

# SHRINE OF REMEMBRANCE



SHRINE OF  
REMEMBRANCE SOHE  
2008



1 shrine of remembrance st  
kilda road melbourne front  
view



shrine of remembrance st  
kilda road melbourne front  
view of columns



shrine of remembrance st  
kilda road melbourne side  
elevation



shrine of remembrance st  
kilda road melbourne side  
view with lions



shrine of remembrance st  
kilda road melbourne ww2  
memorial



shrine of remembrance st  
kilda road melbourne  
macrobertson fountain  
nov1990



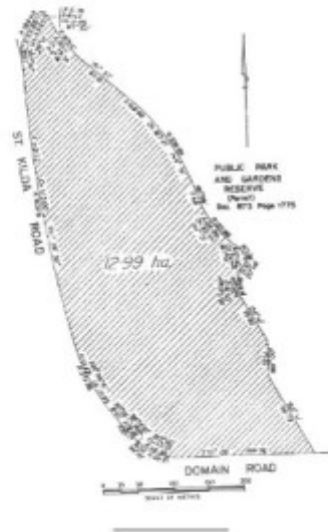
shrine of remembrance st  
kilda road melbourne ceiling  
of inner shrine

SCHEDULES

SCHEDULE ONE

Ss 2, 4 and 6

Land in the City of Melbourne which is permanently reserved as a site for a monument known as the Shrine of Remembrance.



H0848 shrine of remembrance plan

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## Location

2 - 42 DOMAIN ROAD MELBOURNE, MELBOURNE CITY

## Municipality

MELBOURNE CITY

## Level of significance

Registered

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H0848

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO489

## VHR Registration

December 14, 1991

## Amendment to Registration

January 12, 2017

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

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### Statement of Significance

Last updated on - April 7, 2005

What is significant?

The Shrine of Remembrance, consisting of the Shrine building and the surrounding Reserve including all memorials and features. The Reserve includes an avenue of Bhutan cypress, memorial trees, a Gallipoli Oak, and a replanted Gallipoli Pine (*Pinus brutia*); a large number of monuments and statues, including *Simpson and his Donkey*; a granite horse trough in memory of First World War horses; the Legacy memorial *Widow and Children*; the War World II memorial forecourt, incorporating the eternal flame; and a plaque to commemorate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander servicemen and women; and archaeological remains of World War II air raid slit trenches.

How is it significant?

The Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne, is of historical, archaeological, architectural, aesthetic, and social significance to the State of Victoria.

It satisfies the following criterion for inclusion in the Victorian Heritage Register:

Criterion A

Importance to the course, or pattern, of Victoria's cultural history.

Criterion C

Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Victoria's cultural history.

Criterion D

Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural places and objects.

Criterion E

Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics.

Criterion G

Strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons. This includes the significance of a place to Indigenous peoples as part of their continuing and developing cultural traditions.

Why is it significant?

Shrine of Remembrance is significant at a State level for the following reasons:

The Shrine of Remembrance is of historical significance as the preeminent war memorial in the State. It commemorates the service and sacrifice of all Victorians who have served and died in wars since World War I (1914-18). It embodies the devastating impact of that war on the Australian nation, and Victoria in particular, which lost the largest proportion of its young men in the country. When the project was conceived, Melbourne was the capital of Australia and the seat of Federal Parliament and this resulted in the grandest war memorial in Australia, until the Australian War Memorial was built in Canberra in 1941. Since World War II (1939-45)

numerous elements, including a commemorative forecourt, trees, statues and memorials, have been added to the Shrine Reserve to honour servicemen and women and peacekeepers from 1939 to the present day. As the largest and most important war memorial in Victoria, it reflects the community's ongoing need for a public expression of grief and of commemoration for the sacrifice of life in war. (Criterion A)

The Shrine of Remembrance is of archaeological significance for its potential to contain archaeological evidence of the design, construction, use, and remediation of air raid precaution slit trenches constructed during World War II (1939-45). The trenches were built in 1942 after Japan's entry into the war in late 1941, to shelter staff who worked at the nearby Victoria Barracks. The slit trenches were constructed in response to the fear of air attack during World War II and represent precautionary measures taken in Victoria's urban public areas. The distinctive zig-zag pattern of the trenches was typical of those built in several city parks and gardens as the preferred shelter for protecting large numbers of people from bomb blasts. There has been little subsurface disturbance since the trenches were backfilled. [Criterion C]

The Shrine of Remembrance is of architectural significance for the large and imposing memorial building, one of seven erected in Australia between 1925 (Hobart) and 1941 (Canberra). It is a distinctive, classically derived design which draws on symbolic Greek sources and incorporates carefully considered architectural refinements to correct optical illusions. It is important for its prominent siting; strong axiality; the variety of materials used, which are all Australian in origin; the unusual emphasis placed on the interior space; the ray of light in the sanctuary and the array of major sculptural works, executed by a number of accomplished sculptors, including British sculptor Paul Montford. The significance of the Shrine is enhanced by its dominant presence in the urban environment and a clear view of the place from outside the site. Views to and from the Shrine have been considered important since its construction. The importance of westward views from and across the forecourt has been increased as a consequence of the expansion of the forecourt space to accommodate the World War II memorials and associated ceremonies. [Criterion D & E]

The Shrine of Remembrance is of aesthetic significance for its design as a civic meeting place for remembrance and ceremonial purpose. Its design and setting is characterised by a sense of grandeur, solemnity and separateness which is heightened by its isolated and elevated siting on the edge of the central business district and its highly formal and axial planning. The Shrine has civic prominence and vistas from all directions including an uninterrupted view along St Kilda Road from Swanston Street. The formal layout of the Shrine Reserve, with its array of war memorials and plantings, enhances the Shrine's role as culturally significant place that provides opportunities for individual contemplation and reflection, for solemn group ceremonies and for educating the community about the tragic events it commemorates. [Criterion E]

The Shrine of Remembrance is of social and spiritual significance as the preeminent war memorial in the State. It has provided a focus for public events, a gathering place, and place for private reflection since its completion in 1934. Its construction reflects a high level of public support and a large crowd was present at the building's dedication. It has been, and continues to be, a place of importance to the Victorian people. There is a strong and special association between the Shrine and the Victorian people for social, cultural and spiritual reasons. It is notable that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander servicemen and servicewomen contributed to wartime service at a time in Victoria's history when Aboriginal people were denied the same civil and political rights as non-Aboriginal people. The Shrine of Remembrance is of social, cultural and spiritual significance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People of Victoria as a symbol of this contribution. [Criterion G]

## Permit Exemptions

### General Exemptions:

General exemptions apply to all places and objects included in the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR). General exemptions have been designed to allow everyday activities, maintenance and changes to your property, which don't harm its cultural heritage significance, to proceed without the need to obtain approvals under the Heritage Act 2017.

Places of worship: In some circumstances, you can alter a place of worship to accommodate religious practices without a permit, but you must [notify](#) the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria before you start the works or activities at least 20 business days before the works or activities are to commence.

Subdivision/consolidation: Permit exemptions exist for some subdivisions and consolidations. If the subdivision or

consolidation is in accordance with a planning permit granted under Part 4 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the application for the planning permit was referred to the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria as a determining referral authority, a permit is not required.

Specific exemptions may also apply to your registered place or object. If applicable, these are listed below. Specific exemptions are tailored to the conservation and management needs of an individual registered place or object and set out works and activities that are exempt from the requirements of a permit. Specific exemptions prevail if they conflict with general exemptions.

Find out more about heritage permit exemptions [here](#).

### **Specific Exemptions:**

General Conditions: 1. All exempted alterations are to be planned and carried out in a manner which prevents damage to the fabric of the registered place or object. General Conditions: 2. Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of works that original or previously hidden or inaccessible details of the place or object are revealed which relate to the significance of the place or object, then the exemption covering such works shall cease and Heritage Victoria shall be notified as soon as possible. Note: All archaeological places have the potential to contain significant sub-surface artefacts and other remains. In most cases it will be necessary to obtain approval from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria before the undertaking any works that have a significant sub-surface component. General Conditions: 3. If there is a conservation policy and plan endorsed by the Executive Director, all works shall be in accordance with it. Note: The existence of a Conservation Management Plan or a Heritage Action Plan endorsed by the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria provides guidance for the management of the heritage values associated with the site. It may not be necessary to obtain a heritage permit for certain works specified in the management plan. General Conditions: 4. Nothing in this determination prevents the Executive Director from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions. General Conditions: 5. Nothing in this determination exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the responsible authorities where applicable. Minor Works : Note: Any Minor Works that in the opinion of the Executive Director will not adversely affect the heritage significance of the place may be exempt from the permit requirements of the Heritage Act. A person proposing to undertake minor works may submit a proposal to the Executive Director. If the Executive Director is satisfied that the proposed works will not adversely affect the heritage values of the site, the applicant may be exempted from the requirement to obtain a heritage permit. If an applicant is uncertain whether a heritage permit is required, it is recommended that the permits co-ordinator be contacted.

Specific Permit Exemptions - Please see below

#### Specific Exemption

##### Landscape Maintenance

- a) The process of gardening, including mowing, hedge clipping, annual bedding displays, removal and replanting dead or diseased plants to retain the historic landscape character, disease and weed control, fertilising and mulching, and maintenance to care for plants and lawns. This provision excludes trees.
- b) Replanting the same plant species, or an approved species, in the same location or area, which conserves the significant landscape character and values including specimen trees and palms, avenues, rows, shrubberies, rose and flower beds, ferns and lawns.
- c) Removal of dead or dangerous trees and emergency tree works to maintain public safety and to protect buildings and structures providing the Executive Director is notified within 21 days of the removal or works occurring.
- d) Management of trees in accordance with Australian Standard; Pruning of Amenity Trees AS 4373-1996.
- e) Management of trees in accordance with Australian Standard; Protection of Trees on Development Sites AS 4970-2009.
- f) Removal of plants listed as noxious weeds in the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*.
- g) Vegetation protection and management of possums and vermin.
- h) All works to maintain the existing roadways, footpaths and road safety including road maintenance, kerb and channel repairs, road marking and traffic signs.

i) Subsurface works involving the installation, removal or replacement of watering and drainage systems or services, outside the canopy edge of significant trees in accordance with AS4970 and on the condition that works do not impact upon the historical archaeological deposits, specifically the backfilled World War Two air raid precaution slit trenches located within the north-eastern and north-western reserves.

#### Specific Exemption

##### Park furniture

Installation of standard City of Melbourne park furniture, including seats, bins, signage, bollards, lights and drinking fountains outside tree protection zones, monument and statue settings and significant view lines and on the condition that works do not impact upon historical archaeological deposits, specifically the backfilled World War Two air raid precaution slit trenches located within the north-eastern and north-western reserves.

#### Specific Exemption

##### Public Safety and Security

- a) Temporary public safety and security activities provided the works do not involve the removal, disturbance or destruction of any significant above-ground structures or subsurface archaeological artefacts or deposits;
- b) The erection of temporary security fencing, scaffolding, hoardings or surveillance systems for less than 2 months to prevent unauthorized access or secure public safety which will not adversely affect significant fabric of the place including archaeological artefacts or deposits;

#### Specific Exemption

##### Signage and Site Interpretation

- a) Signage and site interpretation activities provided the works do not involve the removal, disturbance or destruction of any significant above-ground structures or subsurface archaeological artefacts or deposits;
- b) The erection of non-illuminated signage for the purpose of ensuring public safety or to assist in the interpretation of the heritage significance of the place or object and which will not adversely affect significant fabric including landscape or archaeological artefacts or deposits of the place or obstruct significant views of and from heritage values or items.

Condition 1: Signage and site interpretation products must be located and be of a suitable size so as not to obscure or damage significant fabric of the place.

Condition 2: Signage and site interpretation products must be able to be later removed without causing damage to the significant fabric of the place.

Condition 3: The development of signage and site interpretation products must be consistent in the use of format, text, logos, themes and other display materials.

Condition 4: Where possible, the signage and interpretation material should be consistent with other schemes developed on similar or associated sites. It may be necessary to consult with land managers and other stakeholders concerning existing schemes and strategies for signage and site interpretation.

#### Specific Exemption

##### Regular Site Maintenance

- a) site maintenance provided the works do not involve the removal, disturbance or destruction of any significant aboveground features or subsurface archaeological artefacts or deposits, particularly relating to the slit trenches north of the Shrine building;
- b) built fabric maintenance to retain condition or operation without the removal of or damage to the existing fabric or the introduction of new materials;
- c) cleaning including the removal of surface deposits, organic growths, or graffiti by the use of low pressure water and natural detergents and mild brushing and scrubbing;

- d) conservation of plaques and memorials by a qualified conservator.
- e) repairs and maintenance to roads and paths, fences and gates and existing drainage and irrigation.
- f) The replacement of existing services such as cabling, plumbing, wiring and fire services that uses existing routes, conduits or voids, and does not involve damage to or the removal of significant fabric (including archaeological artefacts or deposits).

Construction dates	1927, 1949,
Architect/Designer	Hudson & Wardrop, Milston, Ernest E,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place, Registered archaeological place,
Hermes Number	806
Property Number	

## History

The Shrine of Remembrance, Victoria's principal war memorial, was constructed between 1927 and 1934 on a prominent elevated site south of the city, on a north-south axis with Swanston Street and St Kilda Road. Together with a number of war related elements, the memorial is situated on the Shrine Reserve, which was selected from a number of possible sites after a decision was made to create a national war memorial at a public meeting in 1921. The resulting National War Memorial Committee comprised many distinguished businessmen, political and military leaders and the selected site, with its major north-south approach and elevated position, gave the memorial prominence and visibility from all directions.

A competition for the design of the World War One memorial was held in 1923 and 83 designs were submitted. Entries were largely classical in conception, with the winning design by returned servicemen, Philip B. Hudson and James H. Wardrop, incorporating a distinctive interior space. Their monumental, classically conceived design, set on a series of elevated terraces within a formally planned landscape, caused considerable controversy in the press, however was finally adopted with some modifications, and the foundation stone was laid on Armistice Day 1927. Builders for the Shrine were Vaughan and Lodge, and architect Kingsley Ussher joined the architects' practice in 1929. After completion, the building was dedicated on 11 November 1934 by the Duke of Gloucester, at a ceremony attended by about 300,000 people.

Hudson and Wardrop's design for the Shrine is highly symmetrical with strong axial approaches from all directions. It drew on classical Greek sources in both form and detail and incorporated refinements to correct optical illusions, as undertaken in Classical Greece. The main form was based on the Mausoleum of Halicarnassos (353 B.C.) with a stepped reinforced concrete, pyramidal roof (originally clad externally in granite but re-clad in copper sheeting in 1969) rising above a monumental cubic base. Octastyle Doric porticoes were applied to the north and south elevations, based on the Parthenon (447-432 B.C.), and a large finial, based on the Choragic Monument of Lysicrates, Athens, was included in the final design. Together these three sources combine to produce a building based symbolically on a tomb, temple and monument. The building is planned around a central sanctuary with surrounding ambulatory, a crypt below and two balcony levels above. The sanctuary receives light from a skylight in the centre of the distinctive stepped high ceiling and a feature of the space is the ray of light designed to fall across the sunken Rock of Remembrance at 11am on Remembrance Day. The perimeter ambulatory contains ensigns and books recording the names of all 114,000 Victorian servicemen who enlisted and served in World War One.

The superstructure of the building is clad externally with pale grey granite quarried from a Tynong quarry, which was opened to supply the stone for this building. Stone sculptures were integral to the design of the exterior and British sculptor Paul Montford was commissioned to undertake this work. These sculptures include large winged figures buttressing the exterior corners of the Shrine and friezes for the tympanum of the porticoes. The interior sanctuary is square in plan and symmetrical about both axes, and incorporates sandstone cladding, a marble tile floor, sixteen dark Buchan marble Ionic columns and twelve frieze panels, designed by young sculptor, Lyndon

Dadswell. The crypt, originally conceived as being left in an unfinished state to house records, is also clad in sandstone and has a ruled concrete floor and decorated coffered concrete ceiling. It contains a bronze casket containing the names of Shrine fund contributors and copies of the original drawings. In 1968 a bronze sculpture, *Father and Son* by Ray Ewers, was installed in the centre of the floor.

In 1949 a competition was held for the design of a World War Two memorial. This was won by Ernest E. Milston with a design for a forecourt on the northern side of the Shrine, at a terrace level beneath the existing terraces. It replaced an existing reflection pool, but involved no alterations to the Shrine itself. The forecourt, dedicated by the Queen in 1954, is designed in the form of a cross, and comprised an eternal flame and cenotaph on the western arm and three flagpoles on the eastern arm. The eternal flame is a brass bowl with gas-fired flame, surrounded by a low bronze rail fence and the most substantial of the three monuments, the cenotaph, is located behind this flame. The cenotaph consists of a basalt sculpture of six servicemen carrying the figure of a fallen comrade draped in an Australian flag, set high on a sandstone base. George Allen, the head of the sculpture department at R.M.I.T. from 1933 to 1965, won a competition to design the statuary. Opposite these memorials, across the forecourt, are three simple flag poles of painted steel tube set in simple granite slabs, originally intended to be mounted in urn shaped sandstone bases.

Other important elements have been incorporated into the Reserve since its inception, and a collection of these are located to the north east of the Shrine. *The Gallipoli Memorial*, which incorporates a bronze sculpture of *The Man with his Donkey*, was originally located outside the Reserve in 1935, however was relocated in 1967. It incorporates a statue set on a granite plinth with small bronze lion head fountains at either end. Located nearby is a granite horse trough, relocated in 1986 from its original position also outside the Reserve. It was erected as an initiative of the Purple Cross Society in 1926, dedicated to the welfare of the horses sent to World War One. Also nearby are the *Driver* and *Wipers* statues, relocated from the State Library forecourt in 1998. The work of British sculptor Charles Jagger, these were originally purchased by the National Gallery of Victoria and installed after their arrival in Australia in 1937. They are two life-sized bronze statues, mounted on low sandstone plinths on either side of a narrow sandstone wall.

To the east of the Shrine is a statue titled *Widow and Children* which was commissioned by Legacy and dedicated in 1988. It is a small bronze sculpture by Louis Larmen, mounted on a grey granite block and set inside a cruciform shaped garden. Established in 1978, this was originally known as the Garden of Memory, but was renamed the Legacy Garden of Appreciation in 1982.

To the west of the Shrine is the Remembrance Garden, opened in 1985 to commemorate the service of Australian personnel in post-World War Two conflicts. It consists of a low granite wall set into the hill, with projecting buttresses at each end. Two lawn memorials are also located to the west of the Shrine, commemorating the service of the Australian Independent Companies Commando Squadrons and the World War Two Airborne Forces. Dating from c.1980s, they consist of bronze plaques mounted on granite blocks.

To the south west of the Shrine is a fountain which was installed in 1934 to mark the centenary of Victoria and donated to the people of Victoria by noted philanthropist, Sir MacPherson Robertson. It was designed by the architects of the Shrine, Hudson and Wardrop, and features bronze statuary by Paul Montford. It consists of four concentric circular pools with a raised granite centrepiece surmounted by a small bronze statue.

Other installations in the Shrine Reserve include four light pylons which were designed as part of the original design concept and constructed in 1934. Cast iron lamp posts, also dating from the original scheme, are arranged around the Shrine and along the southern approach. It appears that those along the northern approach were removed during the construction of the World War Two forecourt. Three seats, featuring commemorative plaques, are located to the west of the Shrine, and were donated by veterans' associations in the early 1980s. Various tree plaques were also installed from the mid-1930s onwards.

Landscaping around the Shrine began in 1933, providing employment for 400-500 men during the Depression. The design features strong axial north-south and east-west roadways and diagonal paths leading to and from the memorial, with plantings playing an important and symbolic role at the Shrine Reserve. About 114 memorial trees were planted around the Shrine in 1934, some later replaced or removed. The construction of the World War Two forecourt also required the removal of some of the original trees. Specific areas of trees around the Shrine were allocated to the army, navy and air force, and exotic trees representing the Commonwealth countries were planted in the north east lawn in the 1950s. A lone pine (Turkish pine, *Pinus brutia*), one of a small number of early trees grown in Victoria from a cone brought back from Gallipoli and planted in 1933, is situated to the east of the Shrine. Formal 1934 plantings of Bhutan Cypress (*Cupressus torulosa*) remain along the northern



approach from St Kilda Road and other formal plantings, including that lining the southern approach and Lombardy poplars encircling the base of the grassed mound, remain from later periods.

In 2003 the Shrine underwent a substantial redevelopment which involved the addition of foyers, visitor information spaces and facilities and two new entrances to the crypt via the previously unexposed undercroft. These additions are located beneath the existing mound on the north side of the Shrine and access is via courtyards, themselves aligned with the diagonal axes of the building. The visual impact of this work is minimal, however the approach to the building has been significantly altered with these new additions. Entry is now into the crypt, via the undercroft, rather than directly into the sanctuary on the level above. This allows for an educational process to occur prior to entry into the original, unaltered spaces.

**The draft statement of significance and the above history were produced as part of an Online Data Upgrade Project 2005. Sources were as follows:**

Allom Lovell and Associates. *The Shrine of Remembrance and the Shrine Reserve, St Kilda Road, Melbourne, Conservation Management Plan*. 2001

M. Summerton. *The Shrine of Remembrance, search for architectural drawings/ documentation concerning construction of the Shrine of Remembrance*, 1992

W. B. Russell. *We Will Remember Them. The Story of the Shrine of Remembrance*. 1980

## **Extent of Registration**

### NOTICE OF REGISTRATION

As Executive Director for the purpose of the **Heritage Act 1995**, I give notice under section 46 that the Victorian Heritage Register is amended by modifying the following place in the Heritage Register:

Number: H2364

Category: Heritage Place; Archaeological Place

Place: Shrine of Remembrance

Location: 2-42 Domain Road, Melbourne

Melbourne City

[NOTE: This amendment is only concerned with adding the Heritage Category 'Archaeological Place'. There is no change to the extent of registration published in the Victoria Government Gazette G47 4 December 1991 page 3374.]

Dated 12 January 2017

TIM SMITH

Executive Director

[Victoria Government Gazette No. G2 12 January 2017

*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/>*