

**TIMARU DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM**

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**HERITAGE ITEM NAME** Fallen Troopers' Memorial gates, ticket box & Coronation fence

**ADDRESS** Temuka Domain, Domain Avenue, Temuka

**PHOTOGRAPH**



(DG McEwan, 7 January 2020)

**DISTRICT PLAN ITEM NO.** New                      **HNZ LIST No. & CATEGORY** n/a

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION** RS 41110

**VALUATION NUMBER** 2478051900

**DATE OF CONSTRUCTION** 1903 (gates); 1911-12 (ticket box & fence)

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/  
BUILDER** James Turnbull, designer, HB Hall & Son, stonemason & Messrs Anderson & Co., metalwork (gates); Messrs Palliser & Sons (ticket box & Coronation fence)

**STYLE** Classical

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION**

Four rusticated pillars topped with globes support decorative vehicle and pedestrian gates. Marble commemorative plaques set into pillars. Flat-roofed ticket box has door and small slot openings. Five-course fence has capped pillars and memorial tablets.

**MATERIALS/STRUCTURE**

Timaru bluestone basalt & wrought iron with marble plaques (gates); Palliser [concrete] blocks and bronze tablets (ticket box and boundary wall).

**ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS**

Unknown, if any.

**SETTING**

The memorial gates provide access to the domain near the intersection of Domain Avenue and Whitcombe Street. A ticket box stands to the west of the gates and the boundary fence runs along Domain Avenue to the east; the two stages of the latter frame another vehicle access opposite Wilkin Street. The King George V Memorial fountain is located near the memorial gates; mature trees, lawn and garden plantings provide the backdrop to all structures. The domain also features a number of other memorial features and notable trees.

The setting, which is common to the memorial gates, ticket box, Coronation boundary fence and memorial fountain, is limited to the immediate environs of these features.

## **HISTORY**

The principal entrance gates for Victoria Park (Temuka Domain) were erected as a Fallen Troopers' Memorial in 1903. Memorialising the four local men (Troopers Clarke, Counihan, Monahan & Roddick) who died fighting in the South African War, the gates were officially opened on 5 November 1903. A 'ladies' committee' had undertaken the bulk of the fund-raising needed to pay for the gates. A ticket box was built immediately adjacent to the gates in late 1912. A year earlier the first stage of the Domain's boundary fence was erected to commemorate the coronation of King George V on 22 June 1911. The second stage was presented to the people of Temuka by Amelia Hayhurst, the wife of Mayor John Hayhurst, on 12 December 1912, the same day on which the King George V Memorial fountain was unveiled. The gates, ticket box and fence remain as built today.

## **HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The Fallen Troopers' Memorial gates, ticket box & Coronation fence have historic and social significance for their association with the local commemoration of New Zealand's involvement in the South African War and the coronation of King George V (1865-1936). The structures also demonstrate local philanthropy and the popular use of the domain for ticketed events, including the annual Caledonian Society sports meetings, which were held between 1888 and 2002.

## **CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The Fallen Troopers' Memorial gates, ticket box & Coronation fence have cultural significance as a site of community identity and historic continuity. The memorial gates and fence have commemorative significance and demonstrate contemporary beliefs pertaining to the importance of the monarchy and loyalty to the British Empire.

## **ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE**

The Fallen Troopers' Memorial gates have aesthetic significance as classically-styled ornamental gates. The designer was noted Timaru architect James Turnbull, who was also responsible for the Pioneers' Memorial (1897) and King George V Memorial fountain (1912). After training in Melbourne, Turnbull (1864-1947) returned to New Zealand and established a practice in Timaru in c.1895. The son of Richard Turnbull, a prominent Timaru businessman and politician, Turnbull also designed Job Brown's Beehive Stores (1901-2), Arthur Gabites' 'The Corner' (1905-6), the Bank of Australasia (1913) and the Guild Memorial Sunday School Hall (1916) in Temuka. Turnbull went into partnership with Percy Watts Rule in c.1920 and the practice was responsible for the former Temuka Library (1926-27).

## **TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE**

The Fallen Troopers' Memorial gates, ticket box & Coronation fence have technological and craftsmanship significance for the quality of their masonry and metal construction and detailing. HB Hall was a Timaru stonemason who was also responsible for the design and manufacture of the William Rolleston memorial lamp in Temuka (1904). He commenced business in Timaru in April 1903, having trained in Australia and previously working in Dunedin. Established in 1851, John Anderson's Christchurch foundry became one of New Zealand's leading engineering and construction firms; by the early 20th century it was being run by his sons John and Andrew. Palliser & Sons was founded in 1880 by Francis Palliser (1853-1934), a Timaru builder who had, by 1906, imported a Palmer's machine (patented 1899) from the United States to produce hollow concrete blocks that imitated rusticated stone construction.

## **CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The Fallen Troopers' Memorial gates, ticket box & Coronation fence have contextual significance as notable historic features that define the entry to and roadside boundary of the Temuka Domain. The gates and fence are closely associated with the King George V Memorial fountain and all three structures contribute to the historic character of the Domain Avenue streetscape.

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE**

Although the gates, ticket box and fence post-date 1900 their site has potential archaeological values arising from the use and development of the Temuka Domain since the early 1870s.

## **SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE**

The Fallen Troopers' Memorial gates, ticket box & Coronation fence have overall heritage significance to Temuka and the district of Timaru. The structures have historical and social significance for their association with the local commemoration of the South African War and the coronation of King George V and cultural significance given their commemorative purpose and expression of contemporary beliefs in support of the monarchy and the British Empire. The Fallen Troopers' Memorial gates have aesthetic significance for their classical design by noted Timaru architect James Turnbull and all of the structures have technological and craftsmanship significance for the quality of their construction and detailing by Messrs Hall & Son, Anderson & Co, & Palliser & Sons. The Fallen Troopers' Memorial gates, ticket box & Coronation fence have contextual significance as historic features that define the entry to and boundary of the Temuka Domain and their site may have archaeological value in light of the development of the domain since the early 1870s.

## **HERITAGE CATEGORY**

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## **REFERENCES**

- *Temuka Leader* 20 December 1902, p. 4; 5 March 1903, p. 2; 21 March 1903, p. 2; 26 March 1903, p. 3; 11 April 1903, p. 2; 5 September 1903, p. 2; 7 November 1903, p. 3; 11 August 1904, p. 4; 4 November 1911, p. 3; 7 December 1903, p. 3; 2 December 1911, p. 3; 16 November 1912, p. 2; 22 December 1932, p. 5 (supplement).
- *Timaru Herald* 6 November 1903, p. 4; 7 December 1912, p. 7; 12 December 1912, p. 8.
- *Press* 22 September 1911, p. 5; 5 June 1912, p. 7.
- John Wilson *The Timaru District – An historical overview* Timaru District Council, June 2019.
- <https://nzhistory.govt.nz/media/photo/temuka-south-african-war-memorial>
- <https://www.buildmagazine.org.nz/assets/PDF/Build127-86-Building-History-OnTheBlock.pdf?>



Extent of setting, limited to immediate setting and shared with King George V Memorial fountain, Temuka Domain, Domain Avenue, Temuka.



Location of memorial gates, ticket box and boundary wall in context of Temuka Domain, Domain Avenue, Timaru.