

I write history features for the Greymouth Star and have written many of the history panels in Greymouth, and also for the museum.

Lois Eason's report they heard from heritage groups about the lack of experts on the Coast. Sadly no one body put forward items for inclusion and it came down to heritage groups looking after their own backyard and towns. Public meetings were in Ross and Reefton? Goodness knows what has been missed.

No one has taken a big picture look, as far as I am aware.

Unlike mining or forestry, there is no business to drive this part of the plan, or engage experts and lawyers.

I fear a real opportunity has been missed.

ACCEPT

I was pleased to see some sites were assessed by a heritage professional and St Patrick's Church at Kumara, the Taramakau Rail Bridge, the Hall and Coulthard Memorial, the WWII observation post at Cobden, Dillon's Homestead Hut, and the Kopara hot springs were recommended for scheduling.

I would like to speak to the Hannan and Seddon building, Werita Street, Greymouth, which I nominate.

There was a lack of information, which local women Mary Traves helped with.

This is believed to be Greymouth's first brick building dating to 1872.

It was built by William Perkins, who was born in 1843, the eldest son of Hobart draper and importer John Perkins.

William Perkins acted as the Borough Council solicitor much of the time he was at Greymouth.

In 1872 he had a new office built in Werita Street. It was described as one of the first 'substantial structures' in the town. The first business premises on the site had burned down in the Melbourne Hotel fire of 1869, and the replacement was flooded in 1872.

The limestone blocks for Perkins' new two-storey building -- the one that remains today -- may have been delivered by a tramway along Mawhera Quay from the quarries just upriver.

It later became the law offices for Hannan and Seddon, and remained so for many years.

He sailed home on the steamer Mahinapua in the autumn of 1884 and named his new house in Hobart 'Mawhera.' It still stands today.

Mt Griffin serpentine quarry remnants - checking with DoC re status of surviving fabric.

What came of that?

. The remnants of a pre-WWI serpentine mine and cableway can be found further up the range on the flanks of Mt. Griffin. The serpentine was sawn into slabs and used in several major buildings such as the D.I.C. Building in Dunedin, and the National Insurance Building in Christchurch.

Only real attempt at commercial greenstone mining on the Coast.

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