

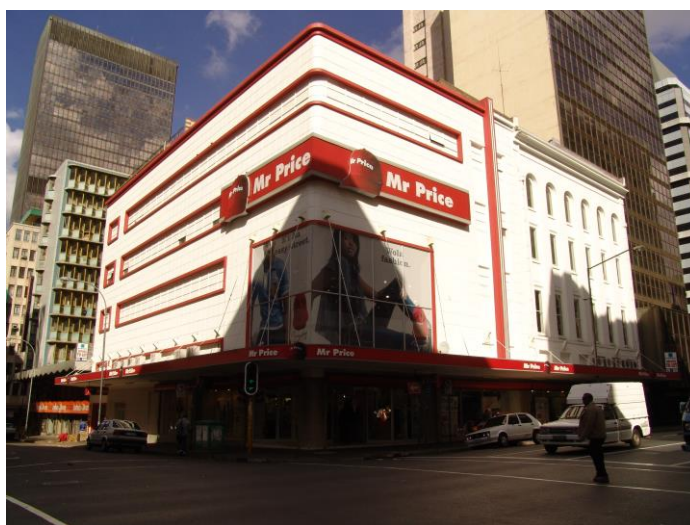
JOHANNESBURG METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY

HERITAGE ASSESSMENT SURVEYING FORM

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

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NAME OF PLACE: GEEN & RICHARDS BUILDING



Photograph: Catharina JM Bruwer.

Above: *Geen & Richards Building* is shown to the right in the photograph. (CJMB)

Previous/alternative name/s :
:
:

LOCATION: Street : Market
Street number : 126
Stand Number : 4768
Previous Stand Number: 141
Block number : AY
Suburb : Johannesburg
GIS reference :

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

DESCRIPTION OF PLACE:

Height :
 Levels above street level :
 Levels below street level :
 On-site parking :

"As in the case of *Cuthberts*," according to Van der Waal "arches extending across the width of a single window were also used in *Mosenthals Building* (1911), 91/3 Market Street, and *Geen & Richards Building* (c. 1918-9), 126 Market Street, both warehouses in the easter section of the city centre. That was the only common feature, however. By contrast, D M Sinclair designed *Geen & Richards Building* in a more abstract style, with flush brick-wall strips and panels. The virtually complete absence of traditional ornamentation contributed to the sense of traditional ornamentation and to the striking modern character of this composition".
 (Van Der Waal, G-M.: From Mining Camp to Metropolis...)

CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS:

Walls:

Roof:

Windows:

SITE FEATURES:**ALTERATIONS:****INTEGRITY:****INSCRIPTION:****ARCHITECT:**

Duncan McDonald Sinclair

'...(18 Apr 1877 - 1964) had one of the longest established offices in Johannesburg and was particularly dedicated to education. He was born in Romford, Essex, England, the son of Dugald Sinclair of Port Elizabeth and Johannesburg. The family arrived in Port Elizabeth in 1880. According to the *South African Who's Who* (1908) he returned to England in 1887 to study for his profession, being educated at Margate in England before being articled to Langham & Cole, architects & Surveyors in Ramsgate and Broadstairs, Kent, England. He returned to Johannesburg in 1896. In Johannesburg he became assistant first to PHILIP & LESLIE, then to CARTER & McINTOSH and then to JB NICHOLSON. During the Anglo-Boer War he served with the 1st Battalion Railway Pioneer Regiment for twenty-seven months and was decorated. He returned to practice in Johannesburg and married in 1903. For several years (c1902 to c1908) he was in partnership with WM PHILIP (cf PHILIP & SINCLAIR). He was Honorary Secretary to the Railway Pioneer Regiment in 1912. Sinclair was an early member of the Transvaal Institute of Architects, serving on its council for a number of years in various capacities. He was also a member of the Association of Transvaal Architects and was President of the ATA in 1920, and an enthusiastic supporter of the campaign for the registration of architects, working on the drafting of the Private Bill of the Architects' Act of 1927 and organising the sponsorship of the bill. He served on the Federal Council on Architectural Education and was a member of the Town Planning Association (Transvaal) in about 1925. Sinclair practised in Johannesburg for his whole career and was responsible for a number of well-known buildings, among which was the much admired Southern Life Building. His office was in much demand for office experience by architectural students of the University of the Witwatersrand, where his son and daughter-in-law both studied architecture and joined him in partnership until he retired in 1961. MSA; FRIBA 1925; Pres TPIA 1954-55...'

(Architects In South Africa 1780 - 1940; Draft manuscript, J Walker & G M van der Waal, 1992, HSRC, Pretoria.)

BUILDER:

CONSTRUCTION DATE:

Date on plans :
Approval of plans :
Completion date : circa 1918

BUILDING STYLE:

BUILDING TYPE:

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	<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:

DEEDS INFORMATION:

Ownership: Old Mutual Life Assurance Co South Africa Ltd.
Document: T49085/1990
Amount:

Ownership: I P S Inv (Pty) Ltd.
Registration Date: 2004-10-05
Document: T64287/2004
Amount: R5100 000.00

PRE-HISTORY OF SITE:

HISTORY:

GENERAL NOTES:

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

PREVIOUS TENANT/S:

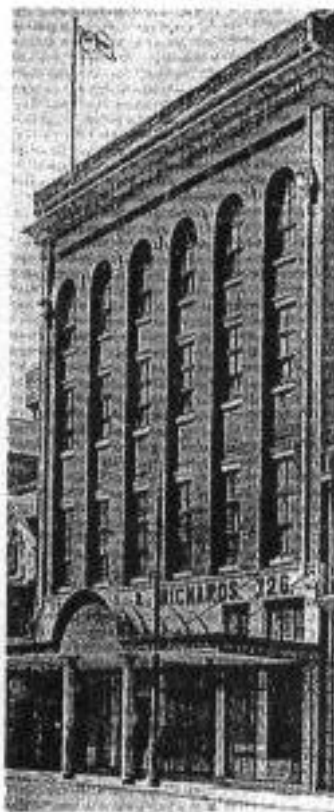
By 1954:

Geen & Richards

(The Rand-Pretoria Directory 1954 (Comprising Complete Alphabetical And Trades Directories of Johannesburg, Pretoria And Reef Towns), Cape Times Limited, Cape Town, 1954.)

CURRENT TENANT/S:

Mr Price Clothing



Geen & Richards Building, 126 Market Street
(From Van Der Waal, G-M.: From Mining Camp to Metropolis...).

SOURCES:

Published Sources

The Rand-Pretoria Directory 1954 (Comprising Complete Alphabetical And Trades Directories of Johannesburg, Pretoria And Reef Towns), Cape Times Limited, Cape Town, 1954.

Van Der Waal, G-M.: From Mining Camp to Metropolis, The buildings of Johannesburg 1886-1940, Chris Van Rensburg Publications, Johannesburg, 1987.

Unpublished Sources

Architects In South Africa 1780 – 1940; Draft manuscript, J Walker & G M van der Waal, 1992, HSRC, Pretoria.

Plans records of surveyed buildings, Marshallstown and City of Johannesburg: Archives, Building Control, Development Management, City of Johannesburg Metropolitan Municipality.

Rand Township Registry Johannesburg.

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 Bruwer and Alezea Bruwer.

And Catharina JM Bruwer.

Photographs (unless otherwise indicated) by Johann J Bruwer and Alezea Bruwer.