



Hitching Post, Grey Street **c.1910?**

Use	Hitching Post for Horses	Historic Value	4 out of 5
Materials	Timber	Architectural Value	- out of 4
NZHPT Registered	Not registered	Technical Value	1 out of 2
Valuation No		Symbolic Value	1 out of 3
Legal Description	Road Reserve	Rarity	2 out of 2
		Townscape Value	- out of 2
		Group Value	- out of 2
		Overall Cultural Heritage Value	8 out of 20
Map Reference	G1		

Description

The hitching post is a hardwood timber post, set in the ground, with a domed top and stop chamfers to each corner. It has an ingenious system for holding the reins of horses, two slots cut in the top down to horizontal holes drilled through the post.

History

The age of the post is not known, but it clearly dates from the era of horses and horse drawn traffic. It would therefore date from before World War I and quite possibly from the 19th century. Such hitching posts, or sometimes rings or rails, were common in the town outside business premises and places such as the Post Office and Public Library.

Designer

Not known.

Builder

Not known.

Statement of Significance

The hitching post is a poignant reminder of the days when horses were a common means of travel. Hitching posts or rails were once common sights, not only in Hawera but in towns throughout New Zealand, from the time of European settlement until the advent of the motor car. Such objects are now very rare; in addition, this particular post is of unusual design and may be unique for this reason.

Sources

Hawera Star (January 1997) Arthur Fryer

Date

June 1997