

JOHANNESBURG METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY

HERITAGE ASSESSMENT SURVEYING FORM

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

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NAME OF PLACE: WILLIAMS HUNT BUILDING

Photograph: Catharina JM Bruwer.

Above: the multi storey *Williams Hunt Building* with the *Gandhi Square* bus shelters in the foreground. (CJMB)

Previous/alternative name/s : Hunt's Corner

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LOCATION: Street : corners New Street South, Eloff and Marshall
 Street number :
 : (16, 18, 20 New Street South; 43, 45 Eloff;
 : 121, 123, 125 Marshall)
 Stand Number : 1105
 Previous Stand Number: 1004, 1005, 1006, 1014, 1015, 1016
 Block number : CA
 Suburb : Marshallstown
 GIS reference :

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

DESCRIPTION OF PLACE:

Height : 260' 0"
Levels above street level : 16
Levels below street level : three
On-site parking : yes

An interesting building bespoke for Williams Hunt South Africa Limited. The ground floor of the building is double volume. This building was constructed with three basement levels designed as parking space – this was a rarity in Johannesburg at the time of its construction.

An appropriate hand painted wall frieze of a sport model car to indicate the Marshall Street parking entrance.

(CJMB)

CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS:

Walls: brick; terrazzo cladding; vitreous enamelled panels; vitreous enamelled louvered panels; granite facing to beams and columns; pre-cast terrazzo coping; fixed glass panels

Roof: flat; concrete

Windows: steel casements

(CJMB)

SITE FEATURES:

ALTERATIONS:

Various alterations plans on building file. (CJMB)

INTEGRITY:

The building is currently being renovated; this includes the stripping of the Ground Floor wall cladding. The integrity of the exterior upper levels seems to be intact. (CJMB)

INSCRIPTION:

ARCHITECT:

Nurcombe, Summerley, Ringrose, & Todd
Chartered Architects and Town Planners.

"NURCOMBE, Donald Lansdowne (1 Aug 1900 - 1968) was probably born in South Africa. He was articled to JM SOLOMON & AJ MARSHALL from 1920 until 1922 in both Cape Town and Johannesburg. He also attended a part-time course, organised by the Association of Transvaal Architects, to qualify for registration as an architect. He later studied at the School of Architecture, University of the Witwatersrand and became the first chairman of the Architectural Students' Society in 1926. He was chief assistant to HW SPICER in Johannesburg for a short time around 1927 before he began his own practice in Johannesburg (date?); in 1936 he entered into partnership with HG SUMMERLEY (cf NURCOMBE & SUMMERLEY). The practice was successful, designing many commercial buildings in Johannesburg. Nurcombe seems to have moved to Natal by 1948 where his address at this date was Misty Hill Farm, Hilton Rd, Natal. In his RIBA Fellowship papers he lists as his work Chrysler House (1937), Manhattan Court (1937) and Shinwell Bros building (n.d.) in Johannesburg and the Hume Pipe Co offices in Germiston (1947). ISAA 1927; FRIBA 1948. (*FRIBA nom papers (1948)*; *Herbert 1975:29*; *ISAA mem list*)..."

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

"NURCOMBE & SUMMERLEY, a partnership in Johannesburg between DL Nurcombe and HG Summerley from February 1936; the practice flourished and in 1936 won the prestigious competition for the design of the Master Builders' Association Headquarters in Johannesburg. Their best-known building however was Chrysler House, Johannesburg (1936-9). The firm later (n.d.) became Nurcombe, Summerley & Lange..."

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

BUILDER:

CONSTRUCTION DATE:

Date on plans : 17 February 1964
Approval of plans : 26 May 1965
Completion date : November 1967
(CJMB)

BUILDING STYLE:

Johannesburg Late Modernist.

BUILDING TYPE:

This building was originally designed as parking, show rooms and offices for Williams Hunt South Africa Limited. (CJMB)

ENVIRONMENT:

CONDITION:

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

URGENT ACTION:

Although this building is not 60 years old and no recommendations could be enforced upon the owners, the importance of the vitreous enamelled panels and vitreous enamelled louvered panels should be brought to their attention as this is a rare method of wall cladding. The owners should be requested not to paint these. (CJMB)

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:

By 1921:
Original ownership: Williams Hunt & Co.

This site has been the property of Williams Hunt & Co. pre 1921.

By 1965:
Original ownership: Williams Hunt S. A. Ltd.
P. O. Box 5400, Johannesburg.
(CJMB)

Ownership: Commercial Union Life Assurance Co of South Africa Ltd.
Document: T17289/1980

Ownership: Ghandi Square Prop Holdings Pty Ltd.
Document: T77704/2001
Amount: R3750 000.00

PRE-HISTORY OF SITE:

WILLIAMS HUNT & CO. BUILDINGS:

The architect N. Paynter designed a two storey pedimented gabled building fronting onto New Street South for Williams Hunt & Co. during July 1921. This was part of a series of buildings for the same owner.
(CJMB)

HISTORY:

GENERAL NOTES:

Estimated cost of building : R1 635 000.00
Estimated cost of drainage : R27 000.00
Accommodation approved : four 'Europeans'
four 'Natives'
Valuation at completion :
Occupied : yes

The following note appears on the Application for Approval of Plans Form:
"This project falls under the control of the Dept. of Community Development."
(CJMB)

PREVIOUS TENANT/S:

CURRENT TENANT/S:

Spar
Something Fishy
OPH
Benzi

SOURCES:

Published Sources

Unpublished Sources

Architects In South Africa 1780 – 1940; Draft manuscript, J Walker & G M van der Waal, 1992, HSRC, Pretoria.
Johannesburg Building, Space & Urban Feature Classification, 1998: Inner City - Metropolitan Planning, Johannesburg Metropolitan Council (Cool Factory).
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:



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And Catharina JM Bruwer.

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