

HISTORIC BANK BUILDINGS OF ZIMBABWE

Issued 22nd March, 2016

(Extracted from Philatelic Bureau Bulletin No 1 of 2016)²

Zimpost (Pvt.) Ltd. issued a series of four postage stamps depicting historical bank buildings as shown in their original state, some are still serving as banks today in Zimbabwe. We as Zimbabweans, are proud of our heritage and historical achievements.

STANDARD BANK LTD

In 1853 Standard Chartered Bank Zimbabwe's rich history began when Queen Victoria issued a Royal Charter for the commencement of the Chartered Bank in the colonies. The Memorandum of Association for Standard Bank was signed on 13th October, 1862 with the first establishment in Port Elizabeth, South Africa in 1863. It operated several branches and gained a reputation for financing the development of the diamond fields for 30 years before venturing into Rhodesia (Zimbabwe).

Standard Bank was the first bank to open on the 20th July 1892 was in Salisbury (Harare). The founding manager was John Boyne with the accountant Wilfred Honey. The early records of the bank disclose the names of distinguished customers that include F.C Selous, the hunter and explorer who guided the Pioneer Column; Frank Johnson who organised it, Allan Wilson and Mother Patrick who cared for the sick and wounded. Standard Chartered was also the first to open in Bulawayo on the 4th May 1894. Providing an essential service to the developing economy, especially mining, the bank also printed the country's first bank notes and closely associated with financing the development of the country's basic infrastructure in the years after attainment of Responsible Government in 1923. Standard Chartered Bank as it is known today was a result of the merger of Standard Bank and Chartered Bank in 1969.



circa 1914

40c: Standard Bank Ltd 1912 -Harare

Robert Mugabe Branch (Formerly Manica Road Branch)

Opened doors for business in 1912 built on the same site where Pioneer tents had been pegged in 1890.

75c: Standard Bank Early 1900's -Chegutu

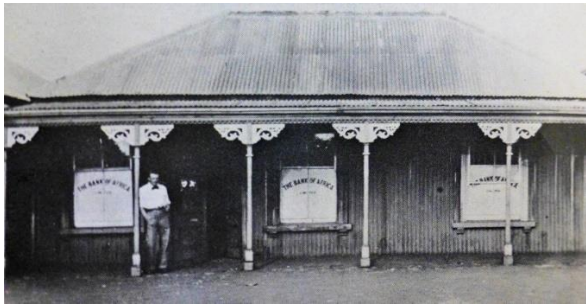
Chegutu Branch (Formerly Hartley Branch)

The first peg by the Pioneer Corps was of 10 claims made at Umfuli, Chegutu District (formerly Hartley) on the 1st of October 1890. Years later to support the growing district, the Chegutu branch of Standard bank was established in 1901.



circa 1914

85c: Barclays Bank 1912 -Bulawayo



Bank of Africa circa 1912

Barclays Bank Zimbabwe's rich heritage began in 1912 when the Bank of Africa was acquired by the National Bank of South Africa and effectively became Barclays Bank. As a new initiative the Barclays head office, then based in South Africa, monitored the growth of their brand from across the border. As business grew, this resulted in the decentralisation and establishment of the first Barclays Committee, responsible for local controls based in Bulawayo in 1928.

A decade later, Barclays adapted to change and moved its control centre from Bulawayo to Harare (formerly Salisbury) to support the increased business coming in from newly opened tobacco auctions and warehouses. This economic growth directly impacted on the expansion of governmental organisations, effectively expanding the bank's business base.

Barclays Bank Zimbabwe remains one of the country's leading financial institutions with a wide coverage of branches and service centres that continue to provide customers with first-world financial solutions.

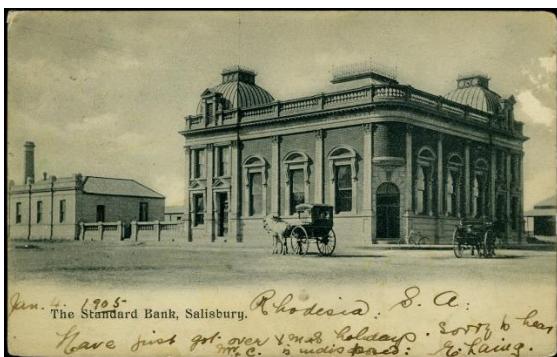
\$1: The African Banking Corporation 1913 - Kadoma

In 1890, Lloyds Bank and Standard Bank of South Africa established the African Banking Corporation. This was a British Overseas Bank and had its headquarters in London, but all its branches were overseas. It was a consortium bank (i.e. owned by other banks) rather than owned by individuals. It operated mainly in Africa.



circa 1925

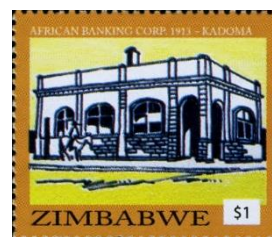
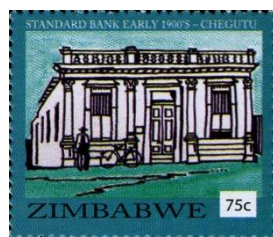
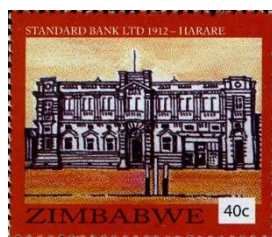
First Day Cover



Postcard by Strachan & Co

Standard Bank building situated on the corner of Samora Machel Avenue (formerly Jameson avenue) and Third Street. The first bank building is the single storey to the left, with the larger building completed in 1899. The building was sold to the British South Africa Company, and served as government offices, and later as the Administrative Court. Now known as Mashonganyika Building.

The Stamps



Catalogue Listings

SG	ZSC ¹	Value	Description
1415	813	40c	Standard Bank Ltd, 1912 - Harare
1416	814	75c	Standard Bank Early 1900s - Chegutu
1417	815	85c	Barclays Bank 1912 - Bulawayo
1418	816	\$1	African Banking Corp. 1913 - Kadoma

Technical details

Stamp size:	Sheet stamps:	35 x 30 mm
Sheet Size:	50 stamps (10 rows of 5 stamps), two panes per printed sheet	
Artist:	Leslie Johnson	
Paper:	ZSC paper type J: paper described by Zimpost as “Chancellor Litho PVA Gummed Postage Stamp Paper”. This paper is produced by Tullis Russell Coaters of Glenrothes, Fife, Scotland. Under UV there is no fluorescence either front or back, the stamp appears to be very dark	
Print colours:	Cyan, magenta, yellow & black	
Perforations:	SG 14½ x 14; ZSC 14¼ x 14 Top margin: Perforated through Other margins: Imperforate	
Printer:	NatPrint, Harare, Zimbabwe	
Printer’s Imprint:	Bottom margin, below Row 10 Column 3. Imprint printed in black	
Cylinder numbers:	Top margin above R1/1. Colours from left – cyan, magenta, yellow, black	
Colour register:	Type TL 4– round boxed – left margin opposite R1/1. Colours reading down – cyan, magenta, yellow, black	

Sheet Value: Top margin, above R1/5, printed in black

Sheet Number: Type SN 7 with printed 'ZIMPOST' prefix, right margin opposite R1/5 reading down

Bar codes: Opposite R9 & 10/5, printed in black, numbers:
 40c 2 009113 000424
 75c 2 009113 000431
 85c 2 009113 000447
 \$1 2 009113 000455

Print numbers:

40c	200,000	75c	10,000
85c	10,000	\$1	10,000

Issue date: 22nd March 2016
 (The Mashonaland Philatelic Society newsletter of June 2016 states that the issue was released on 28th April, 2016.)

Listed varieties

No listed varieties have been reported.

Unlisted Varieties

There are numerous small dots and specks in the printing of these stamps, particularly in the backgrounds which are more noticeable with the solid colours. No significant varieties reported.

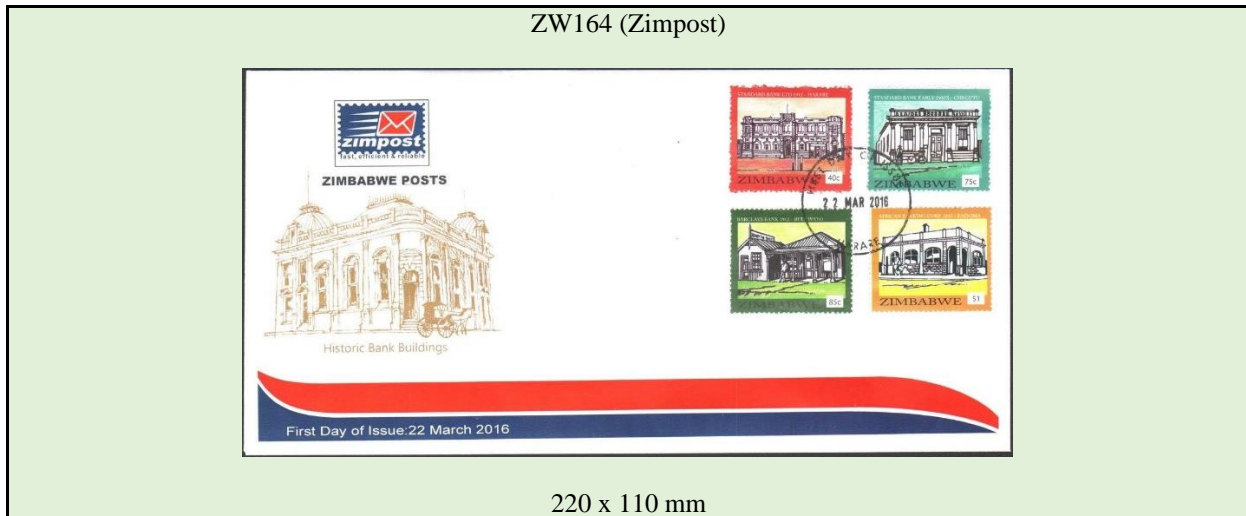
If there is a shift in the perforations, although the shift may not be significant, stamps to the sheet margins should have a white strip between the perforations and the image.

(Courtesy of Jefferson Ritson & Narendhra Morar)

The image shows four postage stamps from Zimbabwe arranged horizontally. From left to right: a 40c stamp with a red background and a building illustration; a 75c stamp with a green background and a building illustration; an 85c stamp with a dark green background and a building illustration; and a \$1 stamp with a yellow background and a building illustration. Red arrows point to the perforations between the stamps, specifically highlighting a white strip between the perforation and the image on the 40c stamp, and similar shifts on the other stamps.

First Day Cover

With this issue of these stamps Zimpost started producing First Day Covers again, but did not continue with the production of pictorial postmarks. All covers were postmarked by the Philatelic Bureau with a new postmark reading “First Day of Issue/Harare”.



Bibliography:

1. “The Zimbabwean Concise Postage Stamp Catalogue”, published by Harare Stamp Company, edited by Ken Allanson, Mike Amos and Geoff Brakspear. The catalogue continues to be updated and expanded by Geoff Brakspear, and is now published on the Rhodesian Study Circle website.
2. Zimbabwe Post, Philatelic Bureau Bulletin No 1 of 2016
3. Mashonaland Philatelic Society newsletter June 2016