

Historic Heritage Inventory



Ohinemuri Cave, Paeroa

Location: State Highway 2, Turner's Hill, Paeroa

Heritage Status

Historic Places Trust Registration Number:

Historic Places Trust Category:

HDC Heritage Category: C - Heritage Item. Local or Neighbourhood Significance

Other:

Physical Description: A circular depression in the ground approx. 30m across, tapering down about 4-5m. This is the remains of the cave, a significant natural formation. The Maori people explained it with the legend of the name "Ohinemuri" tied into its formation. [not assessed]

Other known names:

Notable features:

Style:

Materials:

Date of Construction:

History:

A long time ago, a Taniwha lived in a cave. A young girl was left there with the Taniwha to protect her, as her parents fled from invading tribes. When they came back for her, the Taniwha was heartbroken. He wriggled down deeper into the cave, out the bottom and then off into the Moana (Hauraki Gulf). Ohinemuri means "The girl who was left behind" The Taniwha formed the Ohinemuri river as he made his way out to the great Moana (Hauraki Gulf) where he still lives today.

In the 1960's, the roading at the top of Turners Hill was reconstructed (lowered and realigned) and this work destroyed quite a section of the rim of the "depression". Approximately 1/5 of the circumference was lowered considerably. However the Ministry of Works was stopped from filling the "cave" in as was planned. They then had to build a retaining wall to partly replace the section which had been lowered. The retaining wall is there to stop the road collapsing into the cave. Today, empty tar drums from road works in the 1940's (whenever the road was first sealed) lie in the bottom of the cave.

Architect:

Designer:

Builder:

Engineer:

District Plan Schedule

Number: HAU229

Heritage Category: C

Heritage Type:

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

Date Period:

unknown

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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Ohinemuri Cave, Paeroa

District Plan Schedule

Number: **HAU229**

Heritage Category: C

History of changes:

Condition: Substantially altered

Integrity: Poor

Current Uses:

Former Uses:

Registered owner: Transit NZ

Legal Description: Road Reserve (SH2)

Reference Source: H Haysom (pers. comm.)

Associated Pictures: