

Martha Mine No.5 Shaft Pumphouse, Martha Hill, Waihi



Location: Seddon Street, Waihi

Heritage Status

Historic Places Trust Registration Number: 134

Historic Places Trust Category: Category 1 - Registered Historic Place

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

Other: Recorded archaeological site (T13/301)

Physical Description: The Pump House is a tall rectangular concrete structure with round headed windows and circular ventilators measuring 15m long, 9m wide and some 18m above the surrounding ground level. The floor area is 20m x 8m and the building sat on a substantial concrete base, 50ft x 30ft, with equally massive foundations. A model of the pumphouse is located in the Waihi Museum. Recently relocated on Martha Hill, to the southwest of its original location.

Other known names: Cornish Pumphouse

Notable features: Imposing industrial structure, landmark feature in Waihi. Only surviving structure associated with the original Martha Mine.

Style: Concrete Neo-Gothic Industrial

Materials: Concrete (minimal reinforcing), brick (East window of south wall has been bricked in from a larger cavity)

District Plan Schedule

Number: **HAU001**

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

Historic Heritage Inventory



Martha Mine No.5 Shaft Pumphouse, Martha Hill, Waihi

District Plan Schedule

Number: **HAU001**

Heritage Category: **A**

Date of Construction: 1903

History: The Martha Mine, which operated from 1882 to 1952, was regarded as one of the most productive goldmines in the world. Around its extensive underground workings developed the town of Waihi. As the workings followed the quartz reefs downwards, increasing quantities of water were encountered, necessitating the installation of major pumps.

The pumphouse was built around the eastern legs of the No.5 shaft poppet head to house steam engines and pumping equipment. In 1902 the first (B) pump was installed west of No. 5 shaft and in 1904 the massive (C) steam operated pump, housed inside the pumphouse complemented the (B) pump. The two pumps could raise water from the underground mine at a rate of 382,500 litres per hour. The compound Hathorn-Davey differential pump engines were powered by four Babcock and Wilcox boilers. With the introduction of electric power (and electric pumps within the mine) supplied from the Waihi Gold Company's Horahora Power Station the operation of the (C) pump was progressively scaled back until it was scrapped in 1929 and the building became derelict.

The smoke stack was 30.5 metres high. In 1913 a change was made to electric centrifugal pumps. In 1952, the pumphouse was stripped of its machinery, abandoned and allowed to become a ruin. In 2006 it was moved from its original site on Martha Hill to a new location at the top of Seddon Street.

The Martha Mine was the biggest goldmine in New Zealand, and a large mine on a world scale. The two pumps at the No 5 shaft raised about 9,000,000 litres of water per day from the mine workings. The concrete pump house housed the boilers and machinery of the larger of the pumps in this shaft. It affirms the growing use of concrete for industrial buildings at the turn of the century and is a utilitarian structure with no obvious architectural derivation or pretension. Its dramatic appearance is enhanced by its isolation and by the open roof and window apertures.

The design was based on the pumphouses used in the tin mines of Cornwall, England.

Architect: n/a

Designer: n/a

Builder: Hathorn-Davey

Engineer: n/a

History of changes: The building was structurally strengthened and relocated in 2006, some 26m to the south and 270m to the west.

Condition: ruin, recently stabilised for relocation.

Integrity: substantially intact.

Current Uses: Dis-used as pumphouse but open for public access during daylight hours.

Historic Heritage Inventory

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District Plan Schedule

Number: **HAU001**

Heritage Category: **A**

Former Uses: Pump House, used to house steam engines and pumping equipment.

Registered owner:

Legal Description: Pt Secs 225 Spc Site 8,9,28,29, Pt 7&17 Martha Hill

Reference Source: NZHPT Building Record Form; Ritchie, N. (1990) *A Survey of Historic Mining Sites in the Thames and Ohinemuri Areas of the Hauraki Goldfield*. Department of Conservation.

Website: <http://www.marthamine.co.nz/>

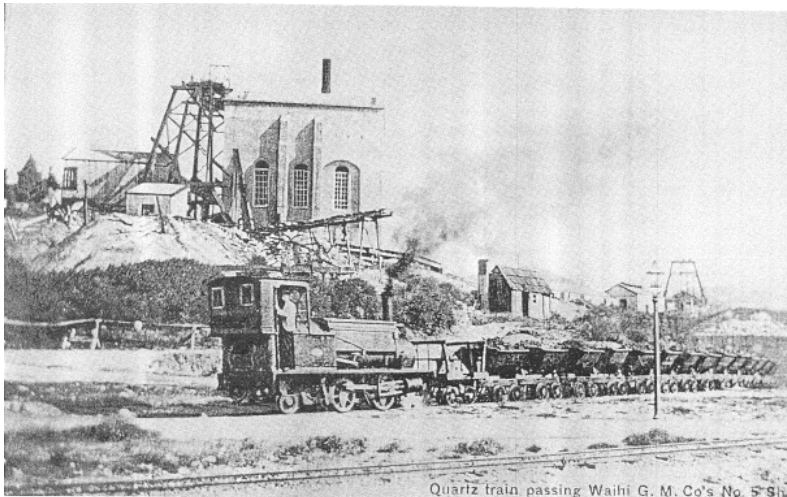
Martha Mine Pumphouse, No.5 Shaft, Waihi – A Conservation Plan
Salmon and Reed Architects Ltd, November 2003

History of the No.5 Shaft and Associated Remains, Martha Hill.

Ray Hooker, Archsearch Consultancy. December 2005 and November 2007

Archaeological Report on Investigations at Martha Hill, Waihi. NZHPT Authority
2006/132.

Associated Pictures:



A quartz train passing the Waihi G.M.Co's #5 shaft and pumphouse (T13/301).
Date: unknown. Source: McAra (1988:129).

