

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

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**2021 District Plan Item No.**

**HH011**

**HERITAGE ITEM NAME**

Coronation Gates, South African War Memorial Sundial & Band Rotunda

**ADDRESS**

Victoria Park, 123-129 Percival Street, Rangiora

**PHOTOGRAPH**



(Dr A McEwan, 11 October 2018)

**DISTRICT PLAN ITEM NO.**  
(at time of assessment)

H048

**HNZ LIST No. & CATEGORY**

3765 / 2

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

Lot 6 DP 12852, Lots 88-91 & Pt Lot 87 DP 1691

**VALUATION NUMBER**

2166107200

**DATE OF CONSTRUCTION**

1902 + 1906

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/  
BUILDER**

William Wadey, builder (gates); Thomas Keir, designer; Messrs Wadey & Efford, builders (band rotunda)

**STYLE**

Ornamental gates, horizontal sundial, rotunda

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION**

Ornamental gates with central vehicle entry and pedestrian side gates. Gate posts with decorative toppers, curved double picket fences framing gates. Stone plinth mounted on stepped concrete base supports horizontal sundial with ornamental gnomon. Single-storey octagonal pavilion with circular footprint and single flight of steps. X-pattern balustrading, cast iron lacework frieze and veranda brackets, decorative finial atop roof.

**MATERIALS/STRUCTURE**

Timber; stone, concrete & metal; timber, corrugated metal, cast iron, concrete.

**ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS**

Rotunda lit by gas (May 1907). Conversion of lamp to sundial and relocation within park (date unknown).

**SETTING**

The three historic items are centrally located within Victoria Park and arranged in a line running perpendicular to Percival Street. The park is bordered to the east by Percival Street and to the south by Queen Street. The town centre is to the north of the park, with the civic centre located over the northern boundary. The scheduled setting is the land parcel as a whole in view of the relationship of the entrance gates, sundial and band rotunda to one another and to the overall park setting.

## **HISTORY**

Victoria Square (later Park) was developed by the Rangiora Borough Council in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century to mark the diamond jubilee of Queen Victoria in 1897. The council had resolved to raise a loan to purchase land for a public park and swimming baths in May 1897, but delays caused by the process of land acquisition from the Percival estate meant that the baths were postponed and the park was not developed until 1902. Entrance gates and a lamp in honour of the coronation of Edward VII were erected in that year and a band rotunda within the park was officially opened on 24 January 1907. The coronation lamp was inscribed with the names of Sergeant Harry Rule (died 1901) and Trooper James Sansom (1870-1900), who died serving in the South African War; it was later converted in to a sundial and installed within the grounds of the park. The Rangiora Brass Band (est. 1865) performed at the opening of the rotunda, which had been designed by borough councillor Thomas Keir. Victoria Park is still the town's principal urban park.

## **HISTORIC AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The Coronation Gates, South African War Memorial Sundial & Band Rotunda have high historic and social significance for their association with the town's history of civic improvements, local efforts to commemorate Queen Victoria's jubilee and the coronation of Edward VII, and the Rangiora Brass Band. The sundial has added historic significance as the only South African war memorial in Waimakariri district.

## **CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The Coronation Gates, South African War Memorial Sundial & Band Rotunda have cultural significance as historic features within place of community identity and historic continuity. Both the gates and sundial have commemorative value, as does the park as a whole in relation to the jubilee of Queen Victoria.

## **ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE**

The Rangiora Band Rotunda has architectural and aesthetic significance as the design of local contractor and politician Thomas Keir. Keir (1837-1910) was born in Scotland and emigrated to New Zealand in 1864. After two years working as a carpenter in Christchurch he settled in Rangiora, where he was a builder and contractor in partnership with Hugh Boyd for some 40 years. When Keir designed the Rangiora band rotunda he was a councillor of the Rangiora Borough Council, having served as Mayor in 1896-97 and 1905-6. The Kaiapoi Band Rotunda (heritage item H011) was erected to the same design in 1908. The Coronation Gates and South African War Memorial Sundial have aesthetic value as Edwardian garden 'furniture' that is typical of the period. The designer of both items is currently unknown.

## **TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE**

The Rangiora Band Rotunda has craftsmanship value for its construction and detailing by local builders Wadey and Efford. The firm was also responsible for erecting the Catholic convent in Rangiora in 1907. William Wadey (c.1852-1904) also constructed the coronation gates; the maker of the lamp stand, from which the sundial was created, is currently unknown.

## **CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The Coronation Gates, South African War Memorial Sundial & Band Rotunda have high contextual significance as interrelated historic features within Rangiora's principal urban park. The axial alignment of the entrance gates, sundial and rotunda enhances the relationship between all three historic features; the rotunda is also related, by virtue of its age and design history, to the Kaiapoi Band Rotunda (heritage item H011).

### **ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE**

Although Victoria Park was developed in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century its site may have potential archaeological values arising from its earlier use and development. The land on which the park was developed was previously held by Sir Westby Percival (aka Perceval, 1854-1928), whose family had settled at Rangiora in the early 1860s and who became an MP and agent general for New Zealand in London. Percival left New Zealand in late 1891 and only returned for a single visit one, in 1901. In that year he placed on the market a number of town sections in Rangiora (see DP 1691 dated May 1901), including those on which Victoria Park was soon to be developed.

### **SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE**

The Coronation Gates, South African War Memorial Sundial & Band Rotunda have high overall heritage significance to Rangiora and to the district of Waimakariri as a whole. The gates, sundial and rotunda have high historical and social significance for their association with the town's history of civic improvements and the gates and sundial have cultural significance as commemorative features within a place of community identity and historic continuity. The Rangiora Band Rotunda has architectural and aesthetic significance for its design by Thomas Keir and craftsmanship value for the quality of its construction and detailing by a local building firm. The gates and sundial have aesthetic and craftsmanship values as typical Edwardian garden furniture. The Coronation Gates, South African War Memorial Sundial & Band Rotunda have high contextual significance as historic features with an important civic space and the rotunda has added significance for its relationship with the Kaiapoi Band Rotunda, which copied its design.

### **HERITAGE CATEGORY**

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### **REFERENCES**

- *Press* 31 May 1897, p. 6; 8 March 1902, p. 9; 2 April 1902, p. 4; 26 May 1902, p. 7; 23 June 1902, p. 5; 7 December 1904, p. 7; 26 January 1907, p. 10; 3 May 1907, p. 10.
- *Lyttelton Times* 21 June 1902, p. 8; 24 June 1902, p. 7; 18 August 1902, p. 6; 25 August 1902, p. 4; 15 September 1902, p. 3; 8 December 1902, p. 6.
- *Star* 23 August 1902, p. 5; 9 September 1905, p. 3; 9 August 1917, p. 6.
- *North Canterbury Gazette* 12 March 1935, p. 4.
- *Northern Outlook* 15 November 2000, np.
- <http://www.heritage.org.nz/the-list/details/3765>
- DN Hawkins *Rangiora: the passing years and people in a Canterbury country town* Rangiora, 1993.
- *Cyclopedia of New Zealand – Canterbury Provincial District* Christchurch, 1903 (available online).
- <https://libraries.waimakariri.govt.nz/heritage/local-history/places-of-the-waimakariri/rangiora/history-of-victoria-park-band-rotunda-and-domain-gates>
- <https://landmarks.waimakariri.govt.nz/rangiora-heritage/victoria-park-band-rotunda>
- 'The history of the reserves and parks of Rangiora' (undated); <http://www.rangiorahockey.co.nz/club-history.html>
- <https://teara.govt.nz/en/biographies/2p10/perceval-westby-brook>
- <https://nzhistory.govt.nz/media/photo/rangiora-south-african-war-memorial>
- Online Cenotaph, Auckland War Memorial Museum.

**REPORT COMPLETED**

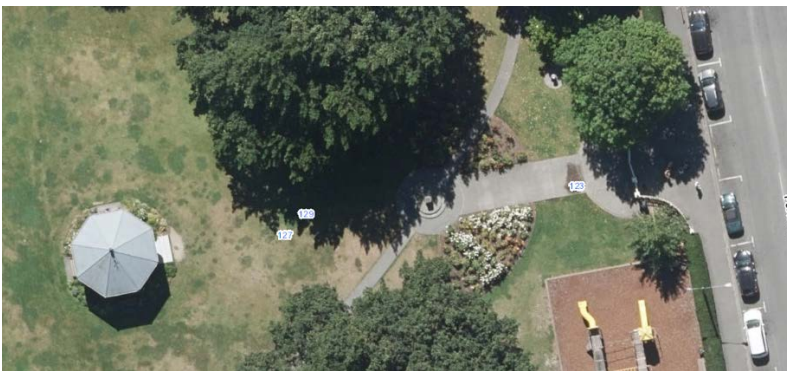
8 February 2019

**AUTHOR**

Dr Ann McEwan / Heritage Consultancy Services



Extent of scheduling, rotunda is marked by pin, 123-129 Percival Street, Rangiora.



Detail of park aerial showing (left to right) the band rotunda, sundial centred on the path within the garden beds, and the outline of the curved approach to the entrance gates.



Band rotunda, gates and lamp. Kete Waimakariri, Rangiora Museum.