

Submission 288.1 'Clune's' / 'Cameron's Castle', 165 Wairamarama Onewhero Road, Onewhero

Recommended addition to Schedule 30.1 – with an 'A' ranking

Site visit 26 May 2020

Meeting with Brenda and Jo Wood

The house was inspected inside and out and the various changes made to it during the Tilsleys' ownership of the property were highlighted and discussed. The present owners have owned the property for c. two years and have repaired and restored the turret to address watertightness issues.

Changes made to the house after it was purchased by the Tilsleys include reglazing the round windows on the south elevation with faux leadlight windows featuring the Tilsley family crest and Cameron family badge. The entrance gates were erected by the Tilsleys but now feature the current owners' family crest. A shower room on the rear porch was removed and on the first floor an ensuite bathroom off the master bedroom and an office space, with skylight, were built into the roof space on the east elevation.

Despite the state of dereliction the house reached before it was purchased by the Tilsleys the exterior retains its overall authenticity, notwithstanding the replacement of external doors on the west, north and east elevations. Inside the house original skirting boards and ceiling panelling and plaster roses remain in situ; later restoration work has been sensitive to the period and style of the house.

The pros and cons of scheduling were discussed with the owners and information exchanged about the house and its architect via email. The possibility of withdrawal of the submission was raised and the dates for the upcoming hearing relayed.

The building retains a high level of authenticity despite the restoration work undertaken to it since 1987. The current owners have carefully and sensitively refurbished the turret and intend to undertake other repairs and maintenance as required in future. The only alteration being considered by the owners that might trigger a resource consent on heritage grounds would be the installation of some French doors at the rear of the house to open up an enlarged kitchen/dining space to the sunny courtyard formed by the L-shaped junction of the main house and service wing. This would enhance liveability and have a negligible effect on the heritage values of the building.

I stand behind my earlier assessment of the submission and affirm my recommendation that the house be included as an 'A' ranked item in Schedule 30.1.

Dr Ann McEwan
27 May 2020