

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

name: Remnant Memorial Avenue of Honour (*Ulmus procera*)
Address: 47 Roberts Avenue (in front of) HORSHAM
Place Type: Avenue of Honour, Tree
Citation Date: 2022



Roberts Avenue of Honour, Ulmus procera, 47 Roberts Avenue Horsham

Recommended Heritage Protection **VHR -**

HI -

PS
Yes

Integrity

One elm tree remains at 47 Roberts Avenue. Reportedly, fifteen or sixteen elms remained in 2014 along the Urquhart/ McPherson St end of the street. Plaque remains adjacent toilet block on the south wall of 53 Firebrace St.

History and Historical Context

An avenue of Elms (*Ulmus procera*) was planted in Roberts Avenue in 1901 to commemorate the victory of the British in the South African War. This was one of the first avenues planted as a war memorial in Victoria, and in Australia, although this plantation appears to have been as much a triumphant gesture as a memorial to the fallen. Local Horsham postmaster William Burraston Payter was a key figure involved in establishing the plantation.[1] A total of 80 Elm trees were planted. A marble plaque was also installed, which was affixed to the (former) Jenkins Shop in Roberts Avenue. The plaque read: 'Planted by the citizens of Horsham in commemoration of the success of the British and Australian troops in the South African War. / December 1901'.

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The street, originally known as Splatt Street, was named after Field Marshall Earl Roberts who was Commander-in-Chief of the British forces in the South African War.

By the late 1960s, the trees were undergoing considerable stress, probably exacerbated by the drought of 1967-68, and many were reported as dying. The Council took steps to have the trees removed. This triggered a strong local campaign to retain them, led by the incumbent Anglican minister Rev Fr Fred Cole, who formed a Save Our Trees committee. A petition attracted 650 names.[2] As a result of public protest against their removal, the trees were left, although one tree fell down of its own accord during the conflict. In 1972, several of the more dangerous trees were removed.

In 1977 there were 25 trees remaining. Since that time many more trees became senescent and were removed for public safety reasons. In 2014 there were only 16 trees remaining in Roberts Avenue, between Darlot Street and McPherson Street. In 2022, there is only one.

[1] James Smith (ed.), *Cyclopedia of Victoria*, vol. 1, 1903, pg.

[2] *Horsham Times*, 23 December 1977.

Description

Physical Description

One elm tree remains at 47 Roberts Avenue, of 80 English Elm trees initially lined Roberts Avenue, from Darlot to McPherson Sts. Commemorative marble tablet plaque located on building I, NE corner of Firebrace/ Roberts intersection.

Physical Condition

Avenue is of poor integrity – only one tree remain. Given significance of Memorial, remaining trees should be maintained/ replanted when dead and future replanting of Avenue should be considered (replanting avenues of honour not uncommon in approach as trees die) if it is still of social significance to the Horsham community.

Australian Heritage Commission Criteria

Relevant HERCON Criteria

Criterion A: Importance to course, or pattern, of Victoria's cultural history (as a memorial to the soldiers who served and to commemorate success in the Boer War)

Criterion G: Strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons (as a reminder to the community of the sacrifices of past generations)

Comparative Analysis

Local comparative avenues in the Wimmera:

Memorial plantings, Wallace Street, Apsley, Hermes no. 161954: Trees planted to commemorate the Siege of Mafeking during the Boer War. Appear in good health – not strictly an 'avenue' though

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Avenue of Honour, Comyn Street, Murtoa, Hermes no. 13054: Avenue consisting of 533 trees (pprox.. 50 remain), Kurrajong trees – one of earliest surviving native street tree plantings, planted in 1901-02

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The elements of heritage value of the 1901 Avenue of Honour (remaining tree and plaque) include:

- . the English Elm (*Ulmus procera*) in front of 47 Roberts Avenue
- . Marble plaque mounted on wall at corner of Roberts Avenue at 53 Firebrace Street–

How is it significant?

The remaining 1902 elm (*Ulmus procera*) tree and plaque marking the location of the Avenue of Honour are of local historic and social significance to the Horsham Rural City.

Why is it significant?

The remaining 1902 elm (*Ulmus procera*) trees and plaque forming the Roberts Avenue, Avenue of Honour are:

- . Of local historical significance, as an illustration of impact of Boer War on Horsham Community and approach to memorialisation during the early 20th Century (Criteria A)
- . Of local social significance, as a memorial to the fallen soldiers from the Horsham district who fought in the Boer War. (Criteria G)

Recommendations 2022

External Paint Controls	No
Internal Alteration Controls	No
Tree Controls	Yes
Fences & Outbuildings	No
Prohibited uses may be permitted	No
Incorporated Plan	-
Aboriginal Heritage Place	No

References

Literature title: Avenues of Honour online database

Literature type: General Reference

Literature author:

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Literature publisher:

Literature year:

Literature title: "90th Anniversary of our Avenues of Honour" Australian Garden History Magazine, Vol. 17, No. 5, May/June 2006

Literature type: General Reference

Literature author: Taffe, Michael

Literature publisher: Australian Garden History Society

Literature year: 2006

Literature title: The Cyclopedia of Victoria

Literature type: General Reference

Literature author: Smith, James

Literature publisher: Cyclopedia Company

Literature year: 1903

This information is provided for guidance only and does not supersede official documents, particularly the planning scheme. Planning controls should be verified by checking the relevant municipal planning scheme.