
Commonwealth Memorial, Cnr Main & Barnes Streets, STAWELL



SL 168 - Commonwealth Memorial

Location

Cnr Main & Barnes Streets STAWELL, NORTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

Municipality

NORTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

Level of significance

Recommended for Heritage Overlay

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1943

Heritage Listing

Northern Grampians Shire

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - July 15, 2004

The Commonwealth Memorial, Cnr Main & Barnes Streets, Stawell, has significance as possibly the only memorial in Victoria to be specifically dedicated to the inauguration of the Australian Commonwealth in 1901. This memorial was constructed in 1901 (the gaslight has been recently reconstructed) and was built by George Robson and George Gray, monumental masons, Stawell.

The Commonwealth Memorial is **aesthetically** significant at a **LOCAL** level. It demonstrates important visual qualities including the domed circular temple form, Stawell stone base, four columns in rose granite and black marble and the reconstructed gaslight.

The Commonwealth Memorial is **historically** significant at a **STATE** level. It is associated with the inauguration of the Australian Commonwealth in 1901 and is possibly the only memorial in Victoria dedicated specifically for this purpose. A number of other monuments in the State can be connected with Federation but relate either to events further removed from the inauguration, or to specific persons involved in the lead-up to Federation. There were few buildings of any kind in the State specifically constructed for purposes related to Federation. The Memorial is also associated with the monumental masons, George Robson and George Gray of Stawell and it expresses the enthusiasm for Federation of the residents of Stawell.

The Commonwealth Memorial is **socially** significant at a **LOCAL** level. It is recognised and valued by the Stawell community as a commemorative marker to the inauguration of the Australian Commonwealth in 1901.

Overall, the Commonwealth Memorial is of **STATE** significance.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Northern Grampians - Shire of Northern Grampians - Stage 2 Heritage Study, Wendy Jacobs, Vicki Johnson, David Rowe, Phil Taylor, 2004;
Hermes Number	112447
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

The Commonwealth Memorial, Cnr Main & Barnes Streets, Stawell, is situated in a prominent position on a small block at a major intersection of the town. It can be readily viewed from all sides.

The form of the memorial is derived from the domed circular temple, and can be readily viewed from all sides. The form was a common device in the Victorian era for combined drinking fountains and lamps. The octagonal base and dome are in Stawell stone, the four columns in rose granite and black marble. The memorial symbolises the six states. The six states are engraved on the cap. The fountain no longer functions, and the iron gaslight structure has recently been reconstructed.

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/>