

Historic Heritage Inventory



Owharoa Historic Mining Area



Location: On SH2 between Waikino and Karangahake.

Heritage Status

Historic Places Trust Registration Number:

Historic Places Trust Category:

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

Other: Recorded archaeological site (T13/318)

Physical Description: Bifurcated by SH2. Mine and battery site are between the road and the river and while the shaft is now unmarked the battery foundations are buried. The adit level drives into the hill at the road level and went right through the hill although now it is blocked off.

Other known names: Rising Sun Mines, Golden Dawn Mines

Notable features:

Style:

Materials:

Date of Construction: 1871-1960

District Plan Schedule

Number: HAU260

Heritage Category: C

Heritage Type:

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

Date Period:

1910-1940

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

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District Plan Schedule

Number: **HAU260**

Heritage Category: **C**

History: This area was the reputed site of the first battery (Golden Dawn) in the Waihi area to process gold, and one of the longest surviving – only closing down in the 1940s (R. Liddell). While no buildings remain, the area features numerous shafts, adits, foundations of buildings, dams, water races and roads.

Downey reports that the Rising Sun claim was first properly worked in 1898 with the driving of the No.2 adit about 80ft below where the first shaft was started. At the end of 1902 this was extended by 1600 feet and connected with the No.1 adit. Further underground mining occurred with the excavation of the No. 3 long low level below No.2. In 1915 a treatment plant was completed, consisting of a ten stamp battery and cyanide unit. WW1 delayed the installation of electric power to run the plant until the following year. Underground mining continued until 1930 when the company ran out of funds. It was bought by Golden Dawn Gold-Mines Ltd, an Auckland syndicate, for another trial run. The company continued work on the No.3 level, using the Waihi Gold Mining Company's battery at Waikino to process the ore. Returns were sufficient to bring the treatment plant up to date and equipment was salvaged from the Muir's Reef Mine. The reconstruction of the plant was completed in 1933. Mining continued until the 1960s.

Mercury was mined further up Rahu Road and gold here. Mercury was also mined on the opposite side of the river, further downstream.

Architect:

Designer:

Builder:

Engineer:

History of changes: Name changes during operation.

Condition: Unknown

Integrity: Substantially Altered

Current Uses: Abandoned

Former Uses: Mine

Registered owner: R & S Gardiner

Legal Description: Blk XIV Ohinemuri SD

Reference Source: Downey, J.F. (1935) *Gold-mines of the Hauraki Goldfield*. Cadstonbury Press, Christchurch; Barber, L. (1985) *No Easy Riches: A History of Ohinemuri County, Paeroa and Waihi 1885-1985*. Ray Richards Ltd, Auckland; S. Elson; M Roycroft; E Lens.

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Associated Pictures:

