

JOHANNESBURG METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY

HERITAGE ASSESSMENT SURVEYING FORM

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

NAME OF PLACE: The Star Building



Previous/alternative name/s :

LOCATION: Street : Sauer
Street number : 45, 47, 49, 51
Stand number : 4413 (previously 748, 750-753, 754-764)
Block number : 0

ZONING: Current use/s : General/business one
Previous use/s : Offices, bank and printing works

DESCRIPTION OF PLACE:

Eight storeys; one basement level. The building is connected to the top storey of the parking garage (between President and Market Streets) by a sky-walk. Extent of site: 4959.0 sqm.

The only part of this building that makes sense is the Sauer Street façade. It is nicely proportioned and the podium effect is rounded off with a cornice. The Pritchard Street façade seems somewhat out of context and the haphazardous placing of smaller structures on the roof is reminiscent of a 'beach front scene'. (cjmb)

CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS:

- Walls : reinforced concrete construction; black, cream and white polished granite panels; bronze coloured panels.
- Roof : flat, concrete.
- Windows: bronze coloured aluminium frames.
- Balustrade: mild steel with cast iron on hand rail (corner of Pritchard and Sauer Streets on small podium).

SITE FEATURES:

ALTERATIONS:

INTEGRITY:

INSCRIPTION:

ARCHITECT/BUILDER:

Nurcombe, Summerley, Ringrose & Todd

CONSTRUCTION DATE:

- On plan : May 1964
- Completed : in phases

BUILDING STYLE:



BUILDING TYPE:

Publishing and office building.

ENVIRONMENT:

Is linked in height to some of the other buildings in President Street, north of Market Square (RAU Report, June 1976).



CONDITION:

Good.

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:

Original ownership: Argus Printing & Publishing Co

T6052/1962 Argus Holdings Ltd

T43674/1994 Argus Newspapers Ltd

T43674/1994 Independent Newspapers Holdings Ltd

T43674/1994 Vecto Trade 305 Ltd

T662260/2001 Independent Newspapers Pty Ltd



PRE-HISTORY OF SITE:

By 1889 there stood an undecorated single storey brick building on the President/Sauer Streets corner of this site. By 1910 the owner G. and J. Nathanson had the roof replaced with new corrugated iron. The architect for this alteration was John Adams. The architects Aburrow & Treeby designed a arched ornament above the entrance for the National Bank of South Africa in 1920. By 1890, facing President Street, the first Argus building stood on a portion of this stand. According to plans pertaining to alterations to nearby properties, this building was a five storey structure by December 1912. By 1940 a second Argus building occupied two stands, viz. the site of the former building and an area (facing Pritchard Street) directly behind this stand.

HISTORY:

GENERAL NOTES:

Nurcombe, Summerley, Ringrose & Todd "was a technically innovative firm, but in the early post-war years the great days of Nurcombe & Summerley at Chrysler House were a thing of the past....In the 1960s and 1970s...they experienced a new lease of life, experimenting with tower-block-on-plaza forms." (Chipkin)

SOURCES:

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

Chipkin, C.M.: Johannesburg Style; Architecture & Style, 1880s – 1960s, David Philip, 1993

The Market Square Of Johannesburg: Catalogue of buildings on and around the square till about 1920 (Compiled by G.M. van der Waal), Public Library, Johannesburg, 1971

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

Registrar of Deeds, Johannesburg

RECORDED BY:

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Photographs by Chris JH Coxen (unless otherwise indicated).

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