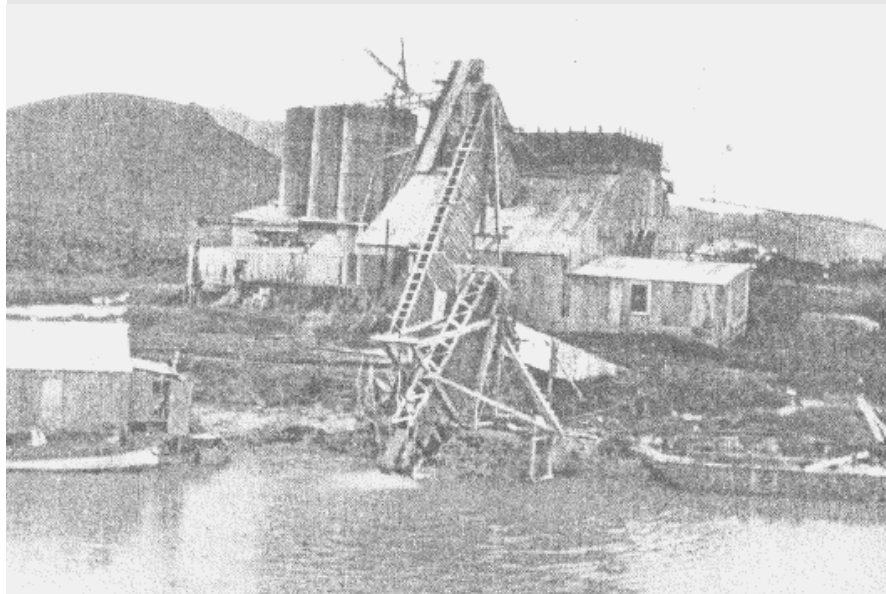


Historic Heritage Inventory



Waihi Paeroa Gold Extraction Company Dredging Plant Site, Waihi



Location: Confluence of Ohinemuri River and Waitete Stream near Lawrence Road, Waihi

Heritage Status

Historic Places Trust Registration Number: 7670

Historic Places Trust Category: Registered Historic Area

HDC Heritage Category: B - Heritage Area. Regional or Sub-Regional Significance

Other: Recorded archaeological site (T13/305).

Physical Description: Remains of building foundations visible in aerial photographs. Nearby Masonry Dam still present. Likely to be a great deal of subsurface material around the plant site.

Other known names:

Notable features:

Style:

Materials: Concrete

Date of Construction: 1902

History: The Waihi Dredging Company was formed in January 1897 with the intention of initiating dredging operations along the Ohinemuri River. In early 1902, the company was bought by Mr Rich and renamed the Ohinemuri River Claim. Buildings were constructed near the junction of the Waitete Stream and Ohinemuri River. Simple draglines were used to recover tailings in the river.

District Plan Schedule

Number: HAU076

Heritage Category: B

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



Waihi Paeroa Gold Extraction Company Dredging Plant Site, Waihi

District Plan Schedule

Number: **HAU076**

Heritage Category: **B**

In 1903, the company was bought by Brown and Thompson under the Ohinemuri River Syndicate. The plant was improved in 1904 to better grind the tailings. Cyanide tanks were installed to process the material in an experimental technique. It proved successful and the cyanide treatment was internationally patented. The tanks were known as Brown-McMicken Tanks (later named *Panchuca* tanks by the Americans). 2000 tons of tailings were treated by the new process and plans were drawn up to increase the capacity of the plant and build a new one at Paeroa by the end of 1905.

Further funding was not forthcoming and the company was bought in 1908 by the Waihi Paeroa Gold Extraction Company, under P N Kingswell, chairman of both this company and Portland Cement Company. The new plant manager was Robert Mark Aitken. It was rebuilt and new machinery installed at a cost of £16 000. Four tube mills, agitators, concentrators and a new air compressing plant were added. The company was made public in 1910 and the decision was made to build a larger plant in Paeroa. The Waihi plant was wound down in April 1910 and the buildings and machinery were shifted to Mill Road, Paeroa.

Architect:

Designer:

Builder:

Engineer:

History of changes:

Condition: Few remains, mostly subsurface

Integrity: substantially altered

Current Uses: ruins

Former Uses: dredging plant

Registered owner: Hauraki District Council

Legal Description: Lot 10 DP 308287

Reference Source: Townsend, C (2002) *Ohinemuri: River of Gold*. Patricia Townsend, Timaru; Ritchie, N. (1990) *A Survey of Historic Mining Sites in the Thames and Ohinemuri Areas of the Hauraki Goldfield*. Department of Conservation.

Associated Pictures: