

TIMARU DISTRICT COUNCIL
HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM

HERITAGE ITEM NAME Te Kamaka o Arowhenua Ratana War Memorial Archway

ADDRESS cnr Huirapa Street & SH 1, Arowhenua

PHOTOGRAPH



(www)

DISTRICT PLAN ITEM NO.: New **HNZ LIST NO. & CATEGORY** 9825 - wahi tupuna

LEGAL DESCRIPTION Arowhenua Village Maori Reserve 881 3B Block

VALUATION NUMBER 2468032400

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION 1934-35

ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/BUILDER TW Ratana, designer?; unknown stonemasons

STYLE Waharoa (carved gateway)

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Waharoa with relief carving and inset memorial tablets. Traditional Maori, abstract and Ratana motifs. Gateway flanked by short walls and piers with relief carving. Approach via a flight of concrete steps.

MATERIALS/STRUCTURE

Oamaru stone, concrete.

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS

Later inscriptions and memorial tablets installed (various).

SETTING

The memorial arch stands on a corner site bounded by Huirapa Street to the south and SH 1 to the east. Plantings and a random rubble stone retaining wall delineate the road frontages of the property. Te Kura Maori O Arowhenua (Arowhenua Maori School) and Arowhenua Marae are to the west along Huirapa Road. The Anglican Church of the Holy Trinity is directly opposite the memorial at the south corner of Huirapa Street and SH 1. The extent of scheduling is limited to the immediate surroundings of the arch, rather than the land parcel as a whole.

HISTORY

The foundation stone of the memorial arch at Arowhenua was laid by ET Tirikatene, MP for Southern Maori and a Ratana leader, in November 1934. It was dedicated to the Maori of the South Island who had been killed serving in World War I and to Hipa Te Maiharoa, the founder of Arowhenua paa. While the memorial had been completed by mid-February in 1935 it was not officially unveiled until 13 November 1935 by TW Ratana, the founder of the Ratana movement. The gateway provided access to a 'model pah' in the mid-20th century but now leads to a grassed reserve.

HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

Te Kamaka o Arowhenua Ratana War Memorial Archway has high historical and social significance for its association with the people of Arowhenua, the war service of South Island Maori and the life and work of TW Ratana (Ngati Apa & Nga Rauru, 1873-1939). The arch may be the only memorial dedicated to the Maori soldiers of World War I in the South Island.

CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

Te Kamaka o Arowhenua Ratana War Memorial Archway has cultural significance as a memorial archway dedicated to the South Island Maori soldiers of World War I, Te Maiharoa, and two of TW Ratana's sons.

ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

Te Kamaka o Arowhenua Ratana War Memorial Archway has architectural significance as a carved gateway which combines a traditional waharoa form with relief carving in Oamaru stone. Contemporary reports about the design of the gateway appear to suggest it was not designed locally, perhaps coming from Ratana's North Island pa.

TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE

Te Kamaka o Arowhenua Ratana War Memorial Archway has technological and craftsmanship significance for the quality of its Oamaru stone construction and ornamental detailing. The identity of the stonemasons responsible for the arch was not reported in contemporary newspaper accounts of the archway's construction and unveiling.

CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

Te Kamaka o Arowhenua Ratana War Memorial Archway has contextual significance as a landmark on SH 1 and for its association with the nearby Anglican Church of the Holy Trinity, Arowhenua Maori School and Ko Te Hapa o Niu Tirenī marae.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

Although the memorial arch post-dates 1900, its site has potential archaeological significance arising from the historic use and development of the wider setting.

SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

Te Kamaka o Arowhenua Ratana War Memorial Archway has high overall significance to Arowhenua and Timaru district as a whole. The memorial has high historical and social significance for its association with Kati Huirapa, Arowhenua Marae and TW Ratana and cultural significance for its multi-faceted memorial function. Te Kamaka o Arowhenua Ratana War Memorial Archway has architectural and aesthetic significance for its design combining traditional and contemporary forms and motifs and technological and craftsmanship significance for the quality of its Oamaru stone construction and decorative detailing. Te Kamaka o Arowhenua Ratana War Memorial Archway has contextual significance as a local landmark and for its relationship with the Anglican Church of the Holy Trinity, Arowhenua

Maori School and Ko Te Hapa o Niu Tireni marae. Although the structure post-dates 1900, its site has potential archaeological significance in relation to the historic development of the property.

HERITAGE CATEGORY

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REFERENCES

- *Press* 22 November 1934, p. 10; 15 December 1934, p. 11; 18 February 1935, p. 5; 9 August 1935, p. 30; 16 November 1935, p. 4; 2 May 1938, p. 8.
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AUTHOR

Dr Ann McEwan / Heritage Consultancy Services

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AUTHOR

Dr Ann McEwan

PEER REVIEWED

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REVIEWER

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Extent of scheduling, cnr Huirapa Street & SH 1, Arowhenua.