

Historic Heritage Inventory



PYE Factory, Waihi



Location: Corner of Moresby Ave and Martha St, Waihi

Heritage Status

Historic Places Trust Registration Number:

Historic Places Trust Category:

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

Other:

Physical Description: Large two-storied factory with saw-toothed roof.

Other known names:

Notable features:

Style:

Materials: Steel, concrete, asbestos or super six, entry foyer features brick veneer corners.

Date of Construction: 1962.

History: In 1962 PYE built the factory on the corner of Moresby Avenue and Martha Street as a manufacturing plant for electronic components and television sets.

District Plan Schedule

Number: **HAU091**

Heritage Category: **B**

Heritage Type:

- Wahi Tapu
- Cultural Landscape
- Building
- Group of Buildings
- Structure
- Monument
- Historic Place
- Archaeological Site
- Other

Date Period:

1941-1980

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

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District Plan Schedule

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In 1932 when radio was in its infancy Keith Wrigley recognised that radio had a tremendous future and opened a radio sales and repairs shop in A.J Deans Building, lower Seddon St. As his business grew and space became limited he shifted to other premises in town before purchasing Kings Theatre on Hazsard Street in 1942 to use as a factory to manufacture radio components. By 1947 Akrad Radio Corporation was formed and utilised its machine shop for the production of other lines. Tricycle production had begun in 1946 and reached its peak in 1947 when three quarters of the staff were engaged on it. A number of prototype motor scooters were also produced. By 1951 PYE NZ was set up; and in 1955 restructuring saw a name change to PYE Ltd, with a controlling interest in Akrad and the Waihi factory. This acquisition brought further expansion to the plant in Hazsard St which led to the construction of the Moresby Avenue building. In 1979-1980 the Dutch based Phillips organisation took over the NZ operation of PYE. With the takeover by Phillips and its subsequent rationalisation of activities the factory was closed in 1987.

Architect:

Designer:

Builder:

Engineer:

History of changes:

Condition: good

Integrity: substantially intact

Current Uses: Now used as the offices of Newmont Waihi Gold, gym, toy library, Wintec, Hauraki Enterprise Agency and NJS Electronics (NZ Ltd).

Former Uses: television and electronics factory (PYE Factory)

Registered owner: Newmont Mines Ltd

Legal Description: Sec 92 Town of Waihi

Reference Source: Don Lockwood (2003) Puweka Waihi; A Brief History of the Electronics Industry in Waihi c1985

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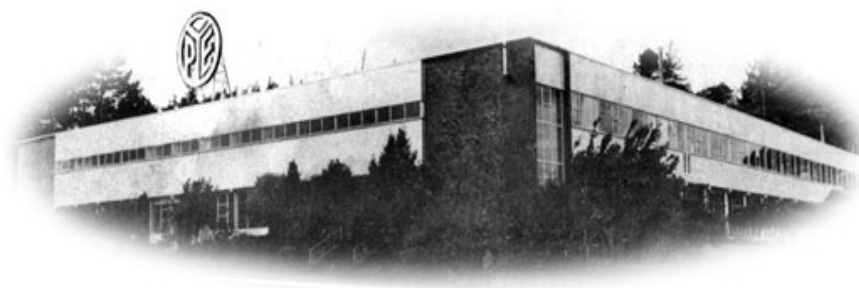
PYE Factory, Waihi

District Plan Schedule

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Associated Pictures:



above: Electronics was a mainstay of the Waihi economy for several decades, with over 500 staff employed at the industry peak in 1964.