

Colac War Memorial



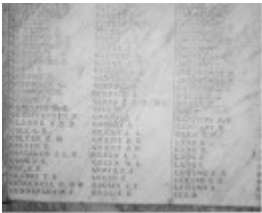
Colac 1.jpg



Colac 2.jpg



Colac 3.jpg



Colac 4.jpg



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Colac 19.jpg



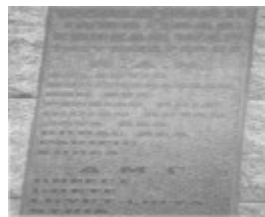
Colac 20.jpg



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Colac 22.jpg



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Colac 25.jpg



Colac 26.jpg



Colac 30.jpg

Location

Murray Street COLAC, Colac Otway Shire

Municipality

COLAC OTWAY SHIRE

Level of significance

-

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO308

Heritage Listing

Vic. War Heritage Inventory

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - January 1, 2003

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE :

The Colac Memorial Square, bounded by Murray, Gellibrand, Dennis and Hesse Streets, is a World War 1 memorial reserve that evolved from the Market Reserve set aside when Colac was surveyed in 1864. Now known as Memorial Square, the area incorporates a large walk-in war memorial (c1924) at its centre designed by Frederick Sales, and a generally symmetrical path system with extensive plantings of mature *Ulmus procera* (English Elm) framing the centrepiece. The Memorial Square also includes a number of memorials that commemorate members of the community, including those to Andrew Fisher, Fountain The St Johns Gymnastic Club, Rotary Club Clock, the Cliff Young Memorial Track and Plaque, the Lone Pine Plaque and the Jack Dillon Fountain and Plaque. The square is the focal point for community activities in the district, and is a popular recreational site providing respite for travellers passing through the Shire. The Memorial Square is of historical, architectural, aesthetic and social importance to the Shire of Colac Otway. The Memorial Square is historically important for its commemoration of the service and sacrifices of the Colac and district communities. The Memorial Square is architecturally important as one of the most impressive walk-in war memorials in regional Victoria. The Memorial Square is aesthetically and socially important as a public open space in continual use since the first settlement of Colac.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Colac Otway - Colac Otway Heritage Study, Mary Sheehan & Associates, 2003;
Construction dates	1924,
Hermes Number	125790
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

The Town Square precinct comprises the Memorial Square, the former market square, the avenue of mature trees and other plantings, layout paths and all the historic structures and Memorials contained within the square bound by Murray, Hesse, Gellibrand and Dennis Streets, it also includes all those properties which overlook the square. These consist of the group of remodelled 1950s shop fronts along Murray Street, the former SEC Commission office building, the Sewell Building, and a small group of Inter War shops on Gellibrand street, the Italianate 19th century building and its associated development on Hesse streets and the remaining group of 19th century Victorian villas along Dennis Street, all these buildings contribute to the character and narrative history of the development of the Square, providing physical evidence of the precarious evolution of the former market square from an area used by farmers to hitch their wagons while attending the sales yards and auctions opposite, to community use of the space and the beautification work associated with the War Memorial Movement and unveiling of the First World War Memorial in 1924. The Memorial dominates the square, entitled "The Shire's Tribute" and is one of the most impressive and aesthetically outstanding structures in Victoria, carved out of Ballan stone standing 50 feet high designed by Frederick Sales to commemorate the 1,546 local servicemen who enlisted and 318 who died during war. It is designed like a neo-Palladian sacrificial temple of remembrance, associated with the Inter War Stripped Classical architectural style. A series of steps leads up to a raised chamber on a platform with domed panelled roof, accessed through 20ft stylized Doric/Corinthian columns in

antis, with surmounting Greek entablature and pediment topped by a giant Grecian urn and torch with sculptured heads of Mars, god of war, facing the four points of the compass. The shrine is placed within a wider landscaped setting designed in 1955 by architects, Mason & Weinstock, using contemporary sandstone paving, upright free standing columns, terraced walls and pool of remembrance since turned into a rose garden, other features include walkways, and extensive modern playground, 1900 Federation style Chinese influenced timber band rotunda, standing in the middle of a large paved area surrounded by timber park benches and low clipped green hedge and tall globe landscape lighting, pergola, miscellaneous collection of park bench seating, toilet block and barbeque. The square has also become a reciprocal for a number of memorial plaques mainly granite cairns with attached bronze plaques gathered in a random fashion in one location at the Hesse Murray street corner.

Total number of trees: 54 Ages (est.): 100 (c1900) and 76 (pl. 1924) Height: 20m (average) Canopy: 20m (average) Trunk Circumference: not measured (3.1m in 1986)

Memorial Square is a World War 1 Memorial reserve developed from earlier parkland and bounded by Murray, Hesse, Dennis and Gellibrand Streets in central Colac. A park precinct, it is level in topography and its major elements comprising a c1924 [confirm] war memorial at its centre, and a geometric path system with extensive plantings of mature *Ulmus procera* (English Elm) framing this centrepiece. 54 trees assessed by NT in 1986 are a group planting which provides the context for the central memorial. Many perimeter trees precede the erection of the monument and appear to have been planted near or before the turn of the century (c1900), while trees closer to the memorial, especially those around the central circular path, date from the erection of the memorial (c1924), as confirmed by photographs of the time. Further investigation should confirm any changes to the path layout and alterations to other fabric, as well as the exact extent of plantings predating the war memorial.

Historical Australian Themes

Memorials & Monuments (9.2)

Veterans Description for Public

Located on Murray Street, the Colac War Memorial dominates the Colac Memorial Square. Entitled "The Shire's Tribute", it is one of the most impressive and aesthetically outstanding structures in Victoria, carved out of Ballan stone and standing at 50 feet high. The memorial was designed by Frederick Sales to commemorate the 1,546 local servicemen who enlisted and 318 who died during the war. It is designed like a neo-Palladian sacrificial temple of remembrance, associated with the Inter War Stripped Classical architectural style. A series of steps leads up to a raised chamber on a platform with domed panelled roof, accessed through 20ft stylized Doric/Corinthian columns in antis, with surmounting Greek entablature and pediment topped by a giant Grecian urn and torch with sculptured heads of Mars, god of war, facing the four points of the compass.

The official unveiling took place on November 15th 1924 and was performed by Sir Henry Chauvel. The memorial is the most magnificent anywhere in country Victoria and is only bettered by the larger walk-in structures at Geelong and Melbourne. The memorial to those who served in the Second World War and Korean War was constructed as a separate entity on the Murray Street side of the First World War memorial. In 1955, Architects Mason & Weinstock developed a contemporary design involving a low wall and two tall columns facing a pool of remembrance. The memorial was opened on August 3rd 1957 by Lt. Governor Sir Edmund Herring. Since then there have been other plaques placed on the memorial complex recognising the conflicts in Malaya, Borneo, the Malayan Peninsula and Vietnam 1948 - 1972; Women who Served and the Garden of Peace (the latter two unveiled on August 15th 1995, being the 50th anniversary of the end of the Second World War).

The shrine is placed within a wider landscaped setting designed in 1955 by architects, Mason & Weinstock, using contemporary sandstone paving, upright free standing columns, terraced walls and pool of remembrance since turned into a rose garden, other features include walkways, and extensive modern playground, 1900 Federation style Chinese influenced timber band rotunda, standing in the middle of a large paved area surrounded by timber park benches and low clipped green hedge and tall globe landscape lighting, pergola, miscellaneous collection of park bench seating, toilet block and barbeque.

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/>