



Bird Road School Memorial

Bird Road

1921

Use:	Memorial	Historic Value:	3 out of 5
Materials:	Concrete and stone	Architectural Value:	2 out of 4
NZHPT Registered:	Not registered	Technical Value:	1 out of 2
Legal Description:	-	Symbolic Value:	3 out of 3
		Rarity Value:	1 out of 2
		Townscape Value:	1 out of 2
		Group Value:	- out of 2
		Overall Heritage Value:	11 out of 20



It was quite common for schools, after the two World Wars, to erect monuments to those who had fought in them from their districts. It is recognised that this was most prolific in major boy's secondary schools, but it also occurred reasonably frequently at smaller local schools. Locals found it important to acknowledge the service, and the unfortunate deaths, of people who fought for their country. The memorials also served as useful inspirations to the younger generation.



The Bird Road School War Memorial was erected in the school grounds and unveiled during a ceremony in 1921. The names of all servicemen who had left the area to serve overseas were engraved on it. Sadly, two men were killed in action and another one died of sickness. A memorial to those serving in World War II was realised in the erection of the *Skinner Road Memorial Hall*.

Unfortunately, the Bird Road School was closed in July 1997, and discussions began in 1998 for the relocation of the Memorial. It was decided to move it to the road reserve outside the school field, which is where it is now, easily accessible and viewable to the public. It has changed slightly as the two large concrete posts it was erected on (*see photo on left*) were cut down in the move, so it is now almost at ground level.

Bibliography:

Bird Road School Centennial: 1888-1988, History of District: 1880-1988
Council Records