
Spotswood Railway Workshops Complex (Former)



Spotswood Railway
Workshops Complex
(former), Hobsons Bay
Heritage Study 2006

Location

561-569 Melbourne Road SPOTSWOOD, Hobsons Bay City

Municipality

HOBSONS BAY CITY

Level of significance

Incl in HO area contributory

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO200

Heritage Listing

Hobsons Bay City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

What is Significant?

The Spotswood Railway Workshops complex (former), comprising the former Ways & Works Workshop designed by James Fawcett and constructed in 1927 and remnant mature trees, at 561-569 Melbourne Road, Spotswood.

How is it Significant?

The Spotswood Railway Workshops complex (former) 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 and illustrates the great period of expansion during the Interwar period. The Ways & Works Workshop is now the sole remaining building of this once large complex, which was a major element in the vast array of Victorian Railways industry in the municipality. The mature trees are associated with the period that the complex was established. (AHC criteria A4 and H1)

Socially, it is significant for its strong associations with the Spotswood community as the remnants of what was once a major employer within this area over the many years of its operation. (AHC criterion G1)

Aesthetically, although greatly diminished by the loss of most of the complex, the remaining buildings and mature trees are significant as examples of a custom designed building and related landscape setting that illustrate the high standard of Victorian Railways architectural and landscape practice during the Interwar period under the direction of James Fawcett. (AHC criteria E1 and F1).

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

Architect/Designer Fawcett, James W,

Hermes Number 15133

Property Number

Physical Description 1

Most of the once vast complex on this site has been demolished and the only remaining building is part of the former Way & Works workshops. Set at an angle near the front of the site, it is an austere neo-Grecian design with walls of red brick with cement render details, a parapet bearing the words 'VR Ways & Works Workshops' and has multi-paned glazing.

There are a number of mature trees, which are presumably the remnants of original or early landscaping. They include four Canary Island Palms, one mature Sugar Gum along the Birmingham Street frontage, a Monterey Cypress, Monterey Pines, and an Italian Cypress avenue along the former driveway running south west.

Integrity

External Condition

Building - Poor. Trees - Good

External Integrity

Overall complex - Low. Way & Works building - Moderate

Physical Description 2

Context

The Way & Works building now appears isolated from other buildings, although it is located in proximity to the railway lines and contributes to the broader group of railway and railway-related buildings in the Newport and Spotswood area.

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/>