

TIMARU DISTRICT COUNCIL
HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM

HERITAGE ITEM NAME Rangitata Soldiers' Memorial Hall
ADDRESS 1060 Orari-Rangitata Highway (SH 1), Rangitata
PHOTOGRAPH



(Dr J Wilson, September 2018)

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

LEGAL DESCRIPTION Sections 5 & 6 Block IX Town of Rangitata

VALUATION NUMBER 2471003200

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION 1917

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/
BUILDER** Fred Trott, designer/builder

STYLE Vernacular

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Single-storey building with irregular rectangular footprint and gabled roof. Lean-to entrance porch at north end, lean-tos at sides and rear. Casement and fanlight windows. Name on gable end facing the roadway.

MATERIALS/STRUCTURE

Brick, concrete, cement stucco, corrugated iron.

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS

World War II Honour Roll installed (post-1945). Stucco cladding over brickwork; side lean-tos added (date unknown, 1950s?).

SETTING

The hall stands on the south side of the Orari-Rangitata Highway, west of the paper road called Edward Street. The Rangitata Fire Station is immediately adjacent to the hall on its east side; a square plan villa and small commercial building are further to the east of the hall site. The property is located within a block bounded by Clogstoun Street in the west and Edgar Road in the east and is approximately three kilometres from the south approach to the Rangitata River bridge. The extent of scheduling is limited to the immediate setting of the building and excludes the adjacent fire station.

HISTORY

Decades before the main highway was diverted from Arundel following the completion of the Rangitata River bridges in the late 1930s, Rangitata developed around the railway station that opened there in 1875. The township was surveyed in 1881 (DP 866) but the ambitious scale of that survey was never realised. Nevertheless a Soldiers' Memorial Hall was erected by the community in 1917, many months before the war ended; it was officially opened on 17 January 1918. The hall was funded by a bequest from Thomas Hobson (c.1839-1907), a Temuka dairy farmer who left the bulk of his estate for charitable and public works, and a grant from the Temuka Road Board. The original trustees were David Cain and Charles Ellis, Rangitata farmers, and Ernest McDonald, the local station master. At the opening a Roll of Honour was unveiled above the stage; it listed the names of six local men who had already died serving in the war. One name was later added to the board. In addition to hosting social events the hall was also built to provide a venue for the local Miniature Rifle Club. In 1939 the population served by the local post office was around '400 settlers'. A second memorial Honour Roll was installed in the hall after World War II; this bears 15 names, including that of CH Moss who died in Italy in December 1944. The hall, which was built in brick as a condition of the Hobson Trust grant, was later stuccoed. By c.2010 the local fire brigade had erected a station immediately beside the hall; a covered way connects the two buildings. Today the hall is still operated by the incorporated society established in August 1917; among its most recent users has been a dance group.

HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Rangitata Soldiers' Memorial Hall has historical and social significance for its association with the local community and their efforts in the midst of World War I to acknowledge the local men who lost their lives during the war. The hall represents the early 20th century development of the district and is the only notable public building to survive at Rangitata.

CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Rangitata Soldiers' Memorial Hall has cultural significance as a site of community identity and historic continuity since 1918. The hall has commemorative significance and reflects the way of a life of a rural community through the 20th century.

ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

The Rangitata Soldiers' Memorial Hall has architectural value as a vernacular building designed and built by Geraldine contractor Fred Trott. Trott, who established his building firm in 1913, is reported to have submitted the successful tender to build the iconic Church of the Good Shepherd at Tekapo in 1935.

TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE

The Rangitata Soldiers' Memorial Hall has craftsmanship value as an example of interwar construction methods and techniques. H Berry of Timaru was the subcontractor for the brick and plaster work.

CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Rangitata Soldiers' Memorial Hall has contextual significance as a local historic feature that contributes to the historic character of State Highway 1 as it enters Timaru district from the north.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

As the Rangitata Soldiers' Memorial Hall post-dates 1900, its site may have limited archaeological values.

SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The Rangitata Soldiers' Memorial Hall has overall heritage significance to Rangitata and Timaru district as a whole. The building has historical and social significance for its association with the local community and cultural significance as a site of commemoration and historic continuity. The Rangitata Soldiers' Memorial Hall has architectural value as a vernacular building designed by Geraldine builder Fred Trott and craftsmanship value for its interwar brick construction. The Rangitata Soldiers' Memorial Hall contextual significance as a local historic feature and the contribution it makes to the historic character of State Highway 1; its site may have limited potential archaeological value due to the post-1900 age of the building.

HERITAGE CATEGORY

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REFERENCES

- *Timaru Herald* 12 December 1917, p. 3; 19 January 1918, p. 9; 5 August 1918, p. 6; 3 December 1919, p. 6; 17 April 1920, p. 1; 23 October 1920, p. 9; 29 April 2014 (available online).
- *Temuka Leader* 6 February 1908, p. 2; 8 May 1913, p. 5; 19 January 1918, p. 3; 12 November 1918, p. 3; 11 February 1919, p. 3; 11 December 1926, p. 1; 25 October 1932, p. 3.
- *Press* 2 August 1932, p. 5; 6 October 1938, p. 2; 26 June 1939, p. 8.
- *Ohinemuri Gazette* 23 May 1919, p. 2.
- <https://nzhistory.govt.nz/media/photo/rangitata-war-memorial>
- <http://sites.rootsweb.com/~nzlscant/halls.htm>
- http://sites.rootsweb.com/~nzlscant/Rangitata_Hall.htm



Extent of scheduling, limited to the immediate environs of the hall, 1060 Orari-Rangitata Highway (SH 1), Rangitata.