

GORE DISTRICT COUNCIL
HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM

HERITAGE ITEM NAME

Gore Soldiers' Memorial

ADDRESS

17/22A/22B Ardwick Street, Gore

PHOTOGRAPH



(April 2022)

DISTRICT PLAN ITEM NO.
(at time of assessment)

n/a

HNZ LIST NO. & CATEGORY

n/a

LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Section D Town Belt Town of Gore

GDC FILE NUMBER

3254074

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION

1924

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/
BUILDER**

AD Anderson of J Fraser & Sons, stonemasons

STYLE

Figurative column

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

A female figure of 'Peace' holding a torch and laurel wreath is mounted on a column with a buttressed base inset with memorial panels. The names of WWI theatres of war are inscribed around the base of the column, which is set within a rectangular stone & concrete surround featuring ornamental urns and lampstands. Trees and garden beds delineate the memorial site, which is accessed via boundary gates and concrete paths.

MATERIALS/STRUCTURE

Marble figure and tablets, Hokonui or Kakanui stone column; Tasmanian sandstone and concrete base.

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS

Addition of plaques dedicated to servicemen of other conflicts (various dates).

SETTING

The Gore Soldiers' Memorial stands on that portion of the Town Belt bounded by Irk Street in the north, Bowler Avenue in the south, Ardwick Street in the west and Fairfield Street in the east. The memorial is centrally located within the land parcel and aligned to face east,

addressing the west end of Mersey Street. Low walls mark the boundary of the memorial site along the street frontages, the Fairfield Street wall is curved and the older of the two. The scheduled setting encompasses the immediate setting of the memorial, rather than the whole of the plot on which a bowling green, tennis courts and other domain amenities are located. A number of commemorative oak trees are in the vicinity.

HISTORY

Planning for Gore's war memorial commenced with the formation of a committee appointed by members of the public in April 1919. By September of the same year the proposed scheme was for the erection of a 'Greek Temple' near the railway station upon which all the names of the district's servicemen would be recorded. Fundraising then commenced but it was not until ANZAC Day (April 25) in 1924 that the memorial, in the form of a figurative column bearing the names of the war dead, was unveiled in the Domain. The unveiling was performed by Elizabeth Turnbull, the wife of local saddler James Turnbull; the Turnbulls were pioneer settlers who had lost two sons to the war. The ceremony was preceded by a march and service in the Princess Theatre in Mersey Street; it was reported at the time that the memorial had cost £1,634 and that 140 names were inscribed upon it. Memorial plaques to World War II servicemen and those who served in later conflicts (Korea, Malaya, Borneo, Vietnam, Timor-Leste, Afghanistan & Iraq) were later added to the memorial, which remains the focus for local ANZAC commemorations.

HISTORIC AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

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

CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Gore 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 Gore Soldiers' Memorial has aesthetic significance as a figurative memorial designed and produced by a notable Southland firm of monumental masons. AD Anderson designed both the temple originally proposed as Gore's war memorial and the figurative column that was erected. He worked for J Fraser & Sons Ltd of Invercargill, which 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 Gore Soldiers' Memorial has craftsmanship significance for the quality of its carving and detailing.

CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Gore Soldiers' Memorial has contextual significance as a landmark within the Gore Domain, particularly as it forms the terminal vista at the west end of Mersey Street within the town centre.

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 Gore and the surrounding district.

SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The Gore Soldiers' Memorial has overall heritage significance to Gore 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 Gore Soldiers' Memorial has aesthetic significance as a female figurative monument designed and made by Southland firm J Fraser & Sons and craftsmanship significance for the quality of its sculpting and detailing. The Gore Soldiers' Memorial has contextual significance as a landmark within the Gore Domain and on the periphery of the town's commercial centre; its site may have archaeological value.

REFERENCES

- *Mataura Ensign* 28 December 1917, p. 7; 18 April 1918, p. 4; 29 October 1918, p. 424 September 1919, p. 4; 18 October 1919, p. 1; 11 August 1920, p. 5; 21 August 1920, p. 5; 11 September 1920, p. 4.
- *Evening Star* 5 May 1923, p. 4; 27 March 1924, p. 9; 1 May 1924, p. 6.
- *Otago Witness* 1 January 1924, p. 27; 13 May 1924, p. 39.
- 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/gore-war-memorial>
- <https://frasersfunerals.co.nz/about-us/our-history/>
- <https://www.pressreader.com/new-zealand/the-southland-times/20191127/282157883098609>

REPORT COMPLETED

13 May 2022

AUTHOR

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Extent of scheduling, Gore Soldiers' Memorial, 17, 22A & 22B Ardwick Street, Gore.



Land parcel as a whole with memorial marked by star.