



War Memorial Arch, Princes Street

1924

<b>Use</b>	Commemoration	<b>Historic Value</b>	5 out of 5
<b>Materials</b>	Reinforced concrete, plaster, stone	<b>Architectural Value</b>	4 out of 4
<b>NZHPT Registered</b>	Category II Register Number 5423	<b>Technical Value</b>	1 out of 2
<b>Valuation No</b>		<b>Symbolic Value</b>	3 out of 3
<b>Legal Description</b>		<b>Rarity</b>	1 out of 2
		<b>Townscape Value</b>	1 out of 2
		<b>Group Value</b>	1 out of 2
<b>Map Reference</b>	PE8	<b>Overall Cultural Heritage Value</b>	16 out of 20

**Description**

The War Memorial Arch was called on the architectural drawings the Hawera District Peace Memorial. It is a grand triumphal arch, constructed in concrete, plaster and three types of stone -granite base, Oamaru limestone for the general structure with small columns of Takaka Marble. It is a traditional classical design, with tall Ionic columns supporting a heavy entablature, with an arched opening between supported by small Ionic marble columns. The main marble commemorative plaque is held high over the arched opening, while lower down between the columns are a number of plaques commemorating those who died in later wars, principally the Second World War.

**History**

The Hawera Peace Memorial Committee sought permission from Council on 9 September 1919 to erect a War Memorial on the Princes Street site. This was designed by Duffill and Gibson in 1922 and erected during 1923/24; it was opened on 11 June 1924 by the Prime Minister the Right Honourable W F Massey. (Both Duffill and Gibson had relatives who served in WW I and Duffill had a son who served in WW II.) The dates on either side of the arch originally read 1914 on one side and 1918 on the other; after World War II this was changed to 1914-1918 on one side and 1939-1945 on the other. The memorial has been the main focus of commemoration of those who served in all wars in which New Zealand has fought.

**Architect**

Duffill and Gibson, Hawera, drawings dated December 1922

**Builder**

Warpole and Patterson

**Statement of Significance**

The historical and symbolic value of this memorial cannot be over-emphasised, since it commemorates all those who have served, and particularly those who have died, while fighting in all wars in which New Zealand has played a part. The structure is also a fine piece of classical design, using New Zealand building stones. The structure is impressive in the townscape, forming an edge to Princes Street and closing the view along Napier Street, while also being a formal entrance to the District Council building.

**Sources**

Conversation with Dave Robinson, a past partner in the Duffill and Gibson firm.

**Date**

June 1997

## Inscriptions

The following inscriptions are on the Memorial.

"In grateful remembrance of our heroes who died and thanksgiving for those who returned".

"This memorial was erected by voluntary subscriptions of the residents of Hawera and District and was unveiled 11th June 1924 by the Prime Minister the Right Honourable W F Massey PCLLD."

"Vietnam 1964-1972"

"Malaya-Malaysia Borneo 1955-1966"

"VJ Day 15th August 1995

The 50th Anniversary of the end of World War II 1939-1945. In tribute to all who served New Zealand overseas and at home throughout those years and in memory of those who have laid down their lives."

"Korea 1950-1954"

"2 NZEF (Japan) 1946-1948"

"This plaque was dedicated on the 9th May 1995 by the South Taranaki RSA to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the cessation of hostilities in Europe. VE Day. Lest we forget."