

JOHANNESBURG METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY

HERITAGE ASSESSMENT SURVEYING FORM

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

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NAME OF PLACE: VACANT STANDS



Left: View of vacant lots between the exposed unfinished lateral sides of *Shakespeare House* and the *C.N.A. Building* in Commissioner Street.

Previous/alternative name/s : Currie's Auction Mart, later Auction House (Stand 273)
: Greatrex Bros (Greatrex Ltd) (Stand 747)

LOCATION: Street : Commissioner
Street number : 112, 112a
Stand Number : 273, 747
Previous Stand Number: 273
Block number : BF
Suburb : Marshallstown
GIS reference :

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

DESCRIPTION OF PLACE:

A sense of utter desolation and abandonment surrounds this whole city block. The open wounds left by the demolition of once proud buildings, signifies an irreplaceable loss; the brick-up and dirty broken windows as dim eyes, the unfinished lateral sides disposing the vulnerable and naked sides of the buildings. Façades that were never intended to be exposed to the outside world and avoid of any human activity shroud the city block in a deep crevice of total depression. (Catharina JM Bruwer).

CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS:

SITE FEATURES:

ALTERATIONS:

INTEGRITY:

INSCRIPTION:

ARCHITECT:

BUILDER:

CONSTRUCTION DATE:

BUILDING STYLE:

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	<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:

PRE-HISTORY OF SITE:

Stand 273 originally comprised two separate portions. Situated on the western portion (i.e. at 12 Commissioner Street) by 1889 was *Currie's Auction Mart*. This was the property of Richard Currie.

Right: (Stark, F. [Ed.]: *Seventy Golden Years...*).

According to Norwich (A Johannesburg Album: Historical Postcards, p.88), services of the Congregational Church were originally held in a wood and iron building on Von Brandis Square. This site subsequently became the venue of the public library. The church moved to Richard Currie's auction room in Commissioner Street in 1889 and later, to the Masonic Hall in Jeppe Street. From an Application for Approval of Plans of Buildings dd. 20 March 1894 with



respect to the adjoining Stand 278, it appears that a new building was constructed on Stand 273 in 1894.

By 1954, the building on Stand 273 was still associated with Richard R Currie Ltd, Government Sworn Appraisers and Leslie Currie.

On the eastern portion of Stand 273 (i.e. at Commissioner Street 112a, currently Stand 747) by 1894, was the premise of Greatrex Brothers. By the mid-1950s, the site was still occupied by this company, known as Greatrex Ltd – Saddlery and Harness Makers, Leather Merchants, Hardware and Tool Merchants.

HISTORY:

GENERAL NOTES:

SOURCES:

For additional illustrative information, see relevant supplementary photo album in electronic format.

See SOURCES DOCUMENT for information on sources consulted with reference to this document.

RECORDED BY:

Heritage Resources Management team Johann J and Catharina JM Bpuwer.
Unless otherwise indicated photographs by Catharina JM Bpuwer.

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