

GORE DISTRICT COUNCIL
HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM

HERITAGE ITEM NAME

Otama Soldiers' Memorial

ADDRESS

702 Otama Road / 12 McBain Road, Otama

PHOTOGRAPH



(October 2021)

DISTRICT PLAN ITEM NO.
(at time of assessment)

n/a

HNZ LIST NO. & CATEGORY

n/a

LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Part Section 14 Block II Otama SD

GDC FILE NUMBER

3226523

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION

1921

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/
BUILDER**

Unknown

STYLE

Classical

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Funerary urn is positioned atop a squat, square-plan column with gablets and memorial plaques; column rests upon two-part plinth, featuring a relief panel with rifle and bugle, which is mounted on a stepped base. Lowest level of base has a pier and pipe railing fence with wrought iron gate. Monument is set against a planted backdrop and the site has a metal and wire perimeter fence with pedestrian gate at corner.

MATERIALS/STRUCTURE

Local stone, marble, concrete.

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS

Addition of World War II serviceman's name (post-WWII).

SETTING

The Otama Soldiers' Memorial stands on a triangular plot overlooking the intersection of Otama and McBain Roads. The campus of Otama School is to the north-west of the memorial on the same land parcel. Otama's war memorial church and community hall are on the other side of Otama Road. The scheduled setting is limited to the immediate environs of the memorial, rather than the land parcel as a whole.

HISTORY

The Otama Soldiers' Memorial was unveiled on Anzac Day (April 25) in 1921 by the Hon James Horn, the Member of Parliament for the Wakatipu electorate. The community's two Rolls of Honour hang in the Otama Hall, and the Presbyterian church (1956) on the opposite side of Otama Road is also a war memorial. On Armistice Day (November 11) in 2019 members of the community attended an event in the Otama Hall to install a Union Jack flag taken from Gore to the battlefields of World War I. The memorial remains the focus for local ANZAC Day commemorations.

HISTORIC AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Otama Soldiers' Memorial has historic and social significance for its association with the local commemoration of World War I, as well as later conflicts, and the proliferation of ornamental war memorials that were erected throughout New Zealand in the 1920s. It is directly connected to the 14 men, and their descendants, whose names are inscribed upon the monument. Contrary to the protocol of the day the ranks of the soldiers commemorated by the memorial are given in the inscriptions.

CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Otama Soldiers' Memorial has cultural significance as a place of community identity and historic continuity. The memorial has commemorative significance and remains the focus for local ANZAC Day commemorations.

ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

The Otama Soldiers' Memorial has aesthetic significance as a classical urn and column type memorial; its designer is currently unknown.

TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE

The Otama Soldiers' Memorial has craftsmanship significance for the quality of its carving and detailing.

CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Otama Soldiers' Memorial has contextual significance as a prominently located local landmark and for its relationship with the neighbouring school, community hall and Presbyterian church.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

As the memorial post-dates 1900, any potential archaeological significance of the site would likely relate to its earlier use and development. The inscriptions on the memorial offer the potential to gain further understanding of the impact of World War I, in particular, on Otama and the surrounding district.

SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The Otama Soldiers' Memorial has overall heritage significance to Otama and to the district of Gore as a whole. The memorial has historic and social significance for its association with the local men who served in World War I and later conflicts and cultural significance given its commemorative purpose. The Otama Soldiers' Memorial has aesthetic significance as a classical urn and column type monument and craftsmanship significance for the quality of its stonework and sculptural detailing. The Otama Soldiers' Memorial has contextual significance as a local landmark; its site may have limited potential archaeological value.

REFERENCES

- *Mataura Ensign* 29 July 1920, p. 5.
- *Otago Witness* 12 July 1921, p. 29.
- *Southland Times* 11 November 2019 (available online).
- J Phillips & C Maclean *The Sorrow and the Pride – New Zealand War Memorials* Wellington, 1990.
- J Phillips *To the Memory – New Zealand's War Memorials* Nelson, 2016.
- <http://nzetc.victoria.ac.nz/tm/scholarly/tei-Cyc04Cycl-t1-body1-d7-d103.html>
- <https://nzhistory.govt.nz/media/photo/otama-war-memorial>
- <http://www.kiamatetoea.com/memorials.php>
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Horn

REPORT COMPLETED

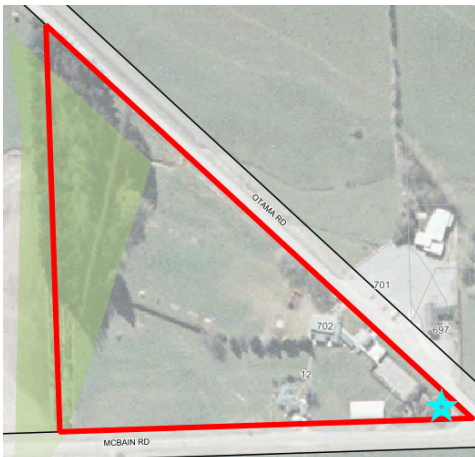
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AUTHOR

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Extent of scheduling, limited to immediate setting, Otama Soldiers' Memorial, 702 Otama Road / 12 McBain Road, Otama.



Land parcel as a whole with memorial marked by star.