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## MERLYNSTON PROGRESS HALL (FORMER)



Progress Hall Merlynston



PROGRESS HALL SIGN



PROGRESS HALL SIDE ELEVATION



PROGRESS HALL ENTRY & BIO CABIN

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### Location

1 NOVIAN STREET,, COBURG NORTH VIC 3058 - Property No 35486

### Municipality

MERRI-BEK CITY

### Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

### Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO400

### Heritage Listing

Merri-bek City

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

### What is significant?

The former Merlynston Progress Hall, constructed by 1928 including the original bio-cabin and porch, at 1 Novian Street, Merlynston. The original form and external materials, finishes and detailing and the early signage on the roof contributes to the significance of the place.

The concrete block addition at the rear, the 1951 film winding room addition to the bio-cabin, the kitchen addition and other non-original alterations or additions are not significant.

### How is it significant?

The former Merlynston Progress Hall is of local historic, social and architectural significance to Moreland City.

### Why is it significant?

The former Merlynston Progress Hall is historically and socially significant as a building that provides tangible evidence of the formation of the Merlynston community and represents the important role that the Merlynston Progress Association played in community life and the development of the suburb during the early to mid-twentieth century. (Criteria A , G & H)

It is historically and architecturally significant as a typical example of a small suburban hall, which incorporates a bio-cabin that demonstrates the popularity of cinema going during the inter-war and immediate post-war era. (Criteria A & D)

Heritage Study/Consultant	Moreland - City of Moreland - North of Bell Street Heritage Study, Context Pty Ltd, 2013;
Construction dates	1928,
Hermes Number	140020
Property Number	

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## Physical Description 1

The former Merlynston Progress Hall is an inter-war gabled weatherboard hall. There are tall multi-paned windows in the front and side elevations and Health Department vents along the roof. Another distinctive feature of the building is the early metal sign along ridge line of roof with remnant of word 'Progress' oriented to face toward the railway station. At the front of the hall is a tall projecting gabled section comprising the entry foyer and bio-cabin above - the narrow 'escape door' shown on original plans can still be seen above the timber entry door to the porch on the east side. On the west side, the small 1951 addition containing the film winding room is clearly apparent as the section under the skillion roof. This addition, which resulted in the loss of one window in the main front elevation of the hall (which appears to have been partly re-used in the film winding room) has spoiled the simple original symmetrical appearance of the hall when viewed from the front.

Other additions, made in the post-war era include the toilets, constructed of concrete block, at the rear, and a small room on the west side that once contained the kitchen.

The building has a deep setback from the Novian Street frontage, and is built up the east side boundary. A concrete path leads directly from Novian Street to the entry porch and there are some remnant plantings including what appears to have been a hedge along the east boundary to the laneway. The building is in fair/poor condition and has a relatively high degree of external integrity. The interior was not inspected.

*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/>*