

ANNEXURE C:

EXTRACT FROM HERITAGE INVENTORY MAY 2011

Reference	0006		
Official name	Heliograph	Other names	7 Inch Equatorial; Centre of Dome (1932)



Photograph by Ian Glass (March 2010)

Construction date	1847	Date of alterations	
Original use	Originally housed 7 inch Merz telescope	Current use	Photoheliograph Public outreach
Architect/builder	Mounting manufactured by Troughton and Simms.		
Site description	Wooden dome runs on cannon balls.		
Major alterations	Altered to house photoheliograph. The original Merz mounting was replaced by one manufactured by Troughton & Simms.		
Historical background	<p>The wooden dome was prefabricated in England. Originally housed a 7inch telescope manufactured by Merz. The telescope is now the guider of the 18th inch telescope. The "Kew patter" photoheliograph was originally mounted in a wooden observatory (see # 32).</p> <p>According to Thomas Maclear, when constructing the dome of the 8.5 feet equatorial telescope, a stone (supposed to be the same that bore Lacaille's quadrant) was given to him by Mr Seawright, the then proprieter of the house in Strand Street, Cape Town. It was supposedly built into the recess to support the clock. The recess now has a concrete base (Warner 1988).</p>		
Historical images			
NHR Act criteria	Historical, scientific.		
Significance statement	The heliograph is significant primarily for historical reasons due to its age (1847). It is the second oldest building on site. It is regarded as having modest scientific significance. It contributes to the dome typology associated with the site. It also has public educational value in that during school visits children view actual sunspots with the telescope.		
Current heritage status	Older than 60 years (NHR Act; S34)	Proposed grading	3B

Physical condition	Poor. The woodwork around the rim needs repair.
Opportunities & threats	Gradual decay of dome structure due to natural weathering. Part of potential heritage trail. Used for school groups.
Recommendations	Retain use for school groups. Maintain dome function. Undertake necessary work to stabilize the fabric and instruments from further deterioration. Refer to generic conservation management recommendations of Grade 3B structures.
References	Charles, Anne. SAAO Inventory of Buildings and Structures (February 2010) Glass, Ian. SAAO Royal Observatory Site. Extant and former buildings (March 2010) Glass, Ian. Notes prepared for Heritage Survey (Jan 2011) Interview with Brian Warner, Mike Feast and Anne Charles: SAAO, 15 December 2010