

POLICE MEMORIAL



POLICE MEMORIAL SOHE 2008



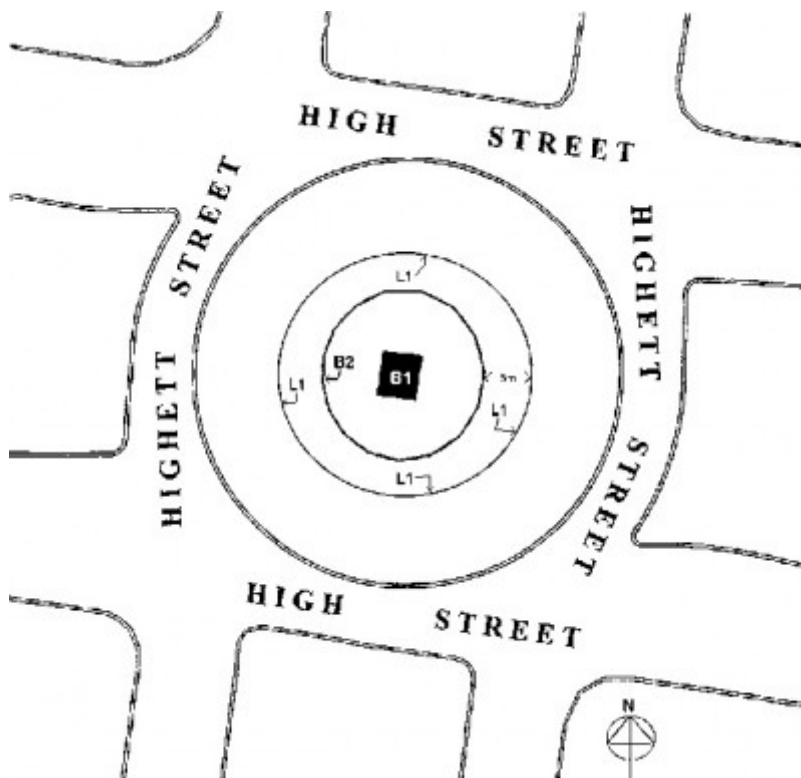
police memorial mansfield front view
jan1999



1 police memorial mansfield sculpture
detail jan1999



police memorial mansfield inscription
detail jan1999



mansfield police memorial plan

Location

HIGH STREET and HIGHETT STREET MANSFIELD, Mansfield Shire

Municipality

MANSFIELD SHIRE

Level of significance

Registered

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1538

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO32

VHR Registration

August 20, 1982

Amendment to Registration

May 27, 1999

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - July 9, 1999

What is significant?

On Friday 25 October, 1878, four policemen, disguised as prospectors set out from Mansfield to catch the Kelly Gang. The four men, three of who were soon to die, were Sergeant Michael Kennedy, and Constables Thomas Lonigan, Michael Scanlan and McIntyre. All good bushmen they were the next day surprised by the Kelly Gang, near the Kelly camp in the Tolmie Ranges, and overcome. Sergeant Michael Kennedy was then stationed at Mansfield. Three policemen were killed: Sergeant Kennedy and Constables Lonigan and Scanlon. McIntyre escaped, and terrified returned to Mansfield with the stark news. The police memorial in the main street at Mansfield was erected by the State Government to the memory of the three constables murdered by the Kelly gang. The movement for its erection was begun on 21 December 1878, about two months after the murders, and the Chief Commissioner of Police at the time, Captain Standish, unveiled the memorial on 22 April 1880. The police of Victoria and New South Wales and the public contributed to the memorial, particularly residents of the Mansfield District. The police memorial is located at the intersection of High and Highett streets, Mansfield. It is a dressed and decorated marble pillar inscribed to the memory of the policemen killed near Mansfield in 1878, set on a plinth of dressed bluestone and surrounded by a low cast iron palisade fence. It believed that J Hanson of

Melbourne was the stonemason responsible for design and construction of the memorial.

How is it significant?

Mansfield Police Memorial is of social, historical and aesthetic significance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

The Mansfield Police Memorial is of social and historical significance for its associations with the history of bushranging in Victoria. The memorial commemorates the bravery of three policemen who were killed while in pursuit of the notorious Kelly Gang. The memorial is important for its associations with the Ned Kelly legend as it commemorates an important event in the chain of events, which lead to the capture, arrest, trial and eventual hanging of Ned Kelly. It was for the murder of Thomas Lonigan that Ned Kelly was finally arrested and hung. The Police Memorial is of social significance as a poignant reminder of members of the Victoria Police who have since been slain in the performance of their duty.

The Mansfield Police Memorial is of architectural and aesthetic importance as an early and representative example of an elaborate memorial constructed with public monies in the 1880s. It is important for its demonstration of skilled stonemasonry and ornate detailing. The memorial is of aesthetic importance for its prominent position in the town of Mansfield and in particular for its sculpted urns, numerous inscriptions and intricate detailing.

Construction dates	1880,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Hermes Number	686
Property Number	

History

Contextual History:

 In the little township of Greta, which lies between Benalla and Wangaratta, settled in the sixties an ex convict named Kelly and several of his relatives. Kelly's family consisted of three sons and four daughters. The eldest son, Edward was born in 1851. James came next and Daniel was the youngest. The boys manifested criminal instincts early on. In 1870, Ned was arrested at Greta for having assisted the notorious bushranger Power in some of his robberies; but the witnesses were unable, or unwilling, to identify him, and so was discharged. Next year however, he was sentenced to three years for horse stealing. In the same year, and for a crime of like nature, Jim received five years. On his release, he became a bushranger in New South Wales, but was soon captured and condemned to penal servitude for ten years. In 1876, Dan was sent to gaol for a period for taking part in a house-breaking robbery (Long. Charles p.73).

 He was not long out, before he was again in trouble. In April, 1878, it became the duty of Constable Fitzpatrick to arrest him on several charges of horse stealing. The constable went to the house at Dan's mother at Greta. Dan was there and seemed willing to submit. Ultimately, however, he began to show signs of resisting, and a scuffle ensued in which the mother and Ned, who had arrived on the scene, took part. Fitzpatrick failed in his object, and received, among other injuries, a revolver bullet in his arm (Long. Charles p.73).

 Before a sufficient number of police to enforce the law could arrive at Greta, Ned and Dan had retired into the mountainous country to the south in the direction of Mansfield, where they were soon joined by two of their associates, Joe Byrne and Steve Hart. In a secluded spot, they had a stronghold -a hut with walls of thick slabs, bullet proof and loop holed, with a door of stout sheet iron. Nothing was heard of these three reckless young men for some months. On Friday , October 25, 1878, four policemen, disguised as prospectors, set out from Mansfield to catch the Kelly Gang. Sergeant Kennedy and Constables Scanlon, Lonigan and McIntyre set out from Mansfield for the heart of the Wombat Ranges, lying to the north of that town, between it and Greta , where it was deemed likely the quartet was hiding (Long. Charles p.74).

 At the end of the day's journey, the policemen camped on the bank of Stringybark Creek, about twenty miles from the town. The next day the policemen's camp had been ambushed by the Kelly Gang and the only policeman who remained to tell the tale

was McIntyre (Long. Charles p.74). Mansfield officials and residents risked their lives and went and collected the bodies under the guidance of Constable McIntyre. For Mansfield people the central figure in the tragedy-looking on the tragedy as a purely local event-is Sergeant Michael Kennedy, then stationed at Mansfield (Morris, George 194? p.40). The Felons Apprehension Bill passed soon afterwards gave civilians the right to shoot the gang on sight. Almost immediately, the Chief Justice granted an order against each member of the Kelly Gang to surrender at Mansfield on or before Tuesday November 12, to stand trial for murder Mansfield (Morris, George 194? p.40). The wantonness and barbarity of the crime caused great public excitement. A reward of 1 000 pounds for each of the miscreants was offered by the government, and the pursuit, which was to last for no less than a year and eight months, began (Long. Charles p.75). With the execution of Ned Kelly on the 11th of November, 1880, the story of bushranging in Victoria came to an abrupt and terrible end. One hundred thousand pounds is one estimate of the cost incurred in extirpating the Kelly gang (Long. Charles p.78). History of Place: The memorial in the main street at Mansfield was erected by the State Government to the memory of the three constables murdered by the Kelly gang in the Wombat Ranges, 26 October 1878. A commemorative service was held in 1978 to mark the Memorial's Centenary (National Trust research). The memorial was contributed to by the police of Victoria and New South Wales and the public, particularly residents of the Mansfield District. The movement for its erection was begun on 21 December 1878 about two months after the murders, and the Chief Commissioner of Police at the time, Captain Standish unveiled the Memorial on 22 April 1880. The dead constables were Sergeant Michael Kennedy, born at Westmeath, Ireland, aged 36 years and enlisted in the Victorian police force 19 August 1864; Mounted Constable Thomas Lonigan, native of Sligo Ireland, aged 34 years and enlisted 4 July 1874; Mounted constable Michael Scanlan, native of Kerry, Ireland, aged 35 years and enlisted 22 December 1865. The men were buried in a local cemetery under headstones erected by a grateful parliament. A reward of & pound;1000 was offered for apprehension of each of the bushrangers, a pursuit which was to last 20 months. Ned Kelly was executed on 11 November, 1880 (National Trust research). In October 1994 a small memorial was unveiled by Neil Comrie Chief Commissioner of Police which is situated directly next to the 1880 memorial. It contains a plaque dedicated to all members of Victoria Police who have been killed in the performance of their duty. The bluestone blocks contain the name J. Hanson Melbourne inscribed in the stonework. It is believed that this is the name of the stonemason responsible for design and construction of the memorial. It is believed that the cast iron palisade fence was erected at the same time as the memorial. It appears in a photograph c.1880. Associated People: Assoc.People MICHAEL KENNEDY, THOMAS LONIGAN, MICHAEL SCANLAN

Assessment Against Criteria

Criterion A

The historical importance, association with or relationship to Victoria's history of the place or object.

The Mansfield Police Memorial is important for its associations with the bushranging phase in Victoria's history and in particular the legendary Ned Kelly . With the execution of Ned Kelly on the 11th of November, 1880, the story of bushranging in Victoria came to an end.

Criterion B

The importance of a place or object in demonstrating rarity or uniqueness.

Criterion C

The place or object's potential to educate, illustrate or provide further scientific investigation in relation to Victoria's cultural heritage.

Criterion D

The importance of a place or object in exhibiting the principal characteristics or the representative nature of a place or object as part of a class or type of places or objects.

Criterion E

The importance of the place or object in exhibiting good design or aesthetic characteristics and/or in exhibiting a richness, diversity or unusual integration of features.

The Mansfield Police Memorial is of architectural and aesthetic importance as a representative example of an elaborate memorial constructed with public monies in the 1880s. It is important for its demonstration of skilled stonemasonry and ornate detailing. The memorial is of aesthetic importance for its prominent position in the town of Mansfield and in particular for its sculpted urns and large urn at the apex. It is important for the intricate stonework detailing.

Criterion F

The importance of the place or object in demonstrating or being associated with scientific or technical innovations or achievements.

Criterion G

The importance of the place or object in demonstrating social or cultural associations.

The memorial is important as an early commemoration of policemen who died in service and is a poignant reminder of the dangers they face in performing their duties. In 1994 a plaque was unveiled and dedicated to members of the Victoria Police who have since been slain in the performance of their duty.

Criterion H

Any other matter which the Council considers relevant to the determination of cultural heritage significance

Extent of Registration

NOTICE OF REGISTRATION

As Executive Director for the purpose of the Heritage Act, I give notice under section 46 that the Victorian Heritage Register is amended by including the Heritage Number 1538 in the category described as a Heritage Place:

Police Memorial, Intersection High and Highett Streets, Mansfield, Delatite Shire.

EXTENT:

1. To the extent of: All the structure known as B1 Police Memorial including all of the structure and B2 the surrounding fence in Diagram 601778 held by the Executive Director.
2. To the extent of: All the land marked L1 in Diagram 601778 held by the Executive Director being part of a road reserve. Dated 6 May 1999.

RAY TONKIN

Executive Director

[Victoria Government Gazette G 21 27 May 1999 p.1217]

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/>