

WAIKATO DISTRICT COUNCIL
HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM

HERITAGE ITEM NAME Whitikahu Hall and McCallum memorial gates

ADDRESS 735 Whitikahu Road, Whitikahu

PHOTOGRAPH



[8 March 2020]

DISTRICT PLAN ITEM NO. xx **HNZ LIST NO. & CATEGORY** N/A

LEGAL DESCRIPTION Part Lot 1 DP 24406

FILE NUMBERS 04410/427.00

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION 1938 + 1948

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/
BUILDER** Messrs D & Aikin, Bennett, Best, Cato, Nobby & PH Clark,
Nalder, Nicholson & Walker, builders (hall)

STYLE Vernacular

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION & SIGNIFICANT FEATURES

Single-storey building with a rectangular footprint, gabled roof, with half-hipped ends, and lean-to on north side. Recessed entrance porch with signboard above, giving name and date of the hall. South side has doors opening off a deck that provides access to the tennis courts. Casement type fenestration. Entrance gates to tennis courts are at right angles to roadway and extend from north-east corner of the building. Gate piers are set with commemorative tablets (2) and topped by pergola-style beams; gates framed by textured walls and secondary piers.

MATERIALS/STRUCTURE

Timber framing and lapped weatherboard cladding (vertical and horizontal), corrugated steel roofing. Concrete block and wrought iron.

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS

Lean-to addition to hall (1962).

SURROUNDINGS, CONTRIBUTION TO CONTEXT & EXTENT OF SCHEDULING

The hall stands on the west side of Whitikahu Road, to the south of the Whitikahu School. Three tennis courts are located on the south side of the property and a memorial gateway provides access to them from close by the front entrance to the hall. The hall and courts are close to the road boundary and a parking lot is on the north side of the hall. The extent of scheduling is limited to the land parcel on which the hall and memorial gates stand, notwithstanding the association the tennis courts on the adjacent parcel have with the hall and gates.

HISTORY OF SITE/STRUCTURE/PLACE/AREA

After five years of community fundraising, the Whitikahu Hall was built in 1938; approximately 300 people were in attendance at its official opening by Robert Coulter MP on 26 April of that year. Previously community events were held at either the school, Grey's barn, the Tenfoot Hall (aka Netherby, opened 1927), or a building at the local quarry. The land was given by local farmer Richard (Rex) McCallum, in whose memory the tennis court gates were later erected (unveiled 25 November 1948). The Whitikahu Tennis Club was established in 1930 and initially played on a court at the school; courts beside the hall were laid in the late 1940s. A Roll of Honour was installed in the hall in 1946; it lists the local men who served in both world wars. The Whitikahu Hall incorporated society was dissolved in 1992; the hall having been the responsibility of the Waikato County (later District) Council since 1983. Today, the hall has a capacity of c.120 people and hosts a karate club and school concerts as well as being used as the clubrooms of the Whitikahu Tennis Club during the playing season. As one of the Waikato district's community halls the building is also available for hire as a private function venue.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE

As the hall post-dates 1900, the potential archaeological significance of the site would relate to any prior use or occupation of the land.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Whitikahu Hall has architectural value as a conventional vernacular hall which was built for function, rather than ornament. The hall has some landmark qualities in view of its proximity to the roadway and association with the tennis courts, which are entered via the vernacular style McCallum memorial gates. The designers of the hall and gates are currently unknown.

CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Whitikahu Hall and McCallum memorial gates have cultural significance as a markers of community identity and historic continuity. Although not built as such, the hall is said to be regarded by local people as a war memorial; the Roll of Honour inside the hall and the McCallum memorial gates expressly embody the commemorative values of the site.

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

The Whitikahu Hall and McCallum memorial gates have historic significance for their association with the people of Whitikahu and the social and community events held in the hall since 1938. Use by the tennis club, local school and a karate club represent the ongoing usefulness of the hall to the local community.

SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

The Whitikahu Hall and McCallum memorial gates have scientific value for their potential to provide further information about the building's use as a community hall and place of local commemoration.

TECHNOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Whitikahu Hall and McCallum memorial gates have technological value for their mid-20th century construction methods and materials. The hall and memorial gates were built by local men, demonstrating the skills available within the community at the time.

• SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The Whitikahu Hall and McCallum memorial gates have overall heritage significance to Waikato District. The hall and gates have architectural value for their vernacular design and visual impact upon the local streetscape. The Whitikahu Hall and McCallum memorial gates have cultural significance as a meeting place for the community and site of commemoration and historic significance for their association with the people of Whitikahu, particularly Rex McCallum, and the life of the community. The Whitikahu Hall and McCallum memorial gates have technological value for their construction methods and materials and execution by local men.

• **RECOMMENDED CATEGORY OF HISTORIC HERITAGE LISTING**

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REFERENCES

- *Waikato Times* 9 April 1927, p. 5; 28 July 1930, p. 9; 15 December 1930, p. 9; 22 December 1930, p. 7; 29 April 1933, p. 4; 22 November 1933, p. 3; 20 August 1935, p. 5; 25 September 1935, p. 1; 9 November 1935, p. 5.
- *New Zealand Herald* 7 July 1937, p. 18; 2 May 1938, p. 7.
- A Foster 'Whitikahu Memorial Hall' Heritage NZPT summary report (P170404, BDG 1707), 4 June 2015.
- <https://nzhistory.govt.nz/media/photo/whitikahu-memorial-hall>
- Archives New Zealand.
- <https://www.hamilton.govt.nz/our-city/about-hamilton/documents/clubsandorganisations/clubs%20and%20organisations%20-%20sports%20groups.pdf>
- <https://www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/recreation/community-halls>

REPORT COMPLETED	4 March 2020
AUTHOR	Dr Ann McEwan / Heritage Consultancy Services
REPORT UPDATED	xx
AUTHOR	xx
PEER REVIEWED	xx
REVIEWER	xx



Extent of scheduling, limited to land parcel on which the hall and gates are located, Whitikahu Hall, 735 Whitikahu Road, Whitikahu.