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# McKenzie and Holland Factory Complex (Former)



McKenzie and Holland  
Factory Complex (former),  
Hobsons Bay Heritage Study  
2006

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## Location

41-59 Stephenson Street and 9-9A Sutton Street SOUTH KINGSVILLE, Hobsons Bay City

## Municipality

HOBSONS BAY CITY

## Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO274

## Heritage Listing

Hobsons Bay City

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

What is Significant?

The McKenzie & Holland factory complex (former), comprising the surviving buildings constructed prior to World War 2, at 41-59 Stephenson Street and 9-9A Sutton Street, South Kingsville.

How is it Significant?

The McKenzie & Holland factory complex (former) is of local historic, social and technical significance to the City of Hobsons Bay.

#### Why is it Significant?

Historically, it is significant for the strong associations with the nationally important and pioneering transport and signalling firm of McKenzie & Holland (later Westinghouse Signal & Brake), which formed part of the vast railway industry that made Spotswood and Newport one of the largest concentrations of rail-related manufacturing in Australia. (AHC criteria A4 and H1)

Socially, it is significant for its associations with the development of the South Kingsville community as one of the major employers in this area during the Interwar years. (AHC criterion G1)

Technically, it is significant for the retention of now rare early saw-tooth factories with canted roof lights, which illustrate how English factory technology was imported for use in Australia during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. The painted sign following the saw-tooth profile on the east elevation is significant as an evocative reminder of the long association of McKenzie & Holland with this complex. (AHC criteria E1 and F1)

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

Construction dates 1890,

Hermes Number 22256

Property Number

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## Physical Description 1

The McKenzie and Holland factory complex (former) is situated on land with frontages to Stephenson Street and Sutton Street in South Kingsville. It comprises a complex of predominantly timber-framed, south-facing saw-tooth roof corrugated iron clad sheds, which have been progressively erected between the late nineteenth and mid-twentieth century. Later subdivision has resulted in the complex being spread across two sites as follows:

### *41-59 Stephenson Street*

This site includes the following buildings:

- A centrally located timber-framed, corrugated iron clad sawtooth warehouse. This warehouse is notable for its roof lights canted at about 15 degrees from vertical, suggesting a late nineteenth century date. Glazing in this section is also unusual, incorporating wrought iron vertical bars and small overlapping glass panes held in place by metal clips. The column spacing of about 5 metres also suggests a late nineteenth century date. This is also the lowest section of roof with the narrowest bays.
- At the north of this site is a small group of timber-framed, and weatherboard-clad, saw-tooth roofed buildings, with particularly narrow bays (about 2.5 metres). These appear to have been designed both as office and factory accommodation. A series of roof vents on the eastern and northernmost parts of the building suggest a specialist industrial use such as soldering or other processes which produced fumes. Timber framed windows and internal lining (some beaded edge) suggest office use for the central portion.
- On the east side of this site facing Sutton street is a 1930s sawtooth warehouse with steel and timber framing. It has rolled edge iron over the steel framed vertical roof light and is notable for the painted sign 'Railway Signal and Engineering' with dramatic diagonal flashes filling the triangular spaces high along the end wall. This warehouse is adjoined by post-war additions on the north and south sides.

### *9 & 9A Sutton Street*

This site includes the following buildings:

- The erection shop on the west side on this site is a tall gabled structure with clerestory windows. Again clad in corrugated iron, this building is framed in iron, partly of made-up riveted wrought-iron columns, with iron truss roof. An electrically operated overhead traveling crane runs the length of this building and extends beyond the south wall to an open yard. This appears to date from the post World War II period.
- Steel-framed saw tooth warehouses of interwar or postwar dates. These buildings were originally part of the warehouse complex to the north (and possibly contiguous), but with subdivision are now physically separated by new external walls.

### *East side of Sutton Street*

Vacant land on the east side of Sutton Street marks the location of the original site of McKenzie and Holland.

## **Integrity**

External Condition

Fair to Good

External Integrity

Moderate

## **Physical Description 2**

Context

Contributory part of the Spotswood Industrial Precinct, facing the railway.

## **Historical Australian Themes**

Manufacturing and Processing, Railways

## **Physical Description 3**

*Associations*

McKenzie & Holland, Westinghouse Brake & Signal Company (Aust) Pty Ltd

*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/>*