

GORE DISTRICT COUNCIL
HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM

HERITAGE ITEM NAME

Pukerau School War Memorial Gates

ADDRESS

24 Pukerau Street, Pukerau

PHOTOGRAPH



(October 2021)

DISTRICT PLAN ITEM NO.
(at time of assessment)

n/a

HNZ LIST NO. & CATEGORY

n/a

LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Lot 21 DP 87

GDC FILE NUMBER

3211289

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION

c.1946

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/
BUILDER**

Unknown

STYLE

Ornamental pedestrian gates

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Four roughcast cement rendered piers bearing commemorative plaques frame short connecting walls and support a modern bent metal gate.

MATERIALS/STRUCTURE

Brick, cement plaster, wrought iron.

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS

New gate hung (date unknown).

SETTING

The Pukerau School War Memorial Gates stand on the road boundary of the school campus, close by the classroom block. Two mature trees stand immediately behind the short walls of the memorial, which is immediately adjacent to a parking area. The scheduled setting is limited to the immediate environs of the memorial gates, rather than the land parcel as a whole.

HISTORY

The Pukerau School district was established in 1879 and a school building was erected in the following year. The school was altered and added to over the years and soon after the end of World War II memorial entrance gates were erected on the roadside near the classroom block. The gates' plaques include Honour Rolls for men from the neighbouring settlements of Kaiwera and Artherton. Contrary to the protocols of the time the ranks of all but two of the men named on the gates is given. Historic relics of World War I & II in possession of the school include the settlement's Rolls of Honour and the Union Jack flag that was draped over the coffins of Sergeant RC ('Dick') Travis and Lieutenant Charles Kerse when they were buried at Couin in France, having been killed by a mortar shell on 25 August 1918. Travis, who was awarded the Victoria Cross posthumously, was the assumed name of Richard Cornelius Savage of Opotiki, who was rabbiting in Southland when the war broke out and who changed his name so that his mother would not know he had enlisted. The friends' funeral service was conducted by the Rev DC Herron, a former pupil of Pukerau School; it was Herron who gifted the flag to the school. Since they were erected, the gates have had a new gate installed, which incorrectly gives the foundation date of the school as 1881.

HISTORIC AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Pukerau School War Memorial Gates have historic and social significance for their association with the school's commemoration of World War I and II and the wider community's efforts to memorialise local war dead. The gates are directly connected to the twelve men, and their descendants, whose names are inscribed upon the memorial plaques.

CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Pukerau School War Memorial Gates have cultural significance as a place of community identity and historic continuity.

ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

The Pukerau School War Memorial Gates have aesthetic value as mid-century gates designed to accommodate commemorative plaques. The designer of the gates is currently unknown.

TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE

The Pukerau School War Memorial Gates have craftsmanship value for the quality of their construction and detailing. The maker of the gates is currently unknown.

CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Pukerau School War Memorial Gates have contextual significance as an historic campus feature and for their relationship with historic taonga/artifacts held by the school.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

As the memorial gates post-date 1900, any potential archaeological significance of the site would likely relate to its earlier use and development. The school property has been in use for educational purposes since 1880. The inscriptions on the memorial offer the potential to gain further understanding of the impact of World War I & II on Pukerau School and the wider community.

SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The Pukerau School War Memorial Gates have overall heritage significance to Pukerau and to the district of Gore as a whole. The memorial gates have historical and social significance for their association with the local men who served in World War I & II and cultural significance given their commemorative purpose. The Pukerau School War Memorial Gates have aesthetic

value as mid-century pedestrian entrance gates and craftsmanship value for the quality of their construction and detailing. The Pukerau School War Memorial Gates have contextual significance as an historic campus feature and for their relationship with historic taonga/artifacts held by the school; their site has potential archaeological value.

REFERENCES

- *Mataura Ensign* 19 July 1915 p. 5.
- *Otago Daily Times* 19 January 1928, p. 8; 15 August 1947, p. 4.
- *Southland Times* 5 July 1879, p. 2; 7 February 1880, p. 2.
- *The Ensign* 17 November 2017; 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.
- <https://nzhistory.govt.nz/media/photo/pukerau-war-memorial-gates>

REPORT COMPLETED

13 May 2022

AUTHOR

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Extent of scheduling, limited to immediate setting, Pukerau School War Memorial Gates, 24 Pukerau Street, Pukerau.