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# Charles Summers - River God Fountain - Fitzroy Gardens



B6777 River God Fountain

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## Location

Near Albert Street,, EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002 - Property No B6777

## Municipality

MELBOURNE CITY

## Level of significance

State

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1834

## Heritage Listing

National Trust

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - October 6, 2005

The River God Fountain is of State Significance. It is a rare example of Charles Summer's use of cast stone in sculpture, and one of the few surviving public works by the most important sculptor working in the mid nineteenth century in Victoria. It is also significant as being the first and principal fountain erected in the newly developed Fitzroy Gardens. It also has historic significance as celebrating the establishment of the first reticulated water supply to Melbourne from the Yan Yean Reservoir in 1858.

Because of the unpopularity of many Victorian sculptures in the mid twentieth century, when twenty-one pieces of

Summers' sculpture were removed from the National Gallery of Victoria "on the grounds that they were of little artistic merit", the River God Fountain is an important and rare example of the artist's Victorian work. The significance is not compromised by the fact that the basalt base has been rebuilt, since it has been reconstructed as closely as possible to the original. Eucalypts have been planted to coincide with early illustrations of the work. Classified: 17/09/1996

Hermes Number 64305

Property Number

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*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/>*