

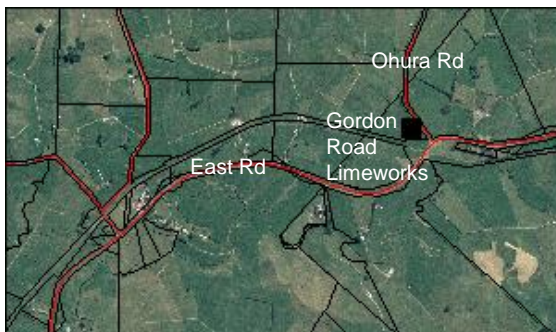


Gordon Road Limeworks

Ohura Rd, Toko

1915

Use:	None	Historic Value:	2 out of 5
Materials:	Concrete	Architectural Value:	- out of 4
NZHPT Registered:	Not registered	Technical Value:	- out of 2
Legal Description:	43161 L 27490 LO 19101 Blk IV Ngaere SD	Symbolic Value:	- out of 3
		Rarity Value:	1 out of 2
		Townscape Value:	- out of 2
		Group Value:	- out of 2
		Overall Heritage Value:	3 out of 20



From the early 1900s, limestone deposits from a quarry on Waiwiri Road were exploited. The stone was originally quarried and burnt in a kiln. However, in 1915 the stone was sent to the recently formed the Toko Lime Company, which was an offshoot of the Hangatiki Lime Company at Waitomo, and was established to simply crush the limestone.



An example of limestone

A tramline was built to transport this rock from the Waiwiri Road farm, with William Lorigan of Te Kuiti gaining his tramway license for this purpose in October 1917. However, the company then decided to make use of a Fordson tractor and trailer to transport the rock, with the company also maintaining the roads.

The Limeworks was successful, and at one stage it boasted an output of 120 tons a day, which was then directly loaded onto rail wagons to be sent to Stratford.

One Sunday morning in 1937, the Te Wera Railway Station Master (Mr. C. McKinstry) noticed a small fire at the Limeworks and raised an alarm. At this stage, a bucket of water would have been able to put it out. Unfortunately, no water was available and the Limeworks was virtually destroyed by the fire. As the Depression was occurring at this time, finance was not available to establish a new company, and consequently the Limeworks ceased operation.

A large cog-like piece of equipment is all that remains of this enterprise, and it is situated in a paddock to the right of the railway line near the Gordon Road intersection. It acts a good reminder of our local industrial past.

Bibliography

Toko Centennial 1893-1993

Church, Ian; *The Stratford Inheritance*, The Heritage Press (1990) p163