

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

2021 District Plan Item No. HH089
HERITAGE ITEM NAME West Eyreton War Memorial
ADDRESS 2 Earlys Road, West Eyreton
PHOTOGRAPH



(www)

DISTRICT PLAN ITEM NO. H125 **HNZ LIST NO. & CATEGORY** n / a
(at time of assessment)

LEGAL DESCRIPTION Pt RS 12574

VALUATION NUMBER 2170005800

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION 1922

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/
BUILDER** Unknown

STYLE Classical

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Triumphal arch centred on West Eyreton Hall entry is flanked by split-level boundary walls. Marble plaques on west face with stone keystone set in to arch bearing inscription 'Great War 1914 – 1918'. 'Lest We Forget.' is inscribed in relief on entablature above arch. Stepped copings on framing wall piers. Textured brick detailing; low side walls have pipe railing.

MATERIALS/STRUCTURE

Brick, stone, concrete & pipe railing.

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS

Addition of WWII memorial plaque (post-1945). Post-EQ reconstruction of arch, including installation of South African War memorial and rededication plaques (2014).

SETTING

The war memorial arch and its flanking walls are situated on the western boundary of the West Eyreton Hall site, which is bounded by Earlys Road to the west and North Eyre Road to the south. The extent of setting is the land parcel on which the memorial arch is located and it includes the West Eyreton Hall in view of the relationship between the two structures.

HISTORY

The West Eyreton War Memorial was unveiled on 4 June 1922 by Prime Minister William Massey. FG Horrell was the chairman of the Memorial Committee which erected the memorial arch in front of the West Eyreton Hall. The site was chosen because local soldiers had been farewelled from the hall before leaving for the war. The two local men, Eric Plank and George Smith, who lost their lives in the war were named on the memorial; a further seven names, including that of Leonie Woodfield (1918-42) who died during her service in the NZ Women's Auxiliary Air Force, were added after World War II. The memorial was damaged in the September 2010-11 Canterbury earthquakes and was subsequently deconstructed and rebuilt in concrete and brick veneer in late 2014. It was rededicated on ANZAC Day 2015 and remains the focus for local ANZAC Day commemorations.

HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

The West Eyreton War Memorial has historic and social significance for its association with the local commemoration of World War I and II and, more generally, the proliferation of ornamental war memorials that were erected throughout New Zealand in the 1920s. It is directly connected to the people, and their families, whose names are inscribed upon the monument.

CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The West Eyreton War 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 West Eyreton War Memorial has aesthetic value as a simplified form of the triumphal arch that was popular, often in tandem with entrance gates, for memorials around New Zealand after World War I. The designer of the memorial is currently unknown.

TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE

The West Eyreton War Memorial has craftsmanship value for the quality of its brick construction and detailing. The arch was rebuilt using the original bricks by CYB Construction and Peter Dunn, a Rangiora stonemason, in 2014.

CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The West Eyreton War Memorial has contextual significance as a local landmark and for its relationship with the West Eyreton Hall in which are kept the Honour Rolls for the district.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

Although the memorial post-dates 1900, its site may have potential archaeological significance relating to its earlier use and development. The hall, which was enlarged in the 1980s, appears to date to c.1898.

SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The West Eyreton War Memorial has overall heritage significance to West Eyreton and the district of Waimakariri. The memorial has historical and social significance for its association with the local men and women who undertook war service and cultural significance given its commemorative purpose. The West Eyreton War Memorial has aesthetic value as a simplified triumphal arch and craftsmanship value for the quality of brick construction and detailing. The West Eyreton War Memorial has contextual significance as a local landmark and for its

relationship with the West Eyreton Hall; its site may have potential archaeological value relating to its pre-1900 use and development.

HERITAGE CATEGORY

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REFERENCES

- *Press* 30 May 1922, p. 1; 3 June 1922, p. 8; 5 June 1922, p. 5; 6 June 1922, p. 6; 31 October 2014, p. A4.
- *North Canterbury Gazette* 7 May 1935, p. 3.
- *Lyttelton Times* 12 September 1898, p. 5.
- *Poverty Bay Herald* 6 June 1922, p. 7.
- *Northern Outlook* 1 November 2014 & 21 March 2015 (available online).
- <https://nzhistory.govt.nz/media/photo/west-eyreton-war-memorial>
- J Phillips & C Maclean *The Sorrow and the Pride – New Zealand War Memorials* Wellington, 1990.
- Online Cenotaph, Auckland War Memorial Museum.
- *Cyclopedia of New Zealand - Canterbury Provincial District* Christchurch, 1903 (available online).

REPORT COMPLETED

7 February 2019

AUTHOR

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Extent of setting, 2 Earlys Road, West Eyreton.