

## Identification and location

**Name of Place:** Australian Estates wool store

**Other Name**

**Address** 47 Sunshine Road  
Footscray West

**Place Identifier** 20248

**Heritage Significance** regional

**Creation date(s):** 1941 c. **Map (Melway)** 41 G5

**Boundary description** The extent of the current allotment

**Local Government Area:** City of Maribyrnong

**Ownership Type** Private

## Description

**Site Type:** warehouse

### Physical Description

A four story brick structure with sawtooth roof lighting the top sampling floor which has a mansard roof styled parapet as a distinguishing feature along with bold lettering proclaiming the company name and the function of the building now defaced by the new operators plastic sign.

Mock balconies with wrought iron railings and steel lattice over window openings add further touches of distinction. The very large building was located to take advantage of the adjacent Tottenham railway sidings, and a siding constructed to serve this and the adjacent Elders Smith wool store.

### Condition

In good condition

### Integrity

substantially Intact. The sign is the only apparent alteration

### Context

In an area of several large industrial complexes (including the adjacent Goldsbrough Mort wool store.

### Threats

none known, although demolition was proposed about a decade ago.

## History

Constructed in about 1940 for the major Wool brokers and stock and station agents, Australian Estates, the wool store was provided with a siding from the Tottenham rail yards, completed in 1941 to serve this and the neighbouring wool store. In 1947 these wool stores were described as the most modern in Australia and were taking wool from farmers throughout Victoria and the Riverina District of New South Wales. Recently the building has become the base for several smaller wool brokers including the Australian Wool Commission and Watswool Pty. Ltd.

## Thematic context

Australian Principal Theme

PAHT Subtheme:

Local Theme

## Cultural Significance

The Australian Estates wool store is of regional historical and architectural significance, as one of the largest single wool store buildings in Victoria built on a grand scale with considerable architectural refinement. It represents a peak of pastoral development when Australia rode on the sheep's back and the culmination of the architecturally elaborate wool store designs, subsequent stores becoming bland clear span and tilt-slab sheds. The location on the fringe of Melbourne and in proximity to the railway and the connecting siding demonstrates its dependence on transport connections. The wool industry has played a significant role in the development of Victoria and Australia, and wool stores have been one of the most prominent building types in Melbourne's West. (Criterion A4)

The building also relates to the Australian Estates Company, an influential agricultural finance and agency corporation. Architecturally this building represents the epitome of wool store design with the functional married seamlessly to the decorative. (Criterion F1)

## Comparative Examples

The Younghusband wool store provides the immediate precedent for this freestanding architecturally embellished type while the adjacent Goldsbrough Mort Store is a similar contemporary example. The brick and bluestone stores of the CBD represent a quite different design tradition.

## Recommendations

Heritage Victoria Register

Register of the National Estate

National Trust Register

Other Heritage Listings

Planning Scheme Protection

External Paint Controls Apply?

Internal Alteration Controls Apply?

Tree Controls Apply?

Included on the Victorian Heritage Register under the Act

Are there Outbuildings or Fences not Exempt?

Prohibited Uses may be Permitted?

## Recommendations

Significance and the cited fabric or contributory elements.  
To conserve and enhance the significant elements of the place.  
To conserve and enhance the public view of these elements.  
To conserve and enhance the visual relationships between the contributory elements.  
To ensure that new or altered elements within the place are visually recessive and related to the contributory elements.  
To encourage continuation of the original use of the place.

## Australian Heritage Commission Criteria

*A4 Importance for their association with events, developments or cultural phases which have had a significant role in the human occupation and evolution of the nation, state, region or community.*

The wool industry has played a significant role in the development of Victoria and Australia, and wool stores have been one of the most prominent building types in Melbourne's West

*F1 Importance for their technical, creative, design or artistic excellence, innovation or achievement.*

Architecturally this building represents the epitome of wool store design with the functional married seamlessly to the decorative.

## Documentation

### References

Forging Ahead  
V/Line sidings records.

## Data recording

Assessed By

Assessed Date: