

# HISTORIC FEATURES

## What the Act says

The Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area Act 2008 identifies several features that relate to history and are evident in the Oratia / Waiaatarua area. These are:

- Historical, traditional, and cultural relationships of people, communities, and tangata whenua with the area and their exercise of kaitiakitanga and stewardship.
- Evidence of past human activities in the area, including those in relation to timber extraction, gum-digging, flax milling, mineral extraction, quarrying, extensive farming, and water impoundment and supply.
- Waitakere Ranges Regional Park and its importance as an accessible public place with significant natural, historical, and recreational resources.

## Historic features in the Oratia / Waiaatarua Area

Waitakere City Council is currently undertaking research on the history of, and cultural heritage sites within, the area. Sources of available information include the J. T. Diamond Collection at Waitakere Library and Information Services. It is recognised that much of the local history and stories are held by residents of the area. The Council would like to learn more about the history of the area and welcomes an opportunity to meet with residents. If you have information that you would like included please contact Tegan Brown on 8368000 ext 8036.

Known Cultural heritage sites in the area are shown on the [cultural heritage sites map](#). Further information on these sites is also found in the [cultural heritage sites information](#). The sites include archaeological sites, historic structures and historical botanic sites. Cultural heritage sites include:

- Oratia Cemetery – 541 West Coast Rd, Oratia. Burial sites dating from 1867 onwards. Gateway entrance built in 1935. Significance attributed to historical and visual values. Category II. Waitakere City Council is planning to complete a Conservation Plan for this site.
- Albion Vale – 527 West Coast Rd, Oratia. Built in 1879 by Thomas Parr, a pioneer orchardist and nurseryman in Oratia. It was restored to its original design after being used for many years as a roadhouse. Significance due to its relationship with the early settlers and the architectural style. The slate roof, Chicago-style windows, and rusticated weatherboards are features no longer commonly found in Oratia. The dwelling is a two-storey wooden building with hip roof verandas on both floors at the front and a hip roofed extension one storey high at the rear. The site also contains magnolia and oak trees from the original Parr Nursery which are of significant merit.
- Endt Cottage – 108 Parker Rd, Oratia. A two storey kauri weatherboard cottage, built in 1850. Its significance is attributed to historical, architectural and visual values. Category II.
- Rose Hellaby House, 515 Scenic Drive, West Coast. A weatherboard cottage style house built 1939. Significance attributed to historical, architectural, community and visual values. Category III.
- Church – 622-624 West Coast Rd, Oratia. A weatherboard building built in 1872. Its significance is attributed to historical, architectural and community values.
- Catholic Church – 565-567 West Coast Rd, Oratia. A simple rectangular timber weatherboard church, built in the early 1900s. Its significance is attributed to historical, architectural and community values. Category II.
- Jewish Prayer House – Mortuary Chapel, Oratia Cemetery, 541 West Coast Rd, Oratia. A simple kauri weather-board building built in 1886. The prayer house, also known as the Taharah House was built by T.H. Jones, whose tender of £100 was accepted by the Auckland Jewish Synagogue Committee. In 1992 it was moved from the Waikumete Cemetery when its upkeep became too costly. It was briefly used as an implement shed at the Hoani Waititi Marae, then purchased by the Oratia Cemetery

Trust and restored by David Harre. Its significance is attributed to historical, architectural, cultural/community and visual values. Category II.