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Hockin House
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HAMILTON

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PRESENTATION TO PROTECTING OUR HISTORIC HERITAGE AREAS

I, Neil Curgenvan, a Qualified Architectural Draughtsman (Retired) with over 55 years' experience in residential design, am the current President of Waikato Historical Society. As our submission states we, the **Waikato Historical Society**, have been in existence since 1954 and during this time have been active in the preservation of Hockin House, a residence built for the superintendents at Waikato Hospital in 1893 and relocated on Graham Park Reserve in 1974, after sympathetic restoration it was opened as a "pioneer" museum depicting a home lived in in 1939 when Dr Hockin was the last "residing" superintendent. The Society has worked in earnest with the Hamilton City Council on matters of History and Heritage including the establishment of the current Waikato Museum and other opportunities as requested.

We support Plan Change 9 being about protecting those things that have helped shape Hamilton and making it the place it is today.

However, we are very disappointed at the ease HCC can go to in demolishing buildings of some Historic and Heritage interest and significance, the residence beside the water tower is one example.

Our submission contains the essence of our concerns.

SURVEY

The Ministry of Culture and Heritage conducted a survey in June 2018 regarding the **protection system for heritage buildings** but like most things from central government, the Building act and the Health and Safety at Work act, two I currently work with, each local authority wants to "go-their-own-way" re-invent the wheel.

PROTECTION

We need to protect those buildings with existing heritage recognition as well as buildings that are not currently recognised within our heritage system but are likely to be recognised by the community or experts, as having some heritage values worth protecting.

COMMENT

'Heritage is sexy' well that's according to Gavin McLean in his publication "From Shrine to Shop (2000)" and referred to by Jacqui Remant of Ministry of Culture & Heritage in her presentation for the Hamilton East Heritage Trail where she also

makes the comment "heritage has been a topic of much discussion, there seems to be little consensus as to what the concept of 'heritage' entails and there is much discrepancy between academic and public perceptions".

DISCUSSION

Whilst many people understand the role that heritage plays in protecting historic sites namely 'old buildings', there has been little discussion of the role heritage can play in constructing the past in a broader sense. Beyond the protection of sites, and the economic benefits that come from increased tourism, there is much scope for examining other 'social' and cultural benefits of history and heritage forms.

We look forward to these being addressed in this process.

There are two commercial historical heritage areas I would like to bring to your attention today.

CLAUDELANDS, this is included within the documents you have been presented and I would like you to be aware of the importance of this commercial area associated with the large complex on the park not far away.

VICTORIA STREET or more specifically in this case **SOUTH VICTORIA STREET**

You may not be aware of this heritage brochure. It is out of existence and efforts 5 years ago to revamp and reprint it fell on deaf ears.

It is a very important document as it recognises 30 of the buildings standing in the area, many of the heritage buildings are privately owned and may not be open for public inspection. Our concerns are that they do not even carry an indication of their place in our history.

One in particular is under current threat #22 Victoria Building, bought a few years ago by HCC and within their negotiations for "improving the access to the river" development is likely to be demolished.

The other aspect of this area is acknowledging what has already been demolished and turfed over, the swimming pool comes to mind but there have been several other significant structures we would like the community to be aware of in some form.

I could go on for hours in support of this submission from Waikato Historical Society and I know you have nearly a thousand pages of other supporting information on historic heritage areas so I will leave it at that.

Neil