

JOHANNESBURG METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY

HERITAGE ASSESSMENT SURVEYING FORM

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

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NAME OF PLACE: DIAMOND BUILDING



Photograph: Catharina JM Bruwer.

Previous/alternative name/s :
:
:

LOCATION: Street : corner Commissioner and Von Brandis
Street number : 123 Commissioner
: (123, 125 Commissioner; 39, 41 Von Brandis
Stand Number : 135, 136, 137
Previous Stand Number: 917
Block number : AY
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:

Philip Epstein. 1971.

INTEGRITY:

INSCRIPTION:

ARCHITECT:

Ted Saffer. 1965.

BUILDER:

CONSTRUCTION DATE:

Date on plans :
Approval of plans :
Completion date :

BUILDING STYLE:

Johannesburg Modular Regionalism. 1960s.

Architectural Merit: "An interesting variation on the Johannesburg Modular Regionalism with each window being a ninety degree mini bay window." (Johannesburg Building, Space & Urban Feature Classification, 1998: Inner City).

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
- Formal protection: provincial heritage site
- national heritage site
- provisional protection

heritage area
listed in provincial heritage resources register

Relevant Gazette Notice:

Gazette description:

FORMER PROTECTION STATUS: (under National Monuments Act, 1969)

NOTES:

DEEDS INFORMATION:

Ownership: Mersian Inv (Pty) Ltd.
Document: T13216/1964
Amount:

Ownership: Griffin JD Com (Pty) Ltd.
Registration Date: 1998-05-27
Document: T35808/1998
Amount: R7250 000.00

PRE-HISTORY OF SITE:

VON BRANDIS BUILDING:

By 1954, the *Von Brandis Buildings* occupied the 41 Von Brandis Street portion of this site. Occupants of the building during the same period were:

41a Von Brandis – D. Whittaker (Pty) Ltd., Coal Merchant.

41b Von Brandis – Delmonica Beer Hall.

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

KINGSLEY HOUSE:

By 1954, *Kingsley House* stood on the 123 Commissioner Street portion of this site.

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

BLOOMFIELD HOUSE:

Bloomfield House occupied the 39 Von Brandis and 125 Commissioner Streets corner. Occupants of the building during the same period were:

125 Commissioner - "Delmonico" Restaurant.

125 Commissioner – Watchmakers & Jewellers' Supply Co.

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

HISTORY:

GENERAL NOTES:

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

PREVIOUS TENANT/S:

CURRENT TENANT/S:

Joshua Doore

"SAINT IGNATIUS COLLEGE; JOHANNESBURG BRANCH OFFICE 601,6TH FLOOR,MERBROOK HOUSE; 123 COMMISSIONER STR; (NEXT TO JOSHUA DOORE); CNR ELOFF STR; TEL:(011)333-2469".
(<http://saintignatiouscollege.co.za/main.htm>)

"Chamber of Commerce & Industry East Rand DATADEX Johannesburg; Physical Address: 214 Merbrook Hse
123 Commissioner St".
(www.chamberlink.co.za)

SOURCES:

Published Sources

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

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.

Internet sources

www.chamberlink.co.za
<http://saintignatiouscollege.co.za/main.htm>

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.