

Listed Building Consent application comments

Our ref: WMO/169321 (WM2627)
www.warmemorials.org.uk/memorial/169321



Date of comments: 15th January 2026

Local Authority:	Cumberland Council (Copeland)
Planning ref:	4/25/2425/0L1
Description:	Listed Building Consent for the addition of two names to Lowca War Memorial

War Memorials Trust is the national charity for the protection and conservation of war memorials in the UK.

War Memorials Trust has been made aware of the listed building consent application by one of its supporters in relation to Lowca war memorial, www.warmemorials.org.uk/memorial/169321.

Unveiled in 1920 the memorial was originally within the grounds of the Methodist Church relocated to its present position in 2008. It was listed Grade II in 2018, www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1457587

The information presented with the planning application includes the names Pte G. Whitehead, 12th Border Regiment and Pte G. Askew, Royal Artillery proposed to be added on the north side of the memorial.

In terms of which names are included on war memorials, communities sometimes based names on those born within a certain area, living in an area or just relied on the names put forward by those living in the area at the time. Sometimes families did not want their loved ones recorded as they may still have been missing or the family did not agree with the memorial. On other occasions families choose to commemorate loved ones elsewhere – today this may not be so clear to us, but we should be careful to respect the choices of the families of the time and recognise that may be different to what we might expect today.

Particularly after the World Wars when bodies were not repatriated, war memorials stood in place of the graves of those who fell so were sites family and friends visited as they would have graveside. War Memorials Trust generally discourages the addition of names which are commemorated on other war memorials as this demonstrates that the individuals were not overlooked and that the bereaved choose where to commemorate people that was right at the time for them; it is not necessarily appropriate for us to change their decisions.

If someone died after the war it is likely they have a grave at which their family could mourn. As such, adding them to the war memorial could be a duplication and change the nature of the memorial. The decision was often made at the time that if the family had a grave, the name was not on the war memorial.

Working out what the criteria used for collecting the existing names on the war memorial before deciding about adding is important. It may help to review our helpsheets listed below:

- Addition of names www.warmemorials.org/faqs/#Addition_of_names
- Ownership of war memorials www.warmemorials.org/hshown
- Researching the history of a war memorial www.warmemorials.org/researchhistory
- Researching the names on a war memorial www.warmemorials.org/hshresearchnames

The importance of research is demonstrated in this case. Pte G. Whitehead is believed to be buried at St Bridget's Church, Moresby having died from influenza after the 1918 Armistice. His grave is marked by a War Grave headstone therefore commemoration already exists. Pte G. Askew is understood to have died in February 1918 and is commemorated overseas. It may be appropriate to seek further evidence to establish if a local dedication already exists or whether inclusion did not meet relevant criteria or wishes at the time. For example, there appear to be dedications to a G. Askew and G. Whitehead at nearby Harrington, see www.warmemorials.org.uk/memorial/170467/ and www.warmemorials.org.uk/memorial/118650/.

In respect of the addition, although entirely separate to the existing inscription there would appear be sufficient space. If the request to add the names is accepted by the LPA then the Trust would recommend any addition is on a like-for-like basis, using the same style, font and format as the existing.

I hope this is of assistance. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact conservation@warmemorials.org or 020 7233 7356.

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