

TIMARU DISTRICT COUNCIL
HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM

HERITAGE ITEM NAME Queen Victoria Jubilee 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 1888
**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/
BUILDER** James Jones, stonemason
STYLE Obelisk

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Tapering obelisk mounted on multi-part plinth with memorial inscriptions on north and south faces of upper plinth. Paved surround, which is linked to the paved and garden bed surround of the Temuka Pioneers' Memorial to the south.

MATERIALS/STRUCTURE

Granite (obelisk), bluestone basalt (base), concrete (foundation).

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS

Addition of inscription recording death of Queen Victoria (22 January 1901). Addition of inscription marking the 50th anniversary of the reign of Queen Elizabeth II (6 February 2002). 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 Temuka Pioneers' 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 jubilee memorials and is limited to the immediate garden setting.

HISTORY

The Queen Victoria Jubilee Memorial was erected in 1888 to mark the 50th, golden jubilee anniversary of Queen Victoria assuming the British throne on 21 June 1837. The memorial was unveiled on Boxing Day (26 December) 1888 by the Hon AEG Rhodes, MHR. After the demolition of the caretaker's house in the domain the site was redeveloped to accommodate both the Jubilee Memorial and the Temuka Pioneers' Memorial, which was erected in 1897 to mark the 60th year of her reign.

HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Queen Victoria Jubilee Memorial has historic and social significance for its association with the local commemoration of a British Empire milestone, that of the 50th anniversary of the reign of Queen Victoria. Golden jubilee memorials are uncommon in New Zealand, especially in comparison with those marking the diamond jubilee in 1897 or the death of Queen Victoria in 1901. The people of Timaru erected a jubilee memorial fountain outside the post office (1888, relocated to the Botanic Gardens in 1960) but elsewhere in New Zealand commemorative efforts tended to the practical or financial; among them Christchurch's Jubilee Memorial Home, Dunedin's Jubilee Park and the Queen's Gardens in Nelson.

CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Queen Victoria Jubilee 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 the monarchy and loyalty to the British Empire.

ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

The Queen Victoria Jubilee Memorial has aesthetic value as a decorative obelisk, a type of funerary memorial 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. James Jones (c.1845-94) was a Timaru stonemason; he was also responsible for creating Timaru's jubilee memorial fountain.

CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Queen Victoria Jubilee Memorial has contextual significance as a historic feature within the environs of the Temuka Domain. The co-location of the memorial with the Temuka Pioneers' 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

The Queen Victoria Jubilee Memorial has overall heritage significance to Temuka and the district of Timaru. The memorial has historical and social significance for its association with the local commemoration of the golden jubilee of Queen Victoria and cultural significance given its commemorative purpose. The Queen Victoria Jubilee Memorial has aesthetic value as a decorative obelisk and craftsmanship value for the quality of its construction and

detailing by Timaru stonemason James Jones. The Queen Victoria Jubilee 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* 27 December 1888, p. 2.
- *Timaru Herald* 28 December 1888, pp 3 ; 1 February 1894, p. 1; 15 November 1894, p. 2; 16 January 1895, p. 3; 12 December 1912, p. 8; 22 April 2016 (available online).
- *Press* 22 June 1888, p. 6; 28 December 1888, p. 4.
- *South Canterbury Times* 16 February 1882, p. 3; 2 May 1888, p. 3; 19 April 1895, p. 3.
- 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 Temuka Pioneers' Memorial, Temuka Domain, Domain Avenue, Temuka.

