



**HERITAGE
COUNCIL**
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES

Permanent Entry

1. **DATA BASE No.** 03645
2. **NAME** *Great Southern Roller Flour Mills Limited (1922, 1936-37)*
3. **LOCATION** 111 Stirling Highway, North Fremantle
4. **DESCRIPTION OF PLACE INCLUDED IN THIS ENTRY**
 1. Lot P82 on Deposited Plan 222433 being the whole of the land comprised in Certificate of Title Volume 13 Folio 225.
 2. Lot 10 on Plan 1340 being the whole of the land contained in Certificate of title Volume 1580 Folio 988
Lot 11 on Plan 1340, being the whole of the land comprised in Certificate of Title Volume 108 Folio 116.
Lots 14, 15 and 16 on Plan 1340, being the whole of the land comprised in Certificate of Title Volume 282 Folio 13.
Lot 700 on Deposited Plan 300431 being the whole of the land comprised in Certificate of Title Volume 367 Folio 178.
Lots 12 and 13 on Plan 1340, being the whole of the land comprised in Certificate of Title Volume 369 Folio 82.
North Fremantle Lots 173 and 175, being the whole of the land comprised in Certificate of Title Volume 395 Folio 22.
Lot 172 on Deposited Plan 110089 being the whole of the land comprised in Certificate of Title Volume 1396 Folio 827
 3. Lot 701 on Deposited Plan 300431 being the whole of the land contained in Certificate of Title Volume 2115 Folio 214
5. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA** City of Fremantle
6. **OWNER**
 1. Commissioner of Railways
 2. Allied Mills Pty. Ltd
 3. Commissioner of Main Roads
7. **HERITAGE LISTINGS**

• Register of Heritage Places:	Interim Entry	18/12/2007
	Permanent Entry	17/10/2008
• National Trust Classification:		04/09/1995
• Town Planning Scheme:		-----
• Municipal Inventory:		14/10/2000
• Register of the National Estate:		-----

8. CONSERVATION ORDER

9. HERITAGE AGREEMENT

10. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Great Southern Roller Flour Mills Limited, North Fremantle, a complex of buildings, including the Flour Mill, Timber Silos, Office, Laboratory and other buildings associated with the operation of the mill, constructed between 1922 and the present, has cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:

the place has a landmark quality with strong vertical proportions, height and massing of the mill and silo structures, the Dingo Flour brand image, and the Norfolk Island Pine;

the place has been commonly referred to as 'Dingo Flour Mill' for many years, showing the impact of the symbol, and has developed its own set of myths, including that it was painted by Alan Bond, demonstrating that the 'dingo' contributes to the community's sense of place;

the 1936-37 Timber Silos is a rare surviving example of its type;

the place is one of the largest purpose built flour mills built in Australia in the early 1920s, the only large and early mill continuing in operation in the metropolitan area, and is one of the most substantial buildings built in North Fremantle and Fremantle in the interwar period;

the place is rare as an operational flour mill, with only one other large mill in operation in the State;

the place is representative of the types of mill structures erected from the 1890s through to the interwar period in Western Australia and elsewhere in Australia, and retains processes that are representative of the period and which have altered little since the introduction of roller flour milling; the processes represent over a century of flour milling technology generally, and a continuous operation at this site since its completion in 1922; reflected also in establishment of a laboratory, and in modification of some earlier equipment to enable its continued use, and adaptation of the railway siding and wheat intake area for road transport; and,

the original mill building was designed by prominent architect J. F. Allen, of Allen and Nicholas, and the office building was designed by the well-known firm of Powell, Cameron & Chisholm Architects.

The perimeter fences and landscape elements, other than the Norfolk Island Pine, are considered to have little significance. Some elements such as the latter day grain storage silos (F04 and F13) are important as part of the process of milling, but have little cultural heritage significance. The nature of these items and their construction types necessitate periodic replacement to maintain the mill in operation. Many of the repair strategies and fabric protection measures within the structures and the current fit-out of the administration office are also of little cultural heritage significance.

This part of the mill comprises two sections of four-storey high brick construction mill building with a zincalume gabled profile roof. The brickwork is laid in English garden wall bond, with external piers and recessed panels between them. The brickwork was originally unfinished but the west and south elevations were painted in the 1950s. Windows are generally timber framed double hung sashes, fixed and awning lights. The two sections of the building are separated by a brick wall that extends through the full height of the buildings and terminates in a parapet above the roof level. Exhaust flumes extend through the roof in several locations. A prominent concrete tower structure which formerly supported the water tank is also evident above the ridge level. Although constructed in the interwar period, the buildings employ the Federation Warehouse style that was common to Western Australian flour mills since the introduction of the roller mill system.

The interiors of both mill buildings are essentially brick boxes with the interior walls being painted face brickwork. The ground floors are concrete, and upper floors are constructed with timber framing and boards, with timber stairs between floors. The roof is supported on trusses and purlins and the soffit of the roof system is exposed. There is evidence of wall repairs and stabilisation to the south of F06 and of extensive lintel conservation on the west face of the building. Masonry cracks, corrosion of metal elements, water damage to paint and render finishes, deteriorating mortar pointing and the poor condition of timber framed sash windows are highly evident throughout the building. The constant vibrations applied to the structure by heavy, oscillating equipment and exposure in the heavily salt laden environment have contributed to the deterioration of the fabric.

The building houses plant, equipment, and control equipment that performs conditioning, screening and milling functions. The processes involve cleaning, grinding, cyclonic transport up to the top of No 1 mill, sifting and sorting and re-grinding. The milling process involves a four break process to put the wheat through increasingly fine grinding. Bran is removed for use in stock feed and is transferred to offal storage and packing before dispatching. The mills are early pieces that were brought to the mill from 1938 onwards and additional mills, which were acquired from other mills and brought to Fremantle. The milling is managed to produce a variety of flours. Post milling stages include pre-mixing a range of products such as bread and pizza base mixes, sponge and doughnut mixes, and many other products.

F8 and F9 Flour Bins and Flour Packing

This is part of the masonry construction building fabric, and contains flour bins and packing equipment. The processes involve mechanised delivery, and a combination of mechanised and manual packing.

F10 Mixing and Special Packing, F11 Classification and F12 Bulk Flour Storage

F11 and F12 are metal framed and clad structures housing mixing and packing pre-mixed products, classifying, bagging, and weighing functions. The structure is steel framed with metal cladding, translucent sheet cladding, and rises to the same height as the No 1 Mill's eastern wall plate. It is designed as a lean-to structure. F10 is of a similar form, scale and height but is a brick masonry

structure constructed in the same pier and panel system as the Flour Mill with English garden wall bond brickwork.

F13 Bulk Flour Silos

This is a metal framed and clad loading bay structure with three metal clad silos, built close to the Leslie and Thompson Road boundaries. The silos are simple elegant industrial structures.

F14 Bulk Outloading

A metal framed and clad loading bay attached to the adjacent interlinked bulk flour bin area F12.

F15 Offal Packing and F18 Warehouse.

This is all one structure and is a two-storey gable roofed warehouse structure that runs between the Thompson Road boundary and back to the No 1 Mill. It is constructed in a similar manner to the mill in English garden wall bond brickwork in a pier and panel pattern, and has a metal deck roof with a metal silo protruding through it. It has a small number of timber framed windows, with stucco heads and sills. A feature of the eastern wall is the louvred grilles at high level under the corbelled parapet courses. The structure is timber framing with timber floors, though a number of timber columns have been replaced where mechanical damage has occurred. Metal cladding around timber columns and checker plate fixed to the floors are typical repair strategies in this warehouse, as well as warehouse F19 to the north. The offal silo has a discharge system that feeds into the offal loading system in the adjacent metal framed and clad loading bay F16 immediately to the south.

F16 Offal Loading and F17 Bag Store

The offal loading building is a metal framed and clad lean-to structure that also fronts Thompson Road. It has a large roller shutter access door, concrete floor, and the offal loading system suspended from its roof structure. The bag store is an extension of this structure and extends around to its south and west, finishing against F10 and 12. This whole assembly is utilitarian and improvised in its approach.

F19 Warehouse and F29 Warehouse

These are essentially two parts of the same structure, with F29 comprising a gabled roof brick construction building with a structural alignment that was based on the curvature of the rail connection back to the marshalling yards. The brickwork follows the same English garden wall bond pier and panel pattern as the adjoining F18 to the south. The door to F29 runs almost the full width of the building, and there are overhead tracks attached to the steel lintel that indicate that there was a pair of sliding doors at this opening. The interior is a clear span and, unlike the warehouse buildings previously described, the structure is all fabricated in steel sections. The floor is paved and there is no trace of the railway track that ran down the length of the warehouse.

The second section of the warehouse in this group, F19 employs the same technology as the other sections, such as F18, although it has a much simpler architectural expression, with plain English garden wall bond brick walls and a

small number of timber-framed windows. Many of the opening sashes have been replaced with fixed lights. The structure is timber with timber floors and the steel repair and protection strategies employed in F18 are repeated here. There is a deep floor cavity under part of the building adjacent to F29 that was formerly used to receive off loaded wheat for conveying into silos.

F20 Pallet Store

The Pallet Store is a single storey steel framed gable roofed structure, with a concrete wall to dado height and brickwork over the top on the Thompson Road boundary. The other walls are faced with metal cladding, and it has a metal clad roof. The building has a concrete floor, and has been adapted to allow a drive through vehicle movement from west to east. This building is constructed on land leased from Westrail. The building is utilitarian and has no intrinsic aesthetic value.

F21 Workshop

The Workshop is located on the Leslie Road boundary, and is a single storey red textured brick building with a low pitched green Colorbond roof and timber joinery. The west elevation and the southern parapet wall abutting the footpath have been rendered and painted. The workshop is a simple utilitarian building.

F28 Bakery

A small structure set between the Workshop and Staff Lunchroom where products are tested through the baking process.

F25 Staff Lunch Room

A single-storey brick construction rectangular plan building providing staff amenities.

F27 Shower Room

A single storey timber framed weatherboard clad rectangular plan building.

F26 Laboratory and F30 Administration

These are essentially two stages of the one building and the building reads as a single entity. The two elements are set well back from Stirling Highway and the building is essentially a domestic scale single storey structure that employs domestic brick and tile techniques, but the exterior of the building has been given the Inter-War Art Deco style treatment. The decorative elements have been reserved for the front of the building, with the stucco covered brickwork used to shape a simple three bay loggia, with quadrant plan walls to both sides, and a stepped parapet in the centre to which the Dingo Flour emblem has been applied. The business name is applied to the building in the form of a painted sign on a metal background over the loggia. The interiors of the office and the laboratory are very plain and simple with few distinctive architectural features. The manager's office is the most elaborate with a decorative plaster ceiling cornice and a parquet floor laid in a geometric pattern beneath the carpet floor covering.

The building was extended to the south in 1962. The extension is distinguishable from the original in the west elevation with a horizontal parapet contrasting with the main hipped roof.