

Silverton Battery, Waihi



Location: On a terrace adjacent to the Ohinemuri River, at the end of Silverton Road, Waihi

Heritage Status

Historic Places Trust Registration Number:

Historic Places Trust Category:

HDC Heritage Category: **A** - Heritage Area. National or Outstanding Regional Significance

Other: Recorded archaeological site (T13/311)

Physical Description: The remains of the battery consist of concrete footings, settling tanks and low masonry walls. A sketch map was done by N Ritchie (1990). The battery was powered by water from a weir located about 100m upstream. A 2ft diameter pipeline was laid along the right bank from the weir to the battery. For the last 30m the pipeline is routed through a tunnel excavated in a small knoll from where it emerges into a turbine pit.

Other known names: Martha Battery, Union Battery

Notable features:

Style:

Materials:

Date of Construction: 1882

District Plan Schedule

Number: **HAU248**

Heritage Category: **A**

Heritage Type:

- Wahi Tapu
- Cultural Landscape
- Building
- Group of Buildings
- Structure
- Monument
- Historic Place
- Archaeological Site
- Other

Date Period:

1881-1910

Significance:

- Archaeological
- Architectural
- Cultural
- Historic
- Scientific
- Technological

Thematic Context

- Maori
- Early Settlement
- Industry (mining)
- Extraction
- Forestry
- Agriculture
- Transport
- Communication
- Commerce
- Residential
- Social/Cultural
- Civic
- Health
- Educational
- Church/yard
- Other

Historic Heritage Inventory



Silverton Battery, Waihi

District Plan Schedule

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History: The Silverton Battery was used by the Martha Extended Gold Mining Company, the Silverton Gold Mining Company, the Waihi Silverton Mining Company, the Union Waihi Gold Mining Company and the Waihi Gold Mining Company.

The Silverton Claim was first worked in 1885 by the Silverton Gold Mining Company of Auckland, followed by the Waihi Silverton Gold Mining Company of Glasgow. Cyanide treatment began at the battery in 1893.

The earliest tramline in Waihi ran from the Union Hill mine to this site. In 1896, the battery was extended to include a 40 stamp battery, crushing plant, cyanide vats and assaying and refining equipment. A 1.5 mile long railway was also constructed between the Silverton (Union) mine and the battery.

In 1898, the property was acquired by the Union Waihi Company and subsequently transferred to the Waihi G.M.C. No further work was done at the plant, although the battery continued to be used to crush ore from the Victoria Battery at Waikino and the Waihi Battery on Union Hill. Operations in Waihi ceased in the 1920s, when focus shifted to the treatment of ore at the Victoria Battery.

Architect:

Designer:

Builder:

Engineer:

History of changes:

Condition: ruins

Integrity: substantially altered

Current Uses: Ruin

Former Uses: Battery

Registered owner: Hendrik and Robin Bouius

Legal Description: Lot 1 DPS 28812; Sec 94 Blk XV Ohinemuri SD

Reference Source: Eric Lens; Downey, J. F. (1935) *Goldmines of the Hauraki Goldfield*. Cadstonbury Press; Ritchie, N. (1990) *A Survey of Historic Mining Sites in the Thames and Ohinemuri Areas of the Hauraki Goldfield*. Department of Conservation.

Historic Heritage Inventory

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District Plan Schedule

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Associated Pictures:

