

Historic Heritage Inventory



NZ Co-op Cheese Factory, Waitakaruru



Location: 15 State Highway 25, Cnr State Highway 25 and Canal West Road, Waitakaruru

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: Former Dairy factory located in Waitakaruru near Maukoro Canal.

Other known names:

Notable features:

Style:

Materials: Corrugated iron and wood

Date of Construction: 1928

History: Thames Valley Co-Operative Dairy Co. was formed in 1901 with the construction of a factory in Paeroa. By 1911, the company had nine creameries on the plains operating in conjunction with the factory at Paeroa. In 1914, another factory was opened at Kopu. New Zealand Dairy Association

District Plan Schedule

Number: **HAU176**

Heritage Category: **B**

Heritage Type:

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

Date Period:

1911-1940

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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(Reynolds-Spragg Co.) had built seventeen factories by 1916 including three on the plains at Netherton, Huirau Road and Kopuarahi. The Thames Valley Co-Op Dairy Co got into financial difficulty after the construction of the Waitoa milk drying plant. In 1919, financiers encouraged the formation of the NZ Co-operative Dairy Co by merging the Thames Valley Co-Op Dairy and Waikato Valley Co-Op Dairy.

In 1924, the Thames Valley Company went into voluntary liquidation, with a new factory at Ngatea almost completed. The new factory retained the Thames Valley name, although it was operated by the NZ Dairy Association. In 1928, a factory was built at Waitakaruru following pressure from the local farmers and possible interest in a cream receiving station at Waitakaruru by the Te Aroha Dairy Company. The factory was built on land set aside by the Crown for a factory site. The Waitakaruru Cheese Factory opened on the 11th December 1928. By 1953, it was the largest single-shift cheese factory in New Zealand. It closed in 1956 and all milk was carted to Kerepehi. The factory was purchased by Arthur Yates and Company for conversion to a peat processing and blueberry packing plant. In 2001, Yates closed the operation at Waitakaruru. The complex was purchased by R.E. Thompson Ltd and Baker Agricultural Contractors.

By 1953, a factory hostel was built to house the workers. The factory was converted to a casein factory in 1955. The Hostel was still used as a hall for annual meetings and, for a time, was a hair dressing salon. In 1967, a local Playcentre was formed, based in the hostel. The Playcentre then moved to a room in the Primary School before moving to a new building between the hall and the domain in 1977/8.

Architect:

Designer:

Builder:

Engineer:

History of changes:

Condition: Very Good

Integrity: Substantially intact

Current Uses: Contractors

Former Uses: Dairy Factory

Registered owner: R E Thompson Ltd and Baker Agricultural Contractors

Legal Description: Pt Sec 8 Blk X Wharekawa

Reference Source: Clover, K. (1977) "Waitakaruru: School and District Jubilee 1902-1977"; G.Townshend (pers comm.).

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Associated Pictures:



Waitakaruru Cheese Factory, 1928



Photo courtesy Whites Aviation

N.Z.D.C. factory from the air showing also School and the Maukoro Canal