

Historic Heritage Inventory



Union Battery Tramway, Waihi

Location: Union Hill to Silverton Road, Waihi

Heritage Status

Historic Places Trust Registration Number:

Historic Places Trust Category:

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

Other:

Physical Description: The remains of a tramway that runs from a tunnel in Union Hill, through Gilmour Reserve, connecting to the former Silverton tramway.

Other known names:

Notable features:

Style:

Materials:

Date of Construction: 1888

History: The Rosemont Silverton Hill was substantially worked as the Union, Rosemont and Silverton claims by the Waihi Gold Mining Company from 1885 to 1894 when a subsidiary company, Union Waihi Gold Mining Company, was formed and systematically reworked the area. In 1902, for financial reasons, the claims were transferred back to the Waihi Gold Mining Co. Nothing was done to further the claim.

Built by the Union Waihi Company (c.1899) to transport its ore from the New No.1 Shaft to its newly acquired mill on the Ohinemuri (this was the old Silverton Battery, renamed the Union Battery). This short length of tramway exited a tunnel below the Union tiphead, and negotiated a steep section as a self-acting incline. The present roadway makes use of part of this formation. This section joined the Silverton tramway at the wetland area of the Heritage Walk, under the row of pine trees. The alignment is still visible at the bottom end of Mill Stream Walkway (and through Gilmour Reserve).

Architect:

Designer:

Builder:

Engineer:

History of changes:

Condition: ruins

District Plan Schedule

Number: **HAU249**

Heritage Category: **C**

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



Union Battery Tramway, Waihi

District Plan Schedule

Number: **HAU249**

Heritage Category: **C**

Integrity: substantially altered

Current Uses:

Former Uses: mine

Registered owner: Waihi Gold Mining Company

Legal Description: Pt Sec 356 Blk XVI Ohinemuri SD

Reference Source: Waihi Historical Society; Downey, J. F. (1935) *Goldmines of the Hauraki Goldfield*. Cadstonbury Press.

Associated Pictures: