

TIMARU DISTRICT COUNCIL
HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM

HERITAGE ITEM NAME Temuka Pioneers' Memorial
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 1897
**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/
BUILDER** James Turnbull, designer; WH Cain, contractor
STYLE Obelisk

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Square-section obelisk mounted on multi-part, pedimented plinth atop stepped base; memorial inscriptions on all four faces. Names listed according to date of settlement; surnames and initials provided. Paved and garden bed surround, which is linked to the paved surround of the Queen Victoria Jubilee Memorial to the north.

MATERIALS/STRUCTURE

Timaru bluestone (basalt).

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS

Addition of plaques carrying extra names on lower section of plinth (date unknown).
Relocation to current site (c.2016).

SETTING

The memorial is set within a formal garden that is bordered by trees and hedging delineating the site from the wider setting of the domain. The Queen Victoria Jubilee Memorial is located within the same portion of the domain, which also features a number of other memorial features and notable trees. The setting is common to both memorials and is limited to the immediate garden setting.

HISTORY

The Temuka Pioneers' Memorial was erected in Victoria Park (Temuka Domain) in 1897 to mark the diamond jubilee of Queen Victoria assuming the British throne (21 June 1897) and to memorialise the early colonial settlers of Temuka district. The foundation stone was laid on 4 November 1897 by Margaret Hornbrook (c.1828-1912), the widow of William Hornbrook of Arowhenua and Seadown, and the memorial was unveiled just over a month later (16 December) by Alison Blyth (c.1844-1922), the wife of Temuka's oldest resident and Pioneers' Memorial committee chairman, James Blyth. Eligible 'pioneers', who could claim an association with the district before the flood of 1868, paid one guinea to have their names inscribed on the monument. After the demolition of the caretaker's house in the domain the site was redeveloped to accommodate both the Temuka Pioneers' Memorial and the Queen Victoria Jubilee Memorial, which was erected in 1888 to mark the 50th year of her reign.

HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

Temuka Pioneers' Memorial has high historic and social significance for its association with the colonial settlement of Temuka and the local commemoration of a British Empire milestone, that of the 60th anniversary of the reign of Queen Victoria. Although women laid the foundation stone and unveiled the monument in late 1897, only male pioneers' names are listed on the memorial, signifying historic attitudes to gender equity and recognition.

CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

Temuka Pioneers' Memorial has cultural significance as a place of community identity and historic continuity. The memorial has commemorative significance and demonstrates contemporary beliefs pertaining to the importance of colonial settlement and loyalty to the British Empire.

ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

Temuka Pioneers' Memorial has architectural and aesthetic significance as a decorative obelisk designed by noted Timaru architect James Turnbull. 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). The obelisk was a type of funerary monument that was often erected as a memorial after World War I.

TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE

The Queen Victoria Jubilee Memorial has craftsmanship value for the quality of its construction and detailing. WH Cain was a Timaru stonemason who had previously worked for James Jones, the creator of the Queen Victoria Jubilee Memorial (1888).

CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

Temuka Pioneers' Memorial has contextual significance as a historic feature within the environs of the Temuka Domain. The co-location of the memorial with the Queen Victoria Jubilee Memorial in c.2016 underlines the importance of each to past and present residents of Temuka.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

Although the memorial pre-dates 1900 it has recently been relocated; any potential archaeological significance of the site would therefore relate to its earlier use and development, including that of the caretaker's house and garden. The domain grounds were in development by the early 1870s.

SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

Temuka Pioneers' Memorial has high overall heritage significance to Temuka and the district of Timaru. The memorial has high historical and social significance for its association with the colonial settlement of Temuka and the local commemoration of the diamond jubilee of Queen Victoria. Temuka Pioneers' Memorial has cultural significance given its commemorative purpose and architectural and aesthetic significance as a decorative obelisk designed by Timaru architect James Turnbull early in his career. Temuka Pioneers' Memorial has craftsmanship value for the quality of its construction and detailing by WH Cain, a Timaru stonemason. Temuka Pioneers' Memorial has contextual significance as a historic feature within the Temuka Domain and its site may have archaeological value in light of the development of the domain since the early 1870s.

HERITAGE CATEGORY

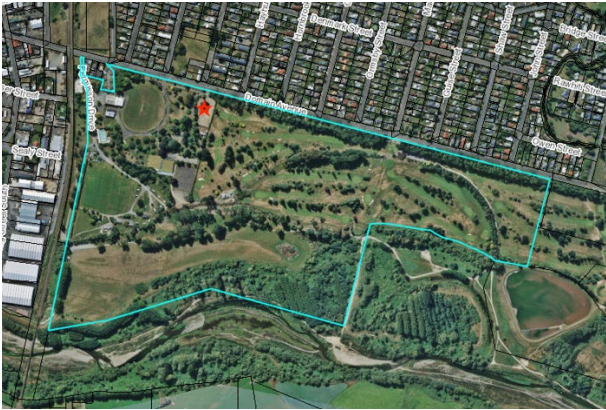
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REFERENCES

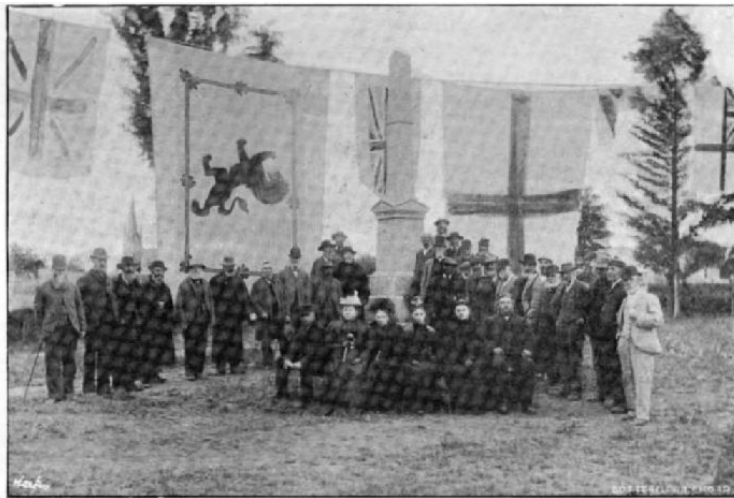
- *Temuka Leader* 6 November 1897, p. 2; 16 December 1897, p. 2; 19 March 1898, p. 3; 3 November 1928, p. 3.
- *Timaru Herald* 6 November 1897, p. 3; 20 December 1897, p. 4; 22 March 1898, p. 3; 12 December 1912, p. 8; 22 April 2016 (available online).
- *Press*
- *South Canterbury Times* 21 March 1898, p. 3.
- *Lyttelton Times* 29 June 1897, p. 3; 21 March 1898, p. 3.
- *Waimate Daily Advertiser* 22 May 1900, p. 1.
- *Wanganui Chronicle* 13 March 1912, p. 7.
- <https://teara.govt.nz/en/interactive/32542/memorials-to-queen-victoria>
- <http://nzetc.victoria.ac.nz/tm/scholarly/Cyc03Cycl-fig-Cyc03Cycl0902a.html>
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- John Wilson *The Timaru District – An historical overview* Timaru District Council, June 2019.
- M Stocker 'Queen Victoria Memorials in New Zealand: A Centenary Appraisal' *Bulletin of New Zealand Art History* Vol. 22, 2001, pp. 7-28.



Extent of setting, limited to immediate setting and shared by the Queen Victoria Jubilee Memorial, Temuka Domain, Domain Avenue, Temuka.



Location of Temuka Pioneers' Memorial in context of Temuka Domain, Domain Avenue, Timaru.



UNVEILING OF THE TEMUKA OLD IDENTITIES' JUBILEE MEMORIAL OBELISK.

Cyclopedia of New Zealand – Canterbury Provincial District Christchurch, 1903, p. 916 (available online).