STONE GATEWAY

ADDRESS: Murray Valley Highway, Bonegilla

STUDY NUMBER: 2C HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

DATE: 1941

CONDITION: Good

INTEGRITY: Good



North side of gateway - eastern arm to left, western arm to right (RBA, June 2024)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

What is significant?

The *Stone Gateway* on the Murray Valley Highway at the corner of Hillandale Court (part 81 Bonegilla Road), Bonegilla is significant. It was erected in 1941 at the entry to the Bonegilla Army Camp, later the Bonegilla Migrant Reception and Training Centre, and is comprised of western and eastern arm of varying length. The significant fabric is the rubble grey granite with rendered coping, at least partly on a concrete plinth, and defined by a pair of pilasters to the centre.

How is it significant?

The Stone Gateway on the Murray Valley Highway at Bonegilla is of historical and representative significance to the City of Wodonga.

Why is it significant?

The *Stone Gateway* at Bonegilla are historically significant as evidence of the former location and extent of the former Transport Division at the Bonegilla Army Camp, and later Bonegilla Migrant Camp. It is also significant as a local landmark recalling a significant stage in the journeys of many post war migrants and as a memorial to the role played by the Bonegilla camp in resettling 30,000 migrants. (Criterion A)

The *Stone Gateway* is of representative significance as an intact example of a formal entry typical of the mid-20th century consisting of low sections of granite rubble walling between piers with a rendered coping. (Criterion D)

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

The former entrance to Bonegilla Army Camp and Bonegilla Migrant Camp is marked by flanking stone walls on the corner of the Murray Valley Highway and Hillandale Court, Bonegilla. The gateway is setback about 75 metres from the highway and easily accessed.

The two sections of walls, either side of a central carriageway defined by piers, are constructed of stone rubble with a rendered coping. The stone is grey granite, with some iron leaching (rust), in a mortar bed. The piers are wider than the wall proper and have a pyramidal coping with the central piers being larger than those at the outer edges.

The eastern arm of the gateway is about twice as long as that to the west (about 8 metres versus about 4 metres). A concrete plinth is evident to the western arm but not the eastern arm, which is partly built into sloping terrain.

There is some cracking in the eastern arm however the condition of the entrance walls is generally good.



West arm from south



East arm from south



Stone gateway, looking north (Biosis 2020)

HISTORIC THEMES

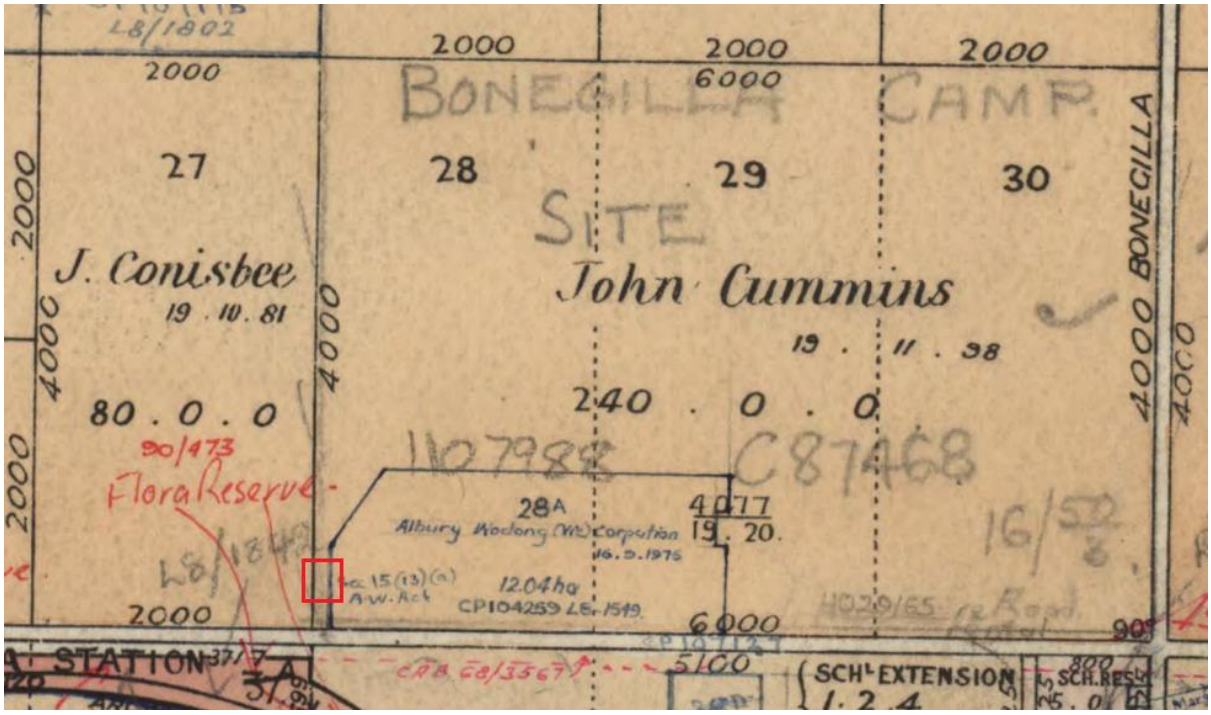
4.4 Farming

7.4 Defending Victoria and Australia

9.3 Achieving design and artistic distinction

HISTORY

The stone gates were formerly the entrance to the Bonegilla Army Camp for the Transport Division. The stone gates and the Army Base were constructed in 1941. The Army Camp was operational until 1975 however in 1945 it leased part of the land to the Department of Immigration. The land leased was located further east and established for the processing and reception of migrants and refugees following World War Two. It was then that the stone gates became the entrance to the Bonegilla Migrant Reception and Training Centre which during its operational years of 1949 to 1975 processed approximately 30,000 migrants. The arriving migrants would walk from the station through the gates to the camp, while the trucks carried their luggage (Randell & Pennay 2004).



Parish Plan of Bonegilla with approximate stone gates location in red (Dept. of Lands and Survey, Melbourne, Victoria 1952)

COMPARISON

To date no other gateway has been included in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay and by way of its design is indicative of such entrances built during the middle part of the 20th century.

This stone gateway is a unique place type in the municipality by way of its associations with a large federal government facility (Bonegilla Army Camp, later Bonegilla Migrant Camp).

RECOMMENDATIONS

EXTENT OF LISTING

It is recommended that the *Stone Gateway* on Murray Valley Highway at the corner of Hillandale Court (part 81 Bonegilla Road), Bonegilla is included in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay of the Wodonga Planning Scheme.

The extent of the Heritage Overlay should include the gates and a nominal 5 metre curtilage where practicable, though may have to be truncated in order to not extend outside the relevant parcel of land (4\TP836007).



(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?	N
Outbuildings or Fences Not Exempt Under Clause 43.01-4?	Y
Included on the Victorian Heritage Register Under the Heritage Act 2017?	N
Prohibited Uses Permitted?	N
Aboriginal Heritage Place?	N

REFERENCES

Bruce Pennay 2007, THE ARMY AT BONEGILLA, 1940-71 http://historywodonga.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/THE-ARMY-BOOK.pdf

Dept. of Lands and Survey, Melbourne, Victoria 1952. Bonegilla county of Bogong, https://mapwarper.prov.vic.gov.au/maps/468#Show_tab.

Enviornment, Land, Water and Planning 2022. *LASSI - Land and Survey Spatial Information*, *LASSI - Land and Survey Spatial Information*, accessed 23 May 2022, https://maps.land.vic.gov.au/lassi/.

Randell F & Pennay B 2004. *City of Wodonga Heritage Study Stage 1*, WODONGA CITY COUNCIL.