



Rahotu Memorial Gates, Main South Road, Rahotu 1920

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|--------------------------|--|--|--------------------|
| Use | School Gates | Historic Value | 2 out of 5 |
| Materials | Stones, concrete | Architectural Value | 2 out of 4 |
| | | Technical Value | 1 out of 2 |
| NZHPT Registered | Category II Register Number 823 | Symbolic Value | 2 out of 3 |
| Valuation No | 11930-002-00 A/B | Rarity | - out of 2 |
| Legal Description | Secs 2, 5 & 53 Rahotu Village BLK I Opunake | Townscape Value | 1 out of 2 |
| | | Group Value | - out of 2 |
| | | Overall Cultural Heritage Value | 8 out of 20 |
| Reference | Su10 | | |

Description

The Rahotu School Memorial Gates are a fine masonry archway. A large red and gold crown donated by Mr W R Wright, the Chairman of the War Memorial Committee, sits in the centre over the arched opening. Stones are used in the archway with smaller pebbles forming the words (in capitals): "1914-1918" "Their names shall live".

History

The Rahotu Soldiers Memorial Committee was formed in 1922 for the purpose of erecting a memorial. After several types of memorials were studied it was decided to erect an arch over the school gates. Subscriptions were raised to pay for the archway and functions were also held in the district to raise funds. The crown donated by Mr W R Wright was not part of the architect's plans for the arch, but adorns a place atop of the archway.

The Memorial Gates were constructed in 1920 and unveiled on Sunday 26 November 1922 at 1.30pm by Archdeacon F G Evans. The total cost of the memorial was £277/5/0 including the architect's fee and the unveiling ceremony.

Centrally placed above archway of the gates are the words: "1914-1918 Their names shall live". Two plaques are mounted on either side of the gateway. The plaque to the left reads: "2 NZET Japan 1946-48 Malaya, Malaysia, Borneo 1955-66". The plaque to the right reads: "Korea 1950-54 Vietnam 1964-72". There are also two large plaques on either side of the gateway pillars which read: "1914-18" (followed by names), then "1939-45" (followed by names).

A new gateway entrance for the school has been built recently.

Architect

Mr W N Stephenson supervised by Mr C H Moore, Education Board Architect.

Builder

Mr G Robinson

Sources

I P Stevenson, Opunake Heritage Working Party
Dwyer N and Morgan R (1984), *Rahotu School and District 1884-1984*

Date

January 2000