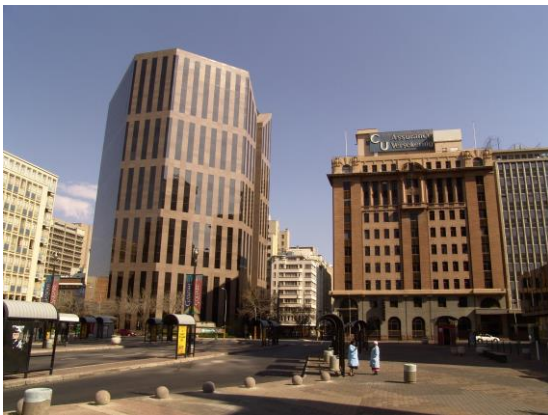


JOHANNESBURG METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY**HERITAGE ASSESSMENT SURVEYING FORM**

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

JJ Bruwer ©

Cellphone: +27 82 325 5823

NAME OF PLACE: GANDHI SQUARE

Above, left to right: View from *Gandhi Square*, looking west, with the *Nedbank Central Group Building* to the left, and the *Bram Fischer House*, to the right; view toward the southeast from *Gandhi Square*, with the multi-storey *Gauteng Institute of Management Building* in Eloff Street, to the left, and the *Williams Hunt Building*, to the centre.



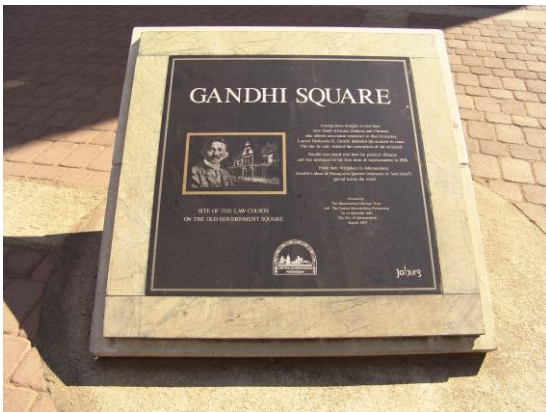
Above, left to right: Looking toward the east from Rissik Street, with *Gandhi Square* in the foreground; view of *Gandhi Square* in the background, and the ingress / egress ramp to the underground parking facility.



Above, from left to right: View of the *Gandhi Statue*, with the old *High Court Building* to the left, and *Absa* (Gandhi Square Branch), to the right, in the background; different view of the Statue; main plaque, recording date of unveiling of the statue etc.

Below, left: Commemoration plaque, on which is recorded the following:

GANDHI SQUARE
SITE OF THE LAW COURTS ON THE OLD GOVERNMENT SQUARE
 Among those brought to trial here
 were South Africans (Indians and Chinese)
 who offered non-violent resistance to discrimination.
 Lawyer Mohandas K. Gandhi defended the accused in court.
 The law, he said, violated the consciences of the accused.
 Gandhi also stood trial here for political offences
 and was sentenced to his first term of imprisonment in 1908.
 From their birthplace in Johannesburg
 Gandhi's ideas of Satyagraha (passive resistance or 'soul force')
 spread across the world.
 Erected by
 The Johannesburg Heritage Trust
 And The Central Johannesburg Partnership
 In co-operation with
 The City of Johannesburg
 August 2002



Above, right: The inscription appearing on this plaque, reads as follows: "I learnt during all those years to love Johannesburg even though it was a mining camp. It was in Johannesburg that I found my most precious friends. It was in Johannesburg that the foundation for the great struggle of Passive Resistance was laid in the September of 1906...Johannesburg, therefore, has the holiest of all the holy associations that Mrs Gandhi and I will carry back to India. M.K. Gandhi, 1914.

Photographs: Catharina JM Bruwer.

Previous/alternative name/s : Government Square
: Van Der Bijl Square

LOCATION: Street : Rissik
Street number : 24
: (bounded by Rissik, New Street North, Eloff, and
: New Street South)
Stand Number : 1091
Previous Stand Number:
Block number : BZ
Suburb : Marshallstown
GIS reference :

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

DESCRIPTION OF PLACE:

Height :
Levels above street level :
Levels below street level :
On-site parking : yes (underground)

CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS:

Walls:

Roof:

Windows:

SITE FEATURES:

Statue, paving, bus commuter shelters, bollards, and planters

ALTERATIONS:

See HISTORY below.

INTEGRITY:

The historic spatial structure of the Square has been retained, and the Square is today, a well-defined public amenity, which is bordered by buildings, representative of the phased layered development of the city during the past one hundred years.

INSCRIPTION:

ARCHITECT:

BUILDER:

CONSTRUCTION DATE:

Date on plans :
Approval of plans :
Completion date :

BUILDING STYLE:

BUILDING TYPE:

Bus terminus / public open space

ENVIRONMENT:

CONDITION:

URGENT ACTION:

SAHRA RECORD REGARDING ALTERATIONS, RENOVATIONS, RESTORATION:

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

- General protection: Section 34(1) structure/s
- Formal protection: provincial heritage site
- national heritage site
- provisional protection
- heritage area
- listed in provincial heritage resources register

Relevant Gazette Notice:

Gazette description:

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

NOTES:

DEEDS INFORMATION:

Original ownership:

PRE-HISTORY OF SITE:

HISTORY:

The site now called *Gandhi Square*, was actually owned and developed by the Goldfields Club as a place where the mine managers could relax. Work was started on the *Goldfields Club Building*, but in 1893, before the building was completed, the land was bought by the Government of the Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek, and the building was converted to a courthouse. The Square – called *Government Square* (sometimes also called *Government Park*), eventually housed both the High Court and the Witwatersrand Magistrate’s Courts – commonly referred to as the *Law Courts*.

The historic importance of the Square dates from 31 May 1900 when the British Forces, commanded by Lord Roberts, entered Johannesburg, where in front of the old *Court House*, the Vierkleur was taken down, and a silken Union Jack, made by Lady Roberts, was hoisted, followed by the handing-over of the keys of the city to the British.



Above: The ceremony in front of the old *Court House* on *Government Square*, 31 May 1900, marking the British Forces’ occupation of Johannesburg (From Smith, A.H. (ed.): *Pictorial History Of Johannesburg*).

It is here, not long after the Second Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902) that the famous Mohandas K. Gandhi, who became Johannesburg's first Indian attorney in 1903, practiced law – and defended many of his clients, in the courts on the Square, who were charged with failing to register for passes, for picketing, and other political offences. It is here, that Gandhi embarked on his struggle – Satyagraha – a philosophy of “passive resistance”. Gandhi's offices, in *Court Chambers* (corner of Rissik and Anderson Streets) nearby, also served as the headquarters of the Satyagraha Association. Lastly, it is here, that Gandhi, himself, appeared as a defendant in court in December 1907, for refusing to register under the Transvaal Asiatic Registration Act

The courts were in use until 1911, when the Pritchard Street Supreme Court was completed, and the courts moved there.

In 1948, after the demolition of the old Magistrate's Courts, which were quite run down and dilapidated by then, the site was converted to Johannesburg's main bus terminus. In 1965, the Square was renamed *Van Der Bijl Square*, after Dr Hendrik Johannes Van Der Bijl, first Chairman of ESCOM.

Many years later, during the early 1990s, the Square became progressively neglected. It became a centre for homeless people and street children, and was known for its petty crime. Not only the future of the Square, but that of the buildings on the edges of the Square, was at stake.

In 1998, the Central Johannesburg Partnership (CJP) , a self-funded private non-profit organisation dedicated to the revitalisation of the Johannesburg urban centre, was approached to assist with the revitalisation of the area. This led to the establishment of the Van Der Bijl Square Consortium – a body representing the majority of owners of the buildings bordering the Square. A lease agreement over the Square was negotiated with the Council, which required the Square Consortium to maintain the Square at their cost. Based on a proposal by MuseuMAfica, the Consortium renamed the Square *Gandhi Square*, in recognition of the significant role that Mahatma Gandhi had played in Johannesburg and the fact that he had represented many South African Indians and Chinese in the struggle against discrimination in the *Law Courts* which had originally been sited on the Square. The project was completed in 1999 but the CJP has since, had an ongoing responsibility on behalf of the Square Consortium, to maintain and manage the Square.

These days, the Square is still a bus terminus, but is now called Gandhi Square.

On 2 October 2003, a larger-than-life bronze statue of Mohandas K. Gandhi, who became Johannesburg's first Indian attorney in 1903, was unveiled on the square by Councillor Amos Masondo, Executive Mayor of Johannesburg. The statue, near the historic *Somerset House* and the old *High Court Building*, depicts Gandhi as a young lawyer...“looking determinedly forward, with the breeze blowing his cloak to one side. He looks into the centre of the square, and on top of a 5m tall plinth, makes for an imposing figure in the space. This plinth has wooden benches positioned around its base, making it people-friendly.” (Joburg unveils Gandhi statue, Lucille Davie, 2 October 2003 (http://www.southafrica.info/ess_info/sa_glance/history/gandhistatue.htm))

The statue was commissioned by the City of Johannesburg's Department of Arts, Culture and Heritage Services, and made by the sculptress.

At the unveiling of the statue, which fittingly coincided with the 134th anniversary of Gandhi's birth, a message from former President Nelson Mandela, was read, which stated *inter alia*, that Gandhi, more than a hundred years before, “became the first person of colour to practice law in Johannesburg. Gandhi's offices and the old law courts are long gone, but here too Gandhi paved the way for others.” (In honour of Gandhi, Joburg salutes father of passive resistance. Karen Van Rooyen: Sunday Times - South Africa's best selling newspaper 1.htm Location: Sunday 05 Oct 2003).

The reader is referred to the articles below, sourced from the Internet, which contain detailed information on the historic association of the Square with Mohandas K. Gandhi, the decision to commission the Gandhi Statue, etc.).

Herman Charles Bosman, Joburg man, January 20, 2004, By Lucille Davie
Bosman traced a city pioneer who described the site before the courts were built, in Old Johannesburg is Vanishing: "I saw the first sod being turned there for the foundations, when the place was still surrounded with bluegums. I saw that site as a vacant stand, before they put up the Magistrate's Courts. And one of these days I'll see it as a vacant stand again. That's how it goes." It became a bus terminus after its demolition in 1949, called Van der Byl Square. Before that it was called Government

Square. The courts were in use until 1911, when the Pritchard Street Supreme Court building was built, and the courts moved there. By 1949 the building was run down and dilapidated. These days it's still a bus terminus but is called Gandhi Square, because Gandhi used to practise at the courts before he left the city in 1914. In October 2003 a tall, bronze statue of Gandhi was unveiled in the square.'

(<http://www.joburg.org.za/Herman Charles Bosman.Joburg.htm>)

In honour of Gandhi, Joburg salutes father of passive resistance. Karen Van Rooyen
A century ago it would have been possible to see Mahatma Gandhi, dressed in flowing legal robes and clasping a book, striding across Joburg's Government Square. Now, that image of a young and determined lawyer has been captured in a bronze statue on Gandhi Square.
The square, first known as Government Square, housed the Witwatersrand courts. Later, it became Van der Bijl Square, Joburg's main bus terminus. Then in 1999 it was given a face-lift and renamed Gandhi Square.

The statue stands tall on Gandhi Square, where the old law courts used to be and not far from where Gandhi's offices were.

Hundreds turned out for its unveiling which coincided with the 134th anniversary of Gandhi's birth this week.

The larger-than-life statue depicts Gandhi as a young lawyer - as he was known in South Africa - and not the stereotypical image of him as an old man wearing white robes and round spectacles.

"Each of the proposals was unique but this is a very powerful statue that has movement and life unlike other statues in the city," said Eric Itzkin, Joburg's deputy director of immovable heritage.

"We specified that it needed to show Gandhi as he was at the time he was in Joburg."

The 2.2m bronze statue stands on top of a 2.8m plinth and weighs about 450kg.

Sculptor Tinka Christopher spent three months working on the statue, building up a relationship with the man she was immortalising in metal.

"I felt his spirit there. As soon as I put his head on his shoulders, he became my friend," she said.

Christopher's husband, Derek, described her relationship with the statue as uncanny. "She would do something wrong and suddenly it was as if he wasn't happy," he said.

Christopher recalled one incident in which Gandhi expressed his displeasure.

"I put his book in place and I thought I'd got it right," she said.

"All of a sudden, the book fell and he said: 'How could you do that.' "

Gandhi arrived in South Africa in 1893 as a 24-year-old and travelled on a train from Durban to the Transvaal.

This journey changed his life forever as he was thrown off the train in Pietermaritzburg after he had insisted on travelling first class.

He eventually arrived in Joburg where he worked as a lawyer, and embarked on his struggle - Satyagraha - a philosophy of "passive resistance".

Gandhi's great-granddaughter and chairman of the Gandhi Centenary Council, Kirti Menon, said it was "clever inspiration" to depict her ancestor as South Africans knew him.

"This choice was very important because this is the Gandhi that South Africa knew and this is how he made his presence felt," said Menon.

Former President Nelson Mandela said in a message read at the unveiling: "A hundred years ago Gandhi became the first person of colour to practise law in Johannesburg.

"Gandhi's offices and the old courts are long gone, but here too Gandhi paved the way for others."

(Sunday Times - South Africa's best selling newspaper 1.htm Location: Sunday 05 Oct 2003 > Gauteng news Joburg salutes father of passive resistance. Karen Van Rooyen).

Van der Byl Square (Gandhi Square)

During 1998 the CJP was approached by an owner of a property bordering on Van der Byl Square who had a vision for the revitalisation of the area. The Square had been allowed to deteriorate dramatically, was a centre for homeless people and street children and petty crime was at a high level with a resultant negative impact on the viability of the surrounding buildings. The CJP established the Van der Byl Square Consortium consisting of the majority of property owners contiguous to the Square. A to upgrade the lease agreement over the Square was negotiated with the Council which required the Consortium Square and maintain it at their cost. The Consortium renamed the Square 'Gandhi Square' in recognition of the significant role that Mahatma Gandhi had played in Johannesburg and the fact that he had represented many South African Indians and Chinese in the struggle against discrimination in the Law Courts which had originally been sited on the Square, then known as Government Square. The project was completed in 1999 but the CJP has an ongoing responsibility on behalf of the Consortium to maintain and manage the Square.'

(<http://www.cjp.co.za/catalyst.php>)

Gandhi comes back to Joburg, March 18, 2003, By Mandisi Majavu

THE city of Johannesburg is planning to honour Mahatma Gandhi by bringing him back to life and in

the city. The city plans to do this by erecting a life-size statue of this great man in Gandhi Square. Sculptor Tinka Christopher has been selected on the basis of her proposal to depict the Indian leader as the city knew him: as a young activist lawyer. Proposals were received from Christopher and three other well-established local artists.

The decision to honour Gandhi with a sculpture was taken at a mayoral committee meeting last year, says Eric Itzkin, deputy director of the arts, culture and heritage services. Following this decision, a call for proposals was issued on 11 October and the closing date for submissions was 14 January 2003. The call was published in three local daily newspapers.

The mayoral committee agreed that the entries be adjudicated by the advisory committee of the Johannesburg Art Gallery. Proposals were received from Christopher, Naomi Jacobson, Ben Omar and Maureen Quin. Some of the requirements that the candidates had to meet were: a maquette at 1:10 scale utilising the actual materials, a written specification of the envisaged process and a budget including the artist's fee and erection on site.

The advisory committee, after expressing concern at the limited number of submissions, selected Christopher as the best person for the job. Her proposal has been endorsed by the Gandhi Centenary Council, a community-based organisation established to promote Gandhi's legacy in the city.

The estimated cost for the design, execution and erection of the bronze sculpture of Gandhi ranges between R240 000 and R270 000, says Itzkin. To make the project materialise, Toyota Motor Company has donated R50 000 and the consulate of India R43 600. The city council is adding R150 000, making the total amount collected so far R243 600.

Gandhi Square, where the sculpture is going to be erected, is an excellent location, says Itzkin. This is where Gandhi developed his concept of satyagraha, translated in the west as passive resistance that, in the end, influenced the whole of the colonial world. This is where he practised law -- defending many of his clients who were charged with failing to register for passes, for picketing and other political offences. At the time he was the only Indian attorney in Johannesburg.

The area has a long and interesting history. In 1893, the area was known as Government Square and contained magistrate's courts. In 1949, to make way for Johannesburg's main bus terminus, the city council renamed the area Van der Byl Square, in honour of the first chairman of the parastatal Electricity Supply Commission, Dr Hendrik Johannes van der Byl.

The city plans to erect a life-size statue of Mahatma Gandhi in the Square

The area, says Itzkin, became increasingly unsafe and squalid during the 1990s, adding to the general air of deterioration in the CBD. In 1999, coinciding with a project to upgrade the square, and following a proposal from MuseumAfrica, it was renamed Gandhi Square.

The Gandhi sculpture is expected to serve as a tourist attraction, cultivating interest in the square, locally and internationally.

The plan so far, says Itzkin, is to unveil the sculpture on 2 October, Gandhi's birthday.

(http://www.joburg.org.za/2003/mar/mar18_statue.stm)

'Joburg unveils Gandhi statue, Lucille Davie, 2 October 2003

The City of Johannesburg marked Mahatma Gandhi's birthday on 2 October by unveiling a bronze statue of him in Gandhi Square in the city centre.

Earlier this year sculptor Tinka Christopher won the tender to produce the 2.5 metre statue, which she said took her three months of almost non-stop work to complete.

"I worked 10 hours each day, seven days a week, to complete the work in time," she said.

The tall statue depicts Gandhi as a young lawyer in his gown, over a suit, with a book under his arm, looking determinedly forward, with the breeze blowing his cloak to one side. He looks into the centre of the square, and on top of a 5m tall plinth, makes for an imposing figure in the space. The plinth has wooden benches positioned around its base, making it people-friendly.

Gandhi practised as an attorney at the Johannesburg Law Courts, which were the city's first law courts, in what was known as Government Square (now renamed Gandhi Square). The courts were in use until 1911 when the Pritchard Street Supreme Court building was built. They were eventually demolished in 1948 and made way for the city's main bus terminus, which is still functional.

Gandhi arrived in South Africa in 1893, and at first practised law in Johannesburg in the early 1900s. But in time he became more active in resistance politics. He was tried at the Law Courts, convicted and sentenced for pass law offences, among them the call to Indians and Chinese to burn their pass books.

He left the country for India in 1914, after having shaped and established his policy of "Satyagraha" or passive resistance.

Christopher's other works around the city include a two-children sculpture in Bank City, a fish eagle at corporate offices in Midrand, and a stallion at Toyota's offices in Sandton.

The winning entry was adjudicated by the advisory committee of the Johannesburg Art Gallery. Proposals were received from three other sculptors: Naomi Jacobson, Ben Omar and Maureen Quin.

To prevent the theft of the bronze sculpture, an alarm has been fitted inside the statue, and any vibrations will be immediately picked up, and set off a signal to a security company.

The statue went up on Monday and was officially unveiled by Mayor Amos Masondo on Thursday. "It

fits the space well," said Christopher with a satisfied smile when the bubble wrap was removed. Eric Itzkin, the deputy director of Immovable Heritage, said he was pleased with how the statue worked out. "I am happy with the final choice." The City donated half of the cost of the work, and the rest came from private donations.

Meanwhile, Tolstoy Farm, 35 kilometres southwest of Johannesburg, on which Gandhi spent some time living a communal kibbutz existence with a small community of 50 adults and 30 children, is to be recreated as a community centre and museum'.

(http://www.southafrica.info/ess_info/sa_glance/history/gandhistatue.htm)

'Mahatma Gandhi returns to Joburg, October 3, 2003, By Tshepiso Mogotsi

MAHATMA GANDHI returned to Johannesburg yesterday, in the form of a 2,5m bronze statue. The statue was unveiled in Gandhi Square by Mayor Amos Masondo during a dignified ceremony yesterday.

Referring to the strange twists of history, Masondo spoke of Jan Smut's response to Gandhi leaving South Africa in 1913 - the politician who became synonymous with the formation of the League of Nations expressed the hope that Gandhi would never return to the shores of South Africa.

The larger-than-life statue, by sculptor Tinka Christopher, was officially unveiled on Gandhi's birthday.

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi was born in the town of Porbandar, India, 134 years ago.

The statue depicts Gandhi, not as the world remembers him in his later years, but as the young lawyer working in Johannesburg.

Dignitaries from the Johannesburg City Council, the Indian High Commission and the Gandhi Centenary Council attended yesterday's ceremony.

"Today we join in paying a special tribute to a man that has been acknowledged worldwide," Masondo said, adding that Gandhi's politics and personality were shaped by his engagements in the conflicts he experienced during his 21-year stay in South Africa.

Whatever service Gandhi had been able to render to India originated from South Africa, Masondo pointed out. He quoted Gandhi as saying that it was "after I went to South Africa that I became what I am now".

A message from Nelson Mandela was also read out: "Gandhi's political technique and elements of the non-violent philosophy, developed during his stay in Johannesburg, became an enduring legacy for the continuing struggle against racial discrimination in South Africa."

The history of South Africa at the turn of the 19th century featured prominently as speaker after speaker recalled the good that Gandhi had done against the ugly events of the time.

The Indian High Commissioner, His Excellency S Mukherjee, recalled the injustices Gandhi had faced, such as being forcibly removed from a train because of his race. "I believe it was that incident that actually launched Gandhi."

"India gave South Africa a lawyer and, in return, South Africa gave India a mahatma, a great soul," Commissioner Mukherjee said.

Chairperson of the Gandhi Centenary Council, Kirtie Manon, said the unveiling of the statue was timeous as the organisation had recently secured funding from the Gauteng Tourism Authority to erect the Mahatma Gandhi Peace Museum at Tolstoy Farm, a property to the south-west of Johannesburg where he and his followers lived as a community in the early 1900s.

In his message, Mandela also commended the City on its decision to commemorate Gandhi as "a fine example of how communities across the country are uniting to help recover and celebrate history"

This time Gandhi will not be allowed to leave Johannesburg. The statue has been fitted with an electronic alarm to make sure it remains in Gandhi Square.'

(MAHATMA GANDHI RETURNS TO JOBURG.htm Mahatma Gandhi returns to Joburg October 3, 2003

By Tshepiso Mogotsi)

Gandhi, Neil Fraser, *October 10, 2003*

Last Thursday witnessed the unveiling by the Executive Mayor, Amos Masondo, of a statue to Mohandas K Gandhi. The statue has appropriately been erected in Gandhi Square and the sculptress, Tinka Christopher, has caught the spirit of the Mahatma as a youthful lawyer clad in legal gown and holding a law book just as he undoubtedly would have often been seen in the Law Courts on Government Square.

The Law Courts, sadly, were demolished many years back when Government Square became Van der Byl Square - now Gandhi Square.

The unveiling ceremony was most impressive and excellently organised by Eric Itzkin, Deputy Director of the City's Immovable Heritage and author of the book 'Gandhi's Johannesburg'. The following are a few of the incidents that Gandhi experienced during the period that he lived and worked in Johannesburg.

When he initially arrived in Johannesburg he was in his early twenties "shy and lacking in confidence" and with an undistinguished academic record and a disappointing legal career behind him. He tried to get accommodation at the Grand National Hotel which is today where Edgars City has been built on the corner of Rissik and Pritchard Streets. He recorded, "I saw the Manager and asked for a room, he

eyed me for a moment, and politely saying 'I am very sorry, we are full up', bade me goodbye." This was not to be Gandhi's only hotel related problem in Johannesburg. A luxurious three-storey hotel carrying the name of its owner, William Heath, was erected in Pritchard Street in the early 1890s. The site later became the Eloff Street Branch of the OK Bazaars.

The dining room of Heath's Hotel was on the ground floor and was evidently particularly grand with a "lofty, elegantly arranged banqueting hall capable of accommodating a large number of guests". At some stage Gandhi required accommodation for a short period and a Lewis Rich approached William Heath on his behalf.

He records "Heath was a kindly soul, but also a licensed hotel-keeper whose patrons were rather superior people and more than likely to resent the presence of Indians as fellow guests. Poor Heath was torn between a desire to accommodate and his dread of repercussions. Eventually we arrived at a compromise. If Mr Gandhi would take his meals in a lobby instead of in the public dining room, the difficulty might be overcome. With characteristic consideration for his host's dilemma Gandhi agreed, he and I dined together and the superior people were spared the indignity of our company."

A prominent American suffragette, Mrs Carrie Chapman Catt, asked Gandhi to meet her initially at her hotel but, as no Indians were permitted to enter hotels to visit guests, she made arrangements to meet him in an office in Permanent Buildings now known as Victory House, it still exists on the corner of Harrison and Commissioner Streets.

The building is thought to be the first to have been served successfully by a lift, which was installed in 1898. The caretaker-cum-lift operator was an ex-policeman named Hallet who refused to allow Gandhi to use the lift, it only conveyed 'Europeans', Gandhi could use the stairs. Gandhi demurred and the meeting was held in his offices.

His offices were in Court Chambers, 15 Rissik Street between Anderson and Marshall Streets and he lived in a rented room behind the offices until 1904 when he moved to a family home in Troyeville with his wife and children. His offices became the headquarters of the Transvaal British Indian Association and the centre of anti-government agitation.

The Law Courts - The Witwatersrand High Court and Magistrates Courts - were located in Gandhi's time on Government Square, subsequently van der Byl now Gandhi Square. The land and original building was actually owned and built by the Goldfields Club as a place where the mine managers could relax. However, before the building was completed it was bought by the Government in 1893 and converted into a courthouse.

It fulfilled this function until 1911 and was demolished in 1948. It was here that Gandhi appeared in two roles. The first in defence of those arrested for failing to register for passes, picketing and other political offences. The second as defendant, in December 1907 for refusing to register under the Transvaal Asiatic Registration Act.

He was found guilty and ordered to leave the Transvaal within 48 hours. He didn't and was re-arrested in January 1908. He asked for the maximum sentence, six months hard labour and a five hundred pound fine but the magistrate sentenced him to two months imprisonment that were spent in the Fort. This was to be the first of four terms of imprisonment in South Africa for Gandhi, twice in 1908, once in 1909 and once in 1913.

The first sentence was served at the Fort but Gandhi only served one of the two months he had been sentenced to - he was released early on instructions from General Smuts. He then spent some time back in the Fort in October 1908. Two cell blocks for white prisoners had been erected in 1893 when the city was only seven years old.

Then Section 4 was built which was a block for black prisoners and called the 'Native Prison'. This was where Gandhi was incarcerated. Before the turn of the century the ramparts were built which led to the complex being called The Fort although it was used exclusively as a prison from 1902 to its closure in 1982. The 'Native Prison' was continually overcrowded its thirteen cells each designed to accommodate up to forty prisoners but by 1906 accommodating over seventy. Gandhi recorded that the prisoners experienced 'acute inconvenience' in the cramped and overcrowded facilities .

I've just picked out these few anecdotes of Gandhi's interaction with the city, Eric Itzkin gives many, many more and I can recommend his book 'Gandhi's Johannesburg' for enjoyable and interesting reading. It is published by Witwatersrand University Press in association with MuseumAfrica.

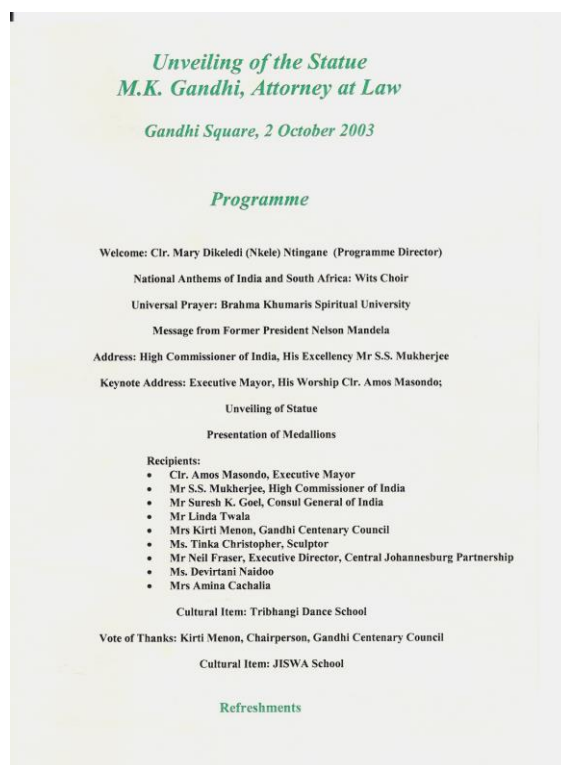
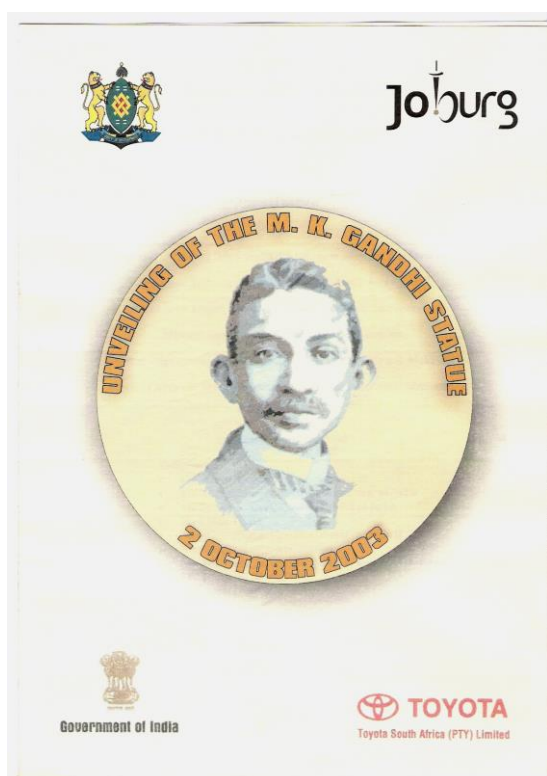
Philip Yancey, the Christian writer, described Gandhi as follows, "There has been no one like him: no one more disciplined or stubborn or inconsistent or creative or baffling or loveable or infuriating. Many of the political principles we take for granted today originated in the mind of this man who led a fifth of humanity to independence. He broke every rule in the political manual, and in the process helped found the largest democracy in the history of the world."

One of my favourite quotes ascribed to Gandhi was when he was asked what he thought of Western civilization - he answered "I think it would be a great idea."

Whilst writing this I am reminded of the AGM of the National Home Loan Guarantee Company that I attended last week.

Keynote speaker, Judge Goldstone, in an address outstanding for its insightfulness regarding international law (or lawlessness) made a comment to the effect that our country has been incredibly sick for well over 300 years, yet the world expected that it be normalised just in ten! Just how sick we

were is so clearly illustrated in these stories about the stay in Johannesburg of one of the truly great men in recent history.
(http://www.joburg.org.za/citichat/2003/oct10_citichat.stm).



Above: Programme – Unveiling of the Gandhi Statue on 2 October 2003.

GENERAL NOTES:

Estimated cost of building :
 Estimated cost of drainage :
 Accommodation approved :
 Valuation at completion :
 Occupied :

PREVIOUS TENANT/S:

CURRENT TENANT/S:

SOURCES:

Published Sources

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By Tshepiso Mogotsi

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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:



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