

6.3.17. 75 / 77 Fox Street / Gold Fields Building.



Erf Number:	1238.
Name:	75 / 77 Fox Street.
Architect:	Louis Karol Architects.
Previous Names:	Goldfields Building and Imbumba House.
Approved / Existing Plans:	None.
Date of Construction:	Circa 1990s.
Architectural Style / Aesthetics :	Post Modern (Eclectic).
Historical Use:	Offices.
Current Use:	Offices.
Intended Use:	Offices & possible ground floor retail.
Rarity or Technical interest:	None.
Relationship to setting and place:	The building is a monolithic structure.
Relationship to historical aspects:	Forms a built document of the development of Johannesburg in the latter part of the 20th Century.

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Social Importance:	Former office of an Important mining house (Goldfields) - great social significance.
Modifications:	The building exterior survives largely in-tact.
Integrity of current Structure:	Structure survives in relatively in-tact condition.
Known lost aspects or changes made:	None.
Scientific or Research Potential:	None.
Other:	Numerous historical buildings have resided on the same site such as the Exploration Building, The First and Second Rand Water Board Buildings and The Transvaalche Bank Buildings to name a few.
Protection:	None.
2002 - 2015 Historical information:	Part of Koponong Project since 2002.
Significance:	Former office of an important mining house (Goldfields).
Section 3.3 of NHRA:	None.
Grading:	n/a.
Current Condition - Exterior:	Fair.
Current Condition - Interior:	The interior is modern with no conservation worthy fabric remaining.
Recommendations - Exterior:	Maintenance is needed to the external facades. The façade should be better articulated to reference the surroundings and streetscape of Fraser and Hollard Streets.
Recommendations - Interior:	Interior does not warrant conservation. Changes are permissible.
NHRA Applications:	None - currently the building is not 60 years old.
Recommendations - Overall:	The building may be demolished - in this event the new structure should reference the surrounding area. If a new building is constructed it should retain the current bulk and size on the city block, it should not exceed the height of the current structure. Should the building be retained the clock located on the façade should be relocated to connect with the axis down Fraser Street.

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Designed by Louis Karol architects in 1987, the Post Modern Gold Fields building is located adjacent to the Old Reserve Bank Building at 75 Fox Street. The building was constructed in three phases and incorporates the Old Goldfields Building on Commissioner Street.

The perception of the building as a unified whole is *“achieved by consistency in the use of materials (essentially two types of granite, a deeper and lighter pink, with the former more highly polished, and glass) and a consistency of treatment reflected in the ratios of solids to void; the use of screens; of setbacks with planted screens in a vertical plane, and the way in which the corners are resolved... The rectangular building fills the site, the architect resisted the creation of a plaza - these are successful in cities where there are many tourists, or perhaps in a shopping precinct, but so often they become desolate spaces.”*<sup>64</sup>

The building floor plate takes the form of a U-shape with the short arm of the U running along Sauer Street. The office floors are arranged around a central eleven story atrium space, the former light-well of the older Gold Fields structure. The building is accessed via a double volume foyer space of generous proportion, located on Fox Street.

In 1988 Gold Fields closed its operations at 75 Fox Street, an address which it had occupied for more than 100 years. The declining fortunes of the gold mining industry saw the company unbundled to BHP Billiton and the building disposed of on the open market.

64. Planning 96. (1988), page 13.



Contemporary image - exterior facade.



Contemporary Fox Street entrance.



Architects sketch of Goldfields building - Chipkin, C. M. (2008), page 336-337.