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# Victorian Railways Spotswood Stores Branch Complex



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Complex, Hobsons Bay  
Heritage Study 2006



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## Location

McLister Street SPOTSWOOD, Hobsons Bay City

## Municipality

HOBSONS BAY CITY

## Level of significance

Incl in HO area contributory

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO185

## Heritage Listing

Hobsons Bay City

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

What is Significant?

The Victorian Railways Stores complex, comprising the Stores & Offices buildings designed by James Fawcett and constructed in 1924-27 and associated mature trees including the two Canary Island Palms, Pepper Trees and Poplars, at McLister Street, Spotswood.

How is it Significant?

The Victorian Railways Stores complex at McLister Street, Spotswood is of local historic, social and aesthetic significance to the City of Hobsons Bay.

Why is it Significant?

Historically, it is significant for its strong associations with the Victorian Railways as one of a number of major complexes established in Newport and Spotswood during the Edwardian and Interwar period. It illustrates the important influence that the Victorian Railways had upon the development of Spotswood. (AHC criteria A4 and H1)

Socially, it is significant for its associations with the Spotswood community as a major employer over a long period (AHC criterion H1)

Aesthetically, it is significant as an intact Interwar office complex, which is a fine example of railway architecture during the Interwar period by the Victorian Railways chief architect, James Fawcett. It is enhanced by a related Interwar landscape setting to McLister Street. (AHC criteria E1 and F1)

Heritage Study/Consultant    Hobsons Bay - Hobsons Bay Heritage Study, Hobsons Bay City Council, 2006;

Construction dates            1924,

Architect/Designer           Fawcett, James W,

Hermes Number                15118

Property Number

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## Physical Description 1

The Victorian Railways Spotswood Stores complex comprises a series of buildings on a large site in McLister Street, which adjoins railway yards. Fronting McLister Street is a rendered (unpainted) and parapeted office stores building. The styling is a simple Greek revival with multi-paned glazing, and raised parapet entablatures at each end of the elevation marking major window groups. A projecting central porch marks the doorway. Faint lettering is visible on the parapet. The original front fence to McLister Street, shown in an early photograph, has been removed. Two large Canary Island Palms, planted at the time the building was opened, are placed symmetrically on either side of the central entrance, as are two poplars set close to the street frontage.

Inside the complex is a series of sawtooth and gabled roof forms over the long storage buildings extending to the south, with a loading platform on the eastern wing. The sawtooth structure on the west has been reclad or renewed. Rusting corrugated iron clad sawtooth structures are isolated further south on this large site.

Other key buildings and elements include:

- The small sawtooth roof buildings between railway tracks.
- The amenities building with circular vents and gable roof.
- The larger corrugated iron stores building to the south with timber louvre vents in the gables.

- The long multi-gabled building behind cement rendered front facade office block with raised cement lettering to parapet inc 'VR' and the cantilevered canopy over tracks on east side.
- Other remnants of the related interwar front landscape to McLister Street including a privet hedge, and pepper trees.
- The corrugated iron (paint shop?) with vent tower capped by small hipped roof with finial.

## **Integrity**

External Condition

Good

External Integrity

High

## **Physical Description 2**

Context

Set on flat land on the edge of the early housing and contributory to the Melbourne - Williamstown - Geelong Railway precinct.

## **Historical Australian Themes**

Moving Goods and People, Railways

## **Physical Description 3**

*Associations*

Victorian Railways, James Fawcett

*This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.*

*For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>*