

HUME AND HOVELL MONUMENT

ADDRESS: Road reserve, Murray Valley Highway, Ebden (-36.154014, 147.026426)

STUDY NUMBER: 2B HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

DATE: 1924

CONDITION: Fair to Good

INTEGRITY: Excellent



(RBA, June 2024)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

What is significant?

The Hume and Hovell monument in the road reserve, Murray Valley Highway, Ebden erected in 1924 according to a plan drawn by Mr C G Ferguson of Ebden Weir is significant. The significant elements are the stone memorial and granite plaque in its fenced surround comprised of reinforced concrete piers and base with metal chain, separated by a band of metal/basalt gravel.

How is it significant?

The Hume and Hovell Monument in the road reserve, Murray Valley Highway Ebden, is of local historic and representative significance.

Why is it significant?

The Hume and Hovell Monument, Ebden is historically important as one of a series of monuments marking the route taken by Hume and Hovell across Victoria. The monument is

significant for its association with both the original journey of exploration, marking the approximate route, and for the emergence of historical concern in 1924 when local communities gathered together to commemorate the exploration. (Criterion A)

The Hume and Hovell Monument, Ebdon is of representative significance as intact memorial from the Interwar period in a rustic mode being distinguished by the rubble construction and original low fencing enclosure of concrete piers and metal chain. (Criterion D)

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

The monument is located within the road reserve in a picturesque setting with hills in the background overlooking Lake Hume. Prominent location on the high ground on the west side of the carriageway.

The monument is about 4.5 metres in height and consists of wide pedestal surmounted by narrower obelisk. The outer facing is rubble stone (granite) within cement and a render coping with a prominent aggregate including pebbles. A black granite plaque is fixed to the front/east side in which lettering is inscribed: 'Hume and Hovell / Passed Here / 21 November 1829 / Erected November 1924'.



RBA, June 2024 – highlighting plaque and coping to the pedestal

It is surrounded by a low fence comprised of a concrete base with reinforced concrete piers, some of whose reinforcement is currently exposed. A metal chain is attached to the corner piers but threads through a metal pipe embedded in the intermediate piers. Around the base of the monument is blue metal/basalt gravel.



RBA, June 2024 – showing concrete piers and chain

HISTORIC THEMES

2.2 Exploring, surveying, mapping

8.5 Preserving traditions and commemorating

HISTORY

The Ebden Hume and Hovell Monument is one of 37 memorials located within Victoria marking the route taken by Hume and Hovell across Victoria. Hamilton Hume and William Hilton Hovell, together with six convicts, travelled from Hume's property at Appin on 3 October 1824 and arrived near Corio Bay near the southern coast of Australia on 16 December 1824. The explorers passed the site of the current Ebden memorial after experiencing difficulty traversing the swamps and lagoons then ascending the range beyond Ebden, then travelled south west up the Yackandandah valley (*The Argus* 1924).

They returned by the beginning of January 1825, emaciated after a forced march, but the expedition was still deemed a success, recording important features such as rivers, the Great Dividing Range and vast potential grazing lands in Victoria, leading to the eventual colonisation of Victoria.

The Hume and Hovell Centenary Celebrations Committee was formed in 1924 and the majority of the memorials were erected that year. Officials of the Hume and Hovell Centenary Celebrations Committee and parliamentarians followed the approximate Hume and Hovell route from Albury to Lara unveiling the local monuments along the route. An itinerary was created for the unveiling ceremonies giving the hour and date for each place concerned from 15 to 21 November 1924. The celebration at the erection of the Ebden monument saw the gathering of approximately 500 people, some who had travelled from special trains running from Wodonga

and Tallangatta (Monument Australia 2021). It was unveiled by the Governor of Victoria Lord Stradbroke (*Wodonga and Towong Sentinel*, 14.11.1924).

A contemporary article (*Wodonga and Towong Sentinel*, 21.11.1924) provides considerable detail of its gestation, fund raising efforts, and that a local, Mr C G Ferguson, was responsible for the design.

The vicinity of the Ebden Railway Station presented an animated appearance on Tuesday last, on the occasion of the unveiling of the cairn, which has been erected to the memory of the explorers, Hume and Hovell. The idea of building the cairn at Ebden originated about two years ago at a lecture delivered by Sir James Barrett and Mr. C. R. Long at the Ebden Weir. A committee was formed to carry the project through. This committee consisted of Messrs. Gray, Dower, Ferguson, Pollard and Ryan.

Nothing definite was done for some months, and then the matter was taken up in earnest. Mr. G. D. Greenwood (district inspector) took the lead, and all the schools in the Beechworth inspectorate (58 in number) were circularised with a view to obtaining their assistance to provide funds. There was a magnificent response, and sufficient funds were soon in hand to enable the local committee to get the project under way. The plan as drawn up by Mr. C. G. Ferguson, of Ebden Weir, and adopted by the committee, provided for a stone cairn 15ft. in height; the square base stands 6ft. in height; The pyramid then rises from a 4ft. base, tapering to 1ft. at the summit.

The cairn is enclosed with a concrete and chain fence, which greatly adds to its appearance. A slab of marble is let in at the side bearing the inscription, "Hume and Hovell passed here November, 1824." Behind the slab, in a glass jar, were placed a copy of "One and All" (November issue), a copy of Wodonga SENTINEL of recent issue, and its paper bearing the names of the local committee. The structure, which is made of stone grouted in cement, stands on the main Tallangatta road, about a quarter of a mile above the Ebden Railway Station. The cairn could not be built nearer the Mitta Mitta river where the explorers actually crossed, as this area will be submerged within the course of the next few years.

COMPARISON

The Hume and Hovell monument at Ebden is one of 37 memorials located across Victoria erected to commemorate the historical expedition.

Only one other memorial has been included in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay in the municipality being the War Memorial erected in 1924 that forms part of HO47 in the centre of Wodonga at the corner of High and Hovell streets. This memorial has a more formal character albeit a similar form. It is constructed from Harcourt granite however in ashlar blocks rather than rubble and has a stepped base, tall battered pedestal with panels inscribed with the names of the fallen, and surmounted by a smaller obelisk.

RECOMMENDATIONS

EXTENT OF LISTING

It is recommended that Hume and Hovell Monument in the road reserve, Murray Valley Highway Ebden (Coordinates: -36.154014, 147.026426) is included in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay of the Wodonga Planning Scheme.

The extent of the heritage overlay should include the monument and a nominal five metre of curtilage about it - to the road edge and property boundary behind (no. 3161) and five metres on either side -as indicated below.



(Nearmap, 22 June 2024)

PLANNING SCHEME CONTROLS

Planning Controls	Y/N
External Paint Controls Apply?	N
Internal Alteration Controls Apply?	N
Tree Controls Apply?	N
Solar Energy System Controls?	Y
Outbuildings or Fences Not Exempt Under Clause 43.01-4?	Y (concrete and chain fence)
Included on the Victorian Heritage Register Under the Heritage Act 2017?	N
Prohibited Uses Permitted?	N
Aboriginal Heritage Place?	N

REFERENCES

1924 'HUME AND HOVELL', *The Argus (Melbourne, Vic: 1848 - 1957)*, 19 November, p20,
<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article2071128>

1924, 'HUME AND HOVELL CENTENARY', *Wodonga and Towong Sentinel*, 14 November, p3

1924 'UNVEILING CEREMONY AT EBDEN', *Wodonga and Towong Sentinel*, 21 November, p2

Monument Australia 2021, Hume & Hovell Expedition

<http://monumentaaustralia.org.au/search/display/31152-hume-and-hovell-expedition>