
HERITAGE ASSESSMENT SURVEYING FORM

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

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NAME OF PLACE: STANDARD BANK TOWERS



Photograph: Catharina JM Bruwer.

Above: View of South Africa's first hanging building.

Previous/alternative name/s : Sanlam Centre
Standard Bank Tower
Standard Bank Centre

LOCATION: Street : bounded by Fox, Hollard, Main and Simmonds
Street number : 72,74,76,78 Fox
: (72, 74, 76, 78 Fox; 10, 12, 14, 16 Hollard;
: 71, 73, 75, 77 Main; 21, 23, 25, 27 Simmonds)
Stand Number : 1116
Previous Stand Number:
Block number : BO
Suburb : Marshallstown

GIS reference :

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

DESCRIPTION OF PLACE:

Height : 137m
Levels above street level : 31 plus tower
Levels below street level : five
On-site parking :

Chipkin: " To the west of the Centre cluster was the spectacular and elegant Standard Bank Centre, the sculptural form of the tower block 137 metres high, designed by Helmut Hentrich of Dusseldorf. But it was Wilfrid Mallows 'who first inspired our enthusiasm for a giant building' (as the chairman of the Standard Bank stated at the time) and who, together with Julian Beinart had been the initial town-planning consultants for the Carlton Centre development, where more than five city blocks were consolidated into a single superblock. 'Now at last' Mallows wrote, 'it was possible to build in Johannesburg on the scale appropriate to a metropolis.' He concluded: 'there for all to see, Johannesburg had finally broken the constraints of the diggers' camp and achieved a new image: the image of a city of a million people". (Chipkin, C.M.: Johannesburg Style; Architecture & Society...).

CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS:

Walls: hanging floor construction, anchored to central reinforced concrete core
Roof: flat, concrete
Windows: fixed, aluminium frame

Below: Doran, I.: Johannesburg, A Thomson (advertising and business) Publication, December 1978.

SA's first hanging building

THE 137 metre high building Standard Bank Centre in Johannesburg was a trail blazer in engineering, and the problems of erection of the tower block called for sophisticated planning and equipment far beyond that normally associated with building work. LTA was the leading member of the construction consortium.

South Africa's first hanging building, it was named the most outstanding civil engineering structure of 1969 and was completed early in 1970.

The success of the planning of the building, in the heart of the city's financial district, was aptly demonstrated by the erection of a floor every four days by working on three levels simultaneously.

Construction time for this prestige project was three years two months.

• Another, newer, feature in LTA's cap was the contract for the R32 million Sanlamsentrum in the central business district – it was South Africa's largest negotiated building contract.

Today the 33-storey Sanlamsentrum towers majestically over its neighbours in downtown Johannesburg, clad entirely in Carrara marble.

LTA Building (Witwatersrand) was also responsible for the construction of the Milpark complex to the southwest of the Milner Park showgrounds.

LTA has also made a large contribution to the development of the Johannesburg freeway system, and built the first ever elevated motorway.



SITE FEATURES:

ALTERATIONS:

INTEGRITY:

INSCRIPTION:

ARCHITECT:

Hentrich-Petschnigg & Partners, Düsseldorf, Germany.

BUILDER:

LTA

Reinforced concrete frame: Ove Arup & Partners, London & Johannesburg.

CONSTRUCTION DATE:

Date on plans : August 1965
Approval of plans :
Completion date : March 1970

BUILDING STYLE:

Johannesburg Late Modernist

Architectural Merit, Technical Merit, Landmark: "This building is a landmark building in Johannesburg, as well as being well articulated, designed and resolved. The structural system using a main frame with floors hung off them is not repeated in Johannesburg." (Johannesburg Building, Space & Urban Feature Classification, 1998: Inner City).

BUILDING TYPE:

Bank and office building. (CJMB)

ENVIRONMENT:

The *Standard Bank Towers* is a striking building with a major effect on the skyline. (CJMB)

CONDITION:

The exterior of the building appears to be in good 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	<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:

The building was included by the Johannesburg 100 Committee, in the list of Johannesburg’s One Hundred Places of Outstanding Cultural, Historical, Architectural, and Natural Interest, in 1986.

DEEDS INFORMATION:

Original ownership: Standard Bank.

By 1976: Standard Bank of South Africa Limited.

PRE-HISTORY OF SITE:

The site of the Standard Bank Towers was previously occupied by the *Cullinan Building*, and *Magor House*.

CULLINAN BUILDING

“Two designs by Leck & Emley should be mentioned separately because they combine Neo-Queen Anne and Beaux Arts building elements and also contain reference to the work of the British architect Norman Shaw.^[x] There are striking resemblances between these two buildings – *Sauer Building* (1903), 84 Market Street, and *Cullinan Building* (1904-5), 71/3/5/7 Main Street. In both instances, the façade was articulated by angular bay window sections, interspersed with vertical strips of sandstone and brick-wall planes. Peaked gables with classicist ornamentation and towers impart movement to the roof silhouette which, in this case of *Sauer Building*, is reinforced by skylight. Both buildings have rather attractive proportions.” (Van Der Waal, G-M.: From Mining Camp to Metropolis...).

MAGOR HOUSE

By 1954 City Safe Deposit occupied offices in the *Magor House*.

Businesses / tenants, occupying floor space in buildings, situated on the site of the existing *Standard Bank Towers*, by 1954, included:

- 71 Main – Hodgson, A. F.
- 74 Fox – Kleingeld, D.
- 76a Fox – Farguhar, R.
- 76a Fox – Goris.
- 76b Fox – Waslie.
- 15 Simmonds – National Car Sales
- 21 Simmonds – S.A. Druggists, Ltd.
- 23 Simmonds – Dundee House

23 Simmonds – Monford & Field (Pty.), Ltd.
23 Simmonds – Saddington & Son (Pty.), Ltd., R
23a Simmonds – S.A. Canvas Co., Ltd.
25 Simmonds – Rent-a-car Ltd.
25 Simmonds – Personal Service Garage.
25 Simmonds – North British Rubber Co, Ltd.
25 Simmonds – Vanroux (Pty.), Ltd.
27 Simmonds – Carnie’s Furnishers, Ltd. (side of)
27 Simmonds – Kelvindale House
27 Simmonds – Roberts Tractors Spares.
27a Simmonds – Chipkin, W. A.
27b Simmonds –Continental Hairdressing Saloon.
(The Rand-Pretoria Directory 1954 (Comprising Complete Alphabetical And Trades Directories of Johannesburg, Pretoria And Reef Towns), Cape Times Limited, Cape Town, 1954.)

FAMOUS RAND BUILDING COMING DOWN

By a Staff Reporter

Star
12-3-66

THE JOHANNESBURG BUILDING that housed the largest and one of the most fabulous diamonds in the world is coming down—but bits and pieces of it will be enshrined in the Africana Museum.

Cullinan Building, at the corner of Main Street and Simmonds Street is also one of Johannesburg's loveliest early buildings. Built in 1905 it has magnificent decorative wrought-iron entrance and lift gates, glazed tile corridors, carved door frames, rich panelling, a handsome staircase and wrought-iron railings to the tiny "area" in front that leads to the basement.

letter flaps, finger plates and keyholes.
The museum will also house part of the balustrade and the newel posts of the main staircase.

★ *The interior of the fourth-floor chairman's office where Sir Thomas Cullinan held the 13th (3,025 carats) diamond in 1905 has also been given to the museum.*

On this site will rise the new Standard Bank.

"The bank has been most generous, and approached us to ask if we were interested in preserving any of the building," said Miss Anna Smith, Director of the Africana Museum, today. "We said 'yes, please' because we have little that is architectural in the way of Africana.

DOOR OF SAFE

"There is the old safe in which, it is believed, the Cullinan diamond was stored and we shall get the door of the safe. We have been given some of the panelling, beautiful fireplaces and overmantels, fascinating light fittings and bronze and brass 'door furniture' such as

1966.

Above: The Star, 18 March

HISTORY:

From' Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The Standard Bank Centre is a skyscraper in the Central Business District of Johannesburg, South Africa. It was built in 1968 to a height of 139 metres. The building was built from the top down, meaning that after the central core was built, the floors were suspended from cantilevered arms with the top floors added first, followed by each lower floor.'
(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Standard_Bank_Centre)

'Facts

- This project employed several unique and at the time ground breaking construction technologies.
 - This tower was built from the top down, meaning that after the central core was built, the floors were suspended from three cantilevered arms with the top floors added first, followed by each lower floor.
 - The Standard Bank Centre, headquarters of the Standard Bank of South Africa, is located at the heart of Johannesburg's financial district.
 - It is organised into three hanging volumes of nine office floors each.
 - The respective floors above with 5.40 m high cantilevers house the air-conditioning plants, a cooling plant as well as the transformer station.'
- (<http://www.emporis.com/en/wm/bu/?id=103537>)

GENERAL NOTES:

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

PREVIOUS TENANT/S:

CURRENT TENANT/S:

Stannic Bank head office
3rd Floor
Standard Bank Centre
No 5 Simmonds Street
Johannesburg
PO Box 6075
Johannesburg
2000
Website: <http://www.stanbic.com/>

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

Unpublished Sources

- 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.
Opname Historiese Geboue In Johannesburg, Second Report June 1976, Inner City, RAU, unpublished.

Newspapers, Periodicals (including Journals)

- Doran, I.: Johannesburg, A Thomson (advertising and business) Publication, December 1978.
Famous Rand Building Coming Down (The Star, 18 March 1966).

Internet sources

- <http://www.emporis.com/en/wm/bu/?id=103537>
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Standard_Bank_Centre

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.