



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

Location:

Clayton, MONASH CITY

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number:

Listing Authority: HI

Extent of Registration:

Statement of Significance:

Description

Avenue.

Remembering the fallen

The Clayton Avenue of Honour was planted in 1918 to commemorate locals who served in the First World War. The Avenue is located on Carnish Road starting from the railway crossing and stretching east. It was planted with Portugal Oaks (*Quercus lustanica*) but the entire northern row of trees are missing while the remaining trees have been pruned due to powerlines.

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. The Eurack Avenue of Honour is the earliest known avenue of honour to be planted in Victoria and dates from May 1916.

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	