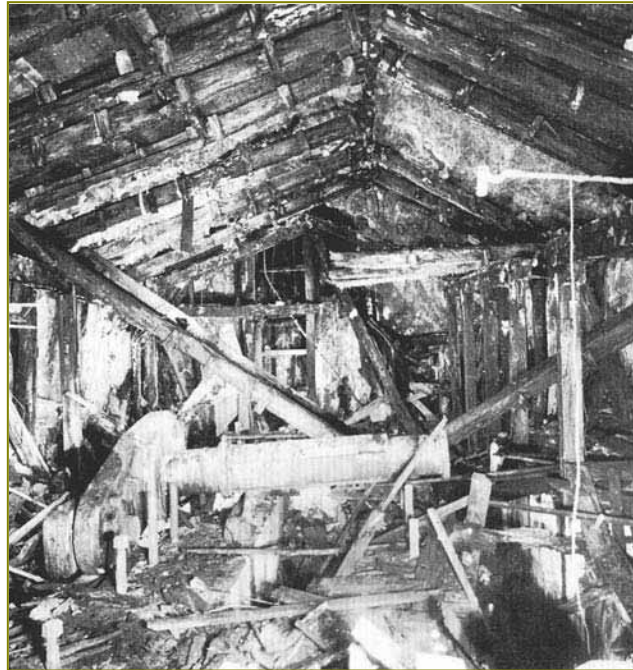




# Built 1900 Woodstock Underground Pumphouse and Shaft



Photograph: Pumphouse interior c.1960



 pumphouse and shaft

Map: Scale 1:50 000

Source: NZMS 260 T13 513156



Department of Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*



## Built c1900 **Woodstock Underground Pumphouse**

**Management:** Hauraki Area Office, Waikato Conservancy  
Site number 302096 Asset number 30039  
Department of Conservation

**Fabric:** The site consists of a large underground chamber measuring 100ft x 40ft x 25 ft (documented dimensions; Jarman 1912:352) within which a massive headframe and Cornish pump were erected and a shaft sunk to approximately 300ft. The chamber was originally lined with huge 12" x 12" kauri beams and rata uprights. At present the site is unsafe, most of the timbers have collapsed and others are threatening to. The chamber and shaft are littered with rock rubble and other debris amid the remains of the pump and the standing timbers associated with the headframe.<sup>1</sup>

Proposed work includes provision of safe public access within a secure enclosed area, lighting, stabilising the remaining timberwork, treating the machinery, improving drainage and the wholesale removal of rock rubble.<sup>2</sup>

**History:** Access to the Woodstock mine, before its acquisition by the Talisman Gold Mining Company in 1904, was obtained by driving adits on to the reef from the precipitous slopes of the lower Waitawheta River Gorge. Around 1900 the Woodstock Gold Mining Company constructed a huge underground pumphouse chamber by driving off its river level (about 30 feet above the actual river). The chamber was then cut to accommodate a headframe and a shaft some 240 feet deep was sunk. When Talisman acquired the Woodstock in 1904 they extended the chamber and deepened the shaft. The work and the associated Cornish pump and other machinery are described in detail by Jarman (1912).<sup>3</sup>

**Fabric Significance:** The Woodstock's underground pumphouse/shaft site is unique. A truly innovative response to the need to establish facilities within the confines of the lower Waitawheta Gorge. Although most of the pumping machinery has been removed, the headframe, massive rocker arm of the Cornish pump and associated componentry still survive.<sup>4</sup>

A remedial work plan was prepared by Frame Group Ltd in 2001. At the same time a geotechnical report was produced by Mark Mitchell Ltd. A two stage development plan was devised by Paul Mahoney, Neville Ritchie and Peter Carter in 2002.<sup>5</sup>

**Historic Significance:** Although it is little known, the technological and engineering values of this unique underground pumphouse and shaft give it international significance. Full details about the pumping machinery and related features such as the boiler house built on a terrace just outside the pumphouse entrance can be found in Jarman 1912:356.<sup>6</sup>

It presently has a Historic Places Trust category two listing, as it was combined with the Woodstock Battery when the site was evaluated. Because of its unique features the Woodstock Underground Pumphouse is worthy of a category one classification. Recorded archaeological site number: T13/291

- References:**
- <sup>1</sup> N Ritchie Ohinemuri Survey 1990 p.220
  - <sup>2</sup> Information from Historic Asset Management System (HAMS)
  - <sup>3</sup> Waikato Register, p.59 and N. Ritchie Survey of Ohinemuri Goldfield 1990, p220
  - <sup>4</sup> Information from HAMS and N. Ritchie Survey of Ohinemuri Goldfield 1990, p220
  - <sup>5</sup> Information from HAMS
  - <sup>6</sup> N. Ritchie Survey of Ohinemuri Goldfield 1990, p220



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