

## Victorian Mounted Rifles Boer War Memorial



BOER WAR MONUMENT  
SOHE 2008



boer war memorial detail  
nov06 jb



Melb 56.jpg



Melb 57.jpg



Victorian Mounted Rifles  
Memorial.jpg



Melb 55.jpg



Melb 53.1.jpg



Melb 53.jpg



boer war memorial nov06 jb



boer war memorial buttress  
Nov06 jb



boer war memorial architects  
mark nov06 jb



boer war memorial full view  
nov 06 jb



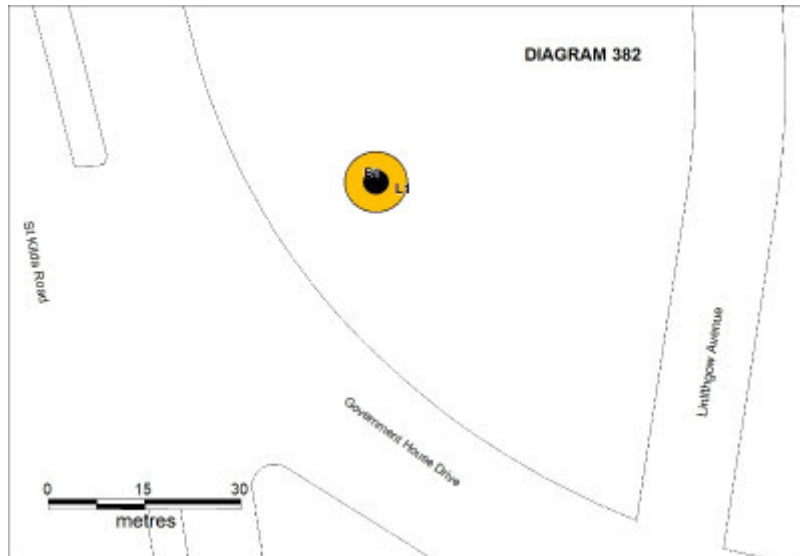
plaque1 boer war memorial st  
kilda rd nov06 jb



plaque2 boer war memorial  
stkilda rd2 nov06 jb



plaque3 boer war memorial  
stkilda rd jb



H0382 boer war monument plan

## Location

KINGS DOMAIN, ST KILDA ROAD and GOVERNMENT HOUSE DRIVE MELBOURNE

## Municipality

MELBOURNE CITY

## Level of significance

-

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H0382

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO948

## Heritage Listing

## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - June 18, 2007

What is significant?

The Boer War Monument in St Kilda Road, located opposite the Victoria Barracks, was erected in 1903 shortly after hostilities ceased. The Boer War was the name given to the South African Wars of 1880-81 and 1899-1902 fought between the British and the descendants of the Dutch settlers (Boers) in Southern Africa. As part of the British Empire, the Australian Colonies offered troops in 1899 and the first Mounted Australian units arrived in South Africa in December 1899. At least 12,000 Australians served in contingents raised by the six colonies or (from 1901) the new Australian Commonwealth. It is believed that at least 600 Australians died in the campaign, nearly half (265) being from Victoria.

The Monument is very unusual in the Australian context as it was funded by the Victorian Mounted Rifles Regiment, rather than public subscription. The monument was "erected by the members of the 5th Victorian Contingent VMR in memory of their fallen comrades in South Africa".

The monument itself is made of sandstone with a bluestone base, and designed by the noted architect George De Lacy Evans. Evan's other works included Warehouses in Niagara Lane (VHR 473), the Sum Kum Lee Buildings in Little Bourke Street (VHR442), the Lygon Buildings in Carlton (VHR 406) and the Union Church in Elsternwick (VHR 704). The sculpture was completed by Joseph Hamilton who later described the monument as a 'tower'. The monument combines gothic elements, with piers, arches and flying buttresses sculpted in stone. Three bronze plaques list the dead, with their rank. The Victorians served in mounted units and this is reflected in the number of casualties amongst mounted soldiers, farriers and shoeing smiths. The names of the places in South Africa where the Victorians saw action are inscribed on the supporting pillars. The Victorian Military Badge has also been incorporated into the design, emphasising the fact that this is a Victorian rather than national memorial.

The monument was moved a few metres in 1966 to an embankment facing St Kilda Road to allow for road widening and is now in a garden setting.

How is it significant?

The Boer War Monument is of historic and aesthetic significance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

The Boer War Monument is of historic significance to the State of Victoria as it commemorates the participation of Victorians in the Boer War.

The Boer War Monument is of aesthetic significance to the State of Victoria as a finely executed work by architect George de Lacy Evans and sculptor Joseph Hamilton.

Construction dates	1904,
Architect/Designer	Evans, George De Lacy,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Hermes Number	125237
Property Number	

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## Physical Description 1

Date Started 1904; Date Finished ; Storeys 0; Desc WAR MEMORIAL;

## Usage/Former Usage

1904 ; Monument ;

## Physical Conditions

State of the Historic Environment survey report - Fair condition. See Events.

## Veterans Description for Public

The Victorian Mounted Rifles Memorial in St Kilda Road, opposite the Victoria Barracks, was erected in 1903 shortly after the hostilities ceased. The Monument is very unusual in the Australian context as it was funded by the 5th Contingent Victorian Mounted Rifles Regiment, rather than public subscription. The monument was a tribute to their fallen comrades. Regimental monuments had a long history in British Regiments. There are a number of other memorials in Victoria, two are on the Victorian Heritage Register. The National Monument further down St Kilda Road, was not finished until 1924 and with further additions made in the 1950s.

The monument itself is made of sandstone with a bluestone base, and designed by the noted architect George De Lacy Evans. Three bronze plaques list the dead, with their rank. The Victorians served in mounted units and this is reflected in the number of casualties amongst mounted soldiers, farriers and shoeing smiths. The names of the places in South Africa where the Victorians saw action are inscribed on the supporting pillars. The Victorian Military Badge has also been incorporated into the design, emphasising the fact that this is a Victorian rather than national memorial. In 1966, the memorial was moved from its original place in St Kilda Road, to the beginning of Government House Drive, opposite the Barracks.

The inscriptions reads: "Erected by Members of the 5th Victorian Contingent V.M.R. in memory of their fallen comrades in South Africa 1901-2." Below which are listed the following names:

### Casualties

R. M Thornton, J. Rankin, S. J. Barnard, E. H. Blandford, L. Bond, F. H. Caughey, J. Charlton, J. Collins, J. Costello, A. B. Davidson, F. G. Dow, C. Glenn, L. J. W. Goudie, R. G. Harrison, W. J. Healey, H. H. Hendy, H. V. Hewins, W. W. James

### Casualties

J. Kelly, S. R. Coulter, J. G. Chrisp, AG Johnston, A. E. Murphy, H. A. Palmer, A. G. K Buckingham, J. F. Houlihan, R. P. N. Robertson, H. Harrison, H. Newlands, A. E. Burley, H. J. Boxall, G. R Button, H. C. Hadley, T. S. Cross, A. Houghton, A. E. Spowart

## Extent of Registration

/n

1. All of the structure known as the Boer War Monument shown B1 on Diagram 382 held by the Executive Director.

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2. All of the land shown L1 on Diagram 382 held by the Executive Director being a circle of 5 metres radius from the centre of the monument.

*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/>*