

# King George V Coronation Memorial

## TIMARU DISTRICT COUNCIL HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM

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**HERITAGE ITEM NAME** King George V Coronation Memorial  
**ADDRESS** Temuka Domain, Domain Avenue, Temuka

**PHOTOGRAPH**



(DG McEwan, 7 January 2020)

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

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION** RS 41110

**VALUATION NUMBER** 2478051900

**DATE OF CONSTRUCTION** 1912

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/  
BUILDER** James Turnbull, designer; Samuel McBride,  
stonemason

**STYLE** Classical

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION**

Bowl type drinking fountain with decorative canopy and stepped base. Canopy and base bear memorial inscriptions. Composite capitals atop columns bearing canopy.

**MATERIALS/STRUCTURE**

Aberdeen granite (columns and bowl) support, marble (bowl), Timaru bluestone basalt (cap and base).

**ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS**

Brass fountain apparatus removed (date unknown).

**SETTING**

The memorial is located close to the gates that provide access to the domain near the intersection of Domain Avenue and Whitcombe Street. Mature trees and lawn provide the backdrop. The domain also features a number of other memorial features and notable trees. The setting, which is common to both the memorial fountain, memorial gates and the Coronation boundary wall is limited to the immediate environs of these features.

## **HISTORY**

The King George V Coronation Memorial was erected in 1912 to mark the coronation of King George V on 22 June 1911. Although approaching completion in early September 1912, it was not until 5 December that the foundation stone of the fountain was laid. A week later the 'opening' ceremony of both the fountain and a new section of the Coronation boundary wall was held; a special train was laid on to transport some attendees from Timaru. Coronation Baths had been opened in the domain in December 1911; making for a full year of coronation events for the people of Temuka. The fountain was also called the Temuka Pioneers' Memorial of King George V, thus associating with structure with the 1897 memorial erected to mark the diamond jubilee of Queen Victoria and demonstrating the actions of local residents who identified as being 'pioneers' or 'Old Identities' in the district. The fountain remains on its original site but is no longer operable.

## **HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The King George V Coronation Memorial has historic and social significance for its association with the local commemoration of a British Empire milestone, that of the coronation of King George V (1865-1936). Central government provided funding to communities wishing to commemorate the coronation of George V. Among the memorials subsequently erected were swimming baths in Dannevirke (1911), community halls in Albany (1911), Woodbury (1911) and Orari (1912), the Lincoln Coronation Library (1911-12), and hospitals, for consumptives and returned soldiers respectively, built in Christchurch (1912-14, demolished) and Rotorua (1916).

## **CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The King George V Coronation 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 King George V Coronation Memorial has aesthetic significance as an ornamental fountain with a classically-style canopy. The designer was noted Timaru architect James Turnbull, who was also responsible for the Pioneers' Memorial (1897) and Fallen Troopers' Memorial Gates (1903). 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).

## **TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE**

The King George V Coronation Memorial has craftsmanship significance for the quality of its stone construction and detailing. Samuel McBride was a Timaru stonemason who also fabricated the Wrecks Monument in Timaru (1883/1885) and designed and built the Timaru Troopers' Memorial (1904) and the Pleasant Point War Memorial (1921). By the early 20<sup>th</sup> century McBride was also operating as a general contractor; he built the tower and chancel of St Mary's Anglican Church in 1907-9.

## **CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The King George V Coronation Memorial has contextual significance as a historic feature within the environs of the Temuka Domain. The fountain is closely associated with the South African War Memorial Gates and the Coronation boundary wall. One of the inscriptions on the memorial also expresses the direct connection between the memorial fountain and the

Temuka Pioneers' Memorial, which originally to the east of the fountain near the Domain Avenue boundary.

### **ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE**

Although the memorial post-dates 1900 its site has potential archaeological values arising from the use and development of the Temuka Domain since the early 1870s.

### **SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE**

The King George V Coronation 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 coronation of King George V and cultural significance given its commemorative purpose and expression of contemporary beliefs in support of the monarchy and settler history. The King George V Coronation Memorial has aesthetic significance for its classical styling by noted Timaru architect James Turnbull and craftsmanship significance for the quality of its stone construction and detailing by Timaru stonemason Samuel McBride. The King George V Coronation 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* 5 September 1912, p. 2.
- *Timaru Herald* 7 December 1912, p. 7; 12 December 1912, pp. 6 & 8.
- *Press* 24 June 1911, p. 10.
- *Lyttelton Times* 6 December 1912, p. 8.
- *Otago Witness* 28 June 1911, p. 8.
- John Wilson *The Timaru District – An historical overview* Timaru District Council, June 2019.





Extent of setting, limited to immediate setting and shared with memorial gates and boundary wall, Temuka Domain, Domain Avenue, Temuka.



Location of King George V Coronation Memorial in context of Temuka Domain, Domain Avenue, Timaru.





Canopy detail. DG McEwan.