



Huinga Dairy Factory

Toko Rd

1903

Use:	No current use	Historic Value:	2 out of 5
Materials:	Concrete, iron roof	Architectural Value:	2 out of 4
NZHPT Registered:	Not registered	Technical Value:	1 out of 2
Legal Description:	Lot 1 DP 8159 Blk VIII Ngaere SD	Symbolic Value:	- out of 3
		Rarity Value:	- out of 2
		Townscape Value:	1 out of 2
		Group Value:	- out of 2
		Overall Heritage Value:	6 out of 20



The Huinga Creamery was opened in 1903. Dairy farmers would transport their own whole milk in cans to the factory by single horse drays or in 2-3 horse wagons if they had a larger farm. The milk would then be separated, with the cream being sent to the Stratford Butter Factory. The skim milk left over from this would be taken home by the farmers for feeding their pigs and calves.

In September 1912, the settlers of Huinga asked for a post office, which was opened at the Creamery in December that year. Thomas Bocock was the manager and the post master, collecting the mail daily from Toko. Farmers would collect their mail on the daily trip to the factory, with the school children bringing it home after school during the winter months. On 19 December 1920 the post office was closed, but was reopened again in the following year in a room off the factory manager's veranda. The post office was permanently closed on 1 November 1949, with the farmers favouring their mail being delivered by rural post.

In 1918, the Creamery was shut down with a Cheese Factory being opened on the same site as part of the Stratford Dairy Company. Cheddar was the only type of cheese the Huinga factory produced, and it was exported to England in pine crates. This venture provided many locals with employment.

Actually transporting the milk from the farms to the factory was always a dilemma. The roads were rough – not sealed – and it was not uncommon for drays with thin wheels to get bogged down on the clay roads. Wet weather often made them virtually impassable, and so the farmers would organise working bees to lay timber from the mill onto particular trouble spots on the road.

The Huinga branch of the Stratford Co-operative Dairy Factory was eventually wound up in 1957, after the introduction of tankers made it possible for the milk to be conveyed straight from the farms. The factory was then purchased by Bayly and Co. for use as storage, and at a later date was used by Woodleigh Savage Partners from Toko. The building serves as a constant reminder of how important the dairy industry was (and continues to be) for Taranaki, and how it played a large part in shaping communities such as Huinga.



Bibliography

Huinga District Centennial

Huinga 75th Jubilee