

Grand Junction Battery, Powerhouse and Refinery, Waihi



Location: Martha Hill

Heritage Status

Historic Places Trust Registration Number:

Historic Places Trust Category:

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

Other: (Battery -T13/312; Powerhouse –T13/313; Refinery – T13/314).

Physical Description: Remains of buildings, shafts and associated structures from the Grand Junction Mine. Includes remains of the battery, A and B shafts, quarry, power house and boiler water pond located on Martha Hill. It is unclear what remains still exist as most would have been destroyed in the open cast mining on Martha Hill. Ritchie (1990) identified substantial concrete retaining walls, floors, wall footings and cyanide tank bases, a tramway embankment and two strong rooms associated with the battery. Evidence of the powerhouse is limited to substantial concrete footings and walls, mapped by Ritchie (1990). The nearby refinery building is intact, although the surrounding area is part of the Extended Martha Mine. It measures 15.8m x 7.7m and is made of concrete formwork construction with a pitched corrugated iron roof. The roof is surmounted by a louvered ventilator covering 2/3rd of its length. A large concrete chimney is located at the western end of the roof while a covered loading bay is at the eastern end of the building. The mine manager's house ('Junction House') was formerly located near the refinery. It has since been relocated.

Other known names:

Notable features:

District Plan Schedule

Number: HAU074

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

Historic Heritage Inventory



Grand Junction Battery, Powerhouse and Refinery, Waihi

District Plan Schedule

Number: **HAU074**

Heritage Category: **B**

Style:

Materials:

Date of Construction: 1906

History: The Waihi Grand Junction Company was formed in 1890. It had claim to two areas of Waihi G.M.C land at Martha Hill. The western area failed to produce much and was closed down in 1908. The eastern area was progressively developed until 1901, with the company reliant on the Waihi G.M.C. to dewater the ground. In 1905, the Grand Junction Company erected a 40-stamp mill. It had been acquired from the Kauri Freehold Gold Estates of Opitonui in 1904. Crushing continued at the mill from 1906 to 1924. An aerial tramway was erected to convey the ore from the shafts to the battery, while a ground tramway serviced the non-productive west area. Production peaked in 1914. By 1925, the company's funds were exhausted and an arrangement was made with the Waihi G.M.C to work the property on a profit-sharing basis. As the larger company took over, the expensive and large treatment plant was no longer needed. It was dismantled in 1933, leaving only the concrete foundations.

Architect:

Designer:

Builder:

Engineer:

History of changes: Resource Consent was granted on 28 May 2010 to relocate the Grand Junction Refinery Building and two (2) associated Strong rooms from its original position Section 1 SO Plan 60753 to an adjacent property – Lot 1 DPS SA 16820.

Condition: Refinery Building condition is Poor (walls substantially intact but roof in very poor repair)

Integrity: Substantially altered

Current Uses: open cast mine

Former Uses: Gold processing

Registered owner: Waihi Gold Company Nominees Ltd

Legal Description: Pt Sec 225 Blk XV Ohinemuri SD; Sect 1 SO 59198

Reference Source: Eric Lens; Waihi Heritage Group; McAra, J.B. (1988) *Goldmining at Waihi 1878-1952*. Martha Press Ltd; Auckland City Library Heritage Image 35-R1469; 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



Grand Junction Battery, Powerhouse and Refinery, Waihi

District Plan Schedule

Number: **HAU074**

Heritage Category: **B**

Associated Pictures:



Battery Site

Historic Heritage Inventory

Grand Junction Battery, Powerhouse and Refinery, Waihi

District Plan Schedule

Number: **HAU074**

Heritage Category: **B**



Powerhouse Remains and Refinery

Historic Heritage Inventory



Grand Junction Battery, Powerhouse and Refinery, Waihi

District Plan Schedule

Number: **HAU074**

Heritage Category: **B**



Refinery Building