

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

---

**HERITAGE ITEM NAME** William Rolleston Memorial Lamp  
**ADDRESS** 59 King Street / Domain Avenue, Temuka

**PHOTOGRAPH**



(HNZPT)

**FORMER DISTRICT PLAN ITEM NO.** No. 122      **HNZ LIST NO. & CATEGORY** 2039 / 2  
(at time of assessment)

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION** Legal road

**VALUATION NUMBER** n/a

**DATE OF CONSTRUCTION** 1904

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/  
BUILDER** HB Hall, designer/stonemason

**STYLE** Ornamental street lamp

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION**

Globe lamp mounted on stepped base with two-part column support.

**MATERIALS/STRUCTURE**

Bluestone base, granite pedestal and column, glass lamp. Dedicatory inscriptions on upper pedestal.

**ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS**

Pedestal heightened and lamp lit by piped gas (HB Hall, 1906). Damaged by a car and repaired (1909). Electrified; possible removal of lantern and pendulum lights and replacement with globe at the same time (1925). New 'Town Centre Enhancement Project' inscription added (west side, 4 November 1993).

**SETTING**

The memorial is set upon the paved footpath at the south-west corner of the intersection of King Street and Domain Avenue. It is immediately adjacent to the former Temuka Post Office (heritage item # 119) and to the east of the former Temuka Courthouse (heritage item # 120). The setting is the immediate setting of the memorial, rather than the intersection as a whole. It is noted that the Heritage NZPT list entry records a one-metre buffer on each side of the memorial as the extent of setting.

## **HISTORY**

On 3 May 1904 a memorial street lamp dedicated to the memory of William Rolleston was unveiled in Temuka. Rolleston (1831-1903) was a former resident of Temuka district as well as the last Superintendent of Canterbury province (1868-76) and a minister in Sir John Hall's government. He had emigrated from England in 1858 and after a time farming Rolleston established his political career, serving in both national and provincial governments. Having represented the Avon electorate since 1868, Rolleston quit it in 1884 and then won his home constituency of Geraldine. He finally left parliament in 1899. Twenty years previously he had purchased a farm north-east of Temuka, and he died at Kapunatiki on 8 February 1903. Funded by public subscription, the memorial street lamp preceded a bronze statue of Rolleston, which was erected in Christchurch in 1906. The Temuka memorial was damaged by a motor vehicle in early 1909 and duly repaired. It was electrified in 1925.

## **HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The William Rolleston memorial lamp has historical significance for its association with William Rolleston and as the first memorial to be erected to his memory in New Zealand. Historian WJ Gardner described Rolleston as 'one of the country's first professional politicians' (DNZB entry).

## **CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The William Rolleston memorial lamp has cultural significance as a place of community identity, commemoration and historic continuity.

## **ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE**

The William Rolleston memorial lamp has aesthetic value as a memorial street lamp, designed by Timaru monumental mason HB Hall. Hall announced his business in Timaru in April 1903, having trained in Australia and previously working in Dunedin. He was also responsible for heightening the lamp in 1906.

## **TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE**

The William Rolleston memorial lamp has craftsmanship value for the quality of its construction and detailing by WB Hall.

## **CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The William Rolleston memorial lamp has contextual significance as a historic feature on Temuka's main street. It stands in front of the former Temuka Post Office and near the former library and courthouse; all three buildings are also scheduled heritage items (#s 118, 119 & 120). By virtue of its memorial function, the lamp is also associated with the Rolleston statue in Christchurch (1906).

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE**

As the memorial post-dates 1900, any potential archaeological significance its site may have likely relates to the colonial development of Temuka.

## **SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE**

The William Rolleston memorial lamp has overall heritage significance to Temuka and the district of Timaru as a whole. The memorial has historical and social significance for its association with William Rolleston and cultural significance given its commemorative purpose. The William Rolleston memorial lamp has aesthetic value for its design by WB Hall and craftsmanship value for the quality of its construction and detailing. The William Rolleston

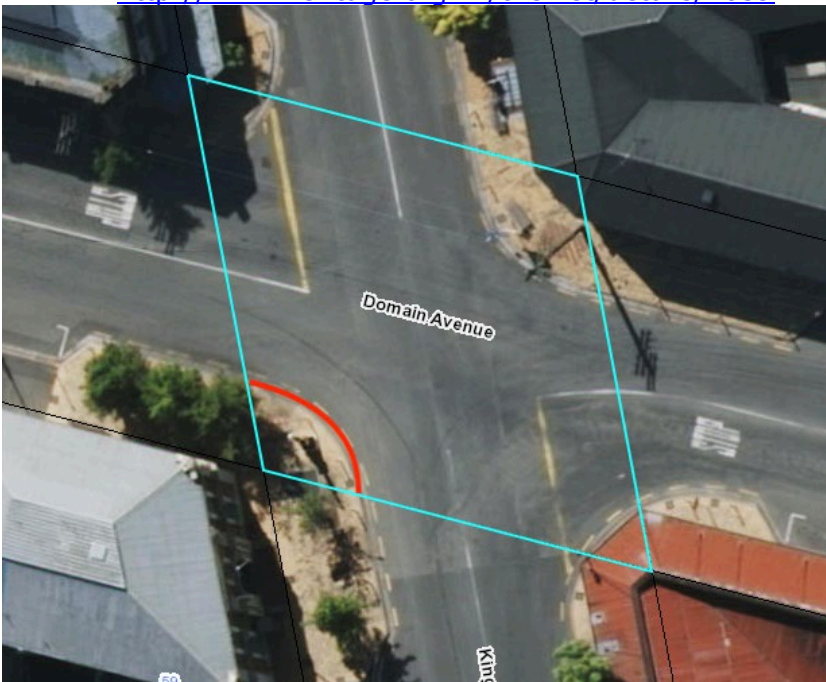
memorial lamp has contextual significance as an historic feature in the town centre and its site may have pre-1900 archaeological value given its location.

## HERITAGE CATEGORY

B

## REFERENCES

- *Timaru Herald* 18 April 1903, p. 2; 20 April 1903, p. 1; 19 June 1903, p. 4; 3 March 1909, p. 7; 5 March 1909, p. 7.
- *Lyttelton Times* 10 February 1903, p. 5.
- *Temuka Leader* 19 May 1903, p. 2; 25 February 1904, p. 2; 8 April 1904, p. 3; 5 May 1904, p. 4; 13 September 1906, p. 2; 8 April 1909, p. 3; 16 April 1925, p. 3.
- *Otago Witness* 18 May 1904, p. 36.
- *Press* 4 May 1904, p. 8.
- <https://teara.govt.nz/en/biographies/1r17/rolleston-william>
- <http://www.heritage.org.nz/the-list/details/2039>



Extent of setting, limited to immediate setting, cnr King Street and Domain Avenue, Temuka.



Unveiling ceremony. *Otago Witness* 18 May 1904, p. 36. PapersPast.

