
Tramway Woodblocking

Location

Royal Parade,, PARKVILLE VIC 3052 - Property No B6831

Municipality

MELBOURNE CITY

Level of significance

State

Heritage Listing

National Trust

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - July 21, 2004

Woodblocking located at Royal Parade, Parkville and Victoria Parade, at Brunswick Street and Victoria Parade, at Smith Street.(Victoria Street sites now removed)

Statement of Significance.

Wooden block paving was used internationally in the mid 19th century and came into service in Melbourne during the 1880s when the great forests of western Australia were being milled. The forests supplied the world with hard wearing timber and Melbourne with wood block paving. Of all the hardwoods tried, Jarrah was the most suitable because it was hard wearing and did not expand when wet.

Wood blocks were initially used for general street pavement, having superior wearing and riding qualities to bluestone pitches. They also proved the ideal paving for Melbourne's cable and, later, electric tramway reservations. Wood blocks were able to handle heavy loads, and withstood the transition from horse to motorised vehicles, carrying Melbourne's heavy traffic for half a century.

Wood blocks also made a major contribution to Melbourne's sanitation. The smooth surface created did not retain any of the animal waste which was swept and hosed down daily in city streets during the horse era.

There is now only about 100 metres remaining of the once-extensive woodblock paving of Melbourne's city and inner suburban streets and of the metropolitan tramway system.

Classified: 20/03/1998

Hermes Number 65539

Property Number

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/>