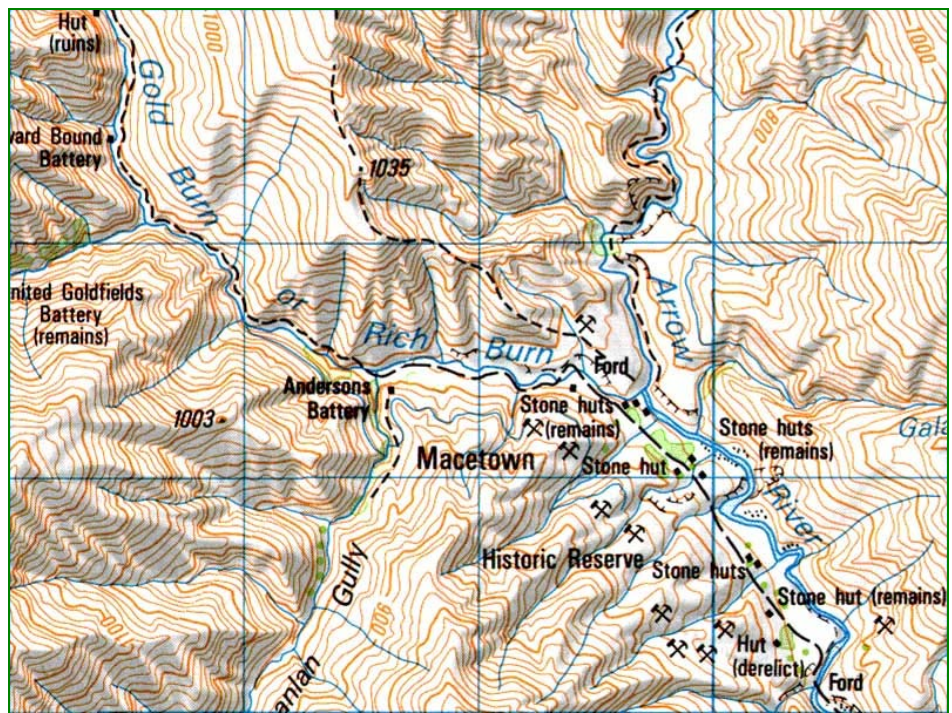


Built 1862 - 1914 **Macetown**



Restored Smith's
bakehouse, Macetown
2003, Marcus Simon.



Map: Scale 1:50 000

Source: NZMS 260 F41



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai



ca. 1862 - 1914 **Macetown Village**

Management: Assets: Anderson's Battery - 49576
Needhams Cottage - 18095,
Smiths Bakehouse - 18096

Macetown Historic Reserve, Wakatipu Area Office
Otago Conservancy, Department of Conservation

Fabric: Macetown today is a ruined settlement with an interesting assemblage of trees and two reconstructed buildings. It consists of two stone huts - Needhams Cottage and Smith's Bakehouse, a weatherboard cottage of unknown history and a stone ruin again of unknown history. There are also ruins of other buildings and plantings from former gardens. Up the Rich Burn from Macetown are the remains of the Andersons Battery and the Homeward Bound Battery. Numerous other reminders of the mining, tailings, water races, sluice faces, are dotted along the river valley.

The old town site has an almost park like appearance while the gorge of the Rich Burn up to the Homeward Bound retains the original wild feel of the surrounding country and is for trampers only.

History: Gold was discovered in the Arrow River in 1862 and by Christmas more than 1,500 miners were camped along the river from its junction with the Kawarau River and Twelve Mile Creek. A canvas town developed at the junction of Twelve Mile creek (also known as the Rich Burn) and the Arrow River, this became the nucleus of Macetown which had a population of ca. 300 in January of 1863. As the alluvial gold was extracted and miners moved to the West Coast gold fields in 1865, the population of Macetown declined until the discovery of quartz reefs lead to a resurgence in the 1870s. Many companies were formed to work these reefs although only a few were successful. The mines provided steady employment for the town with the population peaking at 206 in 1896. Before this time, however, quartz mine production was already declining steadily and after 1896 the town's population quickly fell, particularly with the closer of the Premier Mine (1905) and later the Homeward Bound Battery (1914). There was renewed interest in the area after World War 1 and during the 1930s Depression. After this, only one resident remained, this being William Jenkins. It has an historic theme of mining and more recently recreation

[More Pictures](#)

Fabric Significance: At Macetown there remains physical evidence of a 19th century village which owed its existence solely to the mining industry; when that failed the town slowly died. Of industrial significance Andersons battery is the only known all metal stamping battery in Otago.

Historic Significance: Site of significant quartz and alluvial mining in the 19th century and the mining town of Macetown

Future Management: Four wheel driving, camping and picnicking. The village remains will be maintained to protect its historic fabric and minimise deterioration.



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