

---

# MMTB SUBSTATION



MMTB Substation, 7 Martin Street, Thornbury

---

## Location

7 Martin Street, THORNBURY VIC 3071

## Municipality

DAREBIN CITY

## Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO288

## Heritage Listing

Darebin City

---

## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - July 15, 2008

### *What is significant?*

The electrical substation at 7 Martin Street, Thornbury, erected by the Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Board in 1955 is significant. It was a key part of the program to electrify the former cable tram route along High Street. The feeder cables were fed from the substation to the trolley wire system, supplying power for the new East Preston tramway. Initially the substation had one 600 kilowatt rectifier installed. Another 600 kilowatt rectifier was soon added. The Northcote substation was one of three new substations built by the MMTB in 1955, the

others being at Fitzroy and Clifton Hill, which supplied power for a new tram service to East Brunswick as well as the East Preston service. It is still in use today. The building is built of cream brick, with a darker brick used on its base. The rear section of the building has a transverse gable roof, and there is a lower section projecting towards Martin Street. This projecting bay has two flat roofs at different levels, producing a stepped effect. The projecting bay has two large doorways facing Martin Street, with concrete hoods above them. The portion with the lower roof has fenestration. Above each of the doors are the steel covers of fans, or a similar ventilation system. The east elevation also has one of these ventilation elements. The building's west elevation has a tall wall opening with a hoist for the fitting and removal of electrical equipment.

Later alterations and additions and other buildings on the site are not significant.

#### *How is it significant?*

The electrical substation at 7 Martin Street, Thornbury is of local historic significance to Darebin City.

#### *Why is it significant?*

Historically, the electrical substation is of significance as it is part of the expansion of the electrical tramway along High Street, at a time when the future of Melbourne's tram system was in doubt. This piece of tramway infrastructure was built during the chairmanship of the MMTB by Sir Robert Risson, who, against the opposition to trams from many sections of the community, ignored calls for the system's closure, and extended the system. (AHC criteria A.4, B.2, D.2, H.1)

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

Construction dates 1955,

Heritage Act Categories Registered place,

Hermes Number 26725

Property Number

---

## **Physical Description 1**

An electrical substation erected by the former MMTB. The building is built of cream brick, with a darker brick used on its base. The rear section of the building has a transverse gable roof, and there is a lower section projecting towards Martin Street. This projecting bay has two flat roofs at different levels, producing a stepped effect. The projecting bay has two large doorways facing Martin Street, with concrete hoods above them. The portion with the lower roof has fenestration. Above each of the doors are the steel covers of fans, or a similar ventilation system. The east elevation also has one of these ventilation elements. The building's west elevation has a tall wall opening with a hoist for the fitting and removal of electrical equipment.

*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/>*