

GORE DISTRICT COUNCIL
HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM

HERITAGE ITEM NAME Fallen Soldiers' Memorial / Waikaka War Memorial

ADDRESS 1710 Waikaka Road, Waikaka

PHOTOGRAPH



(April 2022)

DISTRICT PLAN ITEM NO. n/a **HNZ LIST NO. & CATEGORY** n/a
(at time of assessment)

LEGAL DESCRIPTION Lot 1 DP 4103

GDC FILE NUMBER 3273182

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION c.1922?

ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/BUILDER Unknown [J Fraser & Sons, monumental masons?]

STYLE Figurative

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Figure of a soldier holding a rifle stands atop a two-part plinth, inset with memorial plaques and mounted on a stepped base. Metal wire fence borders perimeter of monument.

MATERIALS/STRUCTURE

Marble, Bluff granite, concrete.

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS

Addition of the names of later conflicts and those who served in them (various dates).

SETTING

The Waikaka War Memorial stands on a triangular plot overlooking the intersection of Waikaka and Matheson Roads. The memorial is to the south of the village centre and north-west of the former Anglican Church of St Philip and St James. The scheduled setting encompasses the land parcel as a whole.

HISTORY

A public meeting to consider erecting a war memorial at Waikaka was held in May 1917, over two years before World War I came to an end. After a period in abeyance a local committee was reformed in August 1920 and the memorial was extant by ANZAC Day in 1925. Somewhat unusually the memorial lists the names of four women, Sisters AM Paterson, JI Miller, AE Kirkpatrick and Nurse A Kerse, amongst the lists of those honoured by it. (Annie Kerse, who served in World War II, later became the matron of Gore Hospital). The memorial site was subdivided from the adjacent church property by the Anglican Diocese of Dunedin in 1949. The memorial remains the focus for local ANZAC Day commemorations.

HISTORIC AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Waikaka War 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 139 men and women, and their descendants, whose names are inscribed upon the monument.

CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Waikaka War 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 Waikaka War Memorial has aesthetic significance as a figurative memorial, which may have been produced by notable Southland firm J Fraser & Sons Ltd of Invercargill. The figure of the soldier was a popular choice for war memorials in Otago and Southland and the figure's pose, with hands resting on a reversed rifle, is a traditional symbol of military mourning and respect. Fraser & Sons had been in business since 1878 and were also responsible for the Gore and Maitua memorials. The firm, which is still in operation, commenced offering funeral directing services in 1899.

TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE

The Waikaka War Memorial has craftsmanship significance for the quality of its carving and detailing.

CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Waikaka War Memorial has contextual significance as a prominently located local landmark and in relationship to the neighbouring former Anglican church.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

As the memorial post-dates 1900, any potential archaeological significance of the site would 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 Waikaka and the surrounding district.

SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The Waikaka War Memorial has overall heritage significance to Waikaka and to the district of Gore as a whole. The memorial has historical and social significance for its association with the local men and women who served in World War I and later conflicts and cultural significance given its commemorative purpose. The Waikaka War Memorial has aesthetic significance as a depiction of a mourning soldier and craftsmanship significance for the

quality of its sculpting and detailing. The Waikaka War Memorial has contextual significance as a local landmark; its site may have limited potential archaeological value.

REFERENCES

- *Mataura Ensign* 2 May 1917, p. 4; 10 August 1920, p. 6; 11 September 1920, p. 1.
- *Otago Witness* 4 August 1925, p. 36.
- *Otago Daily Times* 31 March 1922, p. 7.
- *Evening Post* 8 April 1922, p. 11.
- 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/waikaka-war-memorial>
- <http://www.kiamatetoa.com/memorials.php>
- <http://freepages.rootsweb.com/~sooty/genealogy/nurses.html>
- <https://www.aucklandmuseum.com/war-memorial/online-cenotaph/record/C118594?n=kerse&from=%2Fwar-memorial%2Fonline-cenotaph%2Fsearch&ordinal=14>

REPORT COMPLETED

13 May 2022

AUTHOR

Dr Ann McEwan / Heritage Consultancy Services



Extent of scheduling, Waikaka War Memorial, 1710 Waikaka Road, Waikaka.