
MAJOR MITCHELL MONUMENT



23178 Major Mitchell Monument Dunkeld 2287



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Location

Coleraine-Edenhope Road HARROW, West Wimmera Shire

Municipality

Level of significance

Stage 2 study complete

Heritage Listing

Southern Grampians Shire

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - August 10, 2003

What is significant?

The memorial dedicated to Major Mitchell is located approximately 7 kilometers from Harrow, on the Harrow - Balmoral Road. It is constructed from local stone, laid in rough courses and takes the common form of a tapering cairn, square at the base. There is a white marble plaque which marks Mitchell's passage between what are now the townships of Harrow and Balmoral. Major Mitchell passed nearby this place at the beginning of August 1836, following the Glenelg River downstream. He stated in his journal "The country on its banks was, as far as I could see, the finest imaginable, either for sheep and cattle or for cultivation".

Monuments and memorials to commemorate Major Mitchell's epic 1836 journey can be found in many locations throughout south western Victoria. The Major crossed Victoria's northern and western plains, found a European settlement already established at Portland, and returned to New South Wales to give a glowing account of the rich land of 'Australia Felix'. One hundred years later, local communities at points along his former route engaged enthusiastically in a bout of centennial monument building. After war memorials, the Mitchell monuments are the most common form of public commemoration in the region.

How is it significant?

The Major Mitchell Monument near Harrow is of historical significance to the community of Harrow and the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

The Major Mitchell Monument is of historical significance because it commemorates the very beginning of European interest in, occupation of and subsequent exploitation of the further Western District. It is example of the way in which Major Mitchell is revered as a person of extreme importance within the community. It is typical example of the stone obelisks which were erected throughout Victoria in the first half of the nineteenth century to commemorate Major Mitchell's exploration.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Southern Grampians - Southern Grampians Shire Heritage Study, Timothy Hubbard P/L, Annabel Neylon, 2002;
Construction dates	1936,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Hermes Number	23178
Property Number	

Physical Conditions

The cairn is in excellent condition.

Physical Description 1

The memorial is constructed from local stone, laid in rough courses and takes the common form of a tapering cairn which is 4.5m high and 2.3m square at the base. The cairn is set on a plinth which is 2.6m square. The top of the cairn is slightly tapered. There is a white marble plaque which marks Mitchell's passage between what are now the townships of Harrow and Balmoral.

Historical Australian Themes

Theme 2: Peopling Australia
2.5 Promoting settlement

Theme 3: Developing local, regional and national economies
3.3 Surveying the continent
3.3.1 Looking for inland seas and waterways
3.3.4 Looking for land with agricultural potential

Theme 8: Developing Australia's cultural life
8.7 Honouring achievement
8.9 Commemorating significant events

Usage/Former Usage

Monument

Integrity

High degree of integrity

Physical Description 2

Major Thomas Livingston Mitchell, F.G.S & N. R. G. S, Surveyor-General of NSW

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/>