



Flour Mill, Main South Road

1882

Use	Presently empty	Historic Value	3 out of 5
Materials	Concrete	Architectural Value	- out of 4
NZHPT Registered	Not registered	Technical Value	1 out of 2
Valuation No	12241-461-00	Symbolic Value	1 out of 3
Legal Description	Pts Waiokura B1 B2 B3 and Pt C Blk VIII Waimate SD	Rarity	- out of 2
Reference	S17	Townscape Value	- out of 2
		Group Value	- out of 2
		Overall Cultural Heritage Value	5 out of 20

Description

All that remains of the Flour Mill is the drying kiln which is the concrete building that can still be seen, and also some remains of the waterwheel and dam. The original building was constructed of corrugated iron, timber and concrete. It was four storeys high and contained nearly 40 thousand feet of timber.

History

The Flour Mill was built in 1882 on the Waiokura Stream, Manaia, and was powered by a fifteen foot waterwheel which produced fifteen horsepower. The mill had sufficient storage for fifteen thousand sacks of flour.

At the time, it was thought that Taranaki would become the grain area of the South Pacific. The early settlers cultivated grain as the virgin soil provided ideal conditions. The combination of low prices, the closing of the flour mill, diseases, and pests spelled the end of large scale cropping by 1900.

Architect

Not known.

Builder

D F McVicar, Sentry Hill Flour Mill, New Plymouth

Sources

Hosie J (1982), *Centennial History of Manaia and Manaia School, 1882-1982*, Ekdahl Print; New Zealand

Date

January 2000