

Victorian Heritage Database place details - 16/1/2021
Oakleigh Avenue of Honour



Location:
Drummond Street, Oakleigh, MONASH CITY

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number:

Listing Authority: HI

Extent of Registration:

Statement of Significance:

Description

Avenue. Row of replacement trees in Drummond Street. Lamp post monument.

Remembering the fallen

Commemoration

The Oakleigh Avenue of Honour was planted to commemorate the First World War. A row of replacement trees have since been planted in Drummond Street and a lamp post monument installed to signify the move of the avenue. There is also a plaque featuring the names of those soldiers who served.

In Australia, commemorative trees have been planted in public spaces since the late nineteenth century. Arbor Days were held regularly in most Victorian State Schools during the late 1800s and early 1900s, and numerous trees were planted in parks in Melbourne and throughout Victoria to mark the visits of important and famous people.

This tradition of commemorative planting was continued in 1901 when at the end of the Boer War trees were often planted for each soldier of the district who was killed in South Africa. These plantings, however, rarely consisted of more than two or three trees in each town.

During and after the First World War avenues of honour consisting of trees lining significant streets became a popular form of commemoration. They represented a new egalitarian approach to the commemoration of soldiers where rank was not a consideration: each tree symbolises a person.

Avenues of honour are a uniquely Australian phenomenon. Australians, and in particular Victorians, embraced the idea of planting them more enthusiastically than any other country in the world. Dating from May 1916, the Eurack Avenue of Honour is the earliest known avenue of honour to be planted in Victoria.

By the time of the Second World War avenues of honour had declined in popularity as a means of commemoration. Today it is estimated that over 300 avenues of honour have been planted in Victoria to commemorate service personnel since 1901.

Heritage Study	
Year Construction Started	
Architect / Designer	
Architectural Style	
Heritage Act Categories	
Municipality	["MONASH CITY"]
Other names	
History	