
COBURG PRIMARY SCHOOL NO. 484

Location

81D BELL STREET, COBURG, MORELAND CITY

Municipality

MERRI-BEK CITY

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO22

Heritage Listing

Merri-bek City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - January 1, 2008

The Coburg Primary School Infant School building is of architectural and historical significance to the State of Victoria. It was the first government school built on the American model of a large central hall with classrooms and offices arranged around and entered off it, a plan was prompted by a review of the education system which recommended changes from the earliest years of school.(2) Its architectural significance derives from the fine detailing and the incorporation of Australian motifs into interior joinery and external detailing.

The shelter shed built by the pupils' parents in the yard of the school is of local architectural significance. It is a particularly unusual example this building type, displaying a considered simplicity. Its significance is diminished by its siting - its pavilion-like form could be displayed more effectively were it not flush with a high cyclone wire boundary fence.

(2) The first private but less sophisticated example was the Wesleyan Methodist School, Fitzroy Street, St Kilda designed by Percy Oakden in 1888.

The Coburg Primary School landscape is of local interest for the number of mature palms and trees, which provide a contemporary setting to the major school building. The trees contribute to the heritage character of the surrounding precinct, which contains a number of other culturally significant landscapes and buildings. Furthermore, the locations of these plantings within the site contribute to the amenity value of the adjacent streetscapes.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Moreland - City of Coburg Heritage Conservation & Streetscape Study, Timothy Hubbard Pty Ltd, 1991; Moreland - City of Moreland Heritage Review, Allen Lovell and Associates, 1999;
Other Names	Infants' School and Shelter Shed,
Hermes Number	58992
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

Coburg Primary School Infants' School is a red brick building with roughcast rendered dressings. The multiple-gabled roof is of Marseilles pattern tiles with prominent ornate ventilators along the ridge line, which is also capped with delicate terracotta ridge capping. and the gable ends and parapets at each end feature elegant Art Nouveau decoration. Windows are timber framed, some with leadlight glazing.. Other elegantly detailed elements include the wall vents and the rendered parapet above the entrance, which features the school's name and number entwined with foliage and gumnuts. The interior is substantially intact and includes particularly fine Australiana carvings in the joinery.

The shelter shed is built to a simple hexagonal plan and has timber base walls with diagonal timber lattice infill to the eaves of its hipped tiled roof, small gabled vents and a central finial. Entry is via two gated openings on the east elevation.

Landscape:

The significant landscape associated with Coburg Primary School consists of a number of mature trees. A significant perimeter planting of Pepper Tree (*Schinus molle* var. *areira*) is located to the north and west of the site. Four mature Canary Island Date Palm (*Phoenix canariensis*) form notable specimens on the Bell Street frontage. Also of note are a mature Common Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Elm (*Ulmus procera*) to the north of the site.

Key Architectural Elements:

One and two storey red brick building with rendered dressings
gabled terracotta tiled roof with ornate roof ventilators
timber and stucco gable-ends to single storey sections
Art Nouveau decoration curved parapets, Australiana and other abstract rendered motifs

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/>