
NAME: War Memorial, 4-8 Aldinga Road (Main Road), WILLUNGA

CURRENT USE:	War memorial
FORMER USE:	War memorial
DATE(S) OF CONSTRUCTION:	1926, removed to current site in 1983
LOCATION:	4-8 Aldinga Road (Main Road frontage), WILLUNGA
LAND DESCRIPTION:	CT 5159/707, Section 247, Hundred of Willunga
OWNER:	City of Onkaparinga
RECOMMENDATION:	Local Heritage Place



War Memorial, Main Road, Willunga (GGA, 2021)

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DESCRIPTION:

C.1926 war memorial monument constructed of imported Scottish red granite with c.1926 commemorative plaque and later brass plaque commemorating the township's contribution to World War Two. Site surrounded by brick paving with Australian Military Forces paving insert to immediate west of monument installed after 2014.

It is recommended that the War Memorial, 4-8 Aldinga Road, Willunga be included on the South Australian Heritage Register as a Local Heritage place.

A delineation of significant historic fabric is provided in the Extent of Listing.

STATEMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE:

The Willunga War Memorial, 4-8 Aldinga Road (Main Road) Willunga is of significance as a commemorative site that recognises and celebrates the contributions of Willunga's citizens to the events of the First and Second World Wars. The 1926 monument effectively represents the effects of these conflicts upon the local population, while demonstrating a strong local community spirit.

RELEVANT CRITERIA (As defined in Section 67(1) of the PDI Act 2016):

- a) it displays historical, economic or social themes that are of importance to the local area; being the township of Willunga's memorial to its local citizens who served and fell in the First World War; a significant world event that substantially impacted the lives of local citizens both during and after the event.
 - b) it represents customs or ways of life that are characteristic of the local area; the Willunga War Memorial provides tangible evidence of the effects of the First World War upon this tightly-knitted community during the early 20th century.
 - c) it has played an important part in the lives of local residents; the Willunga War Memorial both identifies and commemorates the contributions of local citizens to various conflicts of the late 19th and 20th centuries, including the First World War and Second World War
 - f) it is a notable landmark in the area; the Willunga War Memorial has been an important element of Willunga's Main Road precinct, having been initially constructed at the five-way intersection and removed to its present site, close to the original site, in 1983. The Memorial continues to present as a well-sited and significant landmark in the local district.
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RELEVANT HISTORIC THEMES:

Theme 2: Regional Life in the Southern Vales

2.7 Remembering past generations and the fallen

BRIEF HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:

The War Memorial, 4-8 Aldinga Road, Willunga does not appear to have been identified or assessed as part of any previous heritage survey.

Substantial information relating to the history and heritage significance of the Willunga War Memorial has been historically available. A detailed description of the inauguration of the new War Memorial on May 22nd 1926 was provided in newspapers of the period, proceeding as follows:

Seven years ago, the residents of Willunga appointed a committee to raise funds for a soldiers' memorial. At first the efforts of the committee did not meet with much success, and the matter remained in abeyance until late last year, when interest was revived, and the fund swelled rapidly, with the result that the committee of which Messrs. F. Aldam and C. Lipson were chairman and secretary respectively, was able to put the work in hand. It was decided that the memorial should take the form of a monument, to be erected on a site in the centre of the township at the junction of five roads. The stone, red granite, was imported from Scotland, and the monument was sculptured by the South Australian Monumental Works. It bears the names of 80 men who enlisted from Willunga. It is anticipated that the memorial, which cost £260, will be cleared of debt as a result of the collection taken up during the unveiling ceremony, which was performed on Saturday by Mr. H. S. Hudd, M. P.

At the ceremony the chairman of the committee presided and introduced Mr. Hudd. Mr. Aldam said the memorial was erected from funds raised entirely by voluntary subscription...He (Aldam) expressed the hope that the residents of the town would realise all that the stone meant to them, and to cherish and care for it in the years to come...

Mr Hudd then unveiled the monument. The chairman of the Willunga District Council (Mr. N. Brookman), in take over the memorial on behalf of the district council, said the site upon which it had stood had been donated by Captain Malpas, a resident of the district.

(A Soldier's Memorial, Chronicle, Sat 22 May 1926, p.59).

Following the Second World War, a plaque commemorating local resident's contribution to the war effort was installed on the memorial. Formerly standing at the five-way intersection at the gateway of Willunga's Main Road commercial precinct, the Willunga war memorial was moved to its current site in 1983 due to issues with increasingly heavy traffic on Main Road.

EXTENT OF LISTING:

The form and materials of the c.1926 monument, including all masonry elements and memorial plaques, are included in the listing. The current Australian Military Forces paving located to the immediate west of the monument is also included in the listing.

All other elements and any later alterations are not included in the listing, including site paving.

REFERENCES:

'A Soldier's Memorial', Chronicle, Sat 22 May 1926, p.59

'Monument on the move', Victor Harbour Times, Wed 28 Sep 1983, p.7.

<https://www.monumentaustalia.org.au/themes/conflict/multiple/display/51955-willunga-war-memorial/photo/6>, accessed 8/3/2022.

SITE MAPPING:



Site of War Memorial, 4-8 Aldinga Road (Main Road), Willunga (Planning SA SAPPa)

HISTORICAL IMAGES:



Soldier's Memorial. Willunga (photo reproduced in the Chronicle newspaper, Sat 22 May 1926) (SLSA B 3457)

