
COBURG NORTH PRIMARY SCHOOL NO.4543



Coburg North PS



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Location

180 O'HEA STREET, COBURG, MORELAND CITY

Municipality

MERRI-BEK CITY

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO394

Heritage Listing

Merri-bek City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - September 3, 2010

What is significant?

Coburg North Primary School No.4543 at 180 O'Hea Street Coburg, designed in 1937 by Percy Everett is significant.

Later classrooms, office and library buildings from the 1970s and 80s are not significant.

How is it significant?

Coburg North Primary School is of historic, architectural and social significance to Moreland City.

Why is it significant?

Coburg North Primary School, originally constructed in 1937 as an infant's school to nearby Pascoe Vale primary is historically significant as evidence of the separation of infant and primary education that informed much primary school building in the early twentieth century when infant schools were built as separate blocks within primary schools. It is socially significant as a school that was established following strong lobbying by the local community. (Criteria A & G)

As a late inter-war infant building Coburg North Primary is of architectural significance for its unusual and austere art deco design by the prominent architect and Chief of the Public Works Department from 1934 to 1953, Percy Everett. Coburg North Primary School demonstrates Everett's adherence to modernism combined with the neo-classical formality and decoration in the pre-cast panels. The building is a highly unusual design for a primary school and exhibits uncompromising austerity, unlike many of Everett's other designs which are quite dramatic formal modernist compositions. Despite some alterations to windows and doors, the building still exhibits strong architectural qualities. (Criteria B, E, F & H)

Heritage Study/Consultant	Moreland - City of Moreland - North of Bell Street Heritage Study, Context Pty Ltd, 2013;
Construction dates	1936,
Architect/Designer	Everett, Percy,
Other Names	Coburg North State School No.4543,
Hermes Number	139996
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

Coburg North State School No.4543 is situated on a large site and comprises three main buildings of which the earliest was constructed in 1937. The 1937 cream brick building is an unusual and austere design that is planned in an 'L' shape with a distinctive angled entrance. A flat roof is concealed behind a parapet and the architecture is executed in an art deco style.

One of the building wings appears to have been extended with the addition of further classrooms that employ the traditional timber framed, glazed wall classroom design. This contrasts with the front of the building that has relatively small windows. Of interest is the decorative precast concrete panels in a neo-classical style that are regularly placed at intervals across the front elevation. The art deco design extends to the high relief wrought iron lettering across the entrance doors. The windows and doors have been replaced with aluminium replicas of what were most likely to have been steel windows.

The other main buildings on the site were constructed during the 1970s and 80s and are not of interest.

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/>