

Victorian Heritage Database Report

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PRESTON TECHNICAL COLLEGE (FORMER)



Northern Metropolitan Institute of Technology, 77-89 St Georges Road



Northern Metropolitan Institute of Technology, 77-89 St Georges Road

Location

77-89 ST GEORGES ROAD, PRESTON, DAREBIN CITY

Municipality

DAREBIN CITY

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO250

Heritage Listing

Darebin City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

What is significant?

The former Preston Technical College at 77-89 St Georges Road, Preston built in 1937, designed by the Public Works Department under its Chief Architect, Percy Everett, is significant. One of three secondary schools

opened in Darebin during the inter-war period it provided technical education to boys from the Preston and Northcote districts. Later, its facilities were enlarged to teach girls. It is an inter-war two-storey building designed in a Stripped Classical style. The original building's symmetrical massing creates a Classical composition, and the entrance, which has some Moderne detailing, implies a Classical portico. Other architectural stylistic influences are also visible including the slightly convex hips of the roof, which is clad in terracotta Spanish tiles, giving this part of the building a Mediterranean appearance. The upper walls of the building are cream brick and sit upon a red brick base. Windows are multi-paned and have steel frames.

Later alterations and additions, and other buildings on the site now occupied by Northern Metropolitan Institute of Technology (NMIT) are not significant.

How is it significant?

The former Preston Technical College at 77-89 St Georges Road, Preston is of local historic, aesthetic and social significance to Darebin City.

Why is it significant?

Historically, the school provides evidence of the educational facilities established to meet the educational needs of the growing municipalities of Northcote and Preston in the Inter-war years. It is also significant as a place that illustrates the development of technical colleges during the inter-war period. It is significant as an example of a school designed under the direction of notable Chief Architect, Percy Everett (AHC criteria A.4, D.2, H.1).

Architecturally, the former Preston Technical College is a relatively intact and good example of a substantial Education Department secondary school building from the Inter-war years. The Stripped Classical composition of its east (St Georges Road) elevation is of note, which is layered with materials and embellishment that are found on Moderne and Mediterranean style buildings, creating an interesting hybrid of styles (AHC criterion F.1).

Heritage Study/Consultant	Darebin - Darebin Heritage Study, Context P/L, 2011;
Construction dates	1937,
Architect/Designer	Everett, Percy,
Other Names	NORTHERN METROPOLITAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY,
Hermes Number	27144
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

The 1937 Preston Technical College is an inter-war two-storey building designed in a Stripped Classical style. The original building's symmetrical massing creates a Classical composition, and the entrance, which has some Moderne detailing, implies a Classical portico. Other architectural stylistic influences are also visible including the slightly convex hips of the roof, which is clad in terracotta Spanish tiles, giving this part of the building a Mediterranean appearance (Mediterranean was another style popular during the inter-war period, particularly for residential development). The upper walls of the building are cream brick and sit upon a red brick base. Windows are multi-paned and have steel frames. In the entrance porch is a stone that reads:

*This building was opened by the Honourable
John P Harris MD MLC
Minister of Public Instruction
On the 21st April 1937*

The building is in good condition and has a high degree of external integrity, particularly when viewed from St

Georges Road. At the rear of the building at the southern end, a single-storey wing has been added. Although this is sympathetic in terms of materials and detailing, it has ruined the symmetry of the original composition when viewed from the west.

The building is sited on a diagonal to St George's Road, and is now partially concealed from the street by a mature garden of more recent origin. The building now forms a larger complex of buildings that are occupied by Northern Metropolitan Institute of Technology (NMIT). The other buildings that form part of this campus have not been assessed by this Study.

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 data owner.

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