POLLARD ARCH

ADDRESS: Hamilton Smith Drive, Wodonga

STUDY NUMBER: 2B HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

DATE: 1959

CONDITION: Good

INTEGRITY: Good



(RBA, June 2024)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

What is significant?

The *Pollard Arch* at the north end of Hamilton Smith Drive, Wodonga is significant. Initially erected on the Lincoln Causeway on Gateway Island, it was designed by City of Wodonga engineers and constructed by D J De La Rue Company in 1959, when it was officially opened by HRH Princess Alexandra of Kent. Subsequently, it was the location for the major announcement of the Albury-Wodonga National Growth Centre with the then prime minister and state premiers of Victoria and NSW on 25 January 1973. It was dismantled in 1975 to allow for the widening of the causeway and re-erected at the southern end Hamilton Smith Drive in 1982. Subsequently it was relocated to its current location at the northern end of the same roadway during 2015.

The significant elements of the arch are the three-pinned type, boomerang form, mirrored steel trusses and cross-bracing, steel plates (at the ends and bends) and three associated plaques.

How is it significant?

The *Pollard Arch* on Hamilton Smith Drive, Wodonga is of local historical and aesthetic significance to the City of Wodonga.

Why is it significant?

The *Pollard Arch* on Hamilton Smith Drive, Wodonga is historically significant for its tangible representation of the contribution that popular Wodonga local Cr Charles Pollard made as Shire president and Show Society President for over 36 years, and as a symbol of Victorian-New South Wales interstate rivalry and/or co-operation. (Criterion A)

The *Pollard Arch* has aesthetic significance as a largely intact and distinctive postwar period three-pinned commemorative arch utilising four mirrored trusses with an unusual boomerang form which are extensively cross-braced. While no longer located in a prominent location and serving its original function, it retains landmark value. (Criterion E)

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

The Pollard Arch extends across Hamilton Smith Drive about 60 metres south of Brockley Street, adjacent to the Wodonga Racecourse and Showgrounds Recreation Reserve to the east and Wodonga College (Huon Campus) to the west. Trees on either side of the arch partly conceal it.



(RBA, June 2024)

The three-pinned or three-hinged arch (two at ground level and one at the apex) is constructed from metal trusses resembling two boomerangs leaning against each other. Each arm consists of two boomerang trusses which are extensively cross-braced. The low-pitched trusses are a variant on the Howe truss type, with their apex being located at the corners. A three-hinged arch

supports loads through a system of three hinged connections and is more stable and adaptable than a standard arch with two hinge points (at ground only).

The arch is currently painted black, yellow, red and white (presumably in acknowledgement of the colours of the Aboriginal flag) and includes three key metal plaques attached near the base on arch side.

There are three original metal plaques fixed to the structure with embossed lettering. The one recording the opening is as follows:

'THIS ARCHWAY WAS OFFICIALLY OPENED BY HER ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCESS ALEXANDRA OF KENT ON THE 16TH SEPTEMBER 1959. The sign is flanked on both sides by a Rotary International wheel symbol and a small plaque that reads: 'RESTORED BY ROTARY CLUB BELVOIR-WODONGA 1982.'



Original plaque commemorating the opening

Another large plaque commemorates C Pollard: 'THIS ARCH COMMEMORATES THE LONG AND UNTIRING SERVICES OF COUNCILLOR C.F. POLLARD. M.B.E., TO THE COMMUNITY,' and is flanked by the same Rotary wheel and small plaque.



Original plaque commemorating Councillor Pollard

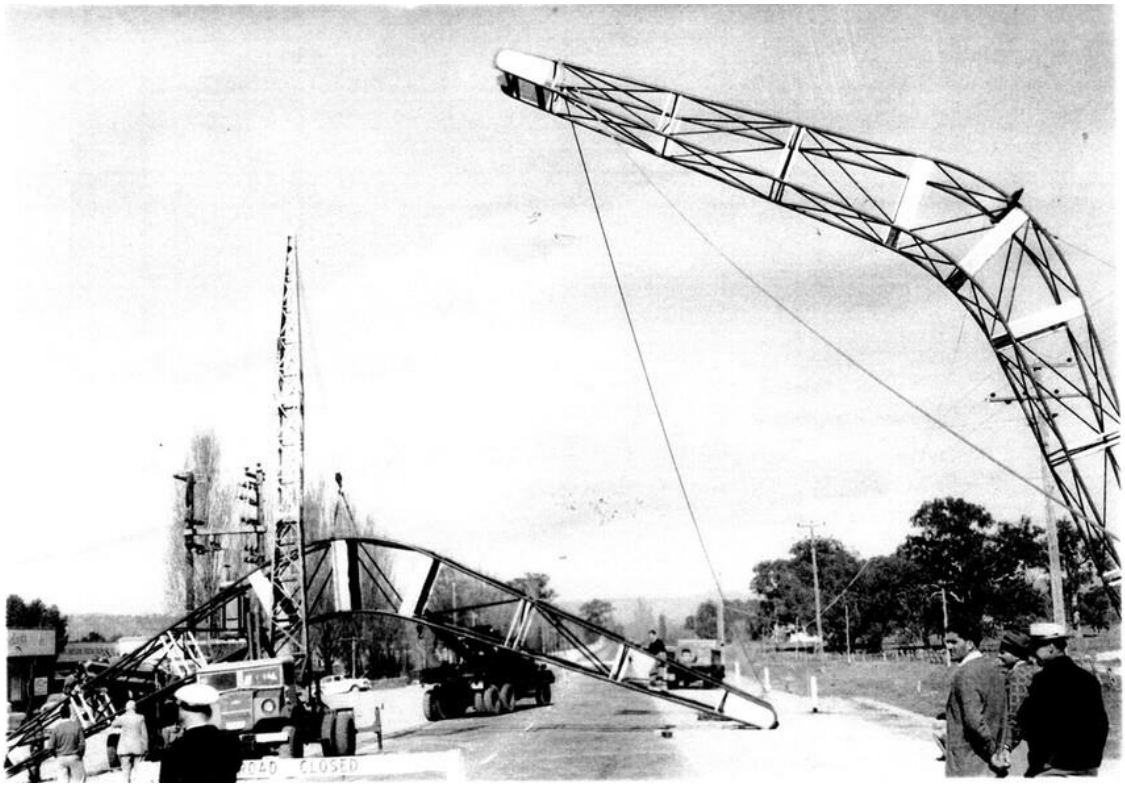
A smaller plaque acknowledges the manufacturer – D J Delarue & Co Pty Ltd, Albury.

HISTORIC THEMES

8.5 Preserving traditions and commemorating

HISTORY

The Pollard arch was erected in 1959 to commemorate the long and untiring service of Cr Charles Pollard over 36 years, during which time he served as the Shire president and the Show Society President. A series of photographs document the process of erecting it at the original location (one is reproduced below).



1959, the Pollard arch being erected (Wodonga & District Historical Society)

The arch was initially located on the Lincoln Causeway near the Union Bridge and the New South Wales–Victorian border, close to the fruit fly inspection station. The arch featured an illuminated signage suspended from its apex which read: 'Wodonga Victoria' on one side and 'Albury New South Wales' on the other, along with the respective state shields (removed). It was colloquially known as the 'Boomerang Arch'.

The arch was opened by Princess Alexandra of Kent on 16 September 1959, accompanied by the Premier of Victoria, Henry Bolte, the Wodonga Shire President, Jack Hore, and 2000 Border residents.



Official opening of the Pollard Arch by HRH Princess Alexandra of Kent, attended by Wodonga Shire President Jack Hore and 2000 residents in attendance, 16 September 1959. Note: temporary Aboriginal motifs including kangaroos were attached to the side of the arch. (Source: Wodonga Historical Society).

The arch was built by Albury firm D J De La Rue Company Pty Ltd for £1230. It was designed by engineering staff of the City of Wodonga and erected with the assistance of Council staff (Dunlop 1976).



Entering Wodonga, Victoria. Through the Boomerang Arch, circa 1960s. (Source: State Library of Victoria)

In 1973 it was chosen as the spot for a famous photograph of the NSW premier Robert Askin, Prime Minister Gough Whitlam and Victorian premier Rupert Hamer announcing the creation of the Albury-Wodonga National Growth Centre, which bore fruit in the Albury-Wodonga Development Corporation.



Announcement of the Albury-Wodonga National Growth Centre Bob Askin (NSW Premier), Gough Whitlam (Commonwealth Prime Minister) and Dick Hamer (Victoria Premier) meet under the Pollard Arch on the Lincoln Causeway Border Mail January 25, 1973. (Source: Wodonga Historical Society).

The arch was dismantled in 1975 to allow for widening of the Lincoln Causeway and put in storage before being re-erected in at the southern end of Hamilton Smith Drive at the entrance to the showgrounds/racecourse in 1982 after restoration by the Rotary Club of Belvoir-Wodonga (Victorian Places 2021). The arch was previously painted in red, yellow and blue, however has been repainted since 2003 and the original signage has been removed. During-2015 (between 9 February and 30 November), it was relocated to its present location at the northern end of Hamilton Smith Drive (Nearmap).

COMPARISON

This is a unique place type, custom designed and made for a specific commemorative use. There are no other structures of this type in the City of Wodonga.

RECOMMENDATIONS

EXTENT OF LISTING

It is recommended that the *Pollard Arch* on Hamilton Smith Drive, Wodonga is included in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay of the Wodonga Planning Scheme with external paint controls.

The extent of the heritage overlay should include the roadway and parcels of land on which it is located as outlined below with a nominal curtilage of 5 metres about it.



Recommended extent of the Heritage Overlay (red line) (Nearmap, June 2024)

PLANNING SCHEME CONTROLS

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

REFERENCES

Alan J Dunlop (1976): *Wodonga Over River and Plain*. The Hawthorn Press

F Randall & B Pennay (2004) 'City of Wodonga Heritage Study: Volume 1 Thematic Environmental History.'

Nearmap. 9 February 2015 and 30 November 2015

State Library of Victoria: ' Entering Wodonga Vic. Through the Boomerang Arch' c.1920-1954. https://viewer.slv.vic.gov.au/?entity=IE871670&mode=browse

The Border Mail 'Such Grand Plans for Us' January 25 2013 https://www.bordermail.com.au/story/1257419/such-grand-plans-for-us/

Wodonga Historical Society Archives

Victorian Collections, Wodonga & District Historical Society

https://victoriancollections.net.au/items/659c9caab772bcde43255714 (accessed 09.12.2024)

Victorian Places 2021: 'The Lincoln Causeway Leads Into Wodonga From the North, 1965' https://www.victorianplaces.com.au/node/65410

ADDITIONAL IMAGES



Pollard Arch (Biosis, March 2020)