

GORE DISTRICT COUNCIL
HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM

HERITAGE ITEM NAME Fallen Soldiers' Memorial / Mataura War Memorial

ADDRESS 1 Lodge Street, Mataura

PHOTOGRAPH



(October 2021)

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

LEGAL DESCRIPTION Lot 2 DP 5007

GDC FILE NUMBER 3206614

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION 1922

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/
BUILDER** J Fraser & Sons, monumental masons

STYLE Obelisk

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Obelisk mounted on stepped base with carved wreath and crossed rifles in relief between obelisk and plinth; latter inset with memorial plaques. Piers at each corner of base are linked by pipe railing.

MATERIALS/STRUCTURE

Overpainted granite obelisk and concrete base.

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS

World War II war dead names added to new east panel (date unknown). Removed from Kana Street, relocated to Lodge Street & painted (2007).

SETTING

The Mataura War Memorial stands on a plot overlooking the intersection of River and Lodge Streets, to the south of the town centre. The memorial is centrally located within the land parcel and aligned to face north; access is via asphalt paths from both road frontages. The former Oddfellows' and Masonic halls are located to the north-west of the monument on the south side of Lodge Street. The scheduled setting encompasses the land parcel as a whole.

HISTORY

Planning for Mataura's war memorial was under way by early 1919 but it was not until 14 June 1922 that the memorial, in the form of a classical obelisk, was unveiled. The monument was installed in 'the Square', an open space formed by the intersection of Kana and Bridge Streets at the eastern approach to the Mataura River bridge. The unveiling was performed, in the presence of the Hon GJ Anderson, Minister for Labour and the local MP, by Ann Anderson, the wife of Alexander Anderson, manager of the Mataura Paper Mills. The Andersons' sons William and Arthur had both died at the Dardanelles in August 1915. Contrary to the protocols of the day the rank of the men commemorated by the monument was included on the dedication panels. Relocated to Lodge Street in 2007, the memorial remains the focus for local ANZAC Day commemorations.

HISTORIC AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Mataura 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 men, and their descendants, whose names are inscribed upon the monument.

CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Mataura 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 Mataura War Memorial has aesthetic value as a classical obelisk designed and produced by a notable Southland firm of monumental masons. J Fraser & Sons Ltd of Invercargill had been in business since 1878; the firm, which is still in operation, commenced offering funeral directing services in 1899.

TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE

The Mataura War Memorial has craftsmanship value for the quality of its carving and detailing.

CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Mataura War Memorial has contextual significance as a townscape feature close to the commercial centre of the township.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

As the memorial post-dates 1900 and has been relocated, any potential archaeological significance of the site would relate to its earlier use and development. Survey plan DP 5007, which is dated April 1954, shows the site was occupied by 'old concrete foundations' at that time. The inscriptions on the memorial offer the potential to gain further understanding of the impact of World War I, in particular, on Mataura and the surrounding district.

SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The Mataura War Memorial has overall heritage significance to Mataura and to the district of Gore as a whole. The memorial has historical and social significance for its association with the local men who died serving in World War I and later conflicts and cultural significance given its commemorative purpose. The Mataura War Memorial has aesthetic value as a classical obelisk type memorial designed and made by Southland firm J Fraser & Sons and

craftsmanship value for the quality of its manufacture. The Mataura War Memorial has contextual value as a townscape feature on the periphery of the Mataura's commercial centre; its site may have potential archaeological value.

REFERENCES

- *Mataura Ensign* 7 September 1915, p. 4; 12 February 1919, p. 4; 15 March 1919, p. 5; 30 June 1920, p. 5; 27 July 1920, p. 7; 20 September 1920, p. 4; 13 November 1920, p. 5.
- *Otago Witness* 27 June 1922, p. 38.
- *Otago Daily Times* 12 May 1916, p. 4.
- *NZ Herald* 15 June 1922, p. 8.
- *Poverty Bay Herald* 28 July 1934, p. 7.
- *Southland Times* 20 January 2015; 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/mataura-war-memorial>
- <http://www.kiamatetoa.com/memorials.php>

REPORT COMPLETED

13 May 2022

AUTHOR

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Extent of scheduling, Mataura War Memorial, 1 Lodge Street, Mataura.