

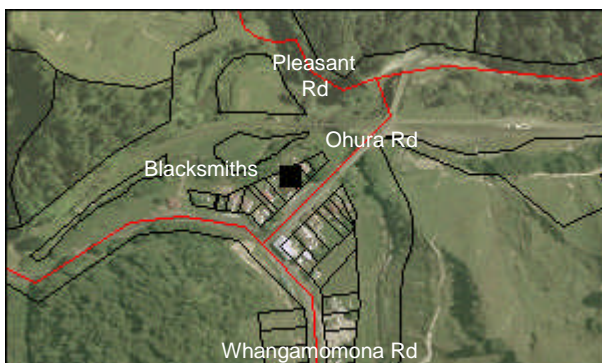


Blacksmith's Shop

Ohura Rd, Whangamomona

1902

Use:	Private	Historic Value:	3 out of 5
Materials:	Timber, rusticated iron sides and roof	Architectural Value:	- out of 4
NZHPT Registered:	Not registered	Technical Value:	1 out of 2
Legal Description:	Lot 1 DP 2714 Lot 1 DP2787 Lots 1&2 DP3890 & Secs 9&10 Pt sec11 Whangamomona Township	Symbolic Value:	- out of 3



Rarity Value:	- out of 2
Townscape Value:	1 out of 2
Group Value:	- out of 2
Overall Heritage Value:	5 out of 20

During the early days (1902) of the Whangamomona settlement, Mr. W. Gill started a blacksmith's shop called Blacksmith's Shop and Stables, which provided a much needed service to the settlers and their horses. By then, Whangamomona was a reasonably prosperous and booming town, with a hall, general store, hotel, butcher, baker and billiards room all being added in a short space of time. This well-sized population was due to the amount of work that was available to settlers with the railway being laid down.

Mr. Gill was later replaced by Mr. Tom Bradley, a well-known man around Whangamomona, who also acted as the Village Constable and J.P., among other things.

By 1928, cars had become the popular mode of transport, and so the blacksmith's was replaced by a garage which was owned by the Fougere brothers. Not only did the garage service cars, but from 1937 it also supplied power to the village via a generator provided by Mr. Cooper. This was terminated in 1959 when transmission lines were erected, bringing power to the town from the national grid.

When the garage first started, simple hand tools were used. These were later replaced by motorised petrol engines that were plugged into the hand tools, and by 1956 the garage had upgraded to the use of power tools.

The Kemps owned the garage during the 1950s, and during this time they ran a small store in the front of the garage. This venture was not too successful, and lasted less than two years. In 1956, Shell Oil was installed, although it has not been in use for quite some time.

These days, the garage is not in use, with the "Whangamomona Garage" title that was on the front of the building being painted over. It now stands as one of the many old buildings in Whangamomona – helping to illustrate the 'once-upon-a-time' story of the historic town.

Bibliography

Whangamomona 75th Jubilee

Whangamomona's History, Original by Whangamomona School Children (1977)

Heritage Sign