

JOHANNESBURG METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY**HERITAGE ASSESSMENT SURVEYING FORM**

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

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NAME OF PLACE: NEDBANK CENTRAL BUILDING (Fox Street Branch)

Photograph: Catharina JM Bruwer.

Previous/alternative name/s : Netherlands Bank headquarters building

LOCATION: Street : Fox, Simmonds and Main
Street number :
: (80, 82 Fox; 22, 24, 26, 28 Simmonds; 79, 81 Main)
Stand Number : 1170
Previous Stand Number:
Block number : BN
Suburb : Marshallstown
GIS reference :

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

DESCRIPTION OF PLACE:

Height :
Levels above street level : nine
Levels below street level : two
On-site parking :

Chipkin: "In the 1960s Strauch was responsible for several major building in Johannesburg, three of them in Eloff Street alone – Truworths, Medical City and Bosman Building, as well as the Netherlands Bank headquarters building at the corner of Fox and Simmonds streets. Medical City and Bosman buildings (both buildings designed in 1963)." (Chipkin, C.M.: Johannesburg Style; Architecture & Society...).

CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS:

Walls: reinforced concrete frame

Roof: flat; concrete

Windows: steel casements

SITE FEATURES:**ALTERATIONS:**

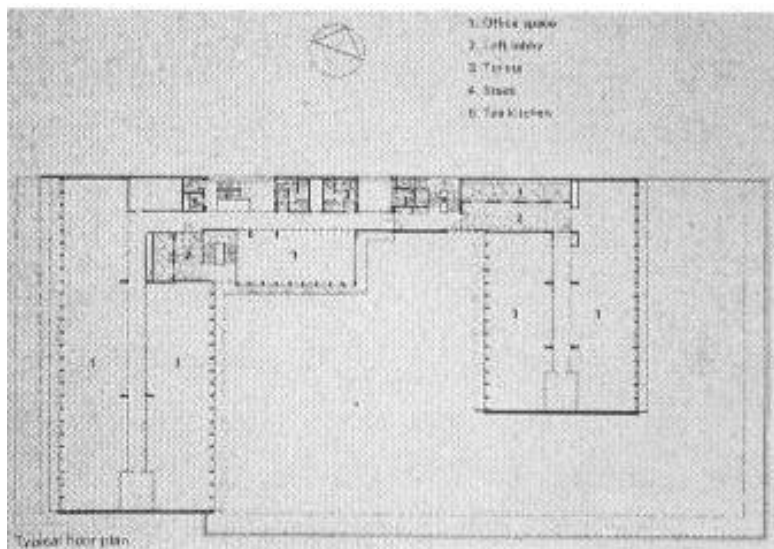
Stauch Vorster Architects. 1991.

INTEGRITY:**INSCRIPTION:****ARCHITECT:**

H.W.E. Stauch, Vorster & Partners

BUILDER:**CONSTRUCTION DATE:**

Date on plans : July 1960
Approval of plans :
Completion date : 1964



Above: "Netherlands Bank: typical floor plan, showing the characteristic rationality of Stauch Vorster planning. (Stauch Vorster archive)", reproduced from Chipkin, C.M.: Johannesburg Style; Architecture & Society....

BUILDING STYLE:

Brazilian Modernism.

Architectural Merit, Artwork of Merit, Workmanship of Merit: "This building has a very interesting façade treatment. This treatment generates the interest on the North and South facades through a layer of brille soliel being hung from beams at roof level (sic.) which are expressed on the west façade. The decorated west façade is of a subtlety and workmanship of great merit." (Johannesburg Building, Space & Urban Feature Classification, 1998: Inner City).

BUILDING TYPE:

Bank and office building.

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	<input 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:****DEEDS INFORMATION:**

Original ownership: Nedbank

By 1976: Nedbank of South Africa Limited.

PRE-HISTORY OF SITE:FIRST NEDERLANDSCHE BANK

"The first *Nederlandsche Bank Building* (1897), 82 Fox Street, provides a good example of how a sculptured façade was used to catch the eye. The suspended bay window sections a picturesque roof silhouette with gables and skylights formed a striking entity. In fact, the street façade represented one of the purest small-scale applications of the Second Empire Style. Particularly impressive, caryatids beneath the two pediments of the windows, and the bay windows. This, together with the arched arcade of the adjacent *Bettelheim Building* covering the sidewalk in a way reminiscent of the Rue de Tivoli in Paris, gave this street corner a strong French flavour."

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

By 1954 tenants of the building where:

28 Simmonds – Barlow, R.
28 Simmonds – Engelbrecht, K.
(The Rand-Pretoria Directory 1954 (Comprising Complete Alphabetical And Trades Directories of Johannesburg, Pretoria And Reef Towns), Cape Times Limited, Cape Town, 1954.)

CENTRAL HOUSE

By 1954 *Central House* stood at 24 Simmonds and 79 Main Street; tenants of the building were:
Mannie Bros. (Pty) Ltd., (branch)
Heymann's Laboratories
Langham Bar Lounge & Restaurant
Wilmas Cigarette Box
(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:

Nedbank

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.

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.