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# PRESTON WEST PRIMARY SCHOOL NO. 3885



murray - west preston PS.jpg

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## Location

383 MURRAY ROAD, PRESTON, DAREBIN CITY

## Municipality

DAREBIN CITY

## Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO239

## Heritage Listing

Darebin City

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

### *What is significant?*

Preston West Primary School No.3885 at 383 Murray Road, West Preston was the third primary school to be built in Preston and catered for the massive growth in enrolments in the wake of the population boom in Preston during the 1920s. The first stage of the school building was erected in 1915, and additions were quickly made as enrolments peaked at over 1000 by 1927. The following elements contribute to the significance of the place:

- the 1915 school building and pre-WWII additions. The design is typical of the Education Department's suburban

schools of this period, having face red brick, which is rendered in places, and a hipped terracotta tile roof.

- two timber outbuildings with hip roofs to the rear of the complex.
- mature trees within the school grounds.

Later alterations and additions, other buildings, boundary fences and other non-original/early fabric are not significant.

*How is it significant?*

Preston West Primary School No.3885 is of local historic, architectural and social significance to Darebin City.

*Why is it significant?*

Historically, Preston West Primary School No. 3885 is significant as a school associated with an important phase of growth in Preston during the inter-war period, which is reflected in the various additions and alterations made within a decade of its opening in 1915. It is also significant for its association with the history of the local Methodist Church, who used the school to conduct services, prior to the completion of their church, and for its use as a hospital during the influenza outbreak at the end of World War I. The mature plantings in the school yard provide evidence of Arbor Day, an important event in the lives of school children in the early twentieth century. (AHC criteria A.4, D.2, H.1)

Preston West Primary School No. 3885 is architecturally significant as a fine example of an early twentieth century school. Elements of its design, in particular its north (Murray Street) elevation, are unusual and not found on other schools in Darebin (AHC criteria D.2 & F.1).

Socially, Preston West Primary School No. 3885 is significant as an educational facility that has been known, used and valued by the West Preston community for over ninety years (AHC criterion G.1).

Heritage Study/Consultant Darebin - Darebin Heritage Study, Context P/L, 2011;

Construction dates 1915, 1927,

Architect/Designer Public Works Department,

Hermes Number 26712

Property Number

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## Physical Description 1

Preston West Primary School No. 3885 is a substantial two-storey inter-war brick school situated on the southeast corner of Murray Road and Jessie Street. Two distinct stages are evident: The 1915 building, which comprises the front section of the school, and the later additions, comprising the long L-shaped wing extending to the south of this building. The building is typical of the Education Department's suburban schools of this period. It has face red brick, which is rendered in places, and a hipped terracotta tile roof with terracotta ridge cappings and tall red brick chimneys with rendered tops. The north elevation, facing Murray Road, is partially rendered, although unusual in terms of its composition. A rendered band extends across the facades level with the sills of the upstairs windows. Many of the windows on both levels are four sets of timber frame double-hung sash windows that are multi-paned, with a pivot window of three panes at top. Set within the west-facing courtyard created by the buildings is another building, almost three storeys in height under a separate roof. The building is in good condition and has relatively high degree of external integrity.

Also of interest are two weatherboard shelter sheds immediately to the rear of the main building, which may also date from the inter-war period. They have hip iron roofs with gables.

The grounds contains a number of mature exotic and native trees, which were likely to have been planted by students as part of Arbor Day celebrations. Notable early plantings include several examples of Italian Cypress (

*Cupressus sempervirens*) or Bhutan Cypress (*Cupressus torulosa*) to the west and east of the 1915 school building.

*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/>*