

GREY DISTRICT COUNCIL
HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM

HERITAGE ITEM NAME

Hall & Coulthard Memorial

ADDRESS

State Highway 6, Runanga [opposite 577 SH 6]

PHOTOGRAPH



(WCRC, 2023)

TTPP PLAN ITEM No.

HHxx

HNZ LIST No. & CATEGORY

N/A

LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Parcel 3702214 [road reserve]

GDC FILE NUMBER

N/A

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION

1921

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/
BUILDER**

G Millar, architect; W Sampson, mason

STYLE

Classical

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

A funerary column topped by an urn and set upon a multi-part plinth. Concrete base has pipe railings around the perimeter; these extend down the flight of access steps located to the south of the monument.

MATERIALS/STRUCTURE

Granite, concrete.

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS

Additional plaque affixed to base (date unknown).

SETTING

The monument is located on an elevated site on the east side of State Highway 6 to the south of the town of Runanga. It is approached via a flight of concrete steps with pipe railings. The extent of setting is limited to the immediate surroundings of the monument, rather than the subject road reserve as a whole.

HISTORY

The memorial commemorates the murder of two men, William Hall and John Coulthard, who were accompanying a large state mine payroll when they were intercepted by William Eggers McMahon, aka Frederick William Eggers, on 9 November 1917. Eggers shot and killed Hall and Coulthard and injured Isaac James who was also in the car; he was subsequently apprehended and executed at Lyttelton Gaol on 15 March 1918. The memorial, which was unveiled on Sunday, 5 June 1921 by Minister of Mines GJ Anderson, overlooks the crime scene and was funded by local residents. George Millar provided his architectural services to the memorial committee for free.

HISTORIC AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Hall & Coulthard Memorial has historic and social significance for its association with a World War I-era crime that was widely reported and shocked the local mining community.

CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Hall & Coulthard Memorial has cultural significance as a commemorative monument that is also associated with the way of life of the local mining community in the early 20th century.

ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

The Hall & Coulthard Memorial has aesthetic value as a classical monument that was designed by Runanga engineer and architect George Millar OBE (died 1940). The urn atop the monument symbolises death and mourning and is typical of funerary art.

TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE

The Hall & Coulthard Memorial has craftsmanship value for the quality of its stone carving. William Sampson was a Greymouth undertaker and monumental mason.

CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Hall & Coulthard Memorial has contextual significance as a local landmark located to the south of Runanga township and overlooking State Highway 6 where the murders occurred.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

As the memorial post-dates 1900 any potential archaeological values of the site could relate to the earlier development of the roadway.

SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The Hall & Coulthard Memorial has overall heritage significance to the people of Runanga and Grey District. The memorial has historic and social significance for its association with the murder of William Hall and John Coulthard and cultural significance as a commemorative monument associated with the way of life of the local mining community. The Hall & Coulthard Memorial has aesthetic value as a classical funerary monument designed by Runanga engineer and architect George Millar and craftsmanship value for the quality of William Sampson's monumental masonry. The Hall & Coulthard Memorial has contextual significance as a local landmark.

REFERENCES

- <https://places.nz/places/grey/runanga/payroll-robbery-murder-site-monument-runanga-10873>
- *Hokitika Guardian* 26 March 1921, p. 2.

- *Greymouth Evening Star* 8 May 1919, p. 3; 6 June 1921, p. 2; 14 January 1933, p. 5; 27 March 1940, p. 5.
- *Grey River Argus* 10 May 1919, p. 2; 28 May 1921, p. 3; 4 June 1921, p. 5; 28 March 1940, p. 5.
- *Evening Post* 10 May 1919, p. 8; 4 June 1921, p. 6.

REPORT COMPLETED

14 September 2023

AUTHOR

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Extent of setting, limited to the immediate surrounds of the memorial.



Road reserve parcel as a whole with monument marked by star.



ECTED BY THE RESIDENTS
OF THIS DISTRICT
TO THE MEMORY OF
WILLIAM HALL
AND
JOHN COULTHARD
WHO MET A TRAGIC END
AT THIS SPOT
FEBRUARY 23 1819.

ON NOVEMBER 9 1817 AT THIS SPOT JAMES CURRIE
THE NATHAN PAYROLLOR THE BROTHERS AND
ROBERT FRISBURY WERE HANGED
ALLEN WELLESLEY AND JOHN WOODMAN. JOHN WOODMAN WAS
WEDDING AND JOHN WOODMAN WAS CAUGHT
ROUNDBY THE 2ND OF NOVEMBER. JOHN WOODMAN
WAS HANGED AND JOHN WOODMAN WAS HANGED
AT THIS SPOT ON NOVEMBER 9 1817. HE WAS THE
LAST PERSON HANGED IN THE SOUTH ISLAND.



ECTED BY THE RESIDENTS
OF THIS DISTRICT.
TO THE MEMORY OF
WILLIAM HALL.
AND
JOHN COULTHARD
WHO MET A TRAGIC END
AT THIS SPOT
NOVEMBER 9 1917.

ON NOVEMBER 9TH 1917 AT THIS SITE A CAR CARRYING
THE STATE MINE PAYROLL OF £3600 WAS HELD UP AND
ROBBED BY FREDERICK WILLIAM EGGERS
ALIAS WILLIAM EGGERS McMAHON HALL AND COULTHARD
WERE SHOT AND KILLED AND ISAM (ANDY) JAMES WAS
WOUNDED BUT ESCAPED. EGGERS WAS CAUGHT
TRIED AND CONVICTED IN CHRISTCHURCH. EXECUTED
AT LITTLETON GAOL ON MARCH 5TH 1918. HE WAS THE
LAST PERSON HANGED IN THE SOUTH ISLAND.