

JOHANNESBURG METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY

HERITAGE ASSESSMENT SURVEYING FORM

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

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NAME OF PLACE: THE INNER COURT



Photograph: Catharina JM Bruwer.

Previous/alternative name/s :
:
:

LOCATION: Street : corners Eloff, Kerk, Von Brandis and Prichard Street
Street number :
: (88, 90, 92 Eloff; 68, 70, 72, 74 Kerk;
: 55, 57, 59, 61 Von Brandis; 71, 73, 75 Prichard)
Stand Number : 5255
Previous Stand Number: 867, 5047, 868
Block number : AV
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 :

CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS:

Walls:

Roof:

Windows:

SITE FEATURES:

ALTERATIONS:

INTEGRITY:

INSCRIPTION:

ARCHITECT:

BUILDER:

CONSTRUCTION DATE:

Date on plans :
Approval of plans :
Completion date :

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 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.
Registration Date: 1993-11-19
Document: T52272/1993
Amount:

PRE-HISTORY OF SITE:

CLEGHORN & HARRIS

"The practice Stucke, Harrison and Smail designed one of the modern wonders of Johannesburg: the shop-frontage to the prestigious department store of Cleghorn & Harris (1939). The shop windows were a merchandising tour de force of non-reflecting, concave-shape glass fronts that added the sparkling quality of modern design to Eloff Street on the eve of the Second World War." Chipkin, C.M.: Johannesburg Style; Architecture & Society 1880s - 1960s, David Philip Publishers, Cape Town, 1993.)

"STUCKE, HARRISON & SMAIL, the partnership between JE HARRISON and DIH SMAIL from 1937. The firm was styled thus even though WH STUCKE had died in 1931. Smail was employed in Stucke & Harrison's office since 1934 and left the partnership in 1952. (SAAR Jan 1934:23; SAB Feb 1937:47; SAB May 1937:50; SAB Oct 1937:58 SAB May 1938:61; SAB Sep 1938:63; SAB Jan 1939:70; SAB Mar 1939:63; SAB Jul 1939:33, 62, 76; SAB Dec 1939:29 35)

Johannesburg: Maritime House, Loveday/Main Sts (Van der Waal 1987:200) 1936 7
SA Permanent Bldg Soc 1936 9; SA Mutual Life Assr Soc, Harrison St (SA Archt Jun 1939:87; SA Archt Dec 1939:324, 325; SAAR Nov 1940:392 400) 1936 9; Shops, Rockey St, Bellevue 1937; Standard Bank, Fox/Simmonds Sts (SA Archt Aug 1939:177) 1937 8; ABC Chambers (SA Archt Jan 1940:378) pre 1940; Elephant Trading Co warehouse, alt 1937; Germiston: Rand Ropes, offices, Strachan St 1937; Cape Town: Poppe, Schunoff & Gutte bldg 1938; Johannesburg: Standard Brass Iron & Steel Foundries, offices 1938; House Norman Reynolds, Sandhurst, 1938; Gilhove's Undertakers, offices, 1939; Standard Bank, Mint Rd, Fordsburg (RAU doc) 1939; Cleghorn & Harris bldg, Eloff/Kerk Sts (Van der Waal 1987:202) 1939
Mosenthal Bros, 1939; Cape Town: Tafelberg Stevedoring, Forwarding & Shipping Co Bldg, Dock Rd, 1939". (Architects In South Africa 1780 - 1940; Draft manuscript, J Walker & G M van der Waal, 1992, HSRC, Pretoria.)

TRUPPS

"TRUPP & CO.. (PTY). LTD.. Grocers, Provision, Crockery, Wine and Spirit Merchants. Thrupp's Building., 71 Prichard St., box 44. tel. add "Thrupp." `phones 22-3131 (15 lines). Branch Store; 4, Tyrwhitt Ave., Rosebank, phone 42-2156. Bottle Stores: 73 Eloff St., `phones 22-7571 and 23-5210, and at 45. Maddison St., `phones 24-5568 and 24-1600." (The Rand-Pretoria Directory 1954 (Comprising Complete Alphabetical And Trades Directories of Johannesburg, Pretoria And Reef Towns), Cape Times Limited, Cape Town, 1954.)

It's a rush against time to sketch and photograph old buildings before they are pulled down. That's the problem that faces Heather Zehnder.

For more than a decade she has been travelling around South Africa capturing historic buildings with rapid sketches, photographs and making notes.

She exhibited pen-and-ink drawings of Old Johannesburg in 1937, and this month she has an exhibition of pen-and-wash pictures of 22 old South African buildings at the Rosebank Library.

There are paintings of old Johannesburg, Cape Town, particularly the Malay quarters, and District Six, Kimberley and Pilgrim's Rest.

Although Mrs Zehnder was born and grew up in England she has always been fascinated by South African history.

"They were really swash-buckling days, and yet so recent. It seems to me a great shame that we didn't keep many more of the old buildings.

"What really set me on the path of painting old Johannesburg was a tiny building in Braamfontein with a pretty green spire. I used to see it every day on my way to and from work.

"One day, in the early 60s, I was horrified to see it was being demolished.

"I was in time to photograph this building, but it was gone before I



NOSTALGIC . . . Heather Zehnder shows her painting of Thrupps, which was in Prichard Street before it was pulled down.

could sketch it. This made me decide to search out all the interesting old places I could find, and I now have a precious collection of souvenirs that no longer exist."

Mrs Zehnder prefers the character and individuality of the architecture of the past. Pilgrim's Rest is one of her favourite places, and she intends to continue collecting sketches of old places.

Mrs Zehnder's Witkoppen home is called

Baker's Dozen, which could as easily refer to her numerous interests as well as the inhabitants of the house — dogs, cats, ducks, chickens and herself and her husband.

She collects books on South African history as well as her other interests, which to mention a few, are animals, decoupage, pottery and mosaics.

Her paintings will be shown at the Rosebank Library for the whole of September.

"...SOLID AND STABLE as befits a city which has its origin in the annals of history, Johannesburg has passed on these attributes to one of its oldest commercial enterprises. After over 60 years service to the community, we share with pride in each anniversary. To those citizens and their descendants, who have enabled us to progress and serve with them, we offer our sincere thanks. As we go forward, secure in the knowledge that our prosperity is irrevocably bound up with that of our community, we know that we cannot fail while we continue our policy of loyalty, co-operation and service.

It is a far cry to those sleepy days in 1882 when Mr. C. H. Thrupp arrived in Kingwilliamstown from Birmingham, England, to take up a position with a firm of wholesale general merchants. In 1886, following on the discovery of gold on the reef and the subsequent establishment of a mining camp, Mr. Thrupp was transferred to Johannesburg to establish a branch together with a grocery division for his company. Numerous difficulties were encountered and the branch was closed down in 1892. Mr Thrupp, enisaging the tremendous possibilities of the crude mining camp, bought the grocery department and opened up business on his own account.

The premises he occupied were situated at the corner of Eloff and President Streets, where O.K. Bazaars now stands. The advent of the Boer War forced Mr. Thrupp to leave Johannesburg and returned to Cape Town.

In 1902 he returned to Johannesburg and resumed business at 71 Pritchard Street – the present premises, which have since been considerably enlarged and altered – where he went into partnership with a Mr. H. N. Wood. This building was built to specification by the landlords after Mr. Wood had returned from America where he studied the latest trends in interior design.

As far back as 1895 Mr. Thrupp had purchased ground in Jeppestown with thoughts of expansion as time went on, and in 1903 his plans came to fruition when he opened a branch grocery store at 45 Maddison Street. At a later date the grocery division was abandoned and a wine and spirit store was opened there.

While plans were being made for this branch in Jeppestown another wine and spirit store was opened at Penlan House, 37 Eloff Street, in 1902. This property was subsequently purchased and extended and modernised from time to time.

Mr. E. J. Thrupp, son of the founder, joined the firm in 1934 and assumed control of the business when Mr. Thrupp Snr. passed away in 1945. The other partners in the business at that time were Mr. J. A. du Toit, who, at the time of his death in 1953, had been with the firm for over half a century; Mr G.F. Pearse, a nephew of the late Mr. C. H. Thrupp, who joined the firm in 1908, and Mr. F. R. Keene, also a nephew of the founder, who came out from England in 1929 to take an executive position with Trupps. Plans were immediately made for expansion and the grocery business of J. H. Wherrie at Rosebank".

(Stark, E. (Ed.): Seventy Golden Years 1886-1965...).

HISTORY:

GENERAL NOTES:

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

PREVIOUS TENANT/S:

By 1954:

88 Eloff – Polliack & Co. Ltd., H.

70 Kerk – Cleghorn's Drapers

73 Prichard – John Orr & Co.

(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:

Morkels
Russells

SOURCES:

Published Sources

Chipkin, C.M.: Johannesburg Style; Architecture & Society 1880s – 1960s, David Philip Publishers, Cape Town, 1993.

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

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.

Internet sources

Internet GOOGLE Search on current ownerships, 2006.

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.