

AUCKLAND CITY STREETSCAPE STUDY RECORD FORM

Preliminary Information



LOCATION / ADDRESS: Mount Eden War Memorial Hall 487 Dominion Road	ITEM NUMBER	CATEGORY (IF SCHEDULED)
		
NAME (IF ANY) NUMBER, STREET, LOCALITY, WARD 487 Dominion Road, Auckland	LEGAL DESCRIPTION	
BUILDING / STRUCTURAL / OBJECT / SITE USE: <input type="checkbox"/> RESIDENTIAL <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> INSTITUTIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> RECREATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURAL	OTHER LISTINGS	
HISTORY & KNOWN ASSOCIATIONS The Mt Eden War Memorial Hall on Dominion Road close to the intersection with Balmoral Road was built in 1957. It was designed by architect C. B. Watkin. McKray Crossley and Rowe were the consulting engineers for the building. Almost half of the total cost of £72,000 raised by the Eden-Roskill R.S.A. ¹ It was subsidised on a pound-for-pound basis by the government, as part of the policy of the Department of Internal Affairs to encourage "living memorials" in the form of war memorial community centres from 1949 onward. ² The Eden- Roskill R.S.A. had played an important role in raising funds for the memorial. They had initially intended to build a hall of their own, but combined with Council and contributed 31,000 pounds, including subsidies; to the project .Local citizens had also raised funds through fairs and carnivals. The hall was built by Fletcher Construction Ltd. The Returned Services club at the lower level provided a lounge, reading room, card room, billiard room, area for indoor bowls as well as kitchen, supper rooms and offices. At the ground level was the hall, Hall of Memories and a future gymnasium.. The architect noted at the opening that the building had been set back from Dominion Road by around 40 feet to allow for landscaping. The building was intended to be light and airy, combining simplicity with dignity. The foundation stone was laid in late September 1957 by the Minister of Internal Affairs, Mr Smith in front of a crowd of about 200 people. ³ The Mt Eden Borough council chambers relocated to this building after its opening, from their previous location in the Borough Council building in Valley Road, which continued its use as the Borough Council offices.	ZONING Open Space 4	
REFERENCE SOURCES <i>Guardian</i> , 2 October 1957 <i>Auckland Star</i> April 21 1953 Chris MacLean and Jock Phillips, <i>The Sorrow and the Pride – New Zealand War Memorials</i> , 1990, pp. 139-140 <i>Changing Face of Mt Eden</i> , pages 32 and 81	REGISTERED OWNER	
PHOTOGRAPHS (HISTORICAL) Fletcher Construction Company Archives 9078p/28 c 1955	ARCHITECT / DESIGNER C. B. Watkin	

¹ *Guardian*, 2 October 1957

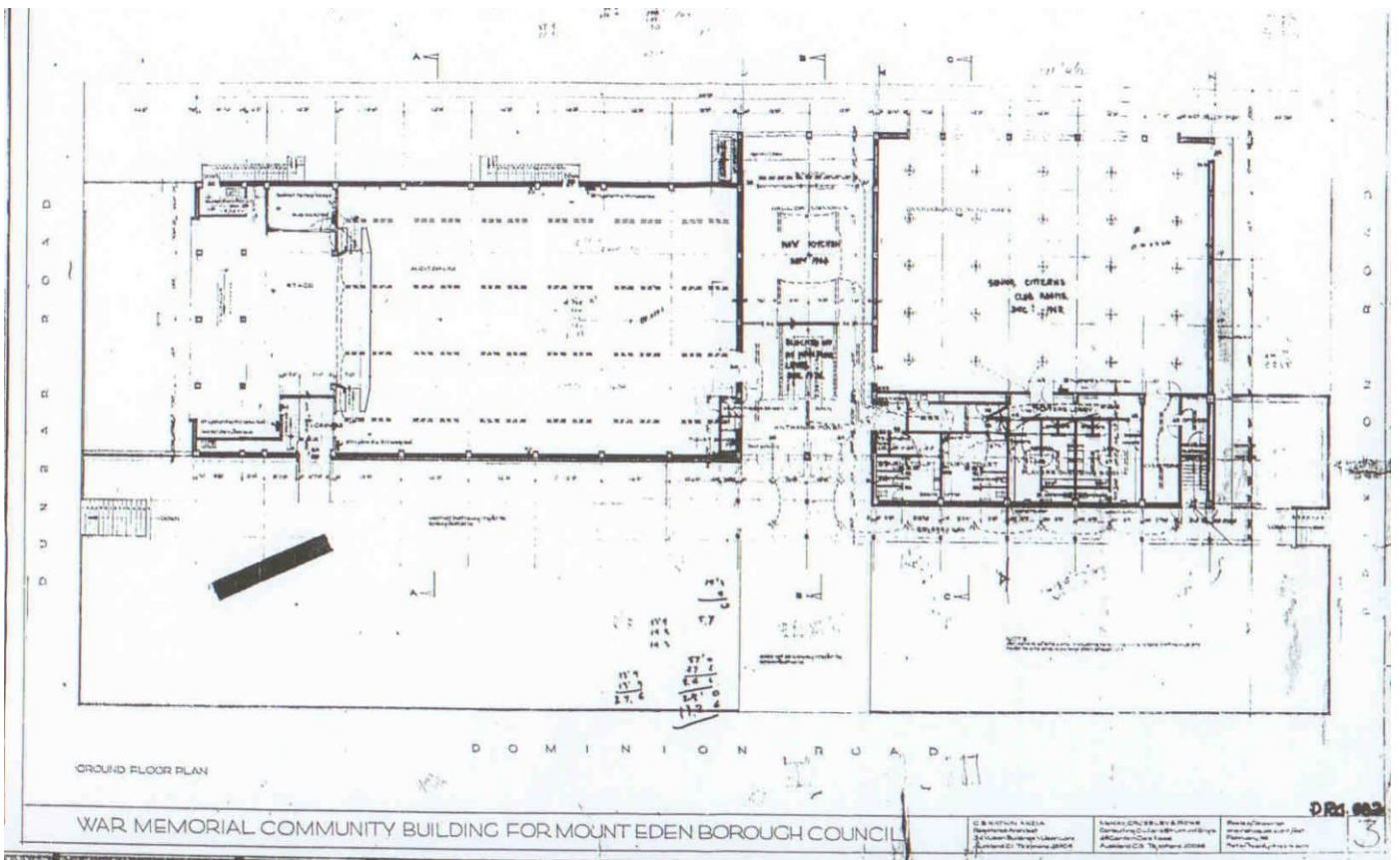
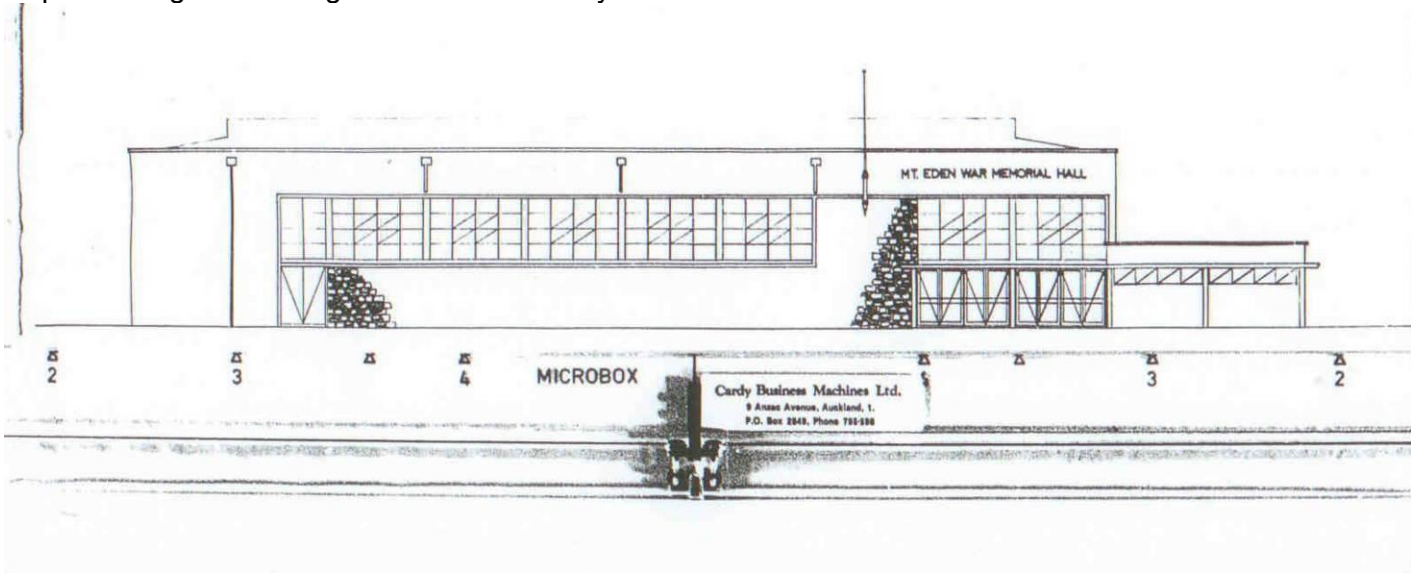
² Chris MacLean and Jock Phillips, *The Sorrow and the Pride – New Zealand War Memorials*, 1990, pp. 139-140

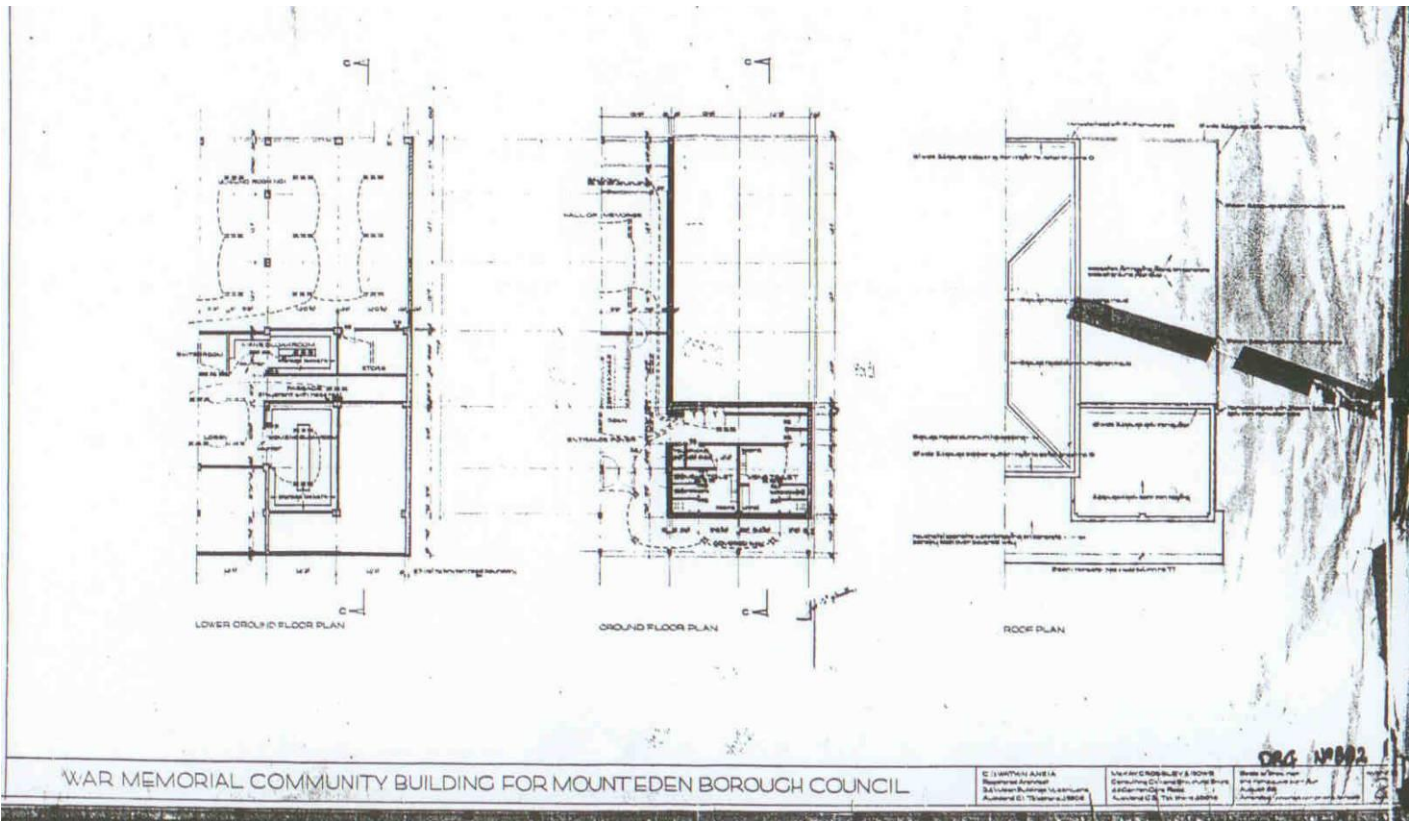
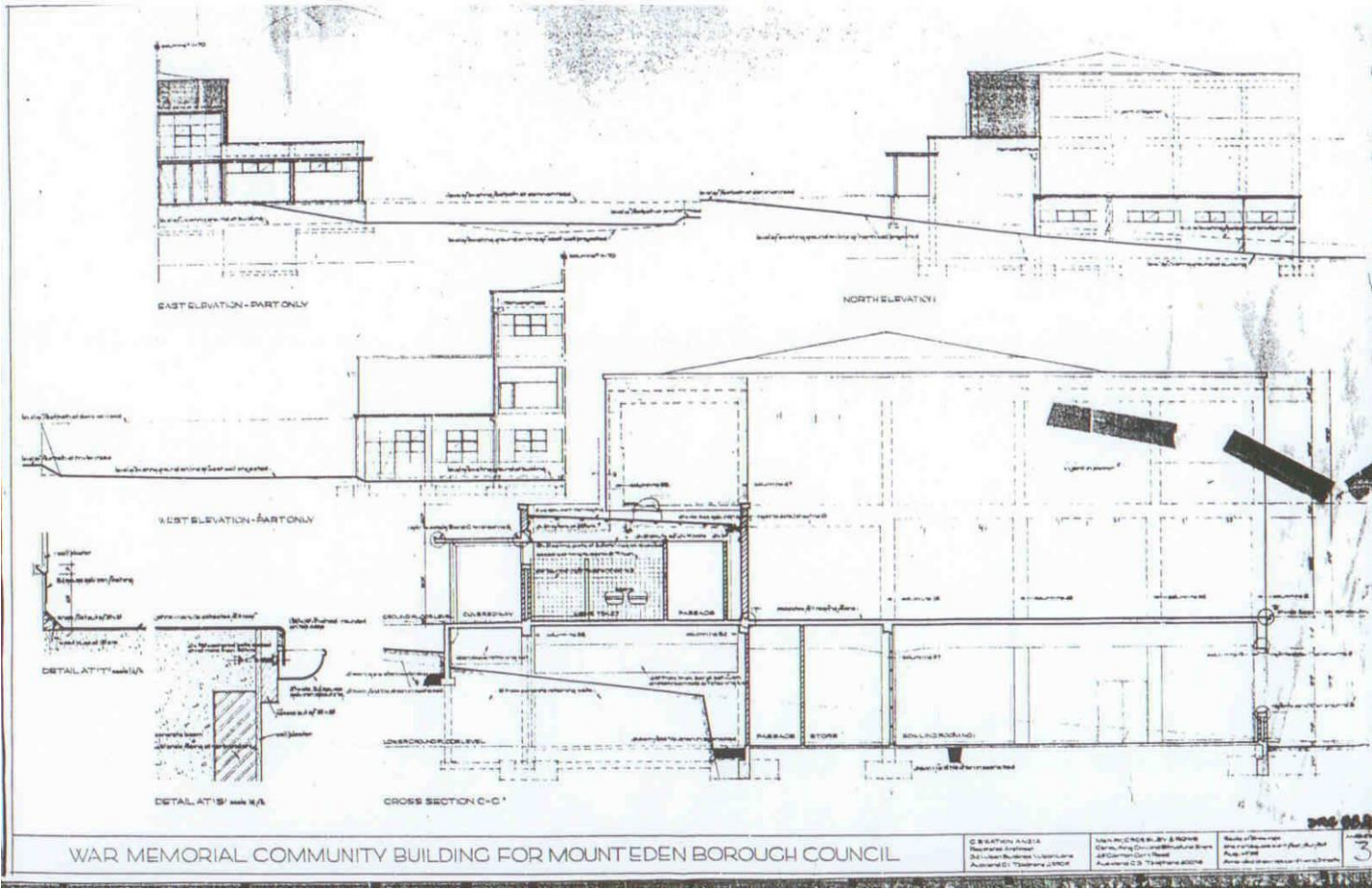
³ *Auckland Star* April 21 1953



<p>STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE The Mount Eden War Memorial Hall was built to commemorate those who gave their lives in World War II and has been the focus of commemorative events for the district since its construction in 1957. It provides evidence of contemporary approach to war memorials which were to have a functional and community purpose after the second world War, as well as a commemorative one. Funds for the building were raised by the local community with a significant contribution by the Eden-Roskill RSA in combination with subsidies provided by the Government. It provides evidence of the work of architect C. B Watkin.</p>	<p>PERIOD / DATE OF CONSTRUCTION 1957</p>
<p>AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE</p> <p> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> HISTORICAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURAL <input type="checkbox"/> TECHNOLOGICAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AESTHETIC <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SPIRITUAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRADITIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SPECIAL <input type="checkbox"/> RARITY VALUE <input type="checkbox"/> GROUP VALUE <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER </p>	<p>MATERIALS Brick and concrete</p> <p>INTEGRITY/ SIGNIFICANT ELEMENTS</p>
<p>PREPARED BY: Matthews & Matthews Architects Ltd FOR: AUCKLAND CITY COUNCIL</p>	<p>STREETSCAPE VALUE</p>
	<p>CONTRIBUTION TO COLLECTIVE CHARACTER HERITAGE VALUE High</p> <p>DATE OF SURVEY September 2006</p> <p>EXTERIOR: INTERIOR: BY: CHECKED: PHOTOGRAPHED: Matthews & Matthews Architects Ltd</p>

Copies of original drawings from Auckland City Council records





The Auckland Star

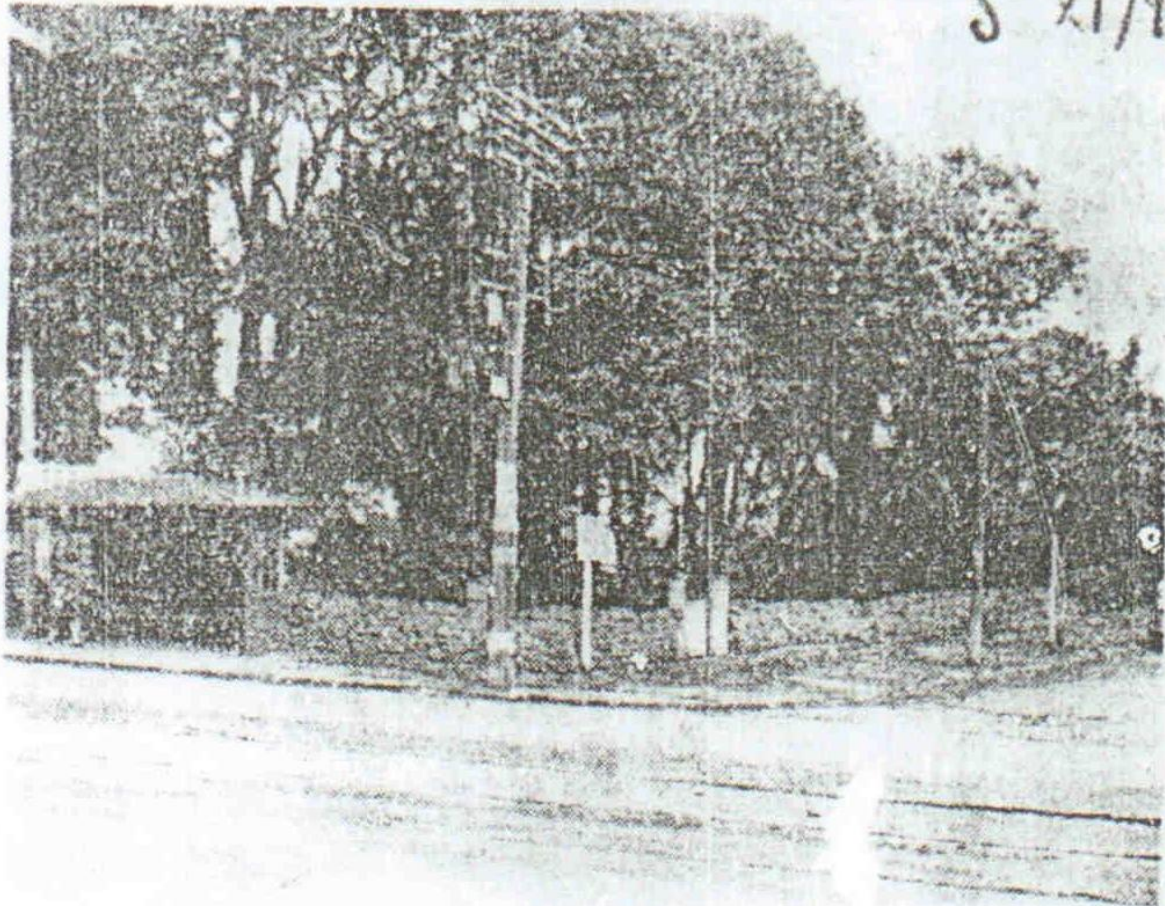
WITH WHICH ARE INCORPORATED

The Evening News, Morning News, The Echo and The Sun

TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 1953

Gift Of Land In Mount Eden

S 21/4



This quarter-acre section on the corner of Mount Eden Road and Lovelock Avenue has been donated to the Mount Eden War Memorial and by Mr William Bridgman, one of the oldest residents of Mount Eden.

The area will be vested in the council and used as a reserve. It is part of an estate which has been in the Bridgman family for 77 years.

Mr Bridgman's father, Mr W. R. Bridgman, was chairman of the old Mount Eden Road Board in 1890.

"Mount Eden residents greatly appreciate this gift," said the Mayor, Mr Clive Johns, today.

He added that the War Memorial fund was now only £1500 off its £35,000 target, and he was confident that residents would contribute this before the end of June, when the Government subsidy expired.

Minister lays Foundation Stone of War Memorial

Despite the inclement weather last Saturday about 200 people attended the laying of the foundation stone of Mt. Eden's War Memorial in Dominion Road, Balmoral by the Minister of Internal Affairs (Mr. Smith).

The Deputy Mayor (Mr. E. W. Turner), who presided apologised for the absence of the Mayor (Mr. A. C. Johns) who became ill on Friday and has been ordered to remain in bed for a fortnight.

Mr. Turner said that since the end of World War 2 local authorities had interested themselves in providing something by which they could recognise what had been done by those men who had made the supreme sacrifice.

It was suggested that something in the nature of a community centre would be more suitable than a stone statue, and Mt. Eden Council decided

He also thanked all citizens who had contributed, organisations which through fairs and carnivals had raised money, the architect and the Fletcher Construction Company, all of whom had done and were doing a remarkably fine job.

Real Purpose

Mr. Duncan Rae, M.P. said a War Memorial such as that in Mt. Eden could mean much

still allowed Mr. Roskill to be active in the Borough. For that he and the people of Mt. Roskill were grateful.

It was essential that a local authority should have the courage to erect a building, such as the War Memorial and it was one that would serve a great need, he added.

The Building

The Architect (Mr. C. B. Wadon) in describing the building said it was sited approximately 45 to 50 feet back from Dominion Road, so that this space may be laid out in lawns and gardens, it was a brick and concrete structure.

The site of the War Memorial slopes sharply from Dominion Road, which allows for a lower ground floor level with Dunbar and Brixton Roads with the main ground floor on the Dominion Road level.

The lower ground floor will accommodate the Eden-Roskill Returned Services Club, the amenities for which include a lounge, reading room, card room, billiard room and a large area for indoor bowls, plus kitchen, supper rooms and executive offices.

attention at the entrance, the main entrance will be in limestone to provide a focal point. The large brick area at the rear will be a

Waa. Waa. Waa.

The Minister of Internal Affairs (Mr. Smith) said the War Memorial symbolised the desire of the people of Mt. Eden to commemorate forever the sacrifice made by the men of the district who offered their all.

It would be a building that would be worthy of an important borough like Mt. Eden providing as it would facilities for young and old. It would lack nothing that would not be a perfect reminder of the reasons for its having been erected.

It was suggested that something in the nature of a community centre would be more suitable than a stone statue, and Mt. Eden Council decided on the war memorial, but went further and decided to incorporate a Hall of Memories.

The sum of £36,000 was raised which, with the government subsidy amounted to £72,000. Since the decision to build the war memorial, however, costs had risen 5 per cent and fresh plans had to be drawn in which the gymnasium had to be, for the time being, omitted from the building.

Mr. Turner said he was sure the citizens would be proud of their war memorial which would be a wonderful addition to the borough. It was the first time the borough had had such a building, and it was one that would serve not only Mt. Eden but also Mt. Roskill and Mt. Albert, and he cordially invited these boroughs to make use of the Memorial in the future.

He paid a tribute to the splendid part played by the Eden-Roskill R.S.A. in helping to raise funds for the War Memorial. It had been its original intention to build a hall of its own, but then agreed to combine with the council. The association would have contributed, with subsidies, £31,000 towards the cost of the building, said Mr. Turner.

Real Purpose

Mr. Duncan Rae, M.P. said a War Memorial such as that in Mt. Eden could mean much to the community, so long as its real purpose was not forgotten.

It would give the people an opportunity to meet, under happy circumstances and, in the years to come, would do much towards the educational progress of the Borough.

There was also the fact that something had been built into the War Memorial that would remind them of the men who had made the supreme sacrifice.

The Mayor of Mt. Roskill (Mr. Keith Hay), representing the adjoining borough, said that Mr. Turner knew the anxiety of councils when they were criticised by the people they were trying to help.

He said he had been staggered to read of criticism levelled at Civic leaders of Mt. Eden for building the War Memorial. It would not be so bad, he added, if they would come out into the open instead of hiding behind a non de plume.

Mr. Hay said he remembered how Mt. Eden Council had helped Mt. Roskill to build its Memorial by allowing it to run functions to Mt. Eden. While the council was trying to raise funds for its own Memorial, it

billiard room and a large area for indoor bowls, plus kitchen, supper rooms and executive offices.

The ground floor consists of a hall, entrance foyer, Hall of Memories and a future gymnasium.

The main hall is 84ft. x 56ft. with a stage 56ft. x 29ft. Dressing rooms are provided on a mezzanine floor while the acoustics will ensure that sound will be carried evenly to all parts of the hall. The flooring will be parquet.

The foyer is entered from the Dominion Road level, and at the rear of it will be the Hall of Memories, separated from the foyer by a clear glass screen. The rear wall of the Hall of Memories will be a clear glass sandblasted screen opening on to a small palm court.

The walls of the hall will be symbolically treated to perpetuate the memory of those who made the supreme sacrifice.

Situated on the first floor above the Hall of Memories will be a large supper room and kitchen reached by a stairway from the entrance foyer.

Airple, public cloakroom and convenience accommodation will be provided.

The whole building will be light and airy. Simplicity combined with dignity dominates the exterior design, while the finish will, in the main, be

