

JOHANNESBURG METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY

HERITAGE ASSESSMENT SURVEYING FORM

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

JJ Bruwer ©
Cellphone: 082 325 5823

NAME OF PLACE: (Third) STANDARD BANK CHAMBERS



Main photo, left: view of the *third Standard Bank Chambers*, corner of Commissioner and Harrison Streets. Main photo, right: view of the building – corner of Fox and Harrison Streets. On the right is *Victory House*. Adjoining the *third Standard Bank Chambers* in the middle background is *Annan House*.

Middle row, above – from left to right: view of the corner entrance (Fox and Harrison Streets), also showing polished granite plinth. One of the balconettes on the Second Floor of the building. Side entrance in Fox Street. View of the roof.



Bottom left: façade detail. Bottom right: view of one of the segmental arched rusticated window openings with surmounting keystone and iron grille at pavement level in Commissioner Street. In a letter dated 3 February 1938 from Stucke, Harrison & Smail Architects to the City Engineer, the following was mentioned with regard to proposed changes to the Basement: "The existing windows to Commissioner Street would be removed and the reveals widely splayed to give a maximum light and ventilation. In place of these windows we would substitute wrought iron grilles and a maximum amount of window space would be provided..."

Previous/alternative name/s :

LOCATION: Street : Commissioner
Street number : 88, 90
 : [33, 35 Harrison; 87, 89 Fox]
Stand Number : 141, 142, 145, 146
Previous Stand Number:
Block number : BC
Suburb : Marshallstown
GIS reference :

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

DESCRIPTION OF PLACE:

Height :
Levels above street level : six
Levels below street level : one
On-site parking : none

This bank building, which was nominated as one of Johannesburg's top 100 heritage places in 1986 and previously recommended for national monument status, was completed in 1907, two years after the plans for the building were approved. It is one of Johannesburg's oldest remaining steel framed buildings and is an excellent example of late Victorian architecture in the City. At the time of its completion, it was, in the opinion of Van Der Waal, "without doubt the most significant contribution to Johannesburg's architecture during this period. It was once described as 'the most magnificent banking premises to be found in South Africa' and often featured in articles in architectural journals...It has also retained much of its charm down the years...and can readily be regarded as the *magnum opus* of the architectural partnership of W H Stucke & W E Bannister." (Van Der Waal, G-M.: From Mining Camp to Metropolis...).

From an architectural viewpoint, the *third Standard Bank Chambers* must be viewed within the context of the following description by Van Der Waal: "...before 1920 financial institutions were clearly identifiable. The distinguishing marks were rather superficial, however. The general building form was a simple cuboid (with a corner tower if such a corner position was available). Banks could be identified by the richer and more formal application of classicist architectural ornamentation in the façade, especially pilasters of the colossal order and heavy string courses and cornices in the upper storeys. The closed ground floor (without verandah) was simple in design with windows and an entrance of generous proportions. The impersonal and insulated aspect the building was reinforced by the heavily rusticated wall surface, especially at ground-floor level. Apparently this cold and impersonal aspect served to underline the security and permanence of these institutions."

The exterior, as opposed to the interior of the building, has remained remarkably intact. "The exterior bespoke the high artistic achievement of which Johannesburg's architects were capable in this period. By using various 'mechanics', Stucke & Bannister created a fascinating interplay within the attractive proportions of the whole and its components. In the first place, one becomes aware of a progression from closed to more open horizontal planes. With the use of typical Beaux Arts building forms, such as rustic work, string courses, pilasters and columns, the aspect of the wall gradually changes from a flat to a moulded surface, ending in a frame-like structure right at the top. There is also a gradual progression in the vertical plane. In order to effect a satisfactory relation between the three façade aspects and the corner sections, the treatment of the central sections of the facades is repeated at the corners, but in varied form, i.e. with stronger accents on either side of the corners. This treatment gives the whole a rather startling unity, which to this day makes this one of the most attractive historical buildings in Johannesburg." (Van Der Waal, G-M.: From Mining Camp to Metropolis...).

"There was [is] splendid Baroque detailing and sculpted allegorical figures...representing Industry and Agriculture on a Baroque pediment with an Art Nouveau armorial shield...on the Standard Bank building (1906-8) at the corner entrance on Harrison and Commissioner streets, while on the Fox Street corner two classical figures recline on the rim of an oval window...The sculptor was C. Marega..." (Chipkin, C.M.: Johannesburg Style; Architecture & Society...):

"One of the features of the exterior is the entrance at the corner of Harrison and Commissioner Streets which is an imposing double curvature arch flanked by statues of Justice and Commerce (carved by C. Marega)." Terry, C.: A Pioneer Bank...).

When completed in 1907, the building comprised a Basement, Ground Floor, four floors up, and various roof structures (i.e. as a Sixth Floor), detailed below.

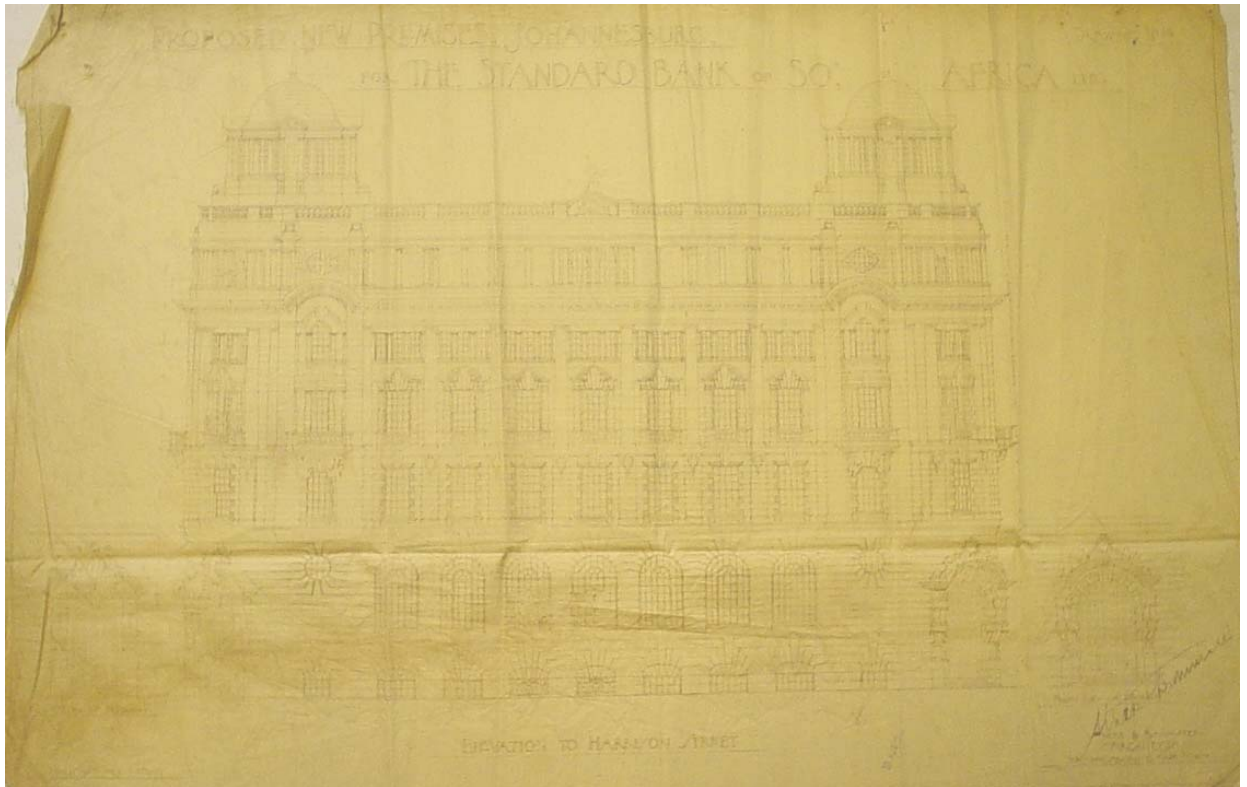
- Basement: originally comprised *inter alia*, the Melting Assay Department, a few small offices, a Heating Apparatus Room, Bicycle Room, Lavatory and Cloaks and Records and Stationery Rooms.
- Ground Floor: the Banking Hall (its central hipped Roof Light) extended along the near entire length of the building and was accessed from both the corner entrances with huge double timber doors at street level and intermediate revolving doors (of interest is the fact, however, that the Main Entrance to the Banking Hall was considered to be the entrance at the corner of Commissioner and Harrison Streets); "...the banking hall was richly decorated in oak in a classicist idiom (columns, cornices, etc.)." (Van Der Waal, G-M.: From Mining Camp to Metropolis...); a separate side entrance near the northwest corner of the building provided access to the Main Staircase, elevator, and a space shown on the original plan of this floor, as having accommodated "Bicycle Stands"; a side entrance at the southwest corner of the building in Fox Street provided access via a small Vestibule, to an elevator and stair to the First Floor ; flanking the Banking Hall in the Fox Street section on Ground Floor were offices, allocated to the Manager, Sub-Manager, Assistant Manager and Intelligence Clerks; located between the elevators and staircases adjoining the Banking Hall, were two separate toilet facilities, the one for the "Heads of Departments", and the other with urinals for "Staff."
- Gallery (Correspondence Department): this elongated Mezzanine Floor with Strong Room was accessed from first floor level via a separate stair and was also linked to the Ground Floor and Basement by a separate service elevator.
- Mezzanine: flanking the Banking Hall between the two central elevators were Ladies toilet facilities (W.C.s for Staff).
- First Floor: this floor accommodated relatively sizeable offices, two Strong Rooms, as well as communal staff toilets (lavatories and urinals) – of interest is the following handwritten note by the architects appearing on the plan of this floor: "W.C.s & Lavatory accommodation will be provided if required for Ladies on separate floor".
- Second Floor: this floor comprised of less sizeable offices, as well as communal staff toilet facilities.
- Third Floor: as Second Floor.
- Fourth Floor: this floor consisted of Rooms, and communal toilet facilities and bathrooms; a verandah with roof adjoined the rooms in the south wing of the floor.
- Roof: located on the flat roof were the two Lift Motor Rooms and two Staff Rooms with ablutions.

Of interest is the strongly original symmetrical layout of the First, Second, Third and Fourth Floor of the building. According to Terry, the "interior was panelled entirely in oak and a contemporary newspaper report stated that 'the magnificent oak counter is 152 feet long' and that solid, unlacquered bronze is the only metal (used) for ironmongery etc.'" (Terry, C.: A Pioneer Bank...).

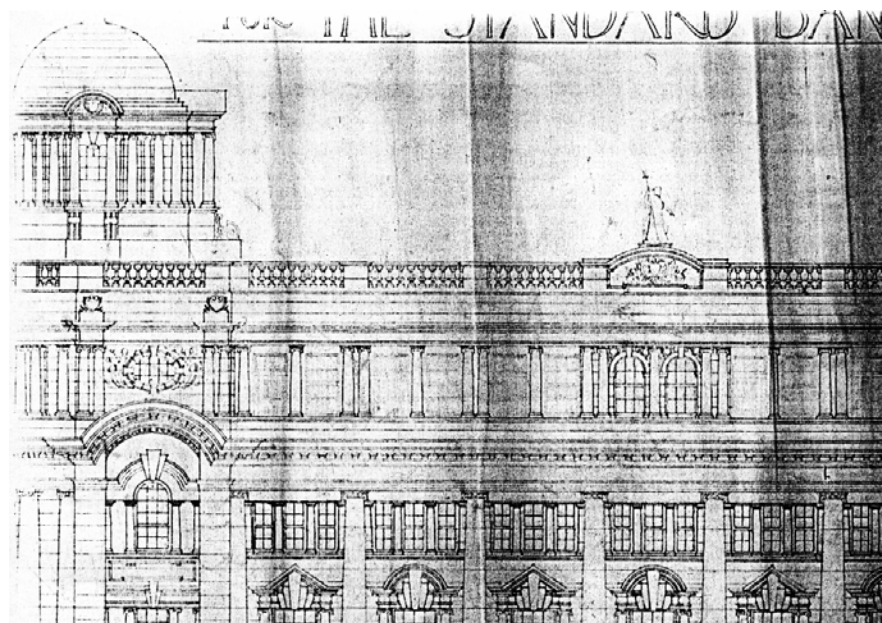


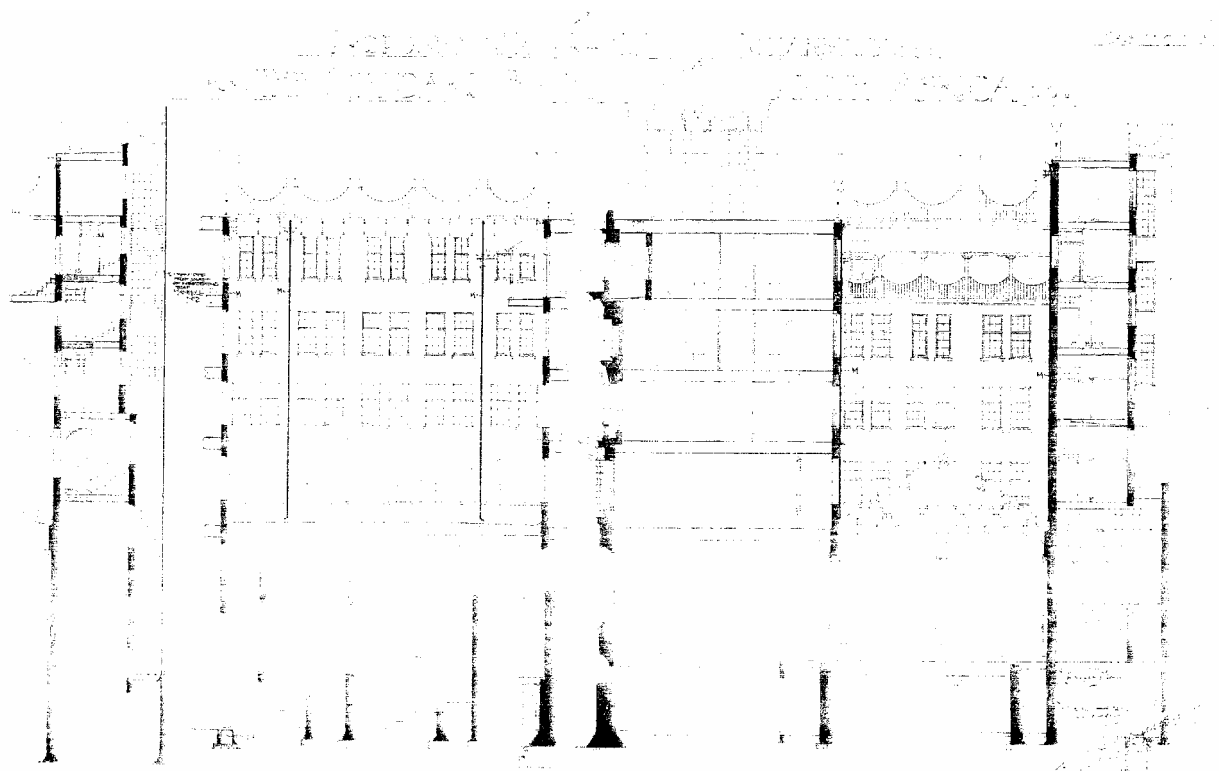
Right: view of the interior of the building, circa 1908. (Terry, C.: A Pioneer Bank...).

Authors' remark: the poor quality of the copies below of the original basement plan, floor plans, and roof plan, is regretted. Equally so is the fact that the extant plans record of the building do not include the original elevation drawings. Only one such drawing remains (see below), i.e. a mere copy of the original Harrison Street elevation.

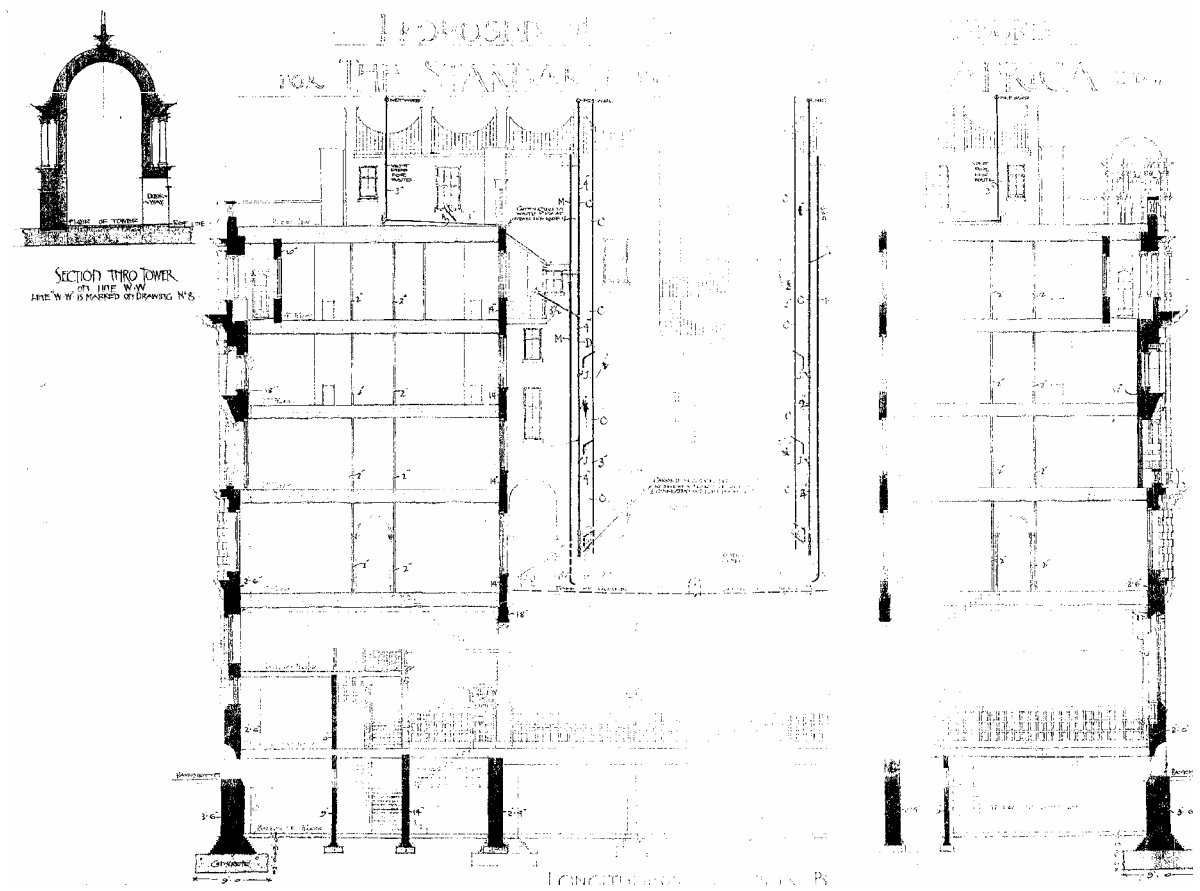


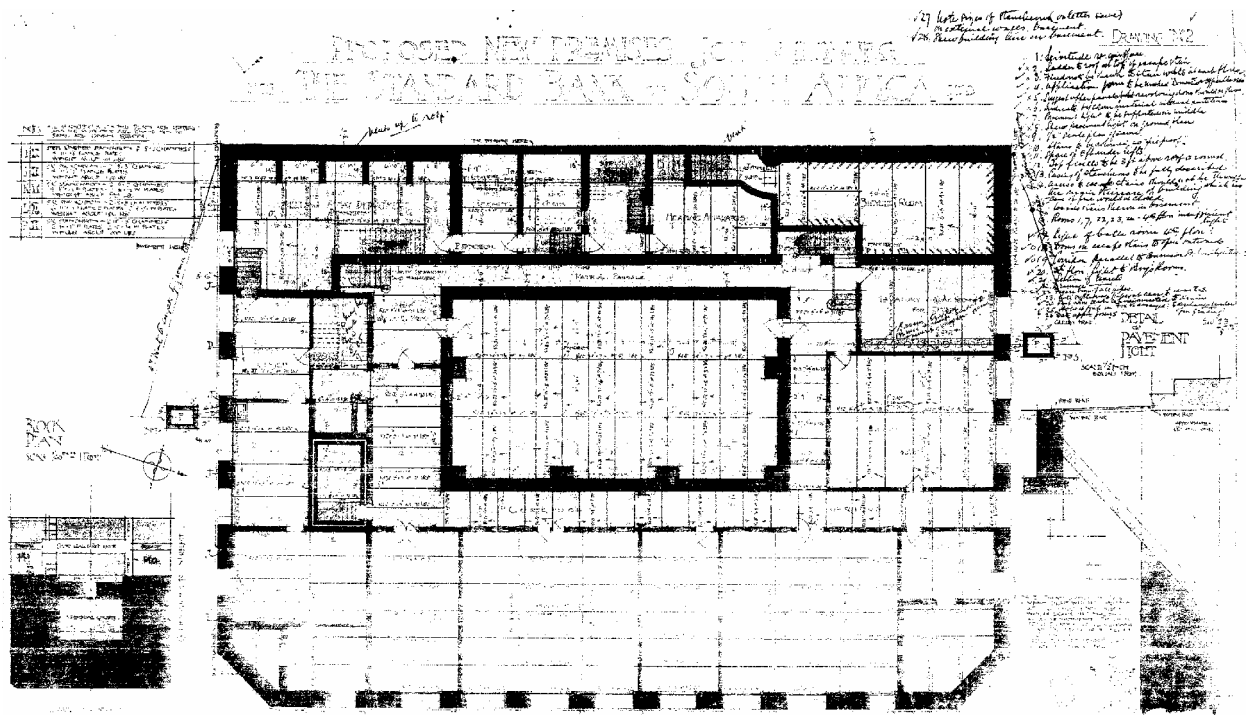
Below is an enlarged extract from the above elevation drawing, clearly showing that it was the original intention to incorporate a sculptured figure in the central section of the balustrade. This aspect was however, never implemented.



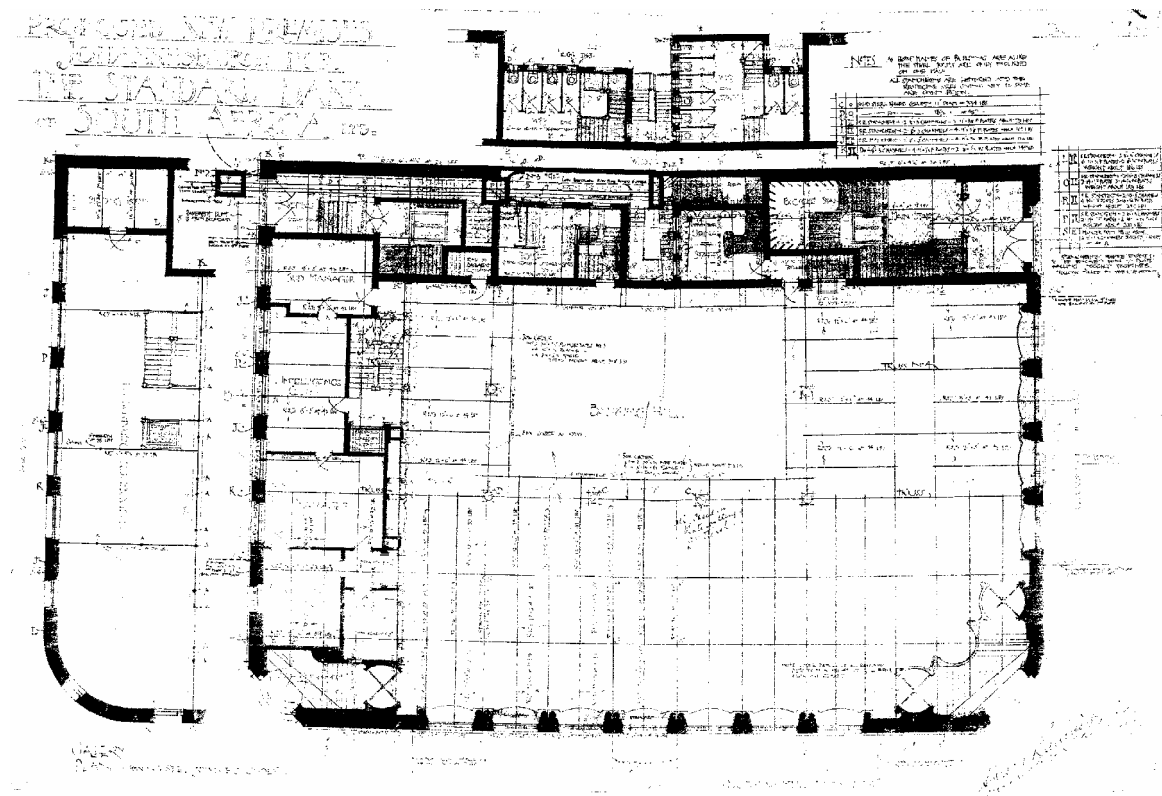


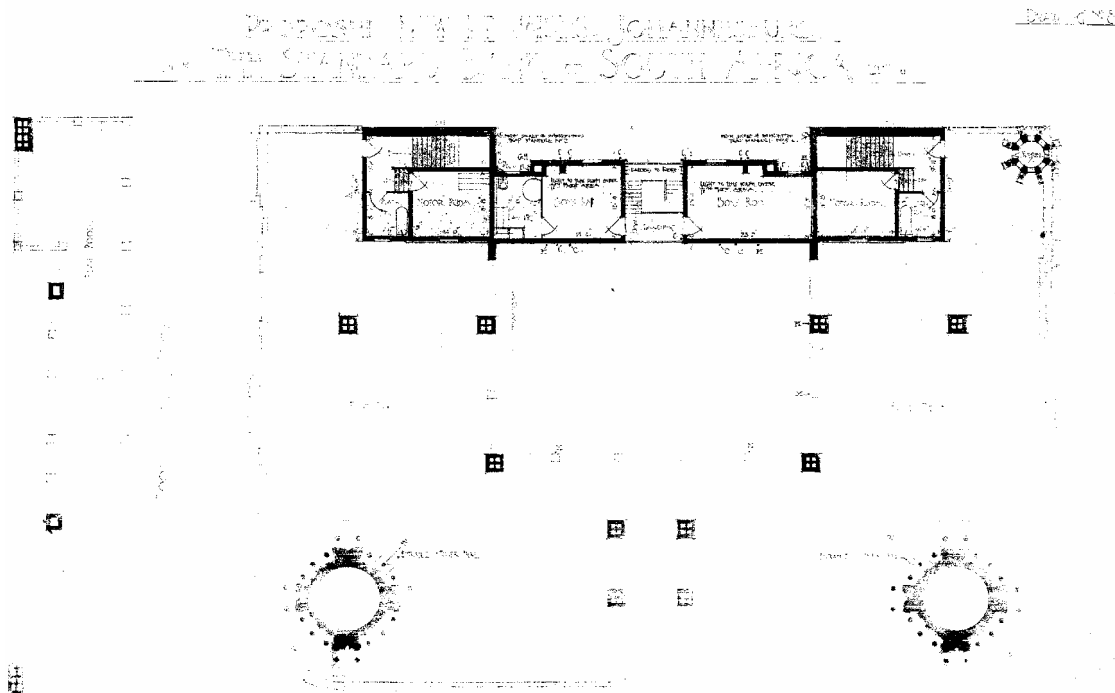
Above and below: copies of original Sections.





Above: copy of Basement Plan. Below: copy of Ground Floor Plan, showing also the Mezzanines.



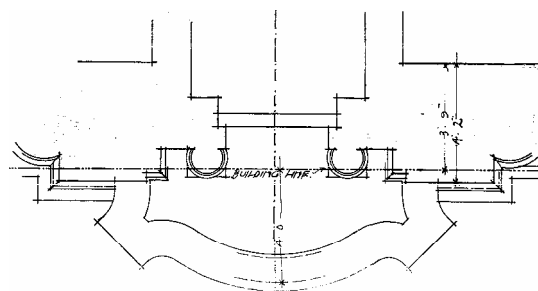
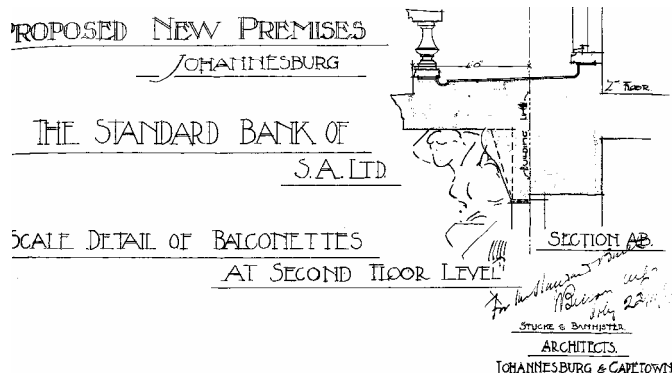


Above: copy of Roof Plan.

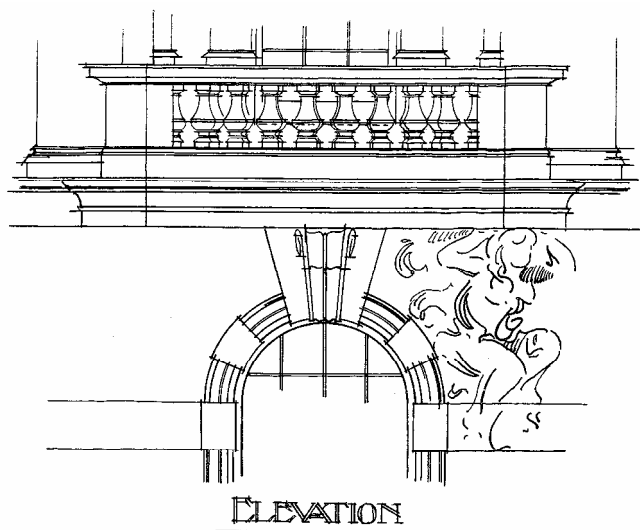
After the demolition of the *Barnato Building*, the owners had four open stands (i.e. Stands 141, 141, 145 and 146) at their disposal for the proposed erection of the new bank building. There was a complication, however, to attend to first, as the building by-laws of the Town Council clearly called for the provision of sufficient air space on these stands. The owners were therefore obliged to register a servitude in favour of the Council (see attached copy of document) which was signed by Matthew D. Savory (then Manager of the Pretoria Branch of Standard Bank) on behalf of the Standard Bank on 14 September 1905. The Bank was thus authorised to build on Stands 142 and 146, which was henceforth considered as one stand. Sufficient air space had to be allowed on the two adjoining stands (i.e. Stands 141 and 145) to compensate for this arrangement.

CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS:

- Walls: steel frame construction; klinker stocks, clad with Steenpan stone, quarried near the Orange River.
- Roof: flat, covered according to completed Application For Approval Of Plans Of Buildings form dated 5 September 1905, with "Allens Patent Vulcanite Roofing".
- Foundations: concrete.
- Floors: parquet - according to completed Application For Approval Of Plans Of Buildings form dated 5 September 1905 - "Duffy's Patent Wood Block Flooring" (Ground and First Floor) and concrete (other floors).
- Windows: arched timber frame, fixed on Ground Floor; timber frame, sash (remaining floors).



Stucke, a legendary architect in his own right, had a particular way of doing things, sometimes outside the sphere of standard practice. Thus, the architect I. Wayburne, remembers "...old Stucke drawing out classical details full-size on the workshop floor, where master craftsmen were preparing the moulds for one of his buildings." (Chipkin, C.M.: Johannesburg Style; Architecture & Society...). This is illustrated in Stucke's drawings (above and below) of the balconettes.



It is of interest to note that the sculptured figurines flanking the keystones beneath the balconettes were originally intended to be that of females. These figurines were, however, executed as male figurines.

SITE FEATURES:

ALTERATIONS:

In 1928, minor internal alterations were carried out at an estimated cost of £50-00. The exact nature of these alterations which were approved on 16 July 1928, is unknown.

On 25 November 1935, plans were passed for proposed additional Staff Quarters, viz. two additional Dormitories at roof level and with respect to alterations to the existing Staff Kitchen and a Dormitory on Fifth Floor. A new stair was constructed between the Fifth and Sixth Floor. Estimated cost of work to building and drainage: £650-00 and £100-00, respectively. Architects: Stucke, Harrison & Smail. Accommodation was approved for 21 black staff.

During 1937, the existing metal fire doors on each floor were replaced with new doors. A new lift was installed between the Furnace Room on Basement level and the First Floor. Approval of plans 11 June 1937. Architects: Stucke, Harrison & Smail. Estimated cost £5 873-00.

In 1939, alterations (estimated cost to building £2 500-00 and of drainage £1 100) were effected to the Basement, Ground and First Floor of the building. In terms of plans (dates on plans: 2 February 1938 and 23 August 1939) prepared by the architects Stucke, Harrison & Smail, a new Men's Cloaks and Locker Room, a Men's Wash Room, as well as Ladies W.C.s were provided in the Basement; on Ground Floor, a new concrete Mezzanine Floor was constructed above a new Bay near the southeast corner entrance; the Roof Light in the Banking Hall was fitted with new clear Glascrete; alterations to

the First Floor included the brick-up of various existing doors and new wood partitions.

Minor internal alteration carried out in 1940. The nature of this alteration is unknown. Estimated cost £30-00. Architects D.L. Nurcombe & Summerley. Plans approved 2 April 1940.

Internal alteration were again carried out in 1944, the nature of which is also not known. Estimated cost £250-00. Architects Kallenbach, Kennedy & Furner. Plans approved 7 March 1944.

In 1949, work was carried out to the Ladies Cloak Room in the Basement. Estimated cost £100-00. Architects Stucke, Harrison & Smail. Plans approved 9 November 1948.

During 1951, the architects Margo & Margo were responsible for minor internal alterations, at an estimated cost of £100-00. The plans for this were approved on 31 July 1951.

Minor internal alterations in 1952 included a new brick wall in the Basement and changes to partitions on Ground Floor. Architects Stucke, Harrison, Ritchie & Watson. Plans for this work was approved on 23 July 1952 at an estimated cost of £150-00.

Plans by Stucke, Harrison, Ritchie & Watson for alterations to Second Floor, were approved on 7 July 1953.

In 1956, minor internal alterations were undertaken to Ground Floor. This entailed the construction of timber panelled partitions in the section comprising the Chairman's Office, Anteroom, Luncheon Room, and the Lobby. Architects Stucke, Harrison, Ritchie & Watson.

Minor alterations were effected during 1961 to existing office screening on First Floor while a new counter and new panelled walls were installed for the Bank's Foreign Exchange Department on Ground Floor. Architects Stucke, Harrison, Ritchie & Watson. Plans passed on 10 May and 13 December 1961 at an estimated cost of R200-00 and R60-00, respectively.

Minor internal alterations in 1961, entailed new access doors to the corner balconies on Third Floor and work to the toilet facilities in the Basement. Architects Stucke, Harrison, Ritchie & Watson. Plans for this were approved on 6 February and 25 April 1962. at an estimated cost of R240-00 and R500-00, respectively.

The architects Stucke, Harrison, Ritchie & Watson were responsible for certain minor internal alterations (nature of these are not known) during 1965. Plans for this were passed on 29 April and 16 June 1965; estimated cost R500-00 and R300-00, respectively.

In 1966, minor internal alterations followed to the Third Floor. Architects Stucke, Harrison, Ritchie & Watson. Plans approved 18 November 1966. Estimated cost R400-00.

Plans were passed on 10 August 1970 with regard to the installation of partition walls on the Fourth Floor. Architects Stucke, Harrison, Ritchie & Partners. Date on plan 2 January 1970.

Minor internal alterations to the Basement in 1974. Draughtsman N. Reed. Approval of plans 8 August 1974.

During the following year, a new doorway was constructed on First Floor. Draughtsman R.K. Wheeler. Plans passed 20 June 1975. Estimated cost R250-00.

Extensive internal alterations were effected to the building during 1977. The responsible architects were Mallows Louw Hoffe & Partners. These alterations included work to the Ground Floor, the Mezzanines, as well as the remaining floors of the building, and entailed new suspended ceilings and new reinforced concrete columns from Basement to First Floor, and a new reinforced concrete slab to infill the existing open area at First Floor.

Further extensive internal alterations followed in 1979. Architects Mallows Louw Hoffe & Partners. Plans for this were passed on 30 May 1979.

Extensive internal alterations and renovations during 1980, included new Low and High Voltage Chambers in the Basement, new entrance doors on Ground Floor in the northeast Lobby, as well as wooden partitions on Second, Third and Fourth Floor. Architects Mallows Louw Hoffe & Partners. Plans passed 11 November 1980. Estimated cost R30 000-00 (building) and R3 000-00 (drainage).

On 10 July 1985, plans were approved with regard to proposed new drywall partitions and new door openings on Second, Third and Fourth Floor. Architects James Watson Holzer Associates. Estimated cost R140 000-00 (building) and R500-00 (drainage).

INTEGRITY:

Extensive changes to the interior of the building during the period 1977-1979, have largely compromised the integrity of many of the buildings original internal designs elements. Much of the historic internal fabric of the building has been removed. The integrity of the exterior of the building, however, remains intact, making the building one of the most conservation valuable buildings in the City.

It is remarkable how the services of the architectural firm of Stucke, Harrison & Smail (later, Stucke, Harrison, Ritchie & Watson, and then Stucke, Harrison, Ritchie & Partners) were continuously employed by the Bank to attend to alterations, subsequent to the completion of the building in 1907. This no doubt, has much to do with the noticeable sensitivity associated with the pre-1977 internal changes to the building.

INSCRIPTION:

The wording appearing on a NMC plaque affixed to the building during 1979 is as follows:

"Standard Bank Chambers. This Steel Framed Building Is A Good Example Of Late Victorian Architecture In Johannesburg And Represents The Peak Of The Work Of The Well-Known Architect W.H. Stucke. The Building Was Completed In 1907 And Forms Part Of A Group Of Buildings Little Altered Since That Time. National Monuments Council.

ARCHITECT:

Stucke & Bannister Architects.

BUILDER:

John Abbott & Company.

CONSTRUCTION DATE:

Date on plans	: 10 August 1905
Approval of plans	: 28 November 1905
Completion date	: 1907
Opened	: 10 November 1908

BUILDING STYLE:

Late Victorian.

"Architectural Merit; Artwork of Merit and Landmark: This bank building is a landmark building in South Arrica (sic.), and has been quoted by many other buildings as the best way to turn the corner with a corner tower, essentially (sic.) a Victorian detail.

BUILDING TYPE:

Bank and office building.

ENVIRONMENT:

"In designing the block-like structure (i.e. the *third Standard Bank Chambers*) the architects were highly sensitive to the environment, as was evident from the entrances, façade punctuation and domed towers on the street corners. Instead of placing a single central accent in Harrison Street, thereby focusing all attention on the building itself, the architects treated the mass and facades in such a manner that they related to the nature of urban space and movement of traffic around the building." (Van Der Waal, G-M.: From Mining Camp to Metropolis...).

The *third Standard Bank Chambers* forms an integral part of a collection of valuable buildings, to be found nowhere else in the City. Opposite the building in Harrison Street is the Victorian finance

building *Victory House*, and east of the latter on the corner of Commissioner and Loveday Streets, the Edwardian landmark building, the *third Rand Club Building*. West of the *third Standard Bank Chambers* on the northeast corner of Commissioner and Simmonds Streets, is the third Corner House, from the same period as the former. These buildings have remained relatively unaltered and collectively, reinforces the landmark qualities of the area in which they are situated.

Of interest is how this area, according to Van Der Waal, was perceived in 1912 by W.C. Scully: "After 1900 the spatial expression of the streets was much more regimented than even during the 1890s. The buildings became much broader and higher so that the streets, which previously seemed generously wide, now appeared much narrower. In this way, they acquired a more independent definition of their own. Indeed, a tunnel effect was created, especially in the financial and shopping districts where the street walls were densely packed with relatively tall buildings. This effect was reinforced by the absence of façades covered in verandahs, which had proliferated before 1900. (These were prohibited by the new building regulations.) W C Scully perceived the street of Johannesburg as follows in 1912: 'I wander down Commissioner Street, past the 'Corner House, the Standard Bank, the Stock Exchange, and many other exaggerated human ant-hill throbbing with energy. It is all a gloomy inferno of stone – a series of Babylon-towers of masonry heaped menacingly against the almost obliterated heavens.'" (Van Der Waal, G-M.: From Mining Camp to Metropolis...).

CONDITION:

Good.

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:

This building was nominated in 1986 as one of Johannesburg's top 100 heritage places. This is not surprising, as the owners had already been approached in 1977 by the former NMC with a view to the declaration of the building as a national monument. The owners were however, not agreeable to declaration. It was indicated to the NMC at the time, that it was planned to do extensive renovations to the building. Mention was also made of proposed extensive internal changes. See ALTERATIONS. As the building was being well looked after and clearly not in danger of any potentially unsympathetic changes to its exterior, it was decided by the NMC not to act against the wishes of the owners. It was subsequently suggested that a bronze plaque be affixed to the building, recording the importance of the building from a heritage viewpoint. This was finalised in 1979. See INSCRIPTION.

DEEDS INFORMATION:

Original ownership: The Standard Bank of South Africa Ltd.

PRE-HISTORY OF SITE:

BARNATO BUILDING:



Barnato's Building and Chambers on Commissioner and Harrison streets, where Standard Bank's central Johannesburg branch now stands.

The two-storey arcade known as the *Barnato Building*, was designed by the architects Canning & Goad, and completed during 1890. It stood at 88 Commissioner Street and 87 Fox Street.

Left: Photo from Sander, I.: *Development, Diamonds, Gold and Platinum...*

In the opinion of Van Der Waal, this arcade "was not nearly as impressive as the *The Arcade* (see Pre-History: G-7)...there were four covered arcades in the business district of Johannesburg during the period 1890 to 1900. It is interesting to note that all these arcades were situated in close proximity to each other (within five city blocks) and all built north to south between Commissioner

and Fox Streets. The arcades were the *Exploration Building* (see Pre-History: BB-1); *Barnato Building* and its immediate neighbour *Green's Chambers* (see Pre-History: BC-2) and *Jeppe Arcade Building* (see Pre-History: BF-1)".

"On the face of it", according to Van Der Waal, "these arcades would appear to have been out of place in this district, but the fact that they were used almost exclusively for offices and were not at all as colourful as *The Arcade* (see Pre-History: G-7), shows that this type of construction was 'borrowed' from the commercial buildings and adapted for office use. The office area certainly was no place for women..." (Van Der Waal, G-M.: *From Mining Camp to Metropolis...*).

HISTORY:

The Standard Bank was started by a Scot, viz. John Paterson in 1862. It is not only one of the oldest banking institutions in South Africa, but the oldest in Johannesburg. The Johannesburg Branch of Standard Bank therefore has an exceptional historic association with the City – being as old as Johannesburg itself.

It is recounted by Terry that at the time of the proclamation of the Witwatersrand goldfields in 1886, a representative of the Standard Bank, viz. D.P. Ross, was busy making his way north to report on the prospects for the establishment of a bank there.

THE "THATCHED COTTAGE" - PRE MARCH 1887:

The first branch in Ferreir's Camp was opened on 11 October 1886. For this, Ross had purchased a marquee tent for £10. He started the bank with £1 000 in notes, £1 000 in gold and £100 in silver. When the front flap of the tent was tied back, it was open for business. Most of the early mines and mining magnates dealt with the bank whose main business was the handling of bullion and its despatch to London for refining. Ross and his assistant P. Mijnhardt soon moved into a room "in what is usually credited with being the first brick (mud and straw) building in Johannesburg." See below *First Standard Bank Building - Pre March 1887*.

Right: photo from Stark, F. [Ed.]: *Seventy Golden Years...*

This building, called "The Thatched Cottage", erected for W.P. (Percy) Fraser (after whom Fraser Street is named) and stood at 3 Fraser Street, near the *Exchange Building* (see Pre-History: D-1). It appears that Fraser's building was divided in two, one side housed the Standard Bank, and the



other, Fraser's office. With the gold boom, however, it soon became obvious that the premises were very inadequate for lucrative banking business.

THE BANK LEASES TEMPORARY PREMISES

In January 1887, the Bank accepted an offer by T.W. Beckett & Company to erect new premises for them at a cost of £150 at the northwestern corner of (No. 73) President and (No. 45) Harrison Streets. See Pre-History: Q-1. As these new premises would only be ready for occupation in May 1887, more suitable temporary premises had to be found elsewhere. Accommodation was acquired in March 1887 in the *W.J. Green's Building* in Commissioner Street at £14 per month.

The building, leased from T.W. Beckett, was a single storey corrugated iron structure with verandah facing *Market Square*. In August 1887, Thomson Henderson replaced D.P. Ross as General Manager.

Right: the Johannesburg Branch of Standard Bank in its leased premises opposite *Market Square* (Terry, C.: *A Pioneer Bank...*).

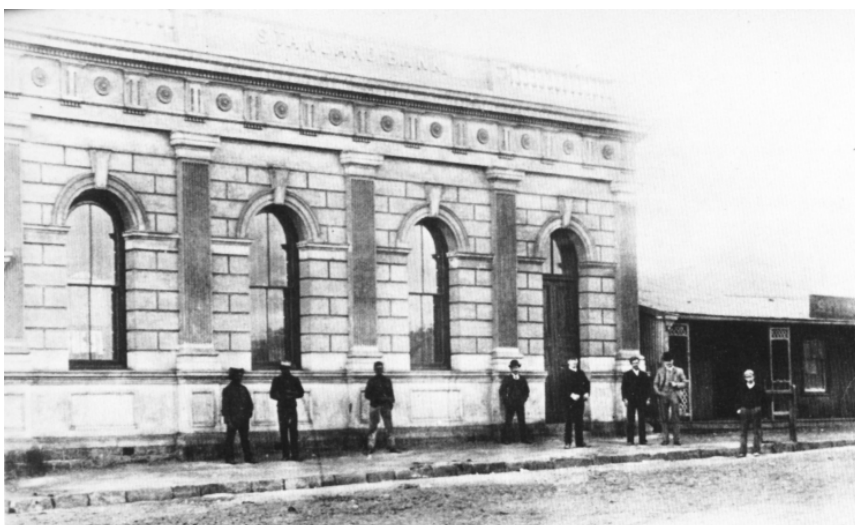


FIRST STANDARD BANK BUILDING (1889):

"Towards the end of 1888", according to Terry, work began on a single-storey brick building to be tacked on to the iron one, on the adjoining plot. The cost was estimated at about £1 750/£2 000 and the branch moved onto the new building in February 1889. The old office was used as a manager's room and stationery store etc. Among other features, the new part of the premises was later furnished with large hanging lamps, a distinct improvement on the candlelight which previously illumined the frequent night labours of the staff." (Terry, C.: *A Pioneer Bank...*).

Right: this building, next to the wood and iron building erected in 1887, was occupied from February 1889 until September 1890.

In 1890, Thomson Henderson was replaced by E.B. Gardiner and G.H. Nitch as Joint Managers of the Johannesburg Branch of Standard Bank.



SECOND STANDARD BANK BUILDING 1890:

Business knew no limits and it was soon apparent that larger premises were required. It was also felt that the main street of the City's financial and business district was Commissioner Street and that the Bank should be located within this area. On 20 September 1890, the Bank relocated to the *Wehl Building* at 63 and 65 Commissioner Street. This double storey building with high mansard roof had just been completed and was leased by Messrs Wehl and Hartog to the Bank for a period of five years at a monthly rental of £100. The Bank could not have done any better and it opened for business on 22 September 1890. One year later, the premises became known as the *Standard Bank Building*.

"Despite the recession of 1889-90, three banks", according to Van Der Waal, "moved into new premises in 1890. All these were located in the office district. The most ambitious building was that

of the *Standard Bank* (1889-90), 63/5 Commissioner Street [see Pre-History: C-1]. This was in fact designed as a luxury restaurant during the boom period but could not be completed as such when the downturn came. *Standard Bank* vacated its building on the northern perimeter of Market Square to occupy the *Wehl Building* (in which the Holborn Restaurant would have been set up) in Commissioner Street, thereby further consolidating the financial district. The architects A H and H A Reid probably designed the *Standard Bank* because, with its high windows, mansard roof and skylights, this building looked much like the unfinished *Market Building* of these architects. The two-storey banking hall had a gallery and the walls were beautifully finished in marble..." (Van Der Waal, G-M.: From Mining Camp to Metropolis...).



Right: premises of the Standard Bank, Johannesburg Branch, circa 1895 (Terry, C.: A Pioneer Bank...).

THIRD STANDARD BANK BUILDING:

As the Second Anglo-Boer War was dragging to a close, it had already become apparent that the Bank would require more substantial premises. "The present building", according to Terry, was (also) too far down Commissioner Street and not big enough to allow for expansion." (Terry, C.: A Pioneer Bank...). A second branch had meanwhile been established in Eloff Street in 1901 and another in Fordsburg in 1902. The search for new premises in the City was finally concluded in April 1902 when the Bank purchased the *Barnato Buildings* from the Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Company for £145 000. Thus began the first chapter of the history of the *third Standard Bank Chambers*.

As preparations were made for the demolition of the *Barnato Building*, leading architects were invited to submit designs for a proposed new five-storey bank building. The award for design was made to the architectural firm of Stucke & Bannister.

"With the sharp upswing of the economy in 1904-5 and to a lesser extent, in 1910-2, it was only to be expected", according to Van Der Waal, "that there would be an equally sharp increase in the number of buildings needed to administer the gold trade and the money flowing from that trade. The significant role of these institutions in society was reflected by the height and extent of their buildings, which often rose high above their environment. Moreover, the consolidation of the financial, mining and property interests, which had been started in the previous period, was continued relentlessly." (Van Der Waal, G-M.: From Mining Camp to Metropolis...).

One of the safety precautions taken by the bank was an inspection of the strong rooms at night, which, in a city of diggers, included careful listening against the walls for the sound of digging." (Norwich, I.; Grant, B.L.; Saul, D.: Some Historic Drives & Walks...).

GENERAL NOTES:

Estimated cost of building	: £160 000-00.
Estimated cost of drainage	: £1 500-00 (Passed: 23 November 1905).
Accommodation approved	: 18 persons.
Valuation at completion	:
Occupied	:

PREVIOUS TENANTS:

By 1925: room 51 - Cowin, Powers & Ellis, Architects & Surveyors.

CURRENT TENANT/S:

SOURCES:

For additional illustrative information, see relevant supplementary photo album in electronic format.

See SOURCES DOCUMENT for information on sources consulted with reference to this document.

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 and Catharina JM Bruwer.
Unless otherwise indicated photographs by Catharina JM Bruwer.



STANDARD
BANK
HAMPER

88







STANDARD
BANK
HAMPER

88





25 8 2003







25 8 2003



27 8 2003





27 8 2003



THE STANDARD BANK OF SOUTH AFRICA

27 8 2003





27 8 2003



27 8 2003



27 8 2003

27 8 2003



27 8 2003





25 1 2004



25 1 2004

THE STANDARD BANK OF SOUTH AFRICA



25 1 2004



25 1 2004

THE STANDARD BANK OF SOUTH AFRICA



STANDARD
BANK
HAMBER

88

25 1 2004

1 2004

25



25 1 2004





THE STANDARD BANK OF SOUTH AFRICA LTD

VICTORY PHARMACY
TEL. 834-2109

VICTORY PHARMACY
Tel 836-6221

25 1 2004

25 1 2004



P
MIN
WEEK
0-18:00
SAT
-13:00

THE STANDARD BANK OF SOUTH AFRICA LTD

25 1 2004



25 1 2004



25 1 2004



**Standard
Bank**

JOHANNESBURG

The Standard Bank
of South Africa Limited
Hours of Business
Mondays to Fridays
09h00-15h30

Die Standard Bank
van Suid-Afrika Beperk
Besigheidsure
Maandae tot Vrydae
09h00-15h30

25 1 2004



Standard
Bank

JOHANNESBURG



5002 1 2004 25

25 1 2004



25 1 2004

To Let

Standard Bank Properties

With us property can go so much further
Contact: Henry Banks
011 770-8007 / 083 307 0341

MEDICAL CENTRE / DENTIST

STANDARD
BANK
AMERS

26

1 2004
25

STILL IN FOX STREET.
NOW AT NO 26 Fox Street

25 1 2004

To Let
Call: 020 7460 1234
Fax: 020 7460 1235
Email: info@lettings.com

MEDICAL CENTRE







