

Ford Road Cheese Factory, Waimata



Location: Ford Road, Waimata

Heritage Status

Historic Places Trust Registration Number:

Historic Places Trust Category:

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

Other:

Physical Description: concrete cheese factory building with associated car parking, now occupied by Kimberly Tool and Design Ltd.

Other known names:

Notable features:

Style: Industrial

Materials: concrete, corrugated iron

Date of Construction: 1953

District Plan Schedule

Number: HAU077

Heritage Category C

Heritage Type:

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

Date Period:

1941-1980

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

Historic Heritage Inventory



Ford Road Cheese Factory, Waimata

District Plan Schedule

Number: **HAU077**

Heritage Category **C**

History: In 1953 the New Zealand Co-Operative Dairy Company built a cheese factory at Waimata to serve the Waihi Plains.

The factory had a staff of fourteen and began with 45 suppliers delivering 12,000 gallons of milk daily in twenty gallon cans. In 1954, 637 tons of cheese were manufactured. By 1970 this had grown to 3400 tons.

Extract from Diamond Jubilee Booklet 1962: "No account of the rapidly developing local countryside would be complete without mention of the Waihi Cheese Factory, opened in 1953 by the New Zealand Co-operative Dairy Company. This cheese factory is the largest of its type in New Zealand and represents an outlay in buildings, plant, equipment and grounds of £250,000. Its annual turnover is £500,000.

The honour of being the first manager fell to Mr T. Myers and one has only to inspect the array of cups and trophies displayed in his office to appreciate how Mr Myers has justified that choice.

In 1961 the construction of a big addition to the plant raised its capacity intake to 22,000 gallons daily and, of the present intake, 19,000 gallons each day comes from local farms. The weight of cheese made in 1961 was 2580 tons, approximately 50 tons per week.

But the great success of the Waihi factory is not to be measured only in statistics of milk intake and of weight of cheese manufactured. When the manufacture and packaging of rind less cheese was found to present considerable difficulties and after some initial attempts at its manufacture and packaging had turned out to be a failure it is significant that it was to the Waihi concern that the dairy company handed its problem. And still more significant is it that it was at the local factory that the problems incident to the production of this much more attractive article were solved.

For his success in making his factory the pioneer in the country in the successful manufacture of rindless cheese Mr Myers claims no special acumen for himself. As he states, successful cheese manufacture is a team job, and any team is no better than its weakest link. But it requires one only to pay a visit to the factory to note how the drive and the personality of its manager permeate all its activities."
Diamond Jubilee 1902-62

Architect:

Designer:

Builder:

Engineer:

History of changes:

Condition: Good

Integrity: substantially intact

Historic Heritage Inventory



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Current Uses: Tool Manufacturers

Former Uses: Dairy Factory

Registered owner: Kimberley Tool & Design NZ Ltd

Legal Description: Lot 1 DPS 7610; Lot 1 DPS 1747

Reference Source: Eric Lens

Associated Pictures:



Historic Heritage Inventory

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c. 1960 – 61 – 62



Removing water tank and stand



Water filter and tank ready for removal on transporter

Historic Heritage Inventory

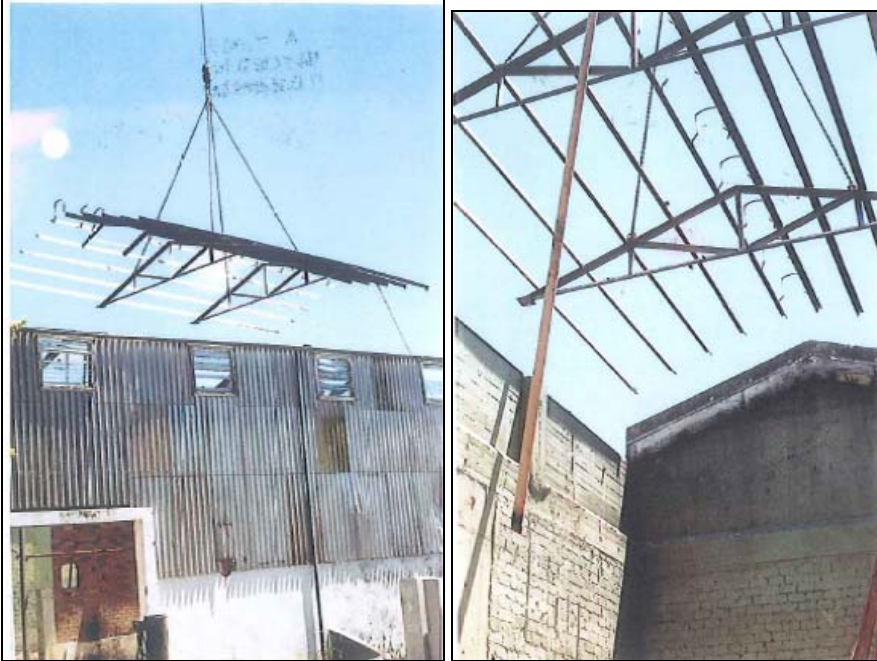


Ford Road Cheese Factory, Waimata

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Roof frame being lifted off No. 1 Boiler Room



Roof frame off No. 2 Boiler Room

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Boiler being lifted out of No. 2 Boiler Room



Lifting chimney base



Boiler tank on to transport.