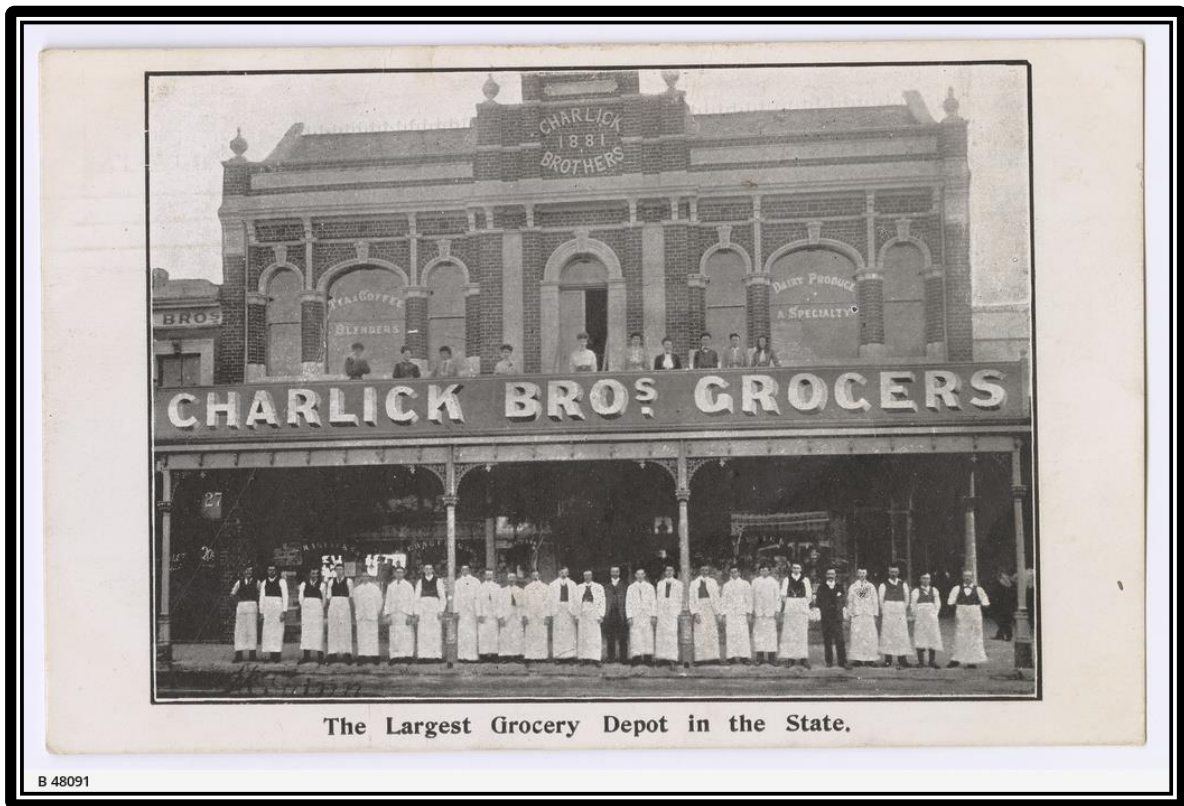


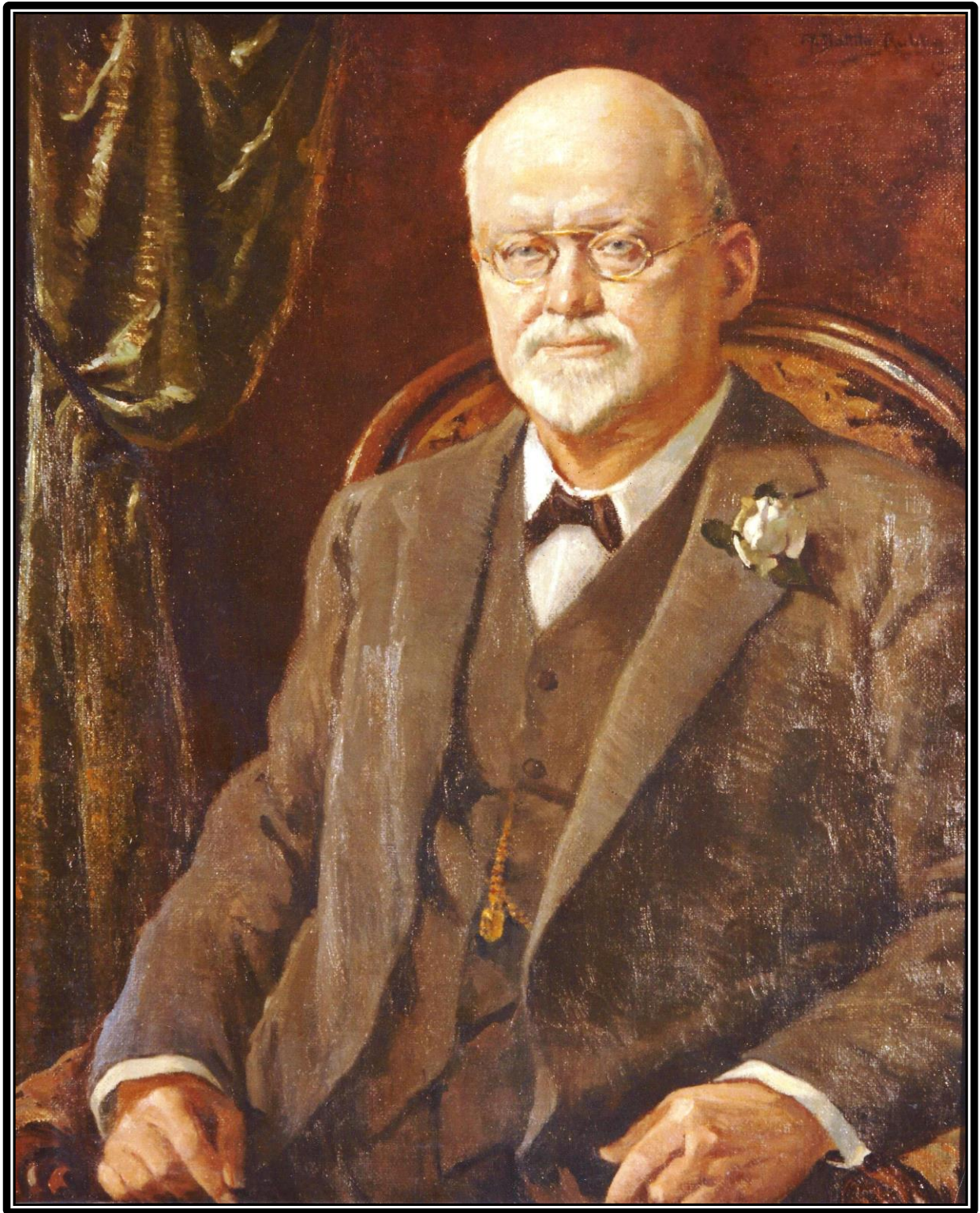
William Charlick Limited (Mile End South)



1907 Charlick Bros. Groceries [SLSA B 48091]

West Torrens Historical Society Inc.
(G. Grainger, 2022)

*Every effort has been made to provide complete and accurate information,
please advise of any errors or omissions.*



William Charlick circa 1923 [artist Antonio Dattilo Rubbo (1870-1955)]

[The original painting is in the care of William's Great Grandson Ian Goldsworthy Hay.]

EARLY YEARS

William Charlick (March 1858 - July 1926) was the seventh of nine children of Richard Charlick, wood turner, and his wife Janet nee Wilson who had arrived in South Australia aboard the Calphurnia in April 1849.

In early 1881 William and three of his brothers began Charlick Brothers, a grocery and fruit and vegetable business in the East End Market on East Terrace between North Terrace and Rundle Street.

In early 1902 the brothers amicably split the business, William taking control of the fruit and vegetable division. William was also at this time the driving force behind the creation of the Fruit and Produce Exchange, designed by Henry J. Cowell of Lockleys, which extended the East End Market further south along East Terrace to Grenfell Street.

William ran successful fruit and vegetable businesses in both the Exchange, sometimes called the New Market, and in the East End Market, until 1923. The Exchange operated prosperously from May 1904 until September 1988.

WILLIAM CHARLICK LIMITED

In August 1904, with capital of £4,000, William Charlick established a new company, William Charlick Limited, to deal with his fruit and vegetable business.



1919 William Charlick Ltd. horse drawn cart [SLSA PRG 280/1/15/47]

The business's early success encouraged Charlick to expand his commercial interests; he also wanted to create a larger enterprise so as to bring his six sons more fully into his business life.

MILE END SOUTH LAND

In December 1913 Charlick and his fifth son, Havelock Malcolm Charlick (1891-1976) bought 1.26 acres/c.0.51 hectares at the northern corner of London Road and Railway Terrace, Mile End South for £410 10s.

The land was a part of an 86-allotment subdivision laid out in the same month by the South Australian Company.

The Charlicks selected the site mainly because it needed little preparation and was close to the city and the Mile End railway goods yards (eventually, like several other businesses in the vicinity, the Charlick site was serviced by a double railway line linked to the goods yards).

By November 1919 Charlick and his son had accumulated land at the site extending from the northern side of London Road to the northern side of Scotland Road, with the Holdfast Bay railway line (today built over by James Congdon Drive) and Railway Terrace as its western and eastern boundaries. The land totalled a little under fourteen acres/c. 5.67 hectares and cost the Charlicks approximately £3,646.

LAND SALE TO RICHARDS INDUSTRIES

William Charlick Limited sold just over half of the land to various parties between May 1919 and December 1945.

The largest sales were to automobile body maker Richards Industries Ltd during 1945: Richards bought virtually all of the allotments on the northern side of Scotland Road for a total of £5,429.



T.J. Richards & Sons Ltd, Keswick, 1922 [SLSA B 2400/16]

Charlick's remaining land at the site comprised essentially the area between the eastern halves of London Road (northern side) and Scotland Road (southern side) including a private road – a total of around 5.4 acres/c. 2.19 hectares. The site was the focal point of several Charlick business interests until the early 1980s.

MILE END COLD STORES

Charlick's experience in the local fruit and vegetable industry alerted him to the need for more cold storage facilities in Adelaide.

In January 1916 the Mile End Cold Stores Limited, with William Charlick as chairman of directors, had its first ordinary general meeting in the Gawler Chambers, North Terrace, with starting capital of £30,000.

By the end of March 1916 a factory was established on a 1.23 acre/c.0.49 hectare site at the corner of London Road and Railway Terrace. As well as dealing in fruit, the company also handled butter and eggs and made ice. In its early years the plant was capable of storing around 30,000 cases of fruit, forty tons of butter and making five tons of ice per day.

As a result of encouraging early success, at the beginning of 1922 Mile End Cold Stores was restructured and expanded to become South Australian Cold Stores Limited, with starting capital of £250,000.



From the beginning SA Cold Stores Ltd was a separate business and not a part of William Charlick Limited. William Charlick remained as chairman of directors of SA Cold Stores, his eldest son Richard Harold Charlick (known as Harold) (1880-1937) was a director while Havelock Charlick became the company's first secretary.

Fresh and canned meat was soon added to the range of products handled by the cold stores.

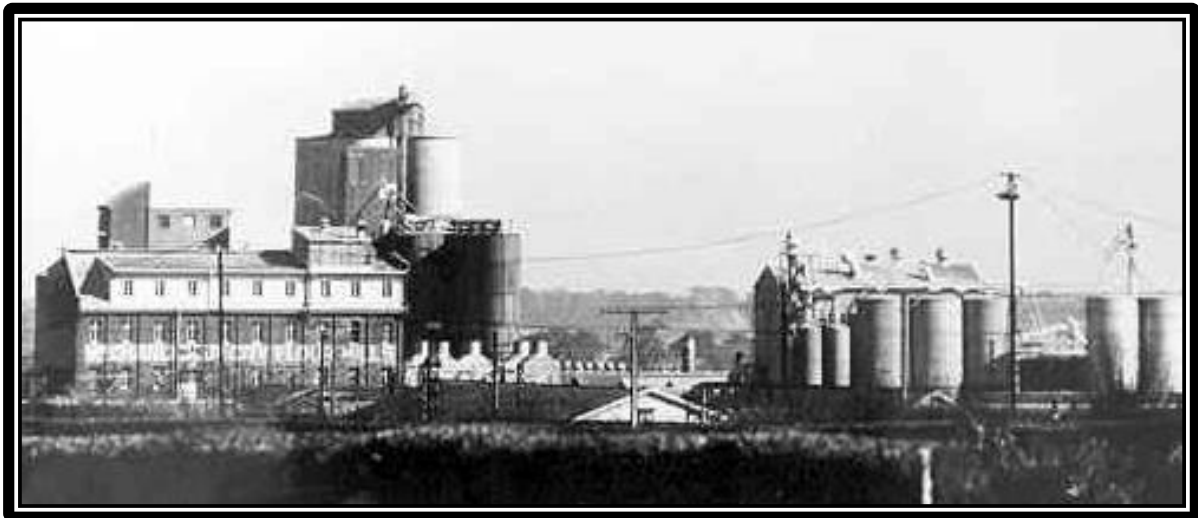
The company thrived, net (after tax) profits rising from £2,647 in 1929-30 to £5,111 in 1931-32 to £10,201 in 1938-39.

In 1935 the cold stores plant underwent the first in a series of technical improvements and extensions, the latter including along the eastern end of Scotland Road, that continued into the 1970s. In the twenty years from 1935 the extensions generally were designed by architects Caradoc Fisher and Ashton and engineered by Hurren, Langman and James, both of Adelaide.

FLOUR MILLING MILE END SOUTH

Anticipating strong post war export demand for South Australian flour, in 1917 William Charlick Limited resolved to move into flour milling.

In January 1918, builder Thomas Hickling of Glenelg began the construction of a four-storey brick mill at London Road. The machinery for the mill was bought from Henry Simon Ltd of Manchester, England.



William Charlick's flour mill in Mile End, Circa 1970. (The two silos on the right were transferred from the Meggitt, Port Adelaide feed mill after the purchase of that business by Charlick in 1969) [WTHS LH0080-07]

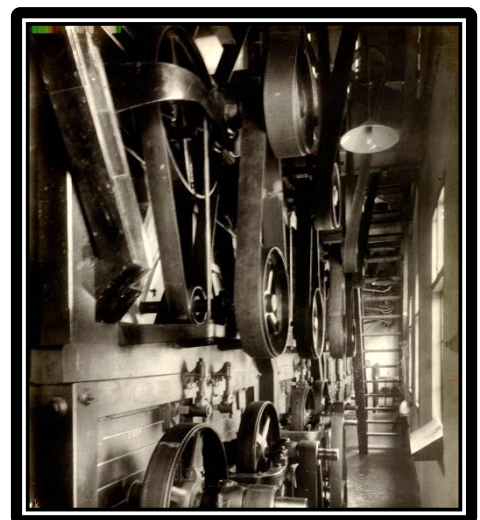
In its early years the mill building was divided into halves separated by a fire proof wall, the mill machinery on the eastern side and storage facilities on the other. A small one-storey office and administration area adjoined the mill.

The mill was one of about forty then operating in South Australia; it was one of the tallest industrial buildings in Mile End South.

CHARLICKS CITY FLOUR MILLS

Charlick's City Flour Mills began operating in 1919, producing around two tons of flour per hour, bound for both domestic and export markets (mainly European).

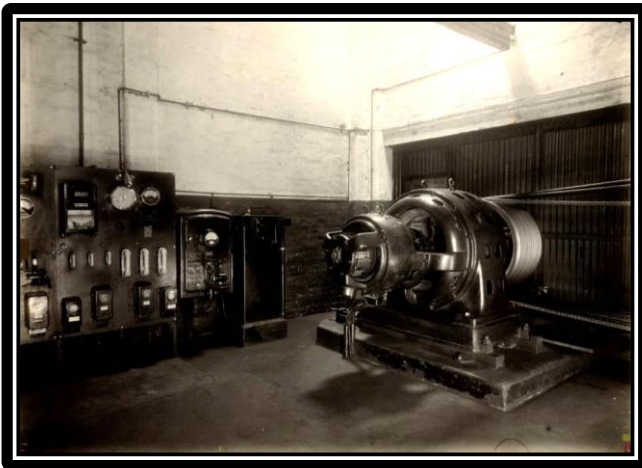
Family legend insists that William Charlick was so keen to see the mill flourish early on that when there was a shortage of wheat bags one year he had sailed out to meet an incoming Indian shipment of bags, made a deal with the captain to buy all of them, then made his own deals with other local merchants who were assembled on the wharf.



Sifter Reel Floor, Mile End, 1920



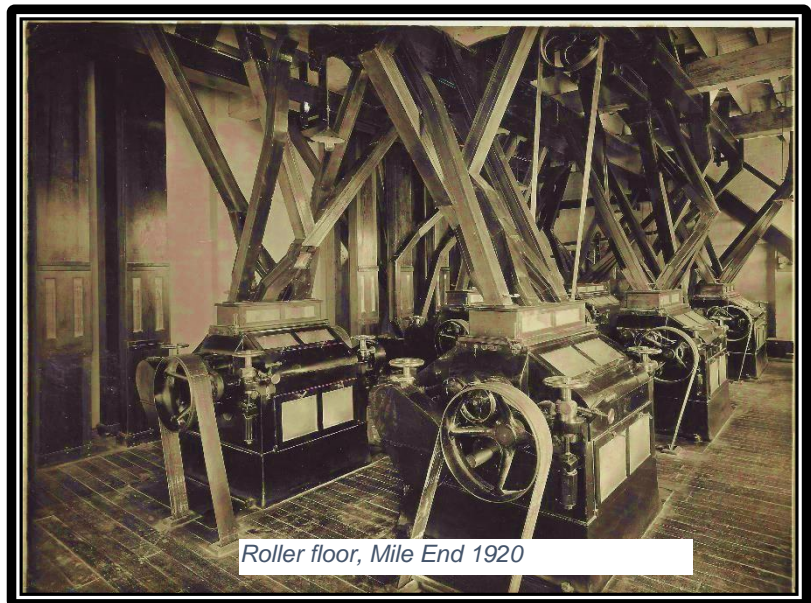
Transmission Shafts, Mile End, 1920



Main Drive Motor, Mile End, 1920



Purifier Floor, Mile End, 1920

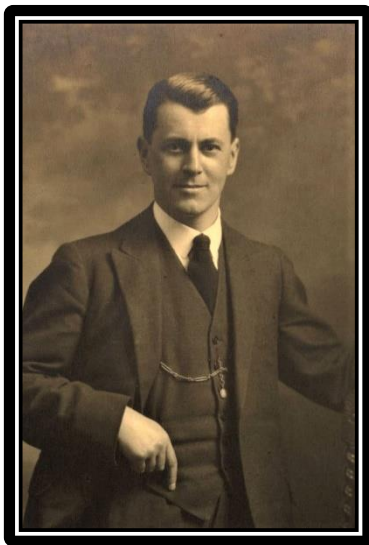


Roller floor, Mile End 1920

MILLER ROLES

After the introduction of new machinery in 1923 the mill's output rose to around three tons of flour per hour. Bob Thomas was head miller from early 1920s to 1933, by which time the mill was producing 25,000 tons of flour per year and was one of the four largest mills in South Australia; Thomas was succeeded by Roy Virgin, who was head miller until the early 1950s.

SONS' AND GRANDSONS', AND LATER, GREAT GRANDSONS' INVOLVEMENT



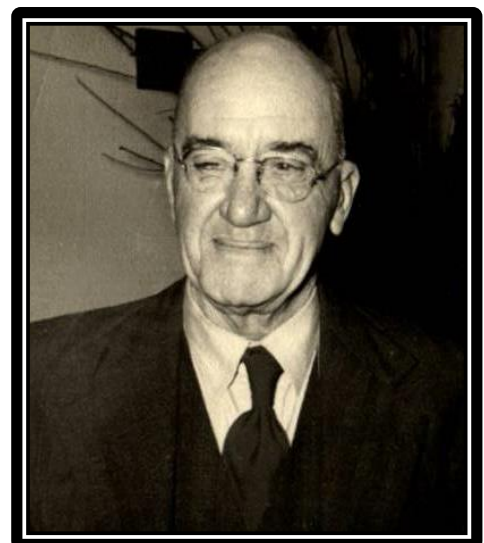
Claude Charlick, 1923

The mill was managed by Charlick's sixth and youngest son, Claude Spurgeon Charlick (1893-1974). Claude was a director of William Charlick Ltd for fifty years, including forty-three years as managing director. (Claude Charlick's middle name was derived from Charles Spurgeon, a highly influential English 'Particular Baptist' preacher who had died in December 1892 - William Charlick was deeply religious).

Charlick's third son, John Leonard Charlick (1887-1942) was second-in-charge of the mill for many years.

Charlick's second son, Gordon William Charlick (1885-1970) was a long-time salesman for City Flour Mills and served on the board of William Charlick Ltd for forty-seven years until the mid-1960s. Gordon was affectionately known within the family as 'Diddy', because whenever he was told that someone had done something Gordon would invariably reply, 'did he?'

With the establishment of the mill, William's goal of having his sons working in the business with him was almost achieved.



Gordon Charlick

Only one of William's sons was not involved in the business at some time: fourth son, Oswald George (1889-1970) known within the family as 'Ossie'. But even Oswald remained close to home, for many years running a dairy farm situated behind the London Road mill, grazing his cows on the Scotland Road land later sold to Richards, and operating an associated milk round.



1935 Land Use Around Scotland Road (centre) and London Road (bottom) [WestMaps public]

(Oswald also grazed cows on land near Morphett Road; in the 1950s and 1960s he was engaged in a legal battle with the federal government for compensation when his land was confiscated as a part of the purchases required for the new Adelaide Airport).

Four of William's grandchildren also worked for Charlicks at various times.

Ronald (Ron) Charlick (1914-1985), Oswald's older son, started as a flour packer with the company in 1931, later became an executive in charge of transport and employment and was a member of the board from 1944.

Malcolm Claude Charlick (1916-1993), Havelock's son, ran the Charlick Provender Company (mentioned later) for many years.

Glen Havelock Charlick (1923-2001), Havelock's younger son, worked for Charlicks and later ran a successful earth moving company.

Gladys Muriel Lock (1921-2014), John Leonard Charlick's younger daughter, who, in addition to working for the company, wrote a valuable family history, *'The Grains of Time: The Story of the Charlick Family'* (1991).

MANAGING DIRECTORS

The mill's early years were difficult. William Charlick stepped down as managing director of William Charlick Limited in early 1923, replaced by C.S. Charlick, known within the family as 'the shy one'. (At the same time Havelock Malcolm Charlick became managing director of SA Cold Stores Ltd).

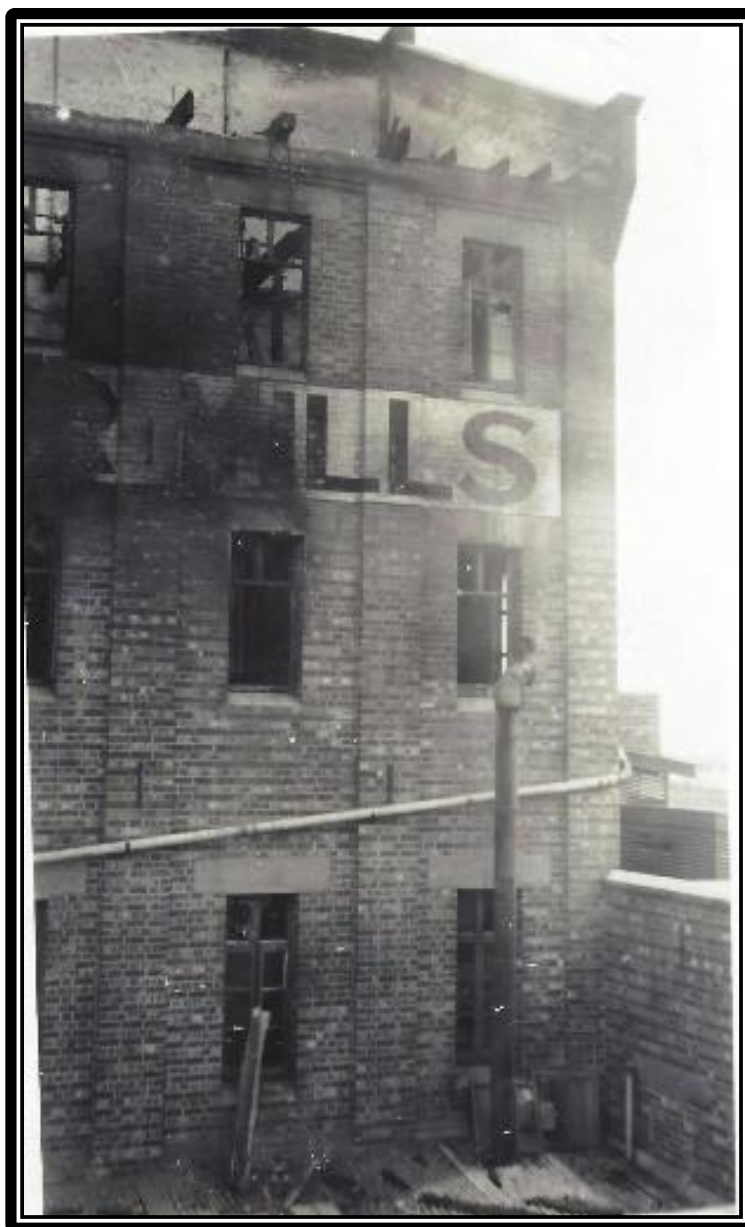
FIRE, WINDING UP, FIRE, NOISE COMPLAINTS

In January 1925 a fire at the mill, which by then employed around twenty workers, destroyed its cleaning plant.

In January 1927 William Charlick Ltd was forced to hold an extraordinary general meeting to discuss the voluntary winding up of the company. Family anecdotal evidence suggests that C.S. Charlick had to sell his home in Highgate to keep the company afloat.

After the passing of the immediate crisis came the Depression, then a fire at the mill in August 1933 that caused £10,000 damage and closed the mill for three months.

Local residents also continued to complain of *'the continuous nerve-racking noise made by an engine with a defective silencer at the City Four Mills. Why does the West Torrens Council allow this offensive noise to continue? Surely the ratepayers deserve better treatment'*.



After the fire 1933 [WTHS LH0080-14]

TURNAROUND

The remainder of the 1930s however brought a welcome period of stability and consolidation for the mill – in 1939 for example Charlicks received an important fillip when it became a licensed receiver for the Australian Wheat Board, thereby guaranteeing a steady flow of wheat and income.

In 1932 Charlicks had established the Mile End Bag Company at London Road. The main purpose of the company initially was to manufacture bags for use in milling activities, both by Charlicks and by other companies.

A sign of better times for Charlicks came in late 1935 when a one-storey extension of the Mile End South office administration area, designed by Messrs Caradoc Ashton and Fisher, was opened.

In 1937 Charlicks established the Metal Trading Company at London Road. (Both the Bag Company and the Metal Trading Company had premises at the western end of Charlick's London Road land). The Metal Trading Company bought and sold all classes of non-ferrous metals, scrap, cast iron and steel. It particularly benefited from a wartime shortage of metal which created strong demand for its smelted and refined products.



Charlicks Mile End, c1938 (WTHS LH0080)

GROWTH AND EXPORT

The thirty or so years from the beginning of the second world war brought strong financial growth for Charlicks, underpinned in the early years by the burgeoning success of the City Flour Mills.

As the export market for South Australian flour grew during the mid-1940s and early 1950s City Flour Mills increased its output to four tons per hour.

Bert Liddle was head miller at City Flour Mills from the early 1950s to 1976, when John Philipp took over.

Accompanying the surge in output, in 1952 Charlicks built nine new silos, capable of storing a total of 1,000 tons of flour a week, at London Road.

In 1944 Charlicks re-established the Victory Flour Mill at Port Adelaide (it had closed in 1932). The mill operated usefully until Charlicks surrendered its lease in 1952.

In 1946 an increasingly confident Charlicks established a new business at London Road: the Charlick Provender Company housed the first mill built in South Australia specifically to produce stock and poultry feeds in pellet, granule, mash and cube forms.

POST WAR PROFITS - PUBLIC COMPANY

Charlicks's overall profit results in the immediate post-war years reflected its new prosperity.

In the five financial years to 1949-50 William Charlick Limited recorded an excellent average annual net profit of £36,165, up from averages of £3000 in the mid-1920s. (During these years Charlicks was one of only two large Adelaide businesses to have a female company secretary, Mrs S.E. Eglington.)

Encouraged by the profit results, in November 1950 William Charlick Ltd became a public company; the first issue of shares was oversubscribed by eight times. By 1953 the company had 250 employees and issued share capital of £520,000.

Although export demand for flour slackened from the mid-1950s as developing countries built their own mills, the company sought new domestic outlets for its flour. Average annual net profits for the remainder of the 1950s remained solid at around £33,000.

MILE END BAG COMPANY

The Mile End Bag Company was also thriving. After new £150,000 multi-wall papersack making machinery began operating in 1951 West Torrens town clerk Vernon Shephard described the plant as '*one of the most modern textile and ... papersack making factories in Australia*'.



City depot of the Mile End Bag Co. near 70 Hindmarsh Square
Circa 1935 [SLSA: B 6743]

Papersacks were used to store cement, chemical and mineral items, flour and stock feed and were also used as household disposable 'garbags'

In 1959 Charlicks created a separate business, Charlicks Papersacks, on the corner of Cleveland Terrace and Henry Street, Ottoway specifically for the manufacture of papersacks.

The 1.38 acre, (circa 0.56 hectares), factory was soon producing 30 million multi-wall papersacks per year. The London Road plant, renamed as Charlick Jute and Textiles, then specialised in the manufacture of calico, hessian and jute bags.

CHARLICKS CHARMS

Charlick's Charms, a small electroplating business, also operated on London Road for a few years in the 1950s.

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COPPER, SILVER, AND GOLD
is at your service!
We specialise in Gold Plating required for industry, as well as high-class jewellery work. Moderate prices according to the quality required. May we quote you?
Full details supplied on application. **WILLIAM CHARLICK LIMITED.** London road Hilton. Department Charlicks Charms. Phone L 4164.

News Thursday 18 May 1950 p27

THE NEW PLATING
PLANT OF CHARLICKS
CHARMS.
WILLIAM CHARLICK LIMITED,
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SERVICE.
RENEW ALL YOUR
Tablespoons, Teaspoons, Dessert
Spoons, Table and Dessert Forks,
Salad Servers, Fruit Dishes, Teapots,
As Well As Watch Cases and Family
Jewellery,
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GOLD PLATING OUR SPECIALTY
Articles Should be Left at
WILLIAM CHARLICK LTD.,
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ENQUIRIES WELCOMED AT
THIS DEPOT AND PRICE LISTS
AVAILABLE.
We Assure You of Moderate Prices
and Efficient Service.
Charlicks Charms,
LONDON ROAD, MILE END, S.A.

The Kadina and Wallaroo Times
Friday 25 Aug 1950 p1

Cold Stores
profit £10,570
After allowing for depreciation and providing for taxation, profit of SA Cold Stores Ltd. for the year to June 30 was £10,570, the chairman (Mr. J. M. Syme) said in a report today.
The quantity of goods handled was slightly higher and generally the average amount of space occupied in the store was better than than the previous year, he said.

News Tuesday 11 Aug 1953 p8

SA COLD STORES LTD

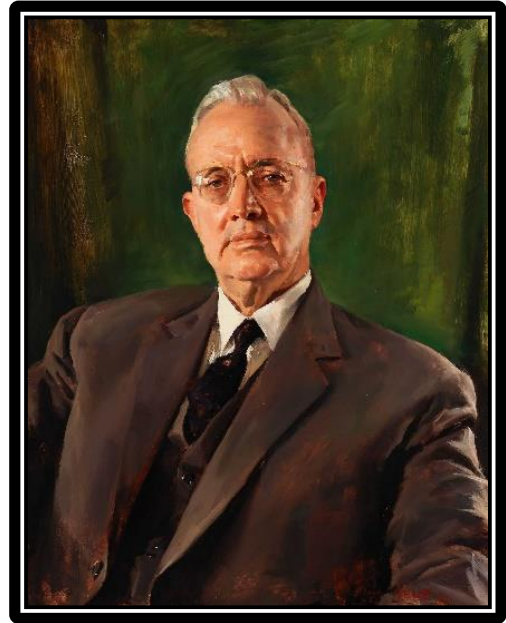
SA Cold Stores Ltd continued to do well. After averaging net profits of around £7000 in the late 1940s, during the 1950s SA Cold Stores Ltd profits, though somewhat inconsistent, generally increased to just over £17,000 in 1959-60.

STAFFING, PROFIT & CAPITAL VALUE

At one point in the early 1950s seven Charlick businesses operated on London and Scotland Roads. For many years the company flag – a stylised 'C' on a blue background – flew over its London Road head office. The company also had an active sporting and social club and an entertaining staff run newsletter from the 1950s.

Despite the retirement of C.S. Charlick in September 1966 after forty-three outstanding years as managing director William Charlick Ltd flourished during the 1960s. A circa 1961 portrait of Charlick by Ivor Hele hangs in the National Portrait Gallery in Canberra and was donated by William Charlick's granddaughter Gladys Muriel Lock (1921-2014).

The company's net profits rose from £60,753 in 1960-61 to \$201,440 in 1966-67 to \$543,003 in 1969-70, while its authorised capital value rose to £1 million in 1960-61 and to £2 million in 1964-65.



Claude Charlick by Ivor Hele 1961
[<https://www.portrait.gov.au/>]

1960s OPTIMISM

Reflecting the declining vitality of the sector, in February 1960 Charlicks purchased the Jeffs Brothers Limited flour milling business; Jeffs Industries Ltd operated mills in Gawler and in Junee, NSW.

Underperforming assets like the Metal Trading Company and Charlick's Charms were jettisoned at this time. Nonetheless, into the 1960s Charlicks's prevailing mood was optimistic.

In 1961 the company established a new fully automated Stock Feed Mill at Scotland Road behind the flour mill. Malcolm Charlick retired from the company as the new mill was being built and Bill Bennett, recruited from the UK, became the manager of the new facility. Seven twenty-metre high steel grain silos accompanied the six storey building housing the mill.

In September 1962 the Charlick Provender Company, which operated the mill, was renamed as Charlick's Feeds. Also in 1962 Charlick Plastics was set up at London Road to produce polyethylene bags, piping and sheets; the company soon relocated to premises at nearby Deacon Avenue, Richmond.

May 1965 saw Charlicks open a completely remodelled and updated flour mill on London Road and along with it constructed eleven 30 metre high concrete grain silos. Built under the supervision of technical director Bill Watts, the new mill was fully automated and was one of the most efficient mills in Australia, producing up to six tons of flour per hour.

SA COLD STORES

South Australian Cold Stores Ltd continued to thrive in the 1960s, net profits increasing consistently from £15,397 in 1960-61 to almost \$141,000 in 1969-70; the company's authorised capital was \$1,000,000 in 1966-67.

In January 1967 SA Cold Stores Ltd took over a local competitor, Producers Cold Storage Ltd; although the Charlick family by this time held only 20.7% of SA Cold Stores Ltd shares it remained the largest single shareholder in the company. By the mid-1960s the premises of SA Cold Stores Ltd extended along Railway Terrace from the eastern end of Scotland Road south to London Road.

EXPANSION

Probably the hallmark of Charlicks operations during the twenty or so years from the mid-1950s however was its determination to find new sources of profit by venturing into completely new territory.

In April 1968 Charlicks moved into the insurance field with the creation of Charlick Lambert Insurance Brokers; Charlicks owned 51% of the London Road-based company and the Lambert Group of London the remainder.

In the area of transport, from 1954 the company operated under the auspices of its Hong Kong branch the William Charlick IV, a 5720 tonne cargo ship built in Dalmeir, Scotland in 1924. For almost five years the vessel undertook cargo and charter work, mainly in the Far East.



From early 1965 to the mid-1980s Charlicks also operated Southern Shipping Lines Pty Ltd in partnership with the Swedish Broström AB Group. The line ran vessels from Adelaide and east coast ports to Bangkok, Malaysia, Singapore and other Asian centres carrying cargoes including wheat and gypsum.

From 1969 to 1976 Charlicks owned and ran Central Australian Airways which operated regular scheduled passenger services to the West Coast and South East of South Australia and charter flights within Australia and to Papua New Guinea (PNG).

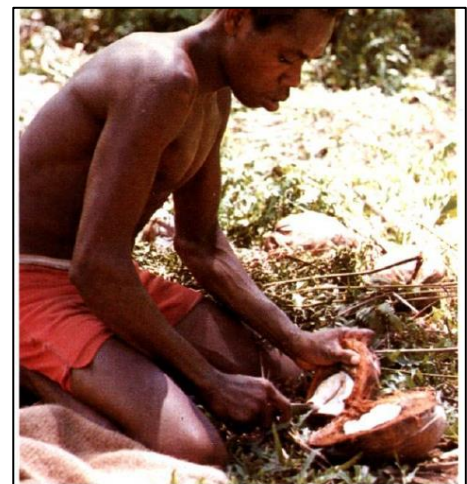


de Havilland Dove, Adelaide Airport circa 1970

Domestically, in 1969 Charlicks began Charlick Transport by acquiring the road transport fleet and business of F. Kessell and Son of Rosewater; in May 1971 Charlick Transport took over Anderson and Porter's Glanville trucking business. Charlick Transport was based at Port Adelaide.

By 1968 the company's growth was such that the office adjoining the flour mill was insufficient for the Company's needs. A new, modern and much larger two-storey brick office building, designed by noted architect John Chappel, was erected about 100 metres west of the mill on London Road. Within a couple of years however, this also became too small and a third floor was added.

Charlick used some of the proceeds from the sale of the William Charlick IV to buy the Kessa copra and cocoa plantation on Buka Island, PNG. After first investing in Papua New Guinea in 1957, in 1964 Charlick also took 40% and in October 1971 100% ownership of the Volupai Plantation, one of the largest copra and cocoa plantations in the West New Province of PNG.



Volupai Plantation - cutting copra.

OVERSEAS

CHARLICK NEW GUINEA LIMITED:

For many years, Charlick has owned and operated profitable plantations in Papua New Guinea, at Kessa on Bougainville Island, and Volupai on New Britain. These plantations produce copra, cocoa, and also raise beef cattle.

During the 1960s Charlicks also invested in, among other projects, the Tasmanian timber industry and overseas flour mills including the Federal Flour Mill in Malaysia, which began operations in 1967. The mill was a joint-venture between Charlick and the Malaysian based Robert Kuok Group which was one of Malaysia's largest flour importers and an important Charlick customer.

COMPANY CHANGES

The 1970s were a turning point for William Charlick Ltd. The company extended its interests in areas like road transport and overseas investment. By 1973-74 William Charlick Ltd operated sixteen subsidiary companies and more than half of its revenue consistently came from overseas investments.

In 1971 Charlicks extended its interest in Austasia Timber Pty Ltd, an Australia-based business importing timber from Malaysia.

In 1976 Charlicks New Guinea established, with Australian miller Gillespie Brothers' Holdings, the Investment Corporation of Papua New Guinea and United Bakeries Ltd, the PNG-based flour and feed milling company Associated Mills Ltd; their state of the art mill opened in Lae in September 1977 and another was erected in Port Moresby in 1983.

In South Australia, 1971-72 Charlicks spent almost \$2 million on additions to plastics and papersack manufacturing plant and equipment.

In 1973, in association with Adelaide-based meat processor and exporter Metro Meat Ltd and Japan's largest meat importer Itoman & Co., Charlicks created CMI Farms Ltd. The business operated a substantial pig breeding business near Adelaide.

By 1974 Charlicks, in conjunction with Gillespie Brothers' Holdings and Perth-based grain and produce merchant W. H. Milne and Co. Ltd, had created Australasian Feed Services Pty Ltd, a stockfeed nutritional advisor to the stockfeed and livestock industries. In June 1975 Charlicks acquired H.J. Penno and Company, an Adelaide bag and sack making business established in 1901.

However, behind the expansionary activities there were also ominous signs for Charlicks. Perhaps suggesting that it needed short term funds, in 1974 Charlicks sold its share in SA Cold Stores Ltd – which had enjoyed a record consolidated net profit of \$247,561 in 1972-73 – to P&O Shipping.

Thereafter the business and its site were sold several times, including to Fingalton Pty Ltd in April 1993 for \$5.555 million.

South Australian Cold Stores Ltd, under various owners, continued to operate at Mile End South until 2004 then transferred its premises to Dry Creek.

By the 1970s the once lucrative flour milling industry was almost moribund as domestic and overseas markets tightened further – reflecting the trend, Charlicks closed the Jeffs Industries mills in March 1970 and the properties were sold the following year.

Other assets, like air transport and packaging, had proved to be disappointing and needed to be either reorganised or closed down. The general economy was sluggish.

Most alarmingly, throughout the 1970s Charlicks net profits became volatile. Smaller national companies like Charlicks were particularly vulnerable in an increasingly predatory corporate environment.

The company was well aware of its plight, Mr Graham Ronald Keane (1934-83), then Charlicks's general manager for manufacturing and merchandising – and a grandson of 'Ossie' Charlick who had joined the company in January 1952 – telling workers in a letter of August 1977 that although the recent net profit of \$777,000 was 'fairly reasonable ... neither this nor any of the profits earned in recent years have kept pace with inflation'. (It should be noted that apart from Graham Keane two other of William Charlick's great grandsons worked for the company from the mid-1960s: Messrs Graham Ross Munro (1943-2000), a grandson of Gordon Charlick, and Ian Goldsworthy Hay (b. 1943), a grandson of John Charlick).

In a speech of July 1978 Mr Keane acknowledged the recent returns to shareholders as inadequate, (the Charlick family was still the company's largest individual shareholder), and 'if we cannot become more efficient there is a good chance the company will be taken over (right now there is no danger of this happening)'.



William Charlick Limited building, London Road, Mile End, 1979

KUOK GROUP TAKEOVER

In early 1979 three takeover attempts were launched against Charlicks. Southern Farmers' Holdings Ltd made bids in February and April (the latter through its wholly owned subsidiary Milling Industries Pty Ltd), while Burns, Philp and Company Limited of Sydney made a \$9.97 million offer in late March. By late July 1979 Charlicks accepted an offer from the Kuok Group of Malaysia; the deal was formally completed in November.



Within five years the Kuok Group had disposed of most of the Charlick businesses, seeing them as being either unprofitable or incompatible with Kuok's core concerns. As a key example, in November 1979 William Charlick Limited and D&J Fowler Ltd formed a new company – Adelaide City Mills Pty Ltd - into which they merged their respective flour milling assets, City Flour Mills and the Port Adelaide based Adelaide Milling Company.

A reaction by its constituent companies to the state's over-capacity in milling, Adelaide City Mills became South Australia's largest milling group.

The company was short-lived however for the following year the Charlick and Southern Farmers' Groups formed a jointly owned company, Milling Industries Limited, into which were merged the flour mills, stock feed mills and bakeries of the Charlick, Fowler and Noske businesses.

Milling Industries Ltd. Flour and Stock Feed Quality Control Laboratory.



Milling Industries Ltd owned a range of local and interstate bakeries including the Baker Boy, Opie Bros and Oldfield bakeries. The Charlick interest in Milling Industries Ltd was sold to Southern Farmers' in September 1984 ending over sixty years of Charlick involvement in flour milling.

In another area of the business, the Charlick Papersacks plant at Ottoway was sold in December 1984 and its equipment moved to an APM/AMCOR Packaging factory in Victoria.

The former Charlicks Papersacks site is now occupied by housing. At the time of the Kuok Group takeover Charlicks employed just over three hundred people in South Australia and another 150 interstate; one source maintains that within a decade virtually all were no longer with the company.

MILE END SOUTH MILL SITE

The Kuok Group sold off Charlick's Mile End South properties during the 1980s and 1990s.

The flour mill, some land immediately to its west and the expanded 1968 office building were sold in March 1982 to Milling Industries Limited for \$370,000.



The mill and the adjoining warehouse area were eventually sold by Southern Farmers to Goodman Fielder Mills Ltd of Sydney in January 1992 for \$1,821,691.

The mill thereby became a part of Allied Mills, the Milling and Baking Division of Goodman Fielder Mills which included plants in the eastern states and New Zealand. The mill later operated under the name Allied Flour.

Various corporate manoeuvrings followed and from March 2017 Allied Flour became Allied Pinnacle.



In March 2019 Allied Pinnacle Group was sold to the Nisshin Seifun Company of Japan for \$412.3 million.



The Mile End South mill remains open, producing 160 tonnes of flour from over two hundred tonnes of wheat per day.

The mill building has been authorised as a State Heritage Place since October 2008.

DESCRIPTION	
Details (Known As)	Former Charlick's Mill
Registered Name	
Extent of listing	Multi storey brick mill complex and single storey brick section fronting London Road. Later corrugated iron and concrete sections are not included. 1998 Heritage Survey Ref. MS02
Class	Local
Local Heritage Place Class	-
Type	
STATUS	
Authorisation Date	02-OCT-2008
REFERENCE	
LGA	West Torrens
Heritage Number	21095
Council Reference	129
SECTION 23 INFORMATION	
Section 23	a - it displays historical, economic or social themes that are of importance to the local area c - it has played an important part in the lives of local residents d - it displays aesthetic merit, design characteristics or construction techniques of significance to the local area

SA Heritage Places Database Search maps.sa.gov.au/heritagesearch/HeritageItem.aspx?p_heritageno=21095

OTHER SITE OWNERSHIP CHANGES

The Charlick land further to the west of the mill, which had been occupied by the 1968 office building and Charlick Jute and Textiles, was sold by the Kuok Group to the Southern Farmers' Group in September 1984 for \$650,000. It later changed hands again and is now a part of property leased to Adam Internet Pty Ltd Data Centre.

The remainder of the Charlick Mile End South land along Scotland Road was sold to the Southern Farmers' Group in sales of April 1986 and February 1989 for a total of \$945,000.



*Former S.A. Farmers Co-Op. Union Ltd, Mile End Grain Store, which adjoined the Charlick flour mill.
This now houses the Mill's bulk flour handling facilities.*

*The bulk wheat receivals facility is also shown on the former private rail siding roadway. Circa 2011
[alliedpinnacle.com]*

The Stock Feed Mill fronting Scotland Road was closed and demolished, with the production and some plant moving to the new Wasleys Feed Mill operated by the Ridley Corporation.

The land has changed ownership since then and is today [2022] leased to a motor car dealership and an industrial belt and hose distributor.

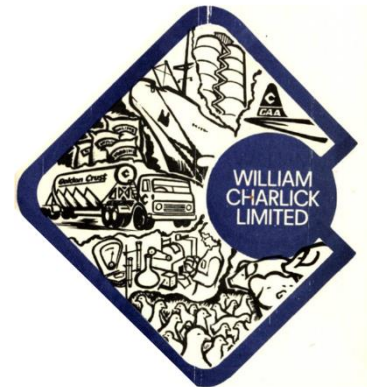
CHARLICK BUSINESS NAME

In January 1984 the Kuok Group renamed William Charlick Ltd as Charlick Australia Ltd, then in May renamed Charlick Australia Ltd's main operating units as the Charlick Corporation.

Buoyed by Kuok's funds the Charlick Corporation briefly became a significant player in the Sydney real estate market.

By the early 1990s however the Kuok Group had apparently changed its investment strategies and the Charlick Corporation was deregistered in August 1993.

William Charlick Ltd had been deregistered in March 1993.



OTHER RESOURCES

Charlick Operations Pty Ltd, Booklet, 1980

The assistance of David Cree is gratefully acknowledged. David was employed by the Charlick Group from 1963 to 1985, starting as an Executive Trainee and concluding as Assistant to Managing Director.

West Torrens Historical Society Inc

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