

# Historic Heritage Evaluation

## Papakura-Karaka War Memorial

*278 Great South Road, Papakura*



Prepared by Auckland Council Heritage Unit

Final - March 2017

## Heritage Evaluation

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March 2017 (Final version)

Cover image:

The Papakura-Karaka War Memorial at 278 Great South Road, Papakura

(Auckland Council, March 2016)

## 1.0 Purpose

The purpose of this document is to consider the place located at 278 Great South Road, Papakura against the criteria for evaluation of historic heritage in the Auckland Unitary Plan (Operative in Part) (AUP(OIP)).

The document has been prepared by Elise Caddigan, Specialist Built Heritage, Heritage Unit, Auckland Council. It is solely for the use of Auckland Council for the purpose it is intended in accordance with the agreed scope of work.

## 2.0 Identification

<b>Site address</b>	278 Great South Road, Papakura
<b>Legal description and Certificate of Title identifier</b>	ALLOT 115 SECTION 11 PAPAKURA VILLAGE
<b>NZTM grid reference</b>	1772825.26 / 5895974.52
<b>Ownership</b>	Auckland Council
<b>Unitary Plan zoning</b>	Open Space - Informal Recreation
<b>Existing scheduled item(s)</b>	N/A
<b>Additional controls</b>	Notable Trees (2 x Phoenix Palm, item #2206)
<b>Heritage New Zealand Taonga details</b> <b>New Pouhere listing</b>	An initial report is available, but it is yet to be entered on to the Heritage New Zealand list.
<b>Pre-1900 site (HNZPT Act 2014 Section 6)</b>	Yes  The place is the site of human activity before 1900 but is not recorded as an archaeological site and has not been assessed to determine if it has archaeological values.
<b>CHI reference/s</b>	#16003 and #19105
<b>NZAA site record number/s</b>	N/A

### 3.0 Constraints

- This evaluation does not include an assessment of archaeological values or an assessment of the importance of the place to mana whenua.
- This evaluation does not include a structural evaluation or condition report; any comments on the structural integrity or the condition of the building are based on visual inspection only.
- The evaluation is based on the availability of information provided or able to be sourced at this time, noting that additional research may yield new information.

### 4.0 Historical summary

The village of Papakura was established in the late 1840s by the early settler families of Cole, Willis and McLennan. Welsh settler George Cole purchased 220 acres in 1845 near the present centre of Papakura, and his legacy to the town is extant through the central Papakura thoroughfare, 'Coles Crescent'. Subdivision of the Papakura village reserve into town lots occurred in 1853 and the plan of the original subdivision closely resembles the present layout. On 7 August 1882 the Papakura Town District was constituted from the western portion of the Hunua Highway District and for many years, the Papakura Town District was the only town district within South Auckland. In the 1890s Papakura did not present the appearance of a developed outpost of Auckland. A cluster of shacks spread from the old mill site in Coles Crescent to the Presbyterian Church, and from there a straggle of homes and commercial premises, separated by wide gaps, extended along Great South Road. The 1914 census recorded only 700 permanent residents of Papakura.

The war memorial site had a number of uses prior to the instalment of the monument in 1921. Before the establishment of dedicated green space in the 1853 subdivision, the site was utilised for men's bowling. In March 1881 the land was vested in the New Zealand Gazette as a site for a library; and in circa 1881-2 the former toll-gate building at Slippery Creek (Drury) was moved to the site which served as both the library and the Town Board offices. The former toll-gate building remained in this use, on the site until circa April 1921<sup>1</sup> when the Council moved to Coles Crescent.

In 1917 the notion to erect a memorial to the fallen soldiers of the Papakura area was raised at a Town Board meeting; however it was decided that the idea would be benched and reconsidered when the war was over. In January 1919 the idea was revisited and a public meeting called to discuss the particulars of the memorial's form and location. In July 1919 a memorial oak tree was planted in the school grounds during the peace celebrations; the inscription on the accompanying concrete scroll records the date that New Zealand entered the war, and the date that the Treaty of Versailles was signed. By December 1919 it was decided that a life-sized soldier figure was to be erected on the library and Town Board office site in central Papakura. Auckland sculptor William Henry Feldon earned the commission for the project and it is reputed that local man Telfer Scott McFarland was heavily involved in the carving under Feldon's guidance. Public subscription and various community events were utilised to

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<sup>1</sup> Multiple sources state that the building was demolished in 1919, however contemporary newspaper reports state that the building was still in use in 1921



fundraise for the monument that Governor-General Lord Jellicoe unveiled on the 5<sup>th</sup> June 1921.

The war memorial was initially surrounded by a base of scoria rock that was reputedly sourced and relocated from the nearby railway area. Many of Feldon's war memorials were designed with scoria or boulder bases and it is likely that the rock base was intended to symbolically contrast with the clean lines and pristine quality of the elevated monument. Historic records indicate that the newly formed 'Papakura Beautifying Society' requested the removal of obstacles and material clutter in circa May 1922 to allow for the planting and fencing of the memorial site. Progress reports from 1923 state that particular members had been successful in their pursuit of nurturing flowers within the stone base. An historic image dated to the 1930s shows the rock base intact and interspersed with vegetation. The Beautifying Society disbanded in the 1930s and it is likely that maintenance of the site passed to the town board. The memorial site was further redeveloped in circa 1946 with the addition of the two flank walls and flagpoles. It is unclear when the redesigned setting and rose gardens were undertaken, but they were completed by 1955 to the design of Lewis Walker and commemorated Papakura's contribution to the Second World War (it is possible that the stone base was removed at this time). Further tablets to honour the conflicts in Korea, Malaya, Borneo, Vietnam, East Timor and Afghanistan were added in 1993 and circa 2015.

The memorial has been used as the site for ANZAC day commemorations since 1922; and despite this continuity of use proposals were made in 1987 and 2003 to relocate the memorial, but on both occasions the public objection was sufficient to stop the plans from transpiring.

## 5.0 Physical description

The Papakura-Karaka war memorial is situated on a triangular section of reserve at the junction of Great South Road and Opaheke Road at the south end of the Papakura town centre. The First World War monument is centrally located in the space and is flanked at the rear by two walls which bear memorial tablets for the Second World War and conflicts in Korea, Malaya, Borneo, Vietnam, East Timor and Afghanistan. The walls, tablets and a memorial garden are part of a redevelopment of the site from the late 1940s and 1950s, with further tablets added in 1993 and circa 2015.<sup>2</sup> The walls each have three flagpoles which are not currently in use. Two Phoenix Palm trees frame the memorial site when viewed from the north, and boxed gardens form a boundary between the memorial site and the public footpath.

Three Sydney sandstone steps form the foundation of the memorial with a carved lion figure located on the northern elevation of the top step. The monument rises from the steps and consists of a base with an obelisk pier, on the four faces of which is carved a large scroll of fame, which is inscribed with the names of the men of the Papakura and Karaka districts who perished in the First World War. Above the scroll level is an ashlar course with a moulded cap, in which is carved in bold relief alternately, 'Papakura' and 'Karaka'. The dominant feature is the sculptured life-size figure of a New Zealand soldier in full fighting equipment and gear which represents an infantryman standing at ease. "W. H. Feldon, Sculptor, Auckland" is carved on the western elevation of

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<sup>2</sup> A letter to the Papakura City Council from the Papakura and Districts Historical Society in March 1987 states that the memorial flank walls were erected in 1946. Plans for a World War Two memorial included a community centre, but this was discarded in favour of upgrading the existing memorial and planting a memorial rose garden

the base of the soldier. All of the elements are in Oamaru stone except for the foundation and steps.

The memorial has been subject to on-going maintenance problems, originally as a result of the perceived unsuitability of the Oamaru stone to the Auckland atmospheric conditions and subsequent bad maintenance decisions. The Papakura Town Board requested Feldon to apply a further coat of paint to the memorial in April 1924, however at this time no mention is made of deterioration. The first known record of an issue with the memorial is in 1932 when the Papakura Town Board re-employed Feldon to assess the current damage, undertake restoration work and to apply measures to mitigate any further deterioration. An assessment of the monument in 2003 by Matthews and Matthews Architects notes that a heavy paint coating had been applied to the original sandstone sections, which resulted in water entrapment and erosion of the original materials. A recommendation was made to remove the paint to ensure the monuments long-term conservation. A site visit confirmed that the paint has been removed, and the memorial site is currently in good general repair, maintained by the Auckland Council.

#### Summary of key features:

- Foundation: three Sydney sandstone steps
- Carved lion sculpture: Oamaru stone
- Base and obelisk pier: Oamaru stone
- Life-sized soldier figure: Oamaru stone
- Two flank walls
- Tablets commemorating World War Two, Korea, Malaya, Borneo, Vietnam, East Timor and Afghanistan
- Gardens and retaining walls
- Flagpoles

#### Summary of Changes:

- Addition of flank walls and flagpoles (this work was likely undertaken shortly after the close of the Second World War, circa 1946)<sup>3</sup>
- Redesign of setting and rose gardens in 1952-55 (Lewis Walker, architect)
- Addition of tablet to commemorate the Second World War unveiled in 1955
- Addition of tablets in 1993 to honour the conflicts in Korea, Malaya, Borneo and Vietnam
- Addition of tablet for East Timor and Afghanistan in circa 2015

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<sup>3</sup> Franklin Times Advertiser, 01/02/1977, 20





Papakura-Karaka War Memorial shown in the context of its immediate vicinity. (Auckland Council GeoMaps)



Papakura-Karaka War Memorial shown in its wider context of surrounding Papakura. (Auckland Council GeoMaps)



## 6.0 Comparative analysis

*Refer to Appendix 2 for further details*

War memorials are important social markers that much of the community identifies with. There were over 500 First World War memorials constructed, not all remain in to today, and each one has its own points of difference and relate almost always to commemoration of the soldiers of the specific local settlement. First World War memorials are found in many forms, including: symbolic figures, obelisks, cupolas, gates, arches, towers, bridges, clocks, natural features, windows and inscriptions. Soldier figures such as the Papakura-Karaka memorial comprise about 8% of all memorials and the lion resting on the steps of the memorial is one of only 13 known examples of its type.

When considering the Papakura-Karaka War Memorial in relation to other similar or related places within the region, the main comparison that can be made is with other war memorials that have an association with William Henry Feldon, and memorials of a similar architectural style. A minority of soldier memorials were sculpted in New Zealand, by New Zealand artists who made a serious effort to capture the distinctive character of the Kiwi soldier. The figure at Devonport, Auckland, which came to be known colloquially as 'the untidy soldier', was one of these. It is the work of Frank Lynch, an ex-digger himself, who described the figure as an Anzac about to leave Gallipoli and doffing his hat to the memory of his dead friends left behind.

The sculptor commissioned to complete the Papakura-Karaka soldier and lion figures was Auckland-based William Henry Feldon who immigrated to New Zealand from England in 1910. Feldon saw active service in the First World War and actively sought commissions for war memorials throughout the country upon the end of the war. Feldon produced a number of war memorials from 1919, most of which were located in the upper North Island and include the Auckland Children's Hospital figures; and memorials at Matakana, Helensville; Bombay, Pokeno, Otahuhu and Rotorua.

There are approximately 21 war memorials that are included in the Schedule of Historic Heritage Places of the PAUP. These memorials take a number of forms and include those dedicated to both World Wars. Of these, three monuments are First World War memorials that were created by Feldon. These are the George V monument in Matakana, the Helensville soldier figure memorial (also known as the Parakai Domain War Memorial) (CHI 13256) and the Otahuhu War Memorial (CHI 2760, Heritage New Zealand list number 533).

Other First World War memorials known to have been created by Feldon in the region are aspects of the Bombay Domain Memorial Gates (CHI 19262); the Pokeno War Memorial (CHI 1802) and the Mercer War Memorial, which is located outside of the Auckland Council area, but is recognised as CHI 18653 and as the 'Pioneer Gun Turret and War Memorial' by Heritage New Zealand (list number 7647). The Papakura-Karaka memorial is one of three known examples of a soldier figure crafted by Feldon and forms part of a coherent, non-contiguous grouping across the region.

Feldon is attributed with a number of other carving or modelling commissions throughout New Zealand, but these are not known to be First World War memorials. Whilst these are considered important works within the context of Feldon's career, they are not explicitly relevant to the assessment of the Papakura-Karaka War Memorial.

It is estimated that there are approximately 200 memorials for both the First and Second Wars in the Auckland region. These memorials take a variety of appearances and include those erected to individuals. Considerable investigation has gone into memorials as part of the '100 centenary' undertaken by the Ministry for Culture and Heritage; however a full thematic study is yet to occur.

The Papakura-Karaka war memorial is an excellent example of Feldon's design and the only known collaboration of Feldon and McFarland's sculpture work. The memorial is an intact and relatively rare example of a life-sized soldier figure and lion that were produced in New Zealand. It is the largest and most well-known war memorial dedicated to the Papakura and Karaka area's and for this reason is of very significant importance to the local communities. The ongoing use of the memorial site for commemorative purposes and the public opposition to two relocation attempts shows the high public esteem for the war memorial and its current context.

## 7.0 Significance criteria

### (a) Historical

*The place reflects important or representative aspects of national, regional or local history, or is associated with an important event, person, group of people or idea or early period of settlement within the nation, region or locality.*

The Papakura-Karaka war memorial has considerable historical value for its association with an important event in the locality; representing the memory, commemoration and identity associated with the First World War. Through its redevelopment and redesign to incorporate subsequent conflicts, the monument and its surrounds also reflect representative aspects of national and local history.

The war memorial is considered to be of **considerable** historical significance to the community in the **local** (Papakura) area.

### (b) Social

*The place has a strong or special association with, or is held in high esteem by, a particular community or cultural group for its symbolic, spiritual, commemorative, traditional or other cultural value.*

The war memorial has a strong association with the Papakura and Karaka communities' collective memory of the First World War and is an icon that the local community identifies with. The memorial is held in high public esteem and continues to be used as a place of remembrance, commemoration and symbolic focus.

The war memorial is considered to be of **considerable** social significance to the community in the **local** (Papakura) area.

### **(c) Mana whenua**

*The place has a strong or special association with, or is held in high esteem by, mana whenua for its symbolic, spiritual, commemorative, traditional or other cultural value.*

This criterion is not considered applicable to this evaluation and accordingly, this place has not been assessed in relation to this criteria. Should it come to light there are any mana whenua values associated with this place or site, it would be for the relevant mana whenua groups to determine its level of esteem to them.

### **(d) Knowledge**

*The place has potential to provide knowledge through archaeological or other scientific or scholarly study, or to contribute to an understanding of the cultural or natural history of New Zealand, the region, or locality.*

The Papakura-Karaka war memorial has the potential to contribute to an understanding of the cultural history of both the nation and the locality as a physical representation of collective grief, pride and tribute. Memorials of the First World War likely produced the greatest single occasion of artistic patronage in New Zealand and the Papakura-Karaka example has the potential to provide knowledge as a major and permanent contributor to the local urban landscape.

The war memorial is considered to be of **moderate** knowledge significance to the community in the **local** (Papakura) area.

### **(e) Technological**

*The place demonstrates technical accomplishment, innovation or achievement in its structure, construction, components or use of materials.*

The Papakura-Karaka war memorial does not provide a high degree of ability for the undertaking of technical or scientific research. This criterion is more applicable in the context of archaeological sites.

The war memorial is considered to be of **little** technological significance.

### **(f) Physical attributes**

*The place is a notable or representative example of a type, design or style, method of construction, craftsmanship or use of materials or the work of a notable architect, designer, engineer or builder.*

The Papakura-Karaka war memorial has considerable physical attributes value as an example of the work of both William Henry Feldon and Telfer Scott McFarland, and is the only known example of this collaboration. The memorial is a representative example of the domestically produced soldier and lion figures following the First World War. The memorial is one of three known soldier figures carved by Feldon in the Auckland region and is a strong

contributor to this non-contiguous group. The monument retains its integrity of historic form, fabric and decoration.

The war memorial is considered to be of **considerable** physical attributes significance to the community in the **local** (Papakura) area.

#### **(g) Aesthetic**

*The place is notable or distinctive for its aesthetic, visual, or landmark qualities.*

The war memorial is notable as a visual landmark in the locality of Papakura. The memorial is a distinguished structure in the southern townscape area that induces widespread emotional responses through its evocative qualities. The memorial exemplifies the aesthetic taste of the Papakura-Karaka community in the years following the First World War.

The war memorial is considered to be of **considerable** aesthetic significance to the community in the **local** (Papakura) area.

#### **(h) Context**

*The place contributes to or is associated with a wider historical or cultural context, streetscape, townscape, landscape or setting.*

The Papakura-Karaka war memorial is notable because the original site and context are predominantly intact; the memorial defines the southern townscape on its corner site, and is part of a wider heritage landscape in the immediate vicinity (memorial oak tree, former school, former courthouse and lock-up and railway station). The setting of the memorial adds value to the place as it incorporates the history of the monuments longevity.

The war memorial is considered to have **considerable** context significance to the community in the **local** (Papakura) area.

## **8.0 Statement of significance**

The Papakura-Karaka war memorial has considerable historical value for its association with an important event in the locality; representing the expression of grief, tribute, pride and commemoration of the community to the First World War. As the official war memorial for the Papakura and Karaka area's the memorial has further value for its uniqueness and longevity of continued use. The memorial has considerable social value for its commemorative purpose and high public esteem; the names of the fallen soldiers inscribed on the monument act as a permanent reminder of the communities' sacrifice. As an intact example of the design and sculpting of William Henry Feldon, assisted by Telfer Scott McFarland, the war memorial has considerable physical attributes, and has the potential to contribute to the cultural knowledge of the locality through its physical features and materiality. The memorial is situated at the southern end of Papakura's main centre and has aesthetic and context values as a distinguished local landmark that is extant on its original site and in the vicinity of a wider local heritage landscape.

## 9.0 Extent of the place for scheduling

- The identified extent of the place for scheduling is the area that is integral to the function, meaning and relationships of the place.
- The extent includes portions of the footpath, recognising that the small area in front of the soldier memorial in particular is very important for framing the monuments landmark presence as seen from this area of Great South Road as both a pedestrian and vehicle user.
- The rear of the memorial, while a more discrete greenspace, provides an important backdrop to the memorial as part of its civic space. It has a close physical relationship and sensitive interface, such that it is recommended to form part of the statutory management area.



## 10.0 Recommendations

Based on the above evaluation, the Papakura-Karaka War Memorial at 278 Great South Road, Papakura meets the threshold to be eligible, according to the RPS B4.1 Policies 1-6, for inclusion in the Schedule of Historic Heritage Places as a Category B place. The place is considered to have overall considerable significance at a local level.

- The heritage values which meet the threshold of considerable are historical, social, physical attributes, aesthetic and context.
- The place has overall considerable significance to the locality.  
For the scheduled historic heritage extent of place, refer to Section 8.0 above

## 11.0 Table of Historic Heritage Values

Significance Criteria (A-H)	Value* (None, Little, Moderate, Considerable, Exceptional)	Context (Local, Regional, International)
A- Historical	Considerable	Local
B- Social	Considerable	Local



C- Mana Whenua	<b>Not applicable</b>	<b>Not applicable</b>
D- Knowledge	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>Local</b>
E- Technological	<b>Little</b>	<b>Local</b>
F- Physical Attributes	<b>Considerable</b>	<b>Local</b>
G- Aesthetic	<b>Considerable</b>	<b>Local</b>
H- Context	<b>Considerable</b>	<b>Local</b>

#### Levels of significance or value:

**Exceptional:** of outstanding importance and interest; retention of the identified value(s)/significance is essential.


**Considerable:** of great importance and interest; retention of the identified value(s)/significance is very important.

**Moderate:** of some importance and interest; retention of the identified value(s)/significance is desirable.

**Little:** of limited importance and interest.

**NA/None:** none identified

## 12.0 Overall Significance

<b>Place Name and/or Description</b>	Papakura-Karaka War Memorial
<b>Category</b>	B
<b>Primary Feature</b>	First World War memorial structure
<b>Known Heritage Values</b>	A,B,F,G,H
<b>Extent of Place</b>	
<b>Exclusions</b>	

<b>Additional Controls for Archaeological Sites or Features</b>	
<b>Place of Maori Interest or Significance</b>	

### 13.0 Other recommendations

It is recommended that the existing historic heritage values identified as item #01549 (Bombay Remembers Plaque) on the AUP(OIP) Schedule of Historic Heritage Places be expanded to recognised the arch and gate.

**Elise Caddigan**  
**Specialist Built Heritage**

**Date**  
 19 August 2016  
 Updated March 2017

**Reviewer**  
 Anthony Barnes, November 2016

**Second Reviewer**  
 Cara Francesco, March 2017

# APPENDIX 1

## Historical background

### Early Papakura and surrounds

The Papakura and Drury area and surrounds were an important access area for travellers in pre-European times and later in the early settler and military periods. With the Manukau Harbour to the west and the Hunua Ranges to the southeast, it was an area highly utilised as a link between the Auckland isthmus and the Waikato. The Manukau Harbour shores were the entrance to the inland route to Wairoa (Clevedon) and the Hauraki Gulf.<sup>4</sup> The Slippery Creek or Opaheke (southern Papakura) catchment area, whose waters flow into the Manukau Harbour at Opaheke at the southern extremity of Hingaia, was considered a strategic location.<sup>5</sup> The locations of Māori settlement, as throughout the Auckland region, were concentrated along the harbour shores and navigable waterways, on arable land, and on the slopes of the Drury-Papakura Hills.<sup>6</sup>

Missionaries had been travelling through the Papakura and Drury areas from 1834, staying at the Māori village of Opaheke near the mouth of Slippery Creek. The strategic importance of that area was not lost on the Government and the Papakura block was purchased in 1842 from Ihaka Takaanini and other Ngati Taihau chiefs. The block included land along the shoreline of the Manukau Harbour between the Otaimako Creek, near Puhinui, and Papakura, thus overlapping with the Fairburn Purchase.<sup>7</sup> A Government immigration scheme brought hundreds of new families to the south Auckland area and facilitated the growth of the European population. Following the clearance of forested land for pastoral or agricultural purposes, the land where Kauri previously stood was dug for gum and this became an important income for new settlers and local Māori.

The existing Māori tracks and portages served as the basis of the early roads. The Great South Road was metalled as far as Papakura by 1855 and was further improved and extended by the military for the movement of troops and their supplies.<sup>8</sup> The New Zealand Wars of the 1860s saw an influx of military personnel to the Papakura district with Papakura and Drury becoming military garrisons. The towns served as supply bases and staging posts on the way to the front. The Papakura district became a central player in the build up to the Waikato Campaign with improvements to, and the extension of, the Great South Road ensuring that it became the main land transport route to the Waikato.<sup>9</sup>

In around 1848 George Cole settled in the Papakura area. A saddler by trade, Cole established a farm, a hotel and a flour mill. In later years he became known as the 'father of Papakura' and the centrally located Coles Crescent is named for him. Amongst other settlers to arrive in Papakura around the same time as Cole were Robert Willis, who in 1853 established Papakura's first general store, and Duncan

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<sup>4</sup> D. Harlow, J. Low and S. Bickler, *Cultural Heritage Investigation*, Unpublished report to URS New Zealand Ltd, (Prepared for Papakura District Plan Review – Rural Section. Papakura District Council, 2007), accessed 16 August 2016.  
<http://archaeopedia.com/wiki/index.php?title=Papakura>

<sup>5</sup> Ibid

<sup>6</sup> Ibid

<sup>7</sup> Manukau Infospecs, "The Papakura Block", 28 January 1842

<sup>8</sup> Harlow, Low and Bickler, *Cultural Heritage Investigation*, 2007

<sup>9</sup> Ibid

McLennan, who established a large farm on the Papakura flats.<sup>10</sup> In December 1848 the population of Papakura was recorded as 23, with 15 dwellings. In late 1855 the Papakura Association was formed to represent the interests of settlers in Papakura and the Wairoa. This was an early version of a ratepayers' society and the first formed in the region south of Otahuhu.

The early village of Papakura was situated around the present day Coles Crescent area and was officially subdivided in circa 1852.<sup>11</sup> The map below outlines the Papakura settlement in the 1860s which is not dissimilar to the current town layout.



Papakura, c.1860s, Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland Libraries, NZ Map 4174

In June 1862 a new Papakura Valley Highway District was defined under the Highway Districts Act 1862. This covered Papakura and the areas that later become known as Alfriston and Brookby. On 7 August 1882 the Papakura Town District was constituted from the western portion of the Hunua Highway District. The Papakura Town District was the first and for some years the only town district within South Auckland.

In the 1890s Papakura did not present the appearance of a developed outpost of Auckland. A cluster of shacks spread from the old mill site in Coles Crescent to the Presbyterian Church and from there a straggle of homes and commercial premises, separated by wide gaps, extended along Great South Road.<sup>12</sup> What claimed to be a country town consisted of a few stores, two hotels, no fewer than three public halls, a

<sup>10</sup> Manukau Infospecs, "Early settlement at Papakura", August 1848

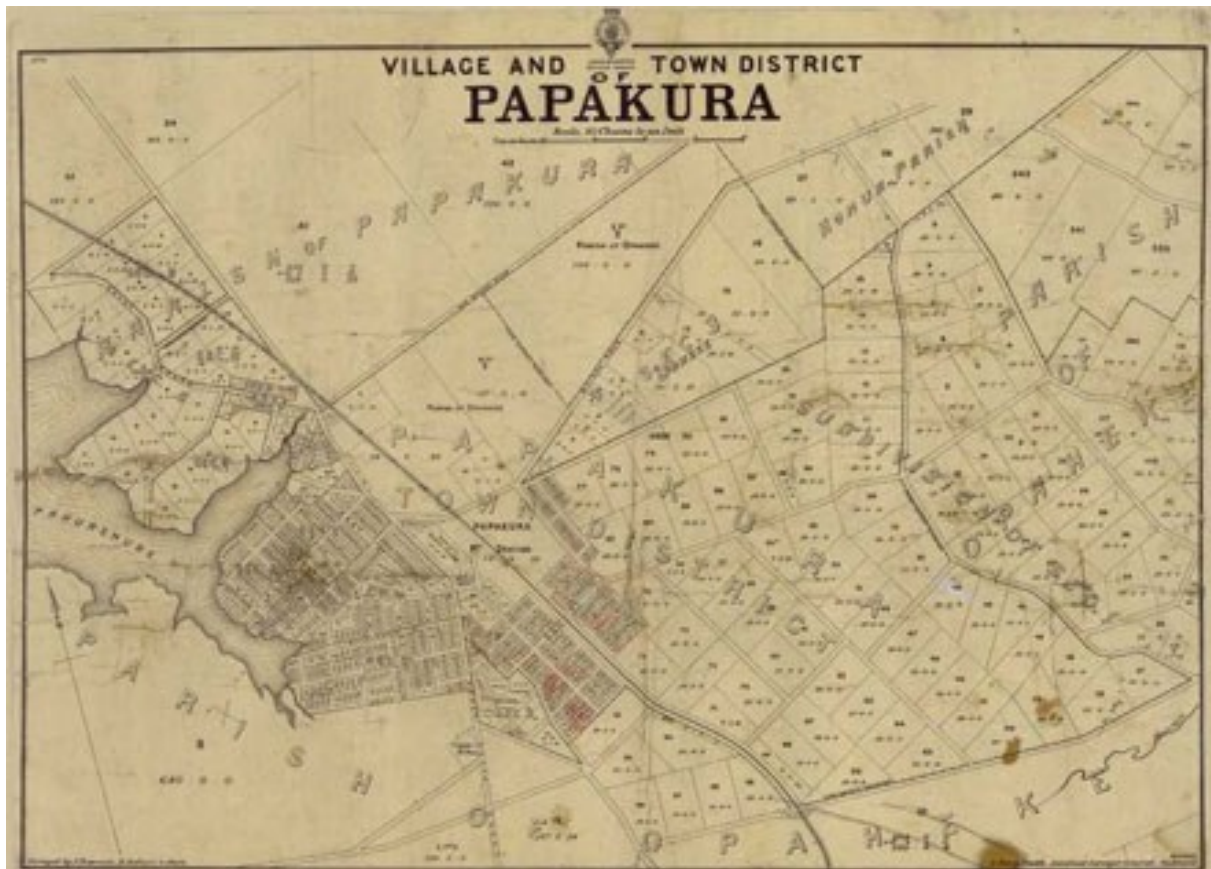
<sup>11</sup> Elsdon Craig, *Breakwater against the Tide*, (Auckland: Ray Richards Publisher, 1982), 10

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid*, 142



joinery workshop, a blacksmith's shop, unsightly sale yards and two churches.<sup>13</sup> Papakura suffered a significant setback to its development when in May 1904 a fire gutted the Globe Hotel, a public hall, the Masonic temple, a pharmacy, saddlery, a general store and two houses.<sup>14</sup>

Papakura's early isolation from both the Auckland isthmus and Waikato areas prompted the establishment of a library in 1871. The apex of the corner site of Great South Road and Opaheke Road was vested in the New Zealand Gazette in 1881 as the library site. Following the formation of Papakura as an independent town district in 1882, it was decided that the former toll-gate house from Slippery Creek would be relocated to the gazetted site to serve as both council offices and a library.<sup>15</sup> Further commercial development occurred in the 1920s with the construction of a bank and cinema.



Village and Town District of Papakura, Wellington, NZ Survey, 1886.

The population of Papakura gradually increased, from 373 in 1901, to 453 in 1911, 700 in 1914 and 1661 in 1926. The 1941 census was cancelled due to the war; however a population estimate states that Papakura had approximately 1920 residents at this time. A camp for territorial soldiers enlisted under New Zealand's new compulsory military training scheme began at the Papakura army camp in 1949, and by 1951 the population was recorded at 3192. The decision to establish one of the country's three major military camps on its boundary deprived Papakura of the last significant and tangible link with its founders in the McLennan farm, which was taken over for the purpose. The influx of troops swelled the population of Papakura to tens of thousands.<sup>16</sup> Papakura has progressively developed from a town district to a borough

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<sup>13</sup> Ibid, 142

<sup>14</sup> Ibid, 144

<sup>15</sup> Ibid, 169-70

<sup>16</sup> Ibid, 174

(1938), to a city (1975), was re-instated as a larger district in 1989, and amalgamated in to the unified Auckland Council in 2010.



Papakura, 1925. Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland Libraries, NZ Map 2679

## The war memorial site

The war memorial site had a number of uses prior to the instalment of the monument in 1921. Before the establishment of dedicated green space in the 1853 subdivision, the site was utilised for men's bowling. In March 1881 the land was vested in the New Zealand Gazette as a site for a library; and in circa 1881-2 the former toll-gate building at Slippy Creek (Drury) was moved to the site which served as both the library and the Town Board offices. The former toll-gate building remained in this use, on the site until circa April 1921 when the Council moved to Coles Crescent. In January 1922 Percy Holt gave the Papakura Town Board an acre of land on the corner of Coles Crescent and the Great South Road as the site for proposed new offices and a town hall. The Board moved its offices to an old villa on the site in April 1922.

When discussions for a site for the proposed memorial began, Percy Holt revived an earlier idea to replace the town board offices. Holt offered to exchange his one and a quarter acres bounded by Coles Crescent, Queen and East Streets for the section at the junction of Great South and Opaheke Roads. A realistic proposal and plan for town hall, chambers, library and gymnasium went with the offer which was declared suitable

by the town board. However, the citizens of Papakura were not complimentary of the idea and objected to parting with what they regarded as an important part of their heritage. An amicable solution was found when Alf Willis came up with a section for the board to exchange with Percy Holt. The corner site was utilised straight away as the logical place for the war memorial.<sup>17</sup>

Timeline:

**September 1917:** A memorial for the local soldier's fighting in the First World War is proposed at a meeting of the Papakura Town Board meeting but the motion is put to the side, and to be reconsidered when the war is over.

**January 1919:** The erection of some suitable memorial in memory of the Papakura boys who have made the 'supreme sacrifice' is advocated at the Town Board meeting. The councillors cannot decide on the best form the memorial should take, a monument, statue or building. It is discussed that a statue would act as a reminder to those who followed them of the 'boys who had spilled their blood in the victorious endeavour to uphold the noblest traditions of the Empire' to which they belonged. It is agreed that the memorial should be in the centre of the village, where people can have lunch and being on the main South Road would be seen by the travelling public. It was agreed that a public meeting should be held to discuss the councillors' ideas.

**February 1919:** A public meeting is held to discuss peace celebrations and a memorial to the fallen soldiers. No agreement can be made as to what form the memorial should take – either a monument or a public building. The matter is referred to a committee made of the Town Board members who should report back to the public with a definite scheme.

**March 1919:** The committee meet and are presented with plans for an obelisk by Messer's Me-Nah and Mason of Auckland. It was agreed that the plans would be shown to the public, and suggested that the memorial be erected in the centre of the township. A further recommendation was made that the committee visit the yards of monumental masons in Auckland with a view to making further enquiries.

**September 1919:** A meeting of the Anglican Memorial Committee decided to call for tenders for the 'memorial sanctuary'.

**11 December 1920:** A public meeting of residents of Papakura and Karaka will be held in Richardson's Hall, Papakura on December 16, to discuss and decide the form of the memorial to be erected to the fallen soldiers of the Districts. Designs will be submitted for approval.

**18 December 1920:** It is reported that at the residents meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> that it was decided that the memorial should take the form of a life-sized figure of a soldier erected on a pedestal on the corner in front of the Town Hall. It is likely that the work will be completed by the artist that executed the Matakana memorial (Feldon).

**23 December 1920:** It is reported that the committee responsible for the Papakura war memorial have unanimously decided to contract Mr W. H. Feldon to construct the memorial and have invited him to a meeting to consider further designs. The design selected from those submitted consists of a 3 foot high rocker foundation with a 'beautifully arranged' pedestal containing four large scrolls of fame upon which will be written the names of those who paid the great sacrifice. This will be surmounted by a life size New Zealand soldier in full marching kit, standing at ease. It was decided to

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<sup>17</sup> Ibid, 152



erect the monument on the site presently occupied by the library and town board offices.

**25 January 1921:** The 'Fallen Soldier's Memorial Committee' decide to hold a garden fete to fundraise for the monument.

**16 April 1921:** The residents in and around Papakura have subscribed £550 for the purpose of the war memorial. Feldon's design has been accepted and the work is underway.

**25 April 1921:** A memorial to the fallen soldiers of the Papakura district is unveiled in the parish church. The tablet is inscribed with the names of 45 men and is situated in the sanctuary, but is likely to be relocated to the chancel of the new church.

**5 June 1921:** A ceremony is held to unveil the newly erected monument to the fallen soldiers of the Papakura-Karaka district. The ceremony was presided over by the Governor-General, Lord Jellicoe and had an attendance of approximately 600 people. The monument is described as being '22 feet tall, the foundation is built of huge boulders and is 4 feet high and 10 feet square. A rockery of large scoria rough blocks surrounds it. On the foundation are three Sydney sandstone steps, on the front of which is a break upon which a lion will be placed. The monument rises from the steps and, consists of a base with an obelisk pier, on the four faces of which is carved a massive scroll of fame, on which are inscribed the names of those men of the Papakura and Karaka districts who paid the great sacrifice in the war. On top of the scroll level is an ashlar course with a richly moulded cap, on which is carved in very bold relief alternately, 'Papakura' and 'Karaka'. The crowning feature is a beautifully sculptured life-size figure of a New Zealand soldier in full fighting equipment and gear. The sculptor has used the artist's privilege in suggesting other arms of the service, in the figure but it essentially represents an infantryman. He has also made slight division in the hat by giving the brim a certain amount of weathering, to enable the rain to fall readily and clear itself, so that no permanent water may cause decay. Except for the foundation and steps, all the work is in Oamaru stone, which has received three coats of a highly-preservative spirituous dressing that serves to kill vegetation, and prevent discolouration.'

**27 June 1921:** A special meeting of the Papakura-Karaka War Memorial Committee decides to set a marble slab in to the rock foundation of the monument in honour of men who died on active service and had attended the local school, but left the district before enlisting.

**15 July 1921:** it is reported that on Friday **8 July 1921**, the carved figure of a crouched lion was placed at the base of the column to complete the soldiers' memorial. It is stated that the work is of a very fine character and reflects great credit upon the sculptor, W. H. Feldon.

**12 May 1922:** The Papakura Beautifying Society which was recently inaugurated solicited permission to improve the gardens around the war memorial. As they desired to begin the work as soon as possible the Society asked that all obstacles, material, etc., now on the ground may be removed without delay. The Society welcomed any suggestions with regard to improvements to be made upon this site or any other part of the township. It was decided to have 'the site cleared in readiness for the operations of the Beautifying Society'.

**3 March 1924:** More hedge plants are wanted in the Memorial Park to replace some which have failed; completion work of paths and gates; more trees, as already arranged.



**April 1924:** Feldon writes in reply to the board's request for a coat of paint on the monument, stating that it would be done as soon as the weather permitted.

**October/December 1932:** The Town Board is distressed at the deterioration shown by the war memorial, and re-employ Feldon to restore the monument and apply preventative measures.

**Circa 1946:** Addition of the two flank walls and flagpoles to the memorial site.

**1952-55:** Redesign of the war memorial setting and rose gardens to the plans drawn by architect Lewis Walker.

**1955:** Addition of tablet to commemorate the Second World War.

**1993:** Addition of tablet to honour the conflicts in Korea, Malaya, Borneo and Vietnam.

**2015:** Addition of tablet for East Timor and Afghanistan.

### Other war memorials in Papakura

In August 1923 the First World War memorial sanctuary at Christ Church Anglican Church, Papakura, was consecrated. This was the first major alteration to the original 'Selwyn' church since its opening in 1862. A tablet of Oamaru stone inscribed with the names of the fallen from the parochial district was built into one wall of the sanctuary.<sup>18</sup>



On 19 July 1919 the Reverend W.C. Wood planted an acorn in the Papakura School grounds as a contribution to the local peace celebrations. This 'peace oak' was intended not so much as a war memorial as a symbolic commemoration of peace and victory.<sup>19</sup> The tree and plaque are located near the north-western boundary of Central Park, within view of the Papakura-Karaka First World War memorial.

<sup>18</sup> "Christ Church Papakura", NZ History, accessed 16 August 2016, <http://www.nzhistory.net.nz/media/photo/christ-church%2C-papakura>

<sup>19</sup> "Papakura Peace Oak", NZ History, accessed 16 August 2016, <http://www.nzhistory.net.nz/media/photo/papakura-peace-oak>

## APPENDIX 2

### Comparative analysis

The following list attempts to identify a group of *known* First World War memorials within the wider Auckland region that are examples of William Henry Feldon's sculptural work, or appear to share stylistic similarities with the subject monument. Where the memorials are scheduled in the Proposed Auckland Unitary Plan the list identifies the known values of each place and the inclusion of a monument on the Heritage New Zealand List has also been acknowledged. It is important to note that the list is not exhaustive and is representative of the research carried out for the purpose of this evaluation only.

First World War memorials with a known association with William Henry Feldon:

#### **Matakana War Memorial**

*Matakana Wharf Reserve, Matakana*



Image: "Matakana War Memorial", NZ History, accessed 10 August 2016, <http://www.nzhistory.net.nz/media/photo/matakana-war-memorial>

Scheduled: Category B

Known Heritage Values: A,B,D,F,H

The Matakana War Memorial was sculpted by Feldon and unveiled in 1920. The memorial takes the form of the figure of King George V of England and has been vandalised and restored on a number of occasions. It is dedicated to 19 men from the district that lost their lives in the First and Second World Wars. In 2006 the memorial was moved from its original location on the corner of Matakana Wharf Road and Matakana Road to a nearby site in the Matakana Wharf Reserve.

### **Papakura-Karaka War Memorial**

*278 Great South Road, Papakura*



Image: Auckland Council, March 2015

Not scheduled

The Papakura-Karaka War Memorial was unveiled on the 5 June 1920 by the Governor-General. The soldier figure is attributed to Feldon, although there is anecdotal evidence that suggests local sculptor, T. S. McFarland produced the figure under Feldon's guidance. This memorial is the one of first known soldier figures that Feldon designed and produced in the Auckland area, and is the only known example of his to include a soldier and a large sculpted lion.

### **Pokeno First World War Memorial**

*Corner of Market Street and Great South Road, Pokeno*



Image: "Pokeno First World War memorial", NZ History, accessed 10 August 2016, <http://www.nzhistory.net.nz/media/photo/pokeno-first-world-war-memorial>

Scheduled: Category B (Waikato District Plan)

This memorial is located beyond the Auckland Council boundary. It was formerly scheduled as a Category B place in the Franklin District Plan, which has been recognised by the Waikato District Council.

The Pokeno First World War memorial was unveiled on 25 April 1921. The memorial is located on the corner of Great South Road and Market Street, a space known as 'Market Square'. The commemorative obelisk was mounted on a concrete base into which stones reputedly gathered by soldiers during the Waikato war were incorporated. An additional tablet was added to the memorial following the Second World War. Feldon is credited with the sculpture of the obelisk.



### **Parakai Domain War Memorial**

*150 Parkhurst Road, Helensville*



Image: "Helensville war memorial", NZ History, accessed 10 August 2016, <http://www.nzhistory.net.nz/media/photo/helensville-war-memorial>

Scheduled: Category B

Known Heritage Values: A,B,D,F,H

Identified on the Auckland Council Cultural Heritage Inventory as number 13256.

The Parakai Domain War Memorial was unveiled in 1922 to commemorate the 33 men from Helensville and Mairatahi who did not return from World War One. The Helensville War Memorial Committee commissioned Feldon for the monument, which is mainly carved from Sydney Sandstone. The main feature is the life-sized figure of a soldier in full gear of the New Zealand Rifle Brigade. The memorial is located in the Parakai Domain in Helensville and remains the site of annual ANZAC Day services.

Stylistically, this memorial appears as the most similar to the Papakura-Karaka memorial.

### **Mercer First World War Memorial**

*Corner of Roose Road and Riverbank Road, Mercer*



Image: "Mercer First World War memorial", NZ History, accessed 10 August 2016, <http://www.nzhistory.net.nz/media/photo/mercer-first-world-war-memorial>

Scheduled: Category B (Waikato District Plan)

This memorial is located beyond the Auckland Council boundary. It was formerly scheduled as a Category B place in the Franklin District Plan, which has been recognised by the Waikato District Council.

Also identified on the Heritage New Zealand list as a Category 1 item.

This monument is also known as the 'Pioneer gun turret and war memorial', and is situated on the banks of the Waikato River. The memorial, which was unveiled on 28 April 1922, consists of the statue of a soldier in marching kit mounted on a turret taken from the gunboat Pioneer, which plied the river during the Waikato War. Feldon was commissioned to sculpt the soldier figure from Sydney sandstone.

It is possible that the head of Feldon's figure has been replaced due to an attack of vandalism in 2003.

### **Bombay Memorial Gates**

*Paparata Road, Bombay*



Image: "Bombay War Memorial Recreation Ground", NZ History, accessed 10 August 2016, <http://www.nzhistory.net.nz/media/photo/bombay-hills-war-memorial>

Not scheduled

On 22 November 1923 the Mayor of Auckland, Mr J.H. Gunson, opened the Bombay War Memorial Recreation Ground. The five-acre recreation ground included four tennis courts, a football field and a sports pavilion. Feldon is credited with the ornamental lions set on top of the stone entrance gate to the recreation grounds.

### **Otahuhu First World War Memorial**

*2A Piki Thompson Way, Otahuhu*



Image: "Otahuhu First World War memorial", NZ History, last accessed 10 August 2016, <http://www.nzhistory.net.nz/media/photo/otahuhu-war-memorial>

Scheduled: Category A

Known Heritage Values: A,F,G,H

Also identified on the Heritage New Zealand list as a Category 1 item.

Governor-General Sir Charles Fergusson unveiled the Otahuhu First World War memorial on 25 April 1928. It is the only known representation of a New Zealand mounted rifleman, and was donated to the borough by a local businessman, Alfred Trenwith. The war memorial site is a prominent location at the junction of the Great South and Mangere Roads, a commemorative triangle shared with an obelisk erected in 1868 to the memory of Colonel Nixon and his fellow volunteers who fell at Rangiaowhia in the Waikato Campaign (1863-4) of the New Zealand Wars. Feldon is noted as having begun work on the Otahuhu war memorial in late 1927. The exact nature of Feldon's involvement is not clear; it is likely that he was involved in finishing and placing the statue after its arrival from London.

First World War memorial that shares stylistic similarities:

**Devonport First World War Memorial**

*Windsor Reserve, Devonport*



Image: "Devonport First World War memorial", NZ History, last accessed 10 August 2016, <http://www.nzhistory.net.nz/media/photo/devonport-first-world-war-memorial>

Scheduled: Category A\*

Known Heritage Values: A,B,H

Also identified on the Heritage New Zealand list as a Category 2 item.

The First World War Memorial was unveiled on 13 April 1924, by the Governor General, Viscount Jellicoe. A public competition for the design of the main memorial was held and won by Frank Lynch in March 1922. Lynch, who was based in Auckland, designed a bronze statue of a New Zealand soldier in military uniform and the statue was then cast by A.B. Burton at the Thames Ditton foundry in London. The figure attempted to portray a New Zealand soldier in a lifelike manner and the Devonport statue is described as being distinctly New Zealand. Most New Zealand communities ordered soldier figures from Italian firms, which delivered mass-produced statues, however it is reputed that Lynch used his brother as the model. The monument site and surrounds are still used for annual ANZAC Day commemorations.

## APPENDIX 3

### Certificate of Title and Deposited Plans

Certificate of Title: NA5/136 (courtesy of LINZ)



#### COMPUTER FREEHOLD REGISTER UNDER LAND TRANSFER ACT 1952

Historical Search Copy



Identifier **NA5/136**  
Land Registration District **North Auckland**  
Date Issued **04 July 1872**

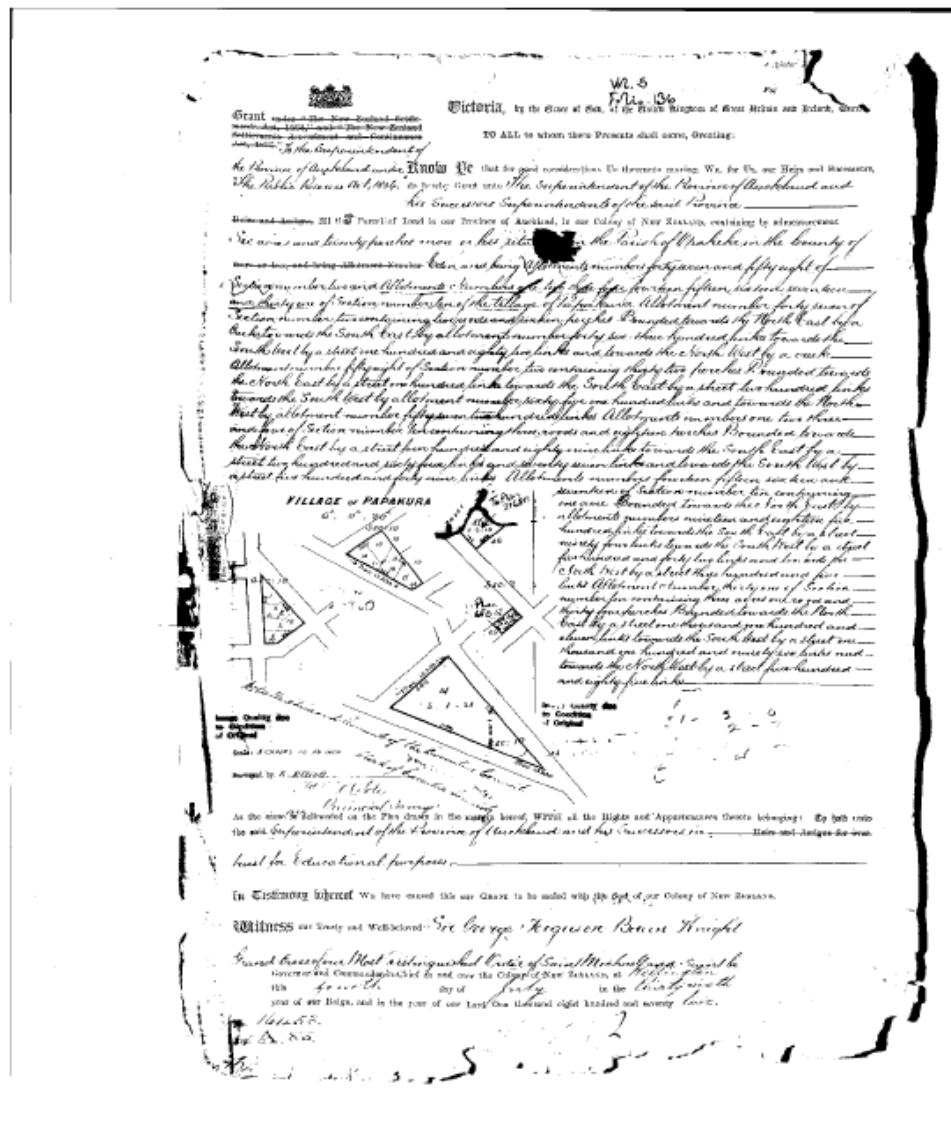
**Cancelled**

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**Interests**

8459778.1 Departmental Dealing converting and cancelling the within title - 6.4.2010 at 9:00 am







Transaction Id	
Client Reference	rbester001

Transaction Id	
Client Reference	rbester001

## NEW ZEALAND.

$$F_n \cdot E_n$$

Page 5 File 135  
George No  
Josephine No  
John, Jr. No. 6, 10720



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CERTIFICATE OF TITLE UNDER LAND TRANSFER ACT.

[illegible]

As stated in the caption to this report, the subject, in such no real sense, was a fiction, a man-made, being, and, therefore, is not entitled to copyright under the laws of the United States; subject also to any writing right of the Government or by its officers under the provisions of any law of the United States. Ownership of the "Journal in the Land of the Living" is determined by the plan of the original "draft" - by the actual authorship of the various articles that it is said to be a part of and, therefore, James Francis Hinton and Mrs. Francis Hinton are or have been attributed to this "Journal in the Land of the Living" by the plan of the original "draft" as a plan suggested in the "New Republic" Office at New York in 1914 and before Hinton was 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 of the "New Republic" Office at New York.



~~As a result of the above, it is recommended that~~

The 34428 Notice says portions of the adjoining street has been changed from front to Section 175 Municipal Improvement Act 1922 - under 360 9/2/1923 at 4.10 p.m.

[illegible]

212

*Handwritten signature*

...and the

~~CANCELLED~~

Total Area: 0'3'15.6  
Scale: 1 Chain to an inch.

LAND TRANSFER OFFICE  
RECEIVED: 7/11/36 PROV. No 26785  
TITLE REF: 684/1  
REFERRED TO DRAUGHTSMAN: 9/11/36  
L.T. DRAUGHTSMAN  
EXAMINED: 10/11/36 VOL. 11.36  
TRAV. REDN: VOL. 1, POL. 1  
FIELD-BOOK: No. 120, PAGE 60  
COMP. Bk. No. REPORT No.  
REF. PLANS: D.P. 13332  
S.D. 15546, 4243  
FILE: By report

FOR SURVEYS UNDER THE LAND TRANSFER ACT ONLY.  
North Auckland Land District

DEPOSIT FEE PAID, £. 2.75  
REDA. AS TO VALUE 1/11/36  
DEPOSITED this 13th day  
of JANUARY, 1937.  
Place Deposit Stamp Here

IV DRURY S. D.

Wellington St.  
Opahoke Road  
Great South Road  
Public Park, Prov. 2780  
115  
116  
125  
126  
13332  
15546  
4243  
L.T. 38604  
26320  
31525  
45538

I hereby certify that all hanging traverses have been determined by two independent measurements of bearing and distance.

A. W. Cheal  
Regd. Surveyor.

Approved as to Survey.  
R. H. Chapman  
Chief Surveyor.  
27/11/36

TOWN DISTRICT OF PAKAPURA  
Allot. 116 Sec. II Village of Pakapura  
Comprised in 37/662  
Surveyed by A. W. & L. H. Cheal, Registered Surveyor, October, 1936

Approved,  
M. A. Evans  
Applicant [or Registered Owner].

DECLARATION.  
1. Alfred Wainman Cheal of Auckland, Registered Surveyor, do solemnly and sincerely declare that this plan has been made from surveys executed by me, and that both plan and survey are correct, and have been made in accordance with the rules of the Survey Board.  
And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true, and by virtue of the provisions of the Statute in that behalf made.  
Declared at Auckland, this 23rd day of October, 1936.  
Alfred Wainman Cheal  
Justice of the Peace for Auckland, or Notary Public.

SCALE: 1 Chain. to an inch.

26785

Deposited Plan 15546 (1910)

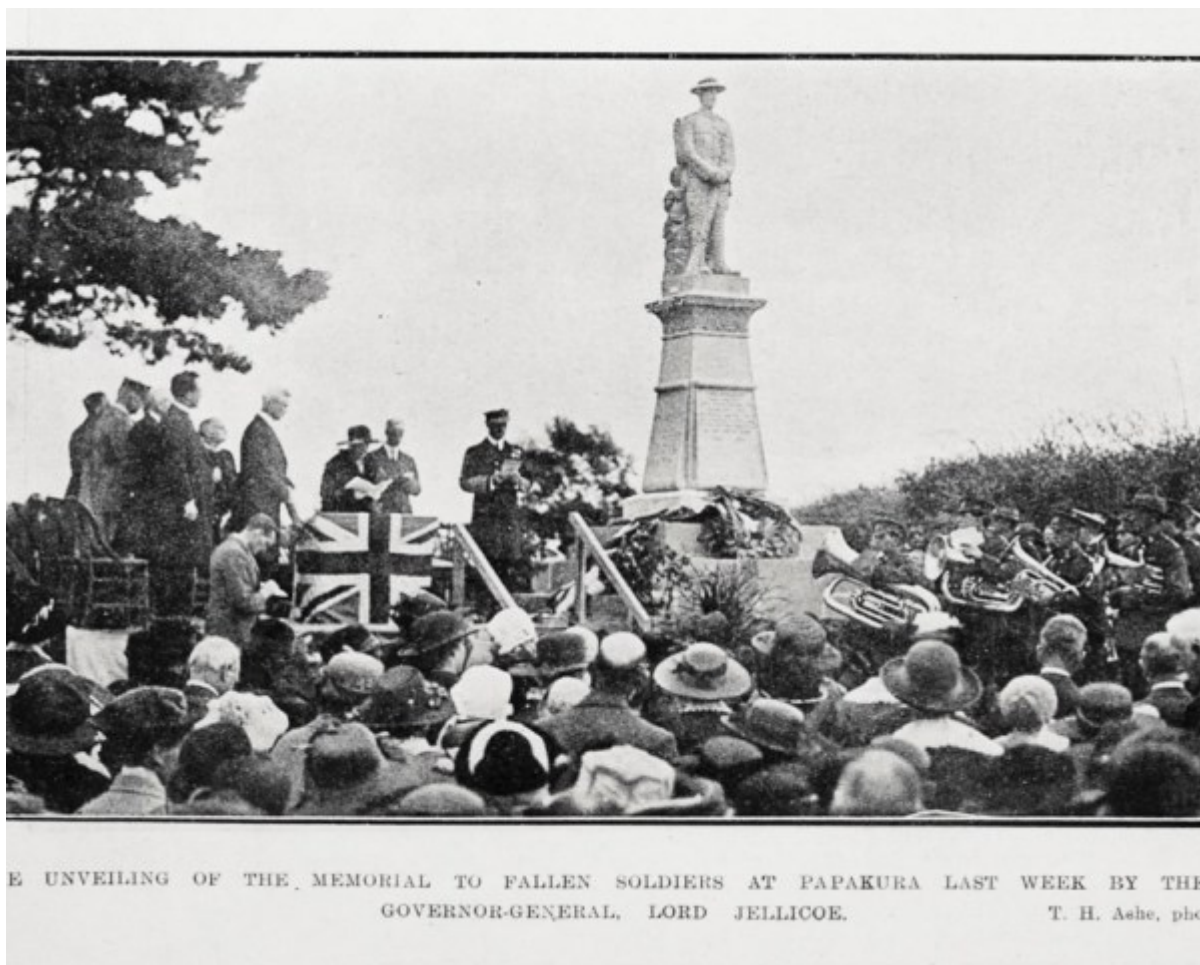






## APPENDIX 4

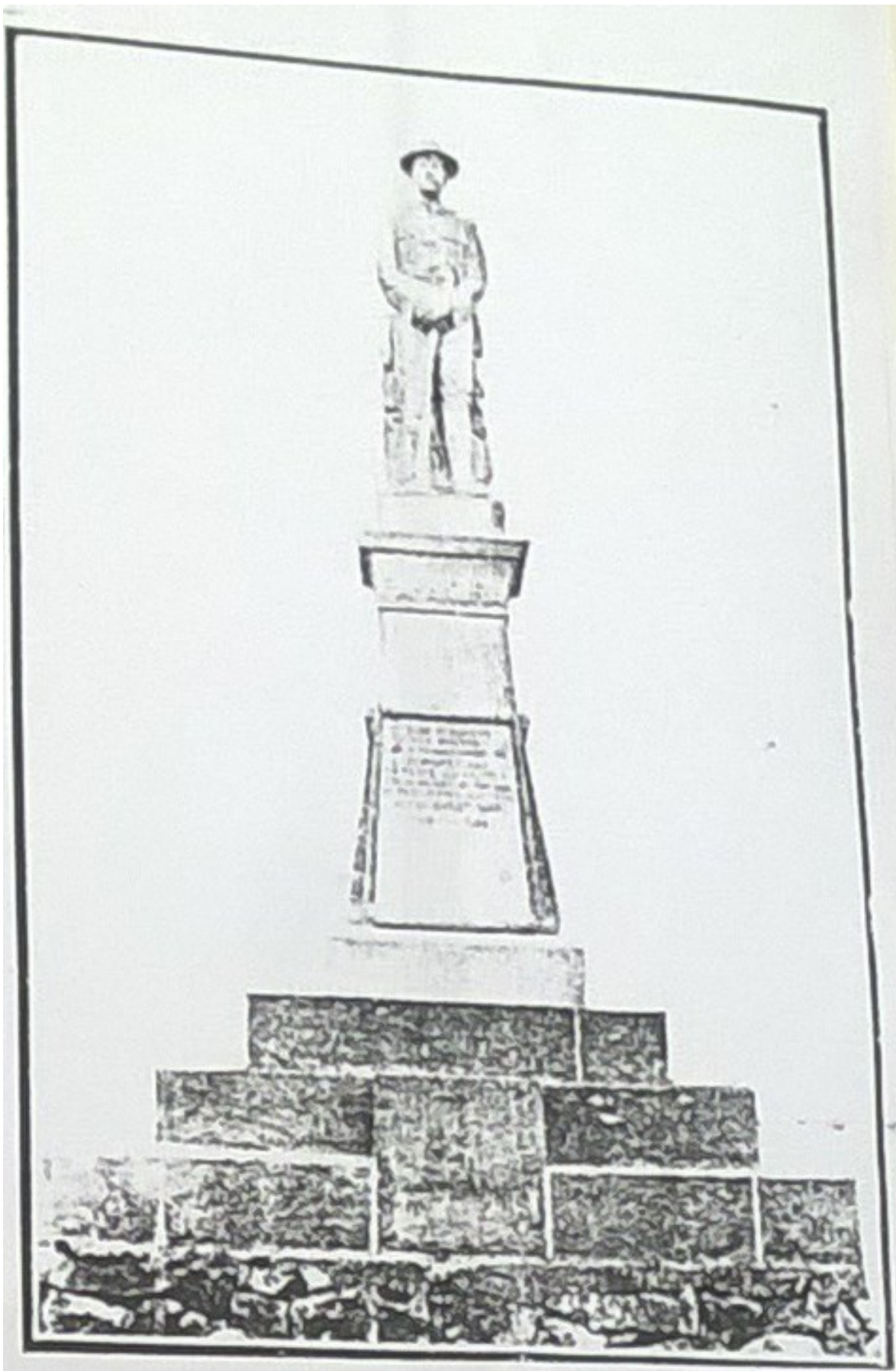
### Photographs



The unveiling of the memorial to fallen soldiers at Papakura by the Governor-General, Lord Jellicoe.

Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland Libraries, AWNS-19210616-40-5.





Papakura-Karaka War Memorial before the addition of the lion.  
Date and photographer unknown, circa June 1921.  
Auckland Council Archives.





Date and photographer unknown, circa 1922.  
Image reproduced courtesy of the Papakura Museum.



Henry Winkelmann, 1921.  
Auckland Museum, Ref: PH-NEG-10396.



Photographer unknown. 1930s.  
Auckland Museum, Ref: PH-NEG-B5157





Photographer unknown, 1991.  
Papakura Museum Photographic Collection, 146/4.



Photographer unknown, 25 April 1992.  
Papakura Museum Photographic Collection, 176/5.



The following images were all taken in March 2016 by the Auckland Council

































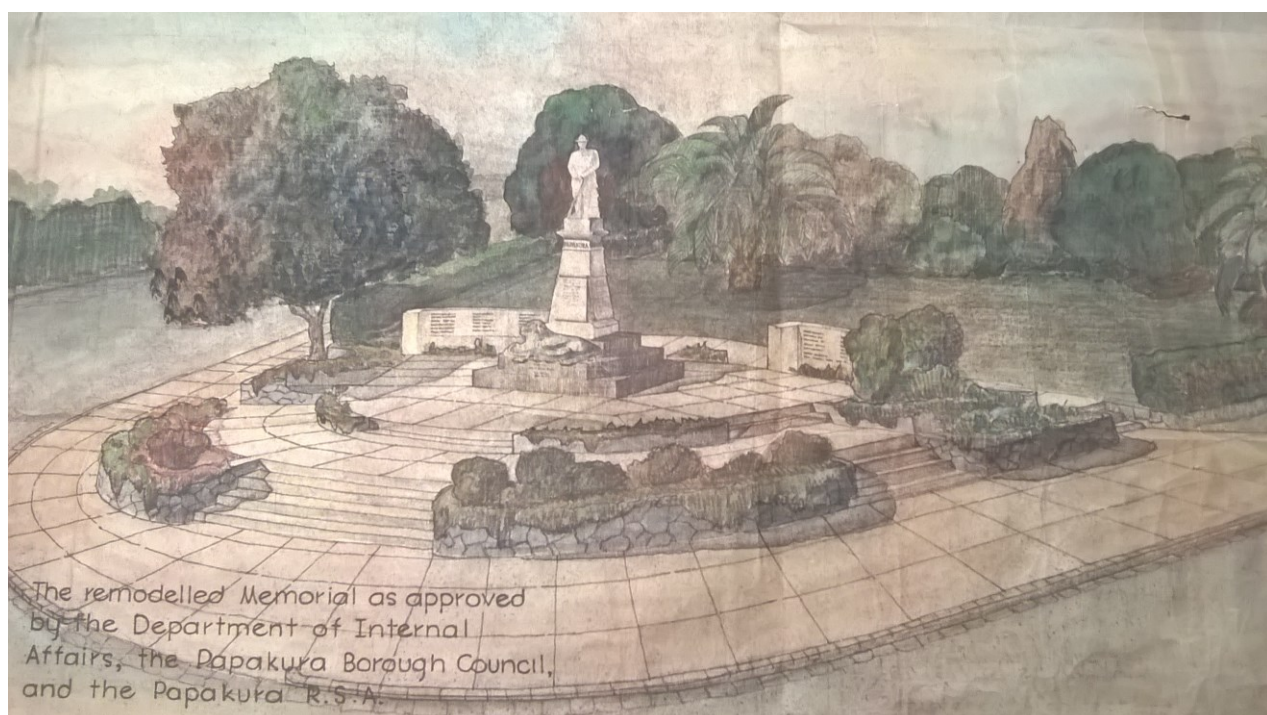






## APPENDIX 5

### Drawings



Drawing prepared by Walker, Hilary and Swan Architects, c. 1952-55



## APPENDIX 6

### Biography of William Henry Feldon

Feldon was born in Oxford, England on the 16<sup>th</sup> June 1871, the third son in a family of twelve. He attended Exeter College before becoming apprenticed to sculptor H.J. Arnott in 1884. Following five years at this firm, Feldon relocated to London where he continued as a sculptor for Farmer and Brindley. During this time Feldon travelled to New York and Albany, returning to London in 1894. Feldon married in 1894 and in the late 1890's moved to Sussex where he set up his own architectural sculpting and modelling studio. Feldon completed military service and a number of commissions during his time in Sussex, and moved back to Oxford before immigrating to New Zealand in 1910.

Feldon initially resided in Wellington where he completed the modelling and carving of panels at the Governor General's residence. He then moved to Auckland where his commissions included the carvings on the Auckland Town Hall, the Auckland Ferry Buildings, St. Paul's Church on Symonds Street and a bust of Richard John Seddon for the Wesley Technical Institute. Feldon is attributed with the majority of the modelling on Auckland's Queen Street buildings.

Due to his prior military experience, Feldon was engaged in service during the First World War as a Brigade Major and Quartermaster in a number of national locations. At the end of the war Feldon resumed his sculpting and modelling practice at premises in Victoria Street, Auckland. Feldon actively sought commissions for war memorials following the close of the First World War. Feldon sent a circular offering his services to every county chairman and mayor in the country. In January 1919 he wrote the following letter to Sir James Allen:

*I have been in this beautiful Dominion for seven years, and find that if such work is commissioned it is usually obtained from Italy or London and it seems very difficult to get known. I should be delighted to carve a bust of yourself – entirely at my own expense – as a proof of my Art...it has been a keen struggle to keep going and my slender resources are nearly exhausted.<sup>20</sup>*

It was the opinion of Allen that foreign artists should be hired to produce memorials; if memorials were going to express high ideals and if they were going to replicate the monuments of older civilisations, then only the mother country had the artists with the experience and talent to produce them. Feldon's begging was ignored as none of the local artists were considered to have shown themselves to be possessed of the outstanding talent which would qualify them to be entrusted with work of such importance. It was less colonial cringe than pure economy which prevented the war memorial business becoming a creative boom for New Zealand sculptors and architects. For most small communities in the 1920s the cheapest option of providing a memorial was to purchase one directly from a monumental mason's catalogue.

Despite such opposition Feldon received a number of commissions and in March 1918 completed his first known First World War memorial, a figure of Nurse Edith Cavell inside the entrance to the new Children's Hospital in Auckland. Two further figures, of a soldier and a sailor were also added to the entrance to create an imposing scene. Feldon won a number of commissions in 1919 which included the Matakana War Memorial (a figure of King George V), the Bombay Domain Memorial Gates and the Arawa memorial in Rotorua (a figure of Chief Rangitiki). In 1920 Feldon received the

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<sup>20</sup> Chris Maclean and Jock Phillips, *The Sorrow and the Pride*, (Wellington: Bookprint Consultants Limited, 1990) 113

commission for the Papakura-Karaka War Memorial (a soldier figure and a carved lion). Feldon reputedly engaged the services of local sculptor T.S. McFarland to carve the main figure. During 1921 Feldon completed the Pokeno War Memorial (an obelisk) and the Helensville War Memorial (a soldier figure). From 1922 to 1927 Feldon also completed the Mercer War Memorial (a soldier figure), the Hikurangi Bridge War Memorial (destroyed), a section of the memorial in the St Mathew in the City Church and assisted on the Otahuhu War Memorial (a mounted bronze figure).

Feldon was in the Order of Freemasons and continued his profession until circa 1939. Feldon died in 1945 and is buried in the Purewa cemetery alongside his wife.

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