

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

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**2021 District Plan Item No.** HH067  
**HERITAGE ITEM NAME** Rangiora Soldiers' Memorial  
**ADDRESS** Kippenberger War Memorial Reserve, 55 High Street,  
Rangiora

**PHOTOGRAPH**



(Dr A McEwan, 9 July 2019)

**DISTRICT PLAN ITEM NO.** H080      **HNZ LIST No. & CATEGORY** 3789 / 2  
(at time of assessment)

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION** Lot 1 DP 476581

**VALUATION NUMBER** 2166102201

**DATE OF CONSTRUCTION** 1923-24

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/  
BUILDER** Victor Hean, designer

**STYLE** Obelisk

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION**

Obelisk with rectangular cross-section is mounted on a stepped base. Memorial panels are inset on the north, east and west faces; north-facing panel has pedimented frame with carved wreath above. Classically detailed cornice.

**MATERIALS/STRUCTURE**

Ashlar Sydney sandstone, blue & Aberdeen granite.

**ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS**

Addition of plaques around base commemorating service in World War II (post-1945). Forecourt redevelopment (2014). Name of Lance Corporal Jacinda Baker inscribed on memorial (2016).

**SETTING**

The war memorial is set within a paved forecourt which is bounded by High Street to the north and Ivory Street to the east. The backdrop of the memorial is the former Northern A & P Association building (heritage item H076). The extent of setting is the land parcel on which the memorial is located.

## **HISTORY**

Discussions about a soldiers' memorial for Rangiora were under way by early 1919 and it was announced in March of that year that local farmer Charles Leech (c.1859-1941) had gifted a central Rangiora site for the memorial. It was not until mid-1924 however that the Rangiora Soldiers' Memorial was erected. The official unveiling by Governor-General Viscount Jellicoe took place on 13 August 1924 and the memorial was dedicated to the soldiers of both the borough and the county. The memorial was jointly funded by both local councils as well as by public subscription and it remains the focus for local ANZAC Day commemorations.

## **HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The Rangiora Soldiers' 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. The memorial is also associated, by virtue of the name of the reserve in which it is located, with Major General Sir Howard Kippenberger (1897-1957), a distinguished World War II commander who was a Rangiora lawyer and borough councillor before the war.

## **CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The Rangiora 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 Rangiora Soldiers' Memorial has architectural significance as an example of the classically-inspired work of Christchurch architect Victor Hean. Hean (1901-79) submitted the design chosen for the Rangiora memorial at a time when he was still training to become an architect. He completed that training in 1927 and was registered as an architect two years later. Hean worked for Christchurch City Council from 1925 until the late 1930s, during which time he was responsible for the Women's Rest Rooms in Cathedral Square (1932) and the MED building in Manchester Street (1939), both now demolished, as well as the Edmonds' Band Rotunda (1929, deconstructed). He later worked for the Public Works Department in Christchurch, was chair of the Canterbury branch of the NZ Institute of Architects and was made a life member of the NZIA in 1966.

## **TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE**

The Rangiora Soldiers' Memorial has craftsmanship significance for the quality of its stone construction and classical detailing. The contractor for the memorial is currently unknown.

## **CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The Rangiora Soldiers' Memorial has contextual significance as a local landmark within the Rangiora town centre and in relation to the former Northern A & P Association building (heritage item H076), the site of which was also gifted by Charles Leech.

## **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. Survey plan A.9034, which is dated February 1900, appears to show that the site was occupied prior to the erection of the memorial. It is noted, however, that the memorial reserve was substantially redeveloped in 2014.

## SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The Rangiora Soldiers' Memorial has overall heritage significance to Rangiora and the district of Waimakariri. The memorial has historical and social significance for its association with the local men who died serving in foreign wars and cultural significance given its commemorative purpose. The Rangiora Soldiers' Memorial has architectural significance for its design by 22-year-old Victor Hean before he launched his architectural career and craftsmanship significance for the quality of its stone construction and classical detailing. The Rangiora Soldiers' Memorial has contextual significance as a landmark within the Rangiora town centre.

## HERITAGE CATEGORY

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## REFERENCES

- *Press* 28 March 1923, p. 14; 14 July 1923, p. 3; 10 December 1923, p. 3; 23 April 1924, p. 1; 2 July 1924, p. 10; 8 July 1924, p. 11; 16 July 1924, p. 6; 17 July 1924, p. 10; 11 August 1924, p. 3; 13 August 1924, p. 8; 8 September 1941, p. 6; 19 August 2016 (available online).
- *Star* 20 March 1919, p. 4; 13 August 1924, p. 4.
- *Ashburton Guardian* 21 May 1919, p. 7.
- *The News* 19 November 2015, p. 15.
- *Otago Daily Times* 15 April 1948, p. 6.
- <http://www.heritage.org.nz/the-list/details/3789>
- <https://nzhistory.govt.nz/media/photo/rangiora-cenotaph>
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- <https://teara.govt.nz/en/biographies/5k11/kippenberger-howard-karl>
- <http://christchurchcitylibraries.com/Heritage/Publications/ChristchurchCityCouncil/ArchitecturalHeritage/PavilionsTemplesFourSquareWalls/1877313092.pdf>

**REPORT COMPLETED**

4 February 2019

**AUTHOR**

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Extent of setting, Kippenberger War Memorial Reserve, 55 High Street, Rangiora.