

**MONT ALBERT PRIMARY SCHOOL, 21-23 INGLISBY RD, MONT ALBERT**

<b>Building:</b>	Mont Albert Primary School	<b>HO No.</b>	247
<b>Address:</b>	21-23 Inglisby Road Mont Albert	<b>Melway Map Ref:</b>	46 J8
<b>Building Type:</b>	educational	<b>Construction Date:</b>	1916-17
<b>Architect:</b>	Public Works Department Chief Architect S C Brittingham	<b>Builder:</b>	Mr Coates

**History**

Mont Albert State School No 3943 was built in 1916 and opened in April 1917, after a petition was signed by more than 200 people requesting the establishment of a school in this vicinity.<sup>11</sup>

It was built by Mr Coates<sup>12</sup> on a 5 ¼ acre (2.1 hectare) site amongst the newly established houses in Mont Albert, north of Whitehorse Road.<sup>13</sup> The land had been purchased for about £2000 and construction cost more than £6400.<sup>14</sup> The building was a three storey solid brick structure containing six or seven classrooms and was designed to accommodate about 500 pupils.<sup>15</sup> The same design was used by the Public Works Department, under the direction of S.C. Brittingham, in a number of locations including Murrumbeena and Coburg West.

Mont Albert Primary School opened with the headmaster and a staff of three and by the end of 1917 there were 219 pupils attending.<sup>16</sup> On opening it was described on page 2 of the *Reporter* 27 April 1917 as follows:

'One glance at the new structure is sufficient to convince the most fastidious of the attractiveness of its modern style of architecture. Rising very high in the front, which faces the west, three stories have been provided, whilst at the rear the building is two stories. It is most substantially built of brick, and is the first school in Victoria to have the interior purely constructed of Victorian hardwood from floor to ceiling. Also instead of utilising tiles in the lobbies, yellow stringybark from Gippsland has been brought into requisition...'

<sup>11</sup> L J Blake (ed), *Vision and Realisation*, p 447

<sup>12</sup> *Reporter*, 4 August 1916, p 3

<sup>13</sup> A Lemon, *Box Hill*, p 141

<sup>14</sup> *Reporter*, 27 April 1917, p 2

<sup>15</sup> *Reporter*, 27 April 1917, p 2

<sup>16</sup> L J Blake (ed), *Vision and Realisation*, p 447

It was also described as having panoramic views from the site and more than 200 trees were planted at the school, mainly Australian varieties.

From the time of opening until 1964 the school was known as the Mont Albert Central School and it provided the first two years of secondary education for children in the Mont Albert-Box Hill area. This was unique in the district.<sup>17</sup> In 1963 the Department decided to establish a high school in Box Hill North and work began at Koonung High School the next year.<sup>18</sup> The two senior classes from the Mont Albert Central School formed the nucleus of this school.

### Historical Themes

#### *City of Whitehorse Themes*

5 Institutions

5.2 Education

#### *Victoria's Themes*

8 Building community life

8.2 Educating people

### Description

The original section of Mont Albert Primary School is a three and two storey red brick building with contrasting sections of render and a terracotta tiled roof.

The three storied front section of the building has a symmetrically composed facade which uses render to clearly define the central entrance bay. The arched entry of the lower floor, with surrounding rustication, exaggerated keystone and simple pediment above, is reflected in the upper storey window and shaped gable of the parapet. The hipped roof form, with eaves wrapping around the building and tall chimney, imparts a domestic character. Rendered string courses define levels around the building and windows are large and multi-paned.

### Comparative Examples

#### *City of Whitehorse Comparisons*

A number of primary schools in the City of Whitehorse were established in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, well before Mont Albert Primary School, and they exhibit quite different characteristics. These include those at Burwood (1865, HO1), Vermont (from 1871, HO66), Blackburn (1889 onwards, HO89) and Surrey Hills (1890, HO16). They generally exhibit Victorian characteristics except the school at Surrey Hills, which adopts a Queen Anne/Arts and Crafts style. All these are included in the City of Whitehorse Heritage Overlay. Later examples include Box Hill South (1927) and Mitcham (1929). The nearby Box Hill Primary School (demolished) was similar in size.

#### *State Comparisons*

The Public Works Department primary school building design used at Mont Albert was also used at other locations including Coburg West and Murrumbeena. These three schools were all opened in 1917. The design was presumably developed by the Victorian Public Works Department during the period when S.C. Brittingham was Chief Architect (1916-22) and at a time when there was a peak in school building.

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<sup>17</sup> A Lemon, *Box Hill*, p 141

<sup>18</sup> L J Blake (ed), *Vision and Realisation*, p 567



Coburg West Primary School 1916-17



Murrumbeena Primary School 1917

### Significance

#### *What is significant?*

Mont Albert Primary School, Inglisby Road, Mont Albert was built in 1916 by the Public Works Department, under the direction of S.C. Brittingham, and opened the following year. The three storey red brick building was a standard design used for a number of schools at the time.

#### *How is it significant?*

Mont Albert Primary School is of historical and aesthetic significance to the City of Whitehorse.

#### *Why is it significant?*

Mont Albert Primary School is of historical significance as the only local school to provide secondary education from its opening in 1917 until the opening of Box Hill Girls Technical School in 1924 and Box Hill High School in 1930. It then continued to provide this level of education for some 48 years. [Criterion A]

Mont Albert Primary School is of aesthetic significance as a substantial government school of the post Edwardian and early inter-war period in the City of Whitehorse, the design of which is replicated in other metropolitan municipalities. [Criteria D & E]

### Recommended Extent of Overlay

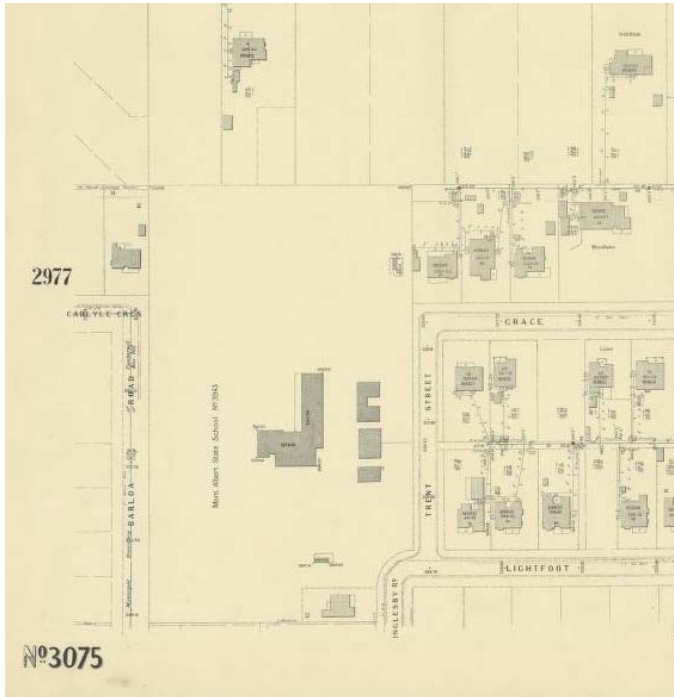
To a minimum 3 metres from the north, east and south elevations of the 1916 building and to the Barloa Road boundary on the west side of the building. Refer to map below.



## References

- Reporter* (Box Hill), 4 August 1916, p 3, 13 April 1917, p 5 & 21 September 1917, p 3; 'Mont Albert State School'
- Reporter* (Box Hill), 27 April 1917, p 2; 'Opening of New School at Mont Albert'
- MMBW Detail Plan 3075, Municipality of Box Hill, 1931
- L J Blake (ed). *Vision and Realisation: A Centenary History of State Education in Victoria*. Melbourne 1973
- A Lemon. *Box Hill*. Melbourne 1978
- History Group, *Surrey Hills: In Celebration of the Centennial 1883-1983*, Surrey Hills Neighbourhood Centre, reprinted 2001, p 32
- Heritage Victoria Database online

## Historical Images



MMBW Detail Plan 3075, Municipality of Box Hill, 1931



Photograph of Mont Albert Primary School soon after construction, undated image 109, Box Hill Historical Society