

## South Melbourne South African Soldiers Memorial (Boer War)



SOUTH AFRICAN  
SOLDIERS MEMORIAL  
SOHE 2008



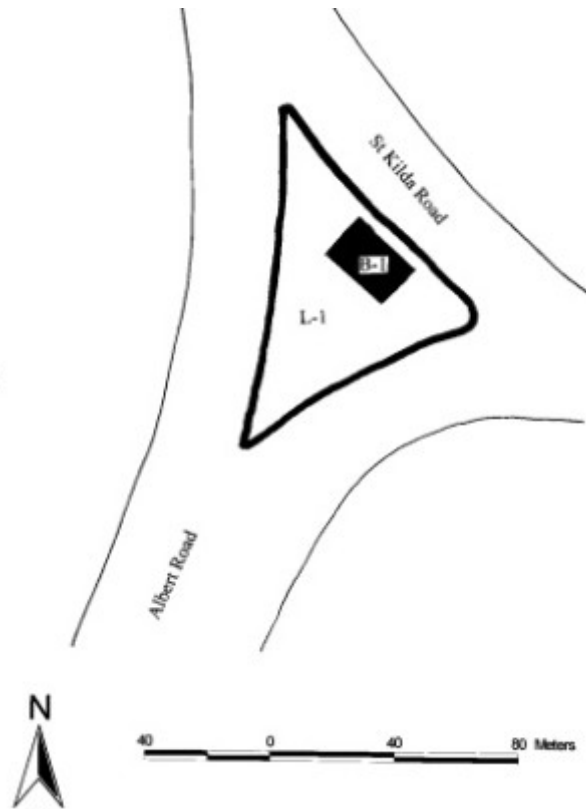
MelbS 8.jpg



1 south african soldiers  
memorial albert street south  
melbourne front view



MelbS 7.jpg



south african war memorial albert reserve south melbourne plan

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## Location

29A ALBERT ROAD AND CORNER ST KILDA ROAD SOUTH MELBOURNE, Port Phillip City

## Municipality

PORT PHILLIP CITY

## Level of significance

-

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1374

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO12

## Heritage Listing

Vic. War Heritage Inventory

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - May 14, 1999

What is significant?

The South African War Memorial Committee was formed at a public meeting in 1911 to raise funds for a memorial to honour the soldiers who fought and died in the Boer War. The architect Irwin & Stevenson won the design competition and the memorial was completed in mid 1924. The memorial was to have originally been hexagonal in plan with six bronze lions but lack of funds resulted in a more simple design. Eventually more money was raised and the four sandstone lions, designed and sculpted by Stanley Hammond, were added to the memorial in 1952. The memorial is a grey granite obelisk set on a podium. It is embellished with a bronze dagger, plaque and a wreath which is decorated with eucalyptus motifs. The four sandstone lions are set on granite pedestals on each corner of the podium.

How is it significant?

The memorial is of historical, social and aesthetic importance to the state of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

The South African Soldiers' War Memorial is of considerable historical and social significance as the major memorial associated with the Boer War in Victoria. Its monumental size and landmark position imbue the memorial with a strong, symbolic presence. It is the only memorial built in Victoria to commemorate all Australians who took part in the war, rather than local soldiers. The Boer War was a pivotal moment in Australia's history. It was the first time that volunteers from Australia and New Zealand had fought together in an overseas war and the first time these troops paraded together in Melbourne and Sydney, presaging the ANZAC tradition. The war was at a time of growing national consciousness for an Australia declaring its own nationhood.

The memorial is a poignant symbol of the war and conveys the profound sentiments of the Victorian community towards this important event in Australian history. The incorporation of eucalypt motifs into the bronze wreath reflects the rising nationalism of the time.

Architect/Designer      Irwin & Stevenson,

Heritage Act Categories   Registered place,

Other Names              BOER WAR,

Hermes Number          125266

Property Number

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## Usage/Former Usage

1924 ; military ;

## Physical Conditions

State of the Historic Environment survey report- Good condition see events  
State of the Historic Environment survey report - Good condition see events

## Veterans Description for Public

The South Melbourne South African War Memorial is located on the corner of 29a Albert Road and St Kilda Road. The South African War Memorial Committee was formed at a public meeting in 1911 to raise funds for a memorial to honour the soldiers who fought and died in the Boer War. The architect Irwin & Stevenson won the

design competition and the memorial was completed in mid 1924. The memorial was to have originally been hexagonal in plan with six bronze lions but lack of funds resulted in a more simple design. Eventually more money was raised and the four sandstone lions, designed and sculpted by Stanley Hammond, were added to the memorial in 1952.

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## **Extent of Registration**

1. All the structure known as the South African War Memorial as marked B1 on Diagram 607726 held by the Executive Director.

2. All the land marked L1 on Diagram 607726 held by the Executive Director.

*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/>*