



Doctor Harrison's Taumata Park Entrance Gates, Park Street 1918

Use	Gateway	Historic Value	2 out of 5
Materials	Gates - iron	Architectural Value	1 out of 4
	Pillars – stone, concrete	Technical Value	- out of 2
NZHPT Registered	Not registered	Symbolic Value	- out of 3
Valuation No	12200-039-00	Rarity	- out of 2
Legal Description	Lot 1 DP 1360	Townscape Value	1 out of 2
		Group Value	- out of 2
		Overall Cultural Heritage Value	4 out of 20
Reference	P1		

Description

The iron gates at the entrance to Taumata Park are set in two stone pillars. There is a ticket box to the lefthand side. The present iron gates were installed to replace the original gates which were badly rusted.

The plaques in the pillars on either side of the gates state "George Alfred Harrison MRCS. 23rd February 1913 Landon LRCR."

History

The gates at Taumata Park were erected in September 1918 in memory of Dr George Alfred Harrison, Eltham's first resident doctor. Dr Harrison came to Eltham in 1894. His private hospital was on the southern side of King Edward Street almost opposite Bath Street. His original house surgery was on High Street north of the current Eltham Library.

Dr Harrison died on 23 February 1913 from blood poisoning caused by a prick to the thumb. His death was met with open grief in the community, as he administered his practice beyond the reasonable call of duty. He was held in such affection by the citizens of the district that they erected the Memorial Gates on the Park Street entrance to Taumata Park. His private hospital was demolished in 1959 and newspapers found stuck on the walls dated back to the 1900s.

Architect

George S Papps

Builder

George S Papps

Sources

Eltham Argus

Andrews H (1959), *History of Eltham, New Zealand*

Roma Jenkins, Eltham Historical Society

Date

January 2000