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# Northcote Free Library



City of Darebin Heritage  
Review 2000



City of Darebin Heritage  
Review 2000 (map)  
Map Ref: 30 E9  
Within Heritage Overlay Area

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## Location

185-187 High Street NORTHCOTE, Darebin City

## Municipality

DAREBIN CITY

## Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO97

## Heritage Listing

Darebin City

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

The Northcote Free Library is, externally, a near-original example of an imposing classical revival style building which has been designed as a complement to the Town Hall. It is also one of the few known Carnegie libraries in the State and has served as a public building over a long period.

Heritage Study/Consultant Darebin - Darebin Heritage Review, Andrew Ward, 2000;

Hermes Number 24141

Property Number

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## Physical Description 1

The design, possibly to Carnegie's dictation, was of a conservative classical revival manner which harmonised, by the repetition of prominent pediments, with the town hall of 1888. The stylised ornament, as seen in the pilaster capitals, the widely spaced triglyphs, and the simple parapet entablature, and the axial open planning of the interior, suggest the influence of the Beaux Arts. The building is single-storey, raised as a high, quarry faced bluestone plinth. The projecting portico has coupled Tuscan columns and is flanked by two pedimented wings set back from the street. Window details, the foliated tympanums, the fenestration colonettes, and the balustrading are all derived from the earlier building. Alterations include the painting of the render the replacement of the entry doors, the absence of the handles from the portico urns and the replacement of the former grassed, rockery enclosed forecourt, by asphalt. The interior has been renovated.

*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/>*