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## MMTB SUBSTATION



MMTB  
substation\_Thornbury\_14  
May 2009\_mz



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### Location

3-5 MARTIN STREET THORNBURY, DAREBIN CITY

### Municipality

DAREBIN CITY

### Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

### Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7822-2273

### Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO45

### Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

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### Statement of Significance

Last updated on - August 14, 2009

The electrical substation at 3-5 Martin Street, Thornbury was built by the former Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Board (MMTB) in 1955. It was a key part of the program to electrify the former cable tram route along High Street in Thornbury. The Thornbury substation was one of three new substations built by the MMTB in 1955, the others being at Fitzroy and Clifton Hill. The substation is still in use.

The building is built of cream brick, with a darker brick used on its base. The main body of the building has a gable roof. Above each of the doors is a steel ventilator cover. One of these ventilators is also located in the building's eastern wall. The building's western wall has a tall wall opening with a hoist for the fitting and removal of electrical equipment.

The substation at 3-5 Martin St Thornbury is of local historical significance as part of the expansion of the electrical tramway along High Street.

Interpretation of Site      The drive wheel from the Former Northcote Cable Tramway is thought to be buried beneath the area adjoining the MMTB SubStation.

Archaeological Significance      The possible identification of the drive wheel pertaining to the Former Northcote Cable Tramway Site is archaeologically significant. Despite major alteration to the area, the site has the potential to contain significant 19th century archaeological remains underground pertaining to their original use (such as the drive wheel) which will provide information on the 19th century cable tram system.

Hermes Number      118184

Property Number

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## History

The Northcote cable tramway was constructed by the Clifton Hill to Northcote and Preston Tramway Company in 1890 and operated separately from the main Melbourne cable tram network (built by the Melbourne Tramways Trust 1885-91). After a chequered career the Northcote line was eventually linked to the main network in 1925, and became the last time of the entire system to close in 1940.

After the closure of the cable tram engine houses from the mid 1920's until 1940, all of the machinery, fixtures and fittings were removed.

The substation at 3-5 Martin Street, Thornbury was one of three electrical substations built by the Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Board (MMTB) in 1955 and one of many that have been built throughout metropolitan Melbourne to assist in the operation of the city's electric tram network. The substation has had no direct influence on the development of Melbourne's tram network as a whole but was important to the operation of the local tram route. The building is well designed but cannot be considered to be a notable piece of architecture.

*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/>*