

JOHANNESBURG METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY

HERITAGE ASSESSMENT SURVEYING FORM

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

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NAME OF PLACE: THOMPSON HOUSE



Photographs: Catharina JM Bruwer.

Above, left: View of North (Marshall Street) elevation of Thompson House.
Above, right: View of the South (Anderson Street) elevation of the building.

Previous/alternative name/s : Dunlop Rubber Company SA Ltd. Building
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:

LOCATION: Street : Marshall
Street number : 124 Marshall, 87 Anderson
: (124 Marshall)
Stand Number : 1185
Previous Stand Number: 306, 310
Block number : CD
Suburb : Marshallstown
GIS reference :

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

DESCRIPTION OF PLACE:

Height :
Levels above street level : four (Marshall Street), five (Anderson Street)
Levels below street level : one (Marshall Street)
On-site parking : none

This building, which fronts onto both Marshall and Anderson Streets, is an example *par excellence*, of layered architectural development. In 1915, the architect John A. Moffat was made responsible by the owners, the Dunlop Rubber Co. SA Ltd., for the design of a "proposed new Warehouse under the Warehouse Class" for the Company. The existing building, fronting onto Marshall Street, was completed in 1916. The building originally comprised a Basement, Ground Floor (with offices and a workshop, the latter which extended up to Anderson Street), and First Floor (Store).

In 1937, the respected architectural practice of Emley & Williamson, worked on plans for an additional two floors to the building in Marshall Street, and a new (integral) extension of five storeys on Stand 310, i.e. at 87 Anderson Street.

The existing building consequently has two different styles, from two different periods, i.e. Edwardian (124 Marshall Street) and Art Deco (87 Anderson Street). The design of the two additional storeys by Emley & Williamson to the original building in Marshall Street, was executed with great success.

See electronic version of Survey Report for copies of original building plans.

CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS:

Walls: steel reinforcement structure, plastered brick
Roof: corrugated iron
Windows: steel casements

SITE FEATURES:**ALTERATIONS:**

Additional two floors to original building in Marshall Street in 1938.
Extension of original building onto Stand 310 in Anderson Street in 1938.
Conversion of Ground Floor of building to new Motorcar Showrooms for Marshanders Investments (Pty) Ltd.

INTEGRITY:

The original design of the street facade of the building at 124 Marshall Street, has been detrimentally affected by the changes to the shop front of the building in 1954. The original design of the Extension in Anderson Street, appears however, to have remained largely intact. The original fabric of the building (of both the 1915 construction and the Extension of 1938 in Anderson Street), is under serious threat, due to the lack of maintenance and repairs. This does not bode well for the architectural integrity, including the integrity of the extant original fabric, of the building.

INSCRIPTION:**ARCHITECT:**

J. A. Moffat Architect. 1915 (124 Marshall Street).
Emley & Williamson Architects. 1937 (87 Anderson Street).

BUILDER:**CONSTRUCTION DATE:**

124 Marshall Street

Date on plans : 12 July 1915

Approval of plans : 15 December 1915
Completion date : August 1916

87 Anderson Street

Date on plans :
Approval of plans : 22 November 1937
Completion date : 1938

BUILDING STYLE:

Art Deco - Stripped Neo Classical.

Architectural Merit, Work of Major Designer: "This building has an ambiguity between its 1950's Anderson Street facade and its 1915 Marshall Street façade. As a result, the building is very difficult to define an age for. The 1950's façade has aged and weathered (sic.) in a very interesting way. The 1915 façade is an example of an Edwardian (sic.) Johannesburg building, probably quite prestigious in its day. John Moffat was one of Johannesburgs (sic.) noted architects." (Johannesburg Building, Space & Urban Feature Classification, 1998: Inner City).

Comment: The Anderson Street façade of the buildings dates from the 1930s, not 1950s.

BUILDING TYPE:

Offices / light industrial building.

ENVIRONMENT:

The Edwardian style of *Thompson House*, and that of the the neighbouring *Central Police Barracks*, are highly complimentary of each other. These two building stand in absolute unison, notwithstanding a slight difference in height, and collectively constitute an important heritage node in this area of Johannesburg.

CONDITION:

The building is in a critically neglected condition, the biggest problem, appearing to be that of water damage to the building.

URGENT ACTION:

Considering the heritage value of the building, a concerted effort should be made to inform the responsible owner/s of this, and the need for the building to be repaired without delay.

SAHRA RECORD REGARDING ALTERATIONS, RENOVATIONS, RESTORATION:

PROTECTION STATUS: (under National Heritage Resources Act, 1999)

General protection:	Section 34(1) structure/s	<input checked="" 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: M. Mitchell

PRE-HISTORY OF SITE:**HISTORY:****GENERAL NOTES:**Original building 1915

Estimated cost of building	: £3000
Estimated cost of drainage	: £200
Accommodation approved	:
Valuation at completion	: £8000
Occupied	: no

Anderson Street Extension

Estimated cost of building	: £7000
Estimated cost of drainage	: £600
Accommodation approved	:
Valuation at completion	:
Occupied	: no

PREVIOUS TENANT/S:

By 1954, the offices of the Rand Earthworks Construction Co. (Pty) Ltd., were located on the Second Floor of the building at 124 Marshall Street. (The Rand-Pretoria Directory 1954 (Comprising Complete Alphabetical And Trades Directories of Johannesburg, Pretoria And Reef Towns), Cape Times Limited, Cape Town, 1954.)

CURRENT TENANT/S:

Vacant

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

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.

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.