

GORE DISTRICT COUNCIL
HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM

HERITAGE ITEM NAME Fallen Soldiers' Memorial / Mandeville War Memorial

ADDRESS 1556 Waimea Highway, Mandeville

PHOTOGRAPH



(April 2022)

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

LEGAL DESCRIPTION Section 1 SO 10580

GDC FILE NUMBER 3232994

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION 1922

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

STYLE Obelisk

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Obelisk with incised digger's hat and crossed rifles motif is mounted on a stepped base; plinth is inset with memorial plaques. Ornamental fence, inset with wire and wrought gate, surrounds the memorial. Flagpole standing nearby.

MATERIALS/STRUCTURE

Granite obelisk and concrete base.

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS

Addition of memorial plaques commemorating World War II servicemen (post-1945).

SETTING

The Mandeville War Memorial stands on a grassed reserve close to SH 94 Waimea Highway on the eastern approach to the village centre. A flagpole is located immediately to the north of the monument. The Mandeville Aerodrome and Croydon Aviation Heritage Museum is on the adjacent property to the north / north-west of the memorial reserve. The scheduled setting encompasses the land parcel on which the memorial is located.

HISTORY

A public meeting to discuss the erection of a soldiers' memorial in Mandeville was held in November 1919, at which time HWC Horrell offered a site for the monument on his property. AE Fraser of Invercargill was chosen as the monument supplier in early 1920 but the question of a site remained unresolved. It was not until 11 November 1922 that the memorial, in the form of a classical obelisk, was unveiled with the Hon W Downie Stewart, Minister of Internal Affairs and Customs, in attendance. Contrary to the protocols of the day the rank of the men commemorated by the monument was included on the dedication panels. The memorial remains the focus for local ANZAC Day commemorations.

HISTORIC AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Mandeville 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 36 men, and their descendants, whose names are inscribed upon the monument.

CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

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

CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Mandeville War Memorial has contextual significance as a prominently located local landmark.

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 Mandeville and the surrounding district.

SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The Mandeville War Memorial has overall heritage significance to Mandeville and to the district of Gore as a whole. The memorial has historical 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 Mandeville 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 sculpting and detailing. The Mandeville War Memorial has contextual significance as a local landmark; its site may have limited potential archaeological value.

REFERENCES

- *Mataura Ensign* 18 November 1919, p. 2; 8 March 1920, p. 5; 12 May 1920, p. 5.
- *Otago Witness* 5 December 1922, p. 32.
- *Otago Daily Times* 14 November 1922, p. 8; 8 December 1922, p. 10.
- *Southern Cross* 20 March 1920, p. 11.
- *Southland Times* 10 March 1920, p. 3.
- 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/mandeville-war-memorial>
- <http://www.kiamatetoa.com/memorials.php>

REPORT COMPLETED

13 May 2022

AUTHOR

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Extent of scheduling, Mandeville War Memorial, 1556 Waimea Highway, Mandeville.