

BATTERY MANAGER'S HOUSE, WAIHI



Location: 10 Baker Street, Waihi

Heritage Status

HDC Heritage Category: **C** – Heritage building. Regional Historic Significance, Waihi Battery Manager's residence.

Other: Included as a notable building on the mill stream heritage walkway.¹

Physical Description: 1 storey Bay Villa with a basement. Stucco finish on top of timber wall cladding (probably weatherboard), double unhung windows with 2 over 2 lights, bay windows on the rear and one of the side elevations, also has some later casement style windows. The roof is corrugated iron. The original chimneys have been removed and additions made to most of the house's elevations. One porch has been walled to create a room and a concrete block addition has been added to one elevation.

Associated heritage items are the nearby Waihi (battery) Mill Site.

Other known names: Waihi Gold Mining Company Engineer and Battery Manager's House

Notable features: The proximity of the house to the battery mill site.

Style: Victorian Bay Villa

District Plan

Schedule Number:

HAU445

Heritage Category: **C**

Heritage Type:

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

Date Period:

1896-97

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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Materials: Timber and corrugated iron. Concrete block and stucco finish (not historic).

Date of Construction: 1896 or 1897

History: The house was built by the Waihi Gold Mining Company to house the Company's Engineer or Battery Manager in late 1896 or 1897. The first resident is believed to have been Mr. Thomas Plummer Clarke, Engineer and Battery Manager at the Waihi Gold Mining Company's works. In about October 1894 Thomas and Frances Clarke and their unmarried children went to live at Waihi. According to the *Cyclopedia of New Zealand 1902:505* "In 1896, Mr. Clarke was temporarily employed in erecting the large pumping and winding plant at No. 2 shaft on the company's ground, and on the completion of that work he received his present appointment as mechanical engineer and battery manager of the great Waihi Gold Mining Company." The house at 10 Baker Street may have been built by the Waihi Gold Mining Company for their new manager. The 1906 photograph of the house (included in the associated photographs page) shows the relationship of the house to the battery. Mr Clarke was a member of the Masonic Lodge (Waihi, No. 112, N.Z.C) and recognized by the community by the naming of Clarke Street.ⁱⁱ

The Waihi Mill Insurance map (1908) shows the residence, including the names: Russel, Milligan, and Spratt. Mr William M Russell was recorded as the Battery Manager for the Union-Waihi Mining Company, appointed in January 1900.ⁱⁱⁱ

The house has had a series of occupants over the years and many changes have been made. These include additions and application of stucco to the building facade. The original house design is still recognisable, as are many of the architectural features.

Architect: unknown

Designer:

Builder: unknown

Engineer:

History of changes: A substantial number of additions and changes have been made to the house over the years. These include the removal of the chimneys, application of stucco over the original wooden cladding, enclosing of the porch on the rear elevation, and many additions to the façade.

Condition: Fair to Good

Integrity: Fair. The important relationship between the house and battery site has been maintained. The house is still recognisable as the battery manager's house, but the architecture has been compromised by stucco finish and additions.

Current Uses: Residential

Former Uses: Residential use by the engineer or manager of the adjacent Waihi Gold Mining Company battery

Registered owner: Newmont Waihi Gold

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Legal Description: Section 437C Waihi Town

Reference Source:

The Cyclopedia of New Zealand [Auckland Provincial District]. Waihi

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~russellhudson/cla-tpclarke.htm>

http://waihiwalkways.org.nz/heritage/millstream/battery_mngrs_house

Associated Pictures:



2008 http://waihiwalkways.org.nz/heritage/millstream/battery_mngrs_house



Battery Manager's House bottom left, c.1906

http://waihiwalkways.org.nz/heritage/millstream/battery_mngrs_house

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The young Clarke family photographed in Bolton, England about 1885, prior to their departure for New Zealand. Back row, from left: Ernest, Tom, Alfred, Frances and Jessie. Front row, from left: Kate, Robert and William.

(*Cla-fam-108; from Vaudine Barnes; original photo Morval Clarke*).^{iv}



Rear Elevation of the Battery Manager's House at 10 Baker Street, 2011

ⁱ Millstream walkway battery manager's house (http://waihiwalkways.org.nz/heritage/millstream/battery_mgrs_house)

ⁱⁱ http://waihiwalkways.org.nz/heritage/millstream/battery_mgrs_house

ⁱⁱⁱ Cyclopedia of New Zealand 1902:507

^{iv} <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~russellhudson/cla-tpclarke.htm>