

## Identification and location

**Name of Place:**

**Other Name**

**Address**

**Place Identifier**

**Heritage Significance**

**Creation date(s):**  **Map (Melway)**

**Boundary description**

**Local Government Area:**

**Ownership Type**

## Description

**Site Type:** warehouse

### Physical Description

Monumental four-storey brick wool store with sawtooth roof lighting top sale floor. While this does not have the flamboyance of the adjacent Australian Estates store or the Architectural ornament of the Kensington Store of Goldsborough, it marks the transition in the development of the wool store design to the strictly utilitarian buildings of the latter half of the twentieth century.

In its original form, the Building demonstrated the advances in warehouse design of the period with its purpose built rail and truck loading, automated bale elevators and conveyors (now disused) and more open plan interior. Concrete and steel framing supported floors designed to take heavier loadings (for pallet trucks and forklifts?) while the saw-tooth top floor has steel framed trusses to the south facing roof lights designed to give an even lighting to the sale floor. However, recent alterations have involved the gutting of the internal structure of the building, although the external walls and facades have remained relatively intact. A railway siding formerly connected to the Tottenham rail yards with a level crossing over Sunshine Road. A later single storey sawtooth warehouse to the west is a later extension.

### Condition

### Integrity

### Context

## Threats

None known

## History

The wool store was constructed 1940-41 as a major wool handling facility by Goldsbrough Mort & Co. Goldsbrough Mort was one of Australia's earliest pastoral agents, formed from the combination of two companies of Thomas Goldsbrough and T.S. Mort respectively. Mort was a Sydney entrepreneur involved in shipping, engineering and ship building. Goldsbrough had a vast wool store on Circular Key for a hundred years. Goldsbrough also erected a wool store at Kensington.

A siding from the Tottenham rail yards was completed in 1941 serving this and the neighbouring wool store. In 1956 Goldsbrough Mort made extensions to the siding and storage facilities on the site and in 1967 Elder Smith Goldsbrough Mort Ltd. was formed in a merger of the two companies. However, by 1988 it had ceased to be involved with this site.

## Thematic context

**Australian Principal Theme** Marketing & Retailing

**PAHT Subtheme:** Marketing & retailing

**Local Theme** Warehousing exports

## Cultural Significance

Goldsbrough Mort wool store is of regional historical and architectural significance, this and the adjoining Australian Estates wool stores represent the height of the development of the wool and pastoral industries in Victoria. 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 scale of the architecture of these buildings reflect the prosperity of the firms and the great contribution of the wool industry to Australia's trade and growth in the post war period. The location of the stores on railway lines which provide access to the Melbourne ports and the pastoral land in the north and west of the state is indicative of the way in which the export wool industry has been controlled by intermediary agents.

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 in Kensington provides the immediate precedent for this freestanding architecturally embellished type while the adjacent Australian Estates Store is a similar contemporary example. The brick and bluestone stores of the CBD represent a quite different design tradition.

## Recommendations

**Heritage Victoria Register** No

**Register of the National Estate** Recommended

**National Trust Register** Recommended

**Other Heritage Listings** WRIHS

## Maribyrnong Heritage Review - Industrial Places

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

V/Line sidings records.  
Butler, G. Flemington Kensington Conservation Study, City of Melbourne 1985:44,

### Data recording

Assessed By

Assessed Date: