

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

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**2021 District Plan Item No.** HH074  
**HERITAGE ITEM NAME** Cust War Memorial  
**ADDRESS** 2 Mill Road, Cust  
**PHOTOGRAPH**



(Dr A McEwan, 10 July 2019)

**DISTRICT PLAN ITEM NO.** H091      **HNZ LIST No. & CATEGORY** n / a  
(at time of assessment)

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION** Lot 3 DP 38440

**VALUATION NUMBER** 2158017501

**DATE OF CONSTRUCTION** 1922

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/  
BUILDER** GW Parsons, monumental mason

**STYLE** Obelisk

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION**

Obelisk with square cross-section is mounted on a stepped base and surmounted by a column and funerary urn. Memorial inscriptions and plaques on south-face.

**MATERIALS/STRUCTURE**

Granite, concrete, river stones & pipe railing.

**ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS**

Addition of further names and plaques around base commemorating service in World War II and other conflicts and rededication of memorial in 2013 (c. 1998 / 2013). Post-EQ reconstruction (c.2012, Kevin Stringer, stonemason).

**SETTING**

The war memorial is situated on a triangular parcel of land bounded by Cust Road to the south and Mill Road to the north-east. A stone chip forecourt is bounded by a pillar and rail fence set on a base of random rubble river stones. The western boundary of the plot is bounded by an unformed road. The extent of setting is the land parcel on which the memorial is located and it includes the post and rail fencing and the field gun mounted beside the memorial.

## **HISTORY**

When the Cust Roll of Honour was unveiled in July 1920 plans for a memorial obelisk were already well advanced. The Cust War Memorial was duly unveiled on 30 April 1922 by Colonel R Young, Commanding Officer of the Canterbury Military District. It was positioned to overlook the railway station and shared the site with a German field gun until it was scrapped for metal in 1941. A Howitzer gun, which had been used by the New Zealand army during the Vietnam war, was installed beside the memorial in 1998. The memorial was toppled in the September 2010 Canterbury earthquake and subsequently reconstructed. It was rededicated on ANZAC Day 2013 and remains the focus for local ANZAC Day commemorations.

## **HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The Cust 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 Cust 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 Cust War Memorial has aesthetic value as a conventional obelisk bearing a classical column and funerary urn.

## **TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE**

The Cust War Memorial has craftsmanship value for the quality of its stone construction and classical detailing. The original contractor for the memorial was GW Parsons of Christchurch, who was also responsible for the North Loburn Soldiers' Memorial (1919) and the Temuka War Memorial (1922).

## **CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The Cust War Memorial has contextual significance as a local landmark and for its relationship with a number of other features on the site, including the Howitzer gun, a memorial tree, which was planted in 1995 to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War II, and a seat and flagpole installed in 2016.

## **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. The site is believed to have been previously occupied by the local Road Board office.

## **SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE**

The Cust War Memorial has overall heritage significance to Cust and the district of Waimakariri. The memorial has historical and social significance for its association with the local men who served in foreign wars and cultural significance given its commemorative purpose. The Cust War Memorial has aesthetic value as a conventional classical obelisk and craftsmanship value for the quality of its stone construction and classical detailing. The Cust War Memorial has contextual significance as a landmark within the village streetscape.

## HERITAGE CATEGORY

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## REFERENCES

- *Press* 21 March 1919, p. 7; 10 July 1920, p. 5; 24 July 1920, p. 3; 30 November 1920, p. 3; 1 May 1922, p. 13; 15 May 1922, p. 5; 28 April 1932, p. 3; 28 April 1936, p. 4; 27 April 1939, p. 7; 27 April 1998, p. 4; 31 October 2014 (available online).
- *Temuka Leader* 18 May 1922, p. 2.
- *Lyttleton Times* 23 September 1908, p. 16.
- J Phillips & C Maclean *The Sorrow and the Pride – New Zealand War Memorials* Wellington, 1990.
- <https://nzhistory.govt.nz/media/photo/cust-war-memorial>
- <http://ketechristchurch.peoplesnetworknz.info/en/site/topics/show/2092-monumental-stonemasons-who-worked-in-linwood-cemetery#.XFiwraeB1EJ>

REPORT COMPLETED

5 February 2019

AUTHOR

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Extent of setting, 2 Mill Road, Cust.