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# WEST PRESTON PROGRESS HALL



West Preston Progress Hall



West Preston Progress Hall ii

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## Location

523 Gilbert Road, PRESTON VIC 3072

## Municipality

DAREBIN CITY

## Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO212

## Heritage Listing

Darebin City

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

### *What is significant?*

The former West Preston Progress Hall, constructed in 1930 and the c.1950 addition, is significant. The facade of the 1930 hall, which is now partly covered by the rear of the newer building, has a projecting section (presumably containing the entrance and cloakroom) that is narrower than the main hall, which has half-timbering to the gable end and is a single timber door in the side wall. The windows are double-hung sash, with nine panes in each sash - there are two in the facade (one on either side of the projecting section) and several in the side wall. There are small paired timber doors in the south side with highlight windows above divided into four panes. The building

at the front is clad in weatherboards at the side and has a Modernist brick front. The side walls have small square high set windows. The symmetrically composed facade has a recessed centrally located entrance flanked by large high set metal-framed windows divided into twelve panes. Also significant are identical wrought iron gates with the letters 'W P P A' incorporated into the design which provide access to the 1930 hall via pathways leading down the side of the front building.

Later alterations and additions are not significant.

#### *How is it significant?*

The West Preston Progress Hall is of local historic and social significance to Darebin City.

#### *Why is it significant?*

The Hall is significant as a representative example of a simple inter-war public hall that is associated with an important phase in the suburban development of West Preston and Reservoir during the inter-war period. It is socially and historically significant as a place that has direct and strong associations with the West Preston Progress Association, a resident group that played an important role in the formation of the suburban community in West Preston and Reservoir during the inter-war period. It is significant as an early community building that has been known, valued and remembered by the local community over a 70 year period. The significance of the hall is enhanced by its rarity value as one of a small number of buildings with a direct association to one of the many progress associations that were operating in Darebin during the inter-war period. (AHC criteria A.4, B.2, D.2, G.1, H.1)

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

Construction dates 1930,

Hermes Number 26608

Property Number

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## **Physical Description 1**

The former West Preston Progress Hall, constructed in 1930, is a gabled weatherboard building, which is now almost fully concealed behind what may be either a later addition to the hall or a separate building. The 1930 hall has a projecting section at the front, which is narrower than the main hall and presumably contained the entry porch and cloakroom. This is now connected to the front building by a later skillion roofed addition. It has a simple timber door in the side wall. The gable end has half-timbering. Windows are double hung nine-paned sash - there are two in the front wall of the main hall - one either side of the projecting section and several in the side walls. There are also a pair of timber doors with four-paned highlight windows above in the south elevation (the north elevation was not inspected). Access to the 1930 hall is via pathways at either side of the front building, which have identical wrought iron gates at the Gilbert Road entrance that incorporate the acronym 'W P P A' of the West Preston Progress Association.

The c.1950 addition/separate building at the front is clad in weatherboards and has a Modernist brick front. There are small square high set windows in the side elevations. The symmetrically composed facade has a recessed centrally located entrance flanked by large high set metal framed windows divided into 12 panes.

*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/>*