

JOHANNESBURG METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY

HERITAGE ASSESSMENT SURVEYING FORM

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

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NAME OF PLACE: GENERAL MINING BUILDING

Photograph: Catharina JM Bruwer.

Above: View of the main façade of the *General Mining Building* with sculptured fountain in the foreground. (CJMB)

Previous/alternative name/s : Bhp Billiton Building

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:

LOCATION: Street : Hollard corner Main
 Street number : 6 Hollard
 : (4, 6, 8 Hollard; 76, 78 Main)
 :
 Stand Number : 1261
 Previous Stand Number: 1185
 Block number : BV
 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 :

The main façade of the building on Hollard Street is richly decorated with a deeply carved sandstone course above the ground floor depicting the early history of South Africa followed by the landing of Jan van Riebeeck in the Cape; this is in turn, followed by The Great Trek, the discovery of gold in Johannesburg, the Second Anglo-Boer War, and finally, the growth of the mining industry in Johannesburg. (CJMB)

The brass panels on Ground Floor depict Protea and Aloe plants. (CJMB)

CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS:

Walls:

Roof:

Windows:

SITE FEATURES:

A beautiful large sculptured fountain to Hollard Street. (CJMB)

ALTERATIONS:

The Main Entrance to the building on Hollard Street has been altered. No alteration plans of this are available. (CJMB)

INTEGRITY:

The Main Entrance to the building was 'refashioned' unsympathetically, i.e. with reference to the original design of the building. Not only does it negatively impact on the integrity of the main façade but disharmonizes the sense of place. (CJMB)

INSCRIPTION:

ARCHITECT:

The main designer/s of the building is unknown as no original building plans are on file. (CJMB)

BUILDER:

CONSTRUCTION DATE:

Date on plans :
Approval of plans :
Completion date : 1950s

BUILDING STYLE:

Modernist.

BUILDING TYPE:

This is an office building. (CJMB)

ENVIRONMENT:

CONDITION:

As seen from the exterior the building appears to be in a fair condition. (CJMB)

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:

very General Mining indeed

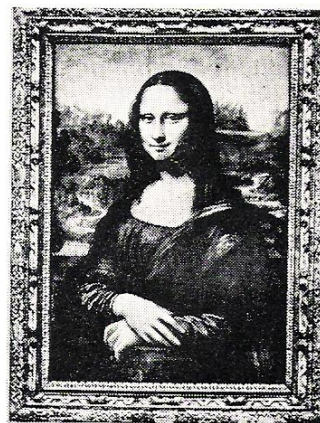
We are the miners selling enough petrol to take every 1972 British Mini on a round-trip of London. The motor assemblers who made enough railway rolling stock last year to sleep, dine, and carry away the population of Port Elizabeth for a day in East London.

Our monthly piping output is the total length of Holland's navigable waterways. We are the financiers exporting enough coal to a single customer to equal Portugal's annual primary energy capacity.

Our steel profits alone cover our exploration costs, leaving enough

over to buy 108 sq. cm of the "Mona Lisa" at her insurable value. We are also the manganese people who dug up enough gold last year to supply the ring for every French bride for forty-six years. And enough uranium to give a kilo to everyone in Durban, leave a kilo in every Durban hotel room, and still have enough left for anyone who actually wanted some.

Enough of Generalisations. Want the hard facts, like our 17% profit increase in 1972? Then send for our annual report to:



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Federale Mynbou – General Mining Group

6 Hollard Street, Johannesburg, Transvaal. P.O. Box 61820, Marshalltown, Transvaal.

Above: Advertisement reproduced from Who's Who Of Southern Africa 1973).

'Mining Main Street

Neil Fraser

February 23, 2004

"Directly east of the Chamber of Mines building is the magnificent office block of BHP Billiton. Two companies registered in 1895 and 1897 respectively, the General Mining and Finance Company and A Goertz & Co respectively, grew over the years with the latter becoming Union Corporation and merging in 1980 with General Mining to become Gencor.

General Mining's headquarters were at 6 Hollard Street, the site of their original building constructed in 1903 the only remaining part of which is a stained glass window. A new building was built on the site for the General Mining Corporation in the fifties. This was the largest building of five on the city block bounded by Hollard, Marshall, Simmonds and Main Streets when the decision was taken to rationalise them into a single headquarter building. Harcourt House, on the corner of Main and Simmonds Streets was retained due to its historical significance and Art Deco aesthetics.

The architects, Taljaard Carter Architects, have superbly integrated the new and old and the resultant building was the first recipient of the Colosseum Award which recognises excellence in heritage conservation. In the early stages of design the idea was born that the central area created in the rationalisation process should become a vast atrium rising over 10 storeys off a piazza and it is a wonderful space with huge hanging tapestries depicting various facets of the mining industry. As part of its centenary celebrations, Gencor assembled an outstanding collection of contemporary art.

They were selected to reflect 'the diverse cultural palette of the South African people' and the entire building is in fact the exhibition space for this remarkable collection. A report on the building concludes that: 'within 6 Hollard Street lie the elements of conservation, contemporary architectural fabric, structural innovation, integration and urban design.'

The organisation was later merged into the massive BHP Billiton Group - BHP being a leading global natural resources company and Billiton one of the world's premier mining companies."

[_ \(http://www.joburg.org.za/citichat/2004/feb23_citichat.stm\)](http://www.joburg.org.za/citichat/2004/feb23_citichat.stm)

GENERAL NOTES:

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

PREVIOUS TENANT/S:

CURRENT TENANT/S:

Bhpbilliton

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.

Who's Who Of Southern Africa 1973, Combined Publishers, Johannesburg, 1973.

Unpublished Sources

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

Internet sources

http://www.joburg.org.za/citichat/2004/feb23_citichat.stm

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