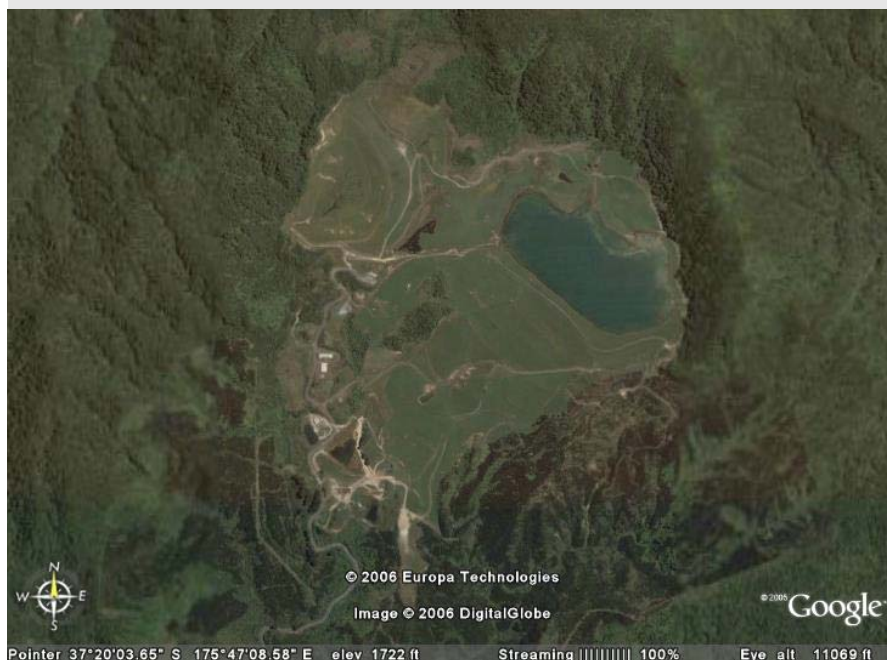


# Historic Heritage Inventory



## Golden Cross Historic Area



**Location:** Golden Cross Road, Golden Cross mine site is situated eight kilometres north-west of Waihi in the Waitekauri Valley at the base of the Coromandel Peninsula.

### Heritage Status

**Historic Places Trust Registration Number:**

**Historic Places Trust Category:**

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

**Other:**

**Physical Description:** Remnant landscape of gold mining operations and associated town at Golden Cross.

The area was surveyed in 1987 by Twohill, who recorded 41 archaeological sites, most post-dating 1900. These included the battery, engine sheds, mullock dumps, a pit, portal, prospecting trench, roads, shaft-heads, terraces, town, tramways, tunnels and water race.

**Other known names:**

**Notable features:** Mining Landscape

**Style:** n/a

**Materials:** n/a

District Plan Schedule

Number: **HAU124**

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

# Historic Heritage Inventory



## Golden Cross Historic Area

District Plan Schedule

Number: **HAU124**

Heritage Category: **B**

**Date of Construction:** c 1892

**History:** Dickson and Corbet Lowrie discovered the Golden Cross Reef in September 1892 whilst digging for gum. In 1893, Thomas H. Russell purchased the 44 acre Golden Gate and Golden Cross Licensed Holdings from the Lowries and formed the Auckland based Golden Cross Gold Mining No Liability.

The company built a track from Waitekauri, a water race, various buildings, a Pelton wheel, a 5-stamp battery and berdan.

The battery was replaced in 1894 with a 10-stamp battery and cyanide process plant. Two kilns, a hydraulic lift, tramway trucks and hoppers were added in 1894.

By early 1895, Russell had sold the mine to the Waitekauri Gold-Mining Company Limited. The company focused on the Golden Cross section, adding a tramway between Golden Cross and Waitekauri (1895), the Number 2 shaft (1895), the Golden Cross township (1896) and various machinery and engine sheds (1896). A water race for the 10-stamp mill was built in 1898. Various surface prospecting also occurred until 1903.

At this time, the property comprised of the Golden Cross Special Claim, Croesus Special Claim, Socket Special Claim.

The mine was abandoned in 1904 and machinery removed from the site.

In 1906, the Golden Cross Gold-Mining Company Limited was formed and acquired the land. It added a new 10-stamp battery (1911), tramway line and water races (1910), mullock dumps (1912) and portals to the Battery, Kiln and Corbett adits and Numbers 1 and 2 shafts (1912). The workings put the company in debt and the land was taken on by the Golden Cross Consolidated Limited in 1912. The company wound up gold mining in 1914 but continued crushing operations until 1917.

Between 1895 and 1920 the Golden Cross underground mine produced just over two and a half tonnes of gold. When the mine closed the site became farmland.

In 1977 two exploration licences were taken out. Initial investigation showed potential. A prospecting licence was obtained in 1980 and a drilling programme commenced in 1981. By mid 1985 exploration had revealed a potentially mineable deposit. Project feasibility followed. An Environmental Impact Report, a mining licence application and applications for water rights were lodged in late 1987. Water rights were granted in 1988. The mining licence was granted in April 1990, having been the subject of an appeal to the Planning Tribunal. Bonds of \$12.1 million were required to be lodged to allow the project to proceed.

# Historic Heritage Inventory



## Golden Cross Historic Area

District Plan Schedule

Number: **HAU124**

Heritage Category: **B**

The new Golden Cross mine began production in December 1991. Mining was by underground and open pit methods. The Golden Cross underground mine was the first underground gold mine to operate in New Zealand since the nearby Martha Mine at Waihi closed in 1952. A skilled workforce was developed mainly by training workers hired locally.

Coeur d'Alene Mines Corporation purchased the Golden Cross mine in March 1993 in an 80%/20% joint venture with New Zealand company Viking Mining.

Between December 1991 and April 1998 the mine produced a total of 20.5 tonnes of gold and 52 tonnes of silver with a present day value of approximately \$430 million, most of which was spent in New Zealand. At its peak Golden Cross employed 243 staff, as well as indirectly employing approximately 750 people in service and support industries. The company's annual staff payroll exceeded \$10 million.

The mine officially closed on 17 December 1998 and became the first modern mine in New Zealand to move into planned closure and final rehabilitation. The area is now used for grazing, wetland and native habitat.

**Architect:**  
**Designer:**  
**Builder:**  
**Engineer:**

**History of changes:**

**Condition:** Unknown

**Integrity:** unknown

**Current Uses:** grazing & bush/wetland

**Former Uses:** Mining/Residential

**Registered owner:** Coeur Gold Mining Limited and Viking Mining Company Limited

**Legal Description:** various - blocks of land around Golden Cross

**Reference Source:** Twohill, N. (1987) "Archaeological Site Survey and Pre-European Settlement." Golden Cross Technical Report No.14.

**Associated Pictures:**