

TIMARU DISTRICT COUNCIL
HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM

HERITAGE ITEM NAME Winchester Fallen Soldiers' Memorial
ADDRESS cnr SH 1 Temuka-Orari Highway & Rise Road,
Winchester

PHOTOGRAPH



District Plan Item No. New **HNZ LIST No. & CATEGORY** n / a

LEGAL DESCRIPTION RES 2775 & Section 1 SO 16245

VALUATION NUMBER 2470001800

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION 1920

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/
BUILDER** GW Parsons, mason & H Berry, contractor

STYLE Obelisk

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Obelisk mounted on four-part base set atop three concrete steps. Small area of asphalt within grassed reserve at the northern approach to the memorial. Obelisk and two stones below it are inscribed in white lettering. Small plaque attached to base on north front.

MATERIALS/STRUCTURE

Granite, French flint millstones, concrete.

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS

Addition of names of local WWII servicemen (post-1945). Fence removed from the boundary of memorial site (early 1980s?).

SETTING

The war memorial stands within a grassed and modestly landscaped reserve at the intersection of SH 1 Temuka-Orari Highway and Rise Road. It is immediately adjacent to the grounds of Winchester Rural School and the memorial itself stands on part of a water pipe reserve (surveyed 1887, SO 1252). The extent of setting is the two parcels of land on which the memorial is located.

HISTORY

A public meeting was held in the Winchester schoolroom on 2 March 1920 to discuss the form a local war memorial should take. A Fallen Soldiers' Memorial was dedicated to 'Our Glorious Dead' on Sunday, 23 May 1920. The inscription memorialised former pupils of Winchester School (21 names), other men from Winchester (six names) and, at a later date, the local men (five names) who died serving in World War II. In 2013 a project was launched by the South Canterbury Museum and local genealogists to create a database of all those South Canterbury people who served in World War I, as part of the nationwide WW100 commemorations. The Winchester memorial continues to be the focus for local ANZAC Day commemorations.

HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Winchester Fallen Soldiers' Memorial has historic and social significance for its association with the village's commemoration of World War I and II and the proliferation of ornamental war memorials that were erected throughout New Zealand in the 1920s. The memorial was hailed as the first to be unveiled in South Canterbury and it is directly connected to the people, their families and descendants, whose names are inscribed upon the obelisk.

CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Winchester Fallen Soldiers' Memorial has cultural significance as a place of community identity and historic continuity. The memorial has commemorative significance and remains the focus for local ANZAC Day commemorations.

ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

The Winchester Fallen Soldiers' Memorial has aesthetic value as a decorative obelisk, a type of funerary memorial that was commonly erected after World War I.

TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE

The Winchester Fallen Soldiers' Memorial has craftsmanship significance for the quality of its construction and materials. The inclusion of French flint from millstones said to have been gifted by the Harrison family of the Winchester Flour Mill (heritage item # 112) is particularly notable in comparison with the conventional World War I memorial obelisk typically erected throughout New Zealand. George Parsons, who was responsible for the granite components of the memorial, was a Christchurch monumental mason whose business was established in Sydenham in 1877.

CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Winchester Fallen Soldiers' Memorial has contextual significance as a local landmark in close proximity to Winchester School. The memorial was designed to present its two inscribed faces to the two roads bordering the site.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

As the memorial post-dates 1900, any potential archaeological significance of the site would likely relate to its earlier use and development, possibly in relation to Winchester School and/or the water pipe reserve.

SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The Winchester Fallen Soldiers' Memorial has overall heritage significance to Winchester and the district of Timaru as a whole. The memorial has historical and social significance for its association with the local men who died serving in World War I and II and cultural significance given its commemorative purpose. The Winchester Fallen Soldiers' Memorial has

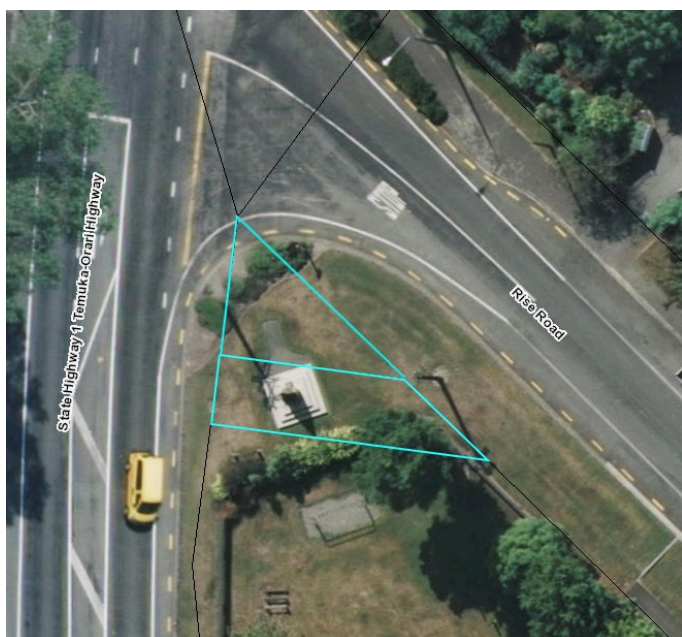
aesthetic value as an ornamental obelisk and craftsmanship significance for the quality of its construction and materials. The Winchester Fallen Soldiers' Memorial has contextual significance as a local historic feature; its site may have limited archaeological value in view of the memorial's age.

HERITAGE CATEGORY

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REFERENCES

- *Otago Witness* 15 June 1920, pp. 33 & 38 (supplement).
- *Temuka Leader* 28 February 1920, p. 2; 4 March 1920, p. 2; 22 May 1920, p. 3; 25 May 1920, p. 3.
- <http://www.stuff.co.nz/timaru-herald/news/9037908/Database-to-honour-WWI-dead>
- JM Morgan 'Sites of Memory - Memorialisation in the Landscape' MSc thesis, University of Canterbury, Christchurch 2001; available online.
- C Maclean & J Phillips *The Sorrow and the Pride – New Zealand War Memorials* Wellington, 1990.
- <https://nzhistory.govt.nz/media/photo/winchester-war-memorial>
- <http://christchurchcitylibraries.com/Heritage/Photos/Disc13/IMG0001.asp>
- <http://ketechristchurch.peoplesnetworknz.info/en/site/topics/show/2092-monumental-stonemasons-who-worked-in-linwood-cemetery#.XA14mS-B1EI>



Extent of setting, corner of SH 1 Temuka-Orari Highway and Rise Road, Winchester.



Unveiling of the memorial. *Otago Witness* 15 June 1920, p. 33 (supplement).