

Waihi Courthouse



Location: 61 Kenny Street, Waihi

Heritage Status

Historic Places Trust Registration Number: 4685

Historic Places Trust Category: Category 1 - Registered Historic Place

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

Other:

Physical Description: Single storey late Victorian corner bay villa with hipped roof. It is made from concrete foundations and a timber frame clad with rusticated weatherboard with boxed corners and some stick work and palmette brackets on the gable eaves.

Other known names:

Notable features:

Style: Victorian domestic

Materials: concrete, timber, corrugated iron

Date of Construction: 1901

District Plan Schedule

Number: HAU024

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

Waihi Courthouse

District Plan Schedule

Number: **HAU024**

Heritage Category: **A**

History: Waihi had sprung up in the early “eighties” following the discovery of the Martha Gold Reef in 1878. Until the late 1890’s however, Waihi was little different from other shanty towns. The advent of the cyanide process of gold extraction in 1893 and the establishment of the British Waihi Gold Mining Company brought permanence and prosperity to Waihi. The erection of the courthouse in 1901 was a further indication of this permanence.

Mining matters such as miners’ rights and licences were also administered by the Warden’s Court from the building. Additions to the courthouse were needed in 1906 to accommodate the Inspector of Mines, Waihi.

During the Waihi Strike of 1912 the Waihi Magistrate’s Court came to the nation’s attention when prosecutions were brought against 82 striking miners. The strike which commenced in May and lasted for six months was particularly acrimonious. Waihi ultimately became the scene of confrontation between Massey’s newly-elected Reform Government and the Federation of Labour. Several members of the “Red Feds” who became involved in the issue of the Waihi Strike were later to achieve prominence as members of the Labour Government elected in 1935.

Although used less intensively than in the days of Waihi’s mining boom, the building remains a District Court serving the largely rural community which subsequently grew up around Waihi.

Architect: John Campbell

Designer:

Builder: (1901) W M Hay, Thames, (1906) Palmer and Judge, Waihi

Engineer:

History of changes: Major upgrade & extensions carried out by S G Baker Ltd in 1982.

Condition: Very Good

Integrity: substantially intact

Current Uses: Courthouse

Former Uses:

Registered owner: Department of Justice

Legal Description: Sec 2 SO 58615 Blk XV Ohinemuri SD

Reference Source: NZHPT Building Record Form

Historic Heritage Inventory

Waihi Courthouse

District Plan Schedule

Number: **HAU024**

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Associated Pictures:

