

JOHANNESBURG METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY

HERITAGE ASSESSMENT SURVEYING FORM

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

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NAME OF PLACE: BHP BILLITON BUILDING



Photograph: Catharina JM Bruwer.

Above: showing the Marshall and Simmonds Streets corner of the *BHP Billiton Building* with the adjacent *Union House* (DV-2) on the Simmonds and Main Streets corner. The *Standard Bank Centre* (BO-1), towering over this city block is shown on the extreme right hand side. (CJMB)

Previous/alternative name/s :
:
:

LOCATION: Street : corners Hollard, Marshall and Simmonds
 Street number :
 : (2 Hollard; 13, 15, 17 Simmonds; 75, 77, 79, 81 Marshall)
 :
 Stand Number : 1261
 Previous Stand Number: 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 1158
 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 :

An interesting design as the building was designed to form a unit between the *General Mining House* (BV-1) and *Union House* (BV-2). (CJMB)

No original building plan/s available. (CJMB)

CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS:

Walls:

Roof:

Windows:

No original building plan/s available. (CJMB)

SITE FEATURES:

ALTERATIONS:

No extant record of alterations found. (CJMB)

INTEGRITY:

As seen from the exterior the integrity of the building appears to be intact. (CJMB)

INSCRIPTION:

ARCHITECT:

The architect/s of this building is unknown as no original building plans are on file. (CJMB)

BUILDER:

CONSTRUCTION DATE:

Date on plans :
Approval of plans :
Completion date :

BUILDING STYLE:

BUILDING TYPE:

This is a shop to street and office building. (CJMB)

ENVIRONMENT:

CONDITION:

As seen from the exterior the building appears to be in a 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:

DEEDS INFORMATION:

Original ownership:

PRE-HISTORY OF SITE:

ESSEX BUILDINGS:

The *Essex Buildings* occupied 13 Simmonds Street portion of this site by 1954. The building was demolished and replaced by *Essex House*.
(CJMB)

ESSEX HOUSE:

The architect Bernard Janks (address 835 Maritime House) designed *Essex House* for Essex Buildings (Pty.) Ltd. The plans were passed on 3 August 1955 and the building was completed on the 14th June 1965. The estimated cost of the building was £22 000.00 and drainage £1 000.00. At completion the building was valued at £18 000.00.
(CJMB)

HISTORY:

GENERAL NOTES:

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

'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)

PREVIOUS TENANT/S:

CURRENT TENANT/S:

Bhpbilliton
Photo Express

SOURCES:

Published Sources

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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

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.

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

Van Der Waal, G-M.: Die Karakter Van Die Argitektuur In Die Binnestad Van Johannesburg Tot 1920, unpublished thesis, RAU, November 1972.

Van Der Waal, G-M.: Die Boukuns van Johannesburg, 1886 – 1940, unpublished doctoral thesis, RAU, November 1984.

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.