

SA Heritage Register

War Memorial Oak, War Memorial Drive, North Adelaide

On 27 June 2012 Register Committee of the South Australian Heritage Council provisionally entered War Memorial Oak, War Memorial Drive, North Adelaide in the South Australian Heritage Register as a State Heritage Place.

Relevant criteria (under section 16 of the *Heritage Places Act 1993*):

- (f) it has strong cultural or spiritual associations for the community or a group within it**
- (g) It has a special association with the life or work of a person or organisation**

The War Memorial Oak has special association for the South Australian community, in particular the descendants of those who fought in World War One. As the War progressed and the unprecedented loss of life was realised, the War Memorial Oak reminded South Australians of the sacrifices made by the Australian forces in Europe during World War One.

Statement

Statement of Heritage Significance for this place reads:

The War Memorial Oak, planted on 29 August 1914, commemorates the outbreak of World War One. It is likely to be South Australia's, and possibly Australia's, earliest memorial to the Great War. The decision to plant an oak, with a life expectancy of 500 years, demonstrates the desire of South Australians to have a living memorial to the World War One, which reminded them of the sacrifice made by the Australian forces on the battlefields of Europe. Its purpose was not to commemorate the War, but to inspire patriotism.