
Olympic Village Green



1-17 Alamein Road



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Alamein Road 008 (1).jpg



Alamein Road 008.jpg



IMG_2262.jpg

Location

15 Alamein Road and 180 Southern Road and 1-17 Moresby Court HEIDELBERG WEST, BANYULE CITY

Municipality

BANYULE CITY

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO184

Heritage Listing

Banyule City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - April 16, 2010

What is significant?

1-17 Alamein Road known as Olympic Village Green and comprising the shops along one side of the park, the park itself containing elements of public art and the large eucalypts, are significant. The former Olympic Village Hall by Leith Bartlett is also significant. The lamp standards, and bollards, although not part of the original design are significant in the expression of the origins of the place.

How is it significant?

1-17 Alamein Road is of State historical, social and aesthetic significance.

Why is it significant?

1-17 Alamein Road and the Olympic Village Green is the place that most demonstrates the 1956 Olympic Games, and as Victoria's only Olympic Village. The Olympic rings suspended above Alamein Road are of historic significance as a tangible object associated with the event. As the only place in Victoria associated with the Olympic Games, and not substantially altered, the Olympic Hall, Village Green and shops demonstrate Victoria's and Australia's huge commitment to this international event at a time when the Post War housing shortage was critical. (Criterion A)

1-17 Alamein Road represents a rare and substantially unaltered link with the Games. (Criterion B)

The Olympic Village Green shops, and hall are associated with the architects Leith Bartlett who were prominent in major construction work in Banyule, and as part of the influential Architect's Panel for the HCV. (Criterion H) The Olympic Estate was one of the Housing Commission's early developments, and one of the largest ever built. The shops are also associated with the architectural practice of Leith Bartlett, creating a consistent design.

With the subsequent removal of many of the buildings associated with housing athletes for the Olympic games, such as the temporary dining facilities, there is now little evidence of the Olympics expressed in the built environment remaining in the housing estate. The hall is the most tangible link to the Olympic Games. Its former use as a flag court is interpreted in the many 'Olympic themed' landscape features that have been added to the space. (Criterion E)

At the entrance to the Estate the Village Green it also expresses ideals in town planning of neighbourhood shops integrated with housing, however this is of lesser significance to the dominant theme of the Olympics.

The Olympic Village Green contains a number of examples of civic improvements (with Olympic theme), and public art, indicating an on-going attachment to the place. (Criterion G)

Heritage Study/Consultant	Banyule - Banyule Heritage Review, Context P/L, 2009;
Construction dates	1953,
Architect/Designer	Leith & Bartlett,
Hermes Number	124829
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

1-17 Alamein Road is situated at the entrance to the Olympic Estate at the corner of Southern Road and Alamein Road. It is now called Olympic Village Green and comprises a square of parkland, formerly 'Flag Court', a row of shops and a number of civic amenities such as lamps and bollards that display an Olympic theme. The shops are designed as a single row with consistent frontages and linking canopy on sloping columns. The area includes the former Olympic Village Hall designed by architects Leith Bartlett, to be the centre of the Olympic Village. The building is an austere rectangular structure of cream brickwork with minimal glazing. As an example of architecture of the 1950s it is undistinguished. The hall is located at the entrance to the Olympic Estate and survives relatively intact, although there is an extension to the front and windows have been added.

The park reserve contains sculpture and various other elements of public art. It has comparisons with other designed estates (containing retailing) from the Housing Commission of Victoria but is distinctive through the association with the 1956 Olympic Games. The shops are relatively intact, although there have been some upgrading of the roadway and parking areas in front of them

The Olympic Village Green is enhanced by the dual carriage roadway along Southern Road that contains a median strip planted with mature eucalypts.

Historical Australian Themes

AHC Themes

4.6 Remembering significant phases in the development of settlements, towns and cities

8.9.2 Remembering public spectacles

HV Themes

6.6 Marking significant phases in the development of Victoria's settlements, town and cities

6.7 Making homes for Victorians

Local Themes

The Olympics

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/>