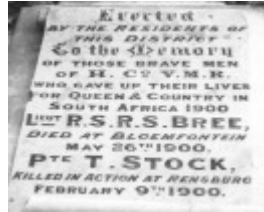


Hamilton Boer War Memorial



Ham 10.jpg



Ham 11.jpg



Ham 12.jpg



Ham 13.jpg

Location

cnr Market Place and Milton Streer HAMILTON, Southern Grampians Shire

Municipality

SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

Level of significance

-

Heritage Listing

Vic. War Heritage Inventory

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

SIGNIFICANCE: »Not just an expression grief for the local fallen of the Boer War, this monument marks a turning point in the history of Australia and of the squabbling of local politics.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Boer War Memorial
cnr Market place and Milton Street

Erected in 1902 in memory of men from the district who either fell or died later as a result of the Boer War, this monument is of local significance. The caption, inscribed on three white marble scrolls at the base of the obelisk reads:

Erected by the residents of this district to the memory
of those brave men of the H Co. VMR
who gave up their lives for Queen & Country in South Africa 1900

Lieut. RSRS Bree died at Blomfontein May 26th 1900
Pte T Stock killed in action at Rensberg Feb 9th 1900

and of Pte F Suttie killed in action at Basters nek Feb 10th 1900
Pte H Sealey died at Blomfontein April 30th 1900
Pte D Ross died at Noradjuha, Vic after returning from S Africa November 15th 1900
Dulce set decorum ast pro patria mori.

and of Pte F M (Frank) Meagher died 23rd July 1903 from wounds received at Pink Hill S Africa on 12th Feb. 1900.

Garden says "The town was hardest hit by the death of [RSR Stapylton] Bree, aged onl 20 who died from enteric fever. He was a promising young mant, a product of the College, son of one of the leading residents and grandson of S G Henty." ([i]) The monument was the first step in the beautification of the market reserve. After the death of Lieut Bree's father, a councillor, the monument was moved from the reserve its present site.

The obelisk form recalls ancient funerary monuments. It is well crafted by the Warrnambool stonemasons. and presumably sculptors, Wooles and Carpenter. The most notable feature is the bluestone plinth, signifying strength, which is carved from one stone to represent a pile of rocks. The chain strung between the smoothly finished bluestone bollards is also of interest. It is made up of ordinary links and spiked balls. The scrolls and the lead lettering are conventional. Behind the monument are two oak trees, *Quercus robur*, symbolising remembrance. In front of the monument is a cannon marked 43-0-8, 1843, C-V N C.

[i] Garden, D, Hamilton, p 157 - 8.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Southern Grampians - City of Hamilton Conservation Study, Timothy Hubbard with Carlotta Kellaway & Michael Looker (plus Francis Punch), 1991;
Construction dates	1902, 1902,
Hermes Number	125527
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

MATERIALS:

Roof: »

Walls: »red granite & white

Dressings: » marble shaft

Plinth: »rockface bluestone

Windows: » (one stone)

Paving: » asphalt

Other: » dressed bluestone steps and balusters iron chain and lead lettering

Physical Description 2

NOTABLE FEATURES: » setting amongst oak trees

Integrity

INTEGRITY: E

CONDITION: E

Historical Australian Themes

ASSOCIATED HISTORIC THEMES

War Boer War

Government: Municipal

Evolution of the Town: 1900s

Veterans Description for Public

The Hamilton Boer War Memorial, on the corner of Milton and Shakespeare Streets, was erected in 1902. The monument consists of an obelisk crafted by the Warrnambool stonemasons and the sculptors, Wooles and Carpenter. In 1901 an appeal was made to the residents of Hamilton for finance to erect a monument in memory of those members of the local Victorian Mounted Rifles who had fallen in South Africa. The appeal was initiated by members of the H Company, V.M.R., to perpetuate the patriotism of the members of their company who lost their lives in the Transvaal. A committee, established at a public meeting held on 1st June 1900, was given the responsibility of selecting a suitable site and design.

The design chosen was substantial and emblematic. The most notable feature of the obelisk is the bluestone plinth, signifying strength, which is carved from one stone to represent a pile of rocks. Behind the monument are two oak trees, *Quercus robur*, symbolising remembrance. At the base of the obelisk, three white marble scrolls read:

Erected by the residents of this district to the memory
of those brave men of the H Co. VMR
who gave up their lives for Queen & Country in South Africa 1900

Lieut. RSRS Bree died at Blomfontein May 26th 1900
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and of Pte F M (Frank) Meagher died 23rd July 1903 from wounds received at Pink Hill S Africa on 12th Feb. 1900.

Hamilton was hardest hit by the death of RSRS Staplyton Bree, aged only 20 who died from enteric fever. He was a promising young man, a product of the College and a son of one of the leading residents and grandson of S G Henty. In 1908 after the death of Lieut Bree's father, a councillor, the monument was moved from the reserve to its present site.

The monument was the first step in the beautification of the market reserve. The Hamilton Spectator reported a very detailed description of the monument when it was first unveiled:

"The foundations are of concrete, on which rests a solid block of rubbed bluestone, 10 feet square. This bears eight pillars, or standards, also in bluestone, shaped to represent cartridges, each three feet high, and looped together with a ball and spike chain. Then comes another step, which supports the real base of the monument. This consists of a solid mass of bluestone worked in rustic fashion, so as to represent a number of rocks piled together and cemented, the idea having been taken from the heaps of loose stones which our soldiers in South Africa heaped on the spot where they had buried a comrade in the battlefield. This block is 5 feet square and 2 feet 6 inches high.

Next above this is a mass of Sicilian (Carrara) marble, the front panel bearing in relief the monogram V.M.R., surmounted with a crown, and enclosed with a laurel wreath with streamers and a knot in the centre, the whole device being worked in raised marble. The second moulded piece is also in marble with a carved scroll on three sides for the reception of the names of present or future dead. The names will be carved in the stone and leaded. The obelisk, or tapering pillar, which completes the design, is of red imported granite in one piece, measuring 10 feet in height, the whole structure reaching an elevation of 19 feet. The structure will in colour embody a combination of red, white and blue."

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/>