

GUIDE TO THE IPENZ ENGINEERING HERITAGE RECORD AND REGISTER

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1. INTRODUCTION

IPENZ has long been concerned that much of New Zealand's engineering and industrial heritage has been poorly recorded and published information is often difficult for the public to locate. Acknowledgement of New Zealand's engineering heritage by the Institution, other organisations and individuals has, to date, been primarily through the publication of pamphlets and books, and the erection of interpretation panels and plaques.

Therefore, IPENZ has established a means of identifying, recording, and recognizing New Zealand's engineering heritage, through the IPENZ Engineering Heritage Record and Register.

The IPENZ Engineering Heritage Record and Register is administered by IPENZ's Engineering Heritage Board (EHB). The aim of the EHB is to promote New Zealand's engineering achievements so the public have a greater understanding of, and appreciation for, the important role of engineering and the engineering profession in the development of, and its ongoing contribution to, our modern society.

This document describes the purpose and principles of the IPENZ Engineering Heritage Record and Register, and the processes involved in submitting and assessing items for possible inclusion in these lists.

2. IPENZ ENGINEERING HERITAGE RECORD

The IPENZ Engineering Heritage Record is a means of capturing information regarding "individual engineering heritage items of interest". IPENZ has not necessarily made any particular heritage values judgment about items that have been placed on the Record, unlike items on the Register.

The Engineering Heritage Record contains information about a wide range of items:

- Engineering works or sites (e.g. a bridge, dam, road, Māori fortification, sawmill)
- Engineering objects (e.g. car, aircraft, railway locomotive) or collections of objects
- Engineering systems or concepts (e.g. transportation of frozen meat).

Access to most of the above existing heritage information is publically available through the IPENZ Engineering Heritage website (www.ipenz.org.nz/heritage), or by contacting the IPENZ Heritage Advisor.

Aside from the Record and Register, the IPENZ Engineering Heritage website also includes information regarding:

- Manuscripts, books and documents (e.g. Furkert papers, Christie papers)
- Engineering drawings, reports, papers, photos, paintings and sketches
- Engineer biographies
- Oral histories (e.g. the Electricity Industry Oral History project).

2.1 ENTRY OF ITEMS INTO THE RECORD

Individuals and IPENZ Engineering Heritage Chapters are encouraged to identify engineering items of interest and to collect information relating to these to be placed on the Record. This first step of the Record process is generally quite informal.

Information can be added to the Record through an individual completing the “Propose Item” form on the website. This includes fields for information such as a brief historical and physical description of the item, and the contact details of the person to whom follow-up queries should be addressed.

If approved the information is then processed, with minimum delay, for capture in the Record. When creating a Record item consideration is given to the reasonableness of the information submitted and whether it duplicates other Records. IPENZ will return the submission to the applicant if necessary for further information, and also consult with experts. Appropriate key words, categories and other descriptive requirements of the Record are also necessary, as is a list of reference documents, and links to other web-based sources of relevant information.

The applicant will receive an acknowledgment of the proposal and details of the action taken by IPENZ.

The Record is an on-going project and therefore items can be amended as more information comes to hand. Again, the public have a role in this and can make suggestions regarding current entries using the “Click here to suggest amendments to this entry” function, located at the end of each Record entry on the website.

3. IPENZ ENGINEERING HERITAGE REGISTER

The IPENZ Engineering Heritage Register is “a register of New Zealand’s engineering achievements of outstanding or special heritage significance”. This is in keeping with the stated vision of the EHB, which is to ensure “New Zealand’s engineering achievements are widely recognised and valued.”

The Register is designed to inform members of the public, owners, and local authorities about New Zealand's most important engineering achievements. Therefore, the Register is deliberately a much more exclusive subset list of the Record, only including items that

have been assessed by the EHB as meeting the registration criteria (set out in Section 3.2).

The Register aims to be:

- Trustworthy and accurate
- A valuable guide to New Zealand's engineering heritage for non-experts
- A recognised "quality brand" in the heritage and planning community.

Items eligible for registration are generally restricted to those which fall within the categories of: engineering works or sites, engineering objects, and engineering systems or concepts.

Like the Record in general, the Register will always be a work in progress as more information comes to hand, and as different items are considered to be of heritage significance by different generations.

3.1 IMPLICATIONS OF REGISTRATION

The IPENZ Engineering Heritage Register is an identification and recognition tool only, and does not confer any protection for items, or create any legal obligations on property owners. However, IPENZ believes registration should lead to items being considered for inclusion in local authorities' district plan heritage schedules and, if not already entered, inclusion on the New Zealand Historic Places Trust's (NZHPT) Register, where appropriate.

IPENZ will ensure owners are consulted during the registration process. Although not ideal, IPENZ may Register an item without the support of the current property owner, as registration does not impinge on an owner's property rights. Registration also does not necessitate public access to an item, and any concerns in this regard as well as health and safety considerations, will be addressed in the Register entry.

Once an item is registered, IPENZ will write to the owners of the item to inform them of its engineering heritage importance, and encourage them to value and care for it. In addition, IPENZ will write to the local authority planning department, the NZHPT Registrar, as well as any other identified interested parties, to inform them of the IPENZ registration. Publicity of the registration is also recommended at this point, to further promote the importance of the item, and the Register itself.

IPENZ may carry out an "emergency registration" as an advocacy measure if something it considers is of outstanding or special importance is under threat.

3.2 ASSESSMENT OF ITEMS FOR THE HERITAGE REGISTER

Like many heritage organisations, IPENZ uses a set of criteria and thresholds to test whether an engineering achievement is of sufficient significance to be included on the Register.

Criteria are a collection of principles, characteristics and categories used to help decide if an item has heritage value.¹ They can be used to identify the nature of the heritage significance; the threshold then helps to evaluate the strength of that significance. The threshold for inclusion on the Register is that it must be "an engineering achievement of outstanding or special heritage significance".

¹ Australian Heritage Council, *Guidelines for the Assessment of Places for the National Heritage List*, Feb 2009, p. 5, <http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/ahc/publications/pubs/nhl-guidelines.pdf>, accessed 24 March 2010.

The EHB uses the following assessment process to determine whether something is worthy of being placed on the Register:

- **Is the item the correct type for the Register?**

Typically the Register will only include the following items of engineering heritage:

- Engineering works or sites (e.g. a road, bridge, sawmill, dam, Māori fortification)
- Engineering objects (e.g. railway locomotive, car, aircraft)
- Engineering systems or concepts (e.g. transportation of frozen meat).

- **Is the item an engineering achievement?**

The item can be described as an “engineering achievement” if it is assessed as being important in one or more of the following ways:

- the course or pattern of engineering history
- in engineering practice, thought or research
- in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical accomplishment at a particular period
- its social impact.

- **Is it one of New Zealand’s engineering achievements of outstanding or special heritage significance?**

Does the item achieve the threshold of outstanding or special significance in any of the four criteria above? Outstanding significance means something that is “conspicuous, eminent, especially because of excellence ... remarkable in a specialised field”.²

3.3 REGISTRATION PROCESS

Note: the following information is summarized in Appendix 1

Stage 1

Individuals and Chapter members can submit an Engineering Heritage Register proposal in the same manner as for a Record item, namely by completing the “Propose Item” form on the website.

If the item has not previously been included in the Record, then once this proposal has been received by IPENZ National Office, and it is assessed as being suitable, the information is used as the basis for a Record item. This is created for the public to have access to the information while the registration process is being undertaken. If the proposed item already exists in the Record, then the information supplied is used to update the current Record entry.

Based on the information in the Record, the Engineering Heritage Recognition Committee (EHRC) will then consider if it is an appropriate item to progress through the registration process. The EHRC is a specialist sub-committee of the EHB, and if it believes that the item should not be pursued for inclusion on the Register, then that item will be retained on the Record.

Stage 2

² Based on the Concise Oxford Dictionary definition
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If the local Chapter and the EHRC believe the item is worthy of placing on the Register, an individual will be approached by the ERHC to carefully research the heritage item and prepare a heritage assessment report to establish whether the item meets the IPENZ Engineering Heritage criteria and threshold. The IPENZ Heritage Advisor will make the Register Report template available to the delegated heritage assessor and provide guidance to the assessor.

The local Chapter will then take responsibility for contacting the owner and the local authority to inform them that a Register proposal has been received and is being pursued. The Chapter will also consult with these parties to ensure the implications of registration are understood.

The draft Register Report will be submitted to the next available EHRC meeting for consideration once it has been reviewed by the relevant local Chapter, and other expert advisors (if thought necessary). The EHRC will then either agree to recommend the EHB confirm the registration of the item, request further work be undertaken on the report, or determine that the heritage assessment demonstrates the Register criteria was not reached by the item and it should therefore remain a Record item.

Stage 3

If approved by the EHRC, and subsequently the EHB, the item will be placed in the IPENZ Engineering Heritage Register. Registration must be recorded in the meeting minutes for the registration to be valid. As soon as possible following the confirmation of the meeting's minutes IPENZ National Office should make the Registration "live" on the website, so the information is publicly available.

Stage 4

Once Register item status has been conferred, the owner(s), NZHPT, and local authorities will be advised in writing by the Chapter.

Amongst other recognition methods, such as IPENZ publication articles or media releases, the EHB may recommend IPENZ fund the erection of a plaque, interpretive panel, and/or a pamphlet or other publication.