



Fountain, 37 Hunter Street

1904

Use	Fountain	Historic Value	3 out of 5
Materials		Architectural Value	2 out of 4
		Technical Value	1 out of 2
NZHPT Registered	Category II Register Number 849	Symbolic Value	1 out of 3
Valuation No	12321-365-00	Rarity	1 out of 2
Legal Description	Lots 36-38 DP 2100, Lots 58 DP 3683, Pt Lot 1 DP 10880	Townscape Value	1 out of 2
		Group Value	- out of 2
Reference	Hu2	Overall Cultural Heritage Value	9 out of 20

Description

The Fountain appears to be construction of hollow metal, probably cast bronze, and sits on top of a concrete base. Four spouting fish encircle the main stem of the fountain; this supports a broad dish encircled by eight lion heads, and the whole extravagant composition is surmounted by a curly-haired cupid.

The plaque in front of the fountain reads:

“TO THE MEMORY OF
LAWRENCE MILMOE ESQ
BY WHOSE GENEROSITY
THE WEST WING, THE NURSE’S
HOME, AND THIS FOUNTAIN
WERE ERECTED 1903.
RE-ERECTED 1930
RE-ERECTED 2002”

History

The fountain was purchased by the Hawera Beautifying Society from the Milmoie bequest money at a cost of £120. It was unveiled in the presence of Richard John Seddon in February 1904 at the old hospital site in Gladstone Street.

The fountain was later moved to the now former hospital site. The fountain has now been placed in front of the new hospital also located on Hunter Street.

Architect

Not known.

Builder

Not known.

Statement of Significance

The Fountain commemorates an important benefactor of the town, Lawrence Milmoie, and it is very appropriate that it has been moved twice in response to changing circumstances and his memory kept alive. It is a wonderful piece of Baroque design, artistically interesting, and technically so too for the fine casting techniques evident in its various parts. It makes an intriguing counterpoint to the modern hospital building it stands outside (is there a benefactor today who might arrange to see the fountain functioning again?).

Sources

Arthur Fryer, Hawera Central Heritage Working Party
New Zealand Historic Places Trust Register

Date

June 2003.