

**Statement of Significance
War Memorial
Memorial Gardens Park
West Vancouver, BC
April 2008**



Historic Place

The historic place is the War Memorial, a stone arch, along with the adjacent Cairn, Plinths, and landscaped ground in Memorial Park on Marine Drive and 19th Street in West Vancouver. Together with the West Vancouver Memorial Library, located across the street (and not a part of the historic place), the two sites form a memorial precinct commemorating those West Vancouverites who fell in several wars. The library houses a memorial stained glass window and an official book for remembrance.

Heritage Value

The War Memorial has considerable value to the community as the place where West Vancouver residents have gathered every Remembrance Day since its dedication in 1925, to remember those who have fallen in the wars. It is one of the earliest formal celebration places in the community. The Cairn remembers the 21 residents who fell in World War I, while the two Plinths remember the fallen from World War II. Over the years, the War Memorial has grown into an ecumenical spiritual gathering place.

The War Memorial also has value as a sculpted arch, with its rusticated stonework and interesting detail. The Cairn is an appropriate adjunct, with a tablet bearing names framed by a rusticated monument.

Memorial Park has value as a secluded landscaped area for remembrance and contemplation.

Character-Defining Elements

The character-defining elements of the War Memorial include:

- The feature of the granite arch, including the semicircular arch, the rusticated stonework, the buttresses, the stepped profile, and the cross on top
- The features of the Cairn, including its form, rusticated stonework, and inscribed names
- The West and East Plinths, set into the ground with inscribed names
- The formal garden and steps in front of the arch
- The displays of memorial wreaths and tributes at its base, principally on Remembrance Day
- The 'enclosed' park, with tribute and specimen trees