

FEILDING WAR MEMORIAL – Manchester Square, Feilding



Architect: Not known

Construction date: 1923

Visible materials: Basalt steps and plinth, grey granite pedestal, marble angel statue, yew hedge, brick edging to flower garden, black granite and bronze plaques

Architectural style: Stone masonry pedestal with angel

Use/building type: War memorial

Date and Compiler: Ian Bowman, 2016

Heritage New Zealand listing: Category 2

Proposed category: B

PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL HISTORY¹

Outline history

“A conference of delegates from the outlying counties and other interested parties met on June 27 1919 and decided they would not have a combined memorial in Feilding”. Many ideas were canvassed as to what an appropriate memorial would be. The unveiling ceremony was held on Wednesday 3 October 1923 with Governor General Viscount Jellicoe unveiling the memorial and laying a wreath. The Mayor and Major W. H. Mclean MC gave speeches.

ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN

The memorial has a basalt plinth with four steps on the west side, leading to a square, stepped, granite pedestal on a rough-hewn granite pedestal. Above the cornice of the pedestal is a curved cap on which is the white marble female figure, possibly an angel, with wings and a sword. Angels were seen

¹ Olsen, P., Doyle, J., *Communities Remember World War One*, 2014

as representing God or as the protector of the living and dead while female figures represented victory of motherhood. Bronze plaques have been added since the original construction. These include:

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- the 50th anniversary of VE Day on 9 May 1995;
- the 50th anniversary of VJ day on 15 August 1995;
- a memorial to those who served in Korea, Malaya, Borneo, Vietnam and United Nations peace keeping operations;
- a memorial to Lt. T.A. O'Donnell DSD, who died in Afghanistan on 3 August 2010

A yew hedge surrounds the plinth, which has brick edging. The yew is symbolic of immortality.

About one third of all WWI memorials were based on the obelisk design, while gates and arches were the next most common. Fewer memorials included marble human figures, while domed cupolas and crosses were rare².

The memorial is located at the centre of the north-east quadrant of Feilding's Square. Brick paths cut across the large grassed quadrant to the memorial and rose beds surrounding it. The Boer War memorial is to the north and the clock tower on a central traffic island of the Square is to its west.

REVIEW OF REPORT

Based on a review of the report and viewing of Council files, the assessment undertaken in 2016 for this building is still applicable as at April 2021.

SUMMARY OF HERITAGE VALUES

The war memorial has **low** to **high local** significance for **architectural, technological, rarity, representativeness, group, authenticity, people, event, pattern, cultural, public esteem, commemorative** and **education** values.

The memorial has **moderate representativeness, rarity, architectural** and **technological** values but **high group** values being illustrative in general design and use of materials of the many structures erected as war memorials throughout New Zealand. The design follows the less common form of memorial with an ornate marble statue of an angel or woman with a sword at the top of the column, representing victory, motherhood or the protector of the living and dead. Granite and basalt were coming materials for the shafts of these memorials.

The memorial appears to have **high** levels of **authenticity** with the minor modifications of the addition of small plaques.

The memorial has **high historic people, event, pattern** and **cultural identity, public esteem, commemorative** and **education** values as a war memorial commemorating those who died in World War 1 with subsequent plaques added commemorating later wars and peace keeping activities.

SOURCES

Former NZHPT Manawatu Branch Committee files

² <http://www.teara.govt.nz/en/memorials-and-monuments/page-4>

Paperspast

Te Ara Encyclopaedia of New Zealand, online

Olsen, Peter, Doyle, Janet, *Communities Remember World War One, Memorials of the Manawatu District*, Janet Doyle, Feilding, 2015