers, PO Box 7607, Johannesburg.

PRE-HISTORY OF SITE:

HISTORY:

Van Der Waal is quite correct in describing the *Trades Hall* as a club building. It certainly was not intended to be a business or any other type of building. Refer DESCRIPTION OF PLACE. "Reflecting the upsurge in society activities (sic.) in Johannesburg, club buildings mushroomed all over the city after 1902. Like church buildings, club premises for the first time assumed a significant place in the general city aspect. Admittedly not as prominent as the church buildings, these club buildings were not confined to the edge of the city either – several were built in the very heart of the city. With the British flag and a city government firmly established, it was only to be expected that social, national and sporting associations began to feel a need for accommodation to reflect their character. In accordance with the cycle of business activities in the city, club buildings were put up in two phases – around 1903-5 and then again in 1917-9." (Van Der Waal, G-M.: From Mining Camp to Metropolis...).

The *first Trades Hall* was located at the corner of Commissioner and Smal Streets. "In January, 1914", according to Stark, "there was a general strike, in which the leaders barricaded themselves in the Trades Hall, then near the present Empire Theatre, and the Government called in the burghers and trained a field gun on the corner of the building and threatened to blow it down unless they surrender within ten minutes. They did so, and there followed the deportation of nine leaders, which produced repercussions in Parliament and in the political sphere for many months." (Stark, F. [Ed.]: Seventy Golden Years...).

1922 RAND REVOLT / RED REVOLT:

"After the discovery of gold on the Witwatersrand" according to Rosenthal "several overseas unions, including the Amalgamated Society of Engineers, formed offshoots in the Transvaal. The first Miners' Union was formed in 1892, its growth aided by the presence of many Australian working men. After the South African [Anglo-Boer] War there was a strong revival, to which visits by Keir Hardie, Tom Mann and other famous figures from overseas contributed. All unions were white, as were the bodies involved in the first big mining strike on the Witwatersrand in 1907. Unionisation spread, and there were further serious mining strikes in June 1913, involving violence and the mobilisation of troops and police, as well as in January 1914. An attempt at a General Strike was quashed by General J. C. Smuts, who summarily deported to England most of the trade union and labour leaders. During the ensuing years a movement developed for the linking up of unions into the South African Industrial Federation, largely through the efforts of the late Archie Crawford. A major strike on the coal and gold mines, brought on by an effort to reduce wages to compensate for the disappearance of the wartime premium on the price of gold, began in January 1922 and culminated early in March in the Rand Revolt..." (Rosenthal E.: Encyclopaedia of Southern Africa...).

This briefly, was the background to the 1922 Rand Revolt. This event was to have a major impact on the history of Johannesburg and, no less, on the history of South Africa. There is an abundance of reading material on the 1922 Rand (Strike) Revolt. See in this regard, Shorten, J.R.: The Johannesburg Saga, John R. Shorten, Second impression, 1966, for an extensive description; an internet search would provide a wealth of additional information, e.g.: When war came to Jo'burg

streets; Too young to die, by Lucille Davie (<http://www.joburg.org.za/march2002/1922strike.stm>), and (http://www.joburg.org.za/july2002/too_young_to_die.htm), regarding the role played by Samuel Alfred Long, better known as Taffy Long. For further information with regard to Archie Crawford and Mary 'Pickhandle' Fitzgerald, see First woman of Jo'burg - also written by Lucille Davie. (http://www.joburg.org.za/july2002/first_woman_of_jo'burg.htm). See also The First National Government (<http://www.anc.org.za/books/reich2.html>); The General Strike Of 1922 (<http://www.revolutio-history.co.uk/supplem/Hirson/1922.html>) and Brixton Cemetery host the city's history (http://www.goafrica.co.za/joburg/july_2002/brixton.stm).

"Rand Revolt. Name commonly applied to industrial disturbances on the Witwatersrand in 1922. The immediate cause of the trouble was the disappearance of the Gold Premium, which, in the later stages of World War I, and immediately after, had made good the heavy rise in mining costs, and had allowed the grant of large increases in pay to the White miners. When this windfall vanished, the miners refused to agree to reductions. Sporadic strikes began in 1921, but did not become widespread till 1922. The New Year marked a strike on the collieries of the Transvaal, which soon spread to the gold mines of the Rand. Miners organised themselves into 'commandos' and began to terrorise and 'pull out' other workers. Efforts at a settlement failed and early in March, 1922, an orgy of violence began, which necessitated the calling out of the Union Defence Force, the use of aircraft of the S.A.A.F. [South African Air Force] as well as artillery. General J.C. Smuts, as premier, was widely blamed for letting the position get out of hand. After nearly a week of fighting the Revolt was crushed. Casualties were estimated at over 200 killed and about 1,200 injured. Several of the strikers were sentenced to death for murder, and some were executed." (Rosenthal E.: Encyclopaedia of Southern Africa...).

"The death of General Botha in 1919, occurred at a time of Communist disturbance, and South Africa had need of his restraining hand. Europe, indeed, was sick unto death. Red soldiery were wiring trenches and committing atrocities in the historic towns of Austria and Germany. Italy and France were threatened. Respect for old ideas, philosophies, Governments, even for the old laws of the arts, was passing and the British Dominions were about to be tried in the fire. South African dissatisfaction with the steady advance in living costs had created just the appropriate atmosphere for those awaiting an opportunity to start the conflagration within the Union. The currency situation was at the root of the trouble. All European money, the rouble, the mark, the franc and the British pound had declined in purchasing power. The fall in the British currency became such at last that the Witwatersrand gold mines got substantially more British money for every ounce of gold they sold than had been the case in pre-war days; in other words they began to enjoy a premium on their gold, as from July, 1919. But the concurrent rise in living costs forced people in all walks of life to claim cost-of-living allowances. These were usually granted on the understanding that they were to disappear as the cost of living approached the normal. When, therefore, the gold premium began to fall away, the leaders of the mining industry were compelled to consider ways and means of reducing working costs, not only to square reductions in their income, but also to ensure that their properties, which in many cases were approaching great depths, were not compelled to close prematurely through uneconomical working, as had so often been the case in Australia. The Trades Unions resisted the proposed economies. They demanded the maintenance of the *status quo* agreement of September, 1918, by which white men employed on certain tasks in the mines were not to be replaced by blacks. Mining leaders felt that economic conditions had become such that the mines could no longer pay the higher white wage for certain unskilled jobs where the work could be done by 'natives'. The mining leaders also sought a relaxation of Trades Union restrictions, and a revision of the system of mining by contract. The unions resisted strenuously: and thus, towards the end of 1921, there commenced the struggle between those controlling the mines (who asserted that unless working cost were reduced certain mines would have to be shut down) and the representatives of the workers, who opposed all attempts to reduce expenditure. The mine owners vainly pointed out that working cost had risen from 17s. 1d. in 1914 [17 shillings and one penny; if converted straight without the Rand and British Pound exchange rate this would read as R1.71], to 19s. 2d. in 1917, and to 25s. 8d. in 1920, and that the industry could no longer support the burden of this with a fast-vanishing premium: the Unions would have none of it. The Great Rand revolt, which developed from strike declarations arising out of the foregoing considerations at the beginning of January, 1922, was without doubt the most serious South African disturbance since the Anglo-Boer War; and while its origins were routed the currency chaos which followed the Great War [i.e. the First World War], it may also be said that the military methods employed by the revolutionaries, the use of battalions officered by workers with scarlet badges of rank, of cyclists, bombers signallers, and 'Red' nurses, that all this resembled closely the procedure of the 'Reds' who were so active in Europe at the time. People shook their heads, saying: 'How can this be? Are these not the young people of the country and how can they have acquaintance with the ways of the European revolutionaries?' The following significant reference, however, to the changed personnel of the white labour force which worked the gold mines after the Great War, occurs in the report of the Martial Law Inquiry Judicial Commission issued in 1922, and the opinions expressed in it

by Justices Graham and Lange cannot be overlooked in the circumstances: 'Of late years, the constitution of the labour forces employed upon the gold mines has undergone considerable changes. Before and during the Great War there had been an exodus of the skilled European miners, the majority of whom came from the country districts...Few of them knew anything of the history and objects of same Trades Unionism, or ever had an opportunity of studying industrial problems. The remuneration these men received upon the mines was in excess of anything they had previously earned...All became members of a Trades Union. Not only were the mine owners unable to employ a man who did not belong to a Trades Union, but by arrangement with the Chamber of Mines the subscriptions to his Union were deducted from his pay-sheet, and handed to the appropriate Union official...The newly-fledged miner doubtless came to the conclusion that the Trades Union determined the wages and conditions of labour and were masters of the situation...The Trades Union grew in power and importance. Elaborate machinery was devised to obtain as much control as possible over the employers. Officers with high-sounding titles and with extreme views took control of the movement...' So long as the industrial situation enabled the employers to give way to the demands of their employ  s [sic.] in order to avoid a cessation of work upon the mines the power of the Trades Unions was supreme; but upon the conclusion of the War, the ruin, devastation, and loss which had been caused by it soon made itself felt. Employers within the Union of South Africa, it was said, could no longer open their coffers to meet all demand; they had to accept the effect of inexorable economic laws. It was stated that on many of the gold mines the cost of production was so great that the mines were running at a loss. Measures had to be taken to reduce the cost of production or these mines must close down. 'The Chamber of Mines – the governing body of the mining groups – made certain proposals to the Executive of the South African Industrial Federation, the governing body of the workers. A ballot was taken. The strike eventuated.' And shortly afterwards the Red regiments or commandos were marching about the Reef. Edge was presently given the Red commando movement by a certain Council of Action, a body which played a vital part in all that subsequently transpired; It incorporated a number of Communists, the leader of whom was in regular communication with the official organizers of the Russian revolutionary movement in Moscow. On the other hand, the rank and file of the commandos was certainly not Communistic and could hardly suspected that the Council of Action was really a Soviet body. The men undoubtedly believed that they were fighting for wage maintenance and for White Prerogative as against 'Native' Encroachment on the mines. The Russian Soviet, on the other hand, acknowledged no colour bar. How then, might it be asked, did this Council of Action succeed in assuming control and in making its historic attempt to overthrow the South African Government through the commandos? The most inflammatory member of the Council of Action, which seized the control of the strike on March 6, 1922, was Percy Fisher, a miner, and member of the Communist Party of South Africa. He was young and ardent; but the violence of his speeches and methods was often too much even for his fellows. It was known that he had been behind a strike at the City Deep Mine in 1919; moreover, he had been prominently concerned in the strike on the Consolidated Langlaagte Mine in 1921 when he had been punished with disciplinary action by his own Union. But Fisher's other associates on the Council of Action included Spendiff, as well as the acknowledged leader of the South African Communism at that time. The latter corresponded regularly with Ivor Jones, a Natal revolutionary who had proceeded to Russia shortly before the 1922 revolt, and who afterwards died there. South African Communism was further linked with that of Russia through men like Sam Barlin of the Orange Free State, and Sidney Bunting, of Johannesburg – both prominent South African Communists. There were other Communists on the Council of Action. According to the report of the 1922 Martial Law Inquiry Commission: 'the Council of Action was closely associated with the Communist Party in South Africa.' These considerations really supply the answer to the question as to how control of the strike was assumed by the Communists. For Russian Soviet instructions to branches throughout the world as to the technique of revolution, embody the principle of 'direct action applied at a critical moment,' and in 1921 the Soviet Press was constantly pointing out that there were moments in strikes which might by smartly exploited and directly exploited and directed towards revolution. The Council of Action on the Rand determined to exploit the 1922 situation in this fashion. It watched for the critical moment: and it came. A meeting was called of the Augmented Executive on March 6, at the Trades Hall, Rissik Street, Johannesburg, to ballot on the continuation of the strike; and some 120 delegates attended as representing the South African Industrial Federation. The strike had been in progress for some time and there had been much excitement and disorder on the fields. Soon after the commencement of this meeting several thousands of commando men appeared and took possession of the stairs and exits of the building. The members of the Executive were virtually made prisoners. The Council of Action assumed swift control, and although the delegates held out until 5.30 p.m., they were forced by these Communists to declare a general strike to commence as from the next day. Violent speeches were made from the balcony [now demolished] of the hall by the Council of Action, and the revolutionary spirit was passionately invoked. And that was how it was done. Revolutionary invocation proved to be the signal for an intensive campaign against existing authority and property. The excesses of previous weeks, when armed commandos had roamed the Reef, picketing the mines, and in some cases, burning the houses of those who had incurred their enmity, were now

supplemented by still more deplorable happenings. The Post and Telegraph Exchange at Johannesburg was invaded by crowds of men and women who sought to remove the operators; trams and cars were violently captured in the streets; the 'natives' were attacked by the commandos in all directions, some losing their lives. In an attempt to prevent General Smuts from reaching the town the railway line was blown up between Krugersdorp and Luipaardsvlei; but the General dashed through and assumed command of the Government forces in Johannesburg. On March 10, the capture of the goldfields by the revolutionaries seemed imminent, and it was then that martial law was proclaimed. It has been held on all sides since, even by prominent Labourites, that martial law should have been proclaimed sooner, and that the delay led to unnecessary loss of life and damage to property. The Government seemed to have been anxious to avoid the possibility of any charge being preferred against it of using the forces of the Dominion prematurely against strikers engaged in industrial warfare. But as a matter of fact the struggle had ceased to be industrial and had assumed a dangerous political character. The Premier, whose position was most difficult and unenviable, probably lost more prestige by deferring intervention than he would have done had he expedited it; for matters had drifted to a dangerous pass where great forces would now have to be employed, and where victors and vanquished would have to suffer heavily. On the other hand, the measures ultimately taken undoubtedly saved the town, the goldfields, and probably the country, for there was great unrest in other urban centres. The credit of saving the country rests with General Smuts, who took the necessary measures and shouldered the responsibility. On the day that martial law was proclaimed, Lieutenant Vincent Brodigan and his men were compelled to surrender at the Brakpan Mine and lost their lives; the Imperial Light Horse were attacked from higher ground at Ellis Park, Johannesburg, and sustained casualties; while the Transvaal Scottish Regiment, which had proceeded against the rebels at Dunswart, near Benoni, on the East Rand, where the revolt had begun to resume a Red Terror, were caught in a heavy fire and suffered a loss of 13 killed and 26 wounded. But now the complexion of affairs began to change. The Government forces attacked vigorously and the Reds were thrown everywhere on the defensive. Artillery came into action and shelled the rebel stronghold near Vrededorp, Johannesburg. The inhabitants of Fordsburg (Johannesburg) were warned to evacuate their houses as the district was about to be bombarded. A tank rattled into action, aeroplanes droned over Red strongholds, there was the dull crash of bombs, mobile cars sped around full of riflemen; windows and balconies were crowded with excited spectators; but with the shattering of the rebel headquarters by artillery in Fordsburg, the Reds went down at last to defeat. From all parts they surrendered, and the loyal burghers, closing in, placed the issue finally beyond doubt. Percy Fisher and Spendiff who had been so prominent in creating this terrible crises, refused to give themselves up to the Government forces, and on March 14 shot themselves in a house in Fordsburg. Revolutionary snipers in gardens and parks were silenced; the military went from house to house, and 'cleaned up' the town. On March 19, the revolt was deemed definitely at an end. The casualty roll was estimated at 291 police and military killed and wounded; and 396 revolutionaries and civilians. Six hundred arrests were made. The courts were occupied for months afterwards hearing charges arising out of these disorders, but the menace of Bolshevism had been destroyed and white South Africa had given its answer to the exponents of Soviet sophistry." (Chilvers, H.A.: *Out of the Crucible*; see pp. 220-221 for the conclusion and findings concerning the strike).

"Thus ended the attack and the strike. The casualty figures were: State Forces 72 killed and 219 wounded. Strikers 39 killed and 118 wounded. 15000 miners were out of work and doing relief work for a few shillings a day. Those who were re-employed by the mines had their wages cut by a third. General Smuts never recovered from this setback and lost to General Herzog in the 1924 elections. The strike, however, did lead to the passing of the 1924 Industrial Conciliation Act which outlawed strikes by essential services and laid the basis for arbitration procedures in the event of a disagreement between employers and employees." (Norwich, I. Grant, B.L.; Saul. D.; *Some Historic Drives & Walks of Johannesburg...*, for information on the route taken by the strikers in Johannesburg, see this publication).

"When a start was made with the construction of the *SAP Club Building* (at 122, 124 Eloff Street)...early in 1924, public support for the ruling S A Party of Gen. Smuts was on the decline, owing at least partly to his tough action in suppressing the Great Strike of 1922...The construction of the *SAP Club Building* in Johannesburg can possibly be seen as an attempt to improve the image of the SAP in the tormented city...The following people died in the 1922 Strike: 43 soldiers, 86 policemen and 81 civilians. Wounded: 133 soldiers, 86 policemen and 315 civilians." (Van Der Waal, G-M.: *From Mining Camp to Metropolis...*).

For information regarding the association of Kodak (South Africa) Ltd.'s association with the building, see attachment.

GENERAL NOTES:

Estimated cost of building	: none stated
Estimated cost of drainage	: none stated
Accommodation approved	: none
Phase One Value	: £3 500
Valuation at completion	: £7 200
Occupied	: Vacant and bricked up.

On 5 August 1913 Sidney P. Bunting, Honorary Secretary of the Johannesburg Trades Hall, signed the Application for Approval of Plans form (i.e. proposed new building). By 11 May 1914, he was secretary to the Johannesburg Trades Hall Society, the then owner of the building. On 19 July 1920, J. A. Steyn signed the Application for Approval of Plans form (i.e. regarding proposed alterations to the building).

The second *Trades Hall* was listed as one of the Johannesburg's 100 most valuable heritage buildings in 1986.

PREVIOUS TENANTS:

1922: The building was the headquarters of the rebel Trade Unions during the 1922 Strikes.

By 1954: Greca Meidara Shop; The Meidara Shop; Kodak (S.A.) Ltd.

By 1990: A liquor store occupied the ground floor and an antique shop the upper floors.

SOURCES:

For additional illustrative information, see relevant supplementary photo album in electronic format.

See SOURCES DOCUMENT for information on sources consulted with reference to this document.

ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:

Historic Value:

- ☒ Associated with historic person, group or organisation
- ☒ Associated with historic event or activity

Architectural/Aesthetic value:

- ☒ Important example of building type
- ☒ Important example of a style or period
- ☒ Fine details, workmanship or aesthetics
- ☒ Work of a major architect or builder

Social/Spiritual/Linguistic value:

- ☒ Associated with social, spiritual, linguistic, economic or political activity
- ☒ Illustrates an historical period

Scientific/Technological value:

- ☐ Example of industrial, technical or engineering development/achievement
- ☐ New, rare or experimental building techniques

RECORDED BY:

Heritage Resources Management team Johann J and Catharina JM Bruwer.
Unless otherwise indicated photographs by Catharina JM Bruwer.

See attachment – extract from MacMillan, A (comp.): The Golden City Johannesburg.

Brief

Dis dalk tyd om volle krag van wet te gebruik

Daar is die laaste tyd breedvoerig berig oor die moontlike sloping van verskeie geboue as deel van die beplande ontwikkeling van 'n geïntegreerde provinsiale regerings-tuiste in die Johannesburgse middestad. Daar is tegelykertyd berig oor die erfenisimpakstudie wat reeds in verband hiermee onderneem is.

Die vereiste vir só 'n studie word deur die nasionale erfeniswetgewing bepaal.

Die tyd het moontlik aangebreek dat die volle krag van hierdie wetgewing gebruik word om 'n ander erfenisverwante probleem aan te pak.

Kenmerkend van die Johannesburgse middestad is sy unieke, dog beperkte versameling erfenisgeboue. Dit is iets waarvan in dié stadium weer gewag gemaak moet word.

Dit, na aanleiding van die uiters verwaarloosde toestand van die Barbican-gebou waaroor *Sake* verlede week berig het. Die gebou is natuurlik 'n baken in die middestad vanweë sy unieke ontwerp en ligging.

In die berig word gemeld dat "sloping deur verwaarloosing" 'n wesenlike gevaar vir die gebou inhou. In die geval van die Barbican-gebou is sloping, op watter manier ook al, heeltemal onaanvaarbaar.

Die betrokke erfenishulpbronowerhede behoort hul stem te verhef, indien nodig deur die uitreiking van bevelen van verpligte herstel. Die geboue-erfenis van Johannesburg – 'n onvervangbare kleinmoed – se kans op oorlewing is beperk en juis daarom moet die saak van verwaarloosing met erns aangepak word.

Die Barbican is terloops nie 'n geïsoleerde geval nie. Nie ver van die gebou nie is die pragtige, maar erg vervalle drieverdieping-gebou bekend as Penlan House in Eloffstraat. Dit is in 1897, dieselfde jaar as die historiese Rissikstraatse poskantoor, opgerig.

Dan is daar ook die Trades Hall in Rissikstraat met sy ryke verbintenis met die geskiedenis van die vakbondwese. Die gebou is beveilig teen vandalisme, maar vertoon glad nie na wens nie.

Volpunte vir die Johannesburgse stadsbestuurders vir die opknapping en beveiliging van die ou Rissikstraatse poskantoor. Die voorbeeld wat sodoende gestel word, bring bepaald hoop vir die saak van bewaring van erfenisgeboue in die middestad.

Johannesburg is reeds meermale as 'n wonderstad beskryf. Die stad se ongekennde groei word weerspieël in sy geboue wat uit 'n verskeidenheid van tydperke dateer. Ons wil nie 'n nuwe stad vol nuwe geboue hê nie. Dit is ook nie waarin die toeriste belang stel nie. Daar is genoeg sulke stede oral ter wêreld.

Johannesburg is uniek as gevolg van sy wye verskeidenheid van geboue.

Verwaarloosde ou geboue dra egter nie tot die kwaliteit van verskeidenheid by nie en kan deur niemand goedgepraat word nie.

■ Dr. Johann Bruwer, onafhanklike erfeniskonsultant van Meyerton

EIENDOM Sake

Geskiedkundige juweel sterf 'n stadige dood

Elma Kloppers

Die verwaarlosing van die meeste van die ou historiese geboue in die middestad van Johannesburg kan vierkant voor die deur van hul eienaars gelê word.

Die versekeringsreus Ou Mutual, wat 'n groot getal van die bewarenswaardige erfenisse in die middestad besit, is al telkens van verwaarlosing beskuldig. *Sake* het ook al berig oor die lot van sy bekende Barbican-gebou, 'n erfenisgebou sonder gelyke.

Nog een van Ou Mutual se juwele, die Trades Hall-gebou in Risikstraat, is besig om 'n stille dood te sterf.

Dié gebou is in 1914 opgerig, teen die einde van die Eduardiane tydperk, en sy waarde is ná voltooiing op £7 200 geraam. Dit is die enigste bestaande gebou wat deur die argitekte Aburrow, Charles & Treeby ontwerp is en 'n kragtige herinnering aan die rykdom van die stad in die era.

In dr. Van Der Waal se *Die karakter van Argitektuur* word die gebou soos volg beskryf: "Hierdie ontwerp is in dieselfde Imperialistiese Neo-Barok-gees as die stads-huis op die markplein."

Wat die gebou so belangrik maak, is die groot rol wat dit gespeel het in die groot staking in 1922 as die fokuspunt van geweld.

Die Trades Hall was in hierdie tydperk die hoofkantoor van die opstandige vakbondbeweging. In die staking is 43 soldate, 86 polisie-lede en 81 burgerlikes dood.

Deur die jare is verskeie pogings aangewend om sy toekoms te verseker – sonder sukses.

In 1998 is in 'n verslag gemeld dat die departement van gesondheid die gebou se toestand as swak beskryf. Daar is gevra dat dit dringend aandag kry as een van

Wat die gebou so belangrik maak, is die groot rol wat dit gespeel het in die groot staking in 1922 as die fokuspunt van geweld.

die laaste geskiedkundige bakens in die gebied.

In 1987 het die Nasionale Monumentekomitee die gebou, wat toe as Bethlehem House bekend gestaan het, tot nasionale monument verklaar.

Die destydse mede-eienaar van die gebou, dr. R.W. Bethlehem, het beswaar aangeteken op grond daarvan dat die verklaring 'n materiële en negatiewe uitwerking op die markwaarde van die gebou sal hê. Die gebou het daardeur sy status as monument verloor.

Me. Flo Bird, voorsitter van die Parktown-en-Westcliff-erfenis-trust, het destyds met die eienaar in verbinding getree. Hy het gesê daar is geen onmiddellike gevaar nie en onderneem om die gebou te bewaar.

Vandag staan die eensame dop leeg en dit is erg verwaarloos. Die bekende balkon van waar stakers toegesprek is, is intussen afgebreek, iets wat groot afbreuk doen aan die besondere fasade.

Die gebou is van kulturele, geskiedkundige en argitektoniese belang, maar sonder die nodige opknapping sal dit binnekort so vervalte raak dat dit uiteindelik gesloop sal moet word.

Teen druktyd is nog geen kommentaar van Ou Mutual ontvang nie.

KODAK (SOUTH AFRICA), LTD., Kodak House, 63, Rissik Street.

No name is better known than Kodak for photographic materials, for which, and especially for cameras, it has become a synonym. In South Africa the famous Kodak goods are handled by Messrs. Kodak (South Africa), Ltd., who have their headquarters at Cape Town, also wholesale and retail branches there and at Johannesburg, Durban, Port Elizabeth, and Bloemfontein.

Started in 1913 with five employees, that number has now increased to about 200. Some 60 of them are employed in the Johannesburg business, which is the largest undertaking of its kind in the Golden City.

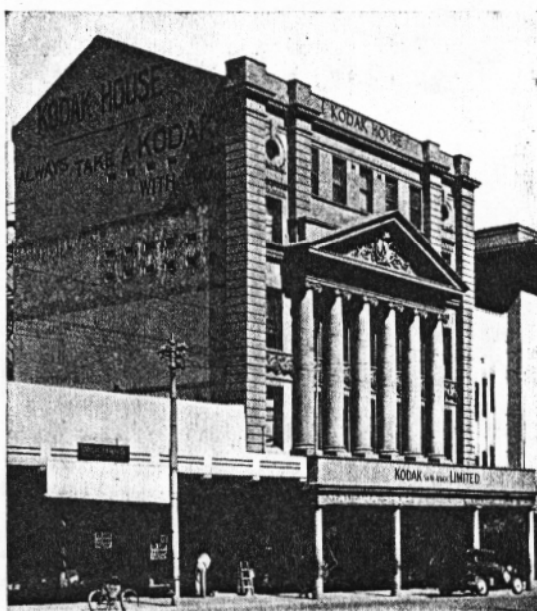
The handsome Kodak House is very familiar to the public, and contains a large stock of the greatly varied Kodak goods, which year after year seem to reach their maximum in general merit and adaptability, but every now and then they exemplify some new improvement, some

trast to the slow and crude processes of photography a decade or two ago. The developing departments, for instance, have their own refrigerating plant for regulating the temperature of the water.

The South African company is a subsidiary of the great Kodak Company of England, whose works at Wealdstone, Middlesex, started in 1891 with three buildings and 200 employees, now comprise 80 buildings, with a floor space of 16 acres on a property of 50 acres, and give employment to about 2,200 persons. The premises are being constantly extended to keep pace with the growing popularity of Kodak photography. The manufacture of Kodak products makes demands upon up-to-date knowledge in almost every branch of science, and uses up a bewildering variety of raw materials. The complex character of the works, and the various classes of highly skilled labour required, will be appreciated when it is understood that the articles made range from a high-power anastigmat lens to super-sensitive cinematograph film. Cameras, lenses, X-ray film, cinematograph film (16 mm and 35 mm), photographic papers and packed chemicals are all turned out in large quantities, and each demands what may be termed a separate factory and specialised knowledge. The following facts will give some indication of the variety and extent of the Kodak work:—

Over 8,000,000 feet of cine film is coated each week. More than 2,000,000 square feet of photographic paper is produced each week. The camera works, which cover an acre of ground, make about 15,000 cameras each week. These include "Kodaks," "Brownies," Cine-"Kodaks" and "Hawk-Eyes." "Kodascopes" and "Kodatoys" are also made here.

The lens department manufacture most of the lenses for these cameras, including the fast anastigmats used in Cine-"Kodaks." The lenses are made from British optical glass. Professional apparatus, such as studio cameras and stands, and the numerous scientific appliances used by portrait and commercial photographers, are made in large numbers by specially trained experts. Kodak Limited are one of the largest private purchasers of silver bullion in England. They make approximately 60 tons of silver nitrate every year. The power house, which supplies the various sections of the works with motive power, has four huge boilers which use up 40,000 lb. of water every hour, and consume 9,500 tons of coal every year. It supplies power to five engines and two ice-machines; 100,000,000 gallons of water are used in the various operations every year. To ensure that the products are kept up to standard quality, all raw materials used are analysed, checked and controlled by a works laboratory. Scientific research work is carried out in one of the best-equipped photographic and organic chemical research laboratories in the country.



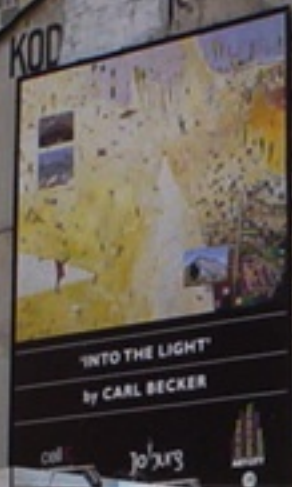
Kodak House.

clever enhancement of standardised perfection. Accordingly it now seems impossible that anything further can be achieved which can contribute in any way to the wonderful simplicity of modern photography and the results possible to even an unskilled operator with a Kodak outfit.

At Doornfontein the company erected in 1930 a factory for the developing and printing of films and plates, which are turned out there in very large quantities, as the company work for chemists throughout the country. All the operations are performed with great care and in the most methodical manner in departments equipped with the latest appliances and materials for the highest possible attainment in every phase of photography. The rapidity and accuracy with which the work is performed is in striking con-



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