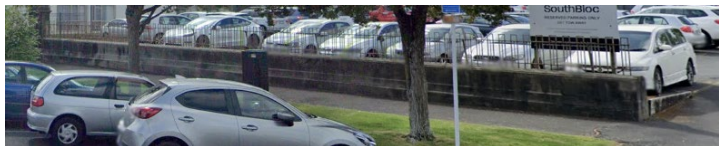


Building/ Site Name:**Former names:**

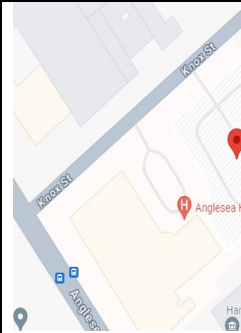
Former Public Works Office Fence and Wall Remnant

Address:

9-13 Knox Street



Google Maps 2023

Location in city map

The fence along the property boundary from the Anglesea-Knox Streets corner.

District Plan Reference/ category:**Legal Description:**

Lot 1 DPS 53857

Zoning:**Listed Heritage New Zealand/ NZAA Site/ Scheduled with HCC**

No

Date/s of construction

1912 or soon after

| |
|---|
| Architect /Designer/ Engineer/Builder: |
| Possibly Claude Paton in the office of Government Architect John Campbell /possibly Snell Brothers builders |
| Building type/s & Current use |
| street furniture (wall) |
| Visible materials & Heritage Fabric if known |
| Concrete, iron |
| Proposed Extent |
| Extent is the wall. |
| Associated Places |
| Government sites, adjacent (NZAA) Former CAC, Ministry of Works building, Dey Street (PDP) |

| |
|---|
| Historical Background |
| As Hamilton grew in size and importance by the turn of the 20 th century, government departments were established in Hamilton as their headquarters. The departments were regional headquarters as well as dealing with local Hamilton matters |
| In October 1911 Cabinet approved plans for a new departmental building in Hamilton to provide accommodation for several government departments. ⁱ Tenders were called during January and February 1912 and in March 1912 it was announced that Snell Bros had been awarded the |

contract with their tender of £5,180.ⁱⁱ The building, of brick faced with cement and finished in Whangarei sand, was designed Claude Paton in the office of government architect John Campbell. The two-storey building had an imposing presence with a Corinthic cap and two half Ionic columns reflecting solidity.ⁱⁱⁱ Sometimes referred to as the Government Buildings, or Public Works building, it housed the Defence, Agricultural, Public Works, and Lands and Surveys Departments as well as the office for the Inspector of Machinery and the Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages. The building was to be completed by late December 1912.

It is presumed that the same architect and builders (Claude Paton and John Campbell, and Snell Bros) who designed and built the departmental building were responsible for the wall and fence. The imposing gateway with its concrete pillars reflected the status of the building.

Architect and Historian Roger White noted that: "The former Lands and survey building is an interesting example of late renaissance work at this period. It was designed by Claude Paton in the office of Government Architect, John Campbell. Paton later designed many important public buildings in New Zealand, including the Auckland and wellington Central Post Offices. A year later, Paton in association with Campbell, won the competition for Parliament Buildings and so the building in Knox street is a direct antecedent of this important structure".^{iv}

The building was demolished about 1986 accidentally as the MOW Hamilton were unaware it was a historic building. Hamilton citizens were up in arms at what had taken place.

Commented [L1]: additions

The fence remained until further developments and demolition were proposed on the government sites. This included the demolition of the historic Army Drill Hall and the militia stables. The wall was to remain as a historic relic. The developers sought to removal the concrete piers to allow access into the new parking area. Part of the fence was demolished some time after January 1986.



This plastered brick building was built in 1912 on the south side of Knox Street to house several government departments. The building has long since been demolished but remnants of the wall remain. HCL_02487.



Bus fleet in front of the Government Buildings on Knox Street. The fence and wall are visible at left and right. 1930s. HCL_08401.



Ministry of Works building and part of wall 1986 prior to demolition. W. Kellaway

PROPOSED HERITAGE ASSESSMENT CRITERIA (Revised November 2023)

8-1.1 Rankings of Significance

Rankings for built heritage places listed in Schedule 8A have been established as follows.

Plan Ranking A: Built heritage places of outstanding heritage significance locally, regionally or nationally.

Plan Ranking B: Built heritage places of high heritage significance locally, regionally or nationally.

The below scale represents the levels of significance against which built heritage places shall be considered for inclusion on Schedule 8A.

- *Outstanding significance.*
- *High significance.*
- *Medium significance.*
- *Low significance.*
- *None/No significance.*
- *Un-assessed significance.*

The heritage significance of built heritage places has been assessed based on evaluation against the following individual heritage criteria. A place must meet one or more of the criteria at the level of "High" significance or above to be eligible for inclusion within Schedule 8A.

While a place only has to meet one of the criteria, in practice it will usually satisfy multiple criteria. The evaluation criteria are not weighted or hierarchical. There is no correct number or combination of values required to determine overall significance.

A comparative analysis has been included, where possible, noting that there is no Waikato Regional Heritage Inventory, and limited recent Heritage New Zealand Listings.

8-1.2 Heritage Assessment Criteria

a. Historic Qualities

The place or area is directly associated with, or has a direct relationship to, an important person, group, institution, event or activity, or reflects important aspects of local, regional or national history, including development and settlement patterns, transportation routes and social or economic trends.

The Public Works Fence has a direct association with a government department and its activities that were of historical significance to Hamilton and the Waikato.

The Fence is associated with broad patterns of local and regional history, including development and settlement patterns, administrative and economic trends and activities. As Hamilton grew in size and population it was recognised as the prime location for headquarters of government departments and commercial businesses.

The fence is indicative of a significant period of Hamilton's history as the centre for Waikato government offices.

Level of significance High

b. Physical /Aesthetic/Architectural Qualities

The place or area is a notable or representative example of:

- (i) A significant development period or activity; and/or
- (ii) Distinctive or special attributes of an aesthetic or functional nature; and/or
- (iii) The work of a notable architect, designer, engineer or builder.

The Fence is a notable remnant of

- (i) a significant development period in Hamilton's history in becoming the

headquarters for government departments for the greater Waikato region.

- (i) It was a strong statement of the boundary of the substantial government department building on the property in Knox Street, adding formality to the overall effect of the building.

- (iii) It is probably the work of the office of the Government Architect, in keeping with his formal design of the building.

Level of significance Medium

c. Context Qualities

The place or area is an important landmark or feature or contributes to or is associated with a wider historical theme, traditional, or cultural context, or physical setting.

Surviving remnant of the major building erected for regional Public Works Dept. Marks the site where the Public Works Department that served all of the Waikato was located. The wider area of Knox Street- Anglesea Street formed the government offices centre for the Waikato.

The context has changed considerably since construction. People may be able to deduce that a major change has taken place to its context.

Level of significance Medium

d. Technological Qualities

The place or area shows a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular time, is directly associated with scientific or technical innovations or achievements or is associated with scientific "break-through". The place uses unique or uncommon building materials, or demonstrates an innovative method of construction, or is an early example of the use of a particular building technique.

Level of significance Low

e. Archaeological Qualities

The potential of the place or area to define or expand knowledge of earlier human occupation, activities or events through investigation using archaeological methods, or to provide evidence to address archaeological research questions. For example, but not limited to: The place or area is registered by Heritage New Zealand for its archaeological values or is recorded by the New Zealand Archaeological Association Site Recording Scheme, or is an 'archaeological site' as defined by the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014.

NZAA sites recorded adjacent to property.

f. Cultural Qualities

The place or area is important or significant:

- (i) As a focus of cultural sentiment; and/or
- (ii) As a context for community identity or sense of place, and provides evidence of social, cultural or historical continuity; and/or
- (iii) For having symbolic or commemorative significance to people who use or have used it, or to the descendants of such people. The place or area has a high degree of interpretative potential to increase understanding of past lifestyles or events.

The wall and fence have symbolic value in representing the former government building that stood on the property for over 70 years. The structures reflect the growing recognition in the early 20th century of Hamilton's place as the centre of Waikato businesses, activities and population.

Level of significance Medium

g. Scientific Qualities

The potential for the place or area to contribute scientific information about how the natural environment has influenced, events, phases or activities related to development.

Level of significance None

Comparative Analysis

- No other fences are scheduled
- Anglesea wall (PDP)

Commented [L2]: addition

SUMMARY TABLE OF HERITAGE QUALITIES

The place is considered to have heritage significance in relation to the following criteria:

| Heritage Criteria | Significance Level |
|---|--------------------|
| a Historic Qualities | High |
| b Physical/Aesthetic/ Architectural Qualities | Medium |
| c Context Qualities | Medium |
| d Technological Qualities | Low |
| e Archaeological Qualities | Unknown |
| f Cultural Qualities | Medium |
| g Scientific Qualities | None |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Surviving remnant of the major building erected for regional Public Works Department. Indicative of a significant period of Hamilton's history as the centre for Waikato government departments. Marks the site where the Public Works Department office, that served all of the Waikato, was located. The wider area of Knox Street-Anglesea Street formed the government buildings centre for the Waikato.

RECOMMENDATION

The Public Works fence and wall meets the threshold in the PDP for scheduling as a Rank B built heritage place.

It is recommended that the place is included in Appendix 8A based on the following heritage qualities/values:

a) Historic Qualities.

Associated items are noted:

Proposed extent (setting) is shown on Extent map

Overall Level of Heritage significance High

Commented [L3]: changed

Sources for information:

Williams, Lyn "A Thematic Review of the History of Hamilton", a technical report for Hamilton City Council (Draft) 2021

Gibbons, PJ *Astride the River; a History of Hamilton* 1977

ⁱ *Waikato Argus* 2 October 1911

ⁱⁱ *Waikato Argus* 15 March 1912

ⁱⁱⁱ *Waikato Argus* 21 November 1912

^{iv} "Hamilton Architecture" *NZ Institute of Architects Journal* 32 (7) 20 August 1965

References: refer end notes

Revised Form prepared: 02 07 2024 (proposed revised criteria 2023)

Surveyor/ Researcher: Lyn Williams/Laura Kellaway

Reviewer:

Site visits: yes

Notes:

Places have been viewed from the public domain, and using on line resources, unless otherwise stated. Where an on-site visit was undertaken, agreed with the owner, it is recorded below.

Interiors have not been assessed or condition of buildings.

Records have been retrieved where possible.